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A Plentiful Purim



Mishloach Manot packages await their finishing touches at the Jewish Volunteer Corps Mishloach Manot Packing event Sunday, Mar. 9 at the Jewish Federation of Greater Portland's offices in Tigard. The event was the kickoff for the newly formed JVC. Read more about the JVC on page 5 and see our Purim coverage throughout today's edition. (Rockne Roll/The Jewish Review)

Lois Schnitzer passes at 89

The Jewish Review Staff

Lois Schnitzer, z"l, passed away Friday, Mar. 7, 2025, at the age of 89.

One of Portland's most prominent Jewish philanthropists, Schnitzer and her husband, Leonard Schnitzer, z"l, contributed extensively to the Jewish Federation of Greater Portland, the Oregon Jewish Community Foundation, the Oregon Jewish Museum and Center for Holocaust Education and other Jewish organizations. They also made contributions to causes outside the Jewish community, including an endowed chair in Breast Oncology at Oregon Health Sciences University.

"Lois was a kind and generous philanthropist and unassuming community leader," JFGP President and CEO Marc Blattner said in

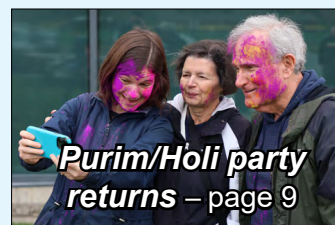
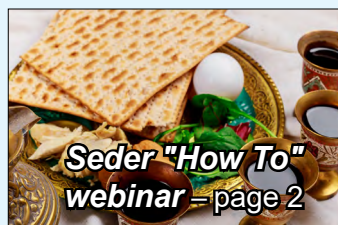
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The Jewish Review Podcast



Click the logo for the latest episode.

Seder hosting instructional webinar set for Apr. 3

By **ROCKNE ROLL**
The Jewish Review

Attending a Passover Seder and hosting one are two very different things, one being significantly more daunting than the other. Fortunately, if you're looking to host your first - or best - Seder, Dr. Yosef Rosen is here to help.

Dr. Rosen, the Director of Jewish Life and Learning at the Jewish Federation of Greater Portland, is hosting a "How to Host a Passover Seder" Webinar Thursday, Apr. 3 at 7 pm.

A Seder is more than just a meal. It's right there in the name - seder is Hebrew for "order" or "structure."

"A lot of Jews grow up witnessing their parents or their grandparents hosting a Seder, and it's a little bit different than watching your parents host Thanksgiving," Dr. Rosen said.

Many Jews learn this process through osmosis; watching their families perform the ritual retelling of their people's journey freedom. But that can be a hit-or-miss learning methodology. Even for those who have the family tradition down pat, finding ways to make the ritual meaningful for one's unique circumstances can be daunting. If this sounds like you, this is your webinar.

"Maybe they've been hosting Seders, but it's always overwhelming, and so they cut out half of it, or they've never hosted a Seder in their life, and it seems intimidating," Dr. Rosen said of his target audience. "I want to offer people an orientation to what it takes to put on a Seder. What are the main things you want to be thinking about?"

Theoretically, one could pick up a Haggadah and follow along - but most Haggadot are written for small children - if you don't have any, it can be stilted to follow. Even with kids, time can be a factor - Dr. Rosen recalled his family's Seders taking five hours when he was young.

"There's a lot of questions. Like, do you want to do the meal in the beginning and then get into the ritual part? Do you want to do a little ritual before, a little ritual after? What songs to sing? How do you choose a Haggadah? Can you create your own Haggadah?" Dr. Rosen explained "It's about walking people through all of these questions, some of them intuitive, some of them not, and giving tips and opening up a conversation and giving people a little bit inspiration, a little bit of empowerment."

The beauty of the Seder, Dr. Rosen points out, is that it's an exemplar of a kind of small-scale, grassroots Judaism that had been absent from Jewish-American life in the second half of the 20th Century but has been making a resurgence in recent years, and was something that respondents to Portland's 2023 Community Study were eager for more of. Indeed, Rabbi Mike Uram of the Jewish Federations of North America contrasts this at-home model with the large synagogue event model by referring to the two as the "Seder Model" and the "Yom Kippur Model," the latter named for what is an average synagogue's most attended service of the year.

"We're trying to let people see their own homes as portals for Jewish organizing, Jewish community building, and meaning making," Dr. Rosen said, "and the Seder is such a wonderful opportunity."

The webinar is scheduled for 90 minutes and will be interactive, giving attendees a chance to ask questions as well as connecting with other would-be Seder hosts.

Registration is free and available online at jewishportland.org/passover-sederwebinar.



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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.

