

Antisemitism surges; so do responses

Two reports, both released on Feb. 13, show a national increase in both antisemitism and awareness of it in the Jewish and general communities.

In Oregon, those increases spurred the city of Ashland and Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon to release proclamations condemning antisemitism (see page 12). Locally, Community Security Director Jessica Anderson helps Jewish individuals, organizations and synagogues defend against and respond to antisemitism. You can read about the courses and resources she offers in the Feb. 1 Jewish Review at jewishportland.org/jewishreview/jr-stories/i-am-your-security-director-too.

The Anti-Defamation League study examined the effects of Kanye West's antisemitic rants. The ADL found that West, who goes by Ye, had inspired at least 30 antisemitic incidents since October, when he vowed on Twitter to go "death con 3" on Jewish people. Read The Forward's story on the report at tinyurl.com/mwtdjedb.

The second study, American Jewish Committee's State of Antisemitism in America 2022

(tinyurl.com/2a88b5ha), details how antisemitism in America affects the lives and actions of Jews and compares those findings to how the American general public perceives the threat.

AJC's report says that "antisemitism is affecting American Jews' sense of security, particularly among young American Jews. 41% of U.S. Jews surveyed said the status of Jews in America is less secure than a year ago, up from 31% in 2021."

It notes that antisemitism is impacting American Jews, especially online and on social media with 85% of American Jews ages 18-29 reporting they have seen or were the target of antisemitism online at least once in the past year.

AJC's companion survey of the general public contains mixed findings. "Over nine in 10 U.S. adults (91%) said antisemitism is a problem for everyone and affects society as a whole. And yet, only 47% of U.S. adults surveyed said that antisemitism has increased over the last five years compared to 82% of American Jews."

Creating an oral history of the future

Co/Lab: Reimagine Jewish and the Oregon Jewish Museum and Center for Holocaust Education are working together on an important new project documenting the changes in Jewish life in Portland. The project is called "An Oral History of the Jewish Future."

The project's name reflects some of the remarkable undertakings opening up new opportunities in Jewish life today, according to Rabbi Josh Rose, who started Co/Lab: Reimagine Jewish, colabpdx.org, in 2021.

"We're seeing a renaissance in Jewish life in Portland and across the country," says Rabbi Rose. "Two things are happening. First, creative new secular Jewish organizations are opening doors to Jewish meaning through arts and culture or social justice. Second, younger Jews are carving out new paths to Jewish identification and community building. They're doing it independently, often outside legacy Jewish institutions. We're living through a very creative and historically important period in Jewish life."

With that in mind, Co/Lab and OJMCHE are coming together to document conversations with some of those in the Portland area whose creativity and initiative are creating new possibilities in Jewish life.



An OJMCHE visitor watches an oral history in the museum's core exhibit, *Oregon Jewish Stories*, which documents the experience of Oregon's Jewish community since the 1840s.

Using the model of OJMCHE's ongoing Oral History project, Museum Curator of Collections Anne LeVant Prahll will coordinate interviews of these younger Jewish community members. Among those already signed up to be interviewed is someone who manages a "Meetup" group called MOTs (for "members of the tribe"), which stages gatherings for ages 35- to 50-something

See **FUTURE HISTORY**, page 8

INSIDE

Spotlight on Maimonides Jewish Day School – page 2

Purim pastry around town – page 2



Tu B'Shvat fun – page 3

JFGP Israel project: Aim Higher – page 4

Award nomination deadline – page 4

Events: Neglected survivors, Israeli democracy threat and 19 more – pages 6-7

Youth & Young Adult deadlines and news – page 8

Newcomers connect at the Manor – page 9

Jobs: Jewish Review, Tivnu – page 9

Chaplain: Embrace reality – page 10

Hope for Portland & United in Spirit tackles homelessness – page 11

Ashland and EMO oppose antisemitism – page 12

Obituary: Rotman, Bergenfeld; Burial societies – page 12

SUBSCRIBE:

jewishportland.org/subscribe

Agency Spotlight

Profiles of the 18 local beneficiary agencies of the Jewish Federation of Greater Portland's 2022 Annual Campaign.



MAIMONIDES JEWISH DAY SCHOOL

503-288-8919 | office@portlandjewishschool.com
portlandjewishschool.com

AREA OF SERVICE: Jewish Education (early childhood, day school)

2022 ALLOCATION: \$25,250

MISSION: At Maimonides Jewish Day School, education is personal, meaningful and empowering. The school provides a nurturing environment for Jewish students in early childhood through eighth grade, where they receive a stellar education in both Judaic and general studies. Maimonides' mission is to instill a love of Judaism and foster a strong Jewish identity in each student.

Maimonides began the school year in its new building on Portland's east side at 4635 NE 9th Ave. With the acquisition of a new, larger building, Maimonides now has ample space for art and music and is attracting more Jewish students from Portland's east side.

Founded in 1985, Maimonides has remained committed to offering Portland's Jewish children an authentic, quality education. The Montessori method of teaching is incorporated into the curriculum, with a focus on child-led learning and Torah values. The school prioritizes Middot Tovot, encouraging students to develop a connection to self and a curiosity about the world.

This school year, two Israeli interns joined the Maimonides staff, giving students the opportunity to improve their Hebrew-speaking skills.

"Here at Maimonides, our students are taught through project-based learning," says Principal Karen DeNardo. "We believe that an interactive, hands-on approach provides real-life experience and helps students absorb and retain information."

Maimonides is proud to have given out \$150,000 in scholarships this past year, made possible in part with the support of the Jewish Federation of Greater Portland. This allows more children access to a quality Jewish education.

"This is a big opportunity for more families on the east side," says MJDS board member and parent, Rabbi Shmulik Greenberg of Clark County Chabad. "It's a dream come true to have a day school and preschool in the area."

2 Jewish Review Feb. 15, 2023

A pastry-filled Purim

BY KERRY POLITZER

While some of us look forward to dressing up during Purim, others can't wait to load up on prune or poppy seed hamantaschen. This year, there are even more flavors to choose from.

For those of you who don't want to stray too far from traditional fillings, Sweet Lorraine's Latkes & More (Eats on Albina, the Lot South of 4631 N Albina, sweetlorraineslatkes@gmail.com) plans to reprise their poppy seed hamantaschen from last year.

"They were a big hit," says co-owner Rachel.

Café at the J (6651 SW Capitol Hwy., 503-535-3630) will also be offering the triangular treats in the familiar flavors as well as in chocolate and raspberry.

The popular Jacob and Sons deli (337 NW Broadway, 503-535-3630) is bursting with new ideas. They'll be offering boxes of hamantaschen in four flavors: dark chocolate orange, marionberry with chocolate and hazelnut, sour cherry cheesecake and Meyer lemon-spiked poppy seed with black sesame. A box of four hamantaschen goes for \$15, and if you can't decide which flavor to try, you can order a box with one of each.

When asked for the story behind his unorthodox flavors, co-owner Noah Jacob admits that hamantaschen have never been his favorite Jewish pastry. He wanted to come up with alternatives to the flavor profiles of poppy, prune and apricot. The deli conducted many taste tests, finally settling on the four unique flavors.

