

THE JEWISH REVIEW

ESTABLISHED

1959

OREGON & SOUTHWEST WASHINGTON'S JEWISH NEWSPAPER

March 25, 2026 | 7 Nisan, 5786 | Volume 61, Issue 6

Portland Jewish Festival is Aug. 30

By ROCKNE ROLL

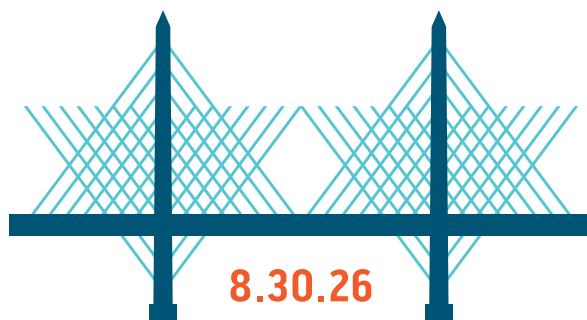
The Jewish Review

The Jewish Federation of Greater Portland will host the Portland Jewish Festival Sunday, Aug. 30 at Zidell Yards in Portland's South Waterfront neighborhood.

"It is going to be filled with food, kids' activities, Israeli dancing, musical performances, organizational booths, Jewish artists and lots of fun," Federation President and CEO Marc Blattner said. "It's an opportunity for us to be loud and proud as Jews here in the greater Portland area, and we want everybody to come and bring their family."

The festival, starting at 11am and continuing all day, will include musical performances by Kosha Dillz and

Portland



Jewish Festival

ZIDELL YARDS ON THE WATERFRONT

Nissim Black, as well as Portland singer-songwriter Alicia Jo Rabins and local klezmer band Carpathian-Pacific Express. Other acts have

yet to be confirmed.

Blattner explained that the festival is inspired by the results of 2023's community study which recognized

a desire for the Jewish community to come together and share Jewish culture and joy on a grand stage.

"Jews live all over the greater Portland area; east side, west side, north-south, wherever it may be, and it has been many, many years since we've done something like this," Blattner said. "With world events, with the rise in antisemitism, it's even more important for us as the Jewish community to say, 'we are here, we're part of this city, and we're not going anywhere, and we're proud to be here.'"

Confirmed organizational partners helping to put on the festival include as of press time Art/Lab, BB360, Beit

See **FESTIVAL**, page 2

Passover catering, kosher foods return to Portland area for holiday feasts

By CARON BLAU ROTHSTEIN and SAMMI WEISS

The Jewish Review

Passover is about freedom, but it's also about food. Very specific food.

Whether you are looking for a pre-made feast or sourcing the ingredients to make your own *kosher for Pesach* spread, a range of Portland

purveyors have the makings for a scrumptious *seder*.

Zupan's Markets' Passover catering menu features all the essentials of a traditional seder with main dishes including sweet and sour brisket ala New York's Carnegie Deli, Chicken Marbella and a roasted salmon for those preferring a pescatarian or *parve*

meal. Sides and a selection of *chametz*-free desserts are also available. Order online at zupans.com by Apr. 3 for pickup between Mar. 31 and Apr. 8 at any of Zupan's locations in the Portland area.

Elephants Delicatessen offers a Passover menu including matzo ball soup, potato latkes and entrees like bris-

ket in tzimmes sauce, apricot chicken tagine or salmon with cucumber dill sauce. Orders should be made two days in advance and can be delivered or picked up from Elephants' locations in Beaverton, Lake Oswego, South Portland or their central

See **FOOD**, page 8

INSIDE

Security – page 10 | Events – page 16 | Obituaries – page 16

Wine and wisdom combine at Jewish Oasis pre-Passover tasting Sunday

The Jewish Review staff

The Passover seder, celebrating the Jewish people's freedom from slavery in Egypt, traditionally includes four cups of wine. The Jewish Oasis is ready to help you prepare accordingly.

Their "Taste Your Freedom: Four Cups, Four Insights" event, set for this Sunday, Mar. 29 at 5 pm at the Oasis in Downtown Portland, also includes four cups of Kosher wine from around the world.

"We've curated a beautiful array of premium wines, some from Israel, some local and some from Italy, as well," Simi Mishulovin said.

Each sample comes with a teaching about the spiritual meaning of *Pesach* (the Hebrew word for Passover) from Rabbi Motti Wilhelm.

"Passover is the day that G-d took us out of Egypt," Mishulovin said. Each year on Passover, "that energy is here. The celebrations of the holidays, as described in the Torah, are the way that we tap into and experience that once again."

A little libation certainly helps – Mishulovin noted the Talmudic assertion that "when wine enters, secrets come out."

"It opens up a different part of a person, when used in the right way," she added.

What better way than to delve into the spiritual preparation for the holiday?

"Our goal is to empower or prepare people to be able to host their own Seder. The home is the most important place in Judaism, so the more that we could get everybody to be able to be educated leaders of their home, or with their family, they're going to be able to experience that freedom together."

Tickets are \$18 and available online at Jewishoasis.com/freedom.

FESTIVAL (continued from page 1)

Haverim, Camp Solomon Schechter, Chabad of Southwest Portland, Congregations Ahavath Achim, Beth Israel, Neveh Shalom and Shaarie Torah, the Eastside Jewish Commons, The Gan Preschool, Greater Portland Hillel, Jewish Family & Child Service, Jewish National Fund USA, Maayan Torah Day School, the Mittleman Jewish Community Center, NCSY Oregon, the Oregon Jewish Community Foundation, the Oregon Jewish Museum and Center for Holocaust Education, P'nai Or of Portland, Portland Jewish Academy and the Robison Foundation for Jewish Elders.

Tickets are \$10 for adults, \$5 for children and free for those under age 6 and will go on sale following Passover. More details about food vendors, activities, other musical acts, and security arrangements will be available as plans continue to solidify over the coming weeks online at Jewishportland.org. Sponsorship opportunities are available; email Blattner at marc@jewishportland.org for more information.

"This is a day to have on your calendar. It's a day not to be missed. It's something that we hope thousands and thousands of people in the Jewish community and beyond come out for," Blattner said.