SCHNITZER (continued from page 1)

an email. "One thing most evident was her deep love and care for family, especially her six daughters. As she once said to me, 'Family is like the spokes on a bicycle wheel. Each is connected and each is important. Respect, kindness, and love were ingrained in us.'"

She provided more than 530 grants to no fewer than 85 organizations through OJCF, including the Lois Schnitzer Education and Enrichment Endowment Fund for OJMCHE through OJCF.

"Her dedication to philanthropy has touched the lives of so many," OJCF said in a

statement, "and may her legacy live on in the countless organizations and individuals she touched."

Schnitzer is survived by her children Rita (Bob) Philip, Gayle (Paul) Romain, Sandra Schnitzer, Mardi (Brad) Spitzer, Jill (Rich) Edelson and Dina Schnitzer, as well as her eleven grandchildren, and three great-grandchildren. Lois was preceded in death by her husband Leonard Schnitzer and her parents Rose and Harry Schafer, z"l.

A memorial service was held Monday, Mar. 10 at Congregation Beth Israel in Portland.

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jewishportland.org/passoverhappenings

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HAPPY
PASSOVER!



PASSOVER HAPPENINGS





"Schpiel of Horrors" delights at CBI

Congregation Beth Israel in Portland presented "Little Schpiel of Horrors" Thursday, Mar. 13 at the synagogue's main sanctuary, putting their traditional theatrical twist on the mitzvah of retelling the Purim story. This year's performance marked the final appearance in a leading role for CBI Senior Cantor Ida Rae Cahana, lower left, who is retiring from the shul later this year - the show was preceded by a tribute montage of her performances in previous schpiels. (Rockne Roll/The Jewish Review)



JGN's "Grandparents & Stardust" webinar is Apr. 3

By ROCKNE ROLL
The Jewish Review

The Jewish Grandparents Network has been busy conducting research into the experiences of grandparents in the Portland Jewish community. While the findings of recent focus groups and an online survey are still being compiled, JGN is hosting a webinar for the Portland community that addresses some of the subjects that have come up most often for grandparents across the country.

"Jewish Heritage, Grandparents & Stardust," scheduled for Thursday, Apr. 3 from 4:30 – 6 pm on Zoom, addresses the challenges Jewish grandparents face when it comes to transmitting Jewish heritage and values through the generations.

"Seventy percent of grandparents, in the research that we've done, want to transmit and share their values, Jewish customs and traditions, with their grandkids," explained David Raphael, a co-founder of JGN. "We also know that for different reasons, for some of them it's complicated or hard."

Those challenges can range from doubts about their own level of Jewish knowledge to the challenges of multi-heritage households. Raphael had originally developed this webinar for another community, but as JGN pursued its research in Portland, it became clear this was a topic worth addressing here, too.

"In our focus groups with Portland grandparents a lot of them feel the sense of responsibility to share their Jewish values, traditions and customs," Raphael said. "It's really a discussion and presentation about 'What are the dynamics of that? How could they do it? How could they pursue it in ways that they could feel comfortable and confident about it?' and also 'What are the special dynamics of the grandparent-grandchild relationship that provide a fertile ground for sharing these customs and traditions and values?'"

JGN was founded eight years ago to support Jewish grandparents, both with direct access to resources and by working with organizations and com-

munities to address the specific needs of Jewish grandparents.

"We started off as an advocacy organization and transitioned to one creating content and now, we're transitioning to being an organization that seeks to build partnerships with communities around the country," Raphael said.

JGN's inception coincided with the birth of Raphael's granddaughter – this is no coincidence but stems from a conversation when he was in Baltimore for her birth.

"I sat with an old friend of mine in her backyard schmoozing, and she started talking about her frustration that the Jewish community was not attending to and supporting grandparents," he explained. "Out of that conversation grew the organization."

Registration for JGN's Portland webinar is free and available online at jewishportland.org/jewishheritagegrandparents. More information about JGN is available online at jewishgrandparentsnetwork.org.

JFGP launches Volunteer Corps, Good Deeds Month

By ROCKNE ROLL
The Jewish Review

Greater Portland's 2023 Jewish Community Study showed what many already knew – that volunteer service is a priority for Jews throughout the area. Now, the Jewish Federation of Greater Portland is building a new community resource to connect volunteers with service opportunities.

The Jewish Volunteer Corps held its inaugural event last week with a *Mishloach Manot* packing party Sunday, Mar. 9 at Federation's offices in Tigard, preparing more than 100 packets of snacks and warm Purim greetings for community members, one of the traditional *mitzvot* (commandments) of the holiday.

