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Gottlieb shines at Impact women's event

By ROCKNE ROLL

The Jewish Review

Basketball is not always thought of as a particularly Jewish sport. Dolph Schayes, likely the best Jewish basketball player in history, is not remembered in the same way as Sandy Koufax or Hank Greenberg. But looking more closely, there's something there.

"The idea of coaching a basketball team... what we're really doing is building a cohesive unit that can do more together than any of any of them could do on their own," Lindsay Gottlieb, head women's basketball coach at the University of Southern California and guest of honor at the Jewish Federation of Greater Portland's Impact event Wednesday, Oct. 22, at the Mittleman Jewish Community Center said.

"That is so Jewish," Elana Hutter Davey, who conducted the on-stage Q-and-A, replied. "That's how we function."

The women's event served



Lindsay Gottlieb, head women's basketball coach at the University of Southern California, speaks at the Jewish Federation of Greater Portland's Impact event Wednesday, Oct. 22, at the Mittleman Jewish Community Center in Portland. (Andie Petkus Photography for The Jewish Review)

as an opportunity to celebrate Jewish women and Jewish community and to build up the latter as only the former can.

-

That celebration began in the evening's introduction as Beth Merrill was joined onstage by her mother, Faith Cookler.

"Throughout my life, my mother demonstrated what it

means to show up to lead and to give back," Merrill said of the woman who raised her and was standing next

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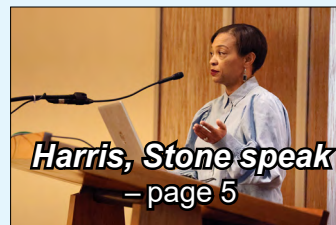
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The Jewish Review Podcast



Next episode Nov. 12

Potts tells harrowing, humorous story in pair of Portland shows

By ROCKNE ROLL

The Jewish Review

Phoebe Potts was a “professional Jew,” as she describes herself, long before she was professionally funny. But the comedian has been funny since long before she was professionally anything.

“I was raised by journalists and Jews,” the Brooklyn, N.Y.-native said, “so you had to tell a really good story at the dinner table if you wanted the warm sunshine of my parents’ love to fall on you. And I think being funny made you even more compelling.”

Her solo show, “Too Fat for China,” is the peak of a compelling story told humorously, and she’ll tell it twice in Portland this weekend – Saturday, Nov. 8 at the Eastside Jewish Commons at 7:30 pm and Sunday, Nov. 9 at Congregation Neveh Shalom at 4 pm.

“Too Fat for China” follows the story of Potts’ two efforts to adopt a child – the first was unsuccessful, the second resulted in her adopting her son from Ethiopia. She addresses the murky world of adoption, the complications and absurdities that came with the process and, as she puts it, “the terrible things I did for love along the way.”

The professional part of Potts’ Judaism was teaching religious school to middle school-age students at a synagogue – the toughest of audiences. As part of this work, she completed the Mandel Teacher Educator Institute program and met Mel Berwin, Neveh Shalom’s Director of Congregational Learning, who saw and loved “Too Fat for China” at Mandel’s Graduate Conference and arranged for her to come to Portland. There is also a deep connection, Potts said, between her Judaism and her humor.

“I think [humor] is part of our tra-



Comedian Phoebe Potts will perform a pair of shows in Portland this weekend; Saturday, Nov. 8, at the Eastside Jewish Commons and Sunday, Nov. 9, at Congregation Neveh Shalom. (Jason Grow)

dition as Jews, because if you don’t laugh, you’ll cry,” she said.

Her first work of humor was the 2010 graphic novel, “Good Eggs,” about her experience with infertility. “Too Fat for China” is something of a sequel and maintains a graphic element to its presentation in the form of a hand-cranked display board that rotates through a series of illustrations throughout the show.

“I bring my comics with me on a six-foot wide newsreel, so I scroll through my comics as I’m telling the story,” she said. “Imagine a sideways Torah, but with pictures.”

The Torah – the real one – comes into the story as Potts discusses the stories of Judaism foundational period, of the adoption of Moses and the ancient Jewish connections to Ethiopia, her son’s homeland. Like the actual experience of her adoption, these stories can be complicated.

“There’s no clear path in the Torah,” she said. “That’s part of what has kept us together, that we keep talking about it, we keep reading it together.”

After all, stories are how families are formed, whether it is the overarching family that is the Jewish people or the small family Potts has created – the hard way.

“The delightful challenge for me is to make it into something funny and beautiful to look at,” Potts said.

Mission accomplished.

Tickets for the Saturday performance of “Too Fat for China” are \$25 and are available at events.humanitix.com/comedy-phoebe-potts-too-fat-for-china/tickets. Pott’s Sunday show tickets are \$20, \$15 for Neveh Shalom members, and are available at members.nevehshalom.org/event/TFFC25.

Learn more about Potts and her work at toofatforchina.com.



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Blank, Winkler join JFNA Young Leadership Cabinet

By **ROCKNE ROLL**

The Jewish Review

Developing future leaders has always been a key part of building Jewish community. This year, two Portland 30-somethings have stepped up to be part of that leadership future in a big way.

Jacob Winkler and Zach Blank have both joined this year's cohort of the Jewish Federations of North America's National Young Leadership Cabinet. They are embarking on a five-year program of networking and leadership development activities along with just over 100 of their peers from around the country.

Winkler and Blank share some commonalities – they both grew up at Congregation Beth Israel; they both were less engaged in their 20s and having kids of their own has been part of what refocused them on building – and leading – Jewish community.

"Jewish identity and flourishing of Jewish communities here and everywhere around the world, it is important to me," Winkler said. "My dad was very active in the Jewish community. He passed away in 2022; that and the aftermath of Oct. 7 and the world's response to it made me want to get more involved."

Winkler learned about the program from friends living elsewhere – he told Blank about it in a conversation outside the religious school classroom their kids shared.

"I remember seeing the printed *Jewish Review* on my dad's desk constantly," Blank recalled. "I'm motivated and inspired to be a part of the next generation of Jewish life in Portland, and how all of these organizations interact and thrive with one another."

