THE JEWISH REVIEW

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Unto every person...

3GPNW Co-founder Dan Sharp, center, lights a memorial candle for the victims of the Holocaust with his wife, BB360 Chief Community and Jewish Life Officer Kim Schneiderman, right, and Oregon Jewish Museum and Center for Holocaust Education Executive Director Rebekah Sobel at the museum's Yom HaShoah observance Thursday, Apr. 24 at Pioneer Courthouse Square in Portland. Volunteers read the names of Jewish victims of the Holocaust throughout the day. (Rockne Roll/The Jewish Review)

Tibon headlines CNS Scholar weekend May 9-11

The Jewish Review staff
Congregation Neveh Shalom's 2025 Yoni Suher, z"l Scholar-In-Residence Weekend will feature a familiar face with a recent story and a message of hope.

Haaretz reporter Ami Tibron will headline events Friday through Sunday, May 9-11 at the synagogue in Southwest Portland, the third occasion that Tibon has served as Neveh Shalom's Scholar-In-Residence. Since his last appearance, Tibon has released a book, "The Gates of Gaza: A story Betrayal, Survival and Hope in Israel's Borderlands," which chronicles his family's experiences at Kibbutz Nahal Oz on Oct. 7, 2023. Tibon, his wife and their two daughters were eventually rescued by his father, retired Israel Defense Forces Mai. Gen. Noam Tibon.

Maj. Gen. Tibon is him-

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self a former CNS Scholar-In-Residence, and Amir Tibon is the cousin of the program's namesake, Yoni Suher, z"l, who was killed in a terrorist attack in Istanbul in 2016 along with three other Israelis traveling with him – 11 more were injured. Born in Portland before moving to Israel at age 1, Suher's grandfather, Ted Suher, z"l, was president of CNS in the late 1960s and his grandmother, Ethel Katz Briller, Z'L, was director of the Neveh Shalom Foundation School.

The weekend begins with a dinner and talk titled "When Politics Turn Personal: How the Palestinian Conflict Touched My Family" on Friday, May 9 at 7:30 pm, following Kabbalat Shabbat services. Tibon will bring attendees up to date since his last presentation, covering both his reporting in Israel and his personal experiences on Oct. 7.

Saturday afternoon, May 10 at 3 pm, Tibon will join Holocaust survivor Eva Aigner and CNS Senior Rabbi David Kosak for "Hope from the Ashes: The Resilience of Jewish Survivors," a pan-

el discussion on how their lives have moved forward after terror and trauma. The discussion is co-sponsored by the Oregon Jewish Museum and Center for Holocaust Education.

Saturday evening at 7 pm, Tibon will touch on the material covered in his book in a presentation titled "The Gates of Gaza: The Harrowing Story of Rescue; A Family Survives Together." Dessert will be served at this event co-sponsored by Neveh Shalom's Israel360 group.

Sunday morning, a Mother's Day Brunch discusses "Rebuilding with Bravery: The Future of Kibbutz Nahal Oz" at 9:30 am. This event is co-sponsored by the synagogue's Men's Club and Sisterhood.

All events are free thanks to the support of the Stan and Ethel Katz Briller Jewish Education Fund of the Oregon Jewish Community Foundation and the Yoni Suher Fund of Congregation Neveh Shalom. RSVP is requested in advance as seating is limited. More information and registration can be found online at nevehshalom.org/SIR25.



Sherman to depart PDX Hillel this year

The Jewish Review staff

Greater Portland Hillel Executive Director Hannah Sherman will leave her post at the end of the academic year to accept a role as the Greenstein Family Executive Director at Hillel UW at the University of Washington in Seattle.

"I want to express my gratitude to Hannah. It has been a joy to work with her. Hannah's impact on this organization is truly remarkable, and she has led with the strength and vision our community needed. We will miss her deeply, but we are thrilled to see her take this next step in her career – and are delighted to see her stay within the Hillel family – albeit a bit further north," PDX Hillel Board Chair Barry Benson said in a statement released Thursday, Apr. 24.

Sherman has led Portland's multi-campus Hillel organization for seven years – expanding to seven campuses and four total professional staff. PDX Hillel received the 2019 Philip H. and Susan Rudd Cohen Outstanding Campus Award from Hillel International and Sherman herself was honored with the Richard M. Joel Exemplar of Excellence Award in 2022.

Sherman managed PDX Hillel's response to the twin shocks of the COVID-19 pandemic and the ongoing aftermath of the Oct. 7 attacks in Israel and the rapid rise in antisemitic and anti-Israel sentiment on campus. Despite these challenges, PDX Hillel's long-term student engagement has grown by 95 percent in the last year.

"Hannah has always led with poise and professionalism – building bridges with key stakeholders and always making sure that her staff and the students we serve experience her personal hallmark – 'Jewish Joy,'" Benson said in his statement.

"I have the immense privilege of getting to come to work every single day and engage with, support and mentor the next generation of Jewish leaders," Sherman said at PDX Hillel's recent Hear Our Voices fundraiser at Lewis and Clark College. "There's nothing more important, impactful or, yes, joyful than that."

Sherman will replace Amee Huppin Sherer, who has led Hillel UW since 2015 had previously served as Program Director and Acting Executive Director.

Benson said that further details about PDX Hillel's leadership transition will be forthcoming.

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Get a 'Taste of Judaism' Tuesdays at the MJCC

By ROCKNE ROLL

The Jewish Review

Being crunched for time seems to be part of the modern human condition, especially for parents. A new program by the Jewish Federation of Greater Portland is recognizing this time crunch by offering a series of brief introductions to facets of Jewish cultural identity.

"Taste of Judaism" is a four-part series running on Tuesday evenings from 5-6 pm at the Mittleman Jewish Community Center in Portland. Each of the four sessions, which began last night, dives into a particular part of Jewish life.

"The idea is to offer something that's very accessible, that's an intro to Jewish life; not Jewish theology or philosophy, but really just Jewish life," Federation Director of Jewish Life and Learning Dr. Yosef Rosen, the series' presenter, said.