"They [went] to [Jewish Family & Child Service] mental health clients. They [went] with our Jewish community chaplain, Rabbi Sarah Rensin, to community members that she works with. [They went] to retirement facilities where Jewish community members may not have many other Jewish neighbors," Federation Volunteer Coordinator and JVC organizer Merit Pinker explained. "The whole point of the *Mishloach Manot* pack was to give Purim cheer and spread joy to people that otherwise might not be around a lot of Jewish community right now."

It was also fun for those who did the packing, as volunteering so often is.

"It was such a great group of really joyful and enthusiastic volunteers," Pinker continued. "We had a blast while we were packing, and I think people really felt the impact of it as well."

Pinker explained that the Community Study found that while 47 percent of



Volunteers assemble *mishloach manot* packages at the Jewish Volunteer Corps' packing event Sunday, Mar. 9 at the Jewish Federation of Greater Portland's offices in Tigard. (Rockne Roll/The Jewish Review)

Portland's Jewish adults are engaged in volunteer service, only 19 percent of those same Jewish adults volunteer with Jewish organizations.

"There could be a number of reasons for that, but the Jewish Volunteer Corps was born to provide more opportunities for volunteerism in Jewish Portland," she said. "We're volunteering with both Jewish organizations and non-Jewish organizations because we want to support Jewish organizations in our community through volunteerism, and we also want to have our Jewish community go out and make an impact in the Greater Portland area beyond the Jewish community."

Who is this effort for? Everyone – regardless of experience, financial situation, synagogue affiliation, Jewish knowledge, etcetera.

"It's a way for people

to follow their passions," Pinker said. "If somebody wants to volunteer and they don't have a lot of time, this is a terrific opportunity for them because we are planning activities for them. If somebody has a lot of time and really wants to work with specific organizations and wants help figuring out how to get connected with those organizations and how to connect other Jews with those organizations, we can also be a great resource for that as well."

JVC's kickoff continues into April with Good Deeds Month. An expansion of the annual Good Deeds Day on Apr. 6, the full month encompasses National Volunteer Week (Apr. 16-20) and Earth Day (Apr. 22) as well as Passover, Yom HaShoah, Yom HaZikaron and the first hours of Yom HaAtzmaut. Events

already scheduled include a Wednesday, Apr. 9 food box building event with Sunshine Division, clothes sorting with Dress for Success Oregon Tuesday, Apr. 15 and a challah bake at Chabad of Northeast Portland Thursday, Apr. 24, with more to come.

"We thought, 'Why not expand Good Deeds Day to be Good Deeds Month and include all of that?'" Pinker said. "It's a great launch for our new Jewish Volunteer Corps; to really get the word out about what we're doing."

Those interested in getting involved can start with the Federation's Volunteer Interest Form at [jewishportland.org/ourcommunity/volunteering/volunteerinterest-form](https://www.jewishportland.org/ourcommunity/volunteering/volunteerinterest-form), check out more Good Deeds Month programs at [jewishportland.org/good-deedsmonth](https://www.jewishportland.org/good-deedsmonth) or email Pinker at merit@jewishportland.org.

Carnival of costumes at Neveh Shalom

Congregation Neveh Shalom hosted their annual Purim carnival Thursday, Mar. 13 at the synagogue. Games, crafts and snacks preceded a taco dinner and megillah reading by Cantor Eyal Bitton. (Rockne Roll/The Jewish Review)



Dr. Adi Radian to speak at MJCC Tuesday, Mar. 25

By ROCKNE ROLL
The Jewish Review

One of Israel's leading environmental scientists is coming to Portland to discuss how pollutants interact with the natural environment and what societies can do to mitigate harmful effects.

Dr. Adi Radian from Technion – Israel Institute of Technology, will present on this topic in “The Fate of Pollutants: A Journey Through Soil, Science, and Solutions” Tuesday, Mar. 25 at 6 pm at the Mittleman Jewish Community Center in Portland.

Dr. Radian has been at the Technion for eight years, fo-

cused on what happens when pollutants of all types – from agricultural chemicals to oil to the byproducts of wastewater treatment – enter the environment.

“From that we try to also think about new remediation strategies, trying to mimic some of the things that happen in the natural environment and make them harmless them so we can take care of these pollutants in a more sustainable manner,” she said. “We try to focus on the ones that are most challenging, that don’t already have good remediation strategies. Thinking of minimizing energy consumption or

the secondary environmental footprint so that the materials that we use for remediation are not causing more pollution.”

Israel’s diverse, modern economy combined with limited land and water resources makes dealing with these issues not just an environmental concern, but a matter of national security.

“There’s just enough water for the entire population,” Dr. Radian explained. “[Desalination] has saved us; we no longer have an acute water scarcity problem. We now have an energy problem.”