That journey started in Denver at a four-day retreat with fellow incoming cabinet members, getting the run-down on all that Federations do and how to engage with them. It was not a dry marathon of PowerPoint presentations, Winkler said, but a personal, engaging process.

"It was a lot of people sharing personal narratives, the impact of their donations," he explained. "A lot of stimulating dialog around the challenges that Jewish communities are facing today."

"I can't underscore enough how wonderful it was to get together in a group of people with shared values, and that's what the Jewish community does; our life is grounded in Torah, and there's certain values there, and we all share them," Blank added. "This is how I felt with 500 other people, and I had not been in a room like that in decades."

While the main organized activity of the cabinet are its annual retreats – this will include a visit to Israel along the way – the informal connections are a huge part of the cabinet program's payoff. Subgroups form based on shared interest and connections

"It is hard making and maintaining friendships as young, busy, professional parents," Blank pointed out. "And this is an organization where it's just like, 'These are my friends. This is refreshing. I want more of this.' In prepa-

See **CABINET**, page 6

JCRC, Archdiocese mark 60 years of Nostra Aetate

By **BECCA WEINBERG**

For The Jewish Review

A dimly lit room inside the Archdiocese of Portland Pastoral Center drew focus to two leadership figures with vastly different backgrounds on the surface yet continuously united over their shared beliefs.

The Jewish Community Relations Council and the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Portland hosted Rabbi Joshua Stanton and Deacon Scott Pearhill on Sunday, Nov. 2 in an event marking the 60th anniversary of the Catholic Church's publication of *Nostra Aetate*.

Known as a major turning point in Jewish-Catholic relations, *Nostra Aetate* is a 1965 declaration by the Second Vatican Council that fostered a uniquely open dialogue between the Catholic Church and other religions, with a special focus on its relationship with the Jewish people. The document absolved the Jews for the killing of Jesus, spoke out against centuries of antisemitism, and highlighted shared heritage and beliefs.

Rabbi Stanton, the Associate Vice President of Interfaith initiatives for the Jewish Federations of North America, joined Deacon Pearhill, the Associate Professor of Pastoral Theology and Homiletics at Mount Angel Seminary, for an open dialogue on the 60th anniversary of *Nostra Aetate*.

Highlighted first in the initial background of the document by Deacon Pearhill was Jules Isaac, a Jewish French Historian who is widely credited for the ideas present in *Nostra Aetate*. Isaac fought against the Christian teachings of contempt by

pressuring Pope John XXIII in the late 1800s to repair the Catholic Church's relations with the Jews. Isaac's book, "Jesus and Israel," was published in 1971 and sought to break Christians out of a mindset that saw anti-Judaism in Christian scriptures, which he argued was not foundational to Christianity. Although *Nostra Aetate* was published just two years after Isaac's death in 1963, his work was the basis of the documents' enactment and its specific mentions of Judaism.

Rabbi Stanton continued the conversation with *Nostra Aetate*'s impacts on Jewish-Catholic relations today. Through his involvement on various committees and councils that provide an immediate and direct way for religious leaders around the world to be in touch, Stanton has seen the transformation of these religious relationships first-hand. Although this monumental declaration has since produced feelings of safety and acceptance, Rabbi Stanton also warned that a generational gap in views on *Nostra Aetate*, including those who grew up without a large population of Jews, might not know about the document or how to carry its values forward.

The event concluded with a question-and-answer portion, moderated by Congregation Beth Israel Senior Rabbi Michael Cahana. With a curious and attentive audience, questions for Rabbi Stanton and Deacon Pearhill flowed well past the event's allotted time.

With an ever-evolving relationship, even through the

See **NOSTRA**, page 6

Parent Advocacy Night covers process, gray areas

By ROCKNE ROLL

The Jewish Review

The Jewish Federation of Greater Portland hosted its latest K-12 Parent Advocacy Night Tuesday, Oct. 28, at Congregation Neveh Shalom because even if the volume of incidents in schools has diminished, the problem has not disappeared.

“So far this year, it has been a little bit quieter. Thank G-d. Hopefully it will continue that way,” Federation Chief Community Relations and Public Affairs Officer Bob Horenstein said. “But I don’t think these issues are going away anytime soon.”

One issue that was discussed was the problem of pinning down when something upsetting or even hateful crosses the line into actionable conduct and when it does not.

As Jenna Statfeld Harris, a staff attorney with the advocacy group Stand-WithUs explained, “Just because it’s awful doesn’t mean it’s unlawful.”

She said that when issues arise, it is important to start conversations respectfully, at the classroom level, if possible, and to not assume ill-intent. She gave an example of a leaflet from a pro-Palestinian school walkout that instructed participants to “not engage with Zionists” – administrators, not understanding how Zionism and Judaism in American actually intersect, did nothing.

“This happens a lot. Something bad happens in a classroom or on social media or in a school event, and it appears obvious to the parents or the students why the thing is bad. So, they go to the teacher or to the administration, and they say this thing was bad, and they assume that everyone knows why the thing is bad. Most of the time, that’s not the case,” she said. “Because we generally define Zionism in a much different way than folks who are anti-Israel define Zionism, we can’t assume that we’re having the same conversation.”

Because of that, issues need to be addressed by not focusing on perceived intent, but on impact to the student involved. It’s also important to document everything when looking at something problematic – including screenshots of social media posts. Resources like StandWithUs and the Federation can



Oregon Department of Education Civil Rights Support Specialist Jillian Stone speaks at the Jewish Federation of Greater Portland's K-12 Parent Advocacy Night Tuesday, Oct. 28 at Congregation Neveh Shalom in Portland. (Rockne Roll/The Jewish Review)

help figure out after the fact what is actionable and what can be done, but this process becomes much easier and more likely to succeed when what happened and how it affected students and their families can be substantiated.

Jillian Stone, a Civil Rights Support Specialist with the Oregon Department of Education, explained some of the avenues through which issues can be addressed – and how state law expects them to be addressed.

“In Oregon, we have an “Every Student Belongs” rule. This covers symbols of hate. Every school district is required to have a policy that outlines the symbols of hate such as the noose, the swastika, and the Confederate flag,” Stone said. “Bias incidents are covered in that rule. So, if bias incidents are occurring, if symbols of hate are present on school grounds, the school does need to respond.”

