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# The JEWISH REVIEW

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## Rabbi Cohen departs

By ROCKNE ROLL  
*The Jewish Review*

Rabbi Barry Cohen, who has served as Portland's Jewish Community Chaplain for over five years, will depart his position next month to become the Chaplain Manager of The Velva G. and H. Fred Levine Jewish Chaplaincy Program at the Joan and Stanford Alexander Jewish Family Service in Houston, Texas.

"It wasn't like I was actively searching for a new position," Rabbi Cohen said. "But the chaplain community is small enough that you can hear, just by word of mouth, from colleagues about opportunities."

The move will place Rabbi Cohen closer to his family, one of the appeals of the new role.

"My mom is there, my sister is there and one of my brothers is there," He explained. "I've never worked in the same city as immediate family."

A major portion of Rabbi Cohen's work in Houston will be centered on the University of Texas' MD Ander-

See **RABBI**, page 2



## For the Love of Shabbat

Above: Saul Korin blesses the challahs at the rescheduled Shabbat of Love Dinner Friday, Feb. 23 at the Mittleman Jewish Community Center. Originally part of the national Shabbat Of Love, the event was rescheduled due to severe weather. Right: Challah awaits diners. (Rockne Roll/The Jewish Review)



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## PJC does dinner

Portland Jewish Connection hosted more than 50 young adults at six area restaurants at their "Party of 8" event Saturday, Feb. 3. The small group dinners, designed to foster conversation and connection, were followed by an all-group pub meetup. PJC Chair Trevor Bryant led the way with choosing this creative format, bringing in other groups to attend, and empowering table leaders. "It was great to experience SW Portland with fellow Jews new to the area and with our core members," Programming Chair Devin Getreu said. To learn more about PJC and their upcoming programs, search "Portland Jewish Connection" on Facebook. (Courtesy Portland Jewish Connection)

## RABBI (continued from page 1)

son Cancer Center, the world's largest cancer hospital, at the Texas Medical Center campus.

"I'll be interacting with people not only locally, but also people flying in from throughout the United States and even people flying in internationally to receive treatment," Rabbi Cohen said. "They're going to be away from home, and they're looking for community connections."

Those connections have been one of Rabbi Cohen's specialties here in Portland.

"We're looking for a way to care for the whole person, but also to care for their families that also traveled with them," he continued.

As the title suggests, Rabbi Cohen will be coordinating the work of professional and volunteer chaplains in his new role. It's a step up in responsibility, but there's more to it than that for Rabbi Cohen.

"Another way of looking at it is, how can I make the best use of the skills that I've picked up along the way, knowing that I can also lean upon a volunteer base," Rabbi Cohen said. "Now I can do so much more work, I can connect with so many more people in a collaborative sense. That's how you can identify even more needs that may exist, that one single person couldn't see or couldn't perceive."

While the opportunity is an exciting one on many levels, Rabbi Cohen will be leaving behind a city and community that he's deeply attached to.

"Portland has always just felt comfortable for me," he said. "I just want to express how grateful I am and, speaking on behalf of my kids, how grateful we are that the Portland Jewish community so warmly welcomed us and made us feel like we were at home and part of the community. Coming out here with no family connections and no friends, it was very easy to feel like I was part of the community."

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## Inside the Middle East comes to MJCC Mar. 13

By ROCKNE ROLL

*The Jewish Review*

Avi Melamed is coming to the Mittleman Jewish Community Center – in person!

After a scheduled fall community conversation was changed to a Zoom briefing about the ongoing war in Gaza, Melamed, the founder of Inside the Middle East Intelligence Perspectives and former Israeli intelligence official, will kick off two days of events at the MJCC with a community presentation Wednesday, Mar. 13 at 7 pm in the Stern Family Ballroom.

"He brings a really interesting perspective," Bess Butterworth, Development Events and Community Programs Manager for the MJCC said. "He did an excellent job of answering everyone's questions in a way that didn't alienate perspectives or anything like that. He's just very factual."

The following day, Thursday, Mar. 14, Melamed will provide tailored presentations for Jewish professionals from 10-11:30 am and for Jewish educators from 4-5 pm.

"The story of the war is really grown into a much bigger story in the Middle East; there are actually some major historical, ideological, political processes in the Middle East that at the end of the day result in, among other things, the war," Melamed told *The Jewish Review*. "I'm going to present those factors and explain how and why they lead to this situation."

Melamed will also be signing copies of his books, which include "Inside the Middle East," published in 2016 and updated in 2022. Books will not be available for purchase at the events.

"The challenge is not lack of information, the challenge is to make the information into something that is cohesive and makes sense," Melamed said. "You need to connect the dots. This is what I'm doing in my work."

For more information or to register, visit [oregonjcc.org/arts-culture/upcoming-events](http://oregonjcc.org/arts-culture/upcoming-events).



# **SUPER SUNDAY MARCH MADNESS**



**20**

**24**



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Jewish Federation  
of Greater Portland



## Dignity Grows loads up hygiene totes at EJC packing party



Approximately 40 volunteers packed 338 totes of menstrual and hygiene supplies at Dignity Grows packing party Sunday, Feb. 25 at the Eastside Jewish Commons in Portland. Participants heard stories of the impact of the totes from all of Dignity Grows' community distribution partners and a d'var torah from Debbie Plawner. (Julie Alferez/ Dignity Grows for The Jewish Review)

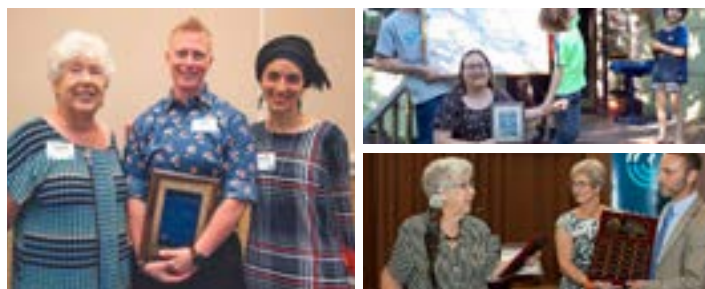
## Rothstein, Segal named to MTEI Cohort

*The Jewish Review Staff*

A pair of Congregation Neveh Shalom staff have been named to the next cohort of the prestigious Mandel Teacher Education Institute.