Dr. Radian is on sabbatical this year in the United

States, basing herself in the Puget Sound region where she and her husband have family while continuing her research work with support from the University of Washington.

“One of the things I am trying to get into is looking at carbon sequestration technologies and seeing if I can apply some of my knowledge to that field because it is also a very troubling area that we want to address,” she said.

Dr. Radian’s talk at the MJCC is free. Registration is available online at oregonjcc.org/arts-culture/upcoming-events.

CBI preschool hosts Future Educators from Lincoln High School

By **ROCKNE ROLL**
The Jewish Review

Congregation Beth Israel's Jennifer Barnum Luria Early Childhood Center is not only supporting the next generation of Jewish community, but the next generation of teachers as well.

The center, known as "The Jennie," is currently hosting a pair of students from Lincoln High School's Future Educators Program for a two-day-per-week internship program.

"They can experience a classroom and get to know what it means to be a teacher for different age groups," Bailey Brandt, The Jennie's Executive Director, said. "Some of them are placed in preschools like our center, and then others are placed up through middle school classrooms."

The pair are embarking on their fourth week at CBI - after an orientation week, time in the infant classrooms and a stretch with the preschoolers, each of the students will stay with one of the two groups for the remainder of their internship, which runs through May. As they gain familiarity and experience, they'll take a more active role in their selected classroom.

"It's mostly been play based, because we are a play-based school, so they are sitting on the floor interacting with kids at their level," Brandt said of the students' first days at The Jennie. "They're getting to know them and figuring out what activities they like, and next week, they'll start to develop different activities themselves to bring into the classroom."

The students are also getting to know a whole new culture in a way their fellow Future

Educators participants aren't - neither is Jewish. Brandt said they've taken to the Jewish environment with grace and a sense of fun.

"They've said they've been really enjoying learning about the culture and that they've been enjoying learning to see how the kids interact with it," she said. "Our kids probably talk the most about Shabbat because it happens every week."

Purim has, naturally, been a topic of conversations in recent days - ranging from costumes to the qualities of Queen Esther.

"I've left the door open for questions," Brandt said. "So far, they've conducted themselves in spectacular manner and have brought in a lot of like warmth and fun. They seem to be enjoying learning with the kids."

Modern public education often teaches as much about child development as it does about Judaism - which is to say very little. Thus, the Future Educators Program is a valuable experience even for those who don't choose the profession moving forward, Brandt explained.

"Those teens turn into adults and sometimes go on to have their own families or interact with children in other capacities, and don't necessarily know as much as they could know about what children need at different age groups and child development," she said.

There's room for more families to get in on the fun - The Jennie is holding an open house on Saturday, Mar. 22 from 2-4:30 pm. As a new program, Brandt and her team have been slowly opening additional

See **JENNIE**, page 11

Havurah Shalom schpiel a "Beauty"



Musicians perform the opening number of Havurah Shalom's "Beauty and The Beast"-themed schpiel Thursday, Mar. 13. (Rockne Roll/The Jewish Review)





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JNF to host former Israeli PM May 4

The Jewish Review staff

Jewish National Fund is hosting a brunch in honor of *Yom Ha'atzmaut* and is bringing in one of Israel's historical political figures for the occasion.

Former Prime Minister Ehud Olmert, who led Israel through the Second Lebanon War, will speak at JNF's Love of Israel brunch Sunday, May 4 in Seattle at 11 am.

"Who better knows the impact of the Jewish National Fund in Israel than a Prime Minister who sees where JNF fills in the holes that the government can't?" Saul Korin, JNF's Pacific Northwest Director said.

In addition to his work on new approaches to the peace process, Olmert has been working with JNF on their World Zionist Village campus in Southern Israel, a project that began when

JNF started running low on space for their Alexander Muss High School program.

"We reached out to the city of Beersheva looking for a space to build a second campus. We asked them for five acres and they said, 'What would you do if you had 20?'" Korin said.

As it turns out, the answer is to build "a global hub... to connect with the land and people of Israel through education and dialogue, inspired by shared values and a common destiny," according to the WZV website.

Tickets to the May brunch are \$180 before Apr. 1, \$220 after. Dietary laws observed and preregistration is required. For more information or to purchase tickets, visit events.jnf.org or email Korin at skorin@jnf.org.

SW Hope food drive underway

The Jewish Review staff

Neighborhood House's 19th Annual SW Hope Community Food Drive is resuming its partnership with Congregation Neveh Shalom, adding to a lengthy roster of participating community faith organizations supporting the annual event.

Mary DeBauche, Communication Specialist and Special Project Manager with Neighborhood House explained that while end-of-year food drives are a fairly standard arrangement, people in the community are hungry throughout the year.

