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# THE JEWISH REVIEW

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## Community steps up to cover SNAP shortage

By ROCKNE ROLL

*The Jewish Review*

Sometimes, when government fails, the Jewish community succeeds.

A lapse in federal appropriations by the United States Congress brought many government services to a halt for a record 43 days beginning in October. Nearly one million federal employees were furloughed, many others continued to work without pay, and funding to numerous programs was cut off, including the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, formerly known as "food stamps," which is administered by states but funded by the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

While resources were available for October, the federal government announced that benefits would be halved in November due to the government shutdown. While states and the Trump administration argued in court over

how to manage the situation, the Jewish community in Portland acted.

During the COVID pandemic, the Jewish Federation of Greater Portland and the Oregon Board of Rabbis had joined together to distribute grocery store gift cards to those in need. JoAnn Bezodis, the OBR's Administrator, said that reviving this program in the face of the current crisis came up in the OBR's Oct. 28 meeting.

"I said, 'let me reach out to Marc [Blattner, Federation's President and CEO] and see if they have a plan,'" Bezodis recalled of that Tuesday.

By Wednesday, Blattner wrote back that he had secured a \$10,000 donation from Barry and Sue Menashe to purchase grocery gift cards.

"The response was an immediate yes," Blattner said of the call to the Menashes.

See **FOOD**, page 12



## Lighting up Portland

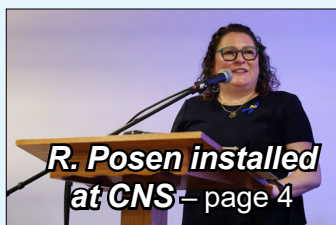
Partygoers hit the dance floor at the Jewish Federation of Greater Portland's Illuminate community celebration Saturday, Nov. 15. See more images from the party on pages 10 and 11. (Rockne Roll/The Jewish Review)

## INSIDE

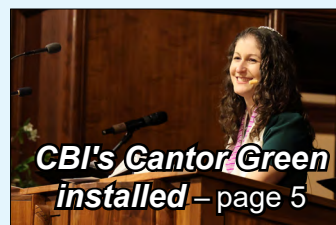
**Security** – page 14

**Events** – page 16

**Obituaries** – page 16



**R. Posen installed at CNS** – page 4



**CBI's Cantor Green installed** – page 5

The Jewish Review Podcast



Next episode Nov. 26

# Sephardic Beit Yosef closes

*The Jewish Review staff*

Portland's Congregation Beit Yosef has closed.

The small Sephardic synagogue near Gabriel Park, founded in 2007, concluded operations during the High Holy Days this year due, in part, to mounting financial constraints.

"This difficult decision follows careful consideration, given notice of potential upcoming lease issues, declining participation, leadership transitions, and the growing burden of operations on a few," an email sent out by the synagogue just before Yom Kippur said.

The closure leaves Portland with one Sephardic synagogue, Congregation Ahavath Achim, located just under a mile away on Southwest Vermont Street.

The two congregations have been closely connected over the years, Benaya Laws of Beit Yosef explained, describing recent events as a "convergence" between the two Sephardic synagogues.

"For several years now, at different points, members of Beit Yosef and Ahavath Achim have been coming together for prayer, learning, and community events," Laws said. "There has been a four-to-five-year dance around coming together, and we've seen that joining under one roof strengthens both communities and preserves the warmth and spirit of each."

"We welcome them with open arms," Ahavath Achim's Richard Matza said. "They're our brothers, and we're glad to have them."

# 'Speak about Israel' at Neveh Shalom on Dec. 3

By ROCKNE ROLL

*The Jewish Review*

Talking about Israel can be hard – especially with non-Jewish friends or associates. Meir Zimmerman is coming to Portland to provide tools to make those conversations at least a little easier.

"How to Speak About Israel with Your Friends and Colleagues," scheduled for Wednesday, Dec. 3 at 7 pm at Congregation Neveh Shalom, is rooted in Zimmerman's career in combatting antisemitism and building young adult engagement at Jewish nonprofits up and down the Eastern Seaboard.