JCO, Chaplin to premiere 'Yizkor' Apr. 12

By **ROCKNE ROLL**

The Jewish Review

Portland's Jewish Community Orchestra will be joined by local cellist Diane Chaplin for the world premiere performance of "Yizkor" Sunday, Apr. 12 at 3 pm at the Mittleman Jewish Community Center in Portland.

The piece is the work of Israeli composer Ayala Asherov and takes its name from the Hebrew word meaning "may G-d remember" that is also the name of a memorial prayer service observed four times per year. "Yizkor" started out as a short piece for solo cello that Asherov wrote in the wake of the Sept. 11 terror attacks in the United States and later expanded. Chaplin performed this work on one of her monthly livestream solo performances – a practice she started during the COVID-19 pandemic. As she typically does, Chaplin reached out to Asherov to let her know that she was performing "Yizkor."

"We met that way," Chaplin said, "and she really liked the way I played her piece."

In the aftermath of the Oct. 7 terror attacks in Israel, Asherov expanded "Yizkor" again, this time into a concerto for cello and orchestra. She quickly connected with Chaplin to bring it to life.

"She asked me if she wrote this concerto, would I play it?" Chaplin said. "She took this piece, expanded it to almost 20 with orchestra and really enriched it. It definitely feels like a crying out into the universe about all the lives that we've lost and everyone that we mourn for."

Chaplin, who moved to Portland six years ago, has performed three times previously with the Jewish Community Orchestra. The concerto version of "Yizkor" made a perfect opportunity for a fourth.

"Diane was the one that brought this to my attention and said, 'Would you like to do it? Would you like to collaborate on this?'" JCO Artistic Director and Conductor Don Appert said.

The orchestra is in its 51st season and typically holds four concerts per year, including a February performance with the winners of its Young Artists competition. The orchestra is amateur – only Appert and the Concertmaster (leading violin player who also holds leadership duties) receive any compensation – and not exclusively Jewish.

"We have doctors, lawyers, teachers, and, you know, all kinds of different folks," Appert said.

The orchestra is committed to serving the Jewish community, in part by highlighting the work of Jewish composers past and present.

"It's been a very exciting and fun kind of thing, especially for me as a conductor, to explore music by a lot of composers that I didn't really have any familiarity with," Appert said.

The orchestra has explored the work of Benjamin Godard, a French Jewish composer who was a contemporary of Johannes Brahms – they're set to perform one of Godard's symphonies next season – as well as premiering "Endgame," a work which the JCO commissioned from David

See **YIZKOR**, page 8

PASSOVER HAPPENINGS

Resources for your
family's Passover
celebration gathered
by Jewish Federation

jewishportland.org/passoverhappenings



PASSOVER HAPPENINGS



Will Eisner takes center stage in NWMCOA exhibit

By **ROCKNE ROLL**
The Jewish Review

You may not have known that Portland had a museum dedicated to comic books and graphic novels.

It does – the Northwest Museum of Cartoon Arts – and its current exhibit is devoted to a Jewish legend of the comic world.

“The Spirit of Will Eisner: A Retrospective” is on display now through mid-June at the museum in Downtown Portland, showcasing the life and work of a forerunner of American comic books, graphic novels and cartoon storytelling.

“Will Eisner is part a rich tradition of Jewish comic creators,” NWMCOA Secretary Will Fain said. “Almost all of the major comics superheroes that we can think of were created by Jews.”

The exhibit’s title alludes to one of the first and most notable comic creations of Will Eisner, z”l. Eisner later went on to pen “A Contract with God and Other Tenebrous Stories,” which was inspired by his upbringing in New York City and is credited with pushing the idea of graphic novels into the public consciousness.

“His legacy is that he was a booster of comics as a legitimate art form as opposed to a trashy pulp thing,” Fain said.

“A Contract with God” was eventually expanded into a trilogy of graphic novels that set the stage for others to address mature topics and themes in comic form.

“Art Spiegelman’s ‘Maus’ is a book that maybe follows in the footsteps of ‘A Contract with God,’” Fain said.

Eisner was also renowned as a teacher of the comic

craft, first as a lecturer at the School of Visual Arts in New York and later in “Comics and Sequential Art” and “Graphic Storytelling and Visual Narrative;” titles which are still referenced by students of comic art today.

“His influence in content, format, and cartooning style and drama are all key to his legacy,” Fain said of Eisner. “He was vocal and really pushed for [comics] to be considered a real art form.”

To this day, the comic industry’s most prestigious annual awards bear Eisner’s name.

His last work, “The Plot,” released shortly before his death in 2005, lays out the antisemitic conspiracy that produced “The Protocols of the Elders of Zion” and refutes its premises systematically.

“Jewish identity was a really important part of Will Eisner and the stories that he was telling,” Fain said. “I think [“The Protocols...”] was a thing that he saw as the crux of this history of antisemitism, it was a thing that he saw was important to try and deconstruct.”

NWMCOA opened late last year, a project four years in the making. “The Spirit of Will Eisner,” its second exhibit, is sponsored by Dark Horse Comics and was curated by The Billy Ireland Cartoon Library and Museum at The Ohio State University.

“We want [NWMCOA] to be a hub for people who are interested in this art form and also a place where people who don’t have a lot of experience or knowledge of the art form can come and

See **EISNER**, page 6

Smith, Zimbardi to unveil work at Fertile Ground Festival next month

By **ROCKNE ROLL**
The Jewish Review

A pair of local Jewish playwrights will return to the Fertile Ground Festival of New Works, revisiting themes they’ve presented in previous years. One is bringing a project closer to full fruition, the other is debuting the final chapter to a trilogy of works.

Chari Smith’s musical, “Freedom,” a rock-and-roll rendition of Moses, Miriam and the ancient Israelites’ story gets its first staged reading at Fertile Ground this year on Sunday, Apr. 12 at 7:30 pm at the Hillsboro Artists’ Regional Theatre. Darlene Zimbardi’s “Saying Goodbye in Elder World” gets three staged readings at this year’s festival; Saturday, Apr. 11 and Sunday Apr. 19 at The Art Garage in Southeast Portland and Sunday, Apr. 26 at Rose Schnitzer Manor. The two Art Garage shows will begin at noon, with the Rose Schnitzer Manor performance begins at 3 pm.