"You don't want people to be hungry during that celebratory time of year, but after the new year, donations drop off precipitously," she said. "That's why SW Hope is timed the way it is in the spring."

Neveh Shalom helped with a macaroni and cheese collection event over Purim – in addition to being a food pantry stable, dried pasta in a box makes an excellent

improvised grogger – and will be soliciting donations of *chametz* in the leadup to Passover.

Donations go to Neighborhood House's Free Food Market, which supports 12,000 people in the Portland area each year from a small facility in Multnomah Village – one of many programs Neighborhood House provides to support communities in need. Founded in 1905 by the National Council of Jewish Women, Neighborhood House has transformed into a non-sectarian, multi-faceted non-profit.

A number of events beyond food collection will support the food drive, including Dine Out to Donate events across Portland.

"We want to bring something for everybody," DeBauche said.

SW Hope runs through April 20. More information about events and participating partners is available at nhpdx.org/sw-hope.

jewishportland.org/themitzvahmakersapril



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Join us for The Mitzvah Makers, a quarterly volunteer day of hands-on service for young families!

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9:00 AM-11:30 AM

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jewishportland.org/themitzvahprojectapril



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NEXTGEN

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SUNDAY, APRIL 6

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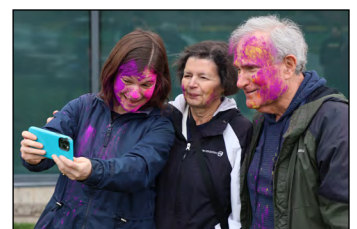
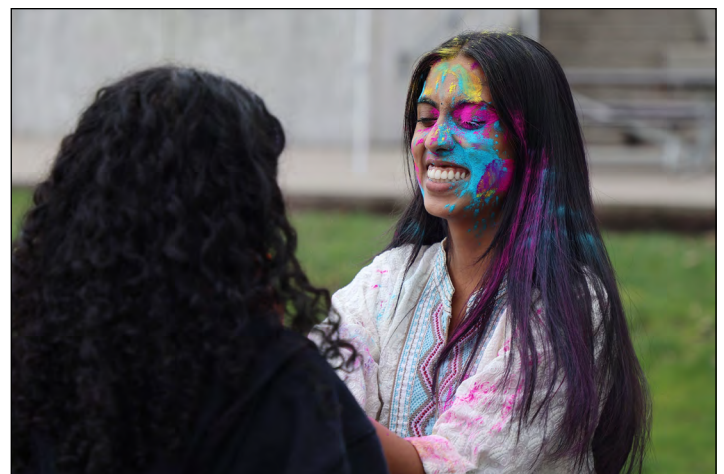
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Purim/Holi party draws hundreds to Conestoga

More than 270 attendees came for crafts, cookies and color throwing at the second annual Purim/Holi Celebration sponsored by the Jewish Federation of Greater Portland, Hindu Swayamsevak Sangh and the Tualatin Hills Parks and Recreation District Sunday, Mar. 16 at Conestoga Recreation and Aquatic Center in Beaverton. (Rockne Roll/The Jewish Review)



Tubular Tunes at Shaarie Torah

DJ (and Jewish National Fund Pacific Northwest Director) Saul Korin spun an evening's worth of throwback jams as Congregation Shaarie Torah celebrated an 80's-themed Purim celebration Thursday, Mar. 13. (Rockne Roll/The Jewish Review)



'A Letter to Uncle Bruce': Grief processing with a journal and pen

Congregation Neveh Shalom

"Dear Uncle Bruce,

I just took a shot of tequila. Well, maybe I did, and maybe I didn't. Every time I even think about tequila I think of you. Every time I read -- or think -- about New York City, I think of you. Same when I see an image of Bill Clinton or John McEnroe, for you'd resembled each of them so closely. Same, too, when I see your picture, in hard copy, digital format, or even in my mind's eye. Uncle Bruce, I miss you. And I keep thinking of you. So I wanted to write you this letter to let you know."

Five years ago this month, Bruce Director died after a rapid decline from pancreatic cancer, and Jenn Director Knudsen, his niece, didn't know how to process his death. So she turned to a tool known to provide solace when grieving:

writing. Sitting down and penning a letter to Uncle Bruce was like communing with the person she'd known.

On Mon., Mar. 31, Jenn and Laura Cohen, LCSW, co-facilitate "A Letter to Uncle Bruce," a first-of-its kind grief-processing, letter-writing workshop. Open to the community for adults 21 and better, the in-person opportunity takes place at Congregation Neveh Shalom from 6:30 p.m. to 8 p.m.