"I've spent a lot of my time working with young people and inspiring them to be proud to be Jewish and investing in Jewish identity, but also helping them speak more confidently and helping Jewish communities learn how to use their voice to better explain who the Jewish people are and help build more understanding around Israel and Jewish stories," Zimmerman said.

Jews understand that Jewish identity is complex, multifaceted, and not homogenous, Zimmerman explained. But much of broader society may only understand Judaism through pop culture references and the lens of the Holocaust.

"With this background," he continued, "you may think Jews are religious group from Europe, for example, which is a common misconception."

What's more, modern stories of Israel are often cluttered by misinformation, if not intentional disinformation, and cast Israel's conflicts into false binaries.

"I feel like I am pro-Palestinian and pro-Israeli. It is not a zero-sum game," Zimmerman said. "I think it is really important to humanize the people there, to understand the broader geopolitical context. A lot of people are not being fed that. They are saying, 'Look, it's Israel. There's Palestine.' It's an either-or."

Zimmerman's presentation will focus on having empathy for other people's perspectives and understanding one's audience, as well as speaking with nuance and understanding one's audience.

"No two people you're talking to will have the same conceptions and misconceptions," he said. "One of the things I learned is just how to understand your audience and how to talk about these issues based on their audience's knowledge or previous conceptions around Israel and Jews."

Zimmerman's talk is free and appropriate for all ages. Preregistration is required and available online at [jewishportland.org/meir](http://jewishportland.org/meir).

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Jewish Federation  
of Greater Portland

# 'A new light' - Rabbi Posen honored

By ROCKNE ROLL  
*The Jewish Review*

Rabbi Eve Posen, Congregation Neveh Shalom's first female Senior Rabbi, had not intended to be a Senior Rabbi, or a pulpit rabbi of any sort, when she left rabbinical school. That sentiment still holds true with one significant exception.

"I wouldn't do it anywhere but here," she said of her appointment, "because I love this place."

Based on the sentiments expressed by the capacity crowd in Birnbach Hall at the synagogue for her installation ceremony Sunday, Nov 16, the feeling is mutual.

Rabbi Posen had not planned on becoming one of the first women to lead a large Conservative synagogue when she came here in 2014. She took on a two-year appointment as Rabbinic Educator and Youth Director. Two years turned into 11 (and counting) as she became assistant, then associate, now senior rabbi.

"I've been given the opportunity here to try it and find that I really actually love pulpit work and being a part of the community in this way," she said. "As I've grown in



Surrounded by family, Congregation Neveh Shalom Senior Rabbi Eve Posen extinguishes a havdalah candle at the end of her installation ceremony Sunday, Nov. 16 at the synagogue in Portland. (Rockne Roll/The Jewish Review)

my rabbinate, I've grown as a human and it's all been here. I have the relationships. I know the people. It's a natural fit to after 11 years step into this role of senior rabbi because I'm grounded

in the congregation. I don't know that I would feel that way about somewhere else."

The weekend's festivities, planned largely by Neveh Shalom's staff, centered around the idea of new light

— *Or Hadash*, in Hebrew — and concluded with a belated Havdalah service at the end of her installation Sunday evening. The theme echoes a concept from Psalm 97 of *Or Zaruah* (light planted for the righteous) which has been part of Rabbi Posen's life at multiple turns, including her father's funeral and her own ordination.

"This idea of light has always been a part of how I've been envisioned by others," she said. "As Jews, we use fire, we use light to differentiate time and space, and so making this about the light and the way in which multiple wicks of a Havdalah candle come together in shared passion, matches who I am and my belief in communities."

The festivities started with a Kabbalat Shabbat service reminiscent of Neveh Shalom's Shabbat on the Plaza services in the summer, held inside in a concession to the Oregon weather, with a celebratory dinner of Rabbi Posen's favorites — chicken fingers and French fries.