Zimbardi began her series on aging and caregiving with a reading at Fertile Ground in 2020.

Each of the shows in the “Elder World” trilogy focused on Zimbardi’s experiences watching her parents age from afar – they lived back east while she was in Portland. This final chapter, written as a dialogue between a mother and daughter, focuses on the end of the aging journey and advocating for loved ones who are living in elder care facilities.

“It’s fictionalized, so we can have a little bit of fun and not feel like it’s totally autobiographical, but people need to know that [advocacy] is huge,” Zimbardi said. “Even when you’re on top of things, advocacy is so hard. Even when you’re at a facility that you feel is decently run, it’s so hard.”

Zimbardi will read the role of Darla, the fictionalized version of herself, while Jeanette Ceccarelli Williams will read Ruthie, Darla’s mother, who has already passed away when the show begins.

“She’s talking to us from the grave,” Zimbardi said, “and it’s really a reflection on child-parent relationships and how it takes some time to the past.”

Williams has read Ruthie’s parts in previous performances in the “Elder World” series.

“It’s been so much fun,” Zimbardi said of working with Williams again, “and it’s really meaningful since both my parents suffered from Parkinson’s, Jeanette has dealt with Parkinson’s and our director [Steph M. Myers] also has just been diagnosed with early onset Parkinson’s. So not only are we pushing the elder advocacy, but we’re really talking about community and chronic illness.”

Tickets for all three shows are available on a “pay what you wish” basis through Fertile Ground or on Zimbardi’s website, darprojects.com.

Smith’s musical, “Freedom,” meanwhile, is ready for the spotlight.

It’s the second year that material from “Freedom” has been performed at Fertile Ground; a pair of concert performances of music from the show at the Eastside Jewish Commons

See **THEATER**, page 8

DG's Goranson receives Song of Miriam nod

By ROCKNE ROLL
The Jewish Review

"I try really hard as a parent to model," Arielle Goranson, chair of Portland's chapter of Dignity Grows, said. "I don't tell them to be involved. I show them what it looks like to be involved so that they can look for ways to be involved that are meaningful for them."

Her work to model community engagement has been noticed by more than just her children – she is the Jewish Federation of Greater Portland's nominee for the 2026 Song of Miriam Awards, presented by the Jewish Women's Round Table.

"Arielle's deep commitment to the community, paired with her innovation, creativity and passion, has transformed what meaningful volunteer engagement can look like," Federation Volunteer Coordinator Merit Pinker told *The Jewish Review*. "Through her leadership, the Dignity Grows chapter of Portland has not only welcomed new volunteers but has reimagined the volunteer experience to be more impactful, inclusive, and inspiring."

Goranson's engagement started in 2023, she explained, because "I was finding myself missing something, and as I sort of pondered what that was, I would look around me and see people who are involved in the community."

Goranson grew up at Congregation Neveh Shalom and attended Portland Jewish Academy, but raising three kids had put some of that community engagement on the back burner. In the aftermath of the COVID-19 pandemic, the desire to be engaged with Jewish community came back to center



Dignity Grows chair Arielle Goranson prepares supplies for the group's packing party at Congregation Neveh Shalom Sunday, Mar. 15. (Rockne Roll/The Jewish Review)

stage – not just for her own sake, but for those she was binging into the world.

"I want to be involved in the community," she concluded. "I want to do things that take me to the MJCC during the day. Maybe I happen to see one of my kiddos there, so I'm able to show my kids that it takes work to make a community, what it looks like when you do that."

She started looking for opportunities, and the opportunities started to appear. One in particular stood out.

"I got an e-mail in my inbox one day that there was going to be a Dignity Grows pack," she said. "I had never heard of Dignity Grows."

Dignity Grows is a program that works to provide menstrual and basic hygiene supplies to those who need

them, combatting what is known as "period poverty;" the financial inability to access menstrual hygiene products. Goranson, with her extensive background in public health, was interested in this work. She also thought of her children, all boys, and how she could teach them about other people's challenging circumstances. She had coffee with Federation Chief Development Officer Wendy Kahn, and things took off from there.

"It was really kind of aligned with my areas of interest, some areas of expertise I had, but also places that I wanted to grow," Goranson said. "It was a perfect time because they were looking for a chapter chair and that aligned with my skill set and my interests. So, I stepped in."

Goranson paused and clarified, "I jumped in."

Since she joined, Dignity Grows has expanded by every conceivable measure. The group's quarterly packing parties are drawing more volunteers, packing more of the group's signature blue-and-black supply totes (see those volunteers in action on page 9) and distributing those totes to a growing constellation of partner agencies serving a diverse array of communities around the region. Those packing events have included more education about history and culture, the nature of period poverty and the ways it can be addressed on a systemic level through advocacy and policy making. Portland's chapter has been recognized as a leader nationally and Goranson was invited to present at the 2025 National Summit on Period Poverty.

"What makes Arielle truly exceptional is the breadth of her involvement—she shows up at every level, always striving to strengthen and uplift the Jewish community," Pinker said. "She is a powerful advocate for women and a dedicated champion of Jewish community growth and connection. Remarkably, she balances all of this while launching a new business and raising three children. Arielle is an extraordinary leader whose example inspires volunteers everywhere."

Just as Dignity Grows has grown, so too has Goranson. "I've learned more in the last year and a half since I've been the chapter chair about the federation and all the work the federation does around Portland and how that work connects to each

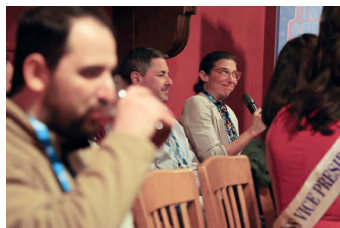
See **GORANSON**, page 6

The Spell draws, stumps, delights crowd

Photographs by ROCKNE ROLL

The Jewish Review

Nearly 20 would-be spelling champions - and many more admiring audience members - descended on Lucky Labrador Public House in Southwest Portland for The Spell, presented by the Jewish Federation of Greater Portland's Ben Gurion Society. After five rounds of competition, Sean Haley, right, secured victory (and a \$100 Amazon gift card) with the word "ukulele."