Last night's session dove into Jewish text, with a basic introduction to the foundational texts of Judaism and a look at the differences in reading text ritually, as when Torah is chanted in a synagogue, versus studying text. The discussion also looked at online tools like Sefaria which are bringing Jewish text into the digital age. Upcoming sessions will look at food, calendar, and contemporary Jewish identity (in that order).

The program, modeled on a similar series at the Jewish community center in Denver, is geared toward parents of young children, Rosen explained, but is open to anyone and structured so that anyone can get something out of it.

"It's for someone who's in a mixed- heritage marriage, a grandparent, someone who hasn't spent a whole lot of time engaged in Jewish life," Rosen said. "I try to be accessible and deep at the same time, so that there's something for everyone."

While it's not a class on religious practice, the series will delve into some aspects of that as religious traditions relate to contemporary culture.

In an upcoming session on Jewish foods, Rosen said, "We're going to talk about *kashrut*, (dietary laws), which is a religious thing, but it's also deeply tied to our second topic, which is cultural and culinary cuisines, some ways that that different food pathways have intersected with Jewish migration and history, studying it from a pan-diasporic perspective, and that's impacted by *kashrut*."

Each session is \$12, with a social hour to follow each session. For more information or to register, visit <u>oregonicc.org/arts-culture/upcoming-events</u>.

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Horenstein launches second book with May 22 event at Neveh Shalom

By ROCKNE ROLL

The Jewish Review

Dorice Horenstein didn't think she would write another book.

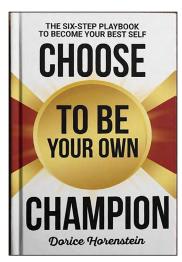
After publishing "Moments of the Heart," her award-winning debut, Horenstein had plenty going on. But the onset of the COVID-19 Pandemic forced everyone to make a lot of challenging choices, Horenstein included. When she started thinking about how those choices are made and the processes that go into successful decision making, another book was born.

That volume, "Choose to Be Your Own Champion: The Six-Step Playbook to Become Your Best Self," is coming out later this year through Morgan James Publishing, with a launch party scheduled Thursday, May 22 at 6:15 pm at Congregation Neveh Shalom in Portland.

While "Moments of the Heart" poured out of Horenstein almost fully formed, "Choose to Be Your Own Champion" is the product of deep research, observation and consultation.

"I'm in the business of studying people and myself and how to become better," Horenstein explained. "How do I make choices that I could, at the end of the day or the week or the year, put my head down on a pillow and say, 'I did well."

The process, it turns out, is right there in the word – CHOOSE. Six letters for six steps: Clarity, Honor, Openness, Oneness, Strategy and Enactment. Each theme is explained through stories from Horenstein's experiences – as an Israeli Defense



Forces officer, as an Israeli woman coming to the United States with, in her words, "\$600 and a suitcase," as a former synagogue education director and as an internationally known speaker on positive intelligence, resiliency and leadership development. She invited contributors to speak to three specific instances of big, powerful choices that she's not experienced herself: A woman who came out as gay in the 1990s, a woman who converted to Judaism more than 20 years ago, and a woman in her 80s who talks about aging with intention. All three will be honored at the May 22 event at Neveh

"People say, 'Oh, you can put your feet in someone else's shoes," Horenstein said. "To some extent, you can in the idea of empathy, but you can't really know all of their experience."

Some concepts are rooted in the ideas of positive intelligence that are at the core of her speaking practice – in the section on Clarity, Horenstein discusses

See CHOOSE, page 11

Good Deeds Month a grand success

By ROCKNE ROLL

The Jewish Review

As the Jewish Federation of Greater Portland's Good Deeds Month winds to a close, to call it a "good month" may risk understatement.

"It was a great way to get the word out about the new Jewish Volunteer Corps and connect people both to our volunteer efforts and the volunteer efforts of other organizations," Federation Volunteer Coordinator Merit Pinker explained.

The month included five separate events sponsored by the Federation along with five events sponsored by other organizations. Co-sponsors of Federation events included Chabad of Northeast Portland and One-Table as well as the Sunshine Division and Dress for Success in Portland. Additional events were hosted by Congregation Kesser Israel (in conjunction with SOLVE), Jewish Family & Child Service, the Mittleman Jewish Community Center and the Oregon Jewish Community Foundation.



Bakers asssemble loaves at the Jewish Federation of Greater Portland's challah bake event with OneTable and Chabad of Northeast Portland Thursday, Apr. 24 in Portland. Participants made challot for themselves, for Chabad's Chesed Connection meal program. (Rockne Roll/The Jewish Review)

"The Sunshine Division and Dress for Success are both new organizations to us, they're not organizations that we've partnered with before, or at least not for a long time," Pinker said. "We're able to connect our volunteers with organizations that they're passionate

about, which we know is important. But also, I think those partnerships with non-Jewish organizations in the community build goodwill and understanding and creates allies outside of the Jewish community, which we know right now is especially important."

Total attendance at the month's programs is estimated at around 150 people – many of whom were excited to be able to tap into the juncture of volunteer service and Jewish community.

"They are excited to hear that there's more of a focus on volunteerism coming from Federation," Pinker said of the feedback she received from volunteers. "At every event, there were volunteers saying things like, 'I want to do more of this. I felt great doing it."

Some are already taking that sentiment a step further. "A high schooler from Northeast Portland came on her own to our Dress for Success program. She had been looking for volunteer opportunities in the community, and her grandmother told her about that event, because she has a passion for fashion and clothing," Pinker recalled. "She had a great time. By the time we were leaving, she was talking to their executive director about coming weekly to volunteer with them. It was just very cool to see small touch points becoming long-term volunteer opportunities."

A major goal of the month was to connect volunteers with those looking for volunteer help — mission accomplished. But that wasn't the only goal.

