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# THE JEWISH REVIEW

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OREGON & SOUTHWEST WASHINGTON'S JEWISH NEWSPAPER

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## 'We're the hope'

Federation, Vancouver Ave. First Baptist Church stage second Civil Rights trip

Words and Photographs by  
**ROCKNE ROLL**

*The Jewish Review*

"It's incomprehensible how human beings can do that to other human beings."

This sentiment, uttered by Jan Berne at the National Museum of African American History and Culture in Washington, D.C., was a frequent reaction to what 18 Portlanders saw over the course of three days in the nation's capital.

The group, assembled by the Jewish Federation of Greater Portland and Vancouver Avenue First Baptist Church, a historic congregation with a prominent role in the evolution of Portland's Black community, undertook the two organizations' second Civil Rights Mission to bear witness to each other's history and to speak to those in Congress from a place of shared values and priorities.



Participants in the Jewish Federation of Greater Portland/Vancouver Avenue First Baptist Church Joint Civil Rights Mission meet with Sen. Ron Wyden at the Hart Senate Office Building in Washington, D.C. Thursday, Feb. 27.

While the details of those priorities are as intricate as governing demands, four words from VAFBC parish-

ioner Rosie Johnson as one of her takeaways from the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, can sum-

marize their common root, as well as another recurring

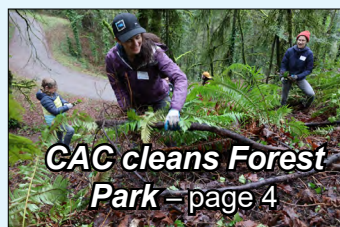
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## Jewish Volunteer Corps to pack Mishloach Manot Mar. 9

*The Jewish Review staff*

Join the Jewish Volunteer Corps, a branch of the Jewish Federation of Greater Portland, for a meaningful opportunity to bring joy and connection to those who may feel isolated during the Purim holiday.

At the JVC's inaugural Mishloach Manot Packing Party, set for Sunday, Mar. 9 from 1-3 pm at the Federation's offices in Tigard, volunteers will pack *Mishloach Manot*—traditional Purim gift baskets—for members of our Jewish community. Recipients will include JFCS clients, individuals in hospice care, and residents of assisted living facilities. Your participation ensures that everyone, regardless of their circumstances, can experience the warmth and joy of Purim. Celebrate the holiday and help spread happiness to those who need it most!

Preregistration is required online at [jewishportland.org/mishloachmanot](http://jewishportland.org/mishloachmanot). For more information, email JFGP Volunteer Coordinator Merit Pinker at [merit@jewishportland.org](mailto:merit@jewishportland.org).

## Jewish Oasis to host deli party Mar. 14

*The Jewish Review staff*

This Purim, the Jewish Oasis is welcoming Portlanders to party, deli style.

The Oasis will host their annual Purim party Friday, Mar. 14 from 1-3 pm with a megillah reading and a full Jewish deli spread – sandwiches, knishes, pickles and more. The event is sponsored by Jeffrey and Mahri Weitz, visionaries of Portland's upcoming kosher deli.

Preregistration is required and limited to 75 guests. Tickets are \$45 and can be purchased at [jewishoasis.org](http://jewishoasis.org).



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## Jewish magic comes to Leikam Brewing

By ABIGAIL MINCH

*For The Jewish Review*

As we, people of Jewish faith, continue to live through “unprecedented times,” we seek help and comfort through a wide array of strategies.

In the past few years, Dr. Yosef Rosen, the Director of Jewish Life and Learning at the Jewish Federation of Greater Portland, has recognized a global interest in magic. He has seen this not only in the Jewish community but in the secular world as well.

“People are seeing magic as a way to gain individual power on their terms,” Dr. Rosen said. “Magic is very empowering. Instead of having to go to someone else, here are the tools and techniques for yourself.”

This is one of the many reasons why Dr. Rosen will be teaching the class titled “Introduction to Jewish Magic.”

Dr. Rosen defines Jewish magic as “a very long and ancient lineage, a tradition of Jews creating mostly spells and amulets to offer protection for various worldly things. It’s a lot of different devices and techniques that Jews have developed over time to create shields for their own protection and safety.”

In the first class, students will look at ways to define magic while learning about the protective properties involved in mezzuzot (mezuzahs) and the Magen David (Star of David).

“I’ll show you that you can still see some traces of that magical history in the mezuzah,” said Dr. Rosen. “And through an art history of the Magen David, we’ll see how that too was a symbol of Jewish protection.”

During the second of the three sessions, students will learn about the unique role that the Jewish people had in firefighting in early modern Germany.

In class three, the final session, students will learn about birthing magic. Traditionally, a Jewish magic practitioner, a Baal Shem, would assist in Jewish birthing by creating amulets, incantations and tinctures for the woman. Dr. Rosen finds interest here in the collaboration between the more natural medicine and the magical medicine.

Dr. Rosen encourages those interested in Judaism and/or magic to attend. He says it will be a great way for people to meet and learn about a topic that is not often taught.

“It’s going to be an amazing opportunity to come together,” he says. “And do some fun learning in a group about something fun and wacky.”

The class will be inviting and accessible to anyone, no matter what their magic background. “It’s really just going to be a deep fun learning experience,” Dr. Rosen said.

The class will be hosted at Leikam Brewing in East Portland, 5-7 pm, on Tuesdays Mar. 11, Mar 18 and Apr. 1. Registration is \$40 for the full series or \$18 for each class individually. For more information and to register, visit [jewishportland.org/magic](http://jewishportland.org/magic).

*Abigail Minch graduated from The University of Oregon with a degree in Journalism and a minor in Judaic Studies. She is excited to combine these two loves into writing for The Jewish Review.*



# PASSOVER4ALL

Help local families celebrate Passover



Jewish Federation  
of Greater Portland



JFCS  
Jewish Family & Child Service

***“Let all who are hungry come and eat” is not just a part of the Passover Haggadah – it is a community imperative.***

**Each Jewish community is obligated to ensure that everyone has the food they need to celebrate a joyous Passover.**

**With your help, over the next 4 weeks, we will raise \$15,000 to provide local families who would not otherwise be able to celebrate with the food they need to make a seder.**

***We are pleased to have an anonymous challenge grant where the first \$6,000 raised will be matched dollar for dollar!***

**Your support is needed to make this possible.**



**[www.jewishportland.org/passover4all25](http://www.jewishportland.org/passover4all25)**





## Climate Action Committee goes 'hands-on'

Photographs by ROCKNE ROLL  
The Jewish Review

A cadre of volunteers braved wet, windy weather to join the Jewish Community Relations Council's Climate Action Committee, Congregation Neveh Shalom's Foundation

School and the Forest Park Conservancy for a day of trail maintenance along Forest Park's Dogwood Trail Sunday, Feb. 23. The crew removed heaps of invasive ivy, which topples trees and decreases erosion resistance, from along one of the park's most popular hiking trails.





