

THE JEWISH REVIEW

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Good Deeds Month underway

The Jewish Review staff
What month is it? April? Nisan? Iyar?

It's Good Deeds Month! Born out of Good Deeds Day (which was Sunday, Apr. 12), the Jewish Federation of Greater Portland once again is lining up a host of volunteer activities to make Portland, and the world, better.

"Why do one good deed when you can do many?" Federation Volunteer Coordinator Merit Pinker asked. "We have the collective power of our Jewish community to do lots of good for the broader Portland community. And Good Deeds Month is our way to do that."

The Federation is sponsoring Mitzvah Makers and Mitzvah Project programs for young families and young adults, respectively, with Our Just Future on Sunday, Apr. 19 and a Jewish Volunteer Corps Earth Day Cleanup on Earth Day (Thursday, Apr. 23). There are also opportunities to volunteer to support the Mittle-See **DEEDS**, page 2

Mimouna Merriment at CNS



Photographs by **ROCKNE ROLL**
The Jewish Review

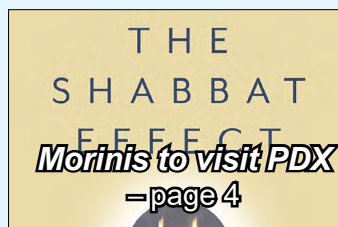
Revelers young and younger gathered at Congregation Neveh Shalom's Birnbach Hall Sunday, Apr. 12, for the synagogue's annual Mimouna celebration. Mimouna, a Moroccan post-Pesach tradition that has become popular in Israel, marks the end of Passover with mufletta, a flat bread served with butter and honey, and other sweet, leavened treats.

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UO Police respond to threats at Oregon Hillel

By ROCKNE ROLL
The Jewish Review

The Hillel building at the University of Oregon was in lockdown for approximately four hours last week until an individual who made threats against Jewish students at the University was taken into custody by police.

Oregon Hillel Executive Director Lenny Steinberg told *The Jewish Review* that he received a phone call from the head of the University of Oregon Police Department just after 11 am on Monday, Apr. 6. Steinberg explained that “they had received information from Eugene Police Department about a threat against Jewish and Black students on campus. At this point, we unfortunately can’t take any potential threat too lightly.”

“University of Oregon Police Department was notified that we had an individual in crisis and contacted our partners at Hillel and a couple other places that threats were made against and let them know that this was going on,” University of Oregon Director of Issues Management and University Spokesperson Angela Seydel said. “We contacted our partners with Eugene Police Department in trying to locate this individual. Thankfully, they were found very quickly.”

Little announcement was made of the incident at the time, either by the University or by Hillel; this was done purposefully, Steinberg said, to avoid the individual fleeing or escalating the situation. By shortly after 3:30 pm, Steinberg said, he was notified that the person had been contacted by law enforcement and there was no longer a threat.

“UOPD was really phenomenal in communicating,” Steinberg said. “The Chief of Police came over to Hillel and escorted all of us into our vehicles so that we could just go home safely while the investigation was still underway.”

Seydel said that law enforcement connected the individual with mental health treatment. They were not arrested and are not being charged with a crime. Due to student information privacy laws, the individual’s name is not being released.

“My understanding at this point, there was a severe mental health crisis,” Steinberg said. “It sounds like it was a student as it seems like there were some very big challenges in the classrooms and on campus.”

Following the lockdown, Hillel was able to resume operations. Steinberg said pastoral care is being provided to Hillel students as needed.

“I do believe our security protocols did exactly what they needed to do,” he said. “I’m also thankful that Jessica Anderson, who came down a few years ago and helped us do some assessments. ensure our protocols were in the right place.”

Seydel said that UOPD learned of the situation when someone close to the individual contacted the department to alert them of the threats being made.

“Thankfully people got to us quickly to help them and ensure that no one in the community was harmed,” she said. “We take these threats very seriously, but we do have established safety and behavioral health intervention protocols available to us. And if we know what’s going on, we can use them.”

'Uncle Bruce' workshop comes to OJMCH E May 3

The Jewish Review staff

The Oregon Jewish Museum and Center for Holocaust Education will host “A Letter to Uncle Bruce: Grief Processing Through Letter-Writing” Sunday, May 3 at 11:30 am at the museum.

Led by Jenn Director Knudsen and Laura Cohen, the worship was inspired by Knudsen’s response to the passing of her uncle, Bruce Director, z”l.

“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,” a letter she wrote four months after Director’s passing reads. “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. Uncle Bruce, I miss you. And I keep thinking of you. So I wanted to write you this letter to let you know.”

Together, Knudsen and Cohen show how writing can serve as an uncomplicated and gentle therapeutic tool in the wake of grief and loss and provide prompts and ideas for getting started. This workshop, previously held at Congregation Neveh Shalom, is hosted as a companion to the museum’s exhibit “Without End: Recent Works on Grief by Cara Levine.”

One participant, when asked the most impactful part of the workshop, said, “My husband died suddenly with no warning, and it [this workshop/opportunity] was an opportunity to tell him how much I loved him and missed him. I felt better about myself and less depressed the rest of the day.”

Another responded, “[The most impactful part was] the permission to actually sit, write, express the jumble of thoughts in my head I’ve been afraid to let out. I feel lighter.”

Preregistration for the museum’s workshop is required, free and available online at ojmche.org/events/a-letter-to-uncle-bruce-grief-processing-through-letter-writing.

