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THE JEWISH REVIEW

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Shanah Tovah!

JFGP 2026 Campaign to highlight 'joys'

By ROCKNE ROLL
The Jewish Review

The High Holy Days begins with Rosh Hashana, marking the beginning of the new year according to Jewish calendar reckoning.

This season also marks the beginning of another new annual cycle, one which so much of the other events chronicled in these pages relies on: the Jewish Federation of Greater Portland's Campaign for Community Needs.

The 2025 campaign raised more than \$3.6 million for programs and services to support Jewish communal interests at home and abroad. It was not easy – individuals who had previously made significant contributions to the campaign had moved out of the area or passed away.

"We did see significant increases for the individuals who had given previously," Federation Chief Development Officer Wendy Kahn said of 2025. "It was very successful on that level. It

See **CAMPAIGN**, page 13

A Jewish Volunteer Corps participant plucks a ripe apple from a tree at Portland Fruit Tree Project's urban orchard in Northeast Portland during a volunteer harvest event sponsored by JVC and the Jewish Community Relations Council's Climate Action Committee Thursday, Aug. 14. Apples comprise half of the traditional snack of Rosh Hashana, the Jewish new year's celebration; read more about the other half - honey - along with the rest of our High Holy Day coverage beginning on page 7. (Rockne Roll/Jewish Review file)

Hadassah gains momentum in Portland with pair of fall events

By **ROCKNE ROLL**

The Jewish Review

Hadassah, the Women's Zionist Organization of America, is growing in Portland. And they want to invite you along for the journey.

Tamara DiVergilio is a leader of Portland's Hadassah Evolve group – a cohort of younger women who have been leading the charge of revitalizing Hadassah in the area.

We're doing events and simultaneously recruiting a core group of people to help keep the organization going," she said.

One of those events is a honey tasting for Rosh Hashana, scheduled for Sept. 18 in Portland. Beyond sweet treats for the holiday, Hadassah offers a comfortable space for women to gather with likeminded Jews in a time where discussion of Israel and connection to it can be volatile or worse.

"I think there's a lot of debates of women on what being a Zionist looks like today. You can support Isra-

el and its right to exist in its right for self-determination while also not loving necessarily everything going on in all parts of Israel," DiVergilio said. "I think it's been nice to have a safe space where people can talk, that being 'Zionist' isn't a bad word."

Meanwhile, Hadassah's all-ages chapter is being reinvigorated after a long dormancy.

"Portland had a very vibrant chapter 20-plus years ago. They were doing things in the community, they were meeting regularly," Nancy Lichter, the Co-Coordinator for Hadassah Pacific Northwest, explained.

In the last year, interest has returned. A survey went out from Hadassah to members in the area which received a positive response, and things got rolling from there.

"There was an initial Zoom call for brainstorming. There were 15, maybe 20 people on that Zoom and that was

See **HADASSAH**, page 5

Jewish Teachers Institute to support middle school JSUs

The Jewish Review staff

Are you a middle school teacher looking to support Jewish students but want a little help getting started? The Jewish Student Union is here to help.

JSU has launched their Jewish Teachers Institute for middle school teachers who want to start Jewish Student Unions in their schools. JSU Oregon Director Meira Spivak is leading the national initiative.

"The program is helping Jewish teachers in the public schools to run Jewish clubs," Spivak said. "They'll run the clubs. We provide them all the training videos, content, making sure they have what they need."

Unsurprisingly, demand for student clubs for Jewish students has skyrocketed in the two years since the Oct. 7 terror attacks – not just from students, but from school administrations.

"They want to support the kids, and since Oct. 7, it is so needed," Spivak explained.

While teachers are experts in education, they may want some guidance on specifically Jewish education and programming for students. Thus, JTI has ready-made activities for groups centering on different holidays, various aspects of Jewish life and connection to Israel – along with the supplies needed to make them a success.

"You want to make Hebrew name bracelets? This is what we'll get for you," Spivak said as an example. "So we're going to give them material. If there is an event about Purim, we can give them some background, we give them some projects, we can make them feel confident."

The onboarding process is easy – a quick online application and a handful of orientation videos to get things off the ground. With that comes a library of resources and support from JSU's national organization for however a particular club takes shape.

"Everyone has a different style. Some people are going to gravitate more to the art projects, and some will gravitate more to the educational programs," Spivak said. "There are a lot of clubs and every one of them is different."

And each one is important – especially in Portland, where for a lot of students, JSU is their only connection with Jewish life. Spivak saw this on display in a recent school visit.

"When I asked, 'raise your hand if you've ever been to Sunday School,' their hands don't go up. 'Are you part of a synagogue?' Not really," she recalled. "High school and middle school JSU is their only Jewish education."

To learn more about JSU's Jewish Teacher Initiative and to join – for free – visit jsu.org/jti.



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The comfort of a chaplain - Rabbi Rensin launches chaplaincy non-profit Nehamah

By ROCKNE ROLL
The Jewish Review

It was estimated in the Jewish Federation of Greater Portland's 2023 Community Study that 80 percent of Portland's Jews are not members of a synagogue or congregation. But everyone needs a rabbi from time to time.

For Portlanders, that rabbi is Rabbi Sarah Rensin, who became Portland's Jewish community chaplain in 2024. Now, she is launching her own non-profit, Nehamah, to secure the future of chaplaincy services in Portland – and potentially elsewhere.

Nehamah, a name taken from the Hebrew word for “comfort,” focuses on Jewish chaplaincy work – work which is vital to communities around the country but rarely, if anywhere, has its own space, instead supported ad-hoc by family service agencies and federations depending on locale. This arrangement has allowed chaplains to work and serve but has made it difficult for them to advocate for themselves.

“When I talk to [other chaplains,] they’re don’t really want to rock the boat because they’re afraid that they’re going to lose whatever funding or value that the organization they are housed under offers,” Rabbi Rensin said.

Rabbi Rensin is certainly busy enough – with the chaplaincy in Portland geared around serving the unaffiliated, it’s almost as if Rabbi Rensin were serving a congregation of approximately 40,000 members. She’s regularly at area hospitals, visiting patients, or leading groups for those who have lost loved ones. Marguerite Bolles Miller attended one of those groups this summer after the loss of her husband in May.

“[Rabbi Rensin] truly loves what she does; you can see in the way she treats the people and the care that she gives,” Bolles Miller said. “Through her guidance, we found comfort in sharing these moments. She has a give us meaningful assignments about the ones that we’ve lost, and it reminds us to live in the present.”

One of the roles a Jewish community chaplain is often called upon to fill is as an officiant at a funeral. Charlotte



Rabbi Sarah Rensin (courtesy photo)

Aborn, a non-Jew, was married to an unaffiliated Jewish man who passed away from cancer earlier this year – “he was too young to die,” she said – and she needed someone to officiate his funeral and didn’t want to ask a family member. A call to a Jewish neighbor led her to the Eastside Jewish Commons, and from there to Rabbi Rensin.

“When I met her, I thought, ‘I wish we could have met her when [my husband] was alive,’” Aborn recalled.