EISNER (continued from page 4)

learn about it and hopefully grow to love it," Fain said.

It would be hard to learn about cartoon arts, Fain continued, without understanding Eisner's contributions.

"He's really a central figure in Western comics," Fain said, and it's hard to conceive of a museum focusing on cartooning and illustration that doesn't have an Eisner component to it."

NWMOCA is open Wednesdays through Sundays, 11am-5pm. Admission is \$10 for adults, \$8 for seniors, students and veterans, \$2 for those receiving SNAP benefits and free for those age 12 and under. Learn more at nwmoca.org.

Free subscription:
jewishportland.org/subscribe

GORANSON (continued from page 5)

other," she said. "I've made so many new connections with women and leaders and other folks in our community who I might otherwise never have interfaced with."

And so too, she hopes, will her boys.

"As they get older, hopefully it's just ingrained in them, this idea of kind of looking for ways to be involved that are meaningful, where you can use your skills, where you can expand your skills, and how you can kind of impact the people around you," she said. "I'm hoping that that carries on for them."

Goranson will be honored at the annual Song of Miriam Awards Brunch, scheduled for Sunday, June 14. Learn more at jwrt.org.

Hear Goranson talk about Dignity Grows and the work of combatting period poverty in "How Dignity is Grown with Arielle Goranson" and about her experiences speaking at the 2025 national summit in "Reporter's Notebook with Ezra Cohen" on The Jewish Review Podcast, available on all major podcast platforms.

**Help Us Better Serve
Our Community**

**LET ALL WHO ARE
HUNGRY COME
AND EAT**

Please Take our Food Survey



tinyurl.com/pdxfoodsurvey



THEATER (continued from page 4)

were part of 2024's festival. (See "First songs from Moses Musical to premier at Fertile Ground Fest," Mar. 27, 2024, page 4) That performance featured 10 songs from the show; this staged reading will feature all 23, plus the dialogue that goes with.

"It's an important step in the development of the piece," Smith said. "I'm really interested in how the audience responds. Do they cry in the spots that I intend for them to? Do they laugh in the spots I intend for them? How does it land with the audience? Based on that, I'll

be making some revisions."

The full show is eight years in the making; an initial version was set for debut in 2020, but the COVID-19 pandemic gave Smith a chance to expand and deepen the story.

"['Freedom'] focuses heavily on the supporting cast of the Passover story – starting with a duet titled 'Home' that features both Moses' birth mother, Jochebed, and his adoptive mother, Pharaoh's daughter Princess Batyah," *The Jewish Review* wrote in 2024.

Since then, the show was selected for the New Works Cabaret at Theater Arling-

ton in Arlington, Texas, and has been getting excellent feedback in early readings, Smith said.

"It humanizes the characters in this ancient story in a way that hasn't been done before," Smith said she'd been told.

The reading will feature the full cast of 14, including Caroline Sanderson-Dougherty as Miriam, Diefo Solan Kjelland as Moses and Ron Hansen as both Pharaoh and Jethro, along with piano accompaniment by Music Director Joshua Hegg. The reading's director is Chelsea Curto, with Voss Paul as

stage manager.

Conveniently enough for a show centered on the Exodus, the staged reading of "Freedom" is scheduled just days after the end of *Pesach*; the second of 2024's concerts was the day before the holiday began.

"That wasn't planned," Smith said of the scheduling. "That was just lucky."

Tickets for the staged reading at HART are \$10, with a virtual option available for \$7, and can be purchased on Smith's website, charismith.com/

YIZKOR (continued from page 2)

Avshalomov, who grew up in Portland while his father, Jacob Avshalomov, was conductor of the Portland Youth Philharmonic.

"We've premiered works from composers in the UK and Israel and the United States, and then we've explored music of a number of composers that if I rattled off those names, even to a consistent concertgoer of classical music, they probably wouldn't know them because they're

just not that well known," Appert said. "But they have some wonderful music."

April's concert will open with Vincent d'Indy's "The Enchanted Forest" before Chaplin joins them for "Yizkor," and will conclude with Ludvig Norman's Symphony No. 3.

"While we play Beethoven and Mozart and Haydn and well-known composers like that, I make sure that we are doing music that represents

Jewish composers," Appert said. "Our audiences have become quite familiar with some of these composers."

As the audience's familiarity with these works has grown, so has the JCO's talent for performing them. Appert, an accomplished conductor and composer who has twice received the American Prize in Orchestral Programming - Vytautas Marijosius Memorial Award, has heard it with his own ears.

"These are people that don't make their living as musicians, but they love to play and they play together and they work very hard," he said. "It's been exciting to see them grow musically."

Tickets to the JCO's April concert are \$20, \$10 for seniors and \$8 for students, and are available online along with more information about the orchestra, at jewishcommunityorchestra.org.

FOOD (continued from page 1)

catering kitchen in Southeast Portland. The Passover menu is available Wednesday through Thursday, Apr. 1-9, and can be ordered at elephantsdeli.com or by calling 503-937-1099.

New Seasons Market has Passover-themed catering options, including brisket with tomatoes, salmon with spring onions and their house-made gefilte fish, as well as large cuts of lamb and beef and ground gefilte fish mix, available to pre-order on their website (catering.newseasonsmarket.com/items/category/passover) for

pickup at any of the Portland-area locations.

Whole Foods Markets offers a variety of Passover-themed catering options online at tinyurl.com/WFMPassover26. Menu options, availability and schedule may vary by location.

For those seeking a kosher catered option, Kashrootz Catering's Passover menu has a variety of *prix fixe* feasts and ala-carte options, including all the seder essentials (right down to the salt water). The ordering deadline has passed, but Chef Shulamit Urenia said that

limited capacity remains – those interested can inquire at kashrootzcatering@gmail.com. Urenia advises that, as she observes Sephardic customs, *kitniyot* will be present in her kitchen during the holiday.

