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THE JEWISH REVIEW

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OREGON & SOUTHWEST WASHINGTON'S JEWISH NEWSPAPER

February 5, 2025 / 7 Shevat 5785 Volume 60, Issue 3

Rabbi Posen named Neveh Shalom's next Senior Rabbi

By **ROCKNE ROLL**

The Jewish Review

Congregation Neveh Shalom has announced that Rabbi Eve Posen will become the Conservative synagogue's fourth Senior Rabbi later this year.

Rabbi Posen, who joined Neveh Shalom in 2014, will succeed outgoing Senior Rabbi David Kosak. She'll be the first woman to serve in the role and one of just a handful of female senior rabbis at Conservative synagogues of this size in the United States.

"We're really excited about it," CNS President Mark Kalenscher said. "We think it's absolutely the best move for Neveh Shalom."

"It's clearly the right move and the right rabbi to represent our community," CNS Executive Director Marlene Edenzon said.

Rabbi Posen was initially hired as the shul's Rabbinic Educator and Youth Director, later being named Assistant Rabbi before taking on her current role as Associate Rabbi.

"When you're a lawyer, often the goal is to make partner. That's not what my goal was as a rabbi. I came to Neveh not wanting to be a pulpit rabbi at all," she explained. "Along the way, I have learned about pulpit work and fallen in love with it. And the



Rabbi Posen (Courtesy photo)

truth is that my goal was not to be a senior rabbi wherever I can. It was that I'm in this space and I love this community and I want to be Senior Rabbi of Neveh Shalom."

The community of Neveh Shalom specifically, and Portland's Jewish community more broadly, were major factors that drew Rabbi Posen here 11 years ago and remain

See **RABBI**, page 13

Rogoway nominations now open

By **ROCKNE ROLL**

The Jewish Review

Nominations are now open for the 2025 Laurie Rogoway Outstanding Jewish Professional Award, presented by the Jewish Federation of Greater Portland annually to an early- to mid-career Jewish communal professional for commitment to Jewish professional leadership and to the future vitality and vibrancy of the Jewish community.

Sarah Howard takes over as the head of the Rogoway Award committee this year – she previously worked at Congregation Neveh Shalom and at BB360.

"[The Rogoway Award is] a way to recognize the incredible work that early and mid-level career professionals are doing in our community," she said. "There's some great people out there."

The award is named for

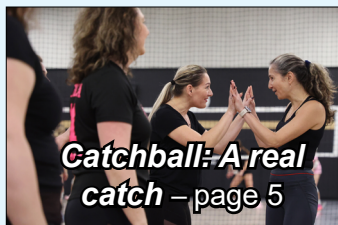
See **ROGOWAY**, page 4

INSIDE

Security – page 14

Events – page 17

Obituaries – page 18



Catchball: A real catch – page 5



Braids for hostages – page 9

Next Podcast
Feb. 12



Click the logo for back episodes

Watching and waiting as ceasefire proceeds

Rebecca Caspi is the Senior Vice President of Global Operations and Director-General of the Israel Office for The Jewish Federations of North America. In a conversation recorded Jan. 23, she and Jewish Review editor Rockne Roll discussed the details of the recent ceasefire arrangements with Hamas and Hezbollah, as well as the reaction of the Israeli public and the next steps for the Jewish State as it moves forward from Oct. 7. A portion of their conversation is transcribed below. For the full conversation, check out "Ceasefire Conditions with Rebecca Caspi" on The Jewish Review Podcast, available on all major podcast platforms. This transcript has been edited for brevity and clarity.

The Jewish Review: Let's talk about the ceasefire with Hamas.

Rebecca Caspi: The ceasefire in Gaza was reached after many long and painful months of negotiations, false hopes, and expectations, but the agreement was finally approved, and it came into force on Sunday morning, Jan. 19. Of the key aspects of the ceasefire, the one I think that most people have focused on from the Israeli side of the border is it dictates, over the course of 42 to 50 days, the release of 33 hostages of a total of 98 when the ceasefire was signed.

The first three young women have come home, and that was a day of tremendous euphoria. I have to say anecdotally, and maybe some of our listeners will enjoy knowing this, that a number of people reported to me they couldn't believe how light the traffic was from all different parts of the country, because everybody was glued to the television screens, waiting to see was it going to become real. There were some stops and starts even that very day. The ceasefire did not come into force at the time it was anticipated because the names of the people to be released were not provided to Israel on time. *[Editor's Note: Additional hostages have been released since this conversation was recorded.]*

I guess what I want to share first and foremost with our listeners, is that it is in force, but it is tenuous. I don't think that Israelis will fully breathe out until we see our 33 hostages returned home, as I said, over 42 to 50 days. In this part of the world, an awful lot can happen in that period of time. I'll share, too, that as hostages start to be released, Israel, in return, is beginning to release Palestinian security prisoners. So, when you think about the mood of the country at this moment, is everybody out dancing in the streets? Many people wept for joy and felt a great lightening and a lift of spirits as we saw the first images of our hostages being freed, but there are many families who may be very far on the other side of that equation. They know that the people that injured or killed their precious family members are now being released, and that is causing for many of them, great pain and sadness and confusion and concern. We know from prior prisoner release agreements that a very high percentage of security prisoners who've been released in the past have returned to terrorist activities after they were freed, and so releasing a very large number of people, including murderers and even mass murderers, is something we're a little bit

nervous about.

JR: So, with the with the positively evolving situation on both the northern border and around the Gaza Envelope, is there any thought of Oct. 9, so to speak? Because what we've been hearing for more than a year now is that it's still Oct. 8; it's still the day after the attacks. Has there been any sort of psychological shift towards the day after the day after?

RC: It's a pretty volatile neighborhood, so it often depends on what day, after which news story, or at what hour you might catch up with any one of your Israeli friends or family. I'll zoom back and try and answer that more broadly.

There are many lingering issues. The biggest gaping open wound, of course, is the fate of our hostages. I don't think that Israel will be able to fully pivot towards recovery until every single Israeli is home. It's really almost indescribable, the pain on the one hand and the commitment of so many on the other to bring every last person home.

It's important to understand that the situation in the communities in the Western Negev, around the Gaza Strip, that were so horrifically impacted on Oct. 7 are in some ways farther along down their path to recovery, farther along than Israelis who are in the north. While the whole region was evacuated after the Hamas attack, most of the residents of southern Israel and the Western Negev have returned home.

For most of the kids of the Western Negev, they started this school year back in their communities. They spent much of the summer being prepared for that through programs that Jewish Federations, which I represent, and others, were helpful in providing to them to stabilize them. It's no simple thing to be living with your parents in a very small hotel room for months, separated from friends and have all of the different challenges; perhaps wounded family members or an older brother or older sister who's in combat, from whom you don't hear that often and has been away for hundreds of days. Maybe that's your dad, or maybe that's your mom. The impact of this war is so deep and touches every member of Israeli society.