Bullying is not automatically something that falls under these rules, but when bullying touches on one of Oregon’s 10 statutorily defined protected classes – age, disability, national origin, race, color, marital status, religion, sex, sexual orientation and gender identity – that becomes discrimination and opens

the door for more significant action. These protected classes are broader than those covered in Federal civil rights legislation.

There is a formal complaint process to address these, but it starts at the local level – it can be complicated and there can be rigid timelines involved. When the process has been completed at the school district level and a parent is unsatisfied, or if the district ignores the complaint at any point in the process, ODE’s Civil Rights Unit can get involved.

“There are multi-step processes, and so we want you to pay attention to that, too. They can differ,” Stone said. “They are going to want you to kind of start with the person that you’re having a problem with; They’re going to want you to start locally, right, with that teacher, with that staff member, and then move up from there.”

Federation staff can help navigate this process and support families locally. If your family has issues with antisemitism in school of any kind, contact Horenstein at bob@jewishportland.org or Federation Director of Educational Initiatives and Associate Director of Community Relations Rachel Nelson at rachel@jewishportland.org.

Antisemitism support group begins Dec. 1

By **ROCKNE ROLL**
The Jewish Review

There have been plenty of stories of antisemitism on the rise in recent years – some of them on these pages. These stories often bring up unspoken questions about how to handle it and what is to be done about it.

Those often-unspoken questions will soon have a forum in Portland to be spoken.

“Jew Are Not Alone,” an antisemitism support group hosted by Jewish chaplaincy nonprofit Nehamah, will meet the first Monday of each month, beginning Monday, Dec. 1, at 6:30 pm at the Mittleman Jewish Community Center in Portland.

Rabbi Sarah Rensin, Nehama’s founder, explained the group was spawned by a conversation with her friend Marcus Burger,

“People were coming to him saying, ‘What, can we do?’” Rabbi Rensin relayed.

That question drove this group’s

unique format: Each meeting’s first hour will be a space to vent (in Rabbi Rensin’s words), to kvetch (in Burger’s, Rabbi Rensin said, using the Yiddish slang for complaining) and to hold space for one another and the challenges of the moment. The second hour will be devoted to presentations from groups and individuals who are taking action in the community to push back against antisemitism, whether that’s erasing antisemitic graffiti, documenting antisemitism on social media, or any number of other things. It is a model that can, hopefully, help alleviate some of the hopelessness that can stem from facing irrational hatred. It’s also an embodiment of the classic ideal of tikkun olam – repairing the world.

“I think one of the beautiful things about Judaism is that it is not faith-based, it’s action-based,” Rabbi Rensin said. “This is where we shine; we don’t just say, ‘G-d, make it so,’ or let other people figure it out. We say, ‘What can we do?’”

The program is co-sponsored by the MJCC, a site chosen both due to the center’s support and because of the security protocols maintained by the center. Snacks and beverages will be provided. Dealing with antisemitism is never a fun conversation, but it is one that Rabbi Rensin feels passionately about making sure can happen in a supportive, productive way.

“It was Marcus’s idea, but for me, I feel like if the community has an idea or a need, then it’s my job to make it happen,” she said, “because what do you need spiritual care more for than dealing with antisemitism in your own backyard?”

Burger also helped coin the group’s name – another way of pushing back at hatred with a little humor.

“Maybe a little tongue in cheek is nice, a little sense of humor is good,” Rabbi Rensin said. “I always say, laugh in the darkness.”

More information is available online at nehamah.org/our-services/-support-groups.

CABINET (continued from page 4)

ration for joining this group, we had calls with current members, and they said things like, ‘these are my best friends now, and they live in other cities, and we find ways to meet up.’”

“It’s a very meaningful way to connect with people,” Winkler said. “You can just get together with anybody in this program, in

any city; you can just get a message, ‘Hey, I’m going to be in Portland. Is anybody around who wants to get together?’ It’s just an incredibly welcoming and inclusive bunch.”

That welcoming feel and those connections across distance bode well for the Jewish future the cabinet is creating.

“Jewish life in North America is in crisis. Is that unique to now? No, probably not.

It always has some form of crisis throughout centuries,” Blank said. “What does the next generation look like? How do we connect with that next generation? How do we stay relevant? How do we make sure that we are a place that young people want to be a part of?”

These are questions that Winkler, Blank and 500 of their newest, closest friends are setting out to answer.

NOSTRA (continued from page 4)

60 years since Nostra Aetate, one of the clearest through-lines of the night was Jews’ and Catholics’ strength in unity.

Becca Weinberg is a recent graduate of the University of Oregon currently based

in Portland, and a staff writer for [Lookout Landing](#) and [Circling Seattle Sports](#) covering the Seattle Mariners and Seattle Reign FC. Find more of her writing on her [portfolio website](#) or via [LinkedIn](#).

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SCAN FOR DETAILS

Neveh Shalom's food pantry is (sadly) successful

By POLINA OLSEN

Special to The Jewish Review

When Jane O'Glasser volunteered at Congregation Neveh Shalom's annual Yom Kippur Food Drive, she had an idea. The former RN for the Multnomah County Health Dept saw many food-insecure congregants along with the expected Neighborhood House and Tikkun Olam groups. "People cried and thanked me," she says. "My daughter, Molly, said we should have a food pantry here all the time. I decided she was right." Today CNS operates a food pantry for its congregants and staff. The popularity has surprised many but not O'Glasser.

"What gets me," she says, "is nobody thinks of Jews as being poor. They think all Jews have big houses and are rich. Well, we have staff and congregants who are the working poor. Since opening last January, we've distributed 415 bags of food."

O'Glasser researched before suggesting the project to the CNS Board. "I was nervous, but the administration was so supportive. They asked what we needed right away," she says. "Southwest Portland is a food pantry desert. We have Neighborhood House, but the hours are difficult and parking is horrible. This is about knowing our congregation cares and having a place people feel comfortable."

