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Amb. Lipstadt speaks at CBI

By ROCKNE ROLL
The Jewish Review

“Tonight’s lecture is not merely a ceremonial event. It is an invitation to moral seriousness.”

These were the words Eric Ward, the former Executive Director of the Western States Center, spoke to introduce Amb. Deborah Lipstadt, the former United States Special Envoy to Monitor and Combat Antisemitism and the 2026 Os-eran Family Lecturer.

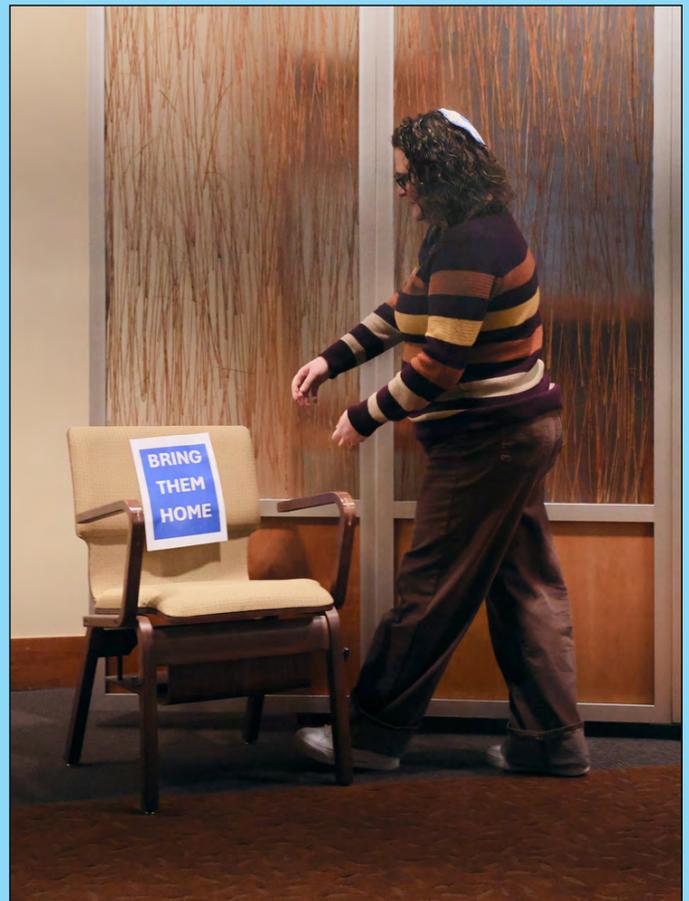
Her address, delivered Tuesday, Jan. 27, International Holocaust Remembrance Day, at Congregation Beth Israel in Portland and co-sponsored by the Oregon Jewish Museum and Center for Holocaust Education, began with a joke about what she referred to as the traditional Jewish telegram, which read “Start worrying; details to follow.”

“We’ve all gotten the telegram, and we are worried. I’m not here tonight to worry anyone more, because

See LIPSTADT, page 8

'... to reach this moment.'

Congregation Neveh Shalom Senior Rabbi Eve Posen removed the "Bring Them Home" sign from the chair at the front of the synagogue's Stampfer Chapel before a presentation by Photographer David Shlachter Wednesday, Jan. 28. With the return of the remains of Ran Gvili, z"l, from Gaza, all of the hostages from the Oct. 27 attacks have been reunited with their families or returned home for proper burial. Before removing the sign, Rabbi Posen led the recitation of the *Shehecheyanu*. In recognition of this moment, *The Jewish Review* has removed the Bring Them Home Now banner from this page. See more of Shlachter's presentation on page 5. (Rockne Roll/*The Jewish Review*)



Avdija named to NBA All-Star Game, first Israeli honored

The Jewish Review staff

Amongst the constellation of NBA stars named to this year's All-Star Game is a

Star of David.

Deni Avdija, the Portland Trail Blazers forward, was selected for the 2026 NBA

All-Star Game on Saturday. He is the first Israeli player to receive an All-Star selec-

See AVDIJA, page 8

INSIDE Security – page 12 | Events – page 13 | Obituaries – page 14

The Jewish Review Reader Survey closes today!
Make your voice heard at form.jotform.com/JFGP/JR-reader-survey

Comedy for Peace returns Feb. 11

By ROCKNE ROLL
The Jewish Review

Comedy for Peace is coming back to Oregon.

The divide-bridging stand-up comedy outfit led by Israeli comedian Dotan Malach, which performed a pair of shows sponsored by the Jewish Federation of Greater Portland in November of 2024, will take the stage at the Patricia Reser Center for the Arts in Beaverton Wednesday, Feb. 11 at 7:30 pm for a show presented by the Pan African Cultural Foundation.

The seeds of Comedy for Peace's return were planted in their initial appearance; amongst the audience at one of the Federation's shows was Washington County Commissioner Nafisa Fai, the first Muslim woman to win elected office in Oregon and a refugee from Somalia who came to the United States as a young child and grew up in Northeast Portland.

"I loved everything, the whole concept," Fai told *The Jewish Review*. "I thought it was a wonderful idea to just be like, 'look at all these people who are coming on stage and laughing and putting their differences aside and connecting and building bridges.'"