# Purim/Holi party partners with THPRD

By ROCKNE ROLL

*The Jewish Review*

Back for a second year, Portland's joint Purim/Holi celebration is set to be bigger, better, and more colorful.

The event, co-hosted by the Jewish Federation of Greater Portland, Hindu Swayamsevak Sangh and the Tualatin Hills Parks and Recreation District, is set for Sunday, Mar. 16 from 2-4 pm at the Conestoga Recreation and Aquatic Center in Beaverton.

"They have been an incredible partner in securing the space," Federation Director of Educational Initiatives and Associate Director of Community Relations Rachel Nelson said of THPRD.

The new facility will provide a kitchen area to bring fresh-baked *hamantaschen* to this year's celebration as well as outdoor space to make use of the powdered colors that are a signature of Holi, the Hindu observance of the coming of spring. The collaboration with the Parks District came through a cold call from THPRD to Nelson's office.

"They just wanted to reach out to the Jewish community and see if there were any points of collaboration," Nelson said. "So many of our Hindu community partners live in the Beaverton area, so it's a great opportunity to showcase what THPRD has to offer, as well as being physically close to many of our participants who attend the program."

Last year's inaugural event, held at Congregation Neveh Shalom, was a product of the ongoing Hindu/Jewish



Hindu and Jewish families enjoy colored face paints at the joint Purim/Holi celebration hosted by the Jewish Federation of Greater Portland and Hindu Swayamsevak Sangh Sunday, Mar. 17, 2024 at Congregation Neveh Shalom. The event returns for its second year Mar. 16 in partnership with Tualatin Hills Parks and Recreation District. (Rockne Roll/Jewish Review file)

Community Dialogue and served to further enhance to connection between the two communities.

"I think both communities didn't realize how many similarities there were," explained Ajay Vangapaty, a member of HSS who is helping organize this year's celebration. "I think the one problem we have in America with such a diverse community is that there's always this factor of an unknown, and then when you see somebody kind of doing the same thing, it cuts through all of that."

Vangapaty explained that Holi is deeply connected not only to the changing of the seasons but to a sense of renewal and moving forward.

"The festival revolves around a giant bonfire, where

the bonfire is symbolic of burning away the last year's baggage; negative energy, negative thoughts, negativity in general. In Hindu philosophy, fire is always seen as a purifier," Vangapaty explained. "It also marks the victory of righteousness over evil in a lot of the Hindu stories as well. It also signifies that spring is here. So, it's kind of a tri-fold connection"

The celebration of spring is where the colors come in.

"We may not look at mid-March as end of winter, but in the Indian subcontinent, definitely winter is over and behind us. Let's get away from the gloominess and open up to, beautiful sunrises and sunsets and colors for a few months before the monsoons come," Vangapaty continued. "The tradition-

al reasoning is pretty much that. Let's just add more color to our lives."

"One thing that we noticed last year was there are a lot of similar similarities between the Purim story and the Holi story," Nelson said. "This is a great opportunity to showcase our two cultures in relation to what we have in common, even though we have a lot of things that are different about our communities."

In addition to fresh-from-the-oven *hamantaschen*, this year's celebration will also include a staged performance of the Purim story from Federation Director of Jewish Life and Learning Dr. Yosef Rosen.

Preregistration is required, free, and available online at [jewishportland.org/purim-holi](http://jewishportland.org/purim-holi).

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



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of Greater Portland

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GRANTS



SCAN FOR DETAILS



# JFGP leaders stage whirlwind tour of Israel projects

By ABIGAIL MINCH

For The Jewish Review

In February, Mindy Zeitzer, board chair for the Jewish Federation of Greater Portland, and Marc Blattner, Federation President and CEO, traveled to Israel. After the Jan. 19 Israel and Hamas ceasefire deal, they knew it was time to visit and check in on the Overseas Special Project programs that Federation funds, visiting 16 out of the 17 programs in just five days.

The Overseas Special Projects Committee earmarks funds to empower individuals and families on the margins of Israeli society. Zeitzer describes the programs as being “Portland-esque.” The initiatives include support for the LGBTQ+ community, efforts dedicated to building bridges between Jewish Israelis and Arab Israelis, and a program to help bring youth to a Kibbutz-style school.

Although these programs were established before the tragic events of Oct. 7, 2023, their importance and need have grown considerably in the aftermath.

“I feel like the programs that we support are really helping on the ground,” said Zeitzer. “But even more so now as the challenges that the Israeli people are experiencing are exponentially larger. (They are) helping with mental health services, helping with education, helping with all those challenges that just got significantly worse since October 7th.”

Zeitzer was able to see that the Federation dollars are truly making a difference in Israel. She says that every agency she and Blattner met with expressed immeasurable gratitude for the support.



This observation post near Israel's border with the Gaza Strip, adjacent to where a number of female Israeli soldiers were kidnapped by Hamas on Oct. 7, was one of the sites visited by Jewish Federation of Greater Portland Board Chair Mindy Zeitzer and President and CEO Marc Blattner during their recent tour of Overseas Special Projects funded by JFGP. (Courtesy Mindy Zeitzer)

Beyond meeting with program agencies, Zeitzer was able to see for herself the damage that the country has suffered in the wake of Oct. 7.

“There is something broken in Israel now,” Zeitzer said. “And they’re hurting.”

Zeitzer and Blattner confirmed firsthand the harsh realities Israelis face by going to the sites of destruction: the northern border with Lebanon, the evacuated Kibbutzim, the Eastern Gaza border, Kibbutz Be’eri, and the site of the Nova Festival.

It was clear to Zeitzer that every Israeli she encountered had been traumatized and is experiencing deep pain.

“Everybody there is connected to Oct. 7,” Zeitzer stated. “Everybody. It’s either a family member, a brother, a sister, a cousin, a kid, a grandparent, a parent, or a close friend. Everybody has been impacted, knows somebody who was there, knows somebody who’s still a hostage, knows somebody who was killed. Everybody.

And that is a very real pain.”