The evening includes a journal and a pen; writing prompts and writing time; and light refreshments. Rides can be arranged upon request. To register and for additional workshop details, visit members.nevehshalom.org/event/UB25.

"A Letter to Uncle Bruce" also includes time for participants to reflect ideas and feelings in the presence of Cohen, to remain present and engage in

self-care if needed.

"Oftentimes as we process grief, happy and sad memories bubble up as do more complicated emotions connected to a death, like regret," Cohen said. She emphasizes the benefit of having a licensed mental-health professional available "to help participants navigate their immediate response to awakened emotions" while noting the workshop is not a therapy group.

Rabbi Eve Posen, Neveh Shalom's associate rabbi, will offer introductory remarks at the start of the March 31 workshop.

The rabbi said: "Our tradition teaches us to offer the prayer, 'may their memory be for a blessing,' upon hearing of the death of a loved one. Writing a letter allows concrete memory to surface and puts tangibility to the intangibility of grief."



Goats galore at Clark County Chabad

A petting zoo was the highlight of Clark County Chabad's Purim festivities Friday, Mar. 14 in Vancouver, Wash. (Rockne Roll/The Jewish Review)



OJMCHE sponsors student art contest

The Jewish Review staff

The Oregon Jewish Museum and Center for Holocaust Education is sponsoring the Jakob and Sala Kryszek Art & Writing Competition for sixth through 12th grade students in Oregon and Washington.

Participants are asked to create a work of art or writing that demonstrates their creative reflection on Holocaust histo-

ry, examining the plight of Holocaust refugees which could include forced deportation to ghettos, deportation to killing centers or slave labor camps, and/or post-liberation struggle for identity, survival and renewal.

The grand prize is a trip to the winner's choice of the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washing-

ton, D.C., or the Holocaust Museum in Los Angeles – both including airfare, accommodations, ground transportation and a meal stipend for the winner and a chaperone.

Entries are due by Apr. 12. For more information or to enter, visit ojmche.org/teach-learn/sala-kryszek-art-writing-competition.

Leadership webinar open

The Jewish Review staff

Linda Cohen, the Portland-based author of "1,000 Mitzvahs: How Small Acts of Kindness Can Heal, Inspire, and Change Your Life," is leading a second session of her Emerging Leadership Series – Leading

with Kindness, beginning Apr. 1. The six-week webinar series is targeted for emerging leaders in a variety of fields looking to grow their skills in a small cohort environment. For more information, email linda@lindacohenconsulting.com.

Volunteer in Israel this summer

The Jewish Review staff

Birthright Israel and NCSY are co-sponsoring a young adult (ages 26-50) opportunity to volunteer in Israel this summer.

The Israel Free Spirit trip will run June 29-July 9, with an option to extend return travel for up to three months.

The \$600 registration includes airfare from Los Angeles, hotel accommodation, transportation to volunteer sites and more. Registration is available online at israel-freespirit.com/westcoast. For more information, email Denise Badreau Tamam of NCSY at Denise@ncsy.org.

JENNIE (continued from page 7)

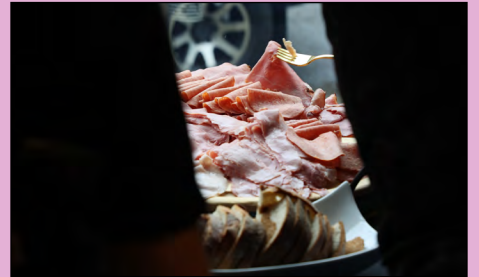
classrooms as staff becomes available and demand necessitates - a process which continues.

"We have openings for every age group," Brandt said. "Infants through five years old, and infants as young as

six weeks old."

The Jennie, and the open house, are open to all families, regardless of synagogue

membership or affiliation. More information is available at <https://www.bethisrael-pdx.org/thejennie/>



Plentiful pastrami at Jewish Oasis Purim party

A full deli spread including sandwiches, pickles and matzo ball soup greeted guests at The Jewish Oasis' Purim party Friday, Mar. 14 in Downtown Portland. (Rockne Roll/The Jewish Review)



Past and present connect at CNS

Joelle Abaew, the 80th and current International N'siah (President) of B'nai B'rith Girls visited Michelle Caplan, the 43rd International N'siah and current Assistant Executive Director of Congregation Neveh Shalom in Portland. Abaew is from Germany and is the first N'siah from outside North America. Caplan served in the role from 1987-88. One of the key roles of the International N'siah is traveling to promote BBYO and meeting with chapters around the world. (Courtesy Michelle Caplan)



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Hosted by Rockne Roll*



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Security Corner

Bivins trial an opportunity

By JESSICA ANDERSON

In my Sept. 11, 2024 column, I shared an update on Michael Bivins, a local man charged with crimes associated with vandalism and arson at two synagogues, a mosque, and a Black-owned restaurant. At the time, we were expecting a plea deal to be scheduled in March 2025 and were seeking community interest in signing a Community Impact Statement describing the effects of hate on vulnerable communities.