She connected with Malach after the show, and through her role as a leader in the PACF, was able to arrange for Comedy for Peace to return to the Pacific Northwest for Black History Month.

"All the stars lined up," she

said. "I'm so glad [Malach is} here, he's a great leader, and he found something that I treasure."

"I know she's going through a lot now as a Muslim woman and refugee from Somalia with the things being said about Somali people from the President. She's dealing with a lot of threats," Malach said, "and she still has time to do such a special evening, so I really appreciate all her efforts."

Malach, who performs under the stage name Erik Angel, will be joined on stage at the Reser by comedians Usama Siddiquee, Tehran Von Ghasri and Leah Bonnema. Siddiquee, a first-generation Bangladeshi American, was a finalist on "America's Got Talent," has performed on The Late Show with Stephen Colbert and was writer for Netflix's "Patriot Act with Hasan Minhaj." Von Ghasri, who counts a Muslim, a Jew, a Christian and a Zoroastrian among his grandparents, grew up the child of a Black mother and an Iranian immigrant father in Washington, D.C. and has appeared on Comedy Central, Fox and HBO, as well as regularly performing at the famous Laugh Factory in Los Angeles. Bonnema, from Maine, is the host of the podcast "Were You Raised by Wolves?" and has performed on The Late Show and The Tonight Show.

Tickets are \$29 and available at thereser.org/event/comedy-for-peace.

Free subscription:
jewishportland.org/subscribe

Rogoway nominations open now through Feb. 22

By ROCKNE ROLL
The Jewish Review

Nominations are now open for the Laurie Rogoway Outstanding Jewish Professional Award through Feb. 22 – and they're easier than ever.

"We're all busy professionals and we want to make sure that we can make the nomination process as accessible as possible," Jewish Federation of Greater Portland Chief Planning and Engagement Officer Caron Blau Rothstein said.

To that end, the process is now spaced out into stages. Now, nominators simply fill out a brief form to nominate someone, and the award committee will contact a selection of nominees to move forward in the process – the selected nominees will only then be asked to send in the rest of the materials used by the committee to determine a winner.

Eligible candidates (early- to mid-career Jewish professionals in non-pulpit roles who have been working for a Jewish organization in the area for at least three years) can be nominated by anyone.

"This can be your supervisor, this can be a lay leader, it can be a colleague," Blau Rothstein explained, "somebody in the community who knows you professionally, who can speak to your qualifications and nominate you."

Those candidates who are moved forward in the process will be asked to submit two reference letters from others in the community, as well as completing a questionnaire about their work and how they would utilize the \$1,800 in professional development funds the award includes.

"The beautiful thing about our community is that we have a lot of great Jewish professionals," Blau Rothstein explained. "What that means is that our committee doesn't necessarily know all the people being nominated, so they really need the references and the nominee's own voice to give a full picture."

The award is named for Laurie Rogoway, who worked in Jewish communal institutions in Portland, including the Federation, for more than 30 years.

"The Laurie Rogoway Outstanding Jewish Professional Award is about shining a light on the people who quietly and powerfully shape our Jewish community through their dedication to Jewish communal work in Greater Portland," Rogoway Committee Chair Sarah Howard shared. "It honors professionals who lead with heart, integrity, and a deep commitment to Jewish communal life, carrying forward Laurie's remarkable legacy."

"The work that our Jewish professionals do to enhance Jewish life for people who live in Portland is almost immeasurable," Blau Rothstein added. "The time, effort and energy and thought and how they really keep our community vibrant and strong, it's so important. If we don't have these professionals, we all miss out."

For more information or to nominate a professional in your life, visit jewishportland.org/rogoway.



***** CALL FOR NOMINATIONS *****

THE LAURIE ROGOWAY OUTSTANDING JEWISH PROFESSIONAL AWARD

**NOMINATIONS ARE DUE BY NOON
ON FEBRUARY 22, 2026**

THE WINNER WILL RECEIVE UP TO \$1800 TO SUBSIDIZE
A PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT EXPERIENCE OR PROGRAM



Jewish Federation
of Greater Portland

www.jewishportland.org/rogoway

The Laurie Rogoway Outstanding Jewish Professional Award is sponsored by the Jewish Federation of Greater Portland in recognition of Laurie Rogoway, a pillar of Jewish leadership for over 30 years in Portland.

Shaarie Torah hamentaschen now sold in-person



Rows of apricot hamantaschen cool before packaging at Congregation Shaarie Torah Sunday, Feb. 16, 2024 during one of the synagogue Sisterhood's volunteer baking events. The Sisterhood bakes more than 25,000 of the three-cornered Purim treats every year in four flavors; they all-volunteer effort is the group's major fundraiser of the year and a Portland institution. (Rockne Roll/Jewish Review file)

The Jewish Review staff

Just as blooming flowers are a sign of spring, so hamantaschen emerging from the kitchen at Congregation Shaarie Torah are a sign of Purim's approach in Portland.