Zeitzer remains hopeful that the Federation’s funding will continue to support Israelis as much as possible through the healing process.

“Some of the programs are very specifically oriented to the challenges that they’re experiencing,” Zeitzer said. “A lot of the programs that are funded were helping

before and are even helping in a greater capacity now because of the increased needs.”

Abigail Minch graduated from The University of Oregon with a degree in Journalism and a minor in Judaic Studies. She is excited to combine these two loves into writing for The Jewish Review.

## AN INTRODUCTION TO JEWISH MAGIC

Jewish Learning, Hogwarts Style  
With Dr. Yosef Rosen

@LEIKAM BREWING

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Tuesdays, 5-7pm  
March 11th & 18th,  
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Class begins at 5:30,  
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drinks & food.

\$40 for all three  
sessions; \$18 for  
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Register at  
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Jewish Federation  
of Greater Portland



A festive collage featuring various Purim-themed items: a wooden noisemaker with red and blue sections, a yellow streamer, a blue Star of David, a hamantaschen (Oznei Tamel) with poppy seed filling, a blue and gold masquerade mask, and a white noisemaker. The background is white.

# = HAPPY = PURIM

FROM JEWISH FEDERATION  
OF GREATER PORTLAND

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[JEWISHPORTLAND.ORG/PURIM](http://JEWISHPORTLAND.ORG/PURIM)





## MISSION (continued from page 1)

theme of what the group witnessed.

"There's too much hate," Johnson said.

The group assembled on the steps of the Holocaust Museum the morning of Tuesday, Feb. 25: VAFBC Pastor J.W. Matt Hennessee, seven church members, five Jewish community members and four professional staff from Federation, including this reporter. The first words they heard, from Diane Saltzman, the museum's Director of Institutional Stewardship, set the tone for the week. She explained that most of the monuments, memorials, and museums in Washington are celebrations of the triumph of democratic values.

"We are a counterpoint to that," she said.

Indeed, as visitors move through the museum, one of the first displays is a reminder that the primary organizers of the Holocaust were all elected to the Reichstag of the German Republic in a free and fair election in 1932. Established political parties did not take the National Socialist German Workers' Party seriously, and President Paul von Hindenburg

thought he had installed a figure he could easily control when he appointed Adolf Hitler as Chancellor in the early days of 1933.

Within weeks, the machinery of democracy was disassembled and, as the exhibit's path wound back down through the building, history's path to what lay ahead became clear.

Docent Immanuel Mandel explained that the bricks of the building were selected for their resemblance to

the masonry barracks, gas chambers and crematoriums of Auschwitz-Birkenau. He is a survivor of the events he now details for visitors - his time at Bergen-Belsen overlapped briefly with Anne Frank in 1944 before he and others were exchanged by the Germans for shipments of war materials, and he was released into Switzerland.

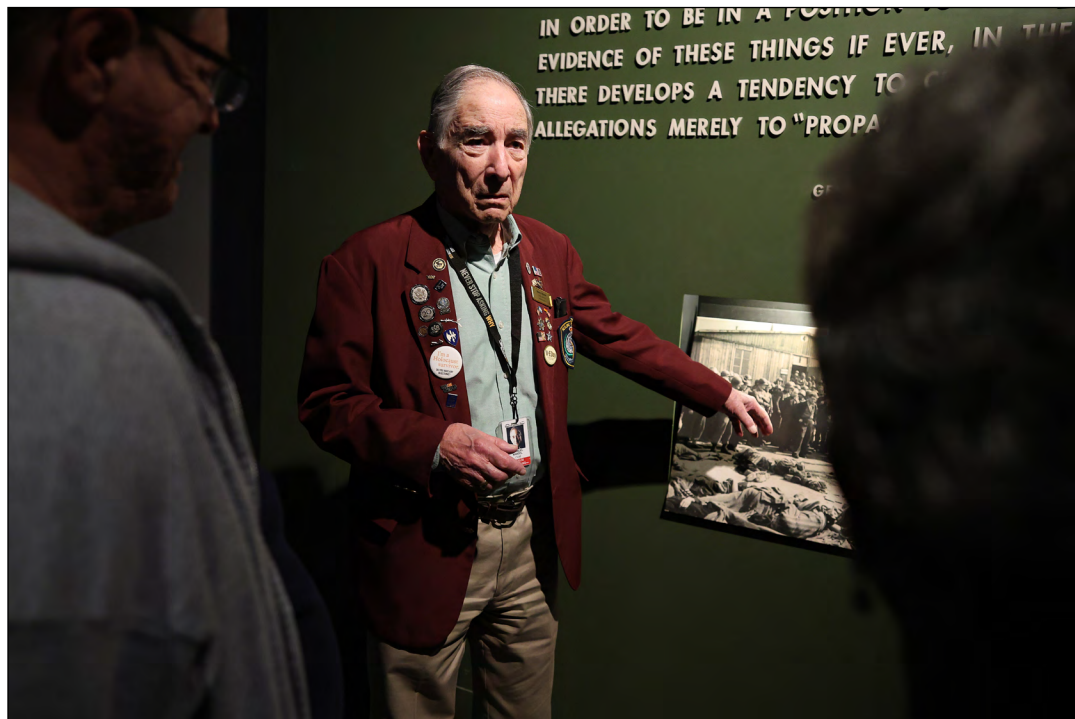
"The purpose is not my story," he said, "except as it relates to what you see."

The story unwound along

the path through the building - explanations of the Nazis' racial classification system and the cultural censorship and political disenfranchisement that enforced it. The system systematically stripped Jews and other groups of their rights - to own businesses, to own property, to vote, to live in places beyond the ghettos.

Donna Darling, a VAFBC member, recalled the con-

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Clockwise from top right: United States Holocaust Memorial Docent Immanuel Mandel was imprisoned at the Bergen-Belsen concentration camp. A cast replica of the "Arbeit Macht Frei" sign from Auschwitz-Birkenau casts a shadow. The museum houses the lintel from the Torah ark of a synagogue in Nentershausen, Germany that was destroyed during Kristallnacht in 1938.





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versations she had with her Jewish husband; Darling said she grew up in Chicago in the kind of impoverished neighborhood that we today call a ghetto.

"[He] tried to explain to me the ghettos in Germany," she recalled. "Now I get it."

Eventually, the Nazis came for Jews' freedom - beyond a cast replica of the infamous "Arbeit Macht Frei" sign from Birkenau was a railroad car, very small by modern standards. Mandel stood inside and recounted how a similar car transported him to Bergen-Belsen.