For people in the far north along the Lebanese border, it's too early to return home. The government is speaking about reopening the schools in that area on Mar. 1. Many of the schools have been significantly damaged, so there are challenges with that. Then, just south of the places from which people were evacuated, you actually have hundreds of thousands of Israelis who have been living literally through war and under fire for many months; even if they weren't displaced, their lives were completely disrupted. The basis of the Northern economy draws primarily from agriculture and tourism, two things which were severely impacted by this war.

The question of whether or not the Lebanese army will have the ability to keep Hezbollah out and, frankly, the degree to which the United States and others may require that of them is, I think, going to be the determining factor. What you hear from absolutely everyone is that, until security is restored, and until people feel secure, which is perhaps two separate things, perhaps the same, it will take time before many Israelis return to the far north of the country.

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Federation programs support young Jewish life

The Jewish Review staff

For young people looking to create meaningful Jewish experiences, the Jewish Federation of Greater Portland is providing a number of financial support opportunities to aid those endeavors.

For those who have yet to graduate high school, the One Happy Camper grant program, run in partnership with the Foundation for Jewish Camp, offers grants of up to \$1,000 for those attending their first year of Jewish summer camp – any Jewish summer camp that's part of FJC's network. These grants can be combined with other financial aid programs and are not need-based. These grants are limited in number, so applying sooner is better. Learn more at jewishcamp.org/families/grants-scholarships/one-happy-camper.

Those in high school planning an immersive Israel experience, and those who are graduating and looking for a gap year program before starting college, are eligible to apply for Chai Israel funds through the Federation. Chai Israel will pay 18 percent of the advertised program cost, up to \$1,800, for high school summer programs including NCSY's TJJ program, USY Israel Pilgrimage, BBYO Passport, NFTY in Israel, Jewish National Fund's Alexander Muss High School and others. Gap year participants can apply for up to \$2,000

of funding for such year-long programs as Young Judea Year Course and NCSY's Israel XP, among others. Both applications are due Mar. 1. To learn more or apply, visit jewishportland.org/travelisrael.

Graduating seniors heading off to college can apply for the annual Sussman-Shenker Scholarship. Established in 1981 by Lillian and Gilbert Sussman, z"l, and renamed by their daughter, Lois Shenker, on her husband Arlen Shenker's 85th birthday, the scholarship is awarded to two and five Portland-area graduates who are pursuing undergraduate education in the United States. While academics are a consideration, the scholarship is focused on recognition of involvement in Jewish communal life – in whatever form that may take.

Unlike many similar programs, the Sussman-Shenker Scholarship is not need-based and is awarded directly to the student – a big help as the costs of non-tuition higher education expenses soar. Applications for this year's scholarships are due Mar. 3. For more information or to apply, visit jewishportland.org/shenkersussman.

Questions about any of these programs can be directed to Federation Director of Educational Initiatives and Associate Director of Community Relations Rachel Nelson at rachel@jewishportland.org.

ROGOWAY (continued from page 1)

Laurie Rogoway, a former senior staff-er at the Federation.

"I think Laurie is what you would call a 'professional's professional.' She was here at the Federation when I started 14 years ago, and she was already an incredibly well respected, experienced and savvy Jewish professional," explained Federation Chief Planning and Engagement Officer Caron Blau Rothstein. "I've never met anybody who didn't have an amazing thing to say about Laurie and a lot of respect for her professionalism and her warmth and her caring."

The award, presented at the Federation's annual meeting, comes with up to \$1,800 in funds for professional development activities of the awardee's choice.

"We want to say, 'we see you; we honor you; we celebrate you and we want to support you in your professional Jewish journey,'" Blau Rothstein said.

But Blau Rothstein explained that in order to see those people, they need to be nominated. The good news is that anyone can nominate someone, and it's easy to submit someone to be considered.

"This is accessible to anybody. You don't have to work with this person in a professional capacity; if you're a preschool parent, if you're on the board of your organization, if you received

services from this person in their professional capacity and you're a community member, you are empowered to make this nomination," she said.

This is also not the kind of award the one must be surprised by, Blau Rothstein explained – in fact, she encouraged those who might qualify to ask a colleague or friend to nominate them.

"You can say, 'I'm really interested in the professional development. I really believe in my career as a Jewish professional, and I think that this award will help me further my career and further my work for the Jewish community,'" she said. "Don't be shy. This is not a time to be overly humble. This is a time to share your commitment."

"There is so much incredible work happening in the community that we don't know about and so we need to rely on those nominators to tell us about that incredible work," Howard said.

The only regret the committee has is that there aren't multiple awards to give out.

"Every award show you go to, they say, 'it's an honor to be nominated,' but it really IS an honor to be nominated because it means that you've been recognized by your community," Blau Rothstein said. "We've every year had great candidates and it's always been a

hard choice and some people didn't get it the first year they were nominated; their nomination rolled over and they received it in a subsequent year."

Previous awardees include Neveh Shalom Foundation School Hebrew and Judaics Coordinator Etti Segal, Oregon Jewish Museum and Center for Holocaust Education Director of Collections and Exhibitions Alisha Babbstein, former Jewish Family and Child Service Lead Aging and Adult Services Clinician Missy Fry, former Oregon Hillel Executive Director Andy Gitelson, Congregation Shaarie Torah Executive Director Jemi Kostiner Mansfield, Federation Chief Financial Officer Ben Winkleblack, former BB360 Chief Program Officer Ben Charlton, former Portland Kollel Director of Women's Programming Eve Levy, Oregon Jewish Community Foundation Director of Outreach Sonia Marie Leikam and Federation Director of Educational Initiatives and Associate Director of Community Relations Rachel Nelson.

Nominations are now open until Noon on Mar. 21. For more information or to nominate someone, visit jewishportland.org/rogoway. Questions can be directed to Blau Rothstein by email at caron@jewishportland.org.

A real catch

By JENN DIRECTOR KNUDSEN
For The Jewish Review

Patricia Rice has a question for all women: Ever heard of catchball?

Whether you answer yes or no, Patricia also has a request: Come on out and play.

Created in Israel by Ofra Abramovich in 2017, catchball is a team sport for women that is very popular around the world. Israel has at least 200 teams around the nation, and today there are teams in countries like Canada, Cyprus, Mexico, Austria, Italy, Singapore, and around the U.S., including here in Portland.

Much like volleyball, as the name catchball suggests, it substitutes catching and throwing the ball for bumping and spiking. In Israel, the league is called *Mamanet*, and in Hebrew the sport is called *kedureshet*, which means netball.

While its name in English may be lost in translation, catchball proves that sport overcomes many barriers, linguistic and otherwise. And it helps bond people and create community, too.

Portland is home to a loyal team of 14 women (though 16 would be ideal, Rice says), many of whom found their way here via Russia, Israel, and other points outside the PNW.

"One of the things I feel that really helps connect the dots is sports," says Rice, 58, a real estate agent and the de facto captain (or "mama") of Portland's only catchball team.

Born in France, raised in Israel, and a Portland resident for 30 years, Rice credits catchball – and the tight and supportive community of fellow women on the team – with keeping her sanity in check.