DEEDS (continued from page 1)

man Jewish Community Center’s Yom Ha’Atzmaut celebrations on Sunday, Apr. 26 and a blood drive with the American Red Cross in Beaverton on Thursday, Apr. 30.

Earth Day is a fitting holiday to share with Good Deeds Month, but Pinker explained that Passover is another holiday that fits well with Good Deeds Month’s themes.

“Passover really does teach us the idea that we’re not really free until everybody is free and that we as Jews need to be working towards that freedom for everybody. And Good Deeds Month is a great way to build upon that,” she said.

More information about all of these activities is available at the Federation’s Volunteer Calendar at jewishportland.org/community-calendar/volunteer-events or by emailing Pinker at merit@jewishportland.org.

GOOD DEEDS MONTH: MAKING AN IMPACT TOGETHER

WWW.JEWISHPORTLAND.ORG/GOODDEEDSMONTH

APRIL 2026

APRIL 12 **Volunteer with Tualatin Hills Parks & Recreation District**
Roll up your sleeves, enjoy the fresh air, and help support the Harman Community Gardens.

9:00 AM - 12:00 PM

APRIL 23 **Earth Day Clean Up**
Join the Jewish Volunteer Corps and SOLVE Oregon to clean litter from Portland's streets.

9:00 - 11:00 AM

APRIL 19 **The Mitzvah Project**
For NextGen Young Adults ages 21-45.
Volunteers will offer support at Our Just Future's adult shelter sorting donations of clothing and distributing clothes to shelter visitors.

9:00 AM - 11:30 AM

APRIL 26 **Yom Ha'atzmaut Volunteers**
Volunteers are needed for the Yom Ha'atzmaut Celebration at the MJCC to help with activities like the scavenger hunt, bounce house, and gifts.

4:00 - 9:00 PM

APRIL 19 **The Mitzvah Makers**
For Families with young children.
Family volunteers will bring joy and levity to families navigating the difficulties of housing insecurity at Our Just Future's Family Shelter.

12:00 - 2:00 PM



Register & See a Full List of Program Offerings Here!



Mussar Institute's Morinis to visit Shaarie Torah

By ROCKNE ROLL

The Jewish Review

Dr. Alan Morinis' first book in 12 years takes a little explaining.

"I've written a book about Shabbat, and also not about Shabbat," he said. "The part that's not about Shabbat is about the intersection of religion and spirituality in the Jewish world."

"The Shabbat Effect: Jewish wisdom for growth and transformation," is the fifth book Morinis, the founder of the Mussar Institute, has penned about Jewish spirituality and *Mussar*, the pursuit of personal spiritual development through a Jewish lens. He'll be presenting on the book at Congregation Shaarie Torah in Portland Sunday, May 10 at 5 pm.

The part that's about Shabbat is straightforward enough, as Morinis explains.

"Through observing Shabbat, you have the opportunity to cultivate certain states of mind or certain conditions," he said. "By cultivating them on one day a week, it has an effect the other six days of the week as well."

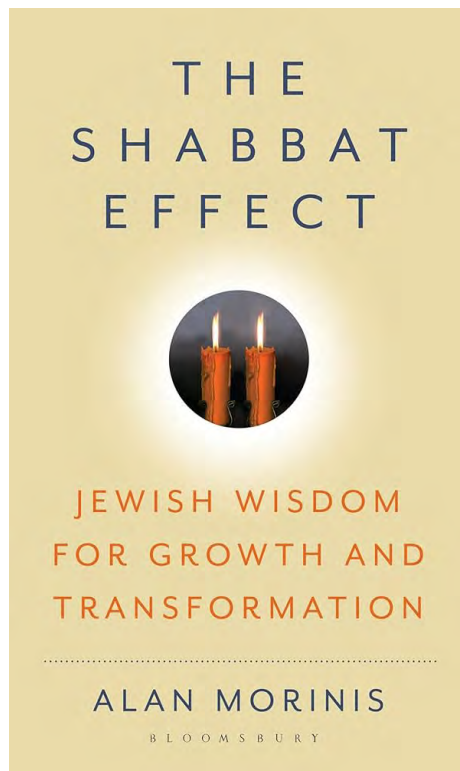
The part that's not about Shabbat delves into the difference between religious practice and spiritual experience, and the difference between a spiritual experience and a spiritual life.

"I think what Judaism is about is not spiritual experience as much as a spiritual life. And there's a difference between the two," Morinis explains. "Spiritual experiences are like high moments that are just transient, but a spiritual life is a climb. It's a step-by-step spiritual ascent that requires a structure and a discipline."

That structure, he continues, comes from religious practice.

"I often use the example of the Kiddush cup, because the blessing is on the wine, and the poor cup doesn't get a mention," Morinis said. "So clearly the priority is the wine, and wine represents the spiritual. It's liquid, it's transient, it's not solid, and also, it's transformed. Because it's not grape juice, it's a transformed product. But it needs a cup. I look on religious structure as the vessel."

While it's entirely possible to have spiritual experiences without any sort of methodical pursuit, it's certainly



easier to find them when you're looking for them, and doing so in a thoughtful, detailed way. Morinis' premise is that Shabbat observance is a great way to do that – thus that part of the book that isn't about Shabbat ends up being about Shabbat after all.

"My idea of the Shabbat effect, this lasting impact that goes over the other six days of the week as well. It requires certain kinds of practices, and they do turn out to be the traditional ones," he said. "If that day is just like every other day, it's not going to have an effect, because every day is every day. Six days of the week, we're plugged into shopping, building, fixing, news, politics and all kinds of stuff which nobody would call spiritual, not in the positive sense. The way a traditional Shabbat is structured is that it clears out of the way. It creates a vessel."