The number of shoppers varies during the month as benefits like SNAP run out. The food bank opens Mondays and Thursdays from 9:30 to noon and sees four to eight shoppers per day. "If the hours don't work, people can make an appointment," O'Glasser says. "We have lots of single moms and elderly women. At first people were reluctant to come, but we assured them that we respect privacy. I tell them it is totally confidential. You cannot talk about who you see, and we never ask their names. Shoppers are welcome to come once-a-week and take one bag of groceries for each family member."

The food pantry has always been a group effort, and O'Glasser relies on volunteers. Their online signup form breaks slots down to 1 ½ hours per



Jane O'Glasser at Congregation Neveh Shalom's food pantry. (Polina Olson/Special to The Jewish Review)

week. Large bins in the courtyard hold food donations. In addition, some congregants donate cash.

"We need canned fruits, condiments, beans, tomato sauce, and kid-friendly cereal, as well as quick-prep dinner items like pasta, tuna, or canned chicken," she says. Dave's Killer Bread donates each week. Unfortunately, they also get expired food donations, which neither CNS nor the Neighborhood House accept.

This year the pantry will collect specific items from groups within CNS, for example, the preschool will bring canned fruit every Friday. They would love to see a group regularly bringing canned tuna.

Jackie Lesch volunteers at the pantry. "I have two passions, children in need and people who are hungry," she says. "The gratitude of our shoppers keeps me coming back. 'One person asked to take an extra bag for someone who was struggling. I said, 'of course.' Even as a recipient, she was thinking of someone else.'"

O'Glasser agrees. She remembers a shopper whose paycheck was swallowed by needed car tires. She sees the need increasing as SNAP benefits fall and health

insurance costs rise. "They can either pay for the premiums or eat," she says.

O'Glasser hopes to expand the pantry's reach while maintaining Neveh Shalom's security concerns. "We approached Jewish Family and Child Services," she says. "The CNS food pantry will start with supporting 15 elderly JFCS clients. We will provide a shopping list of available items in English and Russian. CNS volunteers will shop while JFCS volunteers will deliver the food to their door in time for Shabbos. We have added beets, some grains, and sauerkraut to our regular inventory."

O'Glasser believes every congregation should have a food pantry. "With all the sadness and disruption, this is a glimmer of hope," she says. It is about making donations part of every congregant's routine. "Years ago, Rabbi Stampfer said whenever he shopped, he would get something to donate. It's *tikkun olam*, an act of kindness. I believe we can change the world."

Polina Olsen is the author of several books on Portland Jewish History and Portland in the 1960s. Learn more at http://amazon.com/author/polina_olsen.

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Spertus' Bell presents in Portland

Dr. Dean Bell, head of the The Spertus Center for Jewish Learning and Leadership presents on community building and community resilience at a Jewish professionals lunch-and-learn event Wednesday, Oct. 29 at Congregation Neveh Shalom. Hear Bell address these and other topics on an upcoming episode of The Jewish Review Podcast, available on all major podcast platforms. (Rockne Roll/The Jewish Review)

Insider gambling may have altered Avdija's career season

Editor's Note: This story originally appeared in the Forward. (<https://forward.com/news/sports/778342/deni-avdija-billups-nba-betting-scandal>) To get the Forward's free email newsletters delivered to your inbox, visit forward.com/newsletter-signup.

By LOUIS KEENE
The Forward

In a generally grim 2024-25 season for the Portland Trail Blazers, fifth-year Israeli swingman Deni Avdija was a bright spot, achieving career-high numbers in points, rebounds and assists.

But the arrest of Blazers head coach Chauncey Billups has people pointing to a suspicious pattern in Avdija's playing time — and wondering whether the fix was in.

Billups, 49, was one of 31 people arrested across 11 states Thursday in what the FBI says was a multimillion-dollar, Mafia-run illegal gambling and sports betting conspiracy. Also arrested was NBA player Terry Rozier, whom the FBI alleged faked an injury to make sure coordinated bets against his individual stats — that he wouldn't reach points or rebounds totals, for example — would pay out.

Billups, who was inducted to the NBA Hall of Fame as a player in 2024, is accused in a conspiracy that took place off the court, in which he allegedly participated in rigged poker games, serving as a celebrity “face” who would lure high-stakes bettors into the trap. Billups and the other players would know what cards were coming and eventually split the take, which could be in the

hundreds of thousands of dollars for a single game.

Billups' lawyer released a statement Thursday evening denying the allegations and saying he would fight the charges.

While the alleged poker games involving Billups occurred before he became the Blazers' coach, the indictment against Rozier does allege that Billups was involved. Prior to a March 24, 2023 game against Chicago, the FBI says Billups passed insider information to Eric Earnest, one of the alleged poker scheme organizers, that he planned to bench the Blazers' best players. Earnest then acted on this information, facilitating more than \$100,000 in bets against the team.

The indictment does not say whether Billups profited directly from sharing the information, and he was not charged in the Rozier indictment. But after Billups' arrest, other stories started coming out about odd coaching decisions he made more recently relating to Avdija, the league's longest-tenured active Jewish player, who joined the Blazers in summer 2024.

In a Jan. 30 social media post that went viral after it resurfaced Thursday, X user @FtbiRocco wrote, “If Terry Rozier is being investigated, Chauncey Billups needs to be as well.” (The NBA had announced that day it was investigating Rozier for suspicious sports betting activity on his games.)

@FtbiRocco's suspicion stemmed from Billups' rotations. In five of Avdija's six previous games up to that day,

Avdija had played 35, 39, 34, 38 and 38 minutes. In the other, a Jan. 23 game against Orlando, he played only 26 minutes — without any injury or foul trouble. The same thing happened against the Magic a week later: He played only 25 minutes. “Billups clearly deciding to bet the under on him vs. Orlando,” the account posted Jan. 30 on X.

The evidence is hardly ironclad: Avdija also played only 22 minutes the next game, against Phoenix. But @FtbiRocco wasn't the only account asking questions about Billups.

Following the arrest, another account said it had noticed “large liquidity spikes” in bets related to Avdija, Donovan Clingan, and other Blazers players. A liquidity spike is a sign of increased action — more money being placed — on a particular betting line.

If the FBI was investigating Billups for this, it didn't find enough to charge him. But one has to wonder whether Avdija's career year might have been even better without these odd fluctuations.