How an eight-year-old Israeli sport brings Jewish women together halfway around the world



Patricia Rice, right, congratulates a teammate following a game of Catchball at Olympus Sports Center in Hillsboro Friday, Jan. 3. The club has been a source of exercise - and connection - for its members through both their own personal challenges and the turmoil affecting the Jewish world. (Photographs by Rockne Roll/The Jewish Review)

"You start playing, and you just forget everything," she said in a recent phone interview.

"My life is full of stress," Rice said, ticking off her demanding job, caring for her 80-year-old mother who is a Holocaust survivor and whom she helped move from Israel, and supporting her three adult children, two of whom have late-onset Tay-Sachs (LOTS), a neurodegenerative disease with no cure.

"Every time I get to catchball and every time I'm done playing, I get out of there with a big smile on my face," Rice says. "We're more about connecting and having fun than about sport."

"It has a really basketball-in-the-park kind of feel," says Martha Klein Izenson, an attorney and mother of three,

who joined the local team only three months ago. "I'm still learning the rules," she said.

Izenson adds that the group dynamic keeps her coming back for more. She loves getting to know Israelis, the supportive nature of the group and the community it's created that extends beyond the court.

At a recent Friday morning 1.5-hour catchball practice – at the Hillsboro-based Olympus Sports Center – Shirli Cohen momentarily took a seat on the bleachers, long enough to share her catchball story.

Originally from Israel, Cohen said about a year and a half ago, a girlfriend she bumped into in a grocery store ex-

continued on next page



continued from previous page

tended a casual invitation to come play. “And honestly I thought I was too old for this,” Cohen, 54, laughed. Still, she joined her friend, watched from the sidelines – as women ages 20 to 60 gave it their all – and decided to give catchball a whirl.

She immediately got “hooked,” she said. “We feel like we’re in junior high when we play.”

“I remember commenting after my first practice that it was like a really fun, silly adult P.E. class,” said Angela Sim, a mother of four and currently the only non-Jew on the team.

That was back in 2019. Since then, she’s experienced a divorce and a house fire. “The team was there for me through both of those difficult periods.”

Sim, 49, recalls, “I’m not exaggerating when I say that within two days (of the house fire) I had linens for all of our beds, towels, clothing for myself and for my kids, a TV, a microwave, a toaster, and a pantry full of food. It makes me tearful remembering all the love and support I received.”

Elena Lifschitz, 44, who was born in Russia and lived in Israel before making Portland home, took a quick break from the recent practice to echo her teammates’ sense of catchball community. “I love the game. It’s not only the game, but also the socializing I love, too.”

The team practices on Monday mornings at 10:30 a.m., and Friday mornings



at 11 a.m.; the latter workout concludes the best way possible: with coffee and treats like cakes and cookies, often homemade.

The women get together outside the gym, too, and not just for the hard times like Sim’s, or in the wake of the Oct. 7, 2023, Hamas terrorist attacks. The athletes regularly gather for birthdays, happy hours and dinner parties.

Even the women’s coach, Colton Wright, has been drawn into their orbit. A professional coach, Wright, 33, has been guiding the team for a year and joins in the regular post-Friday practice coffee klatch.

He calls the group “joyous” and full of “young energy.”

Back on the court, during a quick coaching break, Wright gathers the women at the net to tweak their Western Quick Draw technique. Like all sports, this one’s got its own vocabulary. Some of which is in Hebrew.

Has he picked up any? “Just a couple words,” he says a little sheepishly. “Like *sheket*” (be quiet).

Despite all the warm feelings, even catchball has a catch: It is short on funds.

The monthly per-player dues of \$100 barely covers costs, and yet the team wants to add more members and compete in more tournaments, such as in Las Vegas, or Seattle, which is home to 17 catchball teams. Rice is actively seeking more players and, ideally, a sponsor to relieve the financial burden of tourney registrations and travel expenses.

“My dream is to grow it and have more teams here,” Rice said. “I just want ladies here to know how fun and empowering it is.”

Interested? To catch the fever, email “mama” Patricia Rice at patriciasell-s4u@gmail.com.

A self-described dinosaur who still keeps a hand-written daily calendar, Jenn Director Knudsen has published work in The Boston Globe, The Oregonian, the San Francisco Chronicle, The Forward and HuffPost, among other outlets. Her most recent personal essay is available at [The Mother Chapter](#). Find her on [Substack](#).



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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.

Bierbaum to retire as EJC head

By ROCKNE ROLL
The Jewish Review

After 38 years – to the day, as it will turn out – of leadership in Portland’s arts and culture scene, Howie Bierbaum is retiring.

The outgoing Executive Director of the Eastside Jewish Commons will step down Mar. 31 – the same day he started as General Manager of the Echo Theater in Southeast Portland. Bierbaum’s two years as EJC’s professional leader have seen the organization blossom as a pillar of Jewish life east of the Willamette River. It’s been a fabulous career coda for Bierbaum, who described himself as having never really engaged with Jewish institutions before coming to EJC.

“I feel fortunate that I found a job in the Jewish community that kind of allowed me to put together all of my experience and skills to create a new space,” he said. “Ending my career engaging with the Jewish community has been a real blessing, and it has deepened my commitment to Judaism.”

While Bierbaum was not EJC’s first executive director, he came to the organization at a turning point in its path and shifted gears toward building a launchpad for Jewish communal life that could host and support other community organizations but also develop its own identity, goals and programs.

“The point of the organization initially was that we’re going to open this space and all 30 community partners are going to use it regularly. That didn’t really pan out as much because everyone’s got their own brick and mortar,” Bierbaum said. “So that’s why Eric [Stern, EJC’s Events Coordinator and Cultural Arts Ambassador] and I sat down and kind of chartered our course for being our own entity, shifting into an arts and culture hub to fill a void in the community.”

It’s a course Bierbaum was perhaps uniquely suited for. Following his time at Echo Theater, he went on to lead the Portland Area Theatre Alliance, Portland Symphonic Choir, Third Angle New Music Ensemble and Oregon Volunteer Lawyers for the Arts. Bierbaum co-founded and managed the Wonder Ballroom music venue in Northeast Portland before becoming tour manager for the jazz fusion band Pink Martini.

Later, Bierbaum became the executive director of Portland Saturday Market and consulted with “Beyond Van Gogh - The Immersive Experience” on their marketing campaign. He had planned to step into retirement after his time at Saturday Market before EJC came calling.

Bierbaum has also immersed himself in activist work since coming to Portland in 1981 – as a member of ACT UP at the height of the AIDS crisis, working to stop the closure of the Skidmore Fountain MAX stop and working toward the replacement of the Burnside Bridge. He’s also fundraised for the QDoc Film Festival and produced a documentary film, “Beatlore,” examining Oregon’s mental health crisis. This work is all rooted in Jewish values – values that have guided Bierbaum throughout his life and career and which are integral to EJC’s work, even when it isn’t obvious.

“People might say, ‘How is this Jewish?’” Bierbaum said of EJC programs like the Indie Pop-Up film presentations the Commons has hosted. “In a broader sense, the films that we present and the stuff we present are maybe not explicitly Jewish in content, but they embrace Jewish values, equity, justice, charity, community. That’s what we look for in everything we do and produce.”