Foundation School Administrative Director Candace Rothstein and Hebrew and Judaics Coordinator Ester Segal are among the 59 Jewish educators from throughout the United States, Canada and South Africa who will join the 11th cohort of MTEI's two-year professional development program.

More information about the program and the new cohort is available online at [mtei-learning.org/cohort-11](https://mtei-learning.org/cohort-11).



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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.

## Hoffman/Lemish Quartet perform at MJCC Mar. 17

By **ROCKNE ROLL**  
*The Jewish Review*

Israeli jazz fusion comes to the Mittleman Jewish Community Center Sunday, Mar. 17 with the return of the Amos Hoffman and Noam Lemish Quartet at 6 pm in the Stern Family Ballroom.

Described by the Toronto Music Report as "at once accessible and unique," the quartet consists of guitarist and oudist Amos Hoffman, pianist Noam Lemish, bassist Miles Wick and drummer Alex Aspinnall.

"Amos is, you know, one of the pioneers in the jazz world of merging influences from Middle Eastern music and Israeli music with jazz," Lemish explained. "When we decided to collaborate, we started to explore some of these melodies that we had always loved."

In addition to original compositions, the band plays jazz arrangements of classic standards from Jewish communities in the Middle East, North Africa

and Eastern Europe. Lemish grew up in Israel, like Hoffman, but has spent most of his adult life in North America.

"Maybe as a result of living far away from home, I started to become more interested in the sounds of my childhood and the sounds of my youth in the sounds of that region, and the different traditions that Jews from different parts of the world have brought with them musically," Lemish said.

The band released their first album, "Pardes," in 2018 and have a second full-length release, "Red Sky," set to debut later this summer.

"I'm a big fan of Israeli jazz in general, and this is even different from that," explained Bess Butterworth, the development events and community programs manager at the MJCC. "It's quite exciting."

Tickets are \$30, \$20 for MJCC members, and are available online at [oregon-jcc.org/daxko](https://oregon-jcc.org/daxko).



# From "A to Z," exhibit shows breadth of Jewish Oregon

By ROCKNE ROLL

*The Jewish Review*

Everything can be Jewish. From A to Z.

Visitors to the Oregon Jewish Museum and Center for Holocaust Education can see the evidence of that laid out in the museum's main floor gallery in "Oregon Jews, A to Z," now through May 26.

"We rarely, if ever, had the chance to show so much from the collection," Alisha Babbstein, the Director of Collections and Exhibitions at OJMCHE and one of the curators of the exhibit explained. "All of this comes from our community here in Oregon. So it's really a nice way for us to honor them."

Objects of all shapes and sizes and letters of the alphabet have found their way into OJMCHE's collection over the years. Some are as small as the set of dog tags belonging to U.S. Navy Lt. Cmdr. Jacob Enkelis. Others are much larger – a Victorian wedding dress which, being dyed with an arsenic derivative, must only be handled wearing gloves. Some are very typical of daily life – a recipe card for gefilte fish, for example. Others are historic, such as the *ketubah* (marriage contract) for Aaron Kirk Douglas and David Morrison Smith – theirs was the first same-sex wedding performed at Congregation Beth Israel in Portland in 2003.

Some are expected – there's an entire section of Judaica, including selections from a collection of *mezuzot* that span the 19th and 20th centuries. And some items are unexpected, like a jersey from the Portland Buckaroos, a minor league hockey team founded by Harry Glickman that won its league championship in 1960 in its first



The *ketubah* (marriage contract) for Aaron Kirk Douglas and David Morrison Smith, the first same-sex wedding performed at Congregation Beth Israel in Portland, is part of the Oregon Jewish Museum and Center for Holocaust Education's "Oregon Jews, A to Z" exhibit. (Courtesy OJMCHE)

season. Glickman was better known as one of the founders of the Portland Trail Blazers, and was not especially well known as Jewish.

"I don't think that he advertised right that he was Jewish," Babbstein explained. "I don't think he hid it either, but it wasn't something that he led with."

One of Babbstein's favorite pieces in the exhibit are two embossed strips of leather that were used as scrip, a substitute currency that was commonly issued by cash-poor companies as payment to workers during the depression that could be redeemed with the company – this ensured that workers were able to receive some

sort of payment in a way they could barter with others who were paid similarly by their employers.

"I love it because most people aren't familiar with the idea of the term scrip at all," Babbstein said. "So it's fun that we actually have some to be able to show folks."

In another corner is a large golem costume used by the Oregon Shakespeare Festival in Ashland and donated to the museum afterward.

"[This] is also one of our favorites because it's huge," Babbstein explained. This is a thing nobody would ever see. This definitely lives in a box on a shelf most of the time because it's we don't have a space generally to

just have it out."

One of the three Hebrew letters on the costume's forehead, a defining characteristic of a living golem in Jewish lore, has been left in that box in the archive on a separate floor of the building – just in case.

While many of these objects spend a lot of time in boxes on shelves, they have immense value to researchers, both in the more academic context and those looking into their own individual records. An enormous ledger in a corner of the room, the cemetery records of Congregation Beth Israel, in an example of how the museum's artifacts can help people discover their own history. Babbstein said an important goal of this exhibit is to show off these items, in all their shapes, sizes, and connections, to let Oregon's Jewish community know that the museum has – and is looking for more of – these sorts of artifacts.

"We want this material here. It's how we can tell the story of the Oregon Jewish experience. If we don't have this stuff, we can't tell the story," Babbstein explained. "You'd be surprised how many times people come in and say, 'Oh, you know, I had 300 letters from my grandfather. We just threw them away. We weren't really interested.' Your heart kind of cracks."