"Like most things relating to Jewish food, so much is about sense memory, so I felt like even if we made the best prune hamantaschen ever, (they) still would be in direct comparison to every single other hamantaschen that our customers have ever eaten," he says. "I felt like with hamantaschen, unlike with other items that we stay closely true to traditional preparations, we had an opportunity to make them however we like them best."

"Because the cookies are inherently thick and doughy, we wanted the fillings to be more on the tart side," Noah says. "We also wanted them to have a bit more depth of flavor, so we did pairings that we think create more complex and complementary flavors."

Jacob and Sons didn't stop at hamantaschen – the deli will also be offering kreplach soup for Purim. The Portland-born Noah explains that as a child, his standard deli order was a bowl of kreplach soup and a half a pastrami on kaiser, but he could only order this during his trips to New York and Chicago. It is increasingly harder to find.

"(For) my entire life, eating kreplach has been kind of a luxury – it's so rarely offered anymore that I always order it when I see it on a menu," he says. "But for the past 15 years or so, I haven't had consistent access to it."

He always preferred his kreplach thick and doughy, as opposed to the popular thin wonton style, with filling just crumbly enough that it would spill out into the bottom of the bowl when the kreplach was cut into.

"Purim was the perfect occasion for us to start to work out our recipe here, and let me tell you – it is exactly how I remember it," says Noah. "It brings back such intense sense memories for me that I almost got emotional eating the samples. We had originally planned to serve it just for Purim, but after tasting our final version of it, I am insisting we make it year-round, just so I can have it for lunch once a week, indefinitely."

You can follow Jacob and Sons' frequently updated Instagram at [@jacobandsonspdx](https://www.instagram.com/jacobandsonspdx) or order at jacobandsonspdx.square.site/.



Sweet Lorraine's Latkes & More poppy seed hamantaschen.

Tu B'Shvat & sustainability are Foundational

BY BONNIE NEWMAN

How does a tree dress up for its birthday? By adorning its branches with flowers, fruit, birds and bees, of course. And how do students at Congregation Neveh Shalom's preschool celebrate the Jewish birthday of trees? With fruit, four cups of "wine" and a cheerful round of "Yom Huledet Sameach," of course!

The Tu B'Shvat seder at the Foundation School was a sunny celebration on a rainy Friday morning. Etti Siegel, Hebrew and Judaics Specialist, presented a lively lesson peppered with Hebrew vocabulary about the Jewish New Year of Trees. She led the children in a song naming parts of a tree in Hebrew, and she told them a story about a sad, winter-bare tree that wanted to be dressed beautifully for her birthday, Tu B'Shvat. The story ended happily, since the holiday marks the beginning of spring in Israel when trees blossom with their natural splendor.

A puppet mouse helped the group dig into the purpose of the gathering and the importance of trees. The voice of the mouse – Foundation School Administrative Director Candace Rothstein – pointed out that trees provide oxygen for us to breathe, paper for us to color on and a home for animals like the mouse.

There was no birthday cake, but there were candles, challah, festive foods and traditional blessings. Children helped identify which of the fruits on their plates – oranges, raisins and olives – were completely edible and which had inedible parts. Then Siegel explained the symbolism behind each type of fruit.

"Some of the children don't celebrate these holidays at home," Siegel says, "so we try to give them a special experience for all of the Jewish holidays."

While celebrating Jewish holidays is nothing new at the Foundation School, some sustainable practices and more outdoor playtime are initiatives that recently bloomed there. Containers to collect compost were added to classrooms last month, and paper towels have been replaced in part by reusable cloth towels.

"We're a Pre-K, so we do a lot of cleaning – tables, kids, hands," explains Rothstein, who marked her one-year anniversary as the school's administrative director in December. "Replacing paper towels with reusable and washable cloths has been our biggest sustainability shift."

Students have a hand in the eco-friendly practices, collecting compostable scraps from each classroom and delivering them to a large composting bin outdoors. In the springtime, the compost will nourish the garden beds, where children will plant peas, beans, parsley and other herbs. The parsley should be ready in time for Passover.

Morah (teacher) Kaiya Goldhammer said the students' families are pleased and supportive. They send extra clothing and pack items in reusable bags.

"It's reflective of what the community wants," says Goldhammer, who teaches a class of 3- and 4-year-olds. "They



Foundation School students enjoy the outdoor playtime available on the Neveh Shalom campus. Above, 4-year-old Aiden joyfully leaps into a creek. At right, Morah Zia Wiles and the Foundation School bumblebee class hug a tree.



want an environmental program."

The curriculum has been going green as well, with an abundance of lessons unearthed along the trails of the little "forest" just across the parking lot from the school. The outdoor approach started during the pandemic but has persisted because of the many benefits of outdoor play, including what Rothstein called a "massive shift" toward improved behavior.

Goldhammer has made the "forest" her second classroom, where she encourages exploration, leadership and creative play. The children experience all four seasons and a variety of weather. In the summer, they caught water striders, built castles out of rocks and made a treehouse. They learned to identify trees, mushrooms and bugs, as well as native and invasive plant species. They picked and sampled thimbleberries, salmonberries and Indian plums. On a winter day, they found rainbows in puddles and worms in the mud. Three boys took turns using a stick as a fishing pole, and young photographers captured the action on camera. When asked by a teacher, children shouted out the sounds they heard – a lawnmower, a bus and a princess.

"They love to move their bodies out here and to challenge themselves physically," Goldhammer says. "I like that there are open-ended possibilities outside" – unlike toys, which kids tire of quickly.

"Some kids use all their words outside," Goldhammer says, adding that "they learn you don't have to be warm and dry to be safe. It's OK to get your hands or boots dirty."

"Parents are responding positively," Rothstein says. "They like seeing pictures of their kids in the forest."

But more importantly, Rothstein says, "(Children) learn 'leave no trace,' and they really embrace it. They reinforce each other."

"We are planting the seed for sustainably minded kids when they grow up," she says. "We are building citizens of the world."

Bonnie Newman is a former journalist and retired physical therapist. Currently, she volunteers with the Jewish Federation of Greater Portland's Climate Action Committee and Dignity Grows, as well as the Eastside Jewish Commons.

Federation supports social programs in Israel

For the 2022-23 fiscal year, the Jewish Federation of Greater Portland granted \$115,000 to 11 smaller organizations that provide social services in Israel. The grants are designed to strengthen civil society in Israel.

In upcoming issues, The Jewish Review will share stories from some of these organizations' mid-year reports.

No funding goes to the Israeli government or projects "over the Green Line."

Portland project in Israel: Feuerstein Institute Aims Higher

The Jewish Federation of Greater Portland provided a grant to the Feuerstein Institute to support "Aim Higher," a program that helps high-potential Israelis from the Ethiopian community and the socio-economic periphery pursue their goals in higher education.