The CST Sisterhood's annual sale – and the corresponding volunteer effort to roll out, fill, *knipp* and bake more than 25,000 cookies – is now underway. This year, it's easier than ever to get your hands on a box of Purim's signature three-cornered treat, as the synagogue is offering in person sales from 1-3 pm Mondays through Wednesdays beginning Feb. 9 through the week before Purim.

"They'll be fresh," Charlotte Tevet, who helps coordinate the Sisterhood's annual effort, said. "You can smell them being baked when you come, and if you came for one, maybe you'll buy two."

Dozen, that is. There are four flavors to choose from (traditional poppy seed *moen*, apricot, mixed dried fruit and CST's own peanut butter and chocolate chip) and a volume discount (\$6 off your third dozen) if you need extra enticement to stock up. Online ordering is still available and is encouraged for those looking to pick up six dozen or more to ensure availability.

The annual baking extravaganza has been a tradition at Shaarie Torah for at least three-quarters of a century and was featured in *The Wall Street Journal* in 2014. It is the Sisterhood's biggest annual fundraiser and a huge volunteer effort; more than 100 volunteers turn raw ingredients into celebratory snacks every year and support more than just the Sisterhood.

"It also supports camaraderie," Tevet said. "You can meet new friends and hopefully establish friendships for life."

Pre-purchase hamantaschen for \$20 a dozen (\$54 for three dozen) online at cst-hamentashen.square.site and learn more about joining in on the baking (no prior experience required) at shaarietorah.org/purim.

OJCF Professional Advisors Group to host Jack Manley Feb. 19 at MAC

The Jewish Review staff

Predicting the future is hard, but there are ways to make a better-than-wild guess, especially when it comes to financial markets.

The Oregon Jewish Community Foundation's Professional Advisors Group's annual Capital Markets Outlook, scheduled for Thursday, Feb. 19 at the Multnomah Athletic Club, will feature J.P. Morgan Asset Management Global Market Strategist Jack Manley speaking on just that subject.

"It is meant for lawyers, accountants, financial professionals, business own-

ers, and really anyone who's interested in hearing about the financial markets," Nadine Gartner, a member of the Professional Advisors Group and one of the event's organizers, explained.

A widely-cited expert on financial markets, Manley frequently appears on television and in print discussing how global economic events influence investments.

This event is also an opportunity for people working in the fields Gartner mentioned to connect with the PAG and learn about the resources it provides.

"We put on events that are meant to

further folks' education about charitable giving," she explained. "It's an opportunity also for the professionals to network with each other so that they have friends and colleagues who, if you're a tax lawyer, then maybe you meet an accountant and so you have someone that you can call up with questions and vice versa."

The event begins at 11 am, is free and includes lunch. Those interested in attending, or learning more about PAG, can find information online at ojcf.org/professional-advisors-group.

Free subscription: jewishportland.org/subscribe

Shlachter's 'Hinenu' shows Israel at 10 million



Photographer and Portland native David Shlachter, silhouetted above, sees himself depicted in a short documentary film about his new book, "Hinenu: Israel at 10 million," on the wall of Congregation Neveh Shalom's Stampfer Chapel Wednesday, Jan. 28 during a presentation about the book. Over two years in Israel, Shlachter photographed and interviewed 100 Israelis, selected to reflect the demographics of the country as it tips over 10 million in population. Two of the common themes he saw in those he photographed were both trauma and resilience born of that trauma. "Every time I saw a story of resilience through trauma, it always went through deep community," Shlachter said. "Americans, we do a lot of [processing trauma] alone. We need to learn from Israelis. We have an advantage; we're a tribe." He added that "In America, we spend a lot of time thinking about identity. Israelis don't have any time for that. They know exactly who they are." "Hinenu" is available at hinenubook.com. (Rockne Roll/The Jewish Review)

Havurah Shalom to host Earth Justice Film Fest

The Jewish Review staff

Making a difference in the climate crisis can start with something as simple as getting together with fellow Jews to watch a movie.

Havurah Shalom's Climate Action Team is providing just such an opportunity with its first Earth Justice Film Festival, beginning this Sunday, Feb. 8, at the synagogue in Northwest Portland.

"We want to do something to raise awareness," co-organizer Steve Katz said, educating people about what's going on in the environment and what they can do about it, making changes in their lifestyle."

The first film in the series, James Parker's "Other Side of the Hill," focuses on innovative land use practices in Eastern Oregon, including renewable energy systems that focus on reducing climate impact.

"The whole idea [of the film] is to give the rural communities who have kind of been sort of left out of a lot of

things a voice," Katz said.

Sunday, Mar. 29 will feature "Stewart Udall and the Politics of Beauty," John de Graff's biopic of the former interior secretary and his role in bringing climate issues into the national consciousness. Within the administrations of John F. Kennedy and Lyndon Johnson, Udall was an instrumental figure in the enactment of the Endangered Species Preservation Act, the Land and Water Conservation Act, and the National Trail System Act among others.

"He was also responsible for the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act," Katz explained. "He did a lot of good things."