"Part of the volunteer program's goal is to build Jewish community," Pinker said. "We want our volunteers not just to connect with the organizations that they're work-

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Esther Rivka Espinoza pries lichens from the grave marker for Kieva and Berta Moder during Congregation Kesser Israel's Sunday, Apr. 27 cemetery cleanup. (Sura Rubenstein/ Congregation Kesser Israel)

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Photographs by ROCKNE ROLL

The Jewish Review

Celebrants flocked to Birnbach Hall at Congregation Neveh Shalom for the synagogue's Mimouna event Monday, May 21. Mimouna is a traditional Moroccan celebration at the conclusion of Passover marking the return to eating leavened grain products highlighted by mufletta, a delicate pancake topped with butter and honey.





A Mimouna of merriment









Portland's Rose builds resource for trans teens

By ROCKNE ROLL

The Jewish Review

There are resources available for transgender teens throughout the Portland area, though they're not all in one place and can be hard to find.

It's a challenge Megan Rose is working to overcome.

Rose, a member of Havurah Shalom and one of this year's Moving Traditions Meyer-Gottesman Kol Koleinu Teen Feminist Fellows, is producing a pamphlet of information on resources for transgender teens in need in the Portland area.

"I felt like what teens might be getting from their phones might not be as helpful as actual professional advice or might sometimes even be harmful," Rose explained. It's a subject that she has some experience with – Rose is herself transgender and a high school junior. She interviewed resource providers throughout the area and beyond, as many resources are available online – and assembled what's available onto a page in a way that's accessible and helps those in need find what they're after.

"I don't have any sort of social media, so I don't have that relationship to news and information intake that many of my friends do," she said. "The idea was born out of watching them and thinking, 'Wait a minute. I don't think that's great.""

The pamphlet will be available through the Sexual and Gender Minority Youth Resource Center in Downtown Portland and through many of the therapy practices Rose spoke with to assemble the brochure.

The Meyer-Gottesman Kol Koleinu Teen Feminist Fellowship is a national program through Moving Traditions for young female, trans and non-binary Jews to build relationships and skills in advocating for social change in their communities and beyond. Rose is one of 41 fellows selected for this year's cohort, and the pamphlet is her capstone project for the fellowship.

"There's a research presentation, your Raise Your Voice Project," Rose explained of the fellowship program. "I did mine on the history of homosexuality in the different sects of Judaism."

Applications for the next Kol Koleinu Fellowship cohort are open now through May 9. Learn more online at movingtraditions.org.

Lipke to perform Chopin's 'Scherzo No. 3' May 21 at The Reser

By ROCKNE ROLL

The Jewish Review

In his early days of playing piano, 16-year-old Sam Lip-ke was not what you would call a classical music fan. Even into his freshman year of high school, he preferred the hip-hop sounds of 21 Savage and Drake. But as his skills have developed, he's developed a taste for the genre

"I've built up a lot of ability over the past eight years of playing, and I've started to listen to more classical," he said. "I think my first favorite piece was a Rachmaninoff etude."

His current favorite is Frédéric Chopin's "Scherzo No. 3," which he will perform at the 31st Young Artist Debut concert Wednesday, May 21 at the Patricia Reser Center for the Arts in Beaverton.

Composed in 1839, Cho-

pin's "Scherzo No. 3" is known for its technical difficulty and its bold, thundering conclusion. Lipke recalled finding a YouTube clip of Russian pianist Daniil Trifonov playing the piece at what Lipke called a "ridiculous" tempo. He was hooked.

"It's probably one of the best examples I can find of a Chopin piece that can contrast the beauty of Chopin with the craziness of Chopin in a length that's doable for a sophomore in high school," Lipke said. "It demands a certain technical level. It's not too easy, but it's not impossible."

Lipke selected the piece as part of his Level 10 (of 10) examination through the Oregon Music Teachers Association's piano curriculum and set to work mastering it. At the beginning, he was mostly interested in the piece's ending, but the more time he spent with the work, the more he appreciated its totality.

"There are these chord progressions, and then they go into beautiful, trickling, raindrop-sounding passages, and it comes back throughout the piece, mixed in with some crazy Chopin octaves and chords that are loud," Lipke explained. "I love this piece because it challenges every facet of the piano and really demands a lot from the instrument itself, but also from the pianist."

Lipke started learning piano eight years ago – at first because he thought it might look good on a college application. He's not thinking about those applications yet, but he has developed a love for the instrument.

"It was a constant battle

with my mom to get me to practice, to get me to stay at the piano for more than 30 minutes," he recalled of his earliest days as a pianist. "I just thought of it as an additional extracurricular. But as I started to get a little older, I noticed it as less of a hobby and extracurricular and more as an actual skill and something that I really enjoyed."

Lipke has other skills too – he's part of Lincoln High School's co-national champion constitutional law and civics team, plays water polo and wrote a children's book with his sister (see "Portland siblings create fun book for kids, families," Mar. 15, 2023, page 4) with another in the works.

Tickets for his performance at The Reser are available at thereser.org/event/young-artists-debut-concert-showcase.



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Portland musician's message of peace comes from Israel

By BRUCE SHUTAN

For The Jewish Review

As a Portland-based Jewish singer-songwriter and creative media professional, Adam Stockman has long considered peace, love and understanding the best ways to slay hate.

The Oct. 7 terrorist attack on Israel put that sensibility to the test. His connection to the holy land runs deep. Stockman has visited about a dozen times, including a half year of schooling there when he was 17.

His parents, who became Modern Orthodox when he was six years old, made Aliyah to Israel in recent years with his two much-younger siblings – a brother who had been stationed in Gaza with the Israel Defense Forces but is now based outside Jenin and sister who is an IDF medic at the Tel Aviv central headquarters. He also has aunts, uncles and cousins who've resided there since the early 1950s.

His Jewish journey has been a meandering one. Born in Las Vegas, he attended a Jewish community day school, Chabad day school and briefly a yeshiva before moving away from studying Talmud and deciding to no longer live an observant Jewish lifestyle. Instead, he found solace and refuge in making music.