For the broader audience, Babbstein explains the breadth and diversity of the materials shown explain that Oregon's Jewish community has a long history and has always been an integral part of life in Oregon. That goes well beyond Portland – elementary school documents from a Jewish family in Bak-

See **A TO Z**, page 8

# Indie Lens brings timely documentaries to EJC

By **ROCKNE ROLL**

*The Jewish Review*

The Indie Lens Pop-Up documentary screening series is a chance to see some of the latest in documentary films along with panel discussions that go deeper into the film's subjects after each screening. The only Oregon location is the East-side Jewish Commons.

The series continues with "Matter of Mind: My Parkinson's," screening Wednesday, Mar. 13 at 7 pm at the Commons. Cedar Sinai Park is partnering with the Commons for this screening.

While the films in the series are not "Jewish," per se, EJC Executive Director Howie Bierbaum sees Jewish values embodied in the films that are screening and sees the series as an opportunity to bring Jewish and non-Jewish communities together over important topics.

"I think it's themes and subject matters that appeal to Jews and non-Jews alike," Bierbaum explained. "One of the missions of EJC is to be inclusive and inspiring, and I thought, 'Well, this this is a perfectly good format to do that in.'"

"Matter of Mind" follows Parkinson's Disease patients as they navigate the symptoms and treatments for the disease, showing how a fulfilling life is possible alongside a degenerative disease. The post-screening discussion will include Dr. Elise Anderson of Providence Brain and Spine Institute, Caren Masem, a Parkinson's patient and Peggy Rost with Parkinson's Resources of Oregon.

The series is supported by the Independent Television Service, which organizes the series nationally, Southeast Uplift Neighborhood Coalition, and the Regional Arts and Culture Council. Previous films in this year's series include "Razing

Liberty Square," which tackled gentrification and housing policy in Miami and featured a panel with the film's producers, and "Breaking The News," about the launching of the feminist digital news startup "The 19th," which featured a discussion with Oregon Public Broadcasting Vice President for News Anna Griffin and OPB reporters Jenn Chavez and Alex Zielinski.

"With the 24-hour news cycle, everything is serialized and sensationalized. It's addictive. And that's not what news should be about," Bierbaum said. "It was a really good discussion post-screening discussion."

This year's series wraps up with "The Tuba Thieves" on May 16. Hard-of-hearing filmmaker Alison O'Daniel looks into a series of tuba thefts from Los Angeles area high schools and finds herself addressing questions that go much deeper.

"The central mystery of this unconventional documentary isn't about theft," Bierbaum said. "It's about the nature of sound itself."

Films are shown in the EJC atrium on the Commons' 85-inch high definition monitor, a gift from a member of Congregation Shir Tikvah that enables EJC to show films year-round, as opposed to the issues with daylight in the atrium's windows limiting screenings to the darker winter months. This has been a boon for Bierbaum, a documentary film aficionado.

"I have a background and a love for storytelling and documentaries, which drew me to this film series initially," he said. "Hopefully we'll get picked to do it again."

For more information or free tickets for the Mar. 13 screening, visit [ejcpdx.org/events](http://ejcpdx.org/events).



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## Kliot to present at Tualatin Library Mar. 10

### *Next Generations Group*

On Sunday, Mar. 10 from 2-3 pm, artist and child survivor Rosalyn Kliot will present a talk about her parents incredible story of courage and love during the Holocaust at the Tualatin Public Library. The event is free and open to the public. In addition, Kliot's vibrant collage art will be in the library's display case prior to her important and uplifting talk.

Kliot was born in Lodz, Poland, after her parents escaped from the Klooga concentration camp in Estonia – a daring feat by two people who had already faced the unthinkable – and fallen in love in the midst of the horror. Hear the story that Kliot had to piece together from her parents over many years of probing. This process of piecing her family's story echoes in her work as a collage artist and forms her unshakable belief in living with joy and love.

Kliot is a member of Portland's Next Generations Group and the OJMCHE Speakers Bureau, and a published writer and artist. For additional information about the event, visit [tualatinoregon.gov/library/love-biggest-act-resistance](http://tualatinoregon.gov/library/love-biggest-act-resistance)

[rss.com/podcasts/jewishreviewpdx](http://rss.com/podcasts/jewishreviewpdx)



# Goldberg's latest tells a special Sephardic story

By ROCKNE ROLL  
*The Jewish Review*

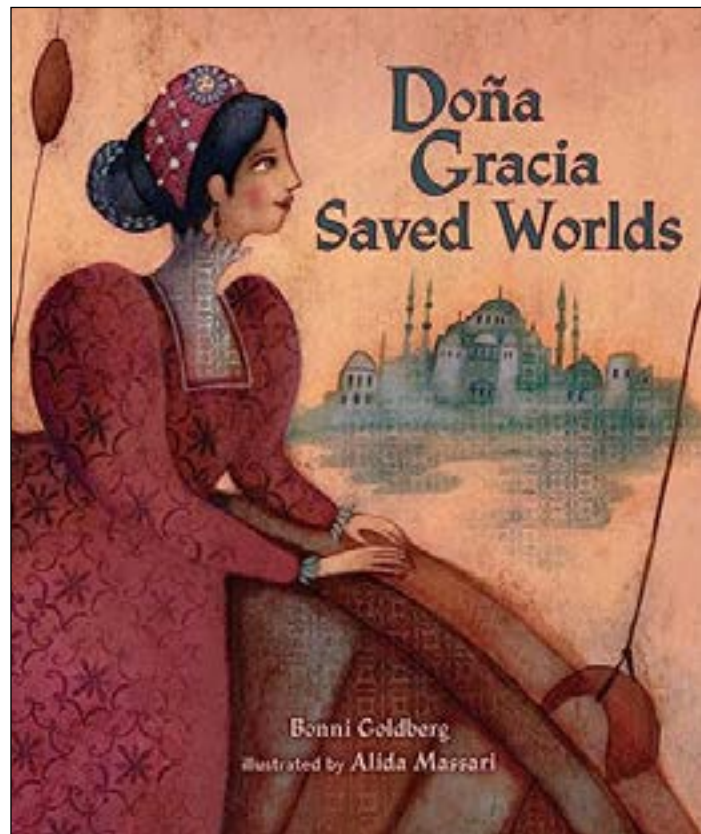
Bonni Goldberg has written plenty over the years, on a variety of subjects, but it took a special story to make her first traditionally published children's book.