"I was in there for nine days," he said.

"The moment in the train car, it just overwhelmed me," Craig Berne said. "Intellectually, I know a lot about that, but I've never felt something hit me like that, like I was there."

As the path wound through the building, banks of windows on two separate floors were inscribed with names. The first was a listing of all the European villages that were affected by the Holocaust. The next were all the given names associated with Holocaust victims. While the VAFBC members of the group absorbed the enormity of it, the groups' Jews pointed out the places where their families had lived, the

names that were shared with their families who had been victims.

Displays also detailed the American response to events while they were happening - which was minimal. Indeed, alongside enlargements of American newspaper headlines detailing the early stages of Germany's persecution of Jews was a video showing support for the Third Reich from the pro-Nazi German American Bund and a group that would factor prominently into events the Portland group examined the next day - the Ku Klux Klan.

Past the train car, a diorama explaining the workings of Birkenau's gas chambers showed how the Nazis, hav-

ing seemingly taken everything from European Jews, started systematically taking their lives.

The figures contained within were no more than four inches in height, but the level of detail on their faces showed the confusion as they were ushered into the chambers, the fear as the doors were barred behind them, and the horror as their captors dropped Zyklon-B pellets through the ceiling.

"This is a model of death in process," Mandel said of the model.

Earlier, Mandel had pointed to a photograph of those exiting a train car at a death camp as evidence of the victims' lack of knowledge

of what they were heading toward.

"He pointed to a picture," Steve Lipman said, "and said 'look at their shoes.'"

Even in the low-resolution, black-and-white image, a glossy shine was evident.

"They thought they were going on a trip," Lipman continued.

The trip for the museum's visitors ended on the ground floor, moving past a pile of shoes belonging to victims, and a large-scale photograph of the hair shorn from those who had been gassed which was used as mattress stuffing.

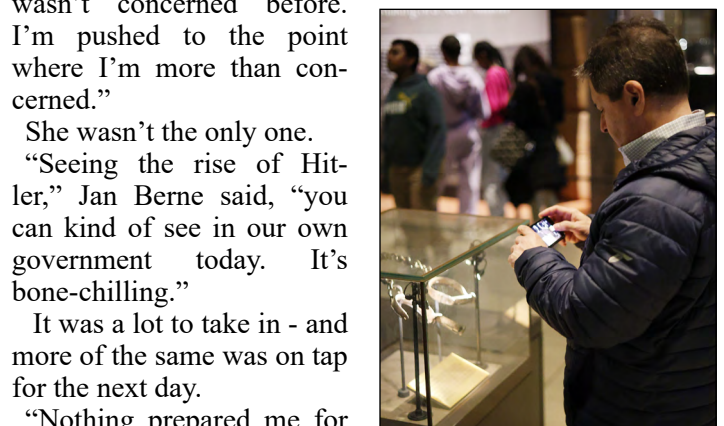
"I never knew about the

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Clockwise from top left: Mandel describes conditions inside a railroad car used to transport Jews to concentration camps. A small scale model of one of the gas chambers at the Auschwitz-Birkenau death camp. A collection of shoes which the Nazis stole from Jews sent to the gas chambers. Participants in the Portland Civil Rights Mission react to a life-size photo of a stockpile of hair shaved from Holocaust victims by the Nazis.





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hair that they used to stuff the mattresses,” Johnson said over dinner with the group, hosted by the Jewish Federations of North America’s Washington office - in their brand-new space on Pennsylvania Avenue - that evening.

VAFBC member Victoria West was also taken aback by how Holocaust victims were dehumanized after death in that way.

“There’s so many parallels to slavery,” she said. “No human being should be treated as such.”

Catherine Brown, another church member, was also struck by the corollaries she saw between the events of the Holocaust and her own people’s story. When she took in the rail car at the museum, she thought of

the close quarters in ships used to transport enslaved Africans across the Atlantic Ocean. When she saw the artifacts and pictures of synagogues vandalized on Kristallnacht, she thought of the Black Wall Street Massacre in which a white mob killed between 75 and 300 people and gutted Black neighborhoods in Tulsa, Okla. in 1921, leaving thousands of Black residents homeless. It is considered one of the worst incidents of racial violence in American history and functionally erased one of the wealthiest Black communities in the country. But it wasn’t just the past that Brown connected with what she saw.

“What bothered me are the parallels between what we’re seeing in America and what happened during Hitler’s rise,” she said. “I

wasn’t concerned before. I’m pushed to the point where I’m more than concerned.”

She wasn’t the only one. “Seeing the rise of Hitler,” Jan Berne said, “you can kind of see in our own government today. It’s bone-chilling.”

It was a lot to take in - and more of the same was on tap for the next day.

“Nothing prepared me for what I saw,” Darling said over dinner. “I don’t know how I’m going to survive tomorrow because today, I am heartbroken.”

- While Washington’s Holocaust Museum starts at the top and descends, the National Museum of African American History and Culture, which the group visited

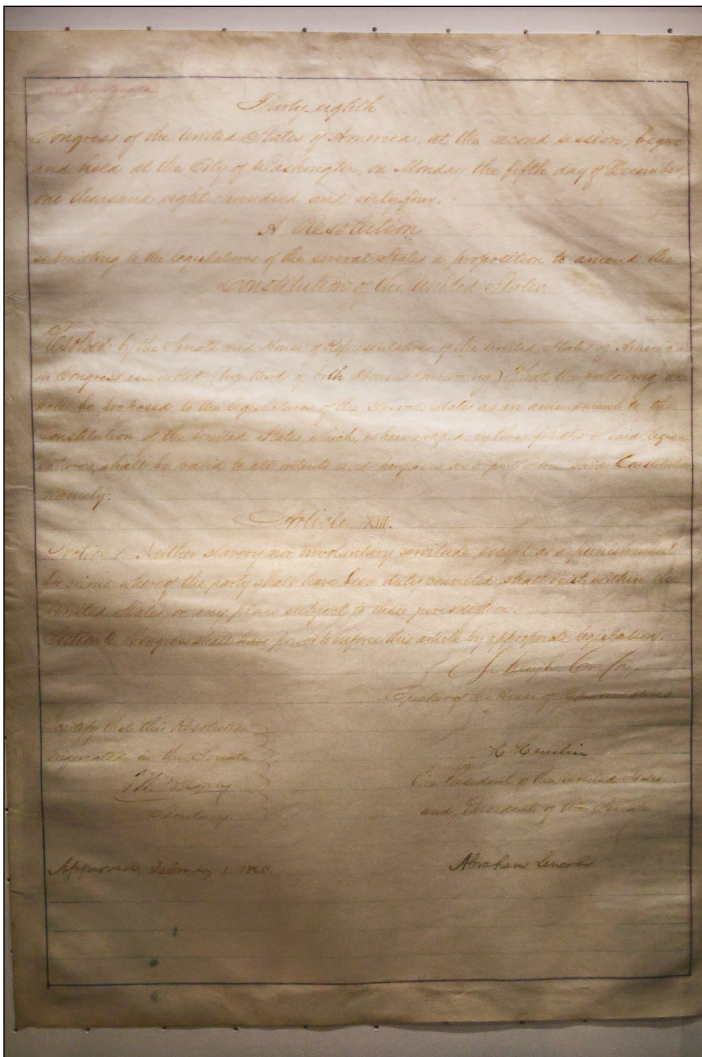
Wednesday, Feb. 26, worked in reverse.