Music became a calling for him at an early age and is now a side hustle. "My grandma told my parents when I was three that if they put me in piano lessons, she'd give me her piano," he says, also recalling early memories of being in a recording studio when several cousins produced an album. He wrote his first song at age 10 after his grandmother passed away, then four years



Singer-songwriter Adam Stockman peforms in this undated photograph. (Courtesy Adam Stockman)

later he taught himself to play guitar.

Torn between staying in Israel or returning to Las Vegas, he reconnected with a great aunt and uncle in Portland where his family had grown used to observing Passover. Stockman appreciated Portland's artistic side and greenery. So, he moved in with them and attended Lincoln High School in his senior year in 2011, then attended the Actors Conservatory in Portland where he was active as a songwriter and often performed at coffee shops. He also earned a marketing degree and received multimedia certificates from Portland State University.

For nearly a decade in his 20s, he didn't write any songs - stifled by a challenging relationship he was in during that time - and instead, focused on filmmaking, which led to a business specializing in videos marketing website design called Objectively Good Media.

When that relationship

ended, the music began flowing out of him again. He connected with the Atlantis Underground, a community of songwriters in the Pacific Northwest who gathered once a week for six months of the year to share original works. "It really raised the bar for me as a musician and songwriter," he notes. He did that for about a year before the horrific events of Oct. 7, 2023 unfolded. Nearly a month later, he flew to Israel to visit his family.

Healing through travel

His immediate reaction to Oct. 7 was one of fear and concern for his family in Israel but also the Jewish people as a whole. His brother hadn't checked in for more than two months after the attacks and was only available for a two-hour visit at a park outside Gaza while dug in with his combat unit.

As a teenager who rebelled against being religious, Stockman suddenly galvanized as a Jew to help shed light on the atrocities

and conflict as well as promote mutual understanding and heal deep wounds on both sides. "Even though I'd never really used my social media presence in any way politically, I was making videos and giving people who didn't know that Israel was the size of New Jersey or the only [national] home for Jews on the planet the context they needed," he savs.

Stockman got busy, releasing an EP with three original songs about the deepening conflict in Israel. He wrote most of the title track, "Garden," in Portland right before flying to Israel in November 2023 and the rest of it in Jerusalem shortly after arriving. Conceived as a gentle prayer, standout lyrics include: "Your side's wrong and my side's right/ That kind of talk won't end this fight/We're people all people/All brainwashed and blood soaked/And all in our grief/We're looking for ene-

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mies/But talk to me, talk to me/I'll listen, I'll listen/I'm always a student to moldable mind/And in the fury of passion/We might lose our reason/ That's reason enough to stay kind."

He also included a line inspired by a Tel Aviv resident who, upon hearing his hope for Palestinian and Jewish-Israeli collaboration, cooperation and empathy for a more beautiful future, told him, "I'll write on your tomb: 'He tried!" Another song called "Definitions," which he wrote in the attic at his parents' home in Zikhron Ya'akov, Israel, was the most coded of the three tracks. The opening line is "Wandering light/How does it feel/Thrown into quarrels over what's even real."

Having just returned to his family's town from Tel Aviv where he experienced for the first time multiple alarms, rockets and sirens, Stockman remembers being in a field when he ran for cover under a concrete awning upon hearing and seeing conflict in the sky above.

Each time he traveled to Israel, it was seen only through a Jewish lens. But this time he wanted to make sure he interacted with others, including Palestinians. "Jerusalem is a really incredible place for that because everyone lives on top of each other, even if they're in their own little insular communities," he explains.

The first person he met who became a good friend was a second-generation Palestinian shopkeeper in the Old City in Jerusalem named Khaled. He also met a French photographer named Sasha. "The three of us would walk 12 or 13 miles a day talking big as if we could fix things, how would we fix them?" he



From the music video for Adam Stockman's song, "Shema." (Courtesy Adam Stockman)

In addition, Stockman met a girl in her 20s on the rooftops of the Old City wearing a hijab who was studying architecture at the Arab American University in Ramallah. They spoke for two and a half hours about school, music and art, then she trusted him enough to open up about the war. They agreed to meet for Friday lunch, which is a special ritual. "My dream would be that the Jewish villages go to the Arab villages for Friday lunch, and the Arabs go to the Jewish villages for Friday lunch," he says.

The girl, who he befriended, was born and raised in Jerusalem but never had a conversation with a Jewish person until him other than mundane encounters at a store or asking for directions. She helped him translate his powerful song of peace, "Shema," into Arabic.

Stockman had been following Omdim B'Yachad, an organization run by Palestinians and Israelis that has been building dialog and organizing for mutual equity, empathy and understanding on a very grassroots level. The group, which translates into "standing together," served as an inspiration for "Shema" - though most of it came from his upbringing as a modern Orthodox Jew. In the comments section in

one of the group's videos, he saw a beautiful peaceful message from a man named Yehva in Gaza with whom he messaged and began video chatting.

Yehya was living in a tent with his wife and three children trying to raise enough money on GoFundMe to cross into Cairo, Egypt. Prior to Oct. 7, he made social media videos for a shawarma shop and played drums. While one minute Stockman would be video chatting with his brother on an IDF base in Gaza, the next moment he'd be video chatting with his new friend in a tent there those kids were crying hoping they didn't die while bombs were going off all around them.

Sitting on a couch at a friend's apartment in Tel Aviv where he has a show the next day before returning to Portland, lyrics and music for his song "Shema" spilled out of him in about 15 minutes. It was the culmination of everything he had been absorbing during his post-Oct. 7 travels in Israel that he hadn't vet articulated. His initial reaction was that he couldn't really play the song about peace and love, which would just piss off everyone because it didn't accuse, blame or antagonize anyone.

He shared it with his friend

Shani who convinced him to play the song at his show the next night – a calculated risk that paid off when he noticed beaming and smiling faces reacting to his provocative lyrics. "This bald muscular Israeli dude said to me afterwards,' I did not agree with everything you say, but I respect you for saying it. We need more people like this.' And that was validation," he says. Before leaving, he shot a music video of "Shema" and even recruited Yehya to play drums.