Inclusivity has been key among those values, and the way EJC has embraced that mindset to support corners of Portland’s Jewish community that hadn’t had space or institutional support previously is a point of pride for him.

“People came to us; the queer community and people of color and women’s issues,” Bierbaum said. “EJC acted as a venue and a partner and cheerleader for these events because they haven’t been done anywhere. So, I feel really proud that we created a new niche for both mainstream and alternative approaches to Judaism.”

Bierbaum will still be implementing those values – just on a part-time basis. Following his official last day on Mar. 31, he’ll be around the building until the end of EJC’s fiscal year to serve as a resource for his replacement.

“I still work with the singer Storm

Wyte-Lake joins NJHSA

By ROCKNE ROLL
The Jewish Review

Portland’s Tamar Wyte-Lake has been named as the Crisis Response Program Manager for the Network of Jewish Human Service Agencies, the global association for Jewish organizations working in human services. Her new role, in which she becomes the Network’s first employee west of Chicago, puts her at the nexus of developing tools to effectively respond to crises.

“My job has always been to develop tools and resources and help disseminate them,” she said. “The Network decided internally that this is something that should really have a point person to help coordinate response efforts and act as a resource to agencies so that they know that they have an immediate point person to come to. That’s one piece. The second piece is really to start becoming more proactive. The goal for us, as the umbrella organization, is to help get those agencies prepared.”

Wyte-Lake honed this craft at the US Department of Veterans’ Affairs’ Veterans Emergency Management Evaluation Center, where she worked for more than a decade. She holds a master’s in public health from the University of California, Los Angeles and a Doctorate in Physical Therapy from the University of Southern California.

“Although I was a perfectly fine physical therapist, it was not my passion,” Wyte-Lake said, “and I really needed to find a career where I could fulfill all of all of me.”

Wyte-Lake, who was born in Israel, also has a passion for Jewish community, as a member of Havurah Shalom and as a board member at both the Mittleman Jewish Community Center and the Eastside Jewish Commons.

“This is a nice confluence of my kind of Jewish passion and interest in community and my work disaster preparedness,” she said of her new role, which supports more than 170 agencies in the US, Canada and Israel.

See **BIERBAUM**, page 11



Challah for hostages

Photographs by ROCKNE
ROLL

The Jewish Review

Challah braiders of all ages met in Congregation Neveh Shalom's Birnbach Hall Thursday, Jan. 30 to form loaves, sing, hear from the families of those still in captivity in Gaza, and be in community together. The event was sponsored by Neveh Shalom and Greater Portland Hillel.



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of this planet and what individual steps we can take to repair the world.



OJCYF dinner is Apr. 10

Oregon Jewish Community Foundation

The Oregon Jewish Community Youth Foundation (OJCYF) invites the community to its annual benefit dinner on Apr. 10 at the Eastside Jewish Commons. This unique event is organized and led by OJCYF's teen board members, who are dedicated to making a difference through philanthropy and social activism.

This year's theme, An Evening of Glamour and Giving, will bring a Hollywood-inspired flair to the night. Guests will hear directly from the teens about how they are addressing critical community needs and making an impact through their grantmaking. This year, OJCYF is focusing on confronting antisemitism, with all proceeds from the dinner benefitting nonprofit organizations working on this issue.

Tickets are available now at ojcf.org

OJCYF is an award-winning program of the Oregon Jewish Community Foundation. For more information or to apply for an OJCYF grant, contact Susan Berniker at susanb@ojcf.org or 503-248-9328.

Jewish Film Festival returns Feb. 12-23

Oregon Jewish Museum and Center for Holocaust Education

The Portland Jewish Film Festival is back! On sale now are tickets to the six documentaries in the 2025 film festival; the first film screens Feb. 12, the final one Feb. 23.

This year's event is poised to serve a larger audience. Movies screen at the Patricia Reser Center for the Arts in Beaverton, and at PAM CUT's Tomorrow Theater in Southeast Portland. The documentaries explore a great variety of lived experiences – those of women, Blacks, Israelis, Palestinians, with disabilities and Holocaust survivors, from post-World War II right up to the present day.

The doc “Shari & Lamb Chop” opens the festival. “Shari Lewis and her puppets like Lamb Chop were transformative for children's television, teaching them about growing up through laughter, creativity, and heart,” Rebekah Sobel, executive director of OJMCHE, said.

She continued, “Their timeless magic makes them the perfect way to kick off our film festival, celebrating storytelling that inspires, uplifts – and also challenges – audiences of all ages.”

On tap flicks also include “Ain't No Back to a Merry-Go-Round” that features never-before-seen footage from the first organized interracial civil rights protest in U.S. history. Through four living protesters, it takes viewers back to a 1961 picket line at the now-defunct Maryland-based Glen Echo Amusement Park. Its segregated carousel stoked Jews living nearby to join the picket line with Black students and well-known Freedom Riders, including Stokely Carmichael, to fight segregation. Arrests ensued in a case that went all the way to the Supreme Court.

“ADA - My Mother the Architect” profiles Ada Karmi Melamed, one of the most prolific architects of her generation in Israel and abroad. She is tested by the realities of career and motherhood, a unique mother-daughter bond, and a fragile nation grappling

with unrealized dreams. Through the lens of her daughter's camera, Melamed is revealed to be an extraordinary protagonist whose life story is intertwined with the story of the turbulent and complicated country she loves.

Samuel Habib, like most folks in their early 20s, struggles with adulting: becoming independent from family, intimacy, and launching a career. But unlike most, Samuel is a disabled adult with a rare genetic disorder who must tackle these – and many more – challenges from his automated wheelchair and with help from a communication device. In “The Ride Ahead,” Samuel seeks an assist: He turns to other disabled adults to learn how to avoid what are all too common for people like them – unemployment, isolation, and institutionalization.

Katzetnik is a Holocaust survivor who became a fêted writer, recluse, and prolific user of LSD, one way he coped with trauma suffered during World War II. Coded like the Auschwitz prisoner number on his arm – 135633 – and within the name he gave himself, Katzetnik led a life of secrecy that morphed into myth, as explored in “The Return from the Other Planet” that includes a post-screening, in-person Q&A with the filmmaker.

Closing night's “The Other” examines Israelis and Palestinians working in tandem as peace-builders, anti-occupation activists, artists, academics, ex-fighters, and bereaved parents before Oct. 7, 2023. And then the Hamas terror attacks occurred, launching a war. The filmmakers returned to their subject matter and subjects, showcasing through October 2024 another reality, an entire ecosystem of peace builders and activists in Israel-Palestine working together toward a better future.

Portland Jewish Film Festival passes and tickets are on sale. Films Feb. 12 to Feb. 23, 2025. For passes and more information, such as about Q&A and talkbacks, visit ojmcche.org.

BIERBAUM (continued from page 8)

Large on her concerts,” he said. “I will do freelance projects as they arise. I just don't want to have a 40-hour-a-week job.”

It's a fair sentiment for someone who's done so much for the communities he's

served – including the Jewish community.