The Trail Blazers put Billups on leave Thursday and said the franchise was cooperating with the FBI's investigation. Meanwhile, in the Blazers' opening game of the 2025-26 season on Wednesday — a loss to Minnesota — Avdija picked up where he left off: 20 points and 7 rebounds in 33 minutes.

Louis Keene is a reporter for the Forward. His work has also been published in The New York Times, New York magazine and Vice. He is based in Los Angeles.

JFGP staff find connection at Eradicate Hate

By ROCKNE ROLL
The Jewish Review

Hate isn't just a local issue, and it isn't just a Jewish issue. Local Jewish communities are often at the forefront of combatting it.

That's true here in Portland and it's true in Pittsburgh, where Bob Horenstein and Rachel Nelson from the Jewish Federation of Greater Portland attended the Eradicating Hate Summit in September. This was the fifth year of the global event, born in the aftermath of the Tree of Life synagogue shooting. Nearly 500 professionals from around the world attended the three-day conference to discuss issues, solutions and successes in combatting hate – as well as an accompanying day-long event for 450 Pittsburgh-area students.

Nelson explained the scope of the problem: the number of violent threats reported online has increased 18 percent in the last year.

"You can look at hate crime data as an indicator of the health of our democracy,"



Pennsylvania Gov. Josh Shapiro speaks at the 2025 Eradicate Hate Summit Tuesday, Sept. 16, in Pittsburgh, Penn. (Rachel Nelson/The Jewish Review)

Nelson said. "The more hate crimes there are, the less healthy our democracy is."

Attendees learned about some of the ways these threats – and actions – foment, including a group called 764, originally founded in Texas by a minor.

"They are preying on vulnerable kids and getting them to either self-harm or to harm others, abusing animals, harming friends or even family members, including parents. It's really sickening," Horenstein said. "It's just another sort of

radicalization that's taking place, but these are kids who are clearly very lost. There's this big mental health component."

They heard from Pennsylvania Gov. Josh Shapiro – the victim of a politically-motivated arson earlier this year – and others, including a 50-year-old man who nearly became a school shooter, save for the intervention of one friend.

"Every opportunity growing up, he basically fell through the cracks of social service agencies," Nelson said. "He was from an abusive, drug-using household."

A social worker got his parents involved after he was found to be self-harming – his mother called his behavior attention-seeking and, on their way home, offered to buy the razor blades for him next time. By his 19th birthday, he had made plans to either attack a mall food court or a school, planning to be killed by law enforcement, and was in the process of

acquiring a firearm. He had been staying occasionally with his one friend, who he visited to say goodbye.

"This kid, who was 17, surprised him with a birthday party with several kids, and something flipped at him," Horenstein recounted. "Someone saw him as a human being, and he started feeling ashamed of what he was thinking of doing, and he got his life together."

Another session Horenstein attended discussed the threat of young people engaging with artificial-intelligence powered chatbots and how these tools can drive them to harm themselves or others.

"[AI] removes these traditional friction points where someone can intervene if radicalization is happening," Horenstein said. "If you get sucked into it, there's no outside intervention, and that's very concerning."

The pair attended thanks to a federal grant through the Washington County District Attorney's Office and made valuable connections to peers around the country – and the world – who are doing similar work. There's already discussion of taking a larger, interfaith contingent of Portlanders to the event next year.

"I took so many cards of people to just continue these conversations," Nelson said, "To be able to be part of a national and international network of people who are responding to this and who care about this and who want to see change in our world is really powerful."

A promotional graphic for a Hanukkah Webinar. It features a close-up of lit Hanukkah candles in a metal menorah. The text is overlaid on the image. At the top is the Jewish Federation of Greater Portland logo. Below it, the title "Hanukkah Webinar" is in large white letters, followed by "Themes, Moods, and Practices" in smaller white letters. The date and time "Wednesday, Dec. 10 8-9 PM" are prominently displayed. A QR code is located in the bottom right corner. At the very bottom, it says "With Dr. Yosef Rosen, Director of Jewish Life & Learning Jewish Federation of Greater Portland".

 Jewish Federation
of Greater Portland

Hanukkah Webinar

Themes, Moods, and Practices

Wednesday, Dec. 10
8-9 PM



With Dr. Yosef Rosen, Director of Jewish Life & Learning
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IMPACT (continued from page 1)

to her, “taking leadership positions in my Jewish Day School, co-founding a Jewish High School, and leading the Anti-Defamation League on the local and national level.”

“I’m especially proud of you Beth, first for being a terrific mother... and also for carrying on the family tradition of giving back through leadership, learning, love and philanthropy,” Cookler said. “When I see how you and Jonas are raising our grandchildren with Jewish values, traditions, activism and a strong connection to Israel, it gives me hope for the future.”

Merrill introduced Portland’s Israeli community shliacha (Israel emissary) as well as Eliana Yoken. A high school senior who’s involved with the Student to Student program through the Federation, Yoken spoke about the first time she encountered antisemitism in second grade.

“I was sitting at lunch with friends, when one girl said her mom was pulling her out of school because there was too many Jews,” she said. “I didn’t know how to respond. I just nodded, but inside, I felt confused and hurt. I didn’t understand why being Jewish made me too much, and honestly, I was eight years old; I shouldn’t have had to.”

She credits her participation in Student to Student for helping her step into her voice.

“I’ve learned how to share my story in a way that’s honest, educational and impactful. I’ve gained the confidence to speak about my experiences and the

pride to stand in my identity,” Yoken explained. “Now, in my second year, I mentor new participants and help them prepare to bring their stories into classrooms, too.”

-
Family is something that’s immensely important to Gottlieb. Before she was a wife and a mother, she said she felt like she “always had 15 children” in the form of her players. Now she has a husband and two children in addition to a roster’s worth of basketball players, but her commitment to each part of her life is as steadfast as the others. She’s managed this by bringing them together.

“When I was pregnant with our son, I remember saying to my team, ‘I still want to be that coach that is present. I still want to be that coach that’s in the office after practice when you just want to hang out. I just want to have a baby with me,’” Gottlieb recalled. “I think just growing up around the team is good. Then when we’re home, I hope they see just normal mom things, making pancakes together in the morning.”