For those ok with a little cooking, Rabbi Tuvia Berzow of Oregon Kosher told *The Jewish Review* that a selection of kosher for Passover products, including Natural & Kosher-brand sliced and shredded cheeses and Mon Cuisine meat mains, will be available at several Costco warehouses

in the area this year.

Safeway on Southwest Barbur Boulevard in Portland once again offers a large display of kosher-for-Passover products, and Trader Joe's on Southwest Garden Home Road is also offering a large selection of kosher products, including a large selection of kosher meats. Fred Meyer stores have displays with Passover-products set up in locations around the area, a spokesperson told *The Jewish Review*.

Editor Rockne Roll contributed to this article.

Dignity Grows loads totes at Neveh Shalom



Photographs by ROCKNE ROLL
The Jewish Review
Volunteers assembled at Congregation Neveh Shalom Sunday, Mar. 22, to pack supplies and discuss issues surrounding period poverty and how menstruation affected social conditions in historic times at Dignity Grows' quarterly packing party.



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

Looking at best practices... again

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

Editor

Rockne Roll
editor@jewishportland.org

Associate Editor

Caron Blau Rothstein

Assistant Editor

Rachel Nelson

Circulation

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

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

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

**Jewish Federation of
Greater Portland online**
Website: jewishportland.org
Instagram: [instagram.com/
jewishfederationpdx](https://www.instagram.com/jewishfederationpdx)
Facebook:
[facebook.com/JewishPDX](https://www.facebook.com/JewishPDX)
Jewish Review:
[jewishportland.org/jewish-
review](http://jewishportland.org/jewish-review)

NEXT ISSUE

Issue date Deadline

MAR 25 MAR 19

By **JESSICA ANDERSON**

I've fielded a lot of questions in the past week following the car ramming at the Michigan synagogue. You've probably read that Temple Israel is one of, if not the, largest Reform synagogues in the U.S. It has a huge campus, over 12,000 members, and I'm sure it's a challenge to keep secure. Their processes were tested last week when an individual drove his car into the building and down the hall of the synagogue before getting stuck and engaging with armed guards. The perpetrator ended the incident by killing himself. Based on the information I have, their security procedures worked perfectly. Guards engaged the driver; school staff and teachers initiated a lockdown, and the single injury was to a security guard who was hit by the vehicle inside the building. He is recovering with broken bones but is being called a hero as he managed to alert the school to the lockdown during the incident.

We are going to remain in a heightened security posture for the foreseeable future. My opinion is that every time an incident happens, we're not statistically more at risk than we were the day before. Yes, we worry about copycats, people being inspired by current events, but don't we always worry about these things? We've been in this heightened state for at least a couple of years – and frankly, it's hard to imagine it getting worse. It doesn't make sense for communities to wait for something to happen on our own door-



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.

step to take actions that we know we should take now. Some organizations might not need to make physical changes, but everyone should be asking if there are ways they can improve something about their security protocols. I can tell you that most of our community is not sufficiently trained, and I'll continue to say that, aside from organizational safety planning, individual preparedness and training are extremely important. I tell community members who are concerned about security at organizations that getting trained will give them increased confidence about being in Jewish spaces. Training will help them feel like they will know what to do if something happens.

The incident, like those that have come before, forces communities to revisit security practices. Jewish security organizations continue to be unified in their recommendations and statements. My organization, Security Community Network (SCN), in collaboration with Jewish Federations of North America, the Anti-Defamation League (ADL), Community Security Service (CSS), and the Community

Security Initiative (CSI) of New York released recommendations after the event, and these were reshared last week. Again, they are not particularly groundbreaking. And thankfully, there are no credible threats to public safety in Oregon at this time. A reminder of the eight best practice recommendations for securing Jewish spaces:

Ensure awareness and coordination with law enforcement and the Jewish security professional serving your community or region. I'm in regular contact with Portland Police and the local FBI office. I am in contact with every Jewish organization across Oregon and Southwest Washington. Every organization knows how to reach me if they need assistance with anything.

Where possible, seek to extend the protections or security of your event's/facility's perimeter as far as possible. The idea for this one is to have your perimeter be as wide as you're logically able to monitor. This may mean changes to what you see at your local organizations, but it also might not. Most organizations have clearly identified perimeters that have

See **SECURITY**, page 13

The View from Mount Scopus

'Missiling' and other Israeli spring pastimes

By EZRA COHEN

"Missiling": a verb involving listening, watching and the assessing of landscapes and geopolitics, in which young people from the Student Village ("Kfar") on Mount Scopus monitor missile and rocket warnings in distant parts of Israel, head out to a suitable vantage point, turn their heads to the skies and spot menacing, shooting-star-like fireballs careening towards their targets and marvel as the Iron Dome destroys them one by one. Somewhat akin to birding, actually, but best done at night.

Missiling, at least during the first few days of the war, was an admittedly weird distraction from the chaos unfolding around us. As an American who had never experienced war here before, I felt overwhelmed and scared by the sometimes ear-splitting booms, the constant forays into shelters, the frantic X-scrolling to determine if there were any impacts nearby and the dreaded notifications that there was, in fact, an impact in Jerusalem or shrapnel had fallen on the Temple Mount. Strangely, watching the missiles overhead brought me some comfort and gave me a sense of control. To this end, I also scrolled endlessly, reading the news and various feeds. But the online world was no less chaotic and overwhelming, even if it was sometimes a bit funnier.

As forcefully as Trump would push brash vindictiveness (i.e., "They've been killing innocent people all over the world for 47 years, and now I, as the 47th President of the United States of America, am killing them. What a great honor it is to do so!"), media outlets such as The New York Times would show a "balanced" perspective that often bordered on ridiculous, with obituaries that glorified one of the most repressive and cold-blooded leaders of all time (i.e. "He affected an avuncular and magnanimous aloofness, running the country from a perch above the jousting of daily politics."). One day, the world awoke to the possibility that Iran would attack the U.S with drones. Another day, "sources" told us that a chemical weapon was in the cards for the IRGC.