Following an April break, the series will return Sunday, May 17 with Costa Boutsikaris and Anna Palmer's "Inhabitants: An Indigenous Perspective," which examines the value of native land management practices, how these methods have been pushed aside by the same forces that ushered in the climate crisis and how preserving native wisdom is an

essential tool in modern times.

The series wraps up Sunday, June 7 with "Plastic Wars." Brent E. Huffman, Katerina Monemvassitis and Rick Young's documentary on the expansion of the plastics industry and the misinformation about the viability of plastics recycling that went along with. The screening will also include discussion of the development of plastic substitutes and how manufacturers, including some in Oregon, are using plastic waste to manufacture new products.

"We're trying to do a little bit of balance because that frontline piece is pretty powerful," Katz said, "trying to balance that a little bit with something positive about what's happening today with plastics."

"Other Side of the Hill" begins at 12:45 pm this Sunday; the other screenings will each start at 3 pm. Preregistration for each screening is required, free and available online at havurahshalom.org/event/ip-hcat-film-series.html.

Photos: NCSY's The Q takes a bow after 18 years

Photographs by ROCKNE ROLL

The Jewish Review

A packed ballroom at the Mittleman Jewish Community Center took their last shot at the coveted "I Am Smarter Than You" sweat-shirt at NCSY's 18th and final edition of The Q Sunday, Jan. 24. On top of the multimedia trivia challenge, attendees saw event emcee and author Rabbi Chanan Spivak and Century Catering's Allen and Louise Levin receive awards for their contributions to all 18 editions of the event.



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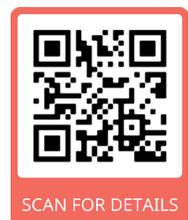
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SCAN FOR DETAILS

LIPSTADT (continued from page 1)

you don't need it. You know it, you feel it," the ambassador said. "I'm here to explore a little bit of what is antisemitism, what is the threat of antisemitism, and then what might we do about it?"

Antisemitism, she explained, is constantly evolving. It's been disguised as a critique of capitalism and of communism. It's been used to call Jews who want to participate in broader society "pushy," and to label Jews who live in close-knit communities as "isolationists." It comes from the political right and the political left.

"It comes from Christians, it comes from Muslims, it comes from atheists," Lipstadt said, "and it even comes from Jews."

"These are not self-hating Jews. These are very self-loving Jews. They are sure that in their criticism of the Jewish community, they are fulfilling the greatest principles of Judaism," she continued. "It may not be antisemitic in intent, but it can be antisemitic in impact."

The threat of antisemitism is three-tiered, in the ambassador's view. The first tier is obvious: antisemitism is a threat to Jews and the institutions they establish. Lipstadt added that antisemitism is also a threat to those who associate with Jews, noting that all three people killed in the 2014 Overland Park, Kan. shootings were non-Jews.

"The second tier of the threat" Lipstadt continued, is that "antisemitism is a threat to democracy."

Believers in the "conspiracy myth" of antisemitism – "do not say conspiracy theories, because theories can be proven," the ambassador stressed – think that Jews control the essential institutions of civil society; banks, elections, government, and such.

"Once you believe that, you've given up on democracy," Lipstadt said.

This assumption has played out in the lack of response to Jewish concerns around safety, from Jewish parents trying to address antisemitic incidents in schools to campus occupations in 2024 to the security concerns of Australian Jews which were ignored by their government in the leadup to the Bondi Beach shootings this past Chanukah.

"One of the reasons they're not willing to take it seriously is that Jews often don't present in the way that people are used to victims of prejudice presenting," Lipstadt said of that lack of action.

The third tier was within Lipstadt's wheelhouse during her time as the Biden Administration's antisemitism envoy: the threat antisemitism presents to national and international security.

"In the weeks after October 7, my office noticed a surge

in antisemitic content on Chinese government-controlled websites and social media platforms. Now it's possible that the Chinese government wasn't putting this up there, but if the Chinese government didn't want it there, it wouldn't have lasted a nanosecond," Lipstadt said. Experts on China within the intelligence community told her, "This was the Chinese government's way of signaling to the Global South that we're with you. In other words, it's what I call utilitarian antisemitism."

Some international actors – the Iranian government, as an example – give off antisemitism out of a sincere desire to destroy Jewry. Others, the utilitarian antisemites, in Lipstadt's construction, do it to attack the stability and influence of the liberal democratic world order.

Lipstadt explained her message to foreign leaders became, "If you treasure democracy, if you treasure inquiry, if you treasure openness of beliefs, then antisemitism is something that threatens it all quite directly."

The question to civic and governmental organizations of all sizes, from nations on down, is whether they take that threat seriously.

"Are you going to address those who espouse antisemitism and see them as a threat to society? That doesn't mean you trample on freedom of speech, and that doesn't mean you trample on constitutional rights if they exist in your country, but you take the threat seriously," Lipstadt said.

The ambassador noted that she has friends on both sides of the left/right political divide, and those friends are happy to identify antisemitism from those they oppose, but the challenge is to be willing to call out antisemitism in those that one otherwise aligns with.