“I'm turning 67 in a few months. Life is getting shorter,” he said. “It's a major shift for the organization, but I'm confident they'll find a great replacement for me.”

jewishportland.org/subscribe

NW Wings launches new kids programs

The Jewish Review staff

NW Wings Aviation, owned by Elad and Etti Segal, is offering new programs for kids interested in aviation.

Their summer aviation camp program will be returning in the coming months, giving kids a chance to explore the physics of flight through hands-on projects as well as getting up close with aircraft ranging from the company's fleet of Cessnas to a retired Alaska Airlines turboprop airliner.

"We teach them about occupations in aviation, and then they will meet people from NASA. We have a captain from Horizon that's coming in to speak with them," Elad Segal explained.

While it's a great springboard for those interested in pursuing aviation

as a career, it's not just for those with dreams of working in the skies.

"This is for everyone," Etti Segal said. "Even if your kids don't have a big dream to be a pilot, this is still fun."

The same goes for NWWA's new birthday party packages.

"Part of the birthday party is educational, to learn about aviation," she continued. "They will learn about the aircraft, they'll put together a glider."

The company will also be putting together an after-school program that will provide, among other programs, an opportunity for participants over the age of 16 to earn a drone pilot's certificate under Federal Aviation Regulations Part 107 – a leg up in an increasingly in-demand career field.

"Drones today taking a lot of the jobs that we did with airplanes," Elad Segal said. "It's the future. There's a huge market that's going there."

It's these kinds of experiences growing up in Israel that led Segal to want to be a pilot – and now, as a flight instructor, they're experiences he's eager to pass on.

"I remember myself as a kid. I flew with my uncle," he said. "The small things, when you're young, might lead you in the future to be a pilot."

"I love to educate people and see people start from zero to becoming a pilot. This is why we opened the business," he continued.

For more information on NW Wings Aviation's upcoming programs, visit nw-waflly.com or call 503-906-0945

WZO Vice Chair Hess to speak at Neveh Shalom

The Jewish Review staff

Yizhar Hess, the Vice-Chair of the World Zionist Organization, will speak at a Shabbat dinner at Congregation Neveh Shalom Friday, Feb. 21 at 7:30 pm as part of the 2025 North American Association of Synagogue Executives Conference's pre-conference Shabbaton. Hess will address "Between October 7th-8th: What is the role of American Jews in shaping Israel's 'Day After'?"

Following his military service, Hess earned a bachelor's in Political Science and Hebrew Literature at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem. A member of the Israeli Bar, his law degree is from the Interdisciplinary Center in Herzliya. He holds a master's in Jewish Studies from the Schechter Institute in Jerusalem and a doctorate in Sociology and Education

from Sussex University in Brighton, England. After holding the Deputy Director position at the Shorashim Centre for Jewish Studies, Hess served as the Jewish Agency's community *shaliach* to Tucson. On his return to Israel, he worked for the Jewish Agency as Director of Partnerships. He is currently on a speaking tour encouraging American Jews to participate in the upcoming WZO elections.

"We're very pleased he's making it as far as the Pacific Northwest," Neveh Shalom Executive Director Marlene Edenzon said. "It's a big deal."

The event will include a four-course plated dinner. Tickets are \$30 and are available online at members.nevehshalom.org/event/NAASE25. For more information, email richmond@nevehshalom.org.

"Letters for Life" author visits Jewish Oasis Feb. 12

By HILLEL PETERSEN

Jewish Oasis

In celebration of 75 years of the Lubavitcher Rebbe's transformative leadership and profound teachings, Jewish Oasis will host an exclusive evening with author Levi Y. Shmotkin, featuring his groundbreaking book, "Letters for Life: Guidance for Emotional Wellness from the Lubavitcher Rebbe" this Tu B'shvat, Wednesday, Feb. 12, at 7 pm at the Jewish Oasis in downtown Portland.

Shmotkin will share the Rebbe's unique perspective on emotional wellness, rooted in his profound understanding of the Torah and decades of counsel to countless individuals. "Letters for Life" extracts 12 essential principles and tools for emotional wellness from the Rebbe's letters and counsel. The book has been praised for its accessibility, authenticity, and profundity, offering a holistic approach to emotional wellness that is both profoundly spiritual and intensely practical.

"The Rebbe charged us with transforming the world and bringing all its inhabitants to a recognition of the Creator," said Jewish Oasis Rabbi Chayim Mishulovin. "This book embodies that vision, providing guidance for emotional wellness that is both timeless and timely."

The evening will include an author presentation, book signing (for sponsors), wine, and a Tu B'shvat-themed Fruit Fusion Salad Bar.

Registration is available online at JewishOasis.com/life, with prices increasing on February 6.



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

Forest Park learning and service is Feb. 23

The Jewish Review staff

The Jewish Federation of Greater Portland's Climate Action Committee, an effort of the Jewish Community Relations Council, invites you to join with The Forest Park Conservancy and Congregation Neveh Shalom's Foundation School for a morning of learning and service Sunday, Feb. 23 from 9 am-noon, departing from Leif Erickson Trail's Thurman Street Trailhead, 4100

NE Leif Erickson Drive in Portland.

Enjoy a short (less than one mile) guided hike and help FPC maintain Forest Park's unique trail network through one of North America's largest urban forests as we learn about our role as caretakers of this planet and individual steps we each can take to repair the world. No experience or tools are necessary, and all ages are welcome and encouraged to attend.

Tu B'shevat is the annual Jewish "new

year," or celebration, for the trees, recognizing the important role trees play in sustaining human life. In honor of the holiday, we will spend a day caring for the trees and beautiful natural areas sustaining us here in Portland.

Registration is available online at jewishportland.org/tubshevat. For more information, email JFGP Volunteer Coordinator Merit Pinker at merit@jewishportland.org.

RABBI (continued from page 1)

factors that keep her here today and for the future.

"When we came to Portland in the first place, it was because the job fit what I was looking for at the time and we heard that Portland was a nice place to raise a family," she said. "We want to stay because all of that was true and this community is loving and committed to working together, and it's a place that's become our home."

In her time with the synagogue, Rabbi Posen has worked with each of her predecessors in her new role: Rabbi Kosak, Rabbi Emeritus Daniel Isaak and Rabbi Joshua Stampfer, z"l.

"I'm a link in this chain of leadership and tradition that is strong and goes back generations of families," Rabbi Posen said. "That, to me, is the beauty of Judaism; that we are connected to our ancestors."

Her appointment follows a thorough process that began with the formation of a Rabbinic Transition Committee that surveyed the synagogue's membership about what they were looking for in their next senior rabbi. Five hundred people completed the survey, Kalenscher said, with more than 350 providing additional comments

— all of which guided the committee's work.

"The highest priority items included leading worship services and pastoral care, but also supporting connection to Israel and being a visionary," Kalenscher said. "There was also desire for a leader who is very learned in Torah and Talmud, who has the ability to make *halachic* decisions."

After a pair of two-hour long interviews, Rabbi Posen came through as just that leader. Both the Transition Committee and the synagogue's board recommended her unanimously.