Rabbi Rensin led the service and connected Aborn with a grief group. Aborn’s husband wanted his Hebrew name on his grave marker – Rabbi Rensin helped to make sure it was spelled correctly.

“I’m glad she’s starting this nonprofit and has a second person,” Aborn said. “I think they probably need six.”

The second person Aborn referred to is Rabbi Abby Cohen, who is slated to join Nehamah as soon as there is sufficient funding to support the role. Nehamah is fiscally sponsored by Beloved, a Massachusetts non-profit specializing in supporting Jewish organizational startups, and has recruited Rabbi Michael Cahana, Debbie Plawner and Rabbi Eve Posen to its advisory board.

“Rabbi Sarah Rensin brings compassion, knowledge and drive to her role

as our community chaplain,” Rabbi Posen said in an email to *The Jewish Review*. “Rabbi Rensin’s sole focus is on the care of those in need and unaffiliated within the Portland Jewish Community. The priority is visits to those who, for whatever reason are unable to attend or utilize institutional Jewish resources. Rabbi Rensin brings community and Judaism to them. Having this housed at Nehamah as its own endeavor ensures that this necessary service is able to continue for years to come. Rabbi Rensin is an invaluable partner to our work in congregations.”

While Rabbi Rensin is often called upon to be there for those near or at death, or their loved ones, there are also many moments of Jewish life that Rabbi Rensin’s work makes possible. She is a regular visitor to retirement communities around Portland, recognizable in her *kippah* and known by her title, for holiday services and Shabbat gatherings.

Fara McLaughlin is the Sales Director at Watermark in Portland. A purpose-built retirement community in the Pearl District of Northwest Portland, Watermark’s community is approximately a quarter Jewish.

“Most of these members are no longer necessarily congregationally oriented. The majority aren’t affiliated,” McLaughlin said she discovered when speaking to Jewish community members about how Watermark could support their Judaism. “Mostly, they didn’t want to lose their identity, and they didn’t want to feel they had to hide.”

Thus, Rabbi Rensin has, as she does at other facilities in the area, hosted Passover seders, Chanukah parties and Shabbat dinners at Watermark. McLaughlin, who is Jewish herself, remembers Rabbi Rensin’s first Shabbat at Watermark.

“{Rabbi Rensin} posed a wonderful question, ‘What does Shabbat mean to you?’ I remember one person talking about memories of great grandparents that had come from Germany, survivor stories,” McLaughlin recalled. “There was this evocative place to put memory

See **NEHAMAH**, page 5

Rabbi Fischer to lead Kesser Israel HHD services

Congregation Kesser Israel

Rabbi Tzvi Fischer, the founding dean of the Portland Kollel, will be returning to Portland to serve as Congregation Kesser Israel's *chazzan* during Rosh Hashana and Yom Kippur.

Rabbi Fischer, who has led High Holiday services at Kesser for the past two years, said he and his wife, Esther, were delighted to be returning to Portland. "It represents for us the continued belief in the future of this community," he said. "A future that builds upon what was and aims to make the future brighter and holier."

The Fischers, together with Rabbi Chanan and Meira Spivak, came to Portland in 2006 to establish the Portland Kollel. The Fischers moved to Detroit, Michigan, in 2021, where Rabbi Fischer is a dean of the Scholars' Kollel at Yeshiva Beth Yehudah.

During their visit the Fischers are looking forward to seeing old friends at an informal "Meet & Greet" from 11 am-1 pm, on Erev Rosh Hashana, Monday, Sept. 22. Please RSVP for details at kesserisrael.org/events/fischers.

The full schedule of services may be viewed at kesserisrael.org/calendar



Rabbi Tzvi Fischer (Courtesy photo)

NEHAMAH (continued from page 4)

in the Shabbat, other people there with partners that might have memory impairment, but being able to know that they can light up, literally, when the candles lit. Those are the stories that we're seeing come out of the relationship we have with the rabbi, and those are priceless."

Rabbi Rensin is also hosting "Life's Transitions" at Watermark, a regular group for those who are grieving but also for people adjusting to the changes aging brings – experiences that may not be thought of as grief but often are about moving through loss in the same way.

"It's, 'I left my home that I was in for 30 years to come here, and I'm adjusting to what that looks like,' or 'my husband, all of his cognitive abilities have changed. He's going into memory care, and he's not the person he was, and I feel lonely I feel guilty, and I feel shame that I go out and do things without him,'" Rabbi Rensin gave as examples. "They know it's every other Tuesday, they know what time it is, and they can pop in when they need it."

Even beyond the groups and the Shabbats and the High Holiday services she'll lead at Watermark this year, a first for her in a facility, Rabbi Rensin is a known, consistent, caring presence along Watermark's hallways – something that gets to the very core of chaplaincy work.

"I've seen people go deeper in their spirituality; they'll say, 'this means something more to me'" McLaughlin said "[Rabbi Rensin] has really brought the spirit of Judaism to life here."

An accounting of all the ways Rabbi Rensin touches Jewish life in Portland would be exceedingly long, but all are rooted in the same concept, the concept that gives her new organization its name and brought her to chaplaincy work in the first place – Comfort.

"I just felt like it really encompassed everything that a Jewish Community chaplain does, whether it's coming to somebody in the hospital or helping to do an interfaith marriage or a holiday service," Rabbi Rensin said. "Whatever it is, all of that happiness and joy and the sadness and mourning, all of it falls under comfort; the comfort of belonging or the comfort of having someone show up when you need them."

For more information about Nehama and Rabbi Rensin's work, visit nehamah.org.

HADASSAH (continued from page 2)

very positive," Lichter said. "That moved to the next step of, 'Let's meet in person to talk about it further.'"

The next step after that is on Sept. 14 – an afternoon musical gathering in Southwest Portland at the home of an accomplished classical pianist who will perform. Hadassah is also sponsoring the Dignity Grows Nov. 9 packing party – details of that event are still being finalized.

Hadassah does much more than bringing Zionist women together – they come together to do good throughout the world. Two of the most prominent examples of this are Hadassah's pair of hospitals in Jerusalem, which serves as medical training facilities for Hebrew University of Jerusalem. DiVergilio had an unexpected encounter with the quality of medical care these facilities offer when she was in Israel earlier this year and came down with food poisoning.

"I ended up as a patient at one of the Hadassah hospitals when I was there," she said. "You realize when you're there and you're literally a patient the size and the breadth of everything happens. To have been a patient but also have toured both hospitals and seen the Gandal Rehabilitation Center, it is overwhelming to see how much thought, effort and research they've done to address both the physical and emotional and social aspects of trauma and injury."

Registration for both upcoming Hadassah events in Portland is available online at hadassah.org/region/pacific-northwest. Those interested in getting involved in future events and more can reach out by email to PNWinfo@email.hadassah.org.

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High Holy Days 5786



Bees bring the season's sweetness

By **ROCKNE ROLL**
The Jewish Review

One of the classic traditions of Rosh Hashana is enjoying apples dipped in honey – a physical manifestation of the traditional wish for a happy and sweet new year. The liquid half of this treat occupies a unique space in *kashrut*, the dietary laws expounded in the Torah.