While the museum, opened in 2016, appears as a five-story modern architecture edifice, its permanent historical exhibits begin nearly 70 feet below street level. Numbers count backward on the wall of the elevator shaft to 1400 - to the beginnings of mass

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Top left: A statue of Thomas Jefferson is backed by a stack of bricks bearing the names of enslaved people Jefferson owned during his life. Right column: Participants in the Civil Rights Mission examine displays at the National Museum of African American History and Culture.





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enslavement of Africans by European colonial powers.

Pastel, a tour guide at the museum, explained that this kind of slavery was new in history - prior to the 15th Century, slavery was not

the primary commercial export from Africa, nor was it a permanent status or based on race. In the 16th Century, when Spain, Britain, France and other colonial nations set their sights over the Atlantic, they took their new institution - the classifica-

tion of human beings - with them.

"Slavery and freedom," Pastel explained, "really is an American story. It's a shared story."

A total of 12.5 million people were brought from Africa to the Americas in chains - the largest forced migration in human history. Ships that were designed to hold 400 people in close quarters had 600 or more crammed in to boost the operator's margins.

"It's a business," Pastel said matter-of-factly. "It's profit. It's cargo."

The low ceilings and tight hallways in the early stages of the exhibit emphasize these close quarters.

"The way you start, you feel claustrophobic and dark," Craig Berne said. "You can hear the water."

The ceiling opens upward, back toward street level, as the timeline reaches the late 18th Century and the establishment of the United States of America.

"Liberty was secured by the colonists, who also secured and perpetuated slavery," Pastel explained.

Behind her stood a statue of Thomas Jefferson, the third U.S. President who wrote the Declaration of Independence and eventually encouraged Congress to ban

the importation of enslaved people. Behind the statue was a wall of bricks, each inscribed with the name of one of the 600 people Jefferson owned during his lifetime. A placard reads, "The Paradox of Liberty."

Jefferson's abolishment of the international slave trade did nothing to improve conditions for enslaved Black people on American shores.

"It became more brutal, it became more intensive," Pastel explained.

But as oppression continued, so did resistance in Black communities - as evidenced by an adjustable wedding ring used by Rev. Alexander Glennie to perform marriage ceremonies for enslaved people, who could not legally marry as the law considered them property.

"This is a good illustration of pushing back," Pastel said, "Saying, 'We are married whether you recognize it or not.'"

The inevitable conflict of the Civil War, however, could not be avoided.

"The war was coming because slavery was still there, there was this tug," Pastel said.

The tour was self-guided

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Top left: A copy of the 13th Amendment to the Constitution, which outlawed slavery except as punishment for a crime. Bottom row: Participants in the Civil Rights Mission examine displays at the National Museum of African American History and Culture.



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following the lower-level exhibition, which concluded with the Civil War. Members of the group spread out across the second level, exploring the period from 1865 to 1968, and the final level of the history exhibitions which covered from 1968 until modern times.

Group members again passed through a train car, though this one was a segregated coach car from the Southern Railroad which laid bare the differences in accommodations for Black people and whites in the era of segregation. Beyond it loomed a guard tower from the Louisiana State Penitentiary at Angola, a property which had been a slave plantation, then farmed using convict labor before becoming one of the most notorious prisons in the United States. Across the concourse from the rail car sat an interactive display modeled on the Woolworth's lunch counter in Greensboro, N.C., the site of one of the first sit-in demonstrations. Touchscreens walked visitors through how they might respond to the realities of nonviolent civil rights demonstrations. Around the corner were a series of displays detailing the discussions in the Black com-

munity of how to best defeat segregation and the steps which broader society took to reenforce the existing, race-based social structure, from minstrel shows and children's toys based on grotesque caricatures of Black people to the open violence of the KKK.

Tucked behind the guard tower exhibit lay a memorial to one of the most prominent victims of such violence, Emmett Till. In 1955, Till, then 14 years old, was visiting family in Mississippi when he was abducted, beaten, mutilated, murdered with a gunshot to the head and sunk in the Tallahatchie River. His mother insisted on an open-casket funeral back in his hometown of Chicago, a moment that galvanized the brewing Civil Rights Movement. A hall of displays about Till's life, death and legacy lead into a display of the same model of casket which lay open now as at his 1955 funeral - no photographs are permitted in this room, perhaps the most sacred space in the entire museum.

"He was such a handsome boy," Darling commented on seeing an image of the young Till.

The final level below ground depicted the continued struggles, successes and setbacks that have followed



since 1968.

"The year 1968 marked a turning point in the African American freedom movement," the museum's website explained. "The struggle for African American liberation took on new dimensions, recognizing that simply ending Jim Crow segregation would not achieve equality and justice." 1968 was also the year that Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and Sen. Robert F. Kennedy were assassinated.

"It's overwhelming," JFGP Chief Community Relations and Public Affairs Officer Bob Horenstein said upon exiting. "There's so much."

That evening, most of the group gathered at a nearby restaurant for dinner and

discussion. The conversations diverged in numerous directions. One small cluster compared the different expressions of divine identity between Jewish and Christian traditions. Another small cluster listened as Rev. Dr. Valerie Holmes, a former pastor at VAFBC, recounted the racial abuse she and her son endured driving along Interstate 90 through Montana and Idaho - reminders that what was witnessed at the museum were not relics of the past.

Some other group members, Jewish and Christian alike, bonded across town at the Capital One Center over a shared enthusiasm for the Portland Trail Blazers,

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Top right: A Ku Klux Klan hood. Bottom left: Civil Rights Mission participants discuss an exhibit at the NMAAHC.