The exact details of the vessel are up to the person who owns it.

"I don't tell people how they should observe Shabbat, but I do want to explore what happens to people who use Shabbat to cultivate certain environmental realities that have a deep internal impact," he said.

Morinis earned his doctorate in Social Anthropology from Oxford University on a Rhodes Scholarship. Later, he began studying *Mussar* under the tutelage

of Rabbi Yechiel Perr, z"l, one of the leading figures of contemporary *Mussar*. He wrote his first book on the subject, "Climbing Jacob's Ladder: One Man's Journey to Rediscover a Jewish Spiritual Tradition," in 2002 and founded the Mussar Institute in 2004.

The ideas and traditions of *Mussar* ("ethics" in Hebrew) root back to *Haredi* communities in Eastern Europe in the early 1800s. While many of the communities which cultivated *Mussar* study were nearly wiped out during the Holocaust, the literature and ideas survived and have experienced a resurgence of interest in the 20th century, with Morinis as one of the modern movement's leading figures.

One of those who has been interested is Mimi Berlin. A Chicago native, she's studied every facet of Judaism she could from an early age but has found particular meaning in the ideas of *Mussar*.

"I understand prayer and ritual and Mishnah and Torah, and I've done a lot of study there," she said. "But this is personal. This is your own personal place in the world and how to be a better person. That really spoke to me."

She'd read Morinis' previous works and has been part of Rabbi Gary Oren's *Mussar* classes at Shaarie Torah since their inception nearly two years ago – she explained that Rabbi Oren had also studied with Morinis. When Morinis announced his latest book and its accompanying tour, she spearheaded the effort to bring him to Shaarie Torah, with the help of fundraising from a sponsor secured by Morinis and CST's Rabbi Yonah Gellar Lecture Series Fund.

"It's very special that he's decided to come to Shaarie Torah," Berlin said.

"[Berlin] started getting the organizational process running and then she contacted the temple, and she raised a bit of money," Morinis said. "Mimi was the key. She was the instigator."

Preregistration is required for the May 10 event at Shaarie Torah, with a suggested donation of \$18 per person and a light dessert reception to follow. For more information or to register, email cst@shaarietorah.org. Find more information about Morinis and his work at alanmorinis.com or at mussarinstitute.org.

Mandel 'staying focused' as OJMCHE interim ED

Editor's Note: A previous version of this article incorrectly framed the state of the museum board's leadership search. OJMCHE Board President Liz Lipoff told The Jewish Review that no search is currently being conducted.

By ROCKNE ROLL
The Jewish Review

The Oregon Jewish Museum and Center for Holocaust Education is not Gail Mandel's first job in a museum, nor is it her first role in Jewish communal work. But she now finds herself leading an institution that is at the nexus of her professional passions as OJMCHE's Interim Executive Director.

"I was honored," Mandel recalled of being asked to take on the role in the wake of Rebekah Sobel's departure earlier this year. "I appreciated the opportunity, and it felt like the important and right thing for me to do."

The museum's board has established a committee to select a permanent Executive Director, and while there's not a publicly-announced timeline for the process, Mandel said the organization is moving "full speed ahead."

"I'm working closely with [the committee] as well as the rest of the board

over these next several months. They are the ones who are really focused on, you know, what the process will be going forward," Mandel said. "Right now I'm just staying focused on my commitment to the interim role. I just want to see all the best for this museum in the near term and in the long term, and it's an honor to serve as interim."

Mandel worked in fundraising at the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York before venturing into the world of art book publishing. When she and her husband moved to Portland, she joined the staff of the Oregon Jewish Community Foundation. Over nine years, she rose to become the foundation's Director of Philanthropy, working with Julie Diamond, z"l to create the legacy giving program that now bears Diamond's name. That work connected her with Judy Margles, OJMCHE's first executive director.

"[Margles] let me know that a new position was being created, and I was thrilled because to come here as deputy director sort of brought all of my passions together, being able to still work with the community and help people be philanthropic, but to get back into the museum world and to continue to work

with the Jewish community was sort of just a win-win for me," Mandel said.

The opportunity is a unique one, as it's rare to see the multiple facets of OJMCHE's work covered under one roof.

"We are here to chronicle the history of Jewish experience in Oregon. We are here to teach the enduring lessons of the Holocaust. And we're here to also educate the community through fine art," Mandel said. "There is a synergy between it all because our fine arts exhibitions are always connected in some way, shape or form to Jewish culture, Holocaust history or local history."

Mandel is also moving forward as museum prepares to host its annual gala on Apr. 23 and open a pair of exhibits highlighting the United States Semiquincentennial (the 250th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence): "How We Show Up," highlighting Jews throughout Oregon's civic history, and "One Nation," a collection of pieces by contemporary artist "[exploring] the ideals and contradictions embedded in the American promise," as Mandel said.

Learn more at OJMCHE.org.

Yom HaZikaron Israel Memorial Day

Monday, April 20
6:00-8:00 PM

Mittleman Jewish Community Center
6651 SW Capitol Highway

6:00-6:45 PM

Guest Speaker **Devorah Kay**,
Jewish educator, International speaker
and mother of terror victim Eli Kay z"l.