Jessica Anderson, Portland's Regional Security Director for Secure Communities Network, also serves as the public affairs representative for Portland Urban Beekeepers. She explained that honey is the only kosher food product that is produced by a non-kosher animal. It's not honey's only unique property.

"It's the only food that never expires or goes bad," Anderson said. "They have found 5,000-year-old honey that is completely edible."

Honey of that vintage would date back to around the time bees were first kept in human-built hives for the purpose of honey production. Today, such human-managed apiculture (human management of bees) is essential to almost all other forms of agriculture – in a way, bees are responsible for both parts of Rosh Hashana's signature snack.

"Anecdotally, it is said that one out

of every three bites of food are from a bee," Anderson said. "Without bees, we do not have the infrastructure right now to pollinate the food that we need."

Anderson has been a hobbyist beekeeper for the last six years, a fulfillment of something she's been interested in since a young age.

"I grew up just loving bee boxes. I love the look of bee boxes. I loved seeing them in fields," she said. "A friend asked randomly if I wanted to do a beekeeping class over a weekend, and I've been beekeeping ever since."

It's rewarding, to be sure, but it's also a lot of work.

"It does ebb and flow over the course of the year in terms of what they need," Anderson elaborated, "but one really needs to go in thinking that they are a steward of this animal, which is considered livestock, and they do need care and attention."

Starting in January, beekeepers make sure their hives have enough honey stores to finish out the winter, supplementing with sugar water as needed. As spring comes on, beekeepers ensure that the colony has enough room and that mite populations are under control.

See **BEES**, page 12

The High Holy Days: When, what and how

The Jewish Review staff

The coming new year marks the beginning of Judaism's High Holy Days. On the Gregorian calendar, Rosh Hashana 5786 begins at sundown Monday, Sept. 22 and continues through Wednesday night, Sept. 24. Yom Kippur is observed at sundown Wednesday through Thursday night, Oct. 1-2. Sukkot begins at sundown Monday, Oct. 6 and continues through Monday night, Oct. 13, followed immediately by Shemini Atzeret and Simchat Torah Tuesday and Wednesday, Oct. 14 and 15, respectively.

Rosh Hashanah

Rosh Hashanah, the Jewish New Year, celebrates the creation of the world. The holiday is a time of rejoicing as we wish each other *L'Shanah Tovah*, a good year. Apples dipped in honey symbolize hopes for a sweet new year. It is also a solemn day because it is also the Day of Remembrance when the sound of the shofar calls each of us to recount our deeds of the past year in preparation for repentance on Yom Kippur. Throughout the High Holy Days, the challah is traditionally a round spiral loaf rather than a long twisted one. The round challah symbolizes the cyclical nature of life, the seasons and the Jewish year.

Yom Kippur

Yom Kippur, the Day of Atonement, is a solemn fast day. We pray for forgiveness from God and repent sincerely for our sins during the past year. Families gather for a plentiful if simple meal before sundown on the eve of this holy day. At the end of the meal, festival candles are blessed and the fast begins for all adults whose health permits. *Kol Nidre* is recited as the opening prayer of Erev Yom Kippur services. At the conclusion of Yom Kippur, a single long shofar blast signals the end of the holy day, and families and friends gath-

See **HOLY DAYS**, page 12

JEWISH FEDERATION OF GREATER PORTLAND

Local Area Congregations



Ahavath Achim (Sephardic)

6688 SW Capitol Highway
Portland, OR 97219
503.227.0010
ahavathachim.com

Beit Haverim (Reform)

1111 Country Club Drive
Lake Oswego, OR 97034
503.568.1241
Rabbi Alan Berg and Dan Brown
beithav.org

Beit Yosef (Sephardic)

4200 SW Vermont St.
Portland, OR 97219
971-220-8152
Rabbi Shlomo Truzman
beityosef.org

Beth Israel (Reform)

1972 NW Flanders Street
Portland, OR 97209
503.222.1069
Rabbi Michael Cahana
Rabbi Rachel Joseph
Cantor Rayna Green
bethisrael-pdx.org

Chabad on Campus Lewis & Clark

9816 SW 6th Avenue
Portland, OR 97219
917.853.7596
Rabbi Eli & Mrs. Citron
jewishandclark.com

Chabad of Oregon

Rabbi Moshe & Devora Wilhelm
email: rabbi@chabadoregon.com
chabadoregon.com

Chabad Jewish Center of Clark County

9604 NE 126th Ave # 2340
Vancouver, WA 98682
360.993.5222
Rabbi Shmulik & Mrs. Tzivie Greenberg
jewishvancouverwa.com

Chabad Jewish Center of Hillsboro

965 SW Brookwood Ave
Hillsboro, OR 97123
503.747.5363
Rabbi Menachem & Chaya Rivkin
chabadh.com

Chabad Jewish Center of Gresham/ East County

503.389.0312
Rabbi Avrohom Moshe & Cheina Dyce
jewishgresham.com

Chabad of Lake Oswego

Rabbi Shimon & Ety Wilhelm
503.753.4744
jewishlo.com

Chabad of Northeast Portland

4635 NE 9th Ave.
Portland, OR 97211
503.309.4490
Rabbi Chaim & Mushka Wilhelm
jewishnortheast.com

Chabad SW Portland

6612 SW Capitol Hwy
Portland, OR 97219
503.381.7119
Rabbi Motti & Mimi Wilhelm
jportland.com

Chabad at Reed College & SE Portland

3355 SE Steele Street
Portland, OR 97202
503.752.2258
Rabbi Dov & Chani Bialo
jewishreed.com

Chabad Urban Jewish Oasis

1218 NW Glisan Street
Portland, OR 97209
503.246.5437
Rabbi Chayim & Simi Mishulovin
jewishoasis.com

Chabad Young Professionals/ Chabad NW Portland

503.583.2025
Rabbi Meir & Sheina Posner
www.Pdxcyp.org

Tigard Chabad

11545 SW Durham Rd B2
Tigard, OR 97224
Rabbi Menachem & Chaya Orenstein
971.329.6661
jewishtigard.com

Gesher - A BridgeHome

10701 SW 25th Ave
Portland OR 97219
503.246.5070
Rabbis Rutenberg & Schoenberg
ourjewishhome.org

Havurah Shalom (Reconstructionist)

825 NW 18th Ave
Portland, OR 97209
503.248.4662
Rabbi Benjamin Barnett
havurahshalom.org

Kesser Israel

(Orthodox)
6698 SW Capitol Hwy
Portland, OR 97219
503.222.1239
kesserisrael.org

Kol Ami (Reform)

7800 NE 119th St
Vancouver, WA 98662
360.896.8088
Rabbi Elizabeth Dunsker
jewishvancouverusa.org

Kol Shalom (Humanistic)

2420 NE Sandy Blvd
Portland, OR 97232
503.459.4210
kolshalom.org

Neveh Shalom (Conservative)

2900 SW Peaceful Lane
Portland, OR 97239
503.246.8831
Rabbi Eve Posen
Rabbi April Villareal
Cantor Eyal Bitton
nevehshalom.org