A special Jewish story.

That special story was the genesis of "Dona Gracia Saved Worlds," published late last year by Kar-Ben Publishing. The story of the woman known as Dona Gracia, a Portuguese Converso businesswoman who used her considerable influence and wealth to shield her fellow secret Jews from the Portuguese Inquisition, was new to Goldberg when she took a mother/daughter bat mitzvah class with her daughter.

"The class was really an introduction to women leaders in Judaism," Goldberg explained, "as a way of kind of bringing girls into a sense of their own style of leadership and what they were going to bring to the Jewish community. When we got to the class on Dona Gracia, nobody had ever heard of her. It wasn't just me; it was everybody."

Goldberg started digging into Dona Gracia, legally Gracia Mendes Nasi. Born in Portugal, she married a spice trader who willed her his half of the business he operated with his brother. She moved to Belgium as the Inquisition was beginning in Portugal; later, her brother-in-law died and left her the other half of the business. She used her wealth to fund an escape route for Portuguese Jews fleeing the Inquisition, as well as other philanthropic endeavors in Belgium, Italy and the Ottoman Empire, including the restoration of the city of Tiberias thanks to a long-term



lease she negotiated with the Ottoman Sultan.

"The thing that I really think is amazing about her is she really understood that a law can't change what you believe," Goldberg said.

The title of the book comes from Rabbi Hillel's Talmudic maxim, "Whosoever saves a life, it is as though he had saved the entire world."

"It's titled the way it is to encourage people to think about what that means," she explained. "That a person is like the whole world."

The book has been 14 years in the making. The first half of that, Goldberg explained, was not only learning more about Dona Gracia, but for Goldberg to work through all of what she had learned and loved about Dona Gracia and fashion that into a narrative.

"I was such a fangirl of this person that I didn't really have the perspective," she said. "What I realized is that what was most important

was to introduce young people to this amazing Sephardic heroine and to provide that experience in a way that there wouldn't be anybody who would feel uncomfortable reading this book to their children."

For that reason, the work makes no mention of the Inquisition. There are two schools of thought on whether to present difficult subject matter like the Inquisition in children's literature. Goldberg is of the mind that while it's important to tell those stories, that wasn't how she wanted to treat this subject.

"I believe that it's important to have those difficult books out there. Some of them are my favorite books," she said. "I decided that was not the kind the way that I wanted to talk about Gracia because I didn't want a story about the Inquisition. I wanted a biography that introduced this incredible leader to children because she's missing. I wanted her to have her place."

Goldberg has written self-published and traditionally published books on subjects ranging from writing itself to caring for aging parents, pregnancy and Shabbat, but this is her first traditionally published children's book.

"I think picture books are just amazing," she said. "That collaboration between the between my words and somebody else who I don't even know interpreting those words visually is an incredibly satisfying experience for me as a creative person."

Though Goldberg has Sephardic ancestry, she does not identify as Sephardic. Nevertheless, she feels it is important to see Sephardic historical figures, particularly Sephardic women like Dona Gracia, depicted in literature of all sorts, especially children's literature.

"They can see Sephardim represented and Sephardim as heroic, incredible and powerful women, Sephardic women as powerful and important and game changers, history changers," she said.

The book is just the beginning: Goldberg is a Jewish educator as well as a writer and has prepared all manner of materials to help tell Dona Gracia's story.

"I have an educator's heart too, and so on my website, I have all of these free activity sheets that go along with [the book] to enrich and educate and entertain children and families in reading the book, including a whole teachers curriculum for secular teaching."

"Dona Gracia Saved Worlds," illustrated by Alida Massari, is available at Powell's Books or online at <https://www.powells.com/book/dona-gracia-saved-worlds-9781728466996>

# Tivnu summer program returns with CAREaVAN

By ROCKNE ROLL  
*The Jewish Review*

For those interested in the work that Tivnu: Building Justice's gap year program but without a full nine months to commit, Steve Eisenbach-Budner and the team at Tivnu have good news.

Tivnu, the Portland-based non-profit focused on addressing social justice issues in a hands-on way centered on Jewish values, is partnering with the CAREaVAN program through the Bureau of Jewish Education of Greater Phoenix to launch a 12-day summer program for rising high school students in Portland who are interested in an experience like Tivnu's larger program.

"They'll be doing some of the normal Tivnu stuff like construction and urban gardening and farming and that kind of thing," Eisenbach-Budner said. "But because we're doing this with Myra [Shindler, BJE's Executive Director], they often do other things as well. They'll do like food prep at the food bank and those kinds of things."

Eisenbach-Budner is expecting a group of around 20 students for the program. While many of them will come from Arizona through BJE and from other far-flung locales, he emphasized that this is also an experience a local high school student will find fulfilling and exciting. While primarily based in Portland, the program will also spend time in Seattle and on the Oregon Coast. In addition to their service work, program participants will enjoy the outdoor adventures and Shabbat programs that Tivnu has become known for.

"They'll do some things that even if they've lived here, that they wouldn't have done before," Eisenbach-Budner said.

CAREaVAN takes Arizona teens on a service-oriented road trip of sorts each summer, with last year's program focused on Northern California. Eisenbach-Budner connected with Shindler, and a natural collaboration formed that led to Tivnu's first summer program since before the COVID pandemic.

The program costs \$2,900 per student. For more information or to register, visit [tivnu.org/summer-program](https://tivnu.org/summer-program).

## OJCYF to celebrate 21 years with April 18 gala at MJCC

*Oregon Jewish Community Foundation*

The Oregon Jewish Community Youth Foundation's benefit dinner, "Sip, Savor, and Support: OJCYF is 21!" is set for Thursday, Apr. 18.

This annual celebration of Jewish youth philanthropy starts with cocktails and entertainment at 6 pm in the Stern Ballroom at the Mittleman Jewish Community Center.

The teen participants from the Portland Metro Area organize and lead this event. This year's priority issues include antisemitism, gun violence prevention, and mental health.

Mark your calendar to attend. Your support will enable these high schoolers

to engage in meaningful grant-making activities that benefit local nonprofits and grow as leaders in our Jewish community.