"[Rabbi Posen] progressed and did a lot more pulpit work in terms of leading services," Kalenscher continued. "She really had to come through when Rabbi Kosak experienced his illness last year. She had a lot of opportunities to cover for him and pick up a significant amount of his responsibilities during that time and it was clear that she was up to the task."

"I have had the good fortune over the last two years of working very closely with [Rabbi Posen]," Edenzon said. "When Rabbi Kozak became ill prior to the High Holidays in 2023, she stepped up and assumed a

role of leadership in a way that really showed that she was quite confident and ready to handle this job."

The gravity of Rabbi Posen's appointment to a lead rabbinic role at a large Conservative synagogue, a situation that's still something of a rarity, is not lost on anyone involved.

"This is a historic moment for us," Kalenscher said. "We're proud to be blazing the trail."

With Rabbi Rachel Joseph already announced as the next Senior Rabbi of Congregation Beth Israel, Edenzon explained, "We're going to have two strong females leading Jewish Portland in two major synagogues in our community."

"Part of why I never wanted to be a pulpit rabbi was that I'd never seen a woman in that position when I was growing up. Men were the pulpit rabbis and women were the educator rabbis. So, I never had in mind that this was something I could do," Rabbi Posen recalled. "When I was 12 and I decided at my bat mitzvah to put on *tallit* and *tefillin*, I was one of the only girls to do that. I always stood out as the oddball in that sense. Now, in this moment, this

means that there will never be a girl at Neveh Shalom that looks out and doesn't see leadership as something that they can aspire to. It's a big honor to change the tides of what is possible."

With a Senior Rabbi selected, the Transition Committee will be exploring how they'd like to potentially fill out Neveh Shalom's rabbinic roster.

"We're going to be talking about what we need for the clergy team that Rabbi Posen is going to be the leader of," Kalenscher said, "and we'll take it from there."

In the meantime, Rabbi Posen is taking the opportunity to look back on the journey that's brought her here.

"One of the pieces that I've been reflecting on in this process is the gift of clergy to be with families as they grow and to walk the Jewish life cycle. Kids that were two when I moved here are now having their *b'nai mitzvah*. I treasure that as a gift of the rabbinate," she explained. "For me, it's also that Neveh Shalom has gotten to watch me grow as a rabbi. So, this is a full circle moment of being able to celebrate the fact that as human beings, we're constantly learning and growing."

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

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To receive the Jewish
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Jewish Review do not
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Greater Portland online

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NEXT ISSUE

Issue date Deadline

FEB 19

FEB 13

Security Corner

Managing Media Matters

By JESSICA ANDERSON

In October 2024, I attended an annual meeting of Jewish Community Security Directors from across the US. I wrote about the event in a previous column and promised to write later about a few of the topics we covered. One of the best speakers we heard was Ari Fleisher, the former White House Press Secretary under President George W. Bush. Fleisher now runs a communications firm specializing in media management, strategy, advice, and training. Fleisher provided advice on handling the media following a critical incident, and I'd like to share his advice and some other best practices with you.

Incidents will happen – we can't know when or how, but any preparation you can undertake beforehand will set you up for more successful management. Truth, preparation, messaging, and discipline are the foundation of a successful media response.

Firstly, you should appoint a designated spokesperson to handle all media inquiries. This ensures consistent messaging, prevents mixed signals, and reduces confusion. Ideally, this person should be trained in media relations and crisis communication. It might be important for leadership to message to staff and their congregation/community that any sharing of information, posting on social media, or speaking to journalists is not helpful. We've seen this happen in situations, and things get complicated fast.

TRUTH – The first obligation is to tell the truth as you



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.

know it at the time you're saying it; if you say anything wrong or incorrect, you'll undermine your credibility, even if you don't mean to. If mistakes are made or there are gaps in the information, acknowledge it. Trying to hide facts or downplay the severity of the situation can erode trust. Transparency is the key to maintaining credibility and avoiding media backlash. If a journalist says something inaccurate, be quick with the correct information and address misinformation quickly and diligently. Stick to what you know and avoid speculating about unknown details or making promises you can't keep. If you don't know something, it's okay to say, "We don't have that information at this time, but we're working to get it." Being cautious about what you share can prevent future corrections or contradictions.

You may need to start by simply acknowledging the incident quickly and then follow up later with more detailed information as you gather the facts. A holding statement can be useful if you're still gathering details.

PREPARATION – Ensure all the involved parties are

coordinating in between news conferences. Make sure everyone gets together before a press conference to know what the facts are and what everyone is going to say. Develop key talking points or a press release that addresses the incident clearly and concisely. When media appearances go poorly, everyone looks bad. Take time to know the press people beforehand – having these relationships already established can help smooth over issues.

During this process, it can help to think like a reporter. Plan ahead by conceiving all the hard, difficult questions you might encounter. Try to get a sense of what's on their minds and what the predictable questions will be. You should anticipate the easy ones and be able to knock those answers out of the park. If the reporters ask you a process question, describe all the steps you're taking to get to a conclusion and explain why you can't answer at this time. Something like: "That's a great question. We're working to get the answer, and this is what we're doing to get that answer..." Another approach

See SECURITY, page 16

Yes, You Should Be a Tree Hugger

“When the Holy One, blessed be He, created Adam, the first man, God took him and showed him all the trees in the Garden of Eden, and God said to him: ‘See My creations, how beautiful and exemplary they are. Everything I created, I created for you. Make certain that you do not ruin and destroy My world, as if you destroy it, there will be no one to mend it after you.’” —Kohelet Rab-bah 7:13

By CANDACE ROTHSTEIN

Not too long ago, it was considered laughable at best and a straight-up insult at worst to be called a “tree hugger.” Photos of people chaining themselves to trees to prevent them from being cut down were shown as hilarious examples of left-wing extremism.

Now, trees are often touted as THE solution to climate change. More trees=less carbon in the atmosphere!

Less carbon=a cooler planet. Win win! When corporations claim to “offset” their emissions, this often means they are contributing to programs which claim to plant trees for the purpose of carbon capture. In actuality, planting a bunch of trees is not the beautiful, simple solution that it often claims to be. This is because what captures and sequesters carbon from the atmosphere is not necessarily an abundance of trees. It’s forests.

Forests have a delicate and complex system of biodiversity and balance. A functioning and healthy forest pulls carbon from the air and sequesters it, but when deforestation occurs, all that carbon gets pushed back out, irreversibly. It’s a sobering fact that if nothing changes in the current rate of deforestation, the Amazon rainforest as well as many other forests will soon become a

source of carbon emissions rather than a solution to its removal.

So, maybe we don’t need to chain ourselves to a tree to keep it from being cut down, but it’s clear that stopping the deforestation of our forests and rebuilding their ecosystems is essential to stopping climate change.

One of the best ways to protect our forests is to support indigenous peoples and local communities, who manage 54% of the world’s remaining intact forests. Their stewardship of the land is essential to protect and sustain the necessary biodiversity and ecosystem that keep a forest alive.