Integrating the various passions of her life has been something Arielle Goranson has found a powerful way to do through the work of the Federation.

Goranson, the chair of Portland’s chapter of Dignity Grows, became a mother and a public health professional long before she started working with Dignity Grows.

“I wanted to feel connected to people, to the place I lived, to this community,”



she said. “So, I started to ask myself, ‘How can I bring my professional self and my personal self closer together?’”

The answer appeared in the form of an email about a Dignity Grows packing party – where volunteers load menstrual and basic hygiene supplies into tote bags to be distributed to those who need them most.

“Something about it clicked. This felt exactly like the kind of activity that I wanted to model for my kids. I emailed her to ask how I could help,” she said.

She quickly took on a leadership role – both locally and nationally, having

continued on next page



Clockwise from top: Arielle Goranson, chair of Portland’s Dignity Grows chapter, told the audience how her work with Federation lets her integrate all the facets of her identity. “It’s so neat to see Jewish women’s empowerment with a Portland flavor and flair. It’s unique,” Lindsay Gottlieb, right, told the audience. From left, Rebecca Otis-Remmo and Sofia Remmo present Remmo’s “She Shoots, We Score” fundraising *bat mitzvah* project. (Andie Petkus Photography for The Jewish Review)

continued from previous page

recently spoken at the National Summit on Period Poverty to highlight the work of Portland's Dignity Grows chapter.

"I found a way to bring my professional experience, my Jewish identity and my community life together. I've met incredible people, and I've built new friendships," Goranson continued. "This is the essence of the work that the Jewish Federation does in our community and around the world."

Later, Gottlieb spoke of learning leadership – and Jewish values – from her father.

"The way that he viewed and taught leadership was about empowering others and not trying to gain power. It was about lifting up the community and being part of the community," she said. "I think it was very rooted in social justice and building a life and legacy around how you impact others versus just pursuing your own individual ascension."

It's a trait that has served Gottlieb well in coaching – a journey that started her senior year in high school after a knee injury cost her a chance at playing her final prep season. Her school coach gave her a shirt which read "assistant coach" – she spent every game on the bench with her teammates the rest of the year, still a part of the group that meant so much to her.

"At that moment, I felt like I had a place. I felt like I was still included, and even though my heart was broken to not play, it was [my coach] saying, 'I see you. We're still going to take care of you,'" she said. "I literally call on that every single time I have a player with an injury, because in that moment, they need you to show up for them in so many different ways. That was a really great lesson for me as a young person."

Another young person, Sofia Remmo, had just been onstage to talk about her bat mitzvah project, "She Shoots, We Score."

"I created a GoFundMe, organized a day of basketball and a bake sale for young girls like me, and I'm so excited to share that thanks to the generosity of my family, friends and this community, we surpassed my goal and raised over \$2,000," Remmo said.

This led to opportunities for more young people, as Remmo sponsored a pair of tables for Next-Gen young

adults at the event.

Remmo introduced Impact chair Elana Hutter Davey who, later in the evening, circled back to what she thought was a particularly Jewish topic.

"Let's talk a little bit about resilience. You brought it up to me. It's the word when I think of Jewish community, we specialize in resilience," Hutter Davey said.

"I will say, more than what their jump shot looks like or what their transition defense looks like, the players I have that are most successful are the ones that can handle adversity better," Gottlieb said.

Hutter Davey also asked about building team culture. Gottlieb pointed to the mentality that her team is taking into the coming campaign, where they will be without superstar forward JuJu Watkins due to a knee injury, but also pointed to those who had spoken before her.

"I don't know that I'm going to give you better advice than what you have. The women who have spoken have just made me feel stronger and better in the hour that I've been here," she said. "You have the culture. It's so neat to see Jewish women's empowerment with a Portland flavor and flair. It's unique. You have it right, but the challenges are evolving. You're each evolving. So, I would say the formula, if there is one, is to lean on each other, to pour into the culture. Culture is something that's inherited. It's something that's evolving. You have to pour into it every day, pour into that culture, pour into one another. Believe in yourselves."



From top: Gottlieb and Elana Hutter Davey speak to a packed MJCC ballroom. Beth Merrill, left, and Faith Cookler open the proceedings. Young attendees light up the pop-a-shot booth. Eliana Yoken tells attendees about Federation's Student to Student Program. (Andie Petkus Photography for The Jewish Review)

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Security Corner

The national perspective

By JESSICA ANDERSON

I recently returned from the 2025 Homeland Security Summit, an annual meeting of community security directors across the US and Canada. We number almost 120 now, and 18 of them began after our 2024 conference. As I've said before, we're all connected throughout the year, but seeing each other in person helps all of us do our work better. When we're together, we share best practices, getting help on issues, and commiserating on things we'd love to see working better.

The three days of speakers highlighted a wide variety of topics. We heard an overview of the Secure Community Network's (SCN) Duty Desk and how they are managing the 3,000+ threat-to-life incidents and social media postings they triaged in the past year. Those numbers are staggering, and their workload is heavy. A high percentage of these threat actors will never take action, but it's impossible to know which ones will, so each requires law enforcement engagement and action. In addition to the FBI, the Duty Desk is linked to Fusion Centers across the US to help manage those threats when the perpetrators have been identified. I've written previously about how SCN will be embedding analysts into regional hubs to better serve incidents in their geographic proximity. I expect



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.

that ultimately, Oregon will be served by analysts in Salt Lake City or Denver. I believe having someone in our time zone, more tuned into Western issues and our specific people of interest, will make for a more integrated support system.

We heard overviews of the bias incidents in Washington, DC, San Antonio, and Boulder, CO. It's helpful to hear how Security Directors handled those issues, how they responded when they happened, worked with their communities to share the news, provided ongoing updates, and handled the aftermath.

We had great breakout sessions. These included Federation/City size groups meetings, where we discuss the unique aspects of security with similar sized communities. There were also sessions on new technologies (which I'll be sharing with all the organization leadership), and I presented on a session for new Security Directors.