"I've always said that if I ever was gifted a celebration at Neveh Shalom, I wanted

See **POSEN**, page 12



Rabbi Posen speaks to the congregation, left, after receiving the Priestly Blessing from Rabbi Emeritus Daniel Isaak at Sunday's installation ceremony. (Rockne Roll/The Jewish Review)

# Beth Israel celebrates Senior Cantor Green

By ROCKNE ROLL  
*The Jewish Review*

Every cantor of Congregation Beth Israel's long history was on hand Friday, Nov. 14, for the installation of the newest of their number, Cantor Rayna Green.

Her predecessors, Cantors Judith Schiff and Ida Rae Cahana, not only celebrated her, and handed her Beth Israel's cherished Czechoslovakian Memorial Trust Torah Scroll as a ceremonial marker of her elevation as the Reform synagogue's third Senior Cantor, they were also instrumental in her choosing the cantorate at her path in the world.

"Cantor Schiff was the first cantor I had ever met," Cantor Green told *The Jewish Review* last week. "I really admired her and the relationship she had with the congregants, and I thought, 'I want to do that. I want to use my music to connect with congregants.'"

Cantor Cahana, Cantor Green continued, showed that being a cantor was more than being a keeper of musical liturgy.

"[Cantor Cahana] was my first voice teacher and helped me really expand my musical appreciation," Can-



Congregation Beth Israel Senior Cantor Rayna Green receives the synagogue's Memorial Trust Torah Scroll from Cantor Emerita Ida Rae Cahana at her installation ceremony Friday, Nov. 14 at the synagogue in Portland. (Rockne Roll/The Jewish Review)

tor Green said. "They both took me under their wing and mentored me. I went to cantorial school because of their support and guidance."

Many of the other major influences of Cantor Green's life and career were present for the big weekend – from Cantors Jennifer Frost and Dave Malecki to friends and family as well as Beth Israel's Artist-In-Residence Kim Schneiderman, all of Beth

Israel's current clergy, both of the synagogue's choirs and Beth Israel's house band, Llama Lo. They were joined by Cantor Eyal Bitton of Portland's Congregation Neveh Shalom for a celebratory concert and reception Saturday night.

"I've been saying to [Cantor Bitton] for years that we keep singing together at very sad occasions," Cantor Green said – the pair have

regularly performed at community Oct. 7 memorials since 2023. "I said we really need to sing at some joyous occasions too."

What better occasion than this – a formal celebration of Cantor Green's new role in a synagogue she has been part of in one way or another for 20 years.

"Many Cantors are hired at a synagogue, they move to

See **GREEN**, page 12



Cantor Green celebrates in song with clergy colleagues and mentors, left, before addressing the congregation at Friday's installation ceremony. (Rockne Roll/The Jewish Review)

# Honest Reporting's Hoffman talks 21st century media

By ROCKNE ROLL

*The Jewish Review*

A CNN anchor getting the population of Gaza wrong by 350 percent. Another CNN personality, Christiane Amanpour, said on-air that Israeli hostages held by Hamas experienced better conditions than the “average Gazan.” A photographer working for Reuters news wire, Mohammed Fayq Abu Mostafa, encouraging Gazans to infiltrate southern Israel on Oct. 7, 2023, on social media. These are just three of the countless issues that pro-Israel media watchdog Honest Reporting has responded to in two-plus years since Hamas’ terror attacks.

That period coincided with the majority of Gil Hoffman’s tenure as Honest Reporting’s Executive Director. Hoffman, who came to the organization after two decades at *The Jerusalem Post*, spoke about his organization’s work in a pair of events last week – on Monday, Nov. 10, at Congregation Neveh Shalom and on Tuesday, Nov. 11, at the Eastside Jewish Commons.

Honest Reporting is a quarter-century old, Hoffman said, but when he was hired in 2022, “I decided, together with my boss, who’s based in Florida, that we’re going to make this a lot more aggressive.”