7:00-8:00 PM

Memorial Ceremony

Must RSVP and bring photo ID

[Register Here](#)



Jewish Federation
of Greater Portland



Mittleman
Jewish Community Center
at the Holocaust Remembrance Center

Spivak 'puts it in writing' in new guide

By ROCKNE ROLL

The Jewish Review

Meira Spivak's book is inspired by the question she has found herself asking throughout her work in business and in Jewish communal life.

"Almost every single day, something comes up where I have to ask the question, 'Is it in writing?'" she said. "When things go awry, because things are not documented, most people are left very frustrated and they can't do anything about it because there's no proof in writing."

The message is, in part, self-evident in the title, "Put It In Writing," but there's more to Spivak's book than those four words.

The first half is more than 50 stories of experiences from Spivak's career where getting details written down – procedures, policies, plans, performance, and more – has saved the day, or where the reverse has occurred and the day turned disastrous.

"I've been in nonprofits, I've been in companies, and I understand the problems that happen," Spivak said. "I'm just going to talk to you at your level of why this is good for you to actually write things down and send



follow-up emails."

Even when you need to get someone else to write something down, part of the solution is to write things down yourself, she explained.

"One of the tips I give in the book is to finish your e-mail with, 'If I don't hear from you within the next like 48 hours, then I'm just going to assume that you're accepting all the content of this e-mail is true,'" Spivak said. "When I do that, I get automatic responses. It's like amazing."

The second half of the book discusses goal-setting, brain-

storming, and working efficiently. These are often best done in writing – and Spivak honed her techniques in a number of these areas in the process of writing this book.

"I decided I was going to put something together," she said. "I decided I'm going to write 10 minutes a day. And then that quickly didn't happen after about three days."

Next she resolved to use her time flying, which she was doing a lot of during that period, to get writing done. Another plan foiled – she ended up getting scheduled on a string of overnight

flights. Eventually, a podcast interview she listened to with Grant Cardone inspired her to set a timeline she thought was achievable and then halve it.

"You're forced to do everything differently," Spivak explained "I want to finish this, so I'm going to shorten the timeline. 'It's going to be two weeks. We had a two-week road trip, and I'll write 2,000 words a day on this trip.' And that's what I did."

Writing 2,000 words a day is not comfortable, even discounting the potential for road-trip induced motion sickness. But that was exactly the point, both for Spivak in finishing this book and for whatever goals you may set.

"If you are not pushing yourself to do what's uncomfortable consistently, you're not going to reach your goals," she said. "You need to have that meeting. You need to reach out to that person. You need to go to a networking event. Whatever that thing for you that is the most uncomfortable, that's the next thing for you."

"Put It In Writing" is available on Amazon or, if you'd rather not have it in writing, in audiobook form on Audible. Learn more at meiraspivak.com/putitinwriting.



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

Bernfeld's 'Tkhines' a new work in old format

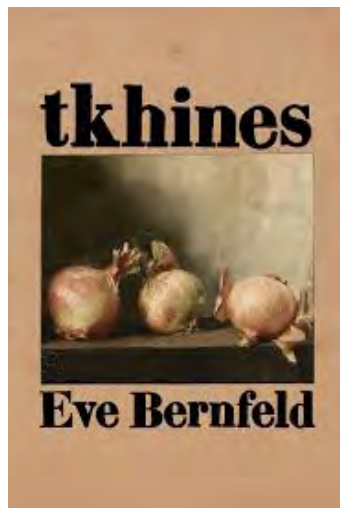
By ROCKNE ROLL
The Jewish Review

Eve Bernfeld, an accomplished theatre educator and writer, discovered a new format during her Art/Lab fellowship.

"I learned about this form that I had never heard of, *Tkhines*, these Yiddish women's prayers," Bernfeld said. "I was really fascinated by them, and I thought to myself, 'I should try writing some of those.'"

The product of that effort is "Tkhines," released by Bottlecap Press. When Bernfeld discovered this format, she committed to writing one per day. She took to the form readily, and quickly amassed more than 100.

"They were exactly where I was in my life," Bernfeld said.



Tkhines originated in Ashkenazi Jewish communities in the 17th century. The name is a Yiddish word that derives from the Hebrew *tehinot*. ("supplications") Often written in Yiddish,

See **TKHINES**, page 8

Mrs. Know-It-All returns, with rhymes, in Lipkes' latest

By ROCKNE ROLL
The Jewish Review

Mrs. Know-It-All, the educational brainchild of Portland teens Samuel and Alexis Lipke, is back for another adventure.

"Mrs. Know-It-All's Awesome Adventures of Alphabetical Rhymes," written under the pen names Samuel Blazer and Alexis Charles, follows on from the siblings' first work centering on the titular "alphabetologist" with a different kind of A-to-Z exploration.

"While alliterations are fun, they happen to be quite tedious and difficult, and I couldn't think of any original alliterations at the time, but I did like writing rhyming poems," Samuel Lipke explained.

The now-high school junior started writing poetry in eighth grade as part of a unit of his English class. His poetry tended toward the silly, including a piece about NBA superstar LeBron James, making them a promising platform for another alphabet book. His sister, currently in eighth grade, also took a different approach to illustrating Mrs. Know-It-All's new adventure.

"In the first book, I drew everything with colored pencils and markers and pens, like a big collage," Alexis Lipke said. "For this book, I decided to paint a canvas and then make little people and objects and stick them onto the painting."

See **KNOW-IT-ALL**, page 8



ISRAEL INDEPENDENCE DAY CELEBRATION חגיגת יום העצמאות למדינת ישראל

CLICK TO RSVP



SUNDAY, APRIL 26

4:00-9:00 PM

MITTMAN JEWISH COMMUNITY CENTER

FOOD & DRINKS AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE

FREE ADMISSION!