P'nai Or of Portland (Renewal)

c/o Hillsdale Com. Church
6948 SW Capitol Hwy.
Portland, OR 97219
503.248.4500
Zmira Lovejoy, Spiritual Leader
pnaiorpdx.org

Shaarie Torah (Conservative)

920 NW 25th Ave Portland, OR 97210
503.226.6131
Rabbi Gary Ezra Oren
shaarietorah.org

Congregation Shir Tikvah (Independent)

2420 NE Sandy Blvd.
Portland, OR 97232
503.473.8227
Rabbi Elizabeth Goldstein
shirtikvahpdx.org

OTHER RELATED ORGANIZATIONS

Nehamah:

Jewish Chaplain Services
503.877.6527
email: info@nehamah.org

Community Security Director

Jessica Anderson
503.892.7406
email: janderson@securecommunitynetwork.org

Oregon Board of Rabbis (OBR)

Introduction to Judaism Class
JoAnn Bezodis
email: joann@oregonboardofrabbis.org
971.248.5465
Rabbi Abby Cohen, Chair
oregonboardofrabbis.org

Jewish Burial Societies

Portland Chevra Kaddisha (Orthodox)
503.519.2454
shared.nasck.org/registered_chevros/portland_chevra.html

Chevra Kavod haMet

503.481.6716
chevrakavodhamet.org

Hesed Shel Emet

(Indigent Burial) - 360.600.2170
email: HesedShelEmetPDX@gmail.com



At a Glance – Jewish Calendar Sensitivity Guide

Calendar data pulled from <https://www.hebcal.com/holidays> will take you to HebCal's in depth pages.

For questions about holidays or any challenges with school/work conflicts
please contact the Jewish Federation of Greater Portland for support 503-245-6219

Shabbat

Shabbat begins on Friday night at sundown and ends at nightfall on Saturday (about 25 hours later) every single week. Traditionally observant households refrain from “work” and don’t use cars, electricity, etc.

Major holidays (Biblical in Origin):

Holidays begin at sundown on the first date specified and end at nightfall on the last date specified.

Dates in bold are *Yom Tov*, so they have similar obligations and restrictions to Shabbat in the sense that normal “work” is forbidden.

Holiday	Mood:	Considerations:	2025-2026	2026-2027	2027-2028
Rosh Hashana	Contemplative/Joyful	People likely to miss school/work Appropriate to send Greetings ahead of Holiday. – “Shanah Tovah”	Sep 22-24, 2025 M-W	Sep 11-13, 2026 F-S	Oct 1-3, 2027 F-SU
Yom Kippur	Repentant/Awe Fast Day	People likely to miss school/work Appropriate to send greetings ahead of holiday “May you be inscribed and sealed for a good year.”	Oct 1-2, 2025 W-Th	Sep 20-21, 2026 S-M	Oct 10-11, 2027 S-M
Sukkot	Joyful/Celebratory	People may miss school/work on BOLD dates.	Oct 6-8, 2025 Oct 9-13, 2025	Sep 25-27, 2026 Sep 28- Oct 2 2026	Oct 15-17, 2027 Oct 18-22, 2027
Shmini Atzeret	Joyful	People may miss school/work on BOLD dates.	Oct 13-14, 2025	Oct 2-3, 2026	Oct 22-23, 2027
Simchat Torah	Joyful	People may miss school/work on BOLD dates.	Oct 14-15, 2025	Oct 3-4, 2026	Oct 23-24, 2027
Pesach/Passover	Joyful (Stressful for many leading up to the holiday due to significant preparation needs.)	People may miss school/work on BOLD dates. Kosher rules on Passover are significantly more restrictive.	Apr 1-3, 2026 Apr 4-7, 2026 Apr 7-9, 2026	Apr 21-23, 2027 Apr 24-27, 2027 April 27-29, 2027	Apr 10-12, 2028 Apr 13-16, 2028 April 16-18, 2028
Shavuot	Joyful	People may miss school/work on BOLD dates.	May 21-23, 2026	June 10-12, 2027	May 30-June 1, 2028

Minor holidays (“Rabbinic” in Origin):

Holiday	Mood:	Considerations:	2025-2026	2026-2027	2027-2028
Tu B'Shvat	Joyful	New Year of the Trees	Feb 1-2, 2025	Jan 22-23, 2026	Feb 11-12, 2028
Purim	Joyful		Mar 2-3, 2026	Mar 22-23, 2027	Mar 11-12, 2028
Chanukah	Joyful	Candles lit in evening for 8 nights	Dec 14-Dec 22 2025	Dec 4-12 2026	Dec 24-Jan 1 2027/2028

Modern Israeli holidays (observed by Jews in the US, too):

Holiday	Mood:	Considerations:	2025-2026	2026-2027	2027-2028
Yom HaShoah	Sad/Mournful	Holocaust Remembrance Day	Apr 13-14, 2026	May 3-4, 2027	April 23-24, 2028
Yom HaZikaron	Sad/Mournful	Israeli Memorial Day	Apr 20-21, 2026	May 10-11, 2027	April 30-May 1, 2028
Yom HaAtzma'ut	Joyful/Prideful	Israeli Independence Day	Apr 21-22, 2026	May 11-12, 2027	May 1-2, 2028



Jewish Federation
of Greater Portland

HIGH HOLIDAY RESOURCES 2025



Jewish Federation
of Greater Portland
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jewishportland.org/highholidayhappenings

Community New Year's Greetings

As Rosh Hashanah approaches, we take this opportunity to reflect on this past year and dream about the future we wish to create. It is a time for meaningful growth and renewal and reinforces our commitment to strengthening our Jewish community. Rosh Hashanah encourages a hopeful outlook, highlighting that every challenge is an opportunity for positive change, forgiveness, and a fresh start. On behalf of the Jewish Federation of Greater Portland, we look forward to a year where the “Joys” far outweigh the “Oys.” Wishing you and your family a sweet, healthy, and prosperous 5786!

- Marc N. Blattner, President and CEO, Jewish Federation of Greater Portland

Wishing the whole community a year of health, happiness, and peace. It's more important than ever for us to come together as a community to listen and to offer mutual support and comfort. Together, we'll meet the challenges of these times and through *tikkun olam*, ensure that our world reflects the values that we hold most dear. *L'shana Tova U'metuka!*

- Steve Albert, Executive Director, Portland Jewish Academy and Mittleman Jewish Community Center

This Jewish New Year comes at time of great uncertainty for the Jewish people, here and abroad. Questions and anxiety fill our hearts and many wonder what the future holds. In truth, this has always been true – we are a people who worry about the future and our place in it. Our history has forged us to always worry about our survival. And yet, Rosh Hashanah is celebrated with joy! We enter the new year seeking community and renewal. Our history has also taught us that with creativity and hope we can forge the future we imagine. May 5786 be a year of peace and flourishing for us all.