For Jews, Lipstadt said, the challenge is to live joyful Jewish lives without letting the Jewish experience be defined by antisemitism. During her now-famous trial for defamation against Holocaust denier David Irving, a friend strongly encouraged her to go to the British Museum to view the Lachish Reliefs, which depict the Assyrian conquest of ancient Israel's second most important city.

"Where are the Assyrians?" Lipstadt recalled her friend asking. "We can add a postscript to them. Where are the Romans? Where are the Babylonians? Where are the generations of antisemites? Where are the Nazis? The hatred may linger on in different forms, but we're still here."

"These are difficult moments," she continued, "but we will survive. We will thrive. But we must fight it. We must fight it with all our beings, even as we go on celebrating who we are as Jews and as a Jewish community."

AVDIJA (continued from page 1)

tion in league history and the Blazers' first All-Star since Damian Lillard in 2023.

In his sixth season in the NBA, Avdija is putting up career-high averages in points, assists, defensive rebounds and free throw percentage. Avdija joins Nikola Jokic and Luka Doncic as the only NBA players to average at least 25

points, seven rebounds and six assists per game this season. He is the leading scorer and co-leader in assist per game for a Blazers' team that is currently occupying the final Western Conference play-in spot.

"Proud of him. I know he cares about this team," Blazers coach Tiago Splitter told The Associated Press. "When

you see a person like that succeeding, it's truly special."

The 2026 NBA All-Star Game, which will feature a new USA vs. World multiteam tournament format, is scheduled for Sunday, Feb. 15 at 5 pm at the Intuit Dome in Inglewood, Calif., and will be broadcast on NBA and streamed on Peacock.

JFGP's Blattner conducts town hall event at EJC

The Jewish Review staff

Jewish Federation of Greater Portland President and CEO Marc Blattner crossed one divide – the Willamette River – and ended up addressing another during a public town hall meeting at the Eastside Jewish Commons Thursday, Jan. 22.

The divide Blattner spent much of the evening addressing – from the first question – was Israel, specifically the Federation's attitudes around Zionism and those within the Jewish community who are opposed to the existence of a Jewish state; a group who were well-represented among the roughly three dozen attendees.

"The question that I like to ask people who have questions about Israel is, 'Do you believe that the State of Israel has the right to exist?'"

An audience member interjected, "no."

"You say no, and I say the Federation has a red line, and that's our red line," Blattner continued.

Federation hosted the Resetting the Table program, a nationwide initiative to foster respectful conversations around and across Jewish community divides over Israel through structured dialogue and training in skills to navigate fraught conversations in 2025. Blattner said he has sought to engage in conversation around the subject with those who disagree with him and the Federation's views and that the Federation has spoken out against some policies of Israel's government.

"[The Federation has] been critical of the Netanyahu government. I just wrote about it three times in the past month. Okay, when the settlers have been rioting in the West Bank, we've written about that. When the humanitarian issues took place, we wrote about that. When they closed the borders, we wrote about that how wrong that was," Blattner said.

The organization is, he said, a Zionist one, and does not engage with anti-Zionist organizations.

"I know that there are people who may be anti-Zionist in the room. You are more than entitled to have those views. It doesn't necessarily mean that the Jewish Federation has to participate and actively engage with organizations



Jewish Federation of Greater Portland President and CEO Marc Blattner takes questions at a Thursday, Jan. 22 town hall meeting at the Eastside Jewish Commons. (Rockne Roll/The Jewish Review)

or individuals who have that view," Blattner said. "We don't represent everybody. We don't say we represent the entire Jewish community."

One audience member found that approach "disheartening."

"Does that translate to how you interact with all of the different Jewish organizations, groups, people in Portland? Because I do see the Federation as the umbrella organization of Portland," they said.

Blattner agreed with the characterization of the Federation as an umbrella organization, adding that "we can decide who's in that umbrella." He added that, of the 47 Jewish organizations that operate in the area, Federation provides financial support to nearly four-fifths of them.

There were also questions about the Federation's expansion of programming and a perception of other organizations being crowded out, as well as what the strengths of Portland's Jewish community were.

"I believe that we are the guardian and trustee of this Jewish community. We are really the only organization whose job is to make sure everything is available in Jewish life," Blattner said of the Federation's role in the community. "We are far more than a fundraising organization. We're a community building organization."

But even as Blattner spoke to Federation's role in addressing community needs like security, the conversation seemed to keep finding its way to Israel.

"One of the very serious things that seems to be going on is the conflation of antisemitism with any kind of criti-

cism of Israel creates a feeling that can make us unsafe," an audience member said.

"Antisemitism didn't come about in the last two years. Antisemitism has been around forever, unfortunately. What happened in Argentina in 1992 and 1994 had nothing to do with the war that happened in October of 2023. What happened in Pittsburgh in 2018 had absolutely nothing to do with Israel or a war there," Blattner said.

There was seemingly little agreement to be found, even on the idea of listening.

"Does the listening go anywhere? Does it change anything?" an attendee had asked earlier in the evening. "It almost seems like the listening is just a way to not have to change anything."