When he first posted his new music on Instagram, half the likes were from Palestinians and half were from Israelis, including people in the IDF and Gazans alike. Stockman then knew he was on the right track with that messaging.

Stockman. a self-proclaimed progressive liberal, considers October 7 a wakeup call for Jews around the world. He quotes lyrics from "Shema" to sum up his thoughts and feelings: "Instead of this or that, instead of us or them/It's the rockets and the famine and the rapes to condemn/And in the name of Allah and in the name of Hashem/Let's build our kids the world that takes better care of them."

Facing antisemitism

His cry for peace took shape in Portland soon right after Oct. 7 when he had a pop-up shop for a few weeks at PSU to promote a party card game he developed for about five years with the help of a Kickstarter campaign. Students at that time sought to pass a resolution to boycott, divest and sanction Israel, a campaign known as BDS. His pop-up became a refuge for Jewish students and those who were actively involved in the Hillel on campus to gather and petition the student council on

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why it wasn't in the school's best interest to pursue that resolution and discuss their approach.

He's clearly bothered by antisemitic protests seen on the far left of the U.S. political spectrum and believes Hamas cannot ever be put back in charge of Gaza. "I just don't get down with anything that hateful or destructive," he says.

Stockman references a Facebook group called Liberal Jewish Scientists whose members are progressive, liberal, queer Jewish folks mostly in the United States who found themselves ostracized from their communities after October 7 and suddenly faced with no-Zionists-allowed bans to events and communities and weaponization of the word Zionism in a derogatory context compared with evil ideologies throughout history.

"It's definitely a scary place to be," he says. "One of the issues I've seen among progressive Jewish people, me included, is that they find themselves alienated in this current climate."

Reflective and hopeful about a better future, Stockman cites the final line of his song "Garden:" "Trust is a garden/ There's a part in this for you." That's how he views this decades-old conflict. "It's effort," he says. "Gardens don't happen by sitting back. It's cultivated, and it's intentional – and at the end, things bloom that are positive and beautiful – that sustain us and keep us going. That's why I decided to call the EP "Garden."

The song features bells from an Armenian Church, a call to prayer from a mosque in the Christian Quarter of Jerusalem and "Lo Yisa Goy," an important song whose message is that nations shall not lift up swords against one another, sung at his family's home during Shabbat. "There's a beautiful little interlude between "Shema" and "Garden" where you hear all three of those sounds blended together," he says.

Bruce Shutan is a versatile journalist based in Portland, Ore., who has written for nearly 140 publications, corporate entities and individuals over four decades. He also ghostwrites independently published business books and memoirs and is an at-large member of the Cultural Synagogue Board of Directors. Find him online at bruce-shutan.com/

Song of Miriam Brunch is June 1

Jewish Women's Round Table

The 30th Annual Song of Miriam Awards Brunch will be held on Sunday, June 1st at 10 am at Mittleman Jewish Community Center. The event honors outstanding women volunteers in the Jewish community and is put on by the Jewish Women's Round Table. This year, 21 women from Jewish organizations and synagogues in Oregon and southwest Washington will be honored.

Many participating organizations are including the reservation form in their communication with members, and the form can also be found on the JWRT web site, at https://jwrt.org/2025 event.html

The cost for the brunch is \$36 before May 21 and \$40 after that date. The cost for children is \$10 and people who wish to be a patron will pay \$45. Questions about the event can be directed to JewishWomensRoundTable@gmail.com or 503-682-9808.

CHOOSE (continued from page 4)

the idea of saboteurs, the self-critical inner voices we all face, though each of us in different ways, and how, left unchecked, they can lead us in directions that don't align with our values. In other areas, such as in the chapter on Oneness, she delves into Jewish tradition and language.

"Oneness with yourself, it's the idea that you feel in your gut, that the choice that you're making is the right choice, that you feel a sense of relief," she explained. "When you feel oneness, you also feel wholeness, and the idea of wholeness in Hebrew is *shalem*, which comes from the word

shalom. Shalom is 'hello,' 'goodbye,' 'peace,' so when you feel wholeness, you feel peace, that's how these two words are connected."

Though there's plenty of Jewish wisdom on its pages, this is a book that's for everyone.

"This book is for people in the corporate world, entrepreneurs, professional people and it's for your own personal development," Horenstein said.

Learn more about "Choose to Be Your Own Champion," Horenstein's work and the May 22 launch event at doricehorenstein.com.

VOLUNTEER (continued from page 5)

ing with, but to connect with each other as well."

Mission accomplished on that front, as well. Pinker shared an example from last Thursday's Challah Bake event at Chabad of Northeast Portland.

"I don't know if these people knew each other a little bit, but not well, or maybe they just met at the event, but it turns out they were neighbors, or at least lived in the same neighborhood of Portland, and they got to talking," she said. "At the event, everyone was taking their own challah home to bake at home for their Shabbat dinner the next night. And one of the people at this table was saying, 'Oh, I didn't realize we were not baking it here. I don't have room in my oven right

now because my Shabbat dinner is already in there. I don't know if I'm going to be able to make this challah.' And the woman who was his neighbor sitting at the table said, 'Well, I'll take it home. I'll bake it for you, and I'll drop it off tomorrow.' So, it was just this beautiful connection of people building community with each other, doing things for each other. I think that's a big part of what we're trying to do as well."

While April is coming to an end, there are plenty of good deeds still to do—learn more about such opportunities in *The Jewish Review*'s new Volunteer Calendar on page 13 or online at jewishportland.org/ourcommunity/volunteering.

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NEXT ISSUE

Issue date Deadline MAY 14 MAY 8

Security Corner

Safety on college campuses

By JESSICA ANDERSON

In the last few years, Jewish high school students (and their parents) contemplating college choices are realizing there are new considerations in examining Jewish life on campus. Since Oct. 8, 2023, Jewish life on college campuses has, in some cases, been very altered, and students who want to take part in Jewish life are asking new questions about their safety and how welcoming campuses feel.