Clockwise from lower left: Mission participants met with Rep. Suzanne Bonamici, Rep. Andrea Salinas, Sen. Ron Wyden, and Rep. Janelle Bynum. Participants navigate a stairwell in the Cannon House Office Building between appointments.

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who were in town to play the Washington Wizards on what happened to be the Wizards' Jewish Heritage Night. While none of the Portland attendees paid for the special ticket package that included a reversible bucket hat emblazoned with a *Magen David* pattern and a Hebrew-language rendition of the Wizards' logo, they did get to chat briefly with Rep. Suzanne Bonamici, (D-Ore.) and see the Blazers take a 129-121 victory. While Portland's Shaedon Sharpe scored a career-high 36 points, Deni Avdija, the current Blazer, former Wizard and sole active Israeli player in the NBA, left in the

first quarter with a leg injury and did not return.

-  
"After the last two days, I feel like I've been punched in the stomach," Lequila Hobson said upon exiting the African American history museum the day before. "This makes you want to speak to your representatives."

Just such an opportunity was available as the group, slightly diminished by early departures, reconvened Thursday, Feb. 27 in the lobby of the Cannon House Office Building for the first of five meetings with Portland-area Democratic lawmakers: Sen. Ron Wyden and Reps. Suzanne Bonamici, Janelle Bynum and Andrea Salinas, as well as pol-

icy aide from Rep. Maxine Dexter's office.

"They were clearly disturbed by what was happening at the executive level, and I think they're trying to figure out how to raise the alarm when it comes to the way that cuts and layoffs are being made to the federal workforce that are impacting departments that provide essential services.

Collective priorities in the conversations were the assault on diversity, equity and inclusion programs within government and beyond, the Non-Profit Security Grant Program, discussion of legislation around antisemitism and threats to the continued funding of Medicaid – a particularly urgent

point, considering the budget resolution passed in the House of Representatives Tuesday evening while the Portland mission were at dinner.

"They're sounding the alarm about what it means for programs like Medicaid and SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, previously known as "food stamps") and maybe Social Security," Horenstein said of the officials they talked to. "As they point out, that budget plan cannot be reconciled without cutting those programs."

Rep. Bynum, the first Black person elected to Congress from Oregon, gathered the Portland group

*continued on next page*



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in her still-being-unpacked office and spoke of how her faith guides her approach to policy, a perspective that seemed to resonate strongly with both those who share her Christian faith and those who did not.

“I always like to say that when we lobby, we do so on the basis of our values, our Jewish values, but in this case, our shared values with the people from the church,” Horenstein said. “To me, when she spoke about faith, part of it sounded like she’s relying on faith because of the climate that we’re in; what else is there to rely on right now? But I also think it’s about values, and we must speak up on the basis of those values.”

-  
This group came to Washington at a palpable inflection point in American history, to learn about their collective histories. What they found is, perhaps, something more.

“We’re trying to bridge the gap between diversity, equity and inclusion and creating communities of belonging. We need to work together to ensure that everyone feels a sense of belonging,”

Yolanda Savage-Narva, the Vice-President for Racial Equity, Diversity and Inclusion at the Union for Reform Judaism, explained at Tuesday night’s dinner at JFNA’s offices.

“This,” she went on to say of the group in front of her, “is a model.”

Savage-Narva helped found Operation Understanding DC, which brought together Black and Jewish high school students to go on the same kinds of journeys and do the same kind of community-building work that the Portland cadre she was addressing was assembled for.



The eternal flame in the Hall of Remembrance at the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum.

“As a Black Jewish woman from the south, I am the dream and the promise of my ancestors,” she said.

Earlier that evening, JFNA President and CEO Eric Fingerhut had read Psalm 30 to dedicate the organization’s new meeting space, saying that the Psalms were a shared heritage between Judaism and Christianity. Later, he flipped a few pages ahead to Psalm 133 - “How good it is to be together” - and led the singing in both English and Hebrew.

The words are attributed to King David, but the sentiment was well shared.

“Being together,” JCRC Chair Doug Blauer said, “made me feel stronger. Our communities, the more we support each other, the more we thrive.”

Brown thought of words from a kind of king - Dr. King, who said “Out of a mountain of despair, a stone of hope.”

“I feel like this gathering,” she explained, “we’re the hope.”

-  
*JFGP Director of Educational Initiatives and Associate Director of Community Relations Rachel Nelson contributed reporting.*



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## NEXT ISSUE

Issue date Deadline

MAR 19

MAR 13

# Security Corner

## New online training are live!

By JESSICA ANDERSON

I'm happy to share that my weekly training series is back and kicking off this week! (I'm adding the link here, so you don't even have to read any further - [jewishportland.org/events/security-training](http://jewishportland.org/events/security-training)). Training is a significant and important part of my role, and it's somewhat challenging in that I can't force people to take training classes, and I can't force organizations to invite me into their spaces to train their communities. I get it There are SO many reasons not to take safety and security classes. And yet, I think of the men in the Colleyville, Texas hostage situation who never expected to spend 10 hours that day working out a way to escape their situation. Two quotes that I hope inspire you: "The SCN training saved all our lives. Period," said Jeff Cohen of Colleyville, and "We can never know when the next attack will occur, but we can control our readiness and preparation," from Michael Masters, National Director, Secure Community Network. Safety training is not about scaring you to think that terrible things happen in Jewish spaces; it provides the confidence to know you're capable of handling situations anywhere and can step in and be a leader if necessary.

I'm a big proponent of training because it readies your mind for challenging situations of all kinds. We know that training improves outcomes in an emergency. It's easy to say you'll probably never need any of these courses. No one ever thinks



*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.*

they're going to be in a critical incident, and yet people find themselves in them every day.

SCN has two new training courses that most of our community has not yet heard about. Again, you'll find registration links on the community calendar and the JFGP website at the security page. I'm offering them at 12pm on weekdays, and every class is offered each month.

### Guardian

Guardian seeks to empower people to be "Active Bystanders." This class is considered the next step from BeAware: Intro to Situational Awareness. The goal is to provide individuals with the skillset to identify potential threats, protect institutions, and respond to situations from a safety perspective. Elements include how to react appropriately to possible threats, the use of de-escalation techniques, and concepts from the Department of Homeland Security's The Power of Hello program. This class is geared to individuals who may be in a position of responsibility for an organization – maybe a chaperone with a student group or an usher/greeter.