OJCYF is a program of the Oregon Jewish Community Foundation. For more information, visit <https://ojcf.org> or call 503 248-9328.



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- **Unopened travel size hygiene items** for organizations serving the houseless community.

Register at [pjaproud.org/wftw-fair](https://pjaproud.org/wftw-fair) to help us prepare for all our "workers for the world!"

**PJ Library**

**Jewish Federation of Greater Portland**

**PORTLAND JEWISH ACADEMY**

**PJA**

Questions? Email [workfortheworld@pjaproud.org](mailto:workfortheworld@pjaproud.org)

## A TO Z (continued from page 5)

er City are just one bit of evidence of that.

In addition to the physical artifacts, the museum's collection includes many, many photographs, a selection of which have been printed on the walls above the display cases. Babbstein sees many of these images as a demonstration of just how thoroughly Jewish life is woven into the fabric of the area.

"There's a radio and TV service station that someone owned, and then there's a hat store and there's a deli," she said, moving through a group of images. "We're here, we exist and we're integrated."

For more information on "Oregon Jews A to Z" and how to see it, visit [ojmche.org/events/oregon-jews-a-to-z](https://ojmche.org/events/oregon-jews-a-to-z).

## Public Service



Rabbi Barry Cohen is departing for Houston (see story, page 1) and the family's pair of 4-year-old female guinea pigs can't join them. Free to a good home, supplies included. Email [chaplain@jewishportland.org](mailto:chaplain@jewishportland.org) for more information.





## Chicken wings get "Chopped" at Cedar Sinai

Chefs and culinary staff from Cedar Sinai Park competed to produce the finest chicken wings at the community's inaugural "Chopped" event Wednesday, Feb. 21. Three teams provided the panel of judges with their versions of the party snack staple - all entries were kosher and included four "mystery" ingredients: rice noodles, fried onions, Cream of Wheat, and chocolate syrup. Chef Jeremy Schwartzberg's team won with a triple entry - a traditional buffalo wing, paying homage to Schwartzberg's New York roots, with a vegan gouda and parmesan cheese dressing, a pastrami-wrapped boneless wing, and a jerk-seasoned wing in mole sauce. The vegan cheese sauce is a staple of Schwartzberg's repertoire for Cedar Sinai Park's kosher meat meals. Each member of the winning team won an air fryer and the opportunity to compete for Cedar Sinai Park in an upcoming "Chopped" competition against other senior care facilities in the Portland area. (Rockne Roll/The Jewish Review)



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Issue date	Deadline
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## Chaplain's Corner

# To grieve and to live

By **RABBI BARRY COHEN**

When we are surrounded by so much grief and instability, how do we continue to live?

Rabbi Sharon Brous, through her Tablet Magazine article “Grieving and Living – how to hold one another in light of the ever-present reality of loss,” gives us direction. Brous is the senior and founding rabbi of IKAR, a Southern California Jewish community created in 2004 to reinvigorate Jewish practice and inspire people of faith to reclaim a soulful voice, driven by justice.

She begins by noting that the purpose of the High Holidays is to remind us that life is a precious and precarious gift. Every year, those days awaken us to a reality that we are sleepwalking through our lives.

That being said, many of us do not need the High Holidays to learn these lessons. Through painful experience, we are aware that random tragedy and pain are everywhere, whether on a personal level, close to home, or on a global level, halfway across the world.

Brous turns to the word “anastrophe” to capture the nature of the tragedies that have afflicted us. “Anastrophe” comes from the Greek word meaning “turning upside down.” It represents the inversion of the usual order.

Anastrophe can confront us as a cancer diagnosis, a stroke or early onset dementia. It can also afflict us as terrorist attack or as proof that humanity is destroying our environment.

Brous writes that anastrophe “rouses the observer to pay close attention to a particular truth or reality, especially one we might otherwise have wanted to ignore.”

In the aftermath of anastrophe, how can we respond?

Brous looks to lessons Judaism teaches whose context is the aftermath of the destruction of 2nd Temple by the Romans in 70 CE. After that catastrophe, how did the Jewish people maintain any sense of hope? The center of our Jewish world had been obliterated. The locale where God and humanity met had been destroyed. The Romans slaughtered men, women and children and carried many others away into slavery.

In response, some in the Jewish com-



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munity became ascetics. They placed heavy restrictions on what they could eat or drink. One prominent rabbi even proclaimed it was forbidden to marry, in order to prevent children being brought into a broken world.

But this ascetic practice was quickly rebuked.

Rabbi Yehoshua responded to these ascetics by saying that in addition to not eating or drinking wine, we had to stop eating bread, because bread was included in the daily sacrificial meal offering. But don't stop there. We also cannot not eat fruits or vegetables, because the firsts of these harvests were also offered up. And we also cannot drink water because that was included in the libation offering.

This clearly got the attention of those who wanted to deny life in the aftermath of tragedy. Yehoshua continued by saying that although we must learn to mourn, we also must find ways to live and find joy.

How? Brous writes that Yehoshua offers tangible guidelines: “When we paint our homes ... leave a little patch bare. When we prepare a feast ... leave out one delicacy. When we get dressed up ... leave off one piece of jewelry.”

At the same time, we can recognize what we have lost and celebrate life. These celebrations can be as simple as gathering with friends for coffee or as extravagant as multi-generational family milestones.

Will there be tension? Of course. But that is to be expected. At birthday parties, graduations and weddings, we express laughter with those who are present and shed tears for those who are absent.

Together, even in the aftermath of anastrophe, we can recognize the blessings that still exist in our lives and express gratitude and joy for each one of them.



# Security Corner

## The value of incident reporting - and how to do it easily

By JESSICA ANDERSON

It won't be news to most of you reading this that according to the FBI, the Jewish community is on the receiving end of about 60% of religious bias crime, and that between 2021 and 2022, Jews experienced a 36% increase in reported crimes. Given recent events, we can expect 2023 numbers to continue that upward trend. One of the greatest challenges within the Jewish community is incident reporting, and I'd like to use this column to stress the importance of sharing the incidents you see and hear about.