Secure Community Network has partnered with Hillel International to educate students and parents as they look at colleges and as students settle into college life. As we approach the time for decisions, I'm sharing some resources recently published by SCN to help navigate these issues.

The reality is that Jewish community concerns are justifiably elevated due to foreign terrorist organization messaging, domestic violent extremist activity, and heightened anti-Israel demonstrations.

SCN and Hillel recognize that families need clear, proactive tools to assess campus safety. The resource empowers parents and students to ask the right safety questions during the decision-making process, and it reaffirms the collective commitment to community protection and preparedness. The new resource is a guide titled "Essential Safety Questions to Ask Before Deciding on a College." This PDF resource is available on the SCN website at securecommunitynetwork.org/resources/ essential-safety-questions-



Jessica Anderson is the Portlandarea 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.

to-ask-before-deciding-on-a-college/. We'll shortly have the same resource directly on the Jewish Federation of Greater Portland's website.

This resource is designed to help Jewish students and families navigate the admissions and send-off process and ensure that important decisions about their future are informed by the seriousness with which colleges and universities are addressing and responding to the increase in threats and incidents directed at Jewish students, staff, faculty, and organizations on college campuses.

The questions were developed in close consultation with campus security experts, Jewish communal leaders, and higher education subject matter experts. The goal is for the information to equip students and families with essential questions to assess campus safety policies, accountability, and Jewish life support. Tangentially, the resource provides a framework to evaluate campus administrative responses to hate and violence against Jewish students and gauge coordination with Jewish organizations.

SCN and Hillel want to promote situational awareness and

encourage dialogue between families and institutions on safety standards and ensures students, know who to call if there are issues, and have training available to them.

This program builds on SCN's broader campus safety initiatives, including its longstanding partnership with Hillel International. In August 2024, SCN and Hillel International announced the launch of Operation SecureOurCampuses, an effort to expand resources to over 50 college and university campuses to include fulltime intelligence analysts dedicated to monitoring campus developments and enhanced coordination with enforcement, public safety officials, and centers of Jewish life.

SCN also recently announced the SafeU: Campus Safety Initiative, developed in partnership with Hillel International, the Foundation Combat Antisemitism (FCAS), and three-time Super Bowl Champion Julian Edelman, a first-of-its-kind training program designed to equip university students situationwith critical al awareness and first-aid skills.

See **SECURITY**, page 16

Marc's Remarks

The Yoms - then and now

By MARC BLATTNER

This coming Tuesday evening, the fourth of Iyar (Hebrew calendar), will be Yom HaZikaron, Israel's Memorial Day. This day is to remember the over 25,000 casualties of war and victims of terror attacks who have fallen since 1860 (when Jews were first allowed to live outside of Jerusalem's Old City walls) in their struggle for the State of Israel.

In Israel, the cemeteries will be full as people visit the graves of loved ones - over 25 percent of the country's population will visit military cemeteries and perhaps many more given the ongoing war with Hamas. The most noticeable features of the day are the sounds of sirens heard throughout the country - twice. At those times, the entire nation comes to a standstill, including all traffic and activities. The first minute-long siren at 8 pm Tuesday evening marks the beginning of Yom HaZikaron and the sec-

ond, lasting two minutes, will be heard at 11 am on Wednesday. It is an experience to be there to feel the entire country united in grief.

Our Jewish community will mark Yom HaZikaron on Tuesday night at 7:30 p.m. at the Mittleman Jewish Community Center with a special service.

Following the conclusion of Yom HaZ-ikaron comes the celebration of Israel's independence, Yom Ha'Atzmaut. The official "switch" from Yom HaZikaron to Yom Ha'Atzmaut takes place a few minutes after sundown with a ceremony on Mount Herzl in Jerusalem, in which the Israeli flag is raised from half-staff (due to Memorial Day) to the top of the pole. The message of linking these two days is clear: Israelis owe their independence - the very existence of the State - to the soldiers who sacrificed their lives for it.

See BLATTNER, page 14

OJCF Column

Making an impact - together

Oregon Jewish Community Foundation

The Oregon Jewish Community Foundation (OJCF) is championing a bold new approach to philanthropy with its 2024 launch of *Impact Together*, a collaborative initiative bringing nonprofits across Oregon and Southwest Washington into closer partnership. Rather than competing for donor dollars, participating organizations fundraise collectively and equitably split the proceeds—offering a model that prioritizes collaboration over competition and seeks to transform how community impact is achieved.

Impact Together addresses a longstanding challenge in the nonprofit world: while many organizations tackle interconnected issues like housing, education, and healthcare, they often operate in isolation. This initiative enables nonprofits to pool resources, align messaging, and build a shared community of practice. OJCF plays a central role in facilitating these partnerships, connecting donors with leaders and amplifying unified storytelling.

This shift reflects a growing movement

toward systems-thinking in philanthropy. Donors today want transparency, measurable results, and alignment with their values. Through monthly updates, learning opportunities, and immersive engagement, *Impact Together* provides additional meaning to the donor experience. The initiative helps deepen relationships and broaden donor interest—encouraging supporters to engage with interconnected issues they may not have previously considered.

Most importantly, *Impact Together* democratizes giving. By focusing on collective outcomes and shared leadership, the program empowers donors at every level to feel connected and impactful. It's a model grounded in Jewish values of equity, community, and mutual responsibility—one that OJCF believes can serve as a powerful blueprint for the future of Jewish philanthropy in the Pacific Northwest and beyond.

Interested in getting involved? Contact OJCF Director of Outreach, Sonia Marie Leikam at soniamariel@ojcf.org or 503-248-9328. Interested in donating or learning more? Visit ojcf.org/impact/.

Volunteer

May 4: Kesser Cemetery Cleanup

Weeding and marker cleaning at Congregation Kesser Israel Cemetery from 1:30-4 pm. In partnership with SOLVE. Pre-registration required at volunteer.solveoregon. org/opportunity/a0CVL-00001nVhCH2A0/kesser-israel-historic-cemetery-cleanup-days.