### Navigating Conflict: The Power of De-Escalation

The goal of this course is to provide a basic understanding of and introduction to the skills and techniques to defuse or reduce tension, hostility, and/or conflict in situations. The course covers the following topics: the definition of de-escalation, common escalation triggers, the de-escalation process, communication skills, and handling aggression. While geared towards those of us in public-facing roles, this is also a great course for anyone with a spouse, partner, siblings, drunk uncle, boss, or co-worker!

### BeAware: Introduction to Situational Awareness

BeAware, SCN's introduction to situational awareness course, seeks to build observation skills and will teach you best practice techniques to recognize and react to various situations in your everyday life – from going to synagogue and dropping off kids at school, to navigating crowds. The course will cover how to train yourself to pay more attention,

See SECURITY, page 19



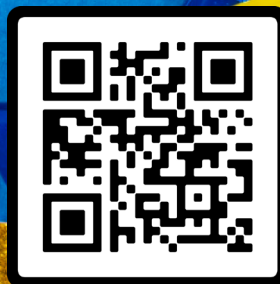
# MISHLOACH MANOT PACKING EVENT

SUNDAY, MARCH 9, 2025  
1:00 - 3:00 PM

9900 SW Greenburg Road  
Conference Room 299  
Tigard, OR 97223

[www.jewishportland.org/mishloachmanot](http://www.jewishportland.org/mishloachmanot)

Bring joy and connection to those who may feel isolated during the Purim holiday. Volunteers will pack mishloach manot—traditional Purim gift baskets—for members of our Jewish community.



Celebrate the holiday and help spread happiness to those who need it most!



# Jewish Therapists Collective hosts Shabbaton

## *Jewish Therapists Collective*

On May 16-18, 2025, Jewish Therapists Collective will highlight Jewish Joy in an experiential journey by celebrating Lag B'Omer in the Pacific Northwest. We will host a delegation at the unique retreat center Rainbow Lodge in North Bend, Wash., just a short drive from Seattle or Portland, where we will connect and rejuvenate

with our fellow mental healthcare professionals.

In our modern times so many of us find that we crave connection. As Jewish mental healthcare providers we spend our days helping others; at times we need to fill our own cups, and collaborate as a community to find the support, empathy, and connection that we need to continue on

our individual journeys. Come join JTC for a Shabbaton in the beautiful and inspirational Pacific Northwest where you will find the refuge you need to connect with your community, nurture your spirit, and leverage your strengths to create a positive impact in your daily life.

Learn more and register at [jewishtherapists.org](http://jewishtherapists.org).

## OJCYF dinner is Apr. 10

### *Oregon Jewish Community Foundation*

The Oregon Jewish Community Youth Foundation (OJCYF) invites the community to its annual benefit dinner on Apr. 10 at the Eastside Jewish Commons. Organized and led by OJCYF's teen board members, this event raises funds for critical causes while showcasing the impact of youth leadership.

This year's theme, "An Evening of Glamour and Giving," will bring a festive flair to an evening focused on a pressing issue: confronting antisemitism. All proceeds will support local nonprofit organizations dedicated to countering antisemitism and fostering greater understanding.

A highlight of the evening will be keynote speaker Adam Davis, Executive Director of Oregon Humanities, who will guide attendees through brief table discussions designed to spark

thoughtful conversation. "His goal isn't to get everyone on the same page, but to create space for people to share different perspectives and build greater understanding and community," said OJCYF board member Elissa Treger.

OJCYF's teen leaders are eager to bring this experience to the community. "Dialogue is really the most important tool we have for addressing issues like antisemitism and hate. It's great that we're learning to have these difficult conversations," added Isabel Treger, another OJCYF board member.

Seating is limited, and tickets are available now. Reserve your spot today at [www.ojcf.org](http://www.ojcf.org).

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

## Fuks' "Conciliation" to appear at Fertile Ground Festival Apr. 6

### *Fertile Ground Theatre Festival*

Playwright, author and actor David Fuks is happy to announce that his latest play, "Conciliation" will receive a staged reading on Apr. 6, 2025 at 1:30 pm at the Oregon Jewish Museum and Center for Holocaust Education (OJMCHE). This is Fuks' third production at the Fertile Ground Theatre Festival in Portland.

"Conciliation" is focused on two families impacted by the Holocaust. It portrays a fictional therapy session taking place in Berlin where a German family (who are descendants of Nazis) and an American Jewish family (who are descendants of Holocaust survivors) work together in an effort to develop mutual understanding.

Fuks, who is a descendant of Holocaust survivors, shares, "It is an unanticipated truth that both the descendants of Holocaust survivors and descendants of the Nazi aggressors of World War Two might have issues in common. Both may have been raised by parents who might have been emotionally unable or unwilling to discuss their experiences. Both may have heard stories that have shocked them and caused them to struggle with the 'secondhand smoke' of anger or grief or shame. Both may also wish to find a path to move through this emotional legacy by seeking the truth and expressing their humanity." A talkback with the audience will follow the performance. Members of the OJMCHE Holocaust Education Speakers' Bureau and the Next Generation Group (both of which Fuks is a member) are being invited to the performance and to participate in the talkback session. The event will be video recorded and made available to OJMCHE as a teaching tool.

Fuks added, "I am grateful to our cast and creative team led by our Director, Annie Leonard, and our Videographer, Michael Lang. I am deeply appreciative of the support we have received from OJMCHE, the Jewish Federation of Greater Portland and the Oregon Jewish Community Foundation."

Tickets are available online at [fertileground.tix.page/e/conciliation](http://fertileground.tix.page/e/conciliation)



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# CSS to host a trio of Spark celebrations May 4

## *Camp Solomon Schechter*

Camp Solomon Schechter is thrilled to announce its annual Spark Event, an evening dedicated to celebrating the camp's rich history, vibrant community, and bright future. This year's event will take place on May 4, 2025, concurrently in Portland, Seattle and British Columbia, Canada, bringing together alumni, supporters, and friends for an unforgettable night of inspiration and connection.

Spark serves as the premier fundraising and community engagement event for Camp Solomon Schechter, ensuring that generations of campers continue to experience the transformative power of Jewish summer camp. This year, we are honoring the remarkable families whose generational leadership has shaped the heart of Camp Solomon Schechter. Attendees will also have

the opportunity to support camp scholarships and initiatives that keep the Schechter experience accessible to all families.