Unfortunately, we were recently notified that the case is being pushed to July 2025 and will be going to trial. Community members who previously expressed interest in receiving updates will be notified, but this is also an opportunity to raise community awareness of the case and offer another chance to (anonymously) sign the letter and note the new trial date in your calendar.

Bivins trial is scheduled for the week of July 7. It would potentially be impactful if community members attended some of the trial and the day of sentencing, if Bivins is convicted. If that happens, a judge will determine his sentence, which will provide an opportunity for community members to support each other and be part of an effort to speak out about bias crimes. Our country's legal process allows victims and those affected by these crimes to voice how the events affected them, influence the sentence, and help shape the Judge's understanding of the effect of the person's actions.

As members of the Portland Jewish community, you can



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.

take part in this phase of the judicial process if Bivins is convicted. Several community members have worked diligently over the past two years to follow the case and prepare a Community Impact Statement for the court. In this case, the goal of the statement is to show that bias crimes impact an entire community, strengthen the legal response to these crimes, and help prevent them in the future. You can read the community statement at <https://docs.google.com/document/d/17o-q4Onaw1nqnQCjza1BMeA-we4T4hnbJxtPAT8ypz57Q/edit?usp=sharing>.

The hope is that community members will attend the trial and support the community statement in the sentencing phase if Bivins is convicted. No individual names will be submitted to the court - only the names of directly affected institutions and the total number of signatories from the community at large. As your community security director, I will temporarily retain the list of names and e-mails, and the information will not be further shared.

Within the form, you have two options - you can anonymously sign the Communi-

ty Impact Statement, you can opt to be notified of the trial date, or both! The court's victim advocate group says that it's very helpful if many members of a community show up to a trial and subsequent sentencing hearing - they help demonstrate to the court the impact and importance of the proceeding.

To sign up as a supporter of the Community Impact Statement, please fill out the Google form here <https://forms.gle/skC7hK9tFPmK-wV356>

Feel free to share the links with others whom you know care about bias crimes being committed against any group in Oregon and who seek to stand and be counted.

Reporting remains critical in stopping bias crimes, and we know incidents are underreported. Please report and encourage others to do so as well. Incidents can be reported on the JFGP Security page at <https://www.jewishportland.org/security>.

You may also contact the Oregon Department of Justice's Non-Emergency Bias Response Hotline at 1-844-924-2427 or report online at <https://justice.oregon.gov/CrimeReporting/BiasCrime>.

THESE APRIL WEBINARS ARE PRESENTED BY THE JEWISH FEDERATION OF GREATER PORTLAND



HOW TO HOST A PASSOVER SEDER WEBINAR

April 3, 2025
7:00 - 8:30 PM



REGISTER HERE!

Discover how to design a memorable and accessible seder experience while gaining the confidence to lead this gathering in your own authentic way.

Hosted by Jewish Federation of Greater Portland's Director of Jewish Life and Learning, Dr. Yosef Rosen

jewishportland.org/passoversederwebinar

Whether you're a first-timer or a seasoned host, join Federation's Director of Jewish Life and Learning, Dr. Yosef Rosen, for an interactive webinar that will empower you to invite friends and/or family to your home for a Passover Seder. Discover how to design a memorable and accessible seder experience while gaining the confidence to lead this gathering in your own authentic way. From symbolic foods to engaging guests of all ages, you'll learn everything needed to create a Passover experience that honors tradition while reflecting your personal style. Don't miss this opportunity to enhance your seder-hosting skills and join a supportive community of hosts. **REGISTER TODAY!**

JEWISH HERITAGE, GRANDPARENTS & STARDUST WEBINAR

A webinar for grandparents who are eager to share their Jewish traditions and values with members of their families.



REGISTER HERE!

THURSDAY, APRIL 3
4:30 PM - 6:00 PM
ON ZOOM

With David Raphael, co-founder of the Jewish Grandparents Network



jewishportland.org/jewishheritagegrandparents

Many grandparents are eager to share their Jewish traditions and values with members of their families and feel great joy and satisfaction when they do so. They think back wistfully on the Jewish traditions of their youth and long to share their family stories. However, some grandparents may feel that they don't have a strong enough Jewish background. In this presentation, David Raphael, co-founder of the Jewish Grandparents Network, will share the lessons he and his colleagues have learned about the nuances of thoughtfully sharing Jewish traditions. **REGISTER TODAY!**

Events

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

Mar. 19: Safety & Security Training - The Power of De-escalation

Online security training through Secure Community Network at noon. Free. Register at jewishportland.org/events/security-training.