Since then, Honest Reporting has called attention to the problems above and many, many more – from factual errors to the connections between journalists and terror networks and multiple instances of media personalities posting blatantly antisemitic content on social media.

That work has helped shift the landscape and has had an impact beyond corrections and retractions. Fifteen journalists affiliated with global news outlets like CNN, *The New York Times*, and the Associated Press have been re-assigned or fired due to pressure from Honest Reporting, and Reuters publicly said they held images of a Hamas-associated photographer out of their submission for the 2024 Pulitzer Prize in Breaking News Photography because of Honest Reporting’s work.

It’s certainly a different media landscape than when Honest Reporting was founded – an event sparked by an Associated Press photograph of an Is-



Honest Reporting Executive Director Gil Hoffman addresses a packed Stampfer Chapel at Congregation Neveh Shalom in Portland Monday, Nov. 10. (Rockne Roll/The Jewish Review)

raeli boy who was rescued from a Palestinian mob by a Druze Israel Defense Forces soldier was mis-labeled as a Jewish police officer assaulting a Palestinian – the photograph appeared on the front page of *The New York Times*. Today, Honest Reporting’s newest battlefield is on social media.

“If you TikTok, ‘what is Zionism,’ you will get things with hashtag ‘Free Palestine,’ hashtag ‘Allah Akbar,’ hashtag ‘Kill the Jews,’” Hoffman said.

Honest Reporting has responded by publishing its own social media campaigns about Israel, Hamas, and the war between the two.

“Following a bloody coup in the Gaza Strip in 2007 Hamas has held control over virtually every single aspect of life in the territory,” a sample of such a video, which Hoffman played at Neveh Shalom, explained. “Not all Gazans are Hamas, but Hamas is all of Gaza.”

“If you want people to show any empathy with the people of Israel, it is important to show empathy with the Gazan people, even if you believe that most of the people in Gaza are guilty in one way or another for what happened on Oct. 7. You would have a basis to believe that because the overwhelming majority of the people who infiltrated Israel on Oct. 7 to rape, kidnap and murder Israelis were not Hamas terrorists. They were ordinary Gazan peo-

ple,” Hoffman said. “It is still not right strategically to say that. Better to have empathy because the people of Gaza, they deserve to have better leaders.”

Because of the volume of media content being produced and consumed worldwide, Honest Reporting has spent considerable time and resources developing an artificial intelligence system that monitors news outlets and flags problematic content so that errors and falsehoods can be pushed back on within minutes of their publication.

“You remember when people had to write letters to the editor?” Hoffman said. “It doesn’t work that way anymore.”

Part of why Honest Reporting has developed AI technology is that anti-Israel activists have already done so. Hoffman explained that Israel’s post-Oct. 7 war has been fought on 10 fronts – seven separate physical battlefields, plus mainstream media, social media, and college campuses. Hoffman lamented the Israeli government’s own failings in those last few arenas, noting that the IDF has had a politically-driven revolving door of public relations staff, their quality deteriorating over time, i.e., the spokeswoman for the Prime Minister’s office has repeatedly answered questions about New York City Mayor-Elect Zohran Mamdani

See **HOFFMAN**, page 13

# HOW TO SPEAK ABOUT ISRAEL WITH YOUR FRIENDS AND COLLEAGUES

In today's climate, conversations about Israel can feel complicated - even among friends, coworkers, and family. Join Meir S. Zimmerman, an experienced Jewish and Israel educator and nonprofit leader, for an engaging and practical talk about how to navigate these conversations with confidence, empathy, and clarity.



**FREE**



**Speaker**

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**Wednesday, December 3**

7:00 PM - 8:30 PM

**Congregation Neveh Shalom**



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# JFGP hosts first K-12 antisemitism leadership summit

By ROCKNE ROLL

*The Jewish Review*

Administrators, executives, and other leaders from 16 school districts and private schools in the area gathered in Tigard Wednesday, Nov. 5 for the Jewish Federation of Greater Portland's Addressing Antisemitism in K-12 Schools Leadership Summit.