The group's mid-year report notes: Here at the Feuerstein Institute, we envision a world where no one is left behind because of socioeconomic status, cultural background or disability. A world where potential is assessed, nurtured, valued and realized. Thank you for being a part of fulfilling that vision. We are grateful for our partnership with the Jewish Federation of Greater Portland in creating a more inclusive and equitable Israel.

The report continues: Aim Higher students are changing perceptions and stereotypes within academia, redefining and raising expectations for what a student from the socio-economic periphery can accomplish. This program creates systemic change and social mobility, allowing its participants to overcome obstacles in attaining higher education and achieving economic security.

In summer 2022, the institute assessed applicants with the Learning Potential Assessment Device, a dynamic assessment that tests a candidate's ability to learn, rather than his or her current knowledge, and conducted personal interviews to learn about the candidates and their goals as well as provide guidance for a course of study that suits their strengths. In August of 2022, students were accepted into university. In October, the students received Instrumental Enrichment courses to develop and enhance their thinking skills and learning strategies. Those in need also received laptops.

Feuerstein Institute now partners with 13 universities. In 2022, 378 students were assessed, 143 were recommended and 103 students, including 22 of Ethiopian origin, were accepted to university and began their studies with the Aim Higher program.

The Jewish Federation of Greater Portland is supporting these students during their first year of university studies. Their fields of study include medicine, biomedical sciences, business administration, dentistry, social work, law, occupational therapy, computer science, nursing and psychology.

Personal story: Yair Fanta

Yair Fanta is living his dream as a first-year university student studying computer science at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem. His parents immigrated to Israel from Ethiopia in the '90s. As the oldest son, he is the first in his family of six to study at university. Yair grew up in Modi'in, where he completed high school before serving in an elite unit of the IDF. It was during his service that he decided he wanted to pursue computer science.

Yair studied intensely for six months after getting out of the army; he then took the entrance exam three times to try to reach the minimum required score. Despite his strong motivation, his test scores were insufficient. His final option was to apply to Feuerstein's Aim Higher program.

He completed the Feuerstein LPAD dynamic assessment, which tests for ability to learn rather than current knowledge. Because Feuerstein's LPAD is not culturally biased like the entrance exam, the program was able to see that Yair had great potential for his desired field of study. With the results of the assessment, personal interview and recommendation, Yair was accepted to Aim Higher and his two top schools. His resilience had paid off, and he chose to enroll at Hebrew University.

"No one believed that I would



study computer science at one of, if not the most, prestigious university(s) in Israel," says Yair. "I can't articulate how much the Feuerstein program has helped me and continues to help me. It is critical to my success. I have been programming for years, and I am so grateful to be able to learn at one of the best institutions, to enrich my knowledge and find my path. I am only in the first year of my studies, and there are many career opportunities with a degree in computer science. While I do not yet know where it will take me in the future, I can say for certain that I am already living the future I dreamed about for a while, just to be able to study in this field."

Yair's story is only one example of how the Jewish Federation's support of Aim Higher students is having a significant impact.

Outstanding Jewish professional award nominations due March 1

Nominations for the Laurie Rogoway Outstanding Jewish Professional are due by noon, March 1. Created by the Jewish Federation of Greater Portland, the annual award recognizes a current Jewish communal professional in Greater Portland.

Named for Laurie Rogoway, a pillar of Jewish leadership for more than 30 years in Portland, the award recognizes an individual working in a professional capacity at a Jewish communal organization in Greater Portland.

"Communal recognition can be so meaningful for our Jewish professionals," says JFGP Chief Allocations and Engagement Officer Caron Blau Rothstein, who staffs the Rogoway committee.

The nominee (an early- to mid-career pro) must demonstrate outstanding professional work and a commitment to the field of Jewish professional leadership. The winner receives up to \$1,800 to subsidize a professional development experience or program. The honoree will receive the award at the Jewish Federation Annual Meeting on June 7, 2023.

Past honorees are Andy Gitelson, Jemi Kostiner Mansfield, Ben Winkleblack, Ben Charlton, Eve Levy, Sonia Marie Leikam, Rachel Nelson and Missy Fry.

For eligibility guidelines and to nominate a Jewish professional, visit jewishportland.org/rogoway.

Israel at 75



Jewish Federation
OF GREATER PORTLAND

Art and Essay Contests

In celebration of Israel's 75th anniversary, Jewish Federation of Greater Portland is sponsoring an **Art Contest** for K-8 students and an **Essay Contest** for grades 6-12.

Entries are due by March 24.



<https://qrco.de/bdgPLI>



<https://qrco.de/bdgPQm>



Join JFCS Feb. 19 for “The Neglected Survivors”

BY JENN DIRECTOR KNUDSEN

Sergei, 82, is from the former Soviet Union. A Portland resident since 1991, he is a client of Jewish Family & Child Service’s Holocaust Survivor Services program. His World War II memories consist of bitter cold, starvation and loved ones to his left and right being shot by Germans into a ravine. In Soviet Russia, he recalls eating grass to survive in the aftermath of the war years.

Stories like Sergei’s are very common yet not well-known. Most Americans are better educated about Holocaust survivors from Western, rather than Eastern, Europe. (Sergei’s name is a pseudonym to protect his confidentiality.)

JFCS serves 60 Holocaust survivors, 48 of whom are from the FSU.

“We have learned so much from them, including their unique stories,” says Ruth Scott, JFCS executive director. “We wanted the greater community to learn about their particular experience of WWII.”

To that end, JFCS presents “The Neglected Survivors: Soviet Jews Under Nazi Rule,” a lecture by PSU professor Natan M. Meir (see box).

“The experience of Soviet Jews during the Holocaust is one of the lesser known aspects of Holocaust history,” says Meir. “It’s important for us all to learn this history, because everyone should



Natan Meir, Ph.D

Soviet Jews Under Nazi Rule

WHO: Lecture by Natan M. Meir, the Lorry I. Lokey Professor of Judaic Studies and Academic Director of The Harold Schnitzer Family Program in Judaic Studies, Portland State University. Q&A moderator: David Sarasohn, former Oregonian columnist.

WHEN: 2 pm, Sunday, Feb. 19

WHERE: Congregation Beth Israel’s Pollin Chapel
Also live streaming and including live captioning in English and in Russian

NO RSVP necessary

DETAILS and live stream link: jfcs-portland.org/hss-lecture/

Light refreshments will follow.

have a full understanding of the true proportions of the tragedy of the Holocaust.”

Meir’s research has focused on the social, cultural and religious history of the Jews of Eastern Europe – which includes Russia, Poland, Ukraine, Belarus, Lithuania and Latvia – in the 19th-20th centuries.

“But just as importantly, there are Holocaust survivors from the former Soviet Union living among us – and they deserve to have their experiences understood and appreciated by their community,” Meir concludes.

Threat to Israeli democracy focus of scholar’s weekend

The Yoni Suher Scholar-in-Residence weekend returns to Portland with in-person programming featuring IDF Major General (Ret.) Noam Tibon, who served for 35 years in the IDF, rising to serve as the Commander of the West Bank Division and the Northern Formation.