I was also introduced to

the White Rose Society. The name "pays homage to the Weiße Rose (White Rose), a non-Jewish resistance group founded by students at the University of Munich in 1942...the Weiße Rose called on their fellow students and the German public to take action to decry Nazi crimes and resist the Nazi state." Today, the White Rose Society honors individuals who have demonstrated friendship and moral courage in their support for the Jewish Community. We attended a ceremony at the "The Temple" or Hebrew Benevolent Congregation in Atlanta (famed for the 1958 bombing of its sanctuary by white supremacists). It appears to be a national program, and I wondered if it was an effort that could be started here in Oregon.

It was a great week of improving professionally and connecting personally. This is the best part of getting together in person, and I'm again grateful you allow me the time away to attend.

NEXT ISSUE

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Upholding democracy during challenging times

BY BOB HORENSTEIN

To the extent that the Jewish community has thrived in the U.S., it has been because we live in a democratic, pluralistic society. However, our democratic norms and ideals are now under threat, and it's therefore imperative that the organized Jewish community speak out. That starts with us, the Federation and our Jewish Community Relations Council. The Trump administration has pursued certain policies and actions that should deeply concern all of us in the Jewish community—regardless of political party affiliation—even as we show our genuine appreciation for the administration's facilitation of a ceasefire in Gaza and return of the hostages. We can't afford to simply sit on the sidelines as our democracy is being slowly eroded. This democracy statement, approved without opposition at the JCRC's most recent meeting, will serve as a guideline for advocacy both within the Jewish community and in coordination with our partners in other faith and ethnic communities.

Preamble

Our security as Jews in America has always been tied to the rule of law, to the safety of minority communities, to the strength of civil society, and to the protection of civil rights and liberties for all. Historically, it is through strong democratic norms and institutions, some of which are now under assault, that the American Jewish community has been allowed to thrive.

Combating Antisemitism on University Campuses

The JCRC reaffirms our core commitment to protecting free speech and academic freedom and, at the same time, to combating antisemitism. A campus climate that values academic freedom can promote critical thinking and civil discourse, which are often the best antidote to hatred and discrimination.

Nonetheless, the scourge of antisemitism on college campuses requires urgent and consistent action by university leaders, including the enforcement of professional and student codes of conduct and time, place and manner restrictions for protests. In addition,

we believe that Title VI provides an important remedy for situations where a university has failed repeatedly to address persistent and pervasive antisemitic conduct, such as that involving intimidation and violence or threats of violence against Jewish and Zionist students, faculty and staff.

Sweeping draconian funding cuts, on the other hand, only serve to weaponize antisemitism and weaken the free academic inquiry that strengthens democracy and society, rather than productively countering antisemitism on campus. Strong educational institutions are essential to combat ignorance and prejudice generally, whereas authoritarian control of universities is too often a harbinger of the breakdown of democratic institutions.

Immigration/Deportations

The JCRC believes that due process is an essential component of our democracy. Undocumented immigrants who are convicted of criminal activity by a court of law should be deported in accordance with existing law. Similarly, individuals here on a student visa who have allegedly advocated for violence against Jews by glorifying terrorist groups should be provided due process, prosecuted under the law, and be subject to deportation if appropriate. However, summarily stripping international students of visas under the guise of fighting antisemitism could actually make Jews less safe in the long run because it undermines the rule of law.

The JCRC is deeply opposed to the heavy-handed (and potentially unconstitutional) tactics used by the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement Agency (ICE) that are spreading fear and panic among the immigrant community. These tactics, which have been challenged in court, include the impersonation of police officers and other deceptive tactics to gain warrantless entry into schools, businesses, houses of worship, and even people's homes.

The U.S. was founded and built by individuals who came here in search of religious and political freedom and economic opportunity. Moreover, the Jewish community has historically ap-



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

preciated the U.S. as a place of refuge from oppression. Recognizing the Torah's ethical imperative to "welcome the stranger," U.S. immigration policy should therefore institute uniform, compassionate, and humane protocols and criteria to process refugee and asylum claims so that those fleeing persecution and extreme economic hardship are protected.

Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI)

The JCRC believes the well-being of the Jewish community depends on an inclusive, pluralistic society. We reaffirm our support for DEI programs generally while also recognizing the significant need for reform as too often DEI professionals ignore or dismiss antisemitism as a serious issue. DEI aims to ensure fair treatment, resource allocation, and opportunities for individuals from historically underrepresented groups, addressing systemic barriers and removing disadvantages to create a level playing field for all.

Our JCRC opposes policies to terminate DEI offices, positions, and programs in the federal government and in organizations receiving federal funding. Rather, we seek to work closely with DEI departments in universities, schools, and other organizations to incorporate professional development training on antisemitism.

Historical Erasure

The JCRC opposes the president's March 2025 executive order to remove from national museums and federal properties certain historical exhibits, documents, portraits, and monuments that shine a light on our country's dark-

See **DEMOCRACY**, page 17

Nov. 6: CNS-ORA Art, Heart, and Soul Gelli-Print

Printmaking event at Congregation Neveh Shalom at 6:30 pm. \$25 members, \$32 non-members. Preregistration required at members.nevehshalom.org/event/AHSNov25.

Nov. 7: Mommy and Me!

Mother and child (0-2) meet up at The Gan Preschool at 9 am. \$5. RSVP to chaya@portlandjewishpreschool.com.

Nov. 8: Women's Torah Study

Weekly Torah study at Congregation Ahavath Achim Saturday mornings, 10:30 am. Free. More info at ahavathachimpdx.weebly.com/womens-torah-study.html.

Nov. 8: Sephardic Foundations

Weekly Sephardic history and philosophy class at Congregation Ahavath Achim Saturdays, 12:30 pm. More information at ahavathachimpdx.weebly.com/sephardic-foundations.html.

Nov. 8-9: Too Fat for China

See story, Page 2.

Nov. 9: Dignity Grows at Rose Schnitzer Manor

Menstrual hygiene supply tote packing party at Rose Schnitzer Manor at 10:30 am. Preregistration required at jewishportland.regfox.com/dignity-grows-november-92025.

Nov. 9: Without End Artist and Curator Talk

Exhibit discussion with Cara Levine and Yaelle Amir at the Oregon Jewish Museum and Center for Holocaust Education at 11 am.

For more information, visit ojmche.org/calendar.