AI videos added to the confusion. A friend from home texted me that I should "get out of there soon, buddy" because he saw videos that Tel Aviv was burning to the ground. A few days later, a different friend asked me, "Is Netanyahu dead?" after false reports were spread that Israel's Prime Minister had been eliminated. The latest stumper of a rumor, which reportedly caused Trump to 'laugh aloud' when he heard the news, is that the new Supreme Leader of Iran, Ayatollah Mojtaba, may be gay.

Perhaps the strangest part of it all, however, is the way all of this has started to seem sort of normal, especially in recent days as the city has opened up again. On Mar. 10, I finally ventured out of the Kfar to bike across the city to my intern-

ship at The Press Service of Israel. About halfway through the ride, just as I had descended from French Hill to the very religious Yirmiyahu Street area, I was interrupted by a siren. I ditched the rental bike and followed a Haredi woman into an unassuming doorway which led underground to a public shelter, where I stayed with a group of happily chattering kids and tired looking adults until the threat had passed. On the bike ride home, another siren wailed and this time I was well-practiced. I was surprised at how quickly sirens had become a mere ordeal rather than a potential death threat; I was becoming Israeli, at least in mindset, faster than I realized.

The next day I walked the streets of the Shuk, along with my friend, the TPS videographer. My assignment was to ask Israelis their feelings about the war as the country marked about a week since it began. It was lively, colorful, bustling, loud... normal. The people we talked with remarked at this normalcy as well.

"To be honest, it's kind of normal for us," said one guy. "This is not the first war we have in Israel."

Another guy, a dog in his lap, echoed this sentiment.

"We're not scared," he said. "We have shelter, we go to shelter, ten minutes, go out, and life goes on," he explained.

Later that week, I went to the bars with some friends to do karaoke. It was a warm night, and young people were out in throngs. They roved the streets, drank, smoked and danced.

And they sang.

In the karaoke bar, as the night wore on and the next day arrived unceremoniously, and as we watched a missile race overhead towards Tel Aviv, we all sang together. The bar was packed. I did a rendition of Piano Man, and of course, almost everyone, including the Israelis, joined in. At one point someone requested Am Yisrael Chai, the haunting, classic Israeli hit song, and this time everyone sang a loudly and wildly as missiles drew fiery lines high above us.

As I write this, I'm sitting outside in the Kfar; the war has entered its 19th day, and I keep looking up to see not missiles but flocks of kites and buzzards and other raptors migrating north on their way to Europe. What deep comfort to know the seasons keep turning.

It's spring in Israel.

Portland native Ezra Lev Cohen is currently studying at Hebrew University in Jerusalem and reports for The Press Service of Israel as an intern. He's a junior at Macalester College, in St. Paul, Minn, majoring in journalism and geography. He is thrilled to be going back to Israel this summer as an intern with the Maccabi Media Team. Find him on Instagram at @ezzy_reports and connect with him on LinkedIn or by email at ezzycohen@icloud.com.



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

OJCYF annual benefit dinner is Apr. 16 at MJCC

Oregon Jewish Community Foundation

The Oregon Jewish Community Youth Foundation invites the community to its annual benefit dinner, celebrating youth-led philanthropy and the leadership of Jewish high school students.

The 2026 Benefit Dinner, “An Evening in Tel Aviv,” will take place on Thursday, Apr. 16, from 5:30-8:30pm at the Mittleman Jewish Community Center. Planned and led by OJCYF youth board members, the evening will highlight the justice issues guiding this year’s grantmaking—antisemitism and

homelessness—and raise funds to support youth-directed grants.

“I’m looking forward to my last benefit dinner and seeing all our hard work come together to make a real impact,” shared Eliana Yoken, a third year OJCYF member and Leadership Council member. Fellow senior and council member Talia Weinstein added, “Planning the dinner helped me develop leadership and collaboration skills, and OJCYF has shown me that youth can truly make a difference.”

As part of their community response,

OJCYF teens are partnering with Blanchet House to collect urgently needed items, including new adult underwear, sweatpants, and hygiene supplies. Donation bins are available at the Eastside Jewish Commons (Mondays and Wednesdays, 10 am-2 pm), at the MJCC from April 9–16 and at the benefit dinner.

Tickets are on sale now at ojcf.org through April 1. For more information, contact Susan Berniker, Collaborative Giving Director, at susanb@ojcf.org or 5032489328.

CNS Men's Club 5K raises \$4,302 for food bank

Congregation Neveh Shalom Men's Club

Congregation Neveh Shalom’s Men’s Club staged its inaugural Purim 5K Walk/Run Sunday, Mar. 15, raising \$4,302 for the Congregation Neveh Shalom Food Pantry!

According to Feeding America, The Oregon Food Bank and the Los Angeles Regional Food bank, every dollar donated to a food bank or pantry can provide four to twelve meals, meaning that \$4,302 equals up to 51,624 meals. That is enough to feed 615 families of four three meals a day for an entire week or 154 families of four for an entire month. For local context, last summer’s 1st annual Men’s Club Summer 5K raised \$3,125,

and Neveh Shalom Food Pantry said afterwards that it funded their work for the next four months!

The 5K had a diverse group of participants and volunteers in a beautiful park on a March Portland morning, and it was all to grow stronger, live longer and defeat hunger together.

“What’s more, with this single two-hour event, we achieved all five elements of happiness according to Carl Jung: good health, good relations, seeing beauty in nature, satisfactory work and a resilience-building religious outlook,” Men’s Club President Jacob Sheff said in an email. “I’m so proud to be the president of a Jewish Men’s Club that does so much good for its community.”

JFCS Food Survey available now

Jewish Family & Child Service

Jewish Family & Child Service, together with other Jewish community organizations, is working to better understand the food-related needs of our community. Food insecurity affects more people than many of us realize, and we want to make sure we are doing everything we can to support those who need it most. We are asking community members to please take a few moments to fill out our short Community Food Initiative Survey, available online at https://form.jotform.com/JFCS_Portland/jewish-community-food-access-survey. Your responses are confidential and will help shape the programs and resources we develop together. Thank you for helping us build a stronger, more caring community.