May 18: Dignity Grows Packing Event

Hygiene supply tote packing at Rose Schnitzer Manor Assisted Living from 1-3 pm. Preregistration required at jewishportland.org/dignitygrowspackmay.

Learn more at jewishportland.org/ ourcommunity/ volunteering



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BLATTNER (continued from page 13)

Israel's Independence Day is celebrated on the fifth of Iyar. This date corresponded to May 14, 1948, which is the Hebrew date of the formal establishment of the State of Israel, when members of the "provisional government" read and signed the Declaration of Independence in Tel Aviv.

For American Jews, celebrating Yom Ha'Atzmaut is our way to express solidarity with the State of Israel and to strengthen our connections. The Jewish Federation is helping sponsor two community events to celebrate Israel's 77th anniversary:

- Thursday, May 1 from 4:30 –
 7:30 pm at the Mittleman Jewish Community Center There will be a DJ, snacks, games, dancing, children's activities, and songs for people of all ages. Register here.
- Sunday, May 4 from 5–10 pm at the Elsie Stuhr Center. This family-friendly event promises a night of vibrant culture, music, and flavors. Enjoy live performances by local Israeli bands, a DJ spinning Tel Aviv-style beats, Israeli dance,

children's activities, and food. Tickets for this event are sold out. In May 2016, I wrote:

"I recognize that we are in a time in which unconditional support of Israel is passionately debated. When I talk to people in our community and read articles from a variety of sources it seems we are presented with two apparently conflicting and opposing ideas about Israel -- either justice, meaning an Israel that lives up to high moral standards, or security for a safer Israel threatened by neighbors that want to destroy her. So much of the Jewish community appears organized around these two choices. We are seemingly to choose one - justice or security. For some reason it has become an 'either/or' situation -- not an 'and.'"

Sadly, we are in a similar situation nine years later.

As my longtime friend Michael Wegier, Chief Executive of Board of Deputies of British Jews, also wrote in 2016:

"Many people, including Jews, limit discussion of Israel to issues around the conflict with the Palestinians. We often find it hard to see Israel through any other lens. Of course, the peace process and conflict are major issues we cannot ignore. They dominate the current landscape, but our challenge and responsibility this Yom Ha'Atzmaut is to reject this approach. Israel is so much more than the conflict. Its society, languages, multi-cultures, technological and medical advancements, and economy are rich wellsprings that nurture Israeli life and can also inspire the Diaspora."

This juxtaposition between Yom HaZ-ikaron and Yom Ha'Atzmaut has heavier meaning today as the Hamas-Israel war continues. We should all hope and pray we are no longer caught between mourning and celebration — no more fallen soldiers...no more attacks... no more sirens...no more destruction... all the hostages come home...and only peaceful and joyous days ahead.

Marc Blattner is President and CEO of the Jewish Federation of Greater Portland.





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

May 1: Yom Ha'Atzmaut Celebration

Israeli Independence Day celebration at the Mittleman Jewish Community Center from 4:30-7:30 pm. To register, visit oregonjcc.org.

May 2: Monthly Sephardic Community Shabbat Dinner

Kabbalat Shabbat service and Sephardic dinner at Congregation Ahavath Achim at 6:30 pm. Pre-register at <u>ahavathachimpdx.weebly.com/ monthly-shabbat-dinners.</u> html

May 4: Schechter Spark 2025 Fundraiser

Fundraiser for Camp Solomon Schechter at EcoTrust in Portland at 4 pm. Details at www.campschechter.org/spark.

May 4: Israel Independence Day Celebrations

Community Yom Ha'Atzmaut celebration at the Elsie Stuhr Center in Beaverton at 5 pm. Free. Pre-register at <u>events.humanitix.com/yom-ha-atzmaut-celebration-greater-portland.</u>

May 6: A Taste of Judaism

See story, page 4

May 7: JLI Course - Colorful Profiles

Four-week course on figures in Jewish history by Rabbi Motti Wilhelm at 1 pm on Wednesdays via Zoom. \$100 for the series. Register at myjli.com/learn/portland.

May 8: Evolve Hadassah: Minors One Day, Majors the Next

Event for helping teens navigate transition to adult-

hood at 7 pm in Portland. \$36. Learn more and register at hwzoa.networkforgood.com/events/85646-west-pnw-portland-minors-one-day-majors-the-next-2025.

May 8: On the Banks of the Tigris

Film screening at the Eastside Jewish Commons at 7pm. Part of the Portland Jewish Music Festival. \$10. Learn more at ejcpdx.org/ portland-jewish-music-festival.

May 9-11: CNS Scholar-in-Residence Weekend with Amir Tibon.

See story, page 1.

May 9: Brenna Mc-Donald Flamenco Guitarist

Concert at Eastside Jewish Commons at Noon. Part of the Portland Jewish Music Festival. Free. Learn more at ejcpdx.org/portland-jew-ish-music-festival.

May 9: Shabbat Yoga - Rest and Restore

Yoga and self-care event at The Breathe Building in Portland. \$20. For more information, email <u>inspired-heartwellness@gmail.com</u>.

May 10: Flamenco Fusion Espacio Flamenco, Michelle Alany

Concert at the Eastside Jewish Commons at 7 pm. Part of the Portland Jewish Music Festival. \$22. Learn more at ejcpdx.org/portland-jewish-music-festival.

May 11: Amel Tafsout Jews of the Maghreb (North Africa)

Presentation at the Eastside Jewish Commons at 3 pm. Part of the Portland Jewish Music Festival. \$8-15 sliding scale. Learn more at <u>ejcpdx.org/portland-jew-</u>ish-music-festival.

May 11: Michelle Alany and The Mystics

Concert at the Eastside Jewish Commons at 7 pm. Part of the Portland Jewish Music Festival. \$22. Learn more at ejcpdx.org/portland-jewish-music-festival.

May 13: Matter of Mind: My Alzheimer's

Film screening at the Eastside Jewish Commons at 7 pm. Free. Learn more at ejcpdx.org/events.