Before the focus of the agenda turned to addressing the problem, however, the first task was understanding its scope. To do that, the assembled leaders heard from those most affected by antisemitism in schools – parents, teachers and, of course, students.

"I think it was really important," Federation Director of Educational Initiatives and Associate Director of Community Relations Rachel Nelson, who moderated the student panel, said. "The point of this wasn't to call any one school district or school out, but really to talk about effects of anti-Jewish hate and bias have been on our students, parents and teachers, and how we can work collaboratively to create more inclusive environments for all in our schools."

The student panel of three high-schoolers from Portland and Beaverton were followed by parents who discussed the effects antisemitism had on their children and how schools had – or had not – addressed the issues. After that, a panel of teachers explained how antisemitism in public education affects them as well. Many of these incidents happened in school districts led by the people sitting across from the presenters, but the goal wasn't to point out any particular district's failings, but rather to fully explain the



Summit attendees take in a presentation from a panel of Portland-area high school students at the Jewish Federation of Greater Portland's Addressing Antisemitism in K-12 Schools Leadership Summit Wednesday, Nov. 5 in Tigard. (Rockne Roll/The Jewish Review)

scope of the problem.

"We weren't trying to shame anybody," Federation Chief Community Relations and Public Affairs Officer Bob Horenstein, who moderated one of the panels and presented a sample of a professional development program the Federation offers on antisemitism, said. "Our goal is always to be in a relationship, to be a resource."

Those attending the summit, funded in part by a grant from the Oregon Jewish Community Youth Foundation, seemed to receive the information in the spirit it was conveyed.

"At least publicly, there was not a defensive comment made," Danielle Frandina, a Senior Curriculum Developer with Facing History and Ourselves, said. "I felt like the audience was really receptive and hopefully just appreciative of the vulnerability and the courage that being on any of the panels required."

Frandina gave a presentation on the Contemporary Antisemitism curriculum that she has helped develop for Facing History – a presentation which included a crucial point for those in the audience.

"Something that I raised in my presentation is a reminder that antisemitism is not a Jewish problem," she explained. "I said that because most of the people who spoke are Jewish, and it could be easy to misinterpret that to mean this is something that Jewish people are [alone] tasked with solving. It is really the opposite of that; it is the rest of us who are responsible for understanding antisemitism and responding to it."

Attendees could certainly leave with a better understanding of what antisemitism looks like and how to address it, from curricula like Facing History's to actions under Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as

explained by Taylor Lewis of the Oregon Department of Education's Civil Rights Unit. The big question is what happens next.

"We've asked [participants] in the evaluation form, 'What are you going to do now? What actions are you going to take?'" Horenstein said. "It would be sad if they came and listened, and then that was the end of it. I don't want to see that happen."

"I heard from others who attended who really want to be able to work more closely with us, whether it's bringing Student to Student teens in or bringing in other presenters to talk about these issues that people don't necessarily understand and don't necessarily know how to address," Nelson said.

To report incidents of antisemitism in schools, or to learn more about how to address it, contact Horenstein at [bob@jewishportland.org](mailto:bob@jewishportland.org) or Nelson at [rachel@jewishportland.org](mailto:rachel@jewishportland.org).

## BB B'nai Mitzvah cohort open

By ROCKNE ROLL

*The Jewish Review*

For years, the process of becoming *b'nai mitzvah* has either been conducted by a synagogue or through a private tutor. Since 2023, BB360 has provided another option.

BB B'nai Mitzvah, led by BB360 Chief Community and Jewish Life Officer Kim Schneiderman, is a two-year cohort-based program that covers all the bases while providing a sense of community that can be absent from the private tutor process.

“[BB360 CEO Michelle Koplan] and I got together, we talked about creating a program for not just BB Camp families, but really the whole community, so people felt like there was an option for their children even if they were not associated with a synagogue,” Schneiderman said.