OJCF scholarship apps due Tuesday

Oregon Jewish Community Foundation

The Oregon Jewish Community Foundation reminds the community that applications are currently being accepted for its Higher Education Scholarships, with a deadline of Mar. 31, 2026. These scholarships support Jewish residents pursuing formal postsecondary education.

[OJCF’s scholarship funds](#)—including the Diamond, Goldschmidt Hillel, Krichevsky, Reynolds, Rosenblatt, Simon, Singer, and Tarshis Funds—offer both need and merit-based assistance for students pursuing academic, vocational, or Jewish educational opportunities. Applicants complete a single application to be considered for all eligible OJCF scholarship funds.

Eligible applicants must be Jewish residents of Oregon and, for certain funds, Southwest Washington. Full scholarship details and application materials are available on the OJCF [website](#). For questions, contact Susan Berniker, Collaborative Giving Director, at susanb@ojcf.org or 5032489328.



Click the logo to hear the latest episode of **The Jewish Review Podcast**

jewishportland.org/subscribe

Potter, Rotenberg honored at BB Bash



On March 14, BB360 supporters came together for the annual BB Bash, a gala celebrating the Golden Years and supporting BB360's programs. Through music, storytelling, dance, warmth and fun, guests experienced the spirit of BB Camp here in Portland. Oregon Sen. Ron Wyden gave remarks about the importance of Jewish camps. Michael Allen Harrison played the piano, the crowd sang blessings and camp songs, danced Israeli dancing with the campers, and enjoyed live music from BB & Jam (Men's Campers and friends). In a touching tribute, BB360 honored Irving Potter and Kyle Rotenberg for their three decades of service to camp. Most importantly, the guests at the BB Bash raised over \$170,000 to support camp scholarships. It was a night filled with community and joy. Save the date for next year: April 10, 2027! Pictured, from left, are Rotenberg, BB360 CEO Michelle Koplan and Potter. (Noa Rubin/BB360)

SECURITY (continued from page 10)

been established with thought and deliberation.

Only open events to identifiable individuals and pre-screened invitation lists (e.g., no mass emails to the broad public). This is fairly established for nearly all our community's events, and, if it's not, please consider adding this process. Organizations may have email distribution lists and advertise on social media, but individuals still need to seek out these platforms and actively join to get announcements. Organizations can call me to discuss additional practices that can enhance the screening of visitors.

Particularly for events open to the public, registration and verification of registrants are required. This is an excellent best practice that many of our organizations already employ. Aside from getting a head count on expected attendance, it allows organizations to know who to expect and provide guidance on who might need additional vetting.

Provide details of location, time, and other information only upon confirmed registration. Consideration for the release of details before registration should be made with care. The more secure a location and its security practices, the more information may be shared, as there may be logical reasons to release some elements.

Have access control (locks and entrance procedures) to only allow known, confirmed registrants/attendees into the facility/event. Access controls are one of the most important best practices for an organization. It may not be possible to prevent someone from entering and doing harm, but unlocked, unattended doors are an absolute "no." The human

element is the most vulnerable part of any security plan. Put practices in place that minimize possible human error.

Remain vigilant and report suspicious activity. Ensure your community is trained in situational awareness and knows who to report unusual activity to within your organization. Establish the expectation that community members are part of the security layers of an organization.

Consider armed on-duty or off-duty law enforcement, private security, and/or volunteer teams as additional layers of protection. Visible security can be a useful deterrent. A review of real-life incidents shows perpetrators make changes to their plans if they sense they'll be challenged or thwarted. Place security personnel at entrances and throughout your facility.

Additional considerations are to ensure you have security and emergency plans and evaluate your communication needs. Make sure your staff and volunteers know your emergency plans and provide ways for them to practice the skills through drills. Walkie-talkies provide excellent communication in an emergency – don't plan to rely on texting. Many organizations use texting during events, but in an emergency, texting will be nearly impossible. Secure your Zoom or livestream feeds with passwords and don't share the links publicly.

As a community, we'll continue to meet the challenges these times have created. As always, I'm available to work with organizations to tweak and improve security practices and can be reached at janderson@securecommunitynetwork.org or 872-273-9214.

Portland families fund public bomb shelter

By TALIA GREEN

Jewish National Fund - USA

Twelve Portland-area residents have come together to fund the construction and artistic beautification of a bomb shelter in Talmei Yosef, a moshav near the Israel Envelope (formerly known as the Gaza Envelope), through a campaign led by local leaders Anna Kodesch and Shannon Janoff.

The effort was sparked in April 2024 after Kodesch and Janoff participated in a Jewish National Fund-USA Volunteer in Israel Mission. When the mission concluded, Janoff returned to Portland while Kodesch remained in Israel to visit her daughter, who was attending Alexander Muss High School in Israel (Muss), the organization's college-prep, study abroad in Israel program for American teens. During that visit, Iran launched its first wave of missiles amid its conflict with Israel, impacting the region where Kodesch and her daughter were staying. For Kodesch—experiencing the escalation firsthand—and for Janoff—watching anxiously from Portland—the heightened security situation emphasized the urgent need for protected spaces in Israel's southern communities.

When Kodesch returned home, she did so with determination to make a meaningful difference, a resolve shared by Janoff. Together, they mobilized their community to fund both the construction and beautification of a fortified shelter that now serves families in Talmei Yosef.

“After participating in the service mission to Israel with Jewish National Fund-USA, Shannon and I wanted to find a way for our Portland



Above: The written dedication displayed on the newly constructed and beautified bomb shelter in Talmei Yosef. Below: The exterior of the shelter, pictured during its dedication. (Courtesy Jewish National Fund - USA)



community to do something meaningful and impactful in solidarity with our community in Israel, specifically in the South,” said Anna Kodesch. “The bomb shelter and its beautiful art felt like the perfect way for us to show our support, and the support of our friends and families.”