"HASHAYARA" BAND
CARICATURE ARTIST

ARTS AND CRAFTS
ISRAELI PARTY

SCAVENGER HUNT
ACTIVITIES FOR ALL AGES

Must RSVP and bring photo ID

AND MANY MORE SURPRISES!

Full program will be sent to registrants



Jewish Federation of Greater Portland



Mittleman Jewish Community Center



PATRICIA RICE REAL ESTATE



KERUV LEVAVOT



PDX Hillel



HADASAH

KNOW-IT-ALL (continued from page 7)

While their protagonist had a more cursory role in the original book, “Mrs. Know-It-All’s Awesome Adventures of Alphabetical Alliteration,” the new work develops her character and has her taking a more direct role in the exploration of the alphabet.

“We wanted to really go into Mrs. Know-It-All, so these poems are all about what Mrs.-Know-It-All does,” Samuel Lipke said.

“A” is for “acrobatics,” so Mrs. Know-It-All can be seen on a balance beam. “B” is for “balls,” so our hero is shown surrounded by a variety of sports balls, including one from the siblings’ favorite sport, water polo. “C” explores Mrs. Know-It-

All’s “cravings,” and so on through all 26 letters.

Alexis Lipke did not get the job illustrating the Mrs. Know-It-All series just via familial connection.

“[My brother] made me audition to be the illustrator, and so I made him a test drawing,” she said. “That drawing is actually in the first book.”

A third book is already in the works, inspired by Samuel Lipke’s experiences on Lincoln High School’s national-championship-winning We the People civics team – think “Mrs. Know-It-All Goes to Washington.”

Until then, “Mrs. Know-It-All’s Awesome Adventures of Alphabetical Rhymes” is available from Barnes & No-



ble, Amazon and other major booksellers. The Lipke siblings will read from their new volume at the Barnes & Noble at Bridgeport Village

in Tigard Saturday, May 30 from 11am-2 pm.

For more information, follow Mrs. Know-It-All on Instagram at [@mrs.knowitall](https://www.instagram.com/mrs.knowitall).

TKHINES (continued from page 7)

they were often written to honor the unique moments in the lives of women, moments which were not recognized in the more traditional blessings of the period or the liturgy of the synagogue, which were almost universally written and recited by men.

“It’s an interesting sort of a combination of written prayers, some of which are based on Hebrew liturgy, and some of which are distinct. Things like a *tkhine* to say as you take your child to school for the first time, or a *tkhine* to say as you’re making challah.”

The advent of the printing press and a boost in religious fervor led to the recording of many *tkhines*, preserving this unique form, a form which was al-

most lost due to the intervening forces of assimilation, pogroms and the rise of liberal Judaism.

“There’s an invisible cost of the traditions that existed being potentially forgotten,” Bernfeld said. “It was really exciting to me to discover this.”

Bernfeld, as the original crafters of *tkhines* did, writes in the vernacular; Yiddish for them, English for Bernfeld. The project became a display that was exhibited in an Art/Lab alumni show and will be part of an exhibit next month by the Salem Art Association curated by Jessica Rehfeld. The poems themselves touch on Bernfeld’s experiences as a mother (she is raising triplets), much as the women of 17th Cen-

tury Eastern Europe may have written of.

“The *tkhines* in this chapbook lie at the intersection of poem, prayer and spell,” Bottlecap Press wrote of Bernfeld’s 32 pages of poetry.

“Tkhines” is available from Second Shapes Bookstore in North Portland, from the Congregation Beth Israel gift shop, or directly from Bottlecap Press. Learn more about Bernfeld and her work at her website, evebernfeld.com, or on the Jan. 8 episode of Art/Lab’s podcast, “The Genesis,” at podcasts.apple.com/us/podcast/s3e29-how-17th-century-yiddish-prayer-shaped-a/id1755456069?i=1000744369000.

Free online subscription: [jewishportland.org/subscribe](https://www.jewishportland.org/subscribe)



PJC's Blazers game a slam dunk

Hosted by Dan Rosenfield, Portland Jewish Connection held their annual Blazers game Sunday, Mar. 29, 2026. We cheered on Rip City and came away with a win against the Wizards! 22 young professionals attended and we all went out afterwards to a nearby tavern. PJC Treasurer, Dustin Reisberg said, "It was a blast connecting with so many familiar and new faces! We are looking forward to growing this event next year!" Learn more about PJC, a non-profit providing Jewish social events for ages 21- 42ish on Instagram and Facebook or reach out by email at portlandjewishconnection@gmail.com. (Courtesy Portland Jewish Connection)

2026 Jewish Music Festival is May 6-17 at EJC

Eastside Jewish Commons

The Eastside Jewish Commons is proud to present the 2026 Portland Jewish Music Festival from May 6 to 17.

This dynamic celebration of Jewish music will bring together world-class musicians, local talent and diverse musical traditions from across the Jewish diaspora. The festival will be at EJC, Portland's premiere Jewish arts and culture space.

Festival Director Eric Stern has broadened the scope of the festival, which started as the Portland Klezmer Festival in 2023.

"Lovers of traditional music will be treated to performances by leading culture-bearers of Jewish music traditions from around the globe, an opportunity offered at this scale by no other event or organization in Portland," Stern

said. "Meanwhile, local musicians will be sharing the bill and stage with these visiting artists, affording them the chance to connect with new audiences and collaborators."