The program starts off in a group environment, meeting Tuesday afternoons at the Cedar Sinai Park campus. The first year of the experience is called *Mi Ani* (Who Am I?) and leans into the basics of Jewish culture, Hebrew language, and ritual practices.

“We are learning Jewish values, history, and customs, we are looking at Hebrew letters we are learning, some key blessings and prayers for Shabbat service, and we’re building this community for these kids to feel like they are part of something,” Schneiderman said.

The second year – *Ani Ba'Olam* (Me in the World) focuses in on more individual work – learning to chant Torah and completing a community service project – but still maintains community through an annual Shabbaton weekend at BB Camp and cohort Shabbat dinners, as well as participating with Schneiderman in weekly services on the Cedar Sinai Park campus.

“As they’re coming into Jewish adulthood, there’s privilege and there’s responsibility, and one of the responsibilities is that we take our Jewish values and we help heal the world,” Schneiderman said. “In the second year of the program, we do a deep dive into what does it mean to be a leader in the Jewish community? How can we contribute? How do we look at life through a Jewish lens and create something that helps the world?”

Forty students are currently enrolled; most are in the full cohort program, while a handful are students in synagogue programs who want a little extra practice with Hebrew, their Torah portion or any other aspect of their process. For most of the cohort students, the process concludes in leading a Shabbat afternoon service that leads into Havdalah, but the second year of this process provides opportunity for personalization based on what students and their families are looking for. The afternoon service lends itself well to these events, Schneiderman said, in part because of its relative flexibility in structure but also in how Havdalah, which literally translates as “separation,” not only marks the transition from Shabbat into the rest of the week, but the transition from ceremony into celebration and the divide between childhood and Jewish adulthood. Thanks to access to a community Torah and an ark, the location of the service can be as flexible as its content

See BB360, page 12

## Sephardic film series starts 19th year

By ROCKNE ROLL

*The Jewish Review*

Movie lovers and aficionados of Sephardic culture rejoice – the Winter Sephardic Film Festival is back at Congregation Ahavath Achim!

Now in its 19th season, the series brings films with Sephardic themes and storylines to Ahavath Achim every second Tuesday of the month at 7 pm from December through April, along with a facilitated discussion and Sephardic dessert after the movie.

Ronald Sidis explained that this year’s schedule includes a pair of double feature nights because some very excellent films don’t quite make for an evening out on their own.

“The movies that we’ve chosen are very good, and so we want to put them together, so it doesn’t really go on for more than two hours,” he said.

The discussions became a natural accompaniment to the post-film dessert, Aha-

vath Achim’s Richard Matza said.

“It was kind of a natural process that people have curiosities and questions and comments about the films,” he explained. “It’s a perfect time to share perspectives.”

This year’s festival begins on Tuesday, Dec. 9 with “Broadway Musicals: A Jewish Legacy.” Directed by Michael Kantor and narrated by Joel Grey, this 2013 documentary focuses in on the extensive history of Jewish musicians and artists in the development of American theater. Mike Jaffe will lead the discussion.

“It has very little Sefardi content in it, but it is so joyful and so inspiring,” Matza said. “This particular film is about Jewish pride, about Jewish ingenuity, our influence in the arts. It’s a special film.”

Tuesday, Jan. 13, 2026 will be an Israel-focused double feature, starting with 2014’s

See FESTIVAL, page 13



 Jewish Federation  
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### Hanukkah Webinar

#### Themes, Moods, and Practices

Whether you're new to Jewish holidays, looking for a refresher, or hoping to see the holiday from a fresh perspective, join this one-hour webinar for an introductory and illuminating exploration of Hanukkah's history, themes, and rituals.

**Wednesday, Dec. 10**  
**8-9 PM**



With Dr. Yosef Rosen, Director of Jewish Life & Learning  
Jewish Federation of Greater Portland

# Photos: Federation 'Illuminates' Portland



**Photographs by ROCKNE ROLL**  
*The Jewish Review*

Hundreds gathered to connect and celebrate at the Jewish Federation of Greater Portland's Illuminate Event at The Loft

at Eighth Avenue Saturday, Nov. 15. DJ Denmark's dance selections, a vodka tasting from Kachka and a 360-degree photo booth highlighted an evening of joy and community, Jewish style.