I also want you to know that we are very safe living in Portland. The data shows that the vast majority of us do not have to feel scared in our daily lives. I receive about 3-12 reports per month which fall into the range of potentially offensive to criminal. Most reports I receive are public graffiti, flyers, stickers, and protest activity. Even since October 7th, our incidents of minor property crimes/vandalism have been consistent with pre-war statistics. Media coverage of the growing number of incidents is important to be aware of, but the effect can cause fear where it's unfounded. Portland college campus activity has been a little more challenging for Jewish students and students and faculty tend to report those issues elsewhere.

It's well known that antisemitic and suspicious incidents are underreported. Anecdotally, I'm aware of this because I talk



*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.*

with people all the time and I hear about incidents and when I ask if it was reported, the answer is a variation of these responses: "I didn't know where to report it," "It wasn't a crime," "This stuff happens all the time, I don't let it get to me," and "It's free speech, no one can do anything about it." I understand too that reporting takes time and effort, and that one isolated incident can feel inconsequential in the grand scheme of things. I'm here to say that it absolutely matters, and I'm asking you to take the time to report the things you hear about and experience.

A recent example in our Asian community highlights

See SECURITY, page 14

## Israel Stories

### 'The trees and green grass felt holy'

*Editor's Note: With many members of the Portland Jewish community visiting Israel to volunteer, support the Israeli people and bear witness to the ongoing war, The Jewish Review is making space available for those who wish to share their stories of visiting the region. If you would like to share a 400-500 word account of your recent journey to Israel, please email [editor@jewishportland.org](mailto:editor@jewishportland.org) for more information.*

By SCOTTI WEINTRAUB

We went to Israel last July to celebrate my youngest son's bar mitzvah, so it seemed unreal that a place of so much joy and vibrancy would be filled with such pain after the horrors of Oct. 7. I desperately wanted to do something to help, so I joined the January Momentum Unity Mission. I collected enough warm socks & foot powder to fill a giant duffel and flew to a vastly different Israel than I'd seen just months before.

Some things were the same, but also everything was different. The Old City in Jerusalem was empty of tourists and every billboard bore pictures of hostages. Every single Israeli was and continues to be impacted. The cab driver's son is serving in Gaza, the cafe is short on staff because employees were called up, and the person next to you in line lost a friend on 10/7. Everyone.

We began our trip learning about the concept of Hineni - "I am here" in Hebrew. That's what we did. We showed up. And every Israeli we met thanked us for being there. One woman stopped us in a hotel lobby to ask if one week seeing all of this would make a difference and we answered YES. They wanted the world to hear their stories, so we listened.

We saw firsthand the aftermath of what had happened on October 7 when we went to Kfar Aza. Though there was immense destruction everywhere, the small apartment of a young couple was, for me, particularly difficult. Every surface from the floor to the ceiling was covered in bullet holes and grenade shrapnel. The doorway was painted with a warning for Zaka volunteers - "Human remains on sofa." Outside, their household belongings were strewn everywhere. I was surprised to learn it was the third wave of people - civilians - who came from Gaza to steal and loot from the dead.

The Nova festival site was equally difficult but instead of destruction, we saw a beautiful field covered in memorials. The physical reminders of the October 7 horrors are gone, but the poles topped with photos of those who died there remind us what happened. The trees and green grass felt holy and sacred.

We had the honor of hearing the stories of hostage families at

See ISRAEL, page 13

# From visitor to administrator at Cedar Sinai

By SYDNEY CLEVENGER

*Cedar Sinai Park*

Even as a Neveh Shalom preschooler, visiting the Robison Home to sing and help with elder activities, Community Program Director Jennifer Felberg gravitated to our seniors.

"It's innate," said Felberg. "As a kid, I was always comfortable going up and talking to the seniors. I've always loved the Robison elders; they fill me with joy."

Now, in the next step of her professional journey, Jennifer has applied and was officially accepted on February 6 by the Oregon Health Authority for administrator in training (AIT) at Robison Jewish Health Center/Harold Schnitzer Center for Living at Cedar Sinai Park. She is under the supervision of her registered preceptor Kimberly Fuson, Cedar Sinai Park chief executive officer.

Over the next year, Jennifer will complete the required 960 hours of the health licensing program, delving into five domains of practice, including resident care and quality of life, human resources, finance, physical environment, and leadership and management. She is currently learning nursing systems and functions.

"I kept saying 'no' to the idea of being an administrator because I was interested in a broader view of the organization," said Felberg. "And then I realized that I can't work on a broader view without knowing the basics. I felt like I needed some credentials to even sit at the table, and that I needed to learn the actual operations of a building."

Jennifer returned to school in 2022, thanks to a Cedar Sinai Park Lucio and Irene Villa Memorial Scholarship. She graduated in December 2023 from Capella University, with a bachelor of science in healthcare administration.

"In addition to the nursing home licensing, it has also been suggested that I obtain my CNA license, so I'll probably be pursuing that certificate, as well, this year," she said.

Jennifer is a native Portlander. Her father was an auctioneer, and her



Felberg (Courtesy Cedar Sinai Park)

grandfather was the inventor of charity auctions, and she worked with both in sales and entertainment. After receiving a bachelor of fine arts from Southern Oregon State College, Jennifer sang with the Rogue Valley Opera Company, a traveling jazz troupe, and musical theater productions along the West Coast, often fitting in temporary jobs, such as at Nike and Adidas.

Moving to Seattle, Jennifer went to work as a client services coordinator for a recording studio, Bad Animals, and met **Sony**, a sound engineer. While at the recording studio, Jennifer was often asked to fill in for bands that needed background singers. One band, KMFDM, asked Jennifer to sing with them for an album called *Mortal Combat*; her song *Juke Joint Jezebel* went platinum, and also aired during an episode of "90210." She toured with KMFDM for three years, becoming engaged to Sony while on tour in Atlanta where he was doing sound for Pearl Jam.

Returning to Seattle in 2006, Jennifer became a licensed personal trainer for seniors. Shortly thereafter, she and Sony moved to Portland, and Jennifer was a personal trainer at the Mittleman Jewish Community Center, supporting

seniors and folks with special health needs like cancer and dialysis.