In addition to providing critical protection during

rocket and missile attacks, the beautification of the shelter plays an essential role in supporting the emotional well-being of the community, particularly its children. In many communities across Israel's southern border, children have expressed fear over entering stark, unadorned shelters during times of attack. Transforming these spaces with color

and meaningful imagery helps reduce anxiety and creates a more welcoming environment in moments of crisis.

At the request of the Portland donors, the shelter was painted with Pacific Northwest motifs, symbolically connecting the donors with the Israeli community they supported. The artwork also honors Deni Avdija of the Portland Trail Blazers, Israel's first NBA All-Star, celebrating both local pride and shared identity. The design serves as a bridge between communities thousands of miles apart, reflecting solidarity, resilience, and friendship.

“In light of the recent escalations with Iran and the ongoing security threats in Israel, shelters like this serve not only as symbols of solidarity but as vital, life-saving infrastructure,” said Saul Korin, Jewish National Fund-USA's regional director of the Pacific Northwest.

In areas where residents may have only seconds to seek safety, fortified and accessible shelters save lives while reinforcing communal resilience. This newly constructed and beautified shelter ensures families in Talmei Yosef have both critical protection and a space that reflects dignity and hope.

Through their initiative, Kodesch and Janoff expanded Jewish National Fund-USA's circles of impact, strengthening security in Talmei Yosef while forging a lasting and meaningful connection between Portland and Israel's southern border communities.

For more information about supporting communities in Israel's South, visit jnf.org.

Score up to \$180 to throw your own Jewish shindig!

Gather Grant Applications are NOW OPEN for events hosted April-June 15 2026



YOU select the date.
YOU set the location.
YOU invite the attendees.
YOU plan the activity.

Federation picks up the tab!

**Build your community. Strengthen your connections.
Do Judaism your way.**

Learn more & apply for your up to \$180 Gather Grant at: jewishportland.org/ourcommunity/gathergrants or scan the QR code.



Check out upcoming Passover events online at jewishportland.org/passoverhappenings

Obituaries

Submit obituaries to The Jewish Review's online form at form.jotform.com/JFGP/jr-obituary

DEBORAH BULLARD

Deborah Bullard, z"l, née Goldberg, passed away peacefully on Mar. 6, 2026, at the age of 74 in Tigard. She was a devoted mother, nana, sister, daughter, and aunt, cherished by all who knew her.

Born in Portland on Aug. 9, 1951, Debbie was the daughter of Herman and Anita Goldberg. She spent her childhood in Northeast and Southwest Portland and graduated from Sunset High School in Beaverton in 1969 and attended Southern Oregon College and the University of Oregon. With her husband, Michael, she raised their family in the Tigard/Tualatin area.

After working in Portland, Debbie launched her own advertising business, Spreadin' the Word, collaborating with local businesses. She had a deep love for the Oregon coast, embraced spontaneity, and thrived on connecting with people. Debbie's warmth and humor endeared her to friends and family alike. She was always quick with a compliment and had a remarkable ability to bring out the best in others.

She is survived by her husband, Michael; son, Eric Bullard; daughter, Emily Chlumak (Martin); grandchildren, Jack and Grace Chlumak; brother, Dr. Linn Goldberg, sister-in-law, Marsha Serling Goldberg; and many nephews.

No services will be held. Donations in her memory can be made to Pinnacle Hospice of Portland.

ALEXANDER MENASHE

Congregation Neveh Shalom is heartbroken to share the passing of Alexander Menashe z"l, beloved husband, son, brother, nephew, friend, coach, and CNS board member. Alex passed away on Thursday, Mar. 12, 2026, at the age of 34. He is lovingly remembered by his wife Nadine Menashe, parents Sanford & Wendi Menashe, brother Benjamin (Emilie) Menashe, aunt and uncle, Abby & Rick Menashe, uncle Barry Walton, and grandfather James Walton. He is pre-deceased by his grandparents Sol E and Rebecca Menashe z"l, and Dolores Walton z"l.

A private funeral and public memorial service were held Monday, Mar. 16.

LYNN LERTZMAN

Congregation Beth Israel mourns the loss of Lynn Lertz-

man, z"l, who passed away on Mar. 3, 2026, at the age of 89.

Lynn is survived by her daughters, Renee Lertzman and Karin Basart; her two grandchildren, Dice and Temma; and her sister, Sandra Maitri. Lynn moved to Portland from Northern California in 2003 with her husband, Alan Lertzman, z"l, who passed away in 2018. They found community at Congregation Beth Israel and were active members of the congregation.

Lynn lived the principles of Tikkun Olam through her kindness, avid volunteering, and lifelong commitments to peace and the environment.

A Celebration of Life will be held Wednesday, Apr. 15, 2026, at 1 PM at the Robison Jewish Health Center Chapel. Donations in memory can be made to the family's GoFundMe to help cover caregiving costs.

YONI WEISS

Congregation Neveh Shalom and Chabad of Southwest Portland are saddened to share the passing of Yoni Weiss, z"l, who died on Thursday, March 12, 2026/ 24 Adar 5786, at the age of 79. Yoni is survived and lovingly remembered by his wife, Chana, and his children, Gill, Tammy, and Libby.

Yoni will be interred in Modi'in, Eretz Yisrael. Due to the ongoing war, the family is unable to travel and will be observing shiva at home.

SYDNEY STEINBOCK

It is with deep sadness that Congregation Shaarie Torah announces the passing of Sydney Steinbock, z"l. Sydney died Saturday, March 21, 2026, just days before his 86th birthday.

He is survived by his children and grandchildren: Dot (Tim) Defler and Barry (Chris) Steinbock; Jordan (Kris) Virding, Caitlin Cooper, Jacob Cooper, Isabella Cooper, Mollie Cooper, Hayden Steinbock and Lily (Knight) Laird; sister Gail Menke and sister-in-law Bonnie (Kurt) Goldsmith. He was predeceased by his wife, Barbara Steinbock, z"l, parents Hilda and Philip Steinbock, z"l, daughter Kari Steinbock, z"l and granddaughter Madison Defler, z"l.

The funeral will be held today, March 25, 2026, at noon at Shaarie Torah Cemetery.

SUBSCRIBE:
jewishportland.org/subscribe