“He worked hard to help build Palestine with infrastructure, and believes in opportunity, and continues to work towards that end – not your typical army officer,” says Brian Suher, who as Yoni’s uncle helps plan the annual Scholar-in-Residence program at Neveh Shalom.

Tibon has visited Portland in the past and loves “returning to the beautiful city.”

“I want to share with audiences in Portland the challenges and changes facing Israel after the most recent elections and the battle to protect democracy,” says Tibon.

At the first presentation, he will discuss “the phenomena in Israel of who serves in the army, who does not, the impact in Israel when a soldier is lost and how the new political coalition impacts this balance.”

Personal relationships have enabled Neveh Shalom to net high-profile speakers for its annual Scholar-in-Residence program, which is funded by the Suher family in memory of Yoni Suher, z”l, one of three Israeli tourists killed in a 2016 terrorist attack in Turkey.

“Without a connection, I doubt that Portland could bring this level of intelligence into our community, so I think that this will be a fascinating weekend,” says Brian.

Award-winning journalist Amir Tibon, Yoni’s first cousin, was the



Major General (Ret.) Noam Tibon

“Democracy at the Edge:

Freedom, Tyranny and the Israeli Pivot”

WHAT: 6th Annual Yoni Suher (z”l) Scholar-in-Residence

WHO: Noam Tibon, Israeli Major General, retired

WHEN: Feb. 24-26, 2023

WHERE: Congregation Neveh Shalom

SCHEDULE:

Feb. 24, 7:30 pm, dinner and talk: *Taking Care of Family: Personal Reflections on Serving in a People’s Army*

Feb. 25, 7 pm, dessert and talk: *Understanding Today’s Middle East (co-sponsored by Neveh Shalom’s Israel360)*

Feb. 26, 10 am, brunch with Men’s Club: *Working for Others: My Journey from Kibbutz to Major General*

Feb. 26, 2 pm, dessert and lecture by Gali Mir Tibon, Ph.D.: *Am I My Brother’s Keeper? (co-sponsor: [OJMCHE](https://www.ujmche.org/))*

REGISTER: nevehshalom.org/sir2023

scholar in 2020, when the November program had to be presented virtually. Now Amir’s parents will be in Portland for a weekend of informative programming (see box). Noam’s wife, Gali, Yoni’s aunt, will deliver the final lecture of the weekend.

Gali Mir Tibon, who has a Ph.D. in Holocaust studies, will present an exploration of Jewish committees in the ghettos under Romanian occupation in Transnistria during World War II.

“After going Covid remote, we have a really fascinating live program coming up Feb. 24 to 26,” says Brian. In “2001 we skipped, but this is the 2022 program, but scheduling took us to 2023,” says Brian, adding he hopes to return the program to the Chanukah time frame with another program in December.

Events

See more events at
jewishportland.org/community-calendar

Feb. 16 & 23: Dancing Torah at the EJC

Ongoing class to explore the weekly *parsha* through a deep-listening improvisational practice of dance and movement. This class is for adults and teens over 16. Jennifer Gwirtz is a Portland dance artist and educator whose work centers on Jewish themes. Meets at the Eastside Jewish Commons, 5-6:30 pm, Feb. 16 and 23. \$23 per class. Contact: ericstern@ejcpdx.org.

Feb. 16: Lecture: Jews & Arabic Music

Jews of the Middle East and North Africa participated in all aspects of modern Arab culture and were especially prominent in the sphere of popular music. Pairs with Feb. 18 Havdallah Cafe. 7 pm, Feb. 16, at Eastside Jewish Commons. Free; Register: ejcpdx.org/events-1.

Feb. 16 (weekly): Cafe Shalom Israeli folk dance

Allison Victor leads a 7-8 pm intermediate class, \$12 includes open dance 8-10 pm at Water Tower Dance Hall, 8936 SW 17th Ave. every Thursday. Open dance only is \$7. For details visit sites.google.com/site/pifdnews.

Feb. 16: Moishe Pod goes to Roller Disco

Join other young adults for Portland's worst kept secret, the Secret Roller Disco, at 7-9 pm, Feb. 16! Skate rentals are available. RSVP via moishepodwestpdx.com.

Feb. 18: Mini Mensches Tot Shabbat

Welcome Shabbat with singing, dancing and sweetness at Congregation Beth Israel. Families with children 0-5 are invited to gather in the Pollin Chapel to sing Shabbat songs and end with a parade with our stuffed Torahs at 9 am, Feb. 18.

Info: bethisrael-pdx.org/community/mini-mensches/

Feb. 18: Havdallah Cafe at EJC

The Eastside Jewish Commons and Eric Stern Music present Havdallah Café 6-9 pm, Feb. 18. Have havdallah at the EJC and then celebrate life cafe-style with tea, coffee, games and live music. Havdallah cafe in February will be a Judeo Arabic-themed night with live Judeo Arabic music to recall our Middle Eastern diaspora. Suggested donation \$6-\$18 person; please register at ejcpdx.org/events-1.

Feb. 19: Israeli Dancing & Story Time at EJC

Eastside Jewish Commons presents Israeli dance instructor Allison Victor as she leads a session of Israeli dance for all ages and levels, but tailored especially to beginners and families. Stay for story time with local author Chari Smith. Chari will be reading from her book *The Piano*. 1-3 pm, Feb. 19. Suggested donation: \$6-\$12/person or family; Registration required: ejcpdx.org/events-1

Feb. 19 (weekly): Israeli folk dancing at SWCC

Enjoy Israeli folk dancing 2:30-4 pm every Sunday at the Southwest Community Center with session leader Rhona Feldman. Drop-in open dance session celebrating Israel's 75th and 50 years of continuous Israeli folk dancing in Portland. \$6/\$5 seniors. Details: sites.google.com/site/pifdnews.

Feb. 19: Young Artists Showcase at the MJCC

The Jewish Community Orchestra holds an annual Young Artists Competition and selects four winners to perform one movement of a concerto (a solo piece accompanied by an orchestra). The 3-5 pm, Feb. 19, concert at the Mittleman Jewish Community Center will feature Eleanor Price, Annie Rhew, Hanu Nahm and Steven Wu. Details, email alexandreabeh@gmail.com or visit jewishcommunityorchestra.org/wordpress/concerts/.

Feb. 19 (weekly): Israeli dance at Water Tower

Enjoy Israeli folk dancing at the Water Tower Dance Hall weekly Sunday nights 7:30-10:30 with session leader Donna Cole. \$7 at the door. Details: sites.google.com/site/pifdnews.

Feb. 20: BB Camp's Snow Tubing Trip

Spend 9 am-4:30 pm Presidents Day, Feb. 20, at Mt. Hood Ski Bowl. For K-6th grade. Pick up/ drop off at BB Camp Office, 6443 SW Beaverton-Hillsdale Hwy., Portland. Snow tubing, lunch, transportation, snacks and camp fun, \$118.

Register at bbcamp.org/snow-day/.