"The only way moving forward is going to be to look at the population of Portland, look who you're missing, and really try to identify what's missing in the narrative," another added, "because if we collectively can't look at what's happening right now, and look at Israel, look at Palestine, what's going on, and look at the life that we are taking, and we see a Jewish flag, and that means, on behalf of being Jewish, you're making all of us much less safe."

"Can you commit to say 'I'm fundraising for Zionist Jews. I'm building Zionist Jewish community,' and not this whole Jewish community, because we are out of it," someone demanded. "You've told us that. You've used those words today."

The string of questions about Israel was interrupted by an older woman who identified herself as having served as a nurse in the Israel Defense Forces during the Six-Day War and in the West Bank after that war castigating the anti-Israel attendees, saying it was the first time in her life she had been afraid of her fellow Jews.

"Shame on you," she said.

"You don't think we represent you, that's fine. You don't think that we're opening the tent for you." Blattner responded to one of those questions. "I care about every Jewish person in this community. I want every Jewish person to find their Jewish space and their Jewish place. That's the hard part about Jewish life today. We're not all monolithic with one view."

Pollin receives Wellspring Award from Maayan

Maayan Torah Day School

Maayan Torah Day School is proud to announce that Dr. Sharon Pollin has been selected as the recipient of the Maayan Wellspring Award, honoring her extraordinary dedication to Jewish education and community leadership.

The Wellspring Award recognizes individuals whose vision, generosity, and commitment nurture the growth of future generations. Dr. Pollin is being

recognized not only for her own leadership and advocacy, but for continuing a family legacy of service, philanthropy, and deep commitment to the Jewish community.

Dr. Pollin will be honored during Maayan's Annual Fundraiser, a celebration of the school's mission and impact. The month-long endeavor will highlight the values she champions—Jewish learning that is joyful, rooted, and enduring.

“Dr. Pollin's support of Jewish education has created a ripple effect that strengthens our entire community,” said Meira Spivak, Maayan board president. “She is truly a wellspring of inspiration.”

Maayan extends heartfelt congratulations to Dr. Pollin on this well-deserved honor.

To honor Dr. Pollin and learn more about Maayan, visit [Maayan Torah Day School](https://www.maayan.org).

OJCF scholarship apps open through Mar. 31

Oregon Jewish Community Foundation

The Oregon Jewish Community Foundation is pleased to announce that applications for its Higher Education Scholarships will be open from Feb. 1 through Mar. 31, 2026, supporting Jewish residents in pursuing formal post-secondary education.

OJCF's scholarship funds—including

the Diamond, Goldschmidt-Hillel, Krichevsky, Reynolds, Rosenblatt, Simon, Singer, and Tarshis Funds—offer both need-based and merit-based assistance to students seeking academic, vocational, or Jewish educational opportunities. Applicants only need to complete a single application to be considered for all eligible OJCF schol-

arship funds.

Eligible applicants must be Jewish residents of Oregon and, for certain funds, Southwest Washington. Full scholarship details and application materials are available on the OJCF website. For questions, contact Susan Berniker at susanb@ojcf.org or 503-248-9328.

Youth Foundation grant applications close Feb. 18

Oregon Jewish Community Foundation

The Oregon Jewish Community Youth Foundation, OJCYF, a program of the Oregon Jewish Community Foundation, is accepting proposals for its 2026 grantmaking cycle. OJCYF teen leaders have selected two urgent focus areas, antisemitism and

homelessness. The deadline for grant submissions is Feb. 18, 2026. Proposal guidelines and the application form are on the OJCF website. 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 April 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.



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NEXT ISSUE

Issue date Deadline

FEB 18 FEB 12

By **JESSICA ANDERSON**
“Hello.”

A simple word with the power to bridge divides and keep communities safe. The Secure Community Network (SCN) is pleased to announce the launch of a new training, “Power of Hello.” Based on the U.S. Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency’s (CISA) Power of Hello initiative, the training equips participants with the knowledge and skills to observe and evaluate suspicious behaviors, empowering them to mitigate potential risk by knowing when to seek additional help.

Power of Hello builds on SCN’s core BeAware training, bridging situational awareness with active community engagement. The program teaches participants to move beyond observation and address potential risks before they escalate. Framed around the process of the Observe, Initiate a Hello, Navigate the Risk, and Obtain Help (OHNO) framework, this new training equips participants with practical tools to make informed decisions and strengthen community safety.

This is how SCN introduced its newest training offering last Monday. The welcoming of a stranger is an act of grace and kindness as well as a precautionary process. Places of worship are always balancing the need to be open and welcoming with the need to navigate the chances that someone is there to harm. This often falls on ushers and greeters, whether a Chabad, synagogue, volunteer, or dance



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.

group. We can think of that initial greeter as a social role, but they are the first in line to notice something odd or out of place. Many organizations struggle to find people to fill these roles. The most common reason is that people are worried they’ll let in a bad person, and that’s a heavy burden to carry. The reality is that ushers and greeters are not there to keep out everyone who poses a threat, just the ones who display alerting behavior. There are numerous instances of attackers being invited into places of worship - to pray, seek help, sustenance - none of whom presented as a concern. The goal of Power of Hello is to train people not to keep out everyone, but to help screen obvious issues.