- Rabbi Michael Z. Cahana, Congregation Beth Israel

The clergy and lay leaders of Congregation Neveh Shalom warmly wish you a *Shanah Tovah*—a sweet and meaningful New Year. Whether the haunting melodies of the *machzor* stir your spirit, the inspiring words of our clergy guide your reflection, or the sweetness of apples dipped in honey brings joy, your presence weaves the sacred fabric of our community. Together we embrace inclusiveness, learning, innovation, and the power of connection. Enter this season with an open heart—ready to give and receive, to act and to listen. May these Days of Awe bring reflection, renewal, and blessing.

- Marlene Edenzon, Executive Director, Congregation Neveh Shalom

Every day in my home, we say, “It’s going to be a great day!” This catchphrase is a way to not only start the day positively, but also to teach our children resilience through *Hakarat HaTov* (deep gratitude). This is the same lesson of resilience through gratitude that we teach to our BB Campers every summer. Today, I pass along to you this inspiration: May you be inscribed and sealed in the Book of Life for a year of health, happiness, peace, and a GREAT YEAR! Wishing you a *L'shanah tovah u'metukah*, a good, sweet, and outstanding year ahead.

- Michelle Koplan, CEO, BB360

On behalf of the Robison Foundation for Jewish Elders, we wish you a sweet and plentiful new year. May we continue to love, respect, and honor each other, drawing strength from our shared values and traditions. As we reflect on the past year and look with hope toward the future, may this season of renewal bring blessings of health, happiness, and peace to you and your loved ones. *L'shanah Tovah!*

- Sonia Marie Leikam, Executive Director, Robison Foundation for Jewish Elders

Shanah Tovah! As we welcome 5786, may this New Year bring sweetness, healing, and renewed hope for us all. The High Holy Days invite us to pause, reflect, and return to what matters most. I warmly invite you to join me and the Temple Beth Shalom community in Salem, Oregon for Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur services. Together we will pray, sing, and seek renewal in the company of one another. May this season of awe inspire us to live with compassion, gratitude, and courage.

- Rabbi Shanee B. Michaelson, Temple Beth Shalom

As we welcome Rosh Hashanah, we recognize that this past year has brought challenges for our community and our world. Yet, through difficulty, we have shown resilience—lifting one another, creating moments of joy, and holding fast to hope. As we enter this sacred season, we pause to reflect and open our hearts to the year unfolding before us. This is a time for renewal, for returning to our best selves, and for strengthening the ties of family, community, and faith. May this new year bring sweetness and blessing and may it be a year of health, connection, and peace—for our community, for Portland, for Israel, and for the world. *Shanah Tovah U'Metukah* – a good and sweet year to all

- Rabbi Gary Oren, Congregation Shaarie Torah.

As we welcome this new year together, may we embrace the spirit of *na'aseh v'nishma*—acting and learning hand in hand. Our tradition teaches us that wisdom grows not only from study, but from the choices we make, the kindness we extend, and the commitments we uphold. Each mitzvah, each word of care, each act of justice becomes both a lesson and a blessing. May this year bring us the courage to act with purpose, the humility to listen deeply, and the joy of discovering holiness in our shared journey. *Shanah Tovah U'metukah*—A sweet new year!

- Rabbi Eve Posen, Congregation Neveh Shalom

Shana Tova, Portland! Imagine if over these High Holidays, we would listen and learn the divine wisdom for living our lives, deepen our connection with our Creator and our true purpose, and do acts of transformation to make the world the place it is meant to be. How rich and full of meaning our lives would be. How changed our world would become. May you and your loved ones be blessed with a year of both material and spiritual wealth.

- Rabbi Motti Wilhelm, Chabad of Southwest Portland

See **GREETINGS**, page 18

BEES (continued from page 7)

The Varroa Mite, which aptly bears the Latin name *Varroa destructor*, is a parasite which transmits a number of viruses to bees and can, unchecked, destroy a colony within a couple years.

If the bees get too crowded in their boxes, they'll create another queen, who will take half the colony and look for a new home in a process called "swarming." The most obvious sign of this is huge clumps of bees on fence posts, tree limbs and, occasionally, car fenders.

"They're very docile. They're not likely to sting at all during that time. That's why on Instagram you'll see people pick them up by the handful," Anderson said. "As a beekeeper, there should be that sense of responsibility to try to prevent your hives from swarming,

because every time there's a clump of bees in the tree, they might be going into someone's chimney. It's just not a neighborly event to have happen."

The season of maximum activity for bees begins when blackberries start to bloom – Anderson explained that blackberry flowers are the number one source of nectar for bee colonies in the Portland area – and starts winding down after the summer solstice, when the days begin to shorten. Monitoring conditions, mites and honey stores heading into winter requires year-round regular attention.

"It's not just putting bees in the box and collecting the honey," Anderson said. "It requires constant attention. It's the kind of thing where you can try to plan around your life, but the reality is

sometimes, when your bees need something, you've got to be there to do it."

There's also the matter of ensuring that bee boxes don't force out native pollinators, but research from the Honey Bee Lab at Oregon State University has shown that with the Portland area's abundance of vegetation, there's plenty of space and nectar for native and human-managed bees.

"We are not competing with native pollinators here in the Portland area and so we can both enjoy the fact that we're sending pollinators out there and enjoy the products," Anderson said.

Those products include wax, which can be made into candles, bee pollen and a resin-like substance known as "bee glue."

Of course, there's also the

honey. Anderson brings some of the honey from her hives to the Federation board meeting before the High Holy Days each year to dip apples in, connecting her hobby to her Jewish community each fall as the Jewish year winds up and her bees start to wind down.

If you find yourself interested in this kosher (but not vegan) food and the creatures that make it, Portland Urban Beekeepers has resources, classes and a club apiary in North Portland near Cathedral Park.

"We have an apiary where you could come out and spend time in a bee yard in order to get a better sense of the time and attention and resources that it requires," Anderson said.

To learn more, visit portlandurbanbeekeepers.org.

HOLY DAYS (continued from page 7)

er for a break-the-fast meal.

Sukkot

This seven-day festival (eight days in the Diaspora for non-Reform congregations) is a celebration of the abundance with which God has blessed us. The sukkah is a temporary dwelling covered with leafy branches and decorated with fruits and vegetables, symbols of the harvest. We are encouraged to eat our meals in the sukkah throughout the festival. The sukkah is a reminder of the temporary dwellings our ancestors in ancient Israel used to live in the fields during the harvest. It also reminds us of the booths in

which the Children of Israel dwelled during their wanderings in the desert after the exodus from slavery in Egypt.

Shemini Atzeret/Simchat Torah

The days immediately following the end of Sukkot are the semi-independent holidays Shemini Atzeret and Simchat Torah. Shemini Atzeret and Simchat Torah formally end the season of the High Holy Days. Simchat Torah is also the day on which we celebrate the renewal of the annual cycle of Torah readings. We read the final verses of Deuteronomy, then immediately

recommence the cycle by reading the opening verses of Genesis.

Resources

The Jewish Federation of Greater Portland has curated a webpage jam-packed with resources to help you celebrate and observe this year's High Holy Days. The page, jewishportland.org/highholydayshappenings, features links to several resources including the High Holy Days Community Calendar, which includes High Holy Day services, classes and programs presented by congregations and Jewish organizations in Oregon and Southwest Washington.