Feb. 20 (weekly): Israeli dance at Leedy Grange

Enjoy Israeli folk dancing at Leedy Grange weekly Monday nights 7:30-10:30 with session leaders Sue and Donna. Beginner to intermediate line, circle and partner dances. \$5 at the door. Details: sites.google.com/site/pifdnews.

Feb. 23: Moishe Pod and MOTs Happy Hour

Join Moishe Pod-West PDX and MOTs (Members of the Tribe) for an intergenerational happy hour at Lucky Labrador on NW Quimby 6-8 pm, Feb. 23. RSVP via moishepodwestpdx.com or just show up!

Feb. 23: It Won't Kill You to Talk About Death

Eastside Jewish Commons presents "It Won't Kill You to Talk About Death," a symposium on death and dying. Join Rabbis Eve Posen, Barry Cohen, Ariel Stone and Abby Cohen as they explore death and dying from a Jewish perspective 7-9 pm, Feb. 23. Free, but register at ejcpdx.org/events-1.

Feb. 24: Shabbat for Ukrainian Jews

Exactly one year ago Feb. 24, the Ukraine crisis began. Immediately, Jewish Federations, JDC and their partners mobilized to deliver humanitarian aid to Jews in Ukraine and those fleeing to neighboring countries. That life-saving work continues today. On this solemn occasion, we invite you to join Jews around the world in lighting Shabbat candles for Ukraine: cdn.fedweb.org/fed-29/2/Shabbat_For_%2520Ukrainian_Jews-blessings.pdf

Feb. 24: Shabbat Yoga with Cello Music

Welcome Shabbat 7:30-9 pm, Feb. 24, with this special yoga event at People's Yoga, NE 3014 NE Killingsworth St. The Jewish practice of Shabbat is a radical invitation to prioritize rest. Harlan Silverman plays meditative cello music to encourage a deeper surrender to rest. \$25. Sponsored by TischPDX and taught by Amanda Davidowitz (inspiredheartwellness.com/yoga).

Feb. 26: Beginning Israeli Dance at SWCC

Come learn Israeli folk dances with session leader Rhona Feldman. Make new friends and have fun learning to dance. All are welcome, no experience necessary. 1:30-2:30 pm, Sundays (followed by open dancing). Sign up through Southwest Community Center 503-823-2840.

Feb. 26: EJC Hamantashen Family Bake-Off

Eastside Jewish Commons welcomes Mushka Wilhelm from Chabad of Northeast Portland again for the Hamantashen bake-off! 3-4:30 pm. For kids 4-12. Suggested Donation: \$5-\$8 per child, includes materials. No tickets at the door. Registration required: ejcpdx.org/events-1.

March 2: Why Mikveh Matters

Rachel's Well Community Mikvah and Rising Tide Open Waters Mikveh Network sponsor this free virtual event 4-5 pm, March 2. Register: bit.ly/whymikveh.

March 2: Humans of Israel Reception

Israeli photographer Erez Kaganovitz captures the diversity of Tel Aviv in his Humans of Tel Aviv project. Erez aims to dispel myths about Israel and capture the vibrant nature, tolerance and unique individuals who live in the country. The show will travel through Portland for approximately six months, beginning on the Schnitzer Family Campus in spring of 2023, to coincide with Israel's celebration of 75 years of statehood. Reception 5:30-7:30 pm, March 2, at the Mittleman Jewish Community Center.

For more information, email skorin@oregonjcc.org.

Aspiring sports journalist? Apply to cover Pan American Maccabi Games

Last year, Maccabi USA provided an international experience for aspiring sports media professionals at the 21st Maccabiah (Jewish Olympics). Now high school seniors, current college students and recent graduates with a strong sports media background and experience are invited to apply to cover the 2023 Pan American Maccabi Games.

The Jewish Federation of Greater Portland is sharing information about this program to ensure our region's young people have the opportunity to apply.

The application process is now open and will close on April 30, 2023. Those selected for Maccabi Media will be notified by June 30, 2023, and must commit to attend all virtual trainings and the games themselves, which will be held in Buenos Aires, Argentina, Dec. 27, 2023-Jan. 5, 2024.

Former Philadelphia 76ers broadcaster Marc Zumoff is chairing the program, joining several other veteran media professionals to provide hands-on support, mentorship and professional instruction to the Maccabi Media team.

For eligibility requirements and application information, email Media Coordinator Neal Slotkin at maccabimedia@maccabiusa.com.

You can also go to tinyurl.com/55yvt56h and click on "Click Here to Apply" under Participant on the right side. The next page gives you options and the last option is Maccabi Media Applicant.

Apply for SWU high school internship

March 10 is the deadline to apply for the StandWithUs Kenneth Leventhal High School Internship, a yearlong college-accredited program for student leaders in 11th and 12th grades who want to impact their local communities positively.

Leventhal Interns learn about Israel and how to combat antisemitism effectively; they cultivate leadership skills through personalized mentorship. These student leaders bring education to their peers through interactive and creative initiatives and programs. Leventhal Interns travel to Los Angeles for two leadership conferences throughout the school year. They learn from world-renowned speakers, build relationships through an international student network, and develop leadership and professional skills.

Nomination and application information is available online at standwithus.com/hs-internship. If you know a highly qualified student who would be perfect for the program, please fill out a nomination form on the website or email johnng@standwithus.org with the student's name, email and phone number.

OJCF youth program deadlines near

Jewish youth ages 12-18 are invited to open a B'nai Tzedek Youth Fund at the Oregon Jewish Community Foundation and enroll in the B'nai Tzedek Youth Program in time for the March teen and family gathering kickoff event. For info, email susanb@ojcf.org.

Proposals for the Oregon Jewish Community Youth Foundation's grantmaking cycle are due Feb. 24. Qualified applicants include Jewish and general nonprofit organizations in Oregon or Southwest Washington. This year teen philanthropists will prioritize proposals that address justice, preservation, human dignity or responsibility for one another. For more information, visit ojcf.org/grants-and-scholarships/receive-a-grant or call 503-248-9328.

Applications are due by March 15 for OJCF's numerous scholarship funds, which encourage the pursuit of formal education and Jewish overnight camps. Applicants must be Jewish residents of Oregon or Southwest Washington and demonstrate financial need.

For more information, visit ojcf.org/grants-and-scholarships/receive-a-grant or call 503-248-9328.

For more information on the Foundation and its programs, visit ojcf.org.

FUTURE HISTORY (from page 1)

Jews across the city, and the head of an emerging group committed to "lowering the barriers to Jewish community and education based on identity, politics, class or dis/ability.

"OJMCHE has an oral history collection with over 1,000 interviews," says LeVent Pahl. "Collectively, they tell the story of Jewish life in Oregon from its beginning in 1848 through today. Traditionally, an oral history project focuses on the oldest members of a community – those with the longest story to tell. What makes this project exciting is that we are catching Jewish lives mid-action, without knowing where how their stories will turn out."

All stories are welcome whether you are a nonobservant atheist, a traditional, a dabbler, a ritual innovator or some other Jewish identifier. Queer and BIPOC Jews are especially encouraged to sit down for a recorded interview with a trained facilitator.