Mar. 19: Jewish Wisdom for Great Life Questions

Biweekly Jewish education webinar hosted by Beit Haverim. For more information or to register, visit beithav.org/form/Spring2025AdultEd.

Mar. 19: Nani Vazana Live

Millennial Ladino songwriter performs at a private home at 8 pm. Tickets at etix.com/ticket/p/52627983/nani-vazana21-portland-mcmenamins-white-eagle-saloon.

Mar. 20: Safety & Security Training: Guardian

Online security training through Secure Community Network at noon. Free. Register at jewishportland.org/events/security-training.

Mar. 20: Hear Our Voices

Greater Portland Hillel fundraiser at 6:30 pm at Lewis and Clark College. For more information, email hannah@pdxhillel.org.

Mar. 21: EJC Presents: Noontime Con-

cert with Whiskey Deaf Duet

Free concert at Eastside Jewish Commons at noon. More information at ejcpdx.org/events.

Mar. 21: Family Shabbat Dinner at the JI

Monthly Shabbat dinner at 6 pm at the Mittleman Jewish Community Center. \$5 per person, \$15 per family. Register at oregonjcc.org

Mar. 23: Research Latin America Genealogical Resources from Your Couch

Free webinar presented by the Jewish Genealogical Society of Oregon at 10:30 am. For more information, visit jgsoregon.wixsite.com/home.

Mar. 23: New Horizons Big Band at EJC

Free concert/dance at Eastside Jewish Commons at 3 pm. Preregistration required at ejcpdx.org/events.

Mar. 24-28: BB Camp Spring Break Camp

Spring break day camp for grades K-8 at Congregation Neveh Shalom, presented by BB360. Registration at bb360.org/school-breaks/

Mar. 24: JFCS Senior Social Hour: Brunch n' Learn

Senior social hour at Eastside Jewish Commons at 11 am. Free. Preregistration required at jfcs-portland.org/senior-social-hour.

Mar. 24: Supporting our Trans & Queer Youth Now

Webinar by Moving Traditions, Keshet and Raising Up Teens at 5 pm. Register online at movingtraditions.formstack.com/forms/youth-raising-up-teens.

Mar. 25: An Introduction to Jewish Magic

Class on Jewish magic with Dr. Yosef Rosen at Leikam Brewing at 5 pm. Preregistration required at jewishportland.org/magic.

Mar. 25: The Fate of Pollutants: A Journey Through Soil, Science, and Solutions

See story, page 6.

Mar. 27: Survival and Intimations of Immortality: Artist and Curator Talk

Webinar with curator Ori Soltes, Rabbi Ronnie Cahana and Kitra Cahana at 4:30 pm, hosted by the Oregon Jewish Museum and Center for Holocaust Education. \$5; free for OJMCH members. Tickets online at ojmche.org/events/survival-and-intimations-of-immortality-artist-and-curator-talk.

Mar. 27: Understanding Palliative Care

Webinar by Jewish Association for Death Education at 5pm. Register at jadeinfo.org.

Mar. 27: "Home Court"

Indie Pop Up film screening at Eastside Jewish Com-

mons at 7 pm. Free, preregistration required at events.humanitix.com/indie-pop-up-screening-home-court.

Mar. 30: Israeli Dancing for Everyone with Allison Victor

Israeli folk dancing at 1 pm at Eastside Jewish Commons. \$6. Preregistration required at ejcpdx.org/events.

Mar. 30: Young Professionals Cooking Workshop

Sephardic Cooking class at Congregation Ahavath Achim at 4 pm, co-sponsored by Portland Jewish Connection. \$18. Tickets at ahavathachimpdx.weebly.com/sephardic-cooking.html.

Mar. 31: A Letter to Uncle Bruce: A Grief Writing Workshop

See story, page 10.

Apr. 1: Women's Philanthropy Inter-generational Professionals' Meet Up

Women's networking event at Steeplejack Pizza and Beer at 5:30 pm. Preregistration required at jewishportland.org/gncmeetupmarch.

Apr. 2: CNS Film-screening: October H8te

Film screening at Congregation Neveh Shalom at 7 pm, co-sponsored by Jewish National Fund and StandWithUs. \$5. Tickets at members.nevehshalom.org/event/OctH8te.

Obituaries

LOIS SCHNITZER

See story, Page 1.

Jobs Board

See the latest Jewish jobs at

jewishportland.org/ourcommunity/jewish-jobs



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