Many congregations require tickets or pre-registration for events and services this season, and some also have new security requirements. Please contact event organizers directly with questions ahead of any events you are looking to attend.

The Federation's High Holy Day resource page also features links for holiday recipes and activities for families with young children, DIY Yom Kippur and Sukkot resources and projects, online resources, and general information about Rosh Hashanah, Yom Kippur and Sukkot.



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

CAMPAIGN (continued from page 1)

was just very difficult to get to the end.”

That end is a new beginning. And with former Campaign Co-Chair Leslie Beard now chairing the Federation’s board, it is a new leadership opportunity for Rich Meyer, previously chair of the Federation’s Allocations Committee, who joins Jack Birnbach as Co-Chairs of this year’s campaign.

“Rich and I have been working together on both the board and on allocations for years and he’s a great guy, a great human being,” Birnbach said.

Meyer was out of the country and unable to speak to *The Jewish Review* before press time. Like Beard, Birnbach, and Immediate Past Chair Mindy Zeitzer, Meyer has made the transition from working on allocations to the campaign.

“It’s really, really valuable for anyone who is really deeply involved in federation to understand what it means to raise the money as well as what it means to give out and distribute the money and work with the agencies,” Kahn said.

Meyer and Birnbach will be joined by a Campaign Cabinet of Dana Bacharach, Beard, Elise Brickner Schulz, Steven Kahn, Alan Bacharach, Jeffrey Robinson, Kim Rosenberg, Mark Zeitzer, Jess Hilbert and Simon Gottheiner.

The preparation for the coming campaign began last month with a day-long training program for the cabinet, the rest of the volunteer solicitation team, the members of the Federation’s board and the Federation’s professional staff led by Leslie Pomerantz, Executive Director of the Jewish Federations of North America’s

Fundraising Institute, and Becka Ross, the institute’s Assistant Director. The visit was a bit of a homecoming for Ross, who began her career in Jewish communal work at JFGP in 2008.

It was a long day of training, Birnbach said, but “what made it easy to go through is that they knew what they were doing, and they had us engage and practice and brainstorm so that when we got to our donors, we would be effective with their time.”

Two of the most effective uses of donor time are JFGP’s campaign events this year. The first, Impact, is scheduled for Wednesday, Oct. 22 at 5:30 pm at the Mittleman Jewish Community Center. This women’s only event will feature Lindsay Gottlieb, the head women’s basketball coach at the University of Southern California in Los Angeles. Gottlieb was part of a history-making cadre as one of the four Jewish head coaches in the combined men’s and women’s Final Fours in 2025 – and the only woman in that number. She began her coaching career as a student assistant while she was still playing at Brown University and landed her first head coaching job at the University of California, Santa Barbara in 2008. In 2011 she began an eight-season stint as head coach at UC Berkeley, where she had previously been an assistant and associate head coach. Gottlieb compiled a 197-89 record, leading the Golden Bears to their first Final Four and six other NCAA tournament berths. After serving as an assistant for the NBA’s Cleveland Cavaliers, she moved to Los Angeles in 2021 and has led the Trojans to a Pac-12 Conference championship, a Big

Ten Conference regular-season championship and two Elite Eights in three NCAA tournament appearances.

“Women’s sports in particular are in an exciting place in Portland,” Kahn said, noting that Gottlieb’s appearance was secured just as the reincarnation of the Portland Fire WNBA team was launching its branding in advance of beginning play in the 2026 WNBA season. “There could not be a better moment to have a female coach come to Portland.”

Though Gottlieb has been a leader in Jewish spaces throughout her coaching career, having been inducted to the Jewish Sports Hall of Fame of Northern California in 2016, this will be her first appearance in front of a Federation audience.

“She is looking forward to being able to give to her Jewish community,” Kahn said of Gottlieb. “She’s super excited about this opportunity.”

The second JFGP campaign event this year is “Illuminate,” a dance party scheduled for Saturday, Nov. 15. With a theme for this year’s campaign of “From Oys to Joys,” a celebratory event seemed like the perfect note to JFGP’s planning team.

“We’re living with a lot of heaviness and there’s nothing in my mind, as somebody who loves to dance, better than going out and just being in community with some good music and dancing,” Kahn said. “Rather than just being spoken to, let’s hang and have fun and be together.”

It’s a similar idea to Comedy for Peace’s appearance in Portland last year after more than 12 months living in the aftermath of the Oct. 7 terror attacks. Another year later,

the need for Jewish community and Jewish joy is just as palpable.

“With the last two years of, we’ve had a lot of ‘oys,’ but I think that we’ve endured as a people over the centuries because of what we are, what we do, how we come together as a community,” Birnbach added.

That community – and the philanthropy that supports that community – is for everyone. Whitney Kagan is part of Portland’s chapter of the Ben Gurion Society. In its second year, Portland’s Ben Gurion Society recognizes young adults (ages 21-45) who are demonstrating philanthropic leadership in their community – debunking the idea that philanthropy is for those older than they are.

“The amazing part of the Ben Gurion Society is finding individuals who want to help but have that same misconception and bringing them into the fold early in a fun, engaging manner so that you know when we do get to that age, we’ve already formed these bonds,” she said.

Nationally, the Ben Gurion Society is open to young adults who contribute \$1,000 or more to their local annual campaign. Portland’s chapter has added giving levels – Tzedakah Trailblazers for those giving at least \$216 and Chai Bridge Builders for those donating \$540 or more.

“We want to build up leadership and make this accessible for all. That’s why we do this,” JFGP Associate Campaign and Engagement Director Laura Jeser said.

The Ben Gurion Society will also be hosting a number of events this year, including an exclusive after-party at

continued on next page

continued from previous page

Illuminate and the return of last year's Shabbat Around Town program. That event, which featured society members throughout the area hosting Shabbat dinners for fellow society members, was a rousing success – as was the society itself in its first year.

“We far surpassed our expectations last year of those that got involved, and I think that is because there's such a passion especially right now for young people to want to support and get involved and be with Jewish community,” Jeser said. “It's the calling and the need to support and be leaders in our community.”

For Kagan, it's not just about the fun events, its about the community she is working to build. After all the traditional trappings of a Jewish upbringing – youth group, religious school, even attending Yeshiva University – Kagan hit her post-college years and felt a gap in her Jewish community experience. Her involvement with the Ben Gurion Society has been a deeply meaningful way to bridge that gap and create Jewish community for herself and her peers.

“I'm very fortunate that I've done well for myself at a young age. And if I'm going to go in, I'm going to go all the way in. I want to get involved. I want to get people my age involved,” she said. “There's this conception of, ‘you have to be in your late

40s, you have to be over 50 to really be involved,’ and that's just not the case.”

Even for those who may be young-at-heart adults, the community and the engagement that comes with the annual campaign isn't just about raising money.

“Instead of calling up people and saying, ‘Can you give me money?’ I love to meet with them for coffee,” Birnbach said. “I love coffee and I get to find out what interests donors and what questions they have about what we do.”