In Judaism, it’s traditional to plant trees on Tu B’Shevat to celebrate new life and the new year of the trees. *Etz chaim*—trees are a life-giving symbol in

See CLIMATE, page 16

Guest Column

Greenberg: An Urgent Call to Action

By SUSAN GREENBERG

Recent policy shifts impacting vulnerable populations necessitate a strong response from us at Jewish Family & Child Service (JFCS). Our mission, deeply rooted in the Jewish values of *tikkun olam* (to repair the world), *gemilut chasadim* (acts of lovingkindness), and *tzedakah* (justice through charity), compels us to speak out against these changes and to work towards policies that uphold equity and human dignity.

We are particularly alarmed by the increased arrests and detentions of immigrants — actions that sow fear and disrupt the lives of individuals who contribute positively to our society. Such measures starkly contradict our commitment to sanctuary, respect, and human rights. Furthermore, the cessation of federal funding for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) initiatives threatens to reverse our progress toward inclusivity and equality.

Here are immediate ways you can take action and stand with us:

- Engage with ACLU of Oregon: Access critical resources on protecting immigrant rights. aclu-or.org/en/know-your-rights-immigrants-rights
- Volunteer with Bend the Arc: Join efforts to advocate for justice and equality. bendthearc.us
- Support HIAS: Learn about protecting refugee rights under challenging governmental policies. hias.org/news/refugee-rights-and-trump-administration-week-two
- Get Involved with Indivisible: Take part in actions that drive change. mobilize.us/indivisible/?tag_ids=25780
- Help Lutheran Community Services Northwest: Contribute your time to expand their outreach programs. lcsnw.org/2025/01/lcsn-wundaunted/
- Utilize the Oregon Department of Justice Community Toolkit: Equip yourself with knowledge

to defend rights at a community level. doj.state.or.us/oregon-department-of-justice/civil-rights/sanctuary-promise/community-toolkit

- Join Oregon for All: Ensure our schools remain safe and inclusive environments for all children. tinyurl.com/OregonForAll

The policy shifts we face not only contradict our values but also undermine the progress we’ve made towards building a more equitable society. We urge a reconsideration of these measures. Together, let’s renew our commitment to fostering a community that celebrates diversity and inclusivity.

Thank you for standing with us.

Susan Greenberg is the Executive Director of Jewish Family & Child Service in Portland.

Opinions expressed here do not necessarily reflect the views of The Jewish Review, the Jewish Federation of Greater Portland, or its staff.

CLIMATE (continued from page 15)

the Torah. And as we know, trees are vital to the life of the planet and to the mitigation of climate change. We can use this time in the Jewish calendar to not only celebrate the trees, but

also to embrace being “tree huggers” who fight to sustain and restore our forests, recognizing them for the life-giving and life-sustaining places they are.

The Climate Action Com-

mittee of the Jewish Federation of Greater Portland is sharing tips and resources for healing the Earth in a periodic Climate Corner in the Jewish Review. The group is committed to the important

work of tikkun olam, repairing the world.

If you would like to join the Climate Action Committee, please contact Rachel Nelson at rachel@jewishportland.org.

SECURITY (continued from page 14)

is to explain why you can't... “This is why I'm not going to answer that question...”

MESSAGING – Think about the headline you would put on your news conference and drive that message. The first words out of your mouth should be what your message is – give them the headline you want them to lead with. People often think about all the nuances of a situation, but it's not helpful to get lost in trying to articulate all of them. “We pledge to get to the bottom” or “It's too soon to get answers” are short phrases that can be easily repeated.

Continue to monitor media coverage. Keep track of what the media is reporting in real-time. This allows you

to correct misinformation quickly or provide additional context if needed. Social media monitoring is especially crucial, as misinformation can spread rapidly there.

Keep the media updated on developments, particularly when new facts emerge. Offer interviews and press releases to clarify the situation, but always with a strategy for how you want the story framed.

Plan to provide proactive updates through official channels (website, social media, etc.) to guide the conversation and shape the narrative, especially before the media has a chance to spin the story. Ensure that future communications align with earlier statements to main-

tain consistency.

DISCIPLINE – In high-pressure situations, it's important to remain calm, even if the media is pushing for more details or creating sensational narratives. Keep your tone professional and avoid getting defensive or emotional, no matter how the questions are framed. The only thing that matters is what comes out of your mouth. Discipline is being confident about what you're going to say, knowing you're not going to make a mistake, and knowing you're not going to say something inaccurate. Ultimately, making a mistake is a discipline problem.

If a reporter asks an inane question, answer the ques-

tion you want to answer. If you need to dismiss a question, say, “That's not what we're here to talk about today,” then physically move your eye contact away from that person and indicate with your hands towards someone else to ask their question. This shuts that first person down and dismisses their energy. Also, think about how your face and body are moving; there's a place for showing emotion when it is relevant and when it conveys the message you want.

By following these practices, organizations can not only manage media relations effectively during a crisis but also help mitigate damage and demonstrate responsibility.



You're Invited to Participate in the Jewish Federation of Greater Portland and Jewish Grandparents Network **Grandparent Engagement Survey.**

Your responses will help shape future programs and resources for grandparents in our community.

Events

More upcoming community events online at jewishportland.org/community-calendar

Feb. 7: Monthly Sephardic Community Shabbat Dinner

Sephardic Kabbalat Service and Sephardic-themed Shabbat Dinner at Congregation Ahavath Achim at 6:30 pm. \$20/members, \$30/non-members. Registration required online at ahavathachimpdx.weebly.com/monthly-shabbat-dinners.html.

Feb. 8-9: Finding Light in Dark Times

Dinner and discussion with Chana Meira Katz at 7:30 pm Saturday at the Portland Kollel; Women's Brunch and discussion of Psalms Sunday at 9:30 am at Kesser Israel. Free, registration requested online at kesserisrael.org.

Feb. 9: Maayan Preschool Open House

Preschool open house at Maayan Torah Day School from 10:30 am – noon. For more information, email asingrey@maayanpdx.org.

Feb. 9: Tu B'Shvat Family Fun

Garden tour and seed planting hosted by Congregation Kesser Israel at 2 pm. Free,

preregistration requested online at kesserisrael.org/event/garden.

Feb. 9: Super Bowl Sunday at EJC

Super Bowl watch party from 2:30-8 pm at the Eastside Jewish Commons. Free. For more information or to register, visit ejcpdx.org/events.

Feb. 9: JCO Young Artists Concert

Performance by Jewish Community Orchestra and Young Artists Winners at 3 pm at the Mittleman Jewish Community Center. \$20. For more information, email mltjpn7214@gmail.com.

Feb. 11: Sephardic Winter Film Festival

Screening of "American Jerusalem: Jews and the Making of San Francisco" at Congregation Ahavath Achim at 7 pm. Free. For more information, email melissa@ahavathachim.com.

Feb. 11: Adult Story Time at CNS

Story hour for grownups at Congregation Neveh Shalom at 7 pm. RSVP at members.nevehshalom.org/

event/FLStory25.