Jennifer began filling in for a colleague who worked at Cedar Sinai Park, and then joined the Cedar Sinai team full-time, completing her Life Enrichment certification and Positive Approach to Care training. She also championed the Home's then-Greenhouse Project, training staff when the Robison households were remodeled and re-opened.

"The households are all about putting the residents in the center, and the people closest to them—the staff—should have a voice in how resident care is shaped. I am passionate about the residents and those that serve them, and I think the staff need to be supported, so they can always offer their best work."

"Jennifer is passionate about our residents, and those who serve them," agreed Fuson. "The team is as thrilled as I am that Jennifer has chosen the path to become a licensed nursing home administrator. Her vitality and energy are so important to the leadership role she is pursuing. We need more leaders of her caliber in senior housing and healthcare, and it is my privilege to guide Jennifer on this next part of her professional journey."

Jennifer and Sony will celebrate their 28<sup>th</sup> year of marriage in 2024. They have two children, Moses and Ginger, who have been volunteers and on staff at Robison throughout their childhoods.

"We want our residents to have a great experience when they are with us," said Jennifer. "The details to the activities matter because our residents are always learning, growing, and giving."

"It's really important to understand that about our elders, and also know how much the staff make a difference to that experience. The relationships our residents make with the staff are incredibly important."

"To see it firsthand, has changed my whole perspective of where I was, and now where I am going."

## Jobs Board

See the latest Jewish jobs at [jewishportland.org/ourcommunity/jewish-jobs](https://jewishportland.org/ourcommunity/jewish-jobs)



## Feb. 28: Music From The Sole

Body percussion workshop for ages 9 and up and families Wednesday, Feb. 28 at 5 pm at the Mittleman Jewish Community Center. For more information, email [bbutterworth@oregonjcc.org](mailto:bbutterworth@oregonjcc.org).

## Feb. 28: Flamenco, Sephardic, and Arab-Andalusian Music at EJC

Lecture by Elena Villa on musical forms of the Iberian Peninsula Wednesday, Feb. 28 at 7 pm at the Eastside Jewish Commons. To learn more and RSVP, visit [ejcpdx.org/events](http://ejcpdx.org/events).

## Feb. 29: Cafe Shalom Israeli Folk Dancing

Weekly open Israeli dance session Thursdays, 8-10 pm at CHCC, 8936 SW 17th Ave in Portland. All experience levels and ages welcome. \$7. For more information, contact Allison Victor at [al-lisuev@gmail.com](mailto:al-lisuev@gmail.com).

## Mar. 1: Monthly Sephardic Community Shabbat Dinner

Kabbalat Shabbat service and Sephardic dinner on the First Friday of each month at 6:30 pm at Congregation Ahavath Achim. \$20 per person, family rates and financial assistance available. For more information, email [info@ahavathachim.com](mailto:info@ahavathachim.com).

## Mar. 1: P'nai Or Kirtan Kabbalat Shabbat

Kabbalat Shabbat service with participatory chanting downstairs at Hillsdale Community Church Friday, Mar. 1 at 7 pm. No Hebrew knowledge required. For more information, email [admin@pnaiorpdx.com](mailto:admin@pnaiorpdx.com).

## Mar. 2: CBI Mini Mensches Tot Shabbat

Children's Shabbat program at Congregation Beth Israel for children age 0-5 and families Saturday, Mar. 2 at 9 am. For more information, visit [bethisrael-pdx.org/community/mini-mensches](http://bethisrael-pdx.org/community/mini-mensches).

## Mar. 2 EJC Klezmer Concert – Women in Yiddish Song

Klezmer concert celebrating the contributions of women to Yiddish songwriting with Craig Judelman, Ilya Shneyveys and Cantor Sarah Myerson Saturday, Mar. 2 at 7 pm at the Eastside Jewish Commons. Tickets \$18-30 sliding scale. For more information, visit [ejcpdx.org/events](http://ejcpdx.org/events).

## Mar. 4: City of Roses Death Café at EJC

Open community conversation about end-of-life facilitated by City of Roses Death Café at the Eastside Jewish Commons Monday, Mar. 4 from 1:30 -3:30 pm. Free. Space is limited, please pre-register at [ejcpdx.org/events](http://ejcpdx.org/events).

## Mar. 4: Healing Perspectives Trip to Israel

members remain captive. They implored us to keep telling their stories.

As we processed all the difficult sites and stories, something else emerged too. Hope. Joy. Community. We were humbled by the endless

Panel of Portland State University students presentation on summer Hillel Perspectives trip to Israel at Congregation Neveh Shalom Monday, Mar. 4 at 7 pm. RSVP online at [members.nevehshalom.org/event/I360Oct23](http://members.nevehshalom.org/event/I360Oct23).

## Mar. 5: Dr. Robert Alter, Illuminating the Bible with Literary Brilliance

Join Beit Haverim for a zoom presentation from biblical scholar Dr. Robert Alter Tuesday, Mar. 5 at 7 pm. More information at [beithav.org](http://beithav.org).

## Mar. 6: EJC presents Rose City Women's Self-Defense Workshop

Self-defense workshop for women presented by Rose City Self-Defense Wednesday, Mar. 6 at the Eastside Jewish Commons from 6-8 pm. Free; preregistration required at [ejcpdx.org/events](http://ejcpdx.org/events).

## Mar. 8: Oregon Hillel Purim Party

Purim party hosted by Oregon Hillel at McMenamins on Monroe in Corvallis Friday, Mar. 8 from 6-8 pm. Dinner, two drinks and more included. \$5 advance, \$7 at the door. For more information, email [lev@oregonhillel.org](mailto:lev@oregonhillel.org).

## Mar. 9: CBI Fundraiser

Annual fundraiser for Congregation Beth Israel Saturday, Mar. 9 at 5 pm at

the synagogue. For more information, email [tracy@bethisrael-pdx.org](mailto:tracy@bethisrael-pdx.org)

## Mar. 10: Sunday Afternoon Klez Jam at EJC

Klezmer music jam session at Eastside Jewish Commons Sunday, Mar. 10 from 1-3 pm. Free; preregistration requested at [ejcpdx.org/events](http://ejcpdx.org/events).