This year, we are especially proud to honor the Atkins (Portland), Schiller (Seattle, and Siegel (BC) families for their generations of leadership and unwavering commitment to Camp Solomon Schechter. Their dedication has played a vital role in shaping the camp's legacy and future.

"As we celebrate another year of impact, Spark is a time to honor our past, celebrate our present, and invest in our future," said Zach Duitch, Executive Director. "We look forward to gathering with our beloved community to share stories, laughter, and our collective commitment to Jewish camping."

Camp Solomon Schechter has been a cornerstone of Jewish life in the

Pacific Northwest for over 70 years, fostering lifelong friendships, strong Jewish identities, and leadership skills in a nurturing environment. Spark embodies the spirit of camp, bringing its values to life through an evening of joy, generosity, and togetherness.

Registration and sponsorship opportunities for Spark are available now. For more information, visit <https://www.campschechter.org/spark/> or contact Leah Conley, [lconley@camp-schechter.org](mailto:lconley@camp-schechter.org).

Camp Solomon Schechter provides a welcoming and inclusive Jewish camping experience, where campers of all backgrounds grow through meaningful traditions, immersive learning, and a deep connection to nature. With a focus on Jewish values, personal growth, and community, Schechter has been creating unforgettable summers for generations.

## SECURITY (continued from page 14)

the influences in your brain that impede observation, and options for reacting to your observations.

### **Countering Active Threat Training (CATT)**

The goal of CATT is to provide participants with a better understanding of active threats and potential response options. This course subscribes to the national Run, Hide, Fight model and SCN developed CATT with a singular goal: national delivery of a strategy to teach what to do during a threatening situation, wherever it may occur.

### **Stop the Bleed**

Through our Stop The Bleed course, you'll gain the ability to recognize

life-threatening bleeding and intervene effectively. Stop the Bleed is a national program, like Red Cross First Aid and CPR, designed to train people in how to stop potentially fatal bleeding. This training is relevant to all aspects of our lives, outdoor recreation, household accidents, etc. You'll learn the concepts of wound pressure and packing skills and learn how to use a tourniquet on yourself and others. The person next to a bleeding victim may be the one who's most likely to save them.

In addition to the above classes, here are other available courses:

### **Camp Training**

Camp Training has three courses, each focusing on a specific audience (Counsel-

ors, Staff, Leadership), that provide education around awareness, planning, training, and action.

### **College Campus Safety**

This course focuses on the unique challenges for students on college campuses. Given the surge in antisemitic incidents since October 2023, the emphasis on planning and preparedness is crucial.

### **Traveler Safety**

Traveler Safety is a course designed for anyone traveling, domestically or internationally, that provides a framework for increasing safety before and during travel. If you're an individual traveler, I'm happy to share the course contents

with you.

Besides security training, I'm also available to work with organizations on emergency procedures, developing safety protocols, and conducting Threat and Vulnerability Risk Assessments (TVRA) of your space for safety improvements. If you are an individual who wants to speak with me about a personal safety or security concern, please feel free to contact me at [janderson@securecommunitynetwork.org](mailto:janderson@securecommunitynetwork.org) or 872-273-9214. As always, we know antisemitic incidents are vastly underreported! Please let me know about incidents you're aware of or submit it at the JFGP security webpage: [jewish-portland.org/security](http://jewish-portland.org/security), by phone, or email.

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# Obituaries

Submit obituaries online at [form.jotform.com/JFGP/jr-obituary](http://form.jotform.com/JFGP/jr-obituary)

## NAOMI KNIGHT

Naomi Barr Knight, z”l, passed peacefully on Feb. 17, 2025, in Portland.

Naomi was born on May 6, 1935, the eleventh child of Joseph Barr and Dora (Rosnick) Barr. She lived most of her life in Western Massachusetts, Boston, and Maryland.

She attended Classical High School in Springfield, Mass. (class of 1953) and Emerson College with a focus on speech and drama. She was a member of the choir “Golden Tones,” did work with the hearing impaired, and radio voice overs on WBUR. She was also a petite specialist at Bloomingdales. She loved summers on the farm in Becket, MA, the smell of sweetgrass and the arts, particularly poetry, classical music and drama.

In 1956 she married David Knight of Dorchester, Mass., and they had 3 children: Elizabeth, Michael (Debbie), and Deborah.

She leaves three grandchildren: Rachel, Jeremy and Jacob who were the light in her eyes. She was the last of the Barr children and is survived by her many nieces, nephews and cousins.

Her funeral and burial were Friday Feb. 21st in Springfield, Mass.

Donations can be made to Mothers Against Drunk Driving.

## ROBERT GUGENHEIM, JR.

It is with deep sadness that Congregation Shaarie Torah announces the passing of Robert Emil Gugenheim, Jr., z”l, beloved father of Shoshana Gugenheim Kedem. He passed away peacefully in his sleep on February 24, 2025, at Morn-

ingside Senior Living in Raleigh, N.C., at the age of 87.

Born in Cincinnati, Ohio, in 1937 to Robert and Marion Gugenheim, Bob was known for his compassion, devotion to family, sharp wit, and bone-dry sense of humor. An avid tennis player, he won a high school state tennis championship before becoming a two-time letter winner for the University of Virginia men’s team in 1958 and 1959.

His career in financial management within the home-building industry took the family from Wyoming, Ohio, to Charlotte, North Carolina, in 1982. A perfect day for Bob included a win on the tennis court (without running or hitting anything other than a drop or slice shot), a horseback ride in the Colorado mountains, and enjoying Graeter’s ice cream and Double Stuff Oreo cookies with his family—while making sure to remind them they were all a bunch of “schmucks.” He never shied away from a game of cards, a sports wager, or a clandestine smoke.

Bob is survived by his devoted family, with whom he cherished every moment: his children Stephen (Julie), Shoshana (Andrew), and Scott (Alison); his grandchildren Brandon, Samuel, Eliza, Gavriel, and Hadar; his nieces Lynne and Lisa (Larry); and his grandnephew and grandniece Jonathan and Millie. He was predeceased by his older brother Richard. During Bob’s long and painful struggle with Alzheimer’s, he was cared for by many people, but none more devoted or loving than Shirley, to whom the family extends their deepest gratitude.

A private funeral was held in Raleigh, N.C. on Tuesday, Mar, 4.

## Events

More upcoming community events online at [jewishportland.org/community-calendar](http://jewishportland.org/community-calendar)

**Check out all of Portland's Purim parties at**  
[jewishportland.org/purim](http://jewishportland.org/purim)

## Jobs Board

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