“So many people will say, ‘put me down for what I did last year,’ and not take the conversation. I think there's unexpected joy in answering the phone and accepting the invitation for a cup of coffee or going out to lunch and connecting with somebody from the community,” Kahn said. “Somebody just like you is saying, ‘I want to hear what's important to you and share what's important to me, too. I want to connect on what's important, which is the sustainability of our Jewish community and ensuring that all that we love about Portland's Jewish community and world Jewry is here for us.’ That's why it's important to pick up the phone, that's why it's important that we talk and that we just maintain those conversations because if we don't talk, we don't have relationships and we don't have a community.”

Learn more at jewishportland.org/give.

jewishportland.org/subscribe

JNF events set for Sept. 16, Oct. 16

The Jewish Review staff

The Jewish National Fund is hosting a pair of upcoming events to connect attendees with Israel – one by air, one by taste.

Israel educator Elhanan Brown will lead the first of a four-part series of virtual tours of Israel on Tuesday, Sept. 16 at 7 pm via Zoom. The first of the series focuses on “Israel Old and New,” taking attendees from Jerusalem to Tel Aviv. This free event is sponsored by the Robison Foundation for Jewish Elders. RSVP by Sept. 12 to RSVPPacificNorthwest@jnf.org.

On Thursday, Oct. 16, join Lisa Schroeder of Mother's Café for Reimagining Culinary Education: Innovation, Sustainability and Global Impact. This dinner event will include an interview with Chef Lani Raider and a discussion of JNF's Galilee Culinary Institute. RSVP for this no-cover fundraiser to RSVPPacificNorthwest@jnf.org.

To learn more about either of these events, email JNF's Pacific Northwest Director Saul Korin at skorin@jnf.org.

First World Zionist Jewish Youth Congress applications now open

The Jewish Review staff

The World Zionist Jewish Youth Congress will meet in Basel, Switzerland, the site of the first Zionist Congress, Monday through Thursday Nov. 3-6, to establish a World Zionist Jewish Youth Council and formulate a vision and mission statement for World Zionist Jewish Youth.

The Congress is open to high school sophomores and juniors from around the world. Attendance is \$1,000 and covers transportation, accommodations, meals and all activities. To apply, visit <https://tinyurl.com/WZJYCAApp>.



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OJMCHE to host Langer, Stolowitz, Garloff Oct. 25

By AMELIA LUKAS

For the Oregon Jewish Museum and Center for Holocaust Education

On Saturday, Oct. 25, the Oregon Jewish Museum and Center for Holocaust Education (OJMCHE) hosts Jewish Eyes and Words on Berlin: A Conversation with Jason Langer and Andrea Stolowitz — a powerful dialogue confronting the intergenerational imprint of the Holocaust and the ways art can bear witness, heal, and inspire. The culminating program for one of two current exhibitions, Berlin: A Jewish Ode to the Metropolis, an evocative series of photographs by Jason Langer, this public conversation brings together two extraordinary artists whose lives and work are deeply intertwined with the legacy of Jewish identity, trauma, and resilience in the German capital. Photographer Jason Langer, whose moody, cinematic images of Berlin anchor the exhibition, joins Andrea Stolowitz, award-winning playwright and librettist, for a dialogue on memory, place, and artistic reckoning. Scholar Katja Garloff, Professor of German and Humanities at Reed College, will moderate the conversation, providing literary and cultural context.

Through photography and storytelling, Langer and Stolowitz confront Berlin as both an epicenter of Jewish loss and a site of personal and creative renewal. Their conversation will explore the intergenerational imprint of the Holocaust, the complexities of Jewish-German identity, and the ways in which art becomes both documentation and salve.

This event closes a powerful exhibition that reflects OJMCHE's mission to explore Jewish history, identity, and legacy through art, education, and dialogue. Visitors are encouraged to experience Berlin: A Jewish Ode to the Metropolis (on view through October 26) and/or listen to the audio drama of Stolowitz's play, The Berlin Diaries (provided upon registration) prior to the program. However, all are welcome, and advance preparation is not required to engage meaningfully in the conversation.

Langer, a Portland-based photographer, has exhibited internationally for more than three decades. Deeply influenced by

Buddhist philosophy, his work meditates on mortality, memory, and transcendence. Langer taught photography for the Academy of Art University (San Francisco) for more than a decade, and currently teaches for Santa Fe Workshops, Medium San Diego, and is a faculty member of Photo Phlo. Upcoming projects include Samsara: The Wheel of Life and Transcendence, which reflects the Buddhist cycle of birth, death, and rebirth following his father's passing in 2019.

Stolowitz is an internationally produced playwright and librettist and a dual US/German citizen (reclaimed from her Jewish ancestry). Andrea splits her time between New York, Portland, Berlin, and Ireland. As a three-time winner of the Oregon Book Award in drama, Andrea uses storytelling as the medium for deeper social understanding. Her plays have been developed and presented nationally and internationally at theaters such as The Long Wharf, The Old Globe, The Cherry Lane, and New York Stage and Film. The LA Times calls her work "heartbreaking," and the Orange County Register characterizes her approach as a "brave refusal to sugarcoat issues and tough decisions." Stolowitz is currently in her third year as playwright-in-residence at OJMCHE.

Garloff, the Moe and Izetta Tonkon Professor of German Studies, Jewish Studies, and Humanities at Reed College, is a leading scholar of German Jewish literature and culture. She is the author of Words from Abroad: Trauma and Displacement in Postwar German Jewish Writers (Wayne State University Press, 2005), Mixed Feelings: Tropes of Love in German Jewish Culture (Cornell University Press, 2016), and Making German Jewish Literature Anew: Authorship, Memory, and Place (Indiana University Press, 2022), as well as the co-editor of German Jewish Literature after 1990 (Camden House, 2018). She has won grants from the American Council of Learned Societies (ACLS) and the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD), and at Reed, she offers courses on modern German literature, German Jewish culture, film and media studies, and humanities.

Tickets are \$10, \$5 for OJMCHE members, and available online at ojmche.org.

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NEXT ISSUE

Issue date Deadline

OCT 1

SEPT 25

Security Corner

SCN's new Regional Threat Centers

By JESSICA ANDERSON

In mid-August, the Secure Community Network (SCN) announced an extensive expansion of the threat management and information-sharing capabilities for the Jewish community. Currently, SCN's analytical capabilities are enabled through a single location – Chicago, IL. When you report incidents to me, I feed that information to a cadre of analysts that sit in the Jewish Security Operations Command Center (JSOCC) at the SCN offices. They research the person or issue and provide me with the intelligence that I use to assess whether that thing is a threat. The system works well, though their workload is extremely heavy. A regional threat center system would mean analysts more attuned to the specific needs of the western and/or northwestern federations.