The interviews are conducted via Zoom and take approximately 60-90 minutes. To schedule an interview, contact Anne LeVent Pahl at curator@ojmche.org.

For more information, visit colabpdx.org/jewishfuture/.

Barash takes national role at OneTable

Portlander Abbie Barash is now an Associate Director of Field Operations for OneTable, a national nonprofit that empowers folks (21-39ish) to find, share and enjoy Shabbat dinners. Young adults who host a Shabbat dinner receive "nourishment," money (up to \$300 if it's open to the public; \$100 if it's invitation only).

A Portland resident since 2016, Abbie learned about OneTable while participating in PDX Pathways, Jewish Federation of Greater Portland's mentoring and leadership program for Jewish young professionals. In 2019, she joined OneTable as the first OneTable Portland Field Fellow, supporting the Portland young adult Jewish community in creating a more sustainable, authentic and consistent Shabbat dinner practice. She then served as OneTable's Cascadia Field Manager, supporting the young adult Shabbat-ing communities in Oregon and Washington. In November, Abbie became one of three Associate Directors of Field Operations.

"I co-lead our nationwide field team and oversee OneTable's core work," says Abbie of her new role. "We have just finalized a new strategic plan with ambitious goals to reach 10% of the total addressable market by the end of 2025 (about 140,000 people). The AD of Field position was created to help support this."

The three co-ADs supervise members of the field team, co-design and implement strategies, track progress toward overall team goals and lead cross-department projects that advance organization-wide strategic priorities.

"I'm still meeting up with people around Portland (even though this isn't part of my role anymore), especially those who are new or are interested in learning more about OneTable," says Abbie.

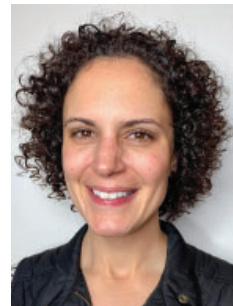
To find or host a Shabbat dinner, visit OneTable.org. For more information about day-to-day logistics for hosts and Shabbat dinners, email Portland@OneTable.org.

Sussman college grant deadline March 1

Applications for Sussman Fund grants are due March 1 for the 2023-2024 academic year.

Awards of \$1,000-\$1,800 will be given to two to five recipients pursuing undergraduate studies in the United States.

The deadline to apply is March 1, 2023. Apply at jewishportland.org/sussman. For questions, contact Rachel Nelson at rachel@jewishportland.org or 503-892-7415.



Newcomers connect at RSM welcome breakfast

BY SYDNEY CLEVINGER

Interconnection is what Cedar Sinai Park is all about, and many new connections were formed at Rose Schnitzer Manor's welcome breakfast last week.

Rose Schnitzer Manor offers independent and assisted living at Cedar Sinai Park, a 27-acre campus that provides residential and community-based care to elders and adults with special needs in an environment based on Jewish values.

The breakfast also gave residents the chance for an informal game of Jewish Geography to identify people and places they know in common.

"Where did you live in Connecticut?" Resident Welcome Committee Chair Harriet asked Ann, a new resident. "Hamden? You're kidding, I lived there!"

The ladies proceeded to share common shops they frequented and laughed over the potential of paths crossing.

Forrest and Sandy were celebrating their one-month anniversary as Rose Schnitzer Manor residents during the welcome breakfast.

"We like it here," said Forrest. "We came because the cost was more reasonable than other places we toured. Now that we're here, we like the food, and the people are very nice."

Ann moved to Rose Schnitzer Manor nearly two months ago because her son lives in Portland.

"People take me places, and I'm so grateful," she said. "The food is good. I am a



Cedar Sinai Park Facilities Manager Tammy Heard serves Ann, a new resident, breakfast in Marcy's Bar at Rose Schnitzer Manor.

nutritionist, so I appreciate the food."

"The food is wonderful, and the people here have been friendly and the service is great," added Norma. "I've been very happy during my one month here; people have been very kind."

The new resident welcome breakfast is also an opportunity for people to connect with Rose Schnitzer Manor leaders to ask questions, said Erin Hickox Acker, Resident Transitions and Experience Director. Invitations are sent to new residents, and



New residents Sandy and Forrest have been married for 32 years. They moved to Rose Schnitzer Manor about one month ago.

the welcome committee distributes the invitations.

"We want people to feel comfortable as they become acclimated to Rose Schnitzer Manor, and to have access to leadership so they can talk about any needs that have come up in their first few weeks," said Erin. "We also want residents to come out of their rooms and get to know one another in a fun way, and the welcome breakfast is one good way to make that happen."

For more information about Rose Schnitzer Manor, call 503-535-4004 or visit cedarsinainpark.org.

Jobs board

The Jewish Review publishes job openings from Jewish agencies and congregations, as well as other openings of possible interest to community members. Listings are shortened to fit available space. Submit to: editor@jewishportland.org.

TIVNU: BUILDING JUSTICE **Gap Year Resident Advisor** *Full time*

Tivnu: Building Justice is looking for a caring, organized and dedicated individual to complete our Jewish social justice gap year staff team. The resident advisor (also known as a madrichol) will live on site with 8-13 gap year participants (aged 17-20), mentor program participants in formal and informal settings, work closely with the program director to create an atmosphere of personal and communal growth, and perform a variety of organizational support tasks. With a focus on teens and emerging adults, Tivnu: Building Justice engages and mobilizes Jewish communities on the issue of shelter and other basic human rights through hands-on service and internships, education and advocacy.

Please email cover letter and resume to Steve Eisenbach-Budner at steve@tivnu.org and to Adinah Miller at adinah@Tivnu.org with subject line "Resident Advisor."

JEWISH FEDERATION OF GREATER PORTLAND **Editor, Jewish Review**

Salary: \$45,000-\$55,000 per year, Part time, Hybrid

The Jewish Federation of Greater Portland is pleased to provide an exciting opportunity to join a team of dedicated community professionals as the Editor of the community e-newspaper. Ideal candidates will have a proven ability to write, edit and design a digital publication of 10-16 pages every two weeks, an understanding of Jewish culture and holidays, and experience with publishing, graphic design, and website tools and software. (See full job description at jewishportland.org/ourcommunity/jewish-jobs).

Start date: May or early June 2023. Apply today! Email a cover letter, resume and three clips to Jewish Federation of Greater Portland President and CEO Marc Blattner, marc@jewishportland.org.

JEWISH CAREER HUB

The Jewish Federation of Greater Portland's job board for the ongoing listing of job opportunities in the Jewish community currently features several openings, including the openings above. See full descriptions for all of the openings or submit job openings at jewishportland.org/ourcommunity/jewish-jobs.