This year's festival will be headlined by world-famous master Iraqi-Jewish musician Yair Dalal. Other featured artists include: Alicia Jo Rabins/Girls in Trouble, Yoni Battat, Maeve Stier, Christina Crowder and Shpilkis, among others.

"Yair's instrument, the oud, is the ultimate grand-daddy old-timey instrument, with double courses like a mandolin, and the gourd-shape of a West African akonting," Stern said. "Yair Dalal has made many efforts to preserve the cultural heritage of Arab-Israeli music. He has been involved with the publication of archival recordings from Middle Eastern Jewish musicians

who were popular in the 1950s, in an effort to preserve the genre. He feels a strong connection to the Bedouins and the desert itself, and attempts to promote the connection between the ancient desert people and modern Israelis and Palestinians."

The festival showcases the best of Klezmer and Yiddish music, the musical and cultural contributions of Jews of North Africa, the Iberian peninsula and Ottoman lands, and modern Jewish Songwriters and DJs. From Ladino to Klezmer melodies, Sephardic and Miz-rachi rhythms, to contemporary Jewish music the festival aims to showcase the breadth of Jewish musical expression and highlight the rich and varied traditions of Jewish music.

Learn more and purchase tickets online at ejcpdx.org/pjmf26.

Lifting all boats: Interfaith security

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Issue date Deadline

APR 29 APR 23

By JESSICA ANDERSON

The Jewish communities of Oregon are fortunate to have access to \$250,000 per year to defray security costs for a three-year cycle that began in late 2024. These funds, granted by the Jewish Federation of Greater Portland, were fundraised from the community as part of a matching grant agreement with the Jewish Federations of North America, which provided the funds to cover the cost of the security director position (yours truly). The funds have been a lifeline for some organizations that have seen dramatic increases in security costs. Events that previously would not have used a guard now do, sometimes simply to make attendees feel safer. Additional emergency funds were generously provided by the Tepper Foundation and directed to security for preschool programs. This was a nationally available grant aimed at the most vulnerable populations.

One requirement of accepting the Tepper funds was that the local security director had to hold interfaith trainings. As you know, no one does faith-based security like the Jewish community. We are, unfortunately, considered experts in this area compared to other religious groups. However, all faiths have experienced attacks from within and outside their communities. Some of the more prominent ones last year included the Annunciation Catholic Church and School in Minneapolis, Minn., in August 2025. A shooter opened fire during a school mass, killing two



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.

children and injuring 17–21 others. In September 2025, in Brand Blanc, Mich., at the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, a gunman crashed a vehicle into the church, set it on fire, and opened fire during Sunday services, resulting in four deaths and eight injuries. In June 2025, at Crosse-Point Community Church in Wayne, Mich., a mass shooting attempt was thwarted by church security, who fatally shot the gunman. My takeaway is that no faith group is free from potential harm.

With that knowledge, it is incredibly important that the Jewish community share its resources and best practices with others. Since taking this role in 2022, I have continually worked with other faith groups and non-profits, sharing knowledge, helping them make emergency plans, assessing their physical buildings, etc. They are always so grateful for the help, and, like many, lack the funds to pay for this type of expertise. I enjoy this work, feel it's an important part of working in a faith-based environment, and I promise my efforts do not detract from my time with the Jewish community.

Last month, I participated in

and/or hosted four interfaith events. We focused primarily on active threat training, operational plans, situational awareness, and usher-greeter training. The goal was to cover a lot of topics in a shallow way so that groups could get a sense of what they might need more of. Each event had a great mix of faith groups and altogether totaled more than 25 congregations. Some communities have strong security plans and used the training as a refresher, while others are just starting to think about this issue. If you have colleagues or friends in other faith groups (or non-profits), please feel free to share my contact information with them. I will continue to hold interfaith trainings, likely delving more deeply into relevant topics, and I'd love to grow my contact list.

As always, if you have incidents to report, please email me or use the incident reporting form on the JFGP website at <https://jewishportland.org/security>. You'll also find my online training calendar there with links to registration. I can also be reached at janderson@securecommunitynetwork.org and 872-273-9214.

The View from Mount Scopus

An Exodus in reverse this Passover - Part One

Editor's Note: This is the first of a two-part column.

By EZRA COHEN

I don't remember when the realization hit me.

Maybe it was in the hectic (even by Israeli standards) Jerusalem bus station. Perhaps it was on the interminable ride to Eilat, or maybe on the second, and no less crowded bus to the Egyptian border. It could have been when Egyptian border security escorted me back to the Israel side, or in the smoke-filled casino in Taba, or perhaps while watching a belly dancer with the Red Sea just a few feet behind. It might have been the 5 am drive to the Taba "airport," which was more reminiscent of a glorified shack surrounded by corpses of crashed airplanes, or on the foul-smelling flight that finally took off and landed a few hours later in Athens. Eventually, though, it did occur to me that just a few days before Pesach, I was escaping Israel via Egypt; a "reverse-exodus" of sorts.

It all started on a recent Friday, when I was biking back from Jerusalem's central train station, as Shabbat had already begun and the buses had stopped running. I'd spent the day in Tel Aviv, my first escape from Jerusalem since the war began, and while it was interrupted by six separate trips to bomb shelters, it had been a welcome, sunny relief from rainy, religious Jerusalem. As I was climbing towards my dorm building on French Hill, my phone blared the warning of incoming missiles; I quickened my pedaling. All too soon, though, the sirens whined and suddenly I found myself biking frantically through a vacant street much too far from the Student Village to get to a safe room in time. Then, I saw two bright flashes streaked up into the clouds and a massive explosion reverberated from above me. I was off my bike before I knew what happened, sprinting for the apartment building where my friend lives. I tried to contain my shaking legs and quavering voice.