I’m using this column to encourage you to consider volunteering in your space should these roles be needed. This training can help people feel more confident in the role and temper expectations about what they can and can’t do. The training class covers recognizing suspicious behavior, applying the Power of Hello approach, recognizing when behavior becomes concerning, using effective communication

strategies, and identifying and responding appropriately to potential threats.

The training was initially piloted formally through several Federations, and I’ve previously incorporated the training concepts into my community training. I’d love to be asked into your organization to present the Power of Hello to your community or group. I’ll shortly be incorporating it into my online training sessions and you can expect to see it on my calendar soon.

There’s more information about this course on the SCN website which you can find here: <https://www.securecommunitynetwork.org/empowering-communities-through-training/training-catalog/power-of-hello/>.

Some organizations I’ve worked with keep a binder near their front door, with resources for their greeters. It can contain a list of contact numbers, policies, pictures of people you want to keep out of the building, etc. This is another way organizations can help support and bring confidence to their greeters and staff. A couple of additional items for this binder are some forms that build-

See **SECURITY**, page 14

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.

Feb. 5: Jew Oughta Know Part I with Jessica Rehfield

Pop culture lecture at the Oregon Jewish Museum and Center for Holocaust Education at 6 pm. Tickets at ojmche.org/events/jew-oughta-know-part-i-with-jessica-rehfield.

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

Feb. 6: First Friday Sephardic Shabbat Dinner

Kabbalat Shabbat services and a Sephardic dinner at Congregation Ahavath Achim at 5:30 pm. \$32; discounts for members, students and children. Tickets at ahavathachimpdx.weebly.com/monthly-shabbat-dinners.html.

Feb. 6: Nani Vazana sings Ladino

Concert at the Eastside Jewish Commons at 7:30 pm. Tickets at events.humanitix.com/nani-vezana-sings-ladino.

Feb. 7: Women's Torah Study

Weekly Torah study at Congregation Ahavath Achim

Saturday mornings at 10:30 am. For more information, email info@ahavathachim.org.

Feb. 7: Sephardic Foundations

Weekly Sephardic history class at Congregation Ahavath Achim Saturday afternoons at 12:30 pm. For more information, visit ahavathachimpdx.weebly.com/sephardic-foundations.html.

Feb. 7: Young Families Musical Shabbat with Singin' Dylan

Interactive Shabbat experience for children 0-4 and their families at Congregation Shir Tikvah at 9 am. For more information, email education@shirtikvahpdx.org.

Feb. 8: 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. 8: Earth Justice Stories that Inspire

See story, page 5.

Feb. 8: Super Bowl Sunday at EJC 2026

Super Bowl viewing party at the Eastside Jewish Commons at 2 pm. Free. Registration at ejcpdx.org/events.

Feb. 8: Jewish Community Orchestra

Concert at the Mittleman Jewish Community Center at 3 pm. More information at jewishcommunityorchestra.org.

Feb. 10: "Schmatta: Rags to Riches to Rags"

Film screening and discussion at Congregation Ahavath Achim at 7 pm. Free. Registration at ahavathachimpdx.weebly.com/sephardic-film-festival.html.

Feb. 11: Comedy for Peace at The Reser Theater

See story, page 2.

Feb. 12: JFCS' Senior Sweets Social Hour

Social hour at the Eastside Jewish Commons at 1 pm. Preregistration required at jfcs-portland.org/senior-sweets-rsvp.

Feb. 12: Zohar & Zhug with Dr. Yosef Rosen

Zohar class at Congregation Ahavath Achim at 8 pm. Free. Register at ahavathachimpdx.weebly.com/zohar-and-zhug.html.

Feb. 14: Havdalah Cafe Winter Sephardic Edition

Havdalah at the Eastside Jewish Commons at 6 pm. \$5/family. Register at ejcpdx.org/events.

Feb. 14: Valentines for Singles Mingle

Speed dating event hosted by Ahava Northwest at Norse Hall in Northeast Portland at 6:30 pm. \$20. Tickets at eventbrite.com/e/valentines-for-jewish-singles-mingle-registration-1981819743201.

Feb. 15: Death, Grief and Beyond

Book talk with Candi Wuhr-

man at Leikam Brewing in Southeast Portland at 3 pm. Preregistration requested at luma.com/3fpyof0q.

Feb. 16: Ladies Hamantash Bake Night

Baking event at Chabad of Hillsboro at 6 pm. Registration required at chabadh.com/events/ladies-hamantash-bake-night.

Feb. 17: Women's Kabbalah Class with Mimi Wilhelm

Monthly kabbalah class at Chabad Southwest Portland at 6:30 pm. More information at jportland.com/templates/articlecco_cdo/aid/5653557/jewish/Rosh-Chodesh-Society-Registration.htm.

Feb. 18: Shalom Snuggles

Community event for ages 0-2 and families at Maayan Torah Day School at 9:15 am. \$5. Registration at fs29.formsite.com/yqKYQG/zobti9emkj/index.