Feb. 11: Helping Teens Thrive

Webinar for parents from Moving Traditions at 7 pm. Free. Register at moving-traditions.formstack.com/forms/motroregonwebinars.

Feb. 12: Finding Emotional Balance in an Unbalanced World

See story, page 12.

Feb. 12: PJFF Presents "Shari & Lamb Chop"

See story, page 11.

Feb. 12: Tu B'Shvat Seder & Paint Party

Women's paint night at Congregation Kesser Israel at 7:45 pm. \$25. Registration required at kesserisrael.org/event/paint.

Feb. 13: PJFF Presents "The Return from the Other Planet"

See story, page 11.

Feb. 14: Family Shabbat Dinner at the J

Monthly Shabbat dinner at the Mittleman Jewish Community Center at 6 pm. \$5. For more information, email

bbutterworth@oregonjcc.org.

Feb. 15: Mini Men-sches Tot Shabbat

Children's Shabbat service at Congregation Beth Israel at 9 am. For more information, email chelsea@bethisrael-pdx.org.

Feb. 16: Jewish Perspectives on Death and Community

Panel discussion on Jewish end-of-life topics at the Eastside Jewish Commons at 2 pm. Free, registration required at ejcpdx.org/events.

Feb. 16: PJFF Presents "Ain't No Back to a Merry Go Round"

See story, page 11.

Feb. 16: A Spiritual Path in Marriage

Second of a series of classes with Jacob Spilman, LMFT at Congregation Kesser Israel at 7 pm. \$18 for the series. For more information or to register, visit kesserisrael.org/event/marriage.

Feb. 19: PJFF Presents "ADA – My Mother, the Architect"

See story, page 11.

Jobs Board

See the latest Jewish jobs at jewishportland.org/ourcommunity/jewish-jobs

Free online subscription:
jewishportland.org/subscribe

RICHARD BLAUER

Richard Edward Blauer, z"l, passed away Monday, Dec. 23, at the age of 78. Rick is lovingly remembered by his wife Charlotte Blauer, daughter Lindsey Blauer Ciechanowski (Jonathan Ciechanowski), granddaughter Ruth Ciechanowski, and large Blauer family in Portland and beyond.

Born in Portland to Sol and Ruth Blauer, z"l, Rick grew up in Raleigh Hills with his sister Joanne Blauer (Floyd Weintraub, z"l), and attended Shattuck School, Raleigh Hills School, Beaverton High School, University of Oregon, then Portland State University. His love of music began early and continued throughout his life. He enjoyed spending time playing guitar with his daughter when she was younger. In recent years while living in Las Vegas, Rick was president of the Las Vegas Blues Society and played bass guitar in a band. He and Charlotte were deeply involved in the local music community and prioritized supporting local artists, on stage and off. When in Oregon, Rick always enjoyed the coast, particularly Cannon Beach, and had a love of flying kites, a love he shared even recently with his granddaughter. Rick is remembered by family and friends as smart, witty, patient, loving, and supportive.

There will be no services, though condolences and memories may be shared by email to Charlotte@CharlotteBlauer.com. Contributions in his memory may be made to The Michael J. Fox Foundation, Parkinson's Foundation, or a music related charity of your choice.

JOAN CRAMER

Congregation Kesser Israel regrets to announce the passing of Joan Cramer, z"l, beloved mother of Devora Flesher, early Thursday, Jan. 23. A small, private funeral was held Sunday, Jan. 26.

BENSON MEYERS

Benson Marc Meyers, z"l, age 74, of Portland, Ore., passed away on Thursday, Jan. 23, 2025 at home after a long health battle. Benson was born in 1950 to George and Roberta Meyers, z"l, both veterans of World War II. Benson was raised Jewish and was a person of thoughtful reflection throughout his life. He graduated from Ohio University, the University of Oregon with a master's in social work, and finally in 1983 a second master's in public administration from Lewis and Clark College.

Throughout his life, Benson was an avid traveler. He hitchhiked across the United States, Europe, and Northern Africa in his twenties. While traveling he met the love of his life and wife of 47 years, Ineke, on a kibbutz in Israel in 1973. They loved the outdoors, backpacking in Oregon and Washington, visiting national parks, and skiing on Mt. Hood. Together they had two children who Benson, along with Ineke, cherished above all else.

For much of his career, he was a senior leader in agencies dedicated to providing child and family services. Notably, Benson directed the former Rosemont Treatment Center and School and eventually facilitating its merger with Morrison Child and Family Services in the early 2000s. Benson's final chapter in his career was serving as the Director of Risk Management for Portland Public Schools from 2007 to

2014. Service to others with particular attention to children and families was the principal value of Benson's professional life.

In retirement, Benson was a proud grandfather to his three grandchildren, volunteered with the Oregon Humane Society, Friends of the Columbia River Gorge, and read to elementary school children in Tigard Public Schools, the last of which he continued until the week of his final hospitalization.

He is loved and survived by his wife, Ineke; his two children, sister, and three grandchildren. Benson will also be deeply missed by his childhood cousins across the country, extended family in the Netherlands, and a chosen family of dearly held friends in Portland and beyond. He will be missed by all those who ever had the pleasure of hearing Benson tell a story, followed by his infectious laugh.

A Celebration of Life to honor Benson's memory and spirit of love and service will be announced at a later date.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Oregon Humane Society or the Bird Alliance of Oregon.

RABBI LEVI WOLOSOW

Rabbi Levi Wolosow, z"l, brother of Mimi Wilhelm, who passed away suddenly on Feb. 3 at the age of 43, represented the very best of what a Chabad rabbi can and should be. Members of the community he served for 18 years recall that he was kind, learned, patient, outgoing, sincere and humble.

"He taught me how to reach out to people," says Mitch Halpert, who would sit near the rabbi at services in their Manalapan, N.J., synagogue. "Everyone knew him and everyone loved him. He would tell everyone, 'just do a little bit more,' and they would."

The atmosphere of Chabad outreach work is something Wolosow grew up with. The second of 12 children, Levi Yitzchak Wolosow was born in 1981 and raised in Sharon, Mass., where his parents, Rabbi Chaim and Sara Wolosow, have served as Chabad-Lubavitch emissaries since 1980. After his marriage to Chana Chazanow in 2006, the couple settled in Manalapan, where her parents, Rabbi Boruch and Tova Chazanow direct Chabad of Western Monmouth County.

The younger couple threw themselves into every aspect of the Chabad center, with a particular emphasis on Jewish education.

For many in the community, he is best known for Project Rosh—a High Holiday service for as many as 500 people who were, for whatever reason, not inclined to attend traditional synagogue services. His kindness was personal as it was real. When two children in the community were orphaned from both parents, the Wolosows adopted them as their own, raising them alongside their six biological children.

The rabbi collapsed on Monday during a family trip, and passed away later that day.

In addition to his parents and wife, he leaves behind his children: Nachum Wolosow, Dov Wolosow, Mendel Wolosow, Tzipa Wolosow, Miriam Wolosow, Uziel Wolosow, Naomi Horowitz and Tani Horowitz.

He is also survived by Mimi Wilhelm of Portland and 10 other siblings.