May 14: When Grand-

parents Get Canceled (And What to Do About It)

Presentation from Jewish Grandparents Network at 4 pm on Zoom. Register at jewishgrandparentsnetwork. org/event/when-grandparents-get-canceled-and-whatto-do-about-it.

May 14: Jewish Wisdom for Great Life Questions

Adult education class every two weeks at 7 pm on Zoom, presented by Beit Haverim. Learn more at <u>beithav.org/form/Spring2025AdultEd.</u>



ATTEND OUR NEXT PACKING PARTY, WHERE WE ASSEMBLE THE TOTES THAT ARE DISTRIBUTED TO OUR NEIGHBORS IN NEED!

Sunday, May 18, 2025 1-3 pm

@ Rose Schnitzer Manor





jewishportland.org/dignitygrows



Free online subscription: jewishportland.org/subscribe

SHARON BRENNER

Congregation Beth Israel mourns the loss of Sharon Brenner, z"l, who passed away on Sunday, Apr. 6 at the age of 76. Sharon is survived by her devoted husband, Steven Brenner; her loving daughters, Alexis Murray and Dana (Christopher) Costello; her brother, Al Berg; her sister and brother-in-law, Karin and Mike Kowalski; her sister-in-law and brother-in-law, Nancy Brenner and James Rucinski; and her cherished grandchildren, Annika and Lane Murray, and Cooper and Charlotte Costello. Sharon is also survived by her nieces and nephews, Stefan Kowalski, Natalie Kowalski, and Jamie Rucinski, as well as her dear friend, Sydney Baer.

Sharon was preceded in death by her parents, Ahldor and Ana Berg, z''l, her parents-in-law, Mortimer and Louise Brenner, z''l and by her niece, Audrey Berg, z''l.

Friends and family are invited to the Celebration of Life for Sharon Brenner at the Multnomah Athletic Club Saturday, Aug. 2, at 2 pm.

Donations in Sharon's memory can be made to Planned Parenthood Columbia Willamette.

SUSAN ROSENBERG

Congregation Kesser Israel regrets to announce the passing of Susan Rosenberg, z"l, beloved mother of Michael Rosenberg.

She was featured recently in the Voices Israel Group of Poets in English to mark her 100th birthday, and she was interviewed in 2011 by The Jerusalem Post, together with her late husband Dick, z"l.

She died Tuesday, Apr. 15, in Israel, where she has lived since 1973.

ALLAN PIKE

Allan Russell Pike, z"l, age 87, peacefully passed April 16, 2025 in Portland.

Allan was born in Saginaw, Mich., in 1937 to Mae Adelson and Maurice Pike. He was lifelong friends with his two brothers, Larry and Malcolm. He was a second generation dentist. He attended dental school at Marquette University. While serving as a dentist in the US Air Force, Allan was introduced to Marney Backer. They married in 1964, and moved to Portland, Ore., where Allan attended the Oregon Dental School to specialize in pediatrics. Allan and Marney loved Portland and decided to remain there to raise their

three children Michelle, Steven, and Jamie.

Over his years of successful practice Allan developed methods and techniques to manage children in a way that inspired confidence and trust. He authored several books and studies to share his systematic approach, taught for many years as adjunct faculty at OHSU Dental School, and presented his research at numerous dental conferences and professional meetings. He is survived by his wife, Marney; his three children, Michelle (m. Scott Guthormsen), Steven (m. Allison Sneider), and Jamie (m. Paul Labby).

MARK ATLAS

Congregation Neveh Shalom is deeply saddened to share the passing of Mark Atlas, z"l, cherished brother of Ida Levenshteyn. He was a beloved uncle to Kira Govshteyn (Gennady) and Sara Rodkin (Rabbi Dan Rodkin), a devoted great-uncle to ten nieces and nephews, and a proud great-great-uncle to three. Mark was 85 years old and a Holocaust survivor, whose life was a testament to resilience and strength.

The funeral was held Wednesday, Apr. 23, at Ahavai Shalom Cemetery.

ELISA STEVENS

With heavy hearts, Congregation Neveh Shalom shares the sad news that, following a long battle with cancer, Elisa Stevens, z"l has passed away Wednesday, Apr. 23, 2025. Elisa faced her illness with remarkable strength and grace, ultimately passing on her own terms.

Elisa's love leaves an indelible mark on all who knew her. She will be deeply missed and forever remembered for her kindness, her creativity, and the unwavering love she shared.

Elisa is lovingly remembered by her devoted husband, Joshua, and their cherished children, Chloe and Jonah. She was a beloved sister to Mark Taub, Brian Taub (Debbie), and Shelley (Michael Lack). Elisa also leaves behind a large and loving extended family, including many nieces, nephews, great-nieces, and great-nephews.

A funeral service and burial were held Friday, Apr. 25, at Neveh Zedek Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, the family kindly requests donations be made in Elisa's name to Camp Kesem, an organization close to her heart, at kesem.org. Please select "Camp Kesem at University of Oregon" from the menu.

SECURITY (continued from page 12)

This training program is based on real experiences from students. In each of the training modules, a different scenario is discussed: someone being swept up in protest activity, a student being challenged in a class, another student being followed, and other situations where students will need to call upon experience, situational awareness, and strategic planning to stay safe. Each scenario is carefully deconstructed, and I share concrete

tools and strategies with students for their consideration. PDX Hillel and I are planning to bring together students from campuses across northwestern Oregon to work through this material. If you know of any students who would benefit from this information, please have them contact me. More information can be found at the SCN website: secure-community-network-org/articles/secure-community-network-hillel-international-and-fcas-team-up-to-

<u>launch-safeu-campus-safety-initiative-with-three-time-super-bowl-champion-julian-edelman/.</u>

As always, if you or someone you know is experiencing safety and security concerns, please contact me at janderson@securecommunitynetwork.org or 872-273-9214. If you know of antisemitic or biased incidents, please report them to me through our incident reporting form at jewishportland.org/ incident-reporting.