I've written previously about the efforts by SCN to ensure every Jewish community has access to security professionals, and that effort is essentially complete, while still expanding. The next step in the vision is the development of additional analytical components. SCN has achieved an initial step, the launch of the first two of eleven planned Regional Threat Centers. These hubs — located in Ohio and Florida — will be directly connected to SCN's national technology, data platforms, and analysts. SCN's Regional Threat Capability program has three goals:

1. Scale and share SCN's threat identification, data, and technology capa-



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.

bilities so that local Federations and partners plug in to continuously understand threats in their own communities;

2. Unify regional and national security resources, including Jewish Federation-based as well as other key partner security programs, to build efficient, coordinated regional threat management and information-sharing hubs; and

3. Eliminate "information islands" by creating one shared national database and Jewish Federations and organizations, partners, and law enforcement at every level.

The launch of the first two Regional Threat Centers marks a major enhancement of the Jewish community's threat-management and information-sharing network. Staffed by trained analysts, each Regional Threat Center links local capabilities and expertise to SCN's analytic capabilities to enable continuous and multi-directional sharing of threats from across the country.

In Ohio, SCN is partnering with the Ohio Threat Management Center, a consortium of eight Jewish Federations (representing

all the major cities in Ohio) working together to coordinate threat monitoring, protection, and response across the state. In Florida, the Regional Threat Center is being established across South Florida, in partnership with the Greater Miami Jewish Federation, the Jewish Federation of Broward County, the Jewish Federation of Palm Beach County, and the Jewish Federation of South Palm Beach County.

The Regional Threat Center model draws from the Fusion Centers developed by the U.S. Department of Justice, Federal Bureau of Investigation, and U.S. Department of Homeland Security after 9/11; a structure designed to break down silos, facilitate information sharing, and coordinate security activities across agencies and jurisdictions. By applying this proven approach to the Jewish community's security infrastructure, SCN and its partners ensure that information gathered at the local, regional, and national levels is centralized, analyzed, acted upon, and then shared across communities in real time. The Regional Threat Centers will also

See **SECURITY**, page 18

The Trump administration and history's erasure

By BOB HORENSTEIN

In his 1949 dystopian novel, “1984,” George Orwell’s protagonist, Winston Smith, works in the Records Department at the Ministry of Truth, the agency through which the ruling Party controls history, memory and “reality.” The Party’s ominous slogan proclaims, “Who controls the past controls the future. Who controls the present controls the past.”

“1984,” which drew parallels to the totalitarianism of the Soviet Union under Stalin, was Orwell’s stark warning about the danger of wide-scale denial and whitewashing of important historical facts to serve the interests of those in power. Control of the past can determine what is (or isn’t) taught in our schools, drive public opinion, and shape public policy, all of which are essential to control the future. In “1984,” “The past was erased, the erasure was forgotten, the lie became the truth.”

It may sound alarmist to compare the U.S. with Orwell’s fictional totalitarian state. Yet, there’s no hiding the fact that the Trump administration has taken unprecedented steps to rewrite our nation’s history, seeking to purge parts of the historical narrative that shine a light on America’s darkest periods. It’s imperative for Jewish organizations to join with the Black community to speak out in protest before it’s too late.

On Aug. 12, the White House announced it would conduct a comprehensive review of exhibits, including online content, at eight prominent Washington D.C.-based Smithsonian museums, which President Trump has denounced as “out of control” for focusing too much on “how bad slavery was.” The museums will be required to “celebrate American exceptionalism and remove divisive or partisan narratives.”

The announcement follows Trump’s late-March executive order, “Restoring Truth and Sanity to American History.” It reads, “Over the past decade, Americans have witnessed a concerted and

widespread effort to rewrite our nation’s history, replacing objective facts with a distorted narrative driven by ideology.” The irony of that claim should be lost on no one.

Noted historian Clarissa Myrick-Harris of Morehouse College, a historically Black campus in Atlanta, called the executive order “an attempt to deny that the institution of slavery even existed, or that Jim Crow laws, segregation, and racial violence against Black communities, families, and individuals ever occurred.”

Among the “objective facts” that have been “replaced” are Confederate statues. Thus, in August, the Trump administration revealed it is planning to restore two Confederate monuments that were removed in the wake of the George Floyd protests five years ago. One is a statue of Confederate General Albert Pike that stood near the White House until it was toppled by protesters.

The other, a monument ordered to be returned to Arlington National Cemetery by Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth, represents a sanitized depiction of slavery. A Latin inscription on the statue lauds the “noble Lost Cause,” a late 19th-century movement that portrayed the Southern states which seceded from the Union as heroic while minimizing the centrality of slavery as a cause of the Civil War.

Earlier in the year, Hegseth was busy purging, not restoring. He had a webpage honoring Jackie Robinson, the first Black man to play Major League Baseball, removed from the Defense Department website as part of an effort to purge diversity, equity, and inclusion content. The page recounted an incident in 1944 when Robinson was arrested for refusing to move to the back of an army bus. It was restored only after an outcry from civil rights advocates.

The attempted erasure of history should resonate strongly with the Jewish community. In the last two years,



Bob Horenstein is the Chief Community Relations and Public Affairs Officer for the Jewish Federation of Greater Portland.

we have witnessed the denial by Hamas sympathizers of the atrocities of Oct. 7 even when confronted with video footage shamelessly taken by the terrorists themselves.

Equally alarming, Holocaust denial and distortion have become increasingly prevalent both here and in parts of Europe, from gross minimization of the number of Jewish victims to efforts (e.g., in Poland and Hungary) to deny complicity in the Holocaust.

Given Trump’s war on history, it’s hardly a stretch to believe that a U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum exhibit describing the State Department’s callous and antisemitic indifference to the plight of Europe’s Jews — the antithesis of what Trump means by “American exceptionalism” — could end up on the to-purge list.

The administration would do well to learn from the example set by Germany. The Germans haven’t run from their shameful history. To the contrary, the Holocaust is taught extensively and memorialized throughout the country because they don’t want to repeat the sins of the past.

History should inform and inspire us. That we are willing to reconcile ourselves with the darker periods of our past is what makes America exceptional. If, by contrast, Trump’s Orwellian revisionist history is allowed to advance unimpeded, the lie will become the truth, and our fragile democracy will be history.

A version of this article originally appeared in Jerusalem Report magazine

Jobs Board

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GREETINGS

(continued from page 11)

The coming Days of Awe are also days of reflection. Just as I have in each of the past two years, I am taking this opportunity to reflect on the immense gratitude I have to be where I am, covering this beautiful, vibrant, fascinating community every day. Through highs and lows, you've opened your hearts and worlds to me and reaffirmed my belief in the spirit of community, the value of journalism and the power that comes from bringing those two together. I look forward to chronicling the abounding sweetness of 5786 in these pages. *Shanah Tovah* to you and yours.

- Rockne Roll, Editor,
The Jewish Review.

SECURITY

(continued from page 16)

strengthen coordination with local, state, and regionally located law enforcement and public safety partners.

SCN plans to partner with Federations, key partners, and donors to open nine additional Regional Threat Centers. The Regional Threat Centers will be strategically located to cover all major Jewish population centers in the U.S. and to make it easy for organizations to join the network. So stay tuned! We will soon have a Pacific Northwest- or Western-focused analytical center supporting us.

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