Nov. 9: OJMCHE November Exhibition Openings

Opening reception with artists Steve Marcus and Cara Levine at the Oregon Jewish Museum and Center for Holocaust Education at 2 pm. For more information, visit ojmche.org/calendar.

Nov. 9: Jewish Community Orchestra Concert

Concert at the Mittleman Jewish Community Center at 3 pm. \$20, \$10 seniors, \$8 students. More information at jewishcommunityorchestra.org/wordpress.

Nov. 10: Israel360 presents Eye on the Media: The World's Obsession with Israel.

Talk with Gil Hoffman of Honest Reporting at Congregation Neveh Shalom at 7 pm. RSVP required at jewishportland.org/gilhoffman

Nov. 11: Peace, Politics and Propaganda

Talk with Gil Hoffman of Honest Reporting at the Eastside Jewish Commons at 7 pm. RSVP required at jewishportland.org/gilhoffman.

Nov. 11: Honoring our Protectors

Veteran's Day observance at Maayan Torah Day School at 12:30. More info at maayanpdx.org.

Nov. 11: Machon Ivrit Hebrew Class

Hebrew classes weekly at Congregation Neveh Shalom at 7 pm. More information at nevehshalom.org/machon-ivrit.

Nov. 12: Jewish Grandparents Net-

work Listening Session

Webinar listening session with incoming Jewish Grandparents Network (JGN) Executive Director Debra Weinberg at 11:45 am. Register for free at jewish-grandparentsnetwork.org/event/the-floor-is-yours-listening-session-with-jgns-new-executive-director-debra-s-weinberg.

Nov. 12: Game On! - Cards, tiles, and plenty of smiles

Senior social hour hosted by Jewish Family & Child Service at the Eastside Jewish Commons at 4 pm. Free. Preregistration required at jfc-portland.org/rsvp-game-on.

Nov. 12: Psychedelic Artist Talk

Artist talk with Steve Marcus at the Oregon Jewish Museum and Center for Holocaust Education at 6 pm. \$5. Tickets at ojmche.org/events/psychedelicatessen-a-powerful-dose-of-art-artist-talk.

Nov. 12: Portland Death Schmooze

Jewish death practice discussion hosted by JADE at the Eastside Jewish Commons at 6:30 pm. For more information, email rachel@jadeinfo.org.

Nov. 13: Oct. 7 Commemoration

Film Screenings and discussion at the Mittleman Jewish Community Center at 6 pm. For more information and to register, visit oregonjcc.org.

Nov. 13: The Jewish Spiritual Wisdom of Bob Dylan Teaching musical performance with Dr. Stephen Arnoff and Alicia Jo Rabins at the Eastside Jewish Commons at 8 pm. \$5. Tickets at

events.humanitix.com/the-jew-ish-spiritual-wisdom-of-bob-dylan-or-an-evening-of-music-and-conversation-with-dr-stephen-arnoff-and-special-guest-alicia-rabins.

Nov. 14-16: Jewish LGBTQ+ and Ally Teen Retreat

Shabbaton weekend hosted by Keshet. \$54. More information at keshetonline.org/shabbaton.

Nov. 14: Installation of Cantor Rayna Green

Cantorial installation at Congregation Beth Israel at 6 pm. More information at bethisrael-pdx.org.

Nov. 14: Denim and Diamonds Shabbat

Rabbinic installation Kabbalat Shabbat service at Congregation Neveh Shalom at 6:15 pm. RSVP at members.nevehshalom.org/form/installation.

Nov. 15: Senior Rabbinical Installation of Rabbi Eve Posen

Rabbinic installation Shabbat morning service at Congregation Neveh Shalom at 9:30 am. RSVP at members.nevehshalom.org/form/installation.

Nov. 15: Cantor Green Installation Concert

Celebratory concert at Congregation Beth Israel at 5 pm. More information at bethisrael-pdx.org.

Nov. 15: ILLUMINATE

A high-energy celebration for Jewish Portland at 6:30 pm at The Loft at 8th Ave. \$50. Tickets at jewishportland.org/illuminate. Registration closes November 12.

Nov. 16-20: Winter Marketplace

Weeklong marketplace hosted by ORA - Northwest

continued on next page

continued from previous page

Jewish Artists and the Mitteleman Jewish Community Center at the MJCC. More information at oregonjcc.org.

Nov. 16: PJA Open House

School open house at 10 am at Portland Jewish Academy. RSVP online at pjaproud.org/openhouse.

Nov. 16: Richard Neuberger - Oregon Politics and the Making of a US Senator

Book launch event at the

Oregon Jewish Museum and Center for Holocaust Education at 2 pm. \$5. Tickets at ojmche.org/events/steve-forrester-book-talk.

Nov. 16: "A Tree of Life"

Documentary film screening at the Eastside Jewish Commons at 2:30 pm. More information at givebutter.com/TreeofLifePortland.

Nov. 16: Golem Sculpture Workshop

Sculpting event at Leikam Brewing at 3:30 pm. \$80, includes all materials and

two beers. Tickets at square.link/u/Xigyqash

Nov. 16: Shining a New Light

Rabbinic installation celebration at Congregation Neveh Shalom at 4 pm. RSVP at members.nevehshalom.org/form/installation.

Nov. 18: OY'Baby Playtime! Music and Sensory Fun

Play hour for children 0-2 and families at Maayan Torah Day School at 9:15 am. Registration at fs29.form-

site.com/yqKYQG/zobti-9emkj/index.

Nov. 18: Jewish Women Professionals' Networking Meetup

Networking event at the Eastside Jewish Commons at 5:30 pm. More information and registration at jewishportland.org/networkingmeetup.

Nov. 18: Virtual Tours of Israel

Webinar hosted by Jewish National Fund at 7 pm. RSVP required to rsvpacificnorthwest@jnf.org.

DEMOCRACY (continued from page 15)

est periods. Not only would wide-scale implementation of this order result in the erasure of America's shameful history of racism and slavery, but it could also potentially lead to a whitewashing of U.S. inaction during the Holocaust. Experience shows that a culture of manufactured ignorance rooted in the rejection of history, facts, and critical thought will foster censorship and muzzle dissent and debate, both of which are essential for a healthy democracy.

Obituaries

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