Published biweekly by

Jewish Federation of Greater Portland

9900 SW Greenburg Road, Suite 220

Tigard, OR 97223

503-245-6219

JewishPortland.org

Editor

Deborah Moon

editor@jewishportland.org

Circulation

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

jewishportland.org/subscribe

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

Jewish Federation of Greater Portland online

Website: jewishportland.org

Instagram: [instagram.com/jewishfederationpdx/](https://www.instagram.com/jewishfederationpdx/)

Facebook: [facebook.com/JewishPDX](https://www.facebook.com/JewishPDX)

Jewish Review: jewishportland.org/jewishreview

NEXT ISSUES

Issue date	Deadline
MARCH 1	FEB. 23
MARCH 15	MARCH 9
MARCH 29 (pre-Pesach)	MARCH 14 (note very early deadline)
APRIL 11	MARCH 31 (early)
APRIL 26	APRIL 20

Submit photos, news and obituaries to

editor@jewishportland.org

Chaplain's Corner

Time to Embrace Reality

BY RABBI BARRY COHEN

My kids and I have shared a running conversation going back to their childhoods.

The context is that our world is not what we think it is. Instead, we are all characters in some kind of simulation, hosted and manipulated by some forever-to-remain-unseen power. We have had a lot of fun using our imaginations to describe how we are nothing but entertainment for an artificial intelligence or an intellectually superior alien civilization.

But sometimes I wonder whether our reality is getting closer to our imaginations. Many of you may have read Jewish Federation President and CEO Marc Blattner's recent "[Is It Live or Is It Memorex](#)" column ("Marc's Remarks"), in which he describes how artificial intelligence can be used to enable an automated program to converse in a conventional way. When we are trying to determine whether we are interacting with a program or with a human, the lines are becoming blurred.

We are also aware of "deep fakes" – videos of actors, politicians and pop culture personalities saying or doing things they did not actually do. The creators of deep fakes use artificial intelligence and machine learning to create deceptive, manipulative visual and audio. On one level, it is entertaining. But on another level, it is terrifying.

We already have the ability to create believable videos that can undercut elected officials, influence political elections, use the likeness of actors in roles they did not play, communicate false news and generally manipulate anyone in a position of authority.

I have watched a number of deep fakes and encourage you to do the same. The lines between fantasy and reality are disappearing. If we depend on the internet as a primary source of information, what is real? What is fake? AI is setting a trap, and if we are not careful, down the rabbit hole we will go.

We are a social species, genetically hardwired to connect with others. Our technology has begun to outrun our ability to filter and process the information, images and audio that flood our senses every day. We are not yet capable of thriving in a virtual world. We must constantly be vigilant about the echo chamber we have inadvertently created to receive information. We can find anything on the web, but watch out – can we believe what we see and hear? The lines between reality and fiction are fading fast.

This is related to how we want to have



Rabbi Barry Cohen is the Jewish community chaplain of the Greater Portland area. chaplain@jewishportland.org

control over our lives. We want the world to make sense. We want to have freedom of choice. But then we stumble on conspiracies. And these conspiracies are everywhere. The comfort of conspiracies is that they make the world make sense from our particular point of view. But conspiracies fail to reflect the world as it really is.

And now we have deep fakes, getting ever more sophisticated. On a certain level, we want to believe it is real when we see elected officials say what we want to hear, view news that confirms our biases or watch politicians running for office say something controversial or learn about any authority figures in "gotcha" moments.

But what we see and hear can be nothing more than a simulation ... a simulation solely designed to manipulate us.

So what can we do in the meantime, when the distinction between fantasy and reality is harder and harder to determine? We can foster a genuine, in-person connection with others. We can engage in authentic conversations and show others not what we want them to see but reveal to them who we truly are. This requires risk and trust. Who do we have in our lives with whom we can truly connect? We only need one person.

We can also get outside, even if we get a little wet or cold. When we feel nature's elements, we sense reality.

At mealtime, we can savor what is on our plate. We can take our time, enjoying every bite.

We can read an actual book ... not through a tablet, laptop or smartphone, but an old school book – with a cover, pages that stick together and perhaps endnotes and an index. We can take our time, patiently turn the pages, go back and re-read or go forward to see how far we have to go.

Let's always remember that fantasy may be entertaining, interesting or engaging, but reality is always, for-better-or-worse, our only source of truth. Let's attune our senses and adjust our filters to grasp and accept what is real in our lives.

Is There Hope for Portland?

BY JATHAN JANOVE

In recent years, the Rose City has suffered more than its share of woes – exploding homelessness, untreated mental illness, proliferating substance abuse, social unrest, pandemic and rising crime. For this article, I interviewed two community leaders emblematic of those striving to make a positive difference.

Kay Toran is the longtime president and CEO of Volunteers of America-Oregon (voaor.org). VOA-O provides an array of services including residential and outpatient treatment, counseling, housing and economic support services, and other resources to treat substance use disorder and co-occurring mental health disorder.

Jordan Schnitzer is a longtime businessman, philanthropist and Jewish community member. He and his affiliated organizations have contributed millions of dollars to combat these problems.

They both are passionate about supporting our community during these Book-of-Job-like times.

“I’ve been impressed with many local organizations that have made real positive differences in the lives of people struggling with poverty, crime, addiction and mental illness,” says Schnitzer. “These include VOA-O, a hidden gem in our community. Kay has done an incredible job, combining compassion, intelligence and sound business sense. I am happy to be a major VOA-O sponsor.”

Toran says that many Jewish leaders such as Schnitzer have been a vital source of support for VOA-O’s mission. And, members of the Jewish community have been aided by the nonprofit’s programs.

“I’d love to see more members of the Jewish community connect with us,” says Toran. “We’d love your support, whether it’s money, time, energy, and caring and commitment to creating a better future.”

She believes a partnership with the Jewish community is a natural fit on many levels (see sidebar).

“As an African-American, I’ve long felt that Jews and the Jewish community have a special understanding of, connection with and support for resolving challenges faced by the African-American community,” she says. “I personally share concern about rising antisemitism and believe the Jewish and African-American communities should stand together against this and all hate.”



Above, Kay Toran, President and CEO of Volunteers of America-Oregon.

At left, Jordan Schnitzer at the opening of the Bybee Lake Hope Center, program-based transitional housing.

Toran believes that involvement can help create desirable synergies between business, government and the nonprofit sectors.

Schnitzer also says that government, business and nonprofits must work together.

He says the city needs a tax strategy “designed to provide the necessary revenue without being punitive or alienating the wealthy.”

“Public entities and private entities must come together and develop a shared strategy,” Schnitzer says, adding that fixing problems with public safety and homelessness will require “more financial support for the treatment courts, like Drug Court.”

Drug Courts are designed to place drug-affected defendants into appropriate treatment programs with close supervision by a single judge familiar with both treatment and the offenders. This model for dealing with drug-dependent and addicted offenders has proven so effective and cost efficient that there are now Drug Courts in every state and even foreign countries, according to the Oregon State Court website.

VOA-O is one organization well-equipped to deal with those challenges.

“We have an incredibly experienced, trained, qualified and dedicated staff that make a positive difference every day in the lives of especially challenged members of our community, ranging from infants to the elderly, to individuals and to families,” says Toran. “We are passionate about helping people get on track with their lives and staying there.”

Schnitzer says he believes the problems can be solved with “collective will.”