## Mar. 10: Work for the World Fair

Service learning event for preschool-fifth grade and families Sunday, Mar. 10 from 1-3 pm at Portland Jewish Academy. For more information or to register, visit [pjaproud.org/wftw-fair](http://pjaproud.org/wftw-fair).

## Mar. 10: Love is the Biggest Act of Resistance

See story, page 6.

## Mar. 10: EJC & ORA Present: Needle Felted Kippot with Simcha Shields

Needle-felting workshop Sunday, Mar. 10 from 3-5 pm at the Eastside Jewish Commons. No experience required. \$50. For more information or to register, visit [ejcpdx.org/events](http://ejcpdx.org/events).

## Mar. 12: Sephardic Winter Film Series

Screening of "Garden of the Finzi Contini" at Congregation Ahavath Achim Tuesday, Mar. 12 at 7 pm; discussion to follow. For more information visit [ahavathachim.com](http://ahavathachim.com).

## ISRAEL (continued from page 11)

Hostage Square in Tel Aviv. Omer's mom described her deep sorrow and suffering not knowing where he is or if he's alive. Adir recounted the harrowing story of her sister-in-law and niece who were released while other family

members remain captive. They implored us to keep telling their stories.

As we processed all the difficult sites and stories, something else emerged too. Hope. Joy. Community. We were humbled by the endless

ways Israelis have shown up and supported one another. We picked kohlrabi and packed food for soldiers. We danced with women whose husbands were at war, and we shared meals with soldiers who thanked us for be-

ing there as we thanked them for their service. I've never felt prouder to be Jewish. If you're considering going to Israel - just go. Or show up in your own way, but Israelis need us to share their stories now more than ever.

## NAOMI CROSBY

Naomi Benjamin Crosby, z"l, beloved mother, grandmother, great-grandmother and friend, passed away at the age of 94.

She was born in Washington, D.C., where she developed a love for classical music, which remained with her throughout her life. As a child, her lifelong dedication to tennis emerged and remained a focal point of her life well into her 90th year. After graduating from the University of Michigan with a degree in medical technology, Naomi worked as a scientist alongside her husband, inventing a method for examining tiny samples to screen for injuries from nuclear explosions. This was a testament to her intelligence and dedication to her work.

Naomi was a devoted family woman, always putting her family first. She was a loving and supportive mother, always there to listen and help in any way she could. Her children remember her

as their best friend, someone they could turn to with any problem. Naomi's love extended to her grandchildren, whom she adored and supported in all their endeavors. In the 1970s and 80s, she was an active member of Congregation Beth El in La Jolla, Calif. She served on the board and was involved in multiple fundraising campaigns.

In her later years, Naomi embraced new hobbies such as watercolor painting, showing that it's never too late to pursue a passion. She was known for her attention to detail and her impeccable style, which was reflected in her artwork and her immaculate appearance.

Naomi will be remembered for her warmth, her wit, and her love for life. She touched the lives of all who knew her and will be deeply missed.

She is survived by her brother, Mordechai "Mordy" Benjamin, and her children, Susanna, Jonathan, Seth and David, and their kids and grandkids.

## AMY GREENSTADT

Amy Elizabeth 'Eliza' Greenstadt, z"l was born in New York, N.Y., Dec. 28, 1966 to William M. Greenstadt and Inez E. Greenstadt, z"l. Amy died in Portland Feb. 9, 2024 after a terminal illness (advanced breast cancer) of five and a half years. She was interred Feb. 12, 2024 at the Jewish Cemetery-RiverView.

Amy was an adored only child raised in Midtown Manhattan; where she attended Hunter School. She moved to San Francisco in 1988. In 1992, Amy began a relationship with Nic Sammond; they became domestic partners (marriage equality was not yet a reality) and remained together for 13 years. Amy began graduate study in English Literature at U.C. Berkeley, and her home was often as not an intellectual salon because Amy loved a good argument. She successfully defended her thesis in 1997.

Amy then took a position at Portland State University where she became a full

Professor. In 2006, she met Sean Green, who became her husband and partner until her death. Even after she was disabled by illness, Amy continued her scholarship. Amy had a very playful side and remained as inquisitive and engaging as she was in childhood. She was an artist, resuming her painting in recent years. Amy loved costume, drag, and dressing up, and was well known for her fabulous fashion sense.

Amy is survived by her father, Bill Greenstadt; husband, Sean Green; paternal cousins, Greenstadt, Soltesz, and Rudolph families; maternal cousins, Kaulen, Talley, Butler, and Moyer families; former partner, Nic Sammond; and many friends and family-of-choice.

Eliza was an active member of Congregation Shir Tikvah (Portland, Ore.). She suggested that tzedekah in her memory be contributed to Rust College (Holly Springs, MS) and/or the Chickasaw Foundation.

## SECURITY (continued from page 11)

this. In the initial incident, an identified Portland man yelled anti-Asian invectives at two Asian women but did nothing else. The incident was reported but it was determined to not be a crime. A few weeks later, the same man walked up to an Asian man and punched him in the face without saying anything to him. The man was arrested and because the first incident

was reported and his anti-Asian animus was already established, the District Attorney's office was able to classify the incident as a hate crime. Without that previous reporting, they could not have charged that. We never know what is going to be relevant down the road, but with more reporting, we may have a chance to link incidents and identify trends.

You do not have to figure out for yourself if something is a hate crime – if something feels offensive, antisemitic, suspicious, or criminal, please make sure this is being reported. If you're unsure about whether something is criminal or see something antisemitic or suspicious, please report it to me. I have an incident reporting form on the JFGP

website at [jewishportland.org/security](http://jewishportland.org/security). You can also contact me at 872-273-9214 and [janderson@securerecommunitynetwork.org](mailto:janderson@securerecommunitynetwork.org). Through your reporting, I can ensure that the statistics I provide back to you in the form of assessments on our community security and security are an accurate reflection of the world we're living in.



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