If there was a burning bush in my story, it was this near-

miss, and if there was a voice of God, it was my parents, who said, "Ez, we've let you weather this for a while, but this has turned a corner now. We want you to come home."

I had mixed feelings about leaving. Since the war started, I'd seen how much my decision to stay had meant to my Israeli friends, who were always touched that I'd come during the war. Whenever I'd raised the idea of going home until "things calmed down," they'd say, "Just stay, you'll get used to it. This is what it really means to be Israeli." Truth be told, I had gotten used to it, and I was proud that I'd stayed.

But when I heard my parents' scared voices on the phone, I understood something bigger was at play. This wasn't some biblical story. Despite how righteous I sometimes felt or how much the macho attitude of the Israelis had rubbed off on me, a huge war was happening overhead, and it was unlikely that the hand of God or some higher power was going to save me if a missile exploded nearby. If something happened to me, as my Dad said, "that's it for all of us." I realized that in this case I had to listen to that dread I'd had after the explosion and the concern of my parents. I wasn't sure about my decision, but I was sure that I wanted to return.

To get home, I'd have to venture into the last stronghold of ISIS, a place I'd been told repeatedly to avoid because of its hostility towards Americans, Jews, and Israelis: North Sinai. ...to be continued.

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.

Jewish Jobs

Check out the latest Jewish community jobs opportunities online at

jewishportland.org/ourcommunity/jewish-jobs

Climate City - Portland's work on sustainability

By GREG RETSINAS

Let's talk about Portland's Sustainability and Climate Commission. If you care about what Portlanders can do to turn big climate promises into real changes that you can see around you, this group may be a key part of the solution.

Here's the basic idea: Portland has set some ambitious goals — cut emissions by at least 50 percent from 1990 levels by 2030 and hit net-zero by 2050. The tricky part? We're not quite on track yet. There's been progress, and a lot of hard work through the Climate Emergency Workplan and other programs, but we've still got a ways to go. Like air and rain, carbon emissions don't stop at geographic borders and the policies of our state, country and world matter. And much of the progress relies on utility companies and major business sectors.

But Portland has long been a place where we think locally and strive to have our city-level actions lead to change writ large. That's where the Commission comes in. It sits right in the gap between where Portland is now and where we said we'd be. Its job is to keep pushing the city closer to those climate goals.

So, what makes this Commission so important? First off, it's not just a group of the usual suspects. It's a 20-member public body, and there are reserved seats for young people. The idea is that the group reflects Portland's racial, economic, and geographic diversity — including the communities hit hardest by climate impacts. To be on the Commission, you agree that our climate is changing and you try to bring either technical expertise or lived experience with climate and sustainability. That mix is powerful. People who really know the numbers and policies sit alongside those who know first-hand what it's like to deal with extreme heat or dirty air in their neighborhoods, including some of Portland's most underserved populations.

The Commission isn't just there for show. The goal is to help shape Portland's climate strategies, review how the city is doing, and give advice to the Mayor, City Council, and City Administrator — on everything from policy to budgeting. They can hold hearings, run work sessions, set up committees, and serve as a regular forum where anyone in the community can come and share what's working and what isn't. There are dozens of specific action points in the cur-

rent Climate Emergency Workplan. Having a standing group whose job is to keep track, spot gaps, and recommend how to stay on course is essential.

Consider the long-held Jewish tradition of *tikkun olam*, which is not about just hoping things get better, but taking responsibility for fixing what's broken, especially when justice is at stake. The Commission brings that same attitude to city government. First, it makes sure everyone faces reality: Portland's own reports say we're still far from our 2030 and 2050 emissions targets. The Commission's designed to keep that truth front and center for city leaders, so it doesn't get swept under the rug.

Also, *tikkun olam* asks, "Who's suffering most, and what are we doing about it?" The Commission is all about environmental justice and making sure communities that have felt the brunt of pollution and climate risk are at the center of the conversation. That's reflected in who is chosen to serve, what policies get prioritized, and how the public is brought in. Finally, both the Commission and *tikkun olam* are about ongoing, shared responsibility. Commission members aren't driving buses or retrofitting buildings themselves; their role is to keep climate and equity front and center, align the city's efforts, and make space for youth and community voices to shape what happens next. Supporting the Sustainability and Climate Commission basically means saying, "We're not giving up on the work of repair — and we expect our city's leaders to stick with it for the long haul, too."

Greg Retsinas is President and General Manager of KGW-TV in Portland. He is a member of the Jewish Federation of Greater Portland's Board of Directors and of the city of Portland's Sustainability and Climate Commission from District 2 (North and Northeast Portland).

Opinions printed in The Jewish Review do not necessarily reflect those of the Review, the Jewish Federation of Greater Portland or their staffs.

The Climate Action Committee of the Jewish Federation of Greater Portland is sharing tips and resources for healing the Earth in a periodic Climate Corner in The Jewish Review. The group is committed to the important work of tikkun olam, repairing the world. If you would like to join the Climate Action Committee, please contact Rachel Nelson at rachel@jewishportland.org.