“There is still hope for our city, but much must be done – and soon,” he says.

Jathan Janove is an author, columnist, executive coach and organization culture consultant. jathan@stakeholdercenteredcoaching.com.

Interfaith United in Spirit tackles homelessness

For the past two+ years, homelessness has been a major focus of United in Spirit, a broad-based coalition of religious organizations spearheaded by the Jewish Community Relations Council.

The coalition has hosted summits to convene stakeholders and has continued to meet individually with elected officials and leaders of the nonprofit, business and law enforcement communities. The coalition includes Christian, Jewish, Muslim and Hindu participants.

“We’ve come to a pretty good understanding of the complexity of homelessness but especially the impediments to progress,” says Bob Horenstein, Director of Community Relations for the Jewish Federation of Greater Portland. Those impediments include “obviously the lack of affordable housing ... but I think more importantly in the immediate term is the lack of sufficient shelter space and behavioral health and substance abuse services.”

United in Spirit is now focused on an approach used by some 100 communities called *Built for Zero* from Community Solutions, a process designed to end homelessness.

“It has had some success,” says Horenstein. “Built for Zero basically requires a by-name list of individuals living on the street. ... a collection of data about the person who’s living on the street to figure out what that person needs in order to get the help to get them off the street. It also envisions a command center that would coordinate among the various government entities working on this issue.”

“The city and county have signed on to it, but questions remain as to whether it’s being implemented properly,” he adds. “We want to be advocates for an approach that holds out hope for progress.”

“We also met with Erik Cole, the executive director of the Revitalize Portland Coalition ... about working in coordination with one another, because I think we have a lot of similar goals,” says Horenstein.

One issue that concerns both groups is a downtown vacancy rate above 30%.

“Businesses have to decide whether to renew their leases, and some of those businesses are leaving the downtown core,” he adds. “That’s a serious problem.”

New leaders, plans and collaborations have given United in Spirit optimism. He said the group is also hopeful given the new leadership, which includes a new governor who is making homelessness a priority, a new Multnomah County chair and a plan presented by the Portland mayor that may offer progress.

“Hopefully, we’re on the road to better times here,” concludes Horenstein.



Emily Simon testifies online in support of the Ashland City Council proclamation rejecting antisemitism.

Ashland proclamation rejects antisemitism

The Ashland City Council passed a proclamation rejecting antisemitism at its Feb. 7, 2023, council meeting.

The city's Social Equity and Racial Justice Advisory Committee had adopted the proclamation unanimously and referred it to the full council.

Emily Simon, who is both the co-chair of Ashland's SERJC and chair of Temple Emek Shalom's SERJC, testified at the meeting online. The rabbi, president and members of Temple Emek Shalom appeared at the meeting in person, though they did not testify, to support the proclamation. The proposal for the proclamation was motivated by the vandalism of the Chabad menorah in a Medford park twice during Chanukah.

The Ashland proclamation references the Holocaust as the most historic example of antisemitism and the current rise of hate crimes, of which 25% in Oregon and 34% nationally were antisemitic between 2019 and 2022.

The proclamation goes on to note "WHEREAS, hatred and bias in any form are not acceptable in our community. The City of Ashland remains committed to our vision of welcoming the world and recognizing our diversity as a key strength for the City and our character..."

And it concludes: "NOW, THEREFORE, The City Council of the City of Ashland, Oregon, on behalf of its citizens, and as supporters and allies of our Jewish community do hereby proclaim the City of Ashland's condemnation of antisemitism. The City of Ashland strongly stands against hate, bias or violence based on identity and remains committed to the principles of nondiscrimination and human rights. In Ashland we are Better Together." Simon testified it has become common for municipalities and other government bodies to adopt antisemitism proclamations in the face of rising antisemitism worldwide.

Following Ashland's adoption of the proclamation, the city and synagogue SERJCs have reached out to the Ashland's Oregon Senator Jeff Golden to encourage the state to adopt a similar proclamation. Simon also encourages other Jewish communities around the state to encourage similar proclamations locally.

"This is a concrete step that communities can take in the face of rising antisemitism," she says. "They can develop a statement that fits their community."

Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon Statement on Antisemitism

Antisemitism has no place in Oregon. Hate has no place in Oregon. We are a community that values diversity and stands united with our Jewish brothers and sisters. We have witnessed this rise in antisemitic attacks worldwide. We cannot be passive or silent as these attacks happen in our community or anywhere. In Oregon, a man charged with arson and bias crimes in Multnomah County for vandalizing two Jewish synagogues and setting fire to a mosque is now facing federal hate crime charges. The Anti-Defamation League reports a significant rise in threats, crimes and other hateful acts – Jewish businesses vandalized, synagogues graffitied, individuals assaulted and accosted. These evil acts, just as much as those attacks on our Muslim brothers and sisters, that are embraced by extremists and ignorant political rhetoric must be called out. As we recently celebrated the struggle, dream and legacy of The Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., we are reminded of his words about our force to confront evil: "The whole history of life is the history of a struggle between good and evil. Evil is ultimately doomed by the powerful, insurgent forces of good." It is incumbent upon us to stand up for all God's children without discrimination, regardless of religious belief. It is our responsibility to confront evil.

The Rev. Dr. Rodney Page, EMO Executive Director Emeritus
Jan Musgrove Elfers, former Executive Director/President
Frank J. So, current EMO President

Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon is a longstanding interfaith partner of the Jewish Community Relations Council. EMO is a statewide association of faith partners working together to improve the lives of Oregonians through direct service programs, ecumenical and interreligious dialogue and public policy advocacy. EMO remains committed to the humanity in every person and working toward a more inclusive and accepting world for everyone. EMO is the oldest and largest organization of its kind in the nation. It represents a network of 15 Christian denominations and more than 80 faith communities who stand for justice and equality.

Obituaries

SHARI LIBENSON ROTMAN

Shari Libenson Rotman (Aliza Shulamit bat Michael), a"h, passed away Feb. 7, 2023. She was the sister of Congregation Kesser Israel member Laurie (Brian) Yablon.

JENNIFER FRANKEL BERGENFELD

Jennifer Frankel Bergenfeld, z"l, passed away unexpectedly Feb. 3, 2023, at age 53. She was the oldest daughter of Congregation Kol Ami member Ed Frankel.

Funeral services were Feb. 10 in New York. A local shiva minyan is planned at 7 pm, Feb. 15. For details, contact Congregation Kol Ami in Vancouver, Wash., at admin@jewishvancouverusa.org.

Kol Ami offers condolences to Ed, his daughter, Rachel, and their extended family on this terrible loss.

Submit obituaries to editor@jewishportland.org

Burial Societies

Portland has two holy societies of volunteers who prepare the deceased for burial according to Jewish tradition: Chevra Kavod haMet and the Portland Hevra Kaddisha.

For questions about end of life, death and mourning, email chevrakavodhamet@gmail.com, visit ChevraKavodHaMet.org, or contact Michael Rosenberg at the Portland Hevra Kaddisha at michael@cashcolan.com or 503-519-2454.