Feb. 18: 21st Annual Solomon Memorial Lecture

Address by Rep. Jamie Raskin at Portland State University at 7:30 pm. For more information, email judaicst@pdx.edu.

Feb. 19: Capital Markets Outlook with Jack Manley

See story, page 4.

Feb. 19: Trivia

Trivia night at Congregation Neveh Shalom at 7 pm. \$10. Registration at members.nevehshalom.org/event/MCTriv.

ADRIENNE LESMAN

With sadness, Chabad of Southwest Portland announces the passing of Adrienne Lesman, z"l.

The funeral was held Jan. 21 at 1:00 PM at the Jewish Section of Riverview Cemetery in Portland. Lidia is survived by her daughter Tamara Marshal.

ESTHER DICKSTEIN

Congregation Beth Israel mourns the loss of Esther Ellen Dluger Dickstein, z"l, who passed away on Jan. 21, 2026, at the age of 79.

Esther is survived by her husband, Jack Dickstein; her daughter, Jessica Kushner (Uriel); her brother, Robert H. Dluger; two beautiful grandchildren, and numerous additional family and friends. Esther is preceded in death by her parents, William and Ann (née Chanin) Dluger, z"l.

A funeral was held Monday, January 26, 2026, at Congregation Beth Israel. Donations in Esther's memory can be made to Hadassah.

SHIRLEY NUDELMAN

Congregation Neveh Shalom is saddened to share the passing of longtime member Shirley Soble Nudelman, z"l, who died on Friday, Jan. 23, 2026. Shirley was predeceased by her beloved husband, Jerome Nudelman z"l.

She is lovingly remembered by her children, Jeff (Anne) Nudelman, Sharon (Dean) Morell, and Sheila (Matt) Casimo; her grandchildren, Kaitlyn Casimo, Blake (Lauren) Donnelly-Morell, Josh (John Sluder) Nudelman, and Sol Nudelman; her sister, Sandey (Del) Fields and brother-in-law, Phil Nudelman; and her nieces and nephews, Shawn Fields-Meyer, Dan Fields, Mitch Nudelman, and Mark Nudelman.

A funeral service was held on Thursday, January 29 at Neveh Zedek Cemetery.

SANDIE FINKEL

It is with great sorrow that Congregation Kol Ami announces the death of our member Sandie Finkel, z"l Friday, Jan. 30. There will be a Memorial Service to remember and honor Sandie at Congregation Kol Ami on Sunday, Feb. 8th at 4:30. We will offer funeral prayers and memories together at that time. We send our deepest condolences to her husband Barry as well as her children and extended family.

SECURITY (continued from page 12)

ing users can make use of. Here are links to two new documents, a Person Description Form (<https://www.securecommunitynetwork.org/resources/person-description-form/>) and a Vehicle

Description Form (<https://www.securecommunitynetwork.org/resources/vehicle-description-form/>). These can strengthen documentation and follow-up when something unusual happens.

As always, if you want training or help with any aspect of greeter team development, give me a call at 872-273-9214 or email me at janderson@securecommunitynetwork.org.

MARK FRIEDMAN

Mark Jonathan Friedman, z"l, 68, of Portland, Oregon, died on Nov. 28, 2025.

Mark was born on Nov. 11, 1957, in New York City to George and Laine Friedman. He grew up in Flushing, Queens, before moving with his family to Portland at age eleven, a shift that began his lifelong devotion to Oregon. He attended the Metropolitan Learning Center and later studied at the University of Oregon and the University of Massachusetts.

Mark was a lifelong public servant, beginning a 35-year career as one of the first male meter maids with Portland Parking Enforcement and retiring as the head of the division. Mark knew Portland's transportation system with the precision of someone who had navigated every street, alley, and shortcut. He was widely respected for his integrity, elevated standards, steadfast commitment to workers' rights, and as a proud member of his union, AFSCME Local 189, where he was a shop steward. A civic and social activist, Mark was gay and proud and fought for equality for all people.

As a teenager, Mark spent a formative year in England, where he developed the dry, situational humor that became a hallmark of his personality. Creative throughout his life, his annual Hanukkah cards were imaginative, lovingly crafted, and often mischievous, and became treasured keepsakes.

Mark is survived by his brother Gregory Friedman; his nephew Ben Wagor; his nieces Danya and Elana Shneyer; his brother-in-law Paul Shneyer; and his grand-nieces and nephew, Naomi, Layla, and Jaron Kaufman. He leaves behind many beloved cousins, including Joel, Michael, David, Alexa, Rachel and Deborah Shaich; Michael and Richard McCallum; Hilary Ross and Larry Brown and Lindiwe Gararirimo. He also leaves behind many cherished friends and communities that he was a part of. He is predeceased by his sisters, Laura Friedman, z"l, and Susan Wagor, z"l.

A memorial service will be held on Sunday, Mar. 8, 2026, at 11 a.m. at the Laurelhurst Club, in Portland.

"In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made in Mark's memory to the Trevor Project or the Oregon Food Bank.

The family extends heartfelt thanks to the doctors and nurses at Emanuel Legacy Hospital for their compassionate care.

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