Click the logo to download the latest episode of The Jewish Review Podcast

Apr. 15: Senior Movie Matinee- Eleanor the Great

Film screening at Congregation Neveh Shalom at 1 pm, sponsored by CNS Wondering Jews and Jewish Family & Child Service. Free. Register online at members.nevehshalom.org/event/MMETG26.

Apr. 15: Turkish Passport - A Holocaust Story With A Happy Ending

Film screening at Congregation Ahavath Achim at 7 pm; dessert and discussion to follow. More information at ahavathachimpdx.weebly.com/sephardic-film-festival.html.

Apr. 16: Zohar and Zhug

Adult education class at Congregation Ahavath Achim at 8 pm. Free. Register online at ahavathachimpdx.weebly.com/zohar-and-zhug.html.

Apr. 17: Lev El Lev Music for Grandparents and Grandkids

Weekly multigenerational music class at Congregation Kol Ami at 9:30 am. For more information and to register, visit bb-360.org/lev-el-lev.

Apr. 18: Women's Torah Study

Weekly class at Congregation Ahavath Achim at 10:30 am. For more information, email info@ahavathachim.com.

Apr. 18: Sephardic Foundations

Weekly class at Congregation Ahavath Achim at 12:30 pm. More information at ahavathachimpdx.weebly.com/sephardic-foundations.html.

Apr. 19: The Mitzvah Project with Our Just Future

Young adult volunteer service project at 9 am. More information at jewishportland.org/the-mitzvah-project.

Apr. 19: Introduction to Talmud Study with Rabbi Emily Kapor-Mater

Weekly class at Congregation Neveh Shalom at 9:30 am. More information at members.nevehshalom.org/form/adult-ed--intro-to-talmud-25-26.html.

Apr. 19: Sephardi Sundays

Bi-monthly panel discussion at Congregation Ahavath Achim at 11 am. More information at ahavathachimpdx.weebly.com/sephardi-sundays.html.

Apr. 19: The Mitzvah

Makers with Our Just Future

Young family volunteer service project at noon. More information at jewishportland.org/the-mitzvah-makers.

Apr. 19: Object Theater Puppetry as Jewish Text Study with Ora Fruchter

Puppetry workshop at 12:30 pm at The Oregon Jewish Museum and Center for Holocaust Education. Registration available online at events.humanitix.com/workshop-title-tbd-w-ora-fruchter.

Apr. 19: Israeli Folk Dance Intermediate Class & Open Dance at SWCC

Weekly dance class at 2:30 pm, open dancing at 3:30 pm at Southwest Community Center. More information at sites.google.com/site/pifd-news.

Apr. 20: Yom HaZikaron Event

Israel Memorial Day observance with Devorah Kay at the Mittleman Jewish Community Center at 6 pm. Registration required at jewishportland.regfox.com/yom-hazikaron.

Apr. 21: Women's Kabbalah Class with

Mimi Wilhelm

Monthly class at Chabad of Southwest Portland at 6:30 pm. More information at jportland.com/templates/articlecco_cdo/aid/5653557/jewish/Rosh-Chodesh-Society-Registration.htm.

Apr. 23: Jewish Volunteer Corps Earth Day Clean Up

Volunteer service project at 9 am. More information at jewishportland.org/jewish-volunteer-corps-earth-day-clean-up.

Apr. 26: Ilan Katan Open House

Preschool open house at Maayan Torah at 10:30 am. For more information, visit email info@maayanpdx.org.

Apr. 26: Krav Maga with Jazzy Green

Self-defense class at the Eastside Jewish Commons at 2 pm. More information at events.humanitix.com/krav-maga-class-israeli-self-defense-with-jazzy-green?to-ken=undefined.

Apr. 26: Yom Ha'Atzmaut Community Event

Israel Independence Day celebration at the Mittleman Jewish Community Center at 4 pm. Registration required at jewishportland.org/yom-haatzmaut.

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ALAN MILLER

Congregation Beth Israel mourns the loss of Alan Miller, z"l, who passed away on Mar. 22, 2026 at the age of 87.

Alan is survived by his beloved wife, Lana Miller; daughter, Alexa Miller; grandchildren, Natania and Ukiah Miller; great-grandson, Owen Miller-White; and cousins, Jeffrey and Steven Lachman. Alan is preceded by his parents, Harold J. Miller, z"l, and Edith O. Miller, z"l.

The funeral was held Thursday, Mar. 26, 2026 at Congregation Beth Israel. Donations in Alan's memory can be made to the Congregation Beth Israel's Miller Room Refurbishment and Restoration Fund.

GAYLENE EDBLOM

Congregation Ahavath Achim shares with sadness the passing of Gaylene Edblom, z"l, mother of Dana Sullivan, in the early hours of Mar. 29, 2026. Dana is the wife of Gadi Go-

lan, mother of Elias Golan, and the community's treasured bread baker. We are so thankful that Gaylene's daughter is such a kind, warm, and talented part of the community.

Gaylene had a complicated journey through life. Her daughters Dana and Nikki were with her from her sudden hospitalization and the days that followed till she passed, offering her *chesed shel emet* (true loving-kindness). Through these hard times we are wishing them both *refuat hanefesh* (healing of the soul).

Gaylene is remembered by her daughters Dana and Nikki, and her grandchildren Jacob, Ally, Logan, and Elias.

NED BOUDREAUX

With sorrow, Congregation Kol Ami announces the death of Ned Boudreaux, z"l, the father of our member Jeanne Franklin, on Thursday, Apr. 9, 2026.

The congregation extends condolences to Jeanne, Richard, Eli and Sam as well as the extended Boudreaux family.

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