S'mores, schmoozing and dancing bring Jewish community to celebrate



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## FOOD (continued from page 1)

"We are grateful to Barry and Sue Menashe for stepping forward in making this support possible."

The grocery cards were split between the OBR and Jewish Family & Child Service in Portland.

"Anybody that has reached out during this time and let us know that they are not receiving their SNAP benefits, or there's been a delay, or they're just facing food insecurity in general, has been eligible to receive these gift cards," Kennedy Pate, JFCS's Intake and Resources Coordinator, explained.

Bezodis connected with leadership at area synagogues to assess how many cards, issued in \$50 incre-

ments, needed to go where. Many were distributed by OBR directly, with Bezodis coordinating pickups from her office at Congregation Shir Tikvah in Northeast Portland – and a few deliveries.

"If you can't pick them up, give me your address and I will bring them out to you over this weekend sometime," she recalled saying.

Pate and Bezodis have also compiled lists of [resources](#) to supplement the grocery cards – a collection of resources is also available through the [Oregon Department of Human Services](#).

"Unfortunately, because there's such a big need, and

because of just how expensive food is getting, helping people find resources is a big part of what we're doing too," Susan Greenberg, JFCS's Executive Director added.

The recipients of these cards run the entire gamut of Jewish community in the area –

"We have folks all across the board who are asking," Pate said. "I've had folks tell me that it's the difference between their family having a Thanksgiving meal or not having a Thanksgiving meal. So it really, it does really mean the world to these folks."

Bezodis said that the OBR has distributed its portion of

the cards already. Pate said JFCS still has some available. With federal appropriations only approved through Jan. 30, 2026, as of press time, the possibility of another interruption in SNAP benefits looms over the new year. Blattner said in his Oct. 31 email to the community announcing the food card allocation that more resources could be made available if necessary.

"This is what it means to be part of a caring Jewish community," he wrote. "It is what our Jewish Federation is here for: to take care of one another, to stand strong in uncertain times, and to make sure no family is ever alone."

## POSEN (continued from page 4)

to have chicken fingers and French fries, because I love chicken fingers and as I keep kosher, I cannot get them in Portland unless Alan Levine is making them," Rabbi Posen said.

Saturday morning, she was passed a torah scroll at services, which she walked through the congregation with. Sunday evening, she was lauded from Birnbach Hall's stage by Cantor Eyal

Bitton, Rabbi Emeritus Daniel Isaak, Neveh Shalom President Mark Kalenscher, Leah Conley, Eddy Shuldman, Sage Chapman, Nadine Gartner, Ben Olds, Lidia Krivoy and Raul Krivoy before receiving the priestly blessing from Rabbi Isaak, whose retirement announcement and transition plan had sparked her hiring more than a decade ago.

"Ever since you stepped into this congregation, your light has shone brightly," Gartner said to Rabbi Posen.

And while the congregation's gift to Rabbi Posen on the occasion, an intricate blown-glass light fixture, is already mounted on the wall in her office, her hope is that as senior rabbi, she'll be anything but.

"The word 'installation' is still very uncomfortable be-

cause it sounds like you're installed, like putting me in a light socket or hanging me on a hook or placing me on a pedestal," she told *The Jewish Review*. "That's not how I'm comfortable, but that's also not how I view this position. I view this as we're doing this together in community, and my job is to have all the strands and hold them together and bring us forward."

## GREEN (continued from page 5)

a brand-new city, and they start the position; it's, 'Hi, nice to meet you,' and then they spend the next year or more getting to know everyone," Cantor Green said. "I am so fortunate that I have been building relationships

for 20 years with some of these congregants, and so I'm very fortunate that I get to build off of all of those experiences and relationships."

She will build on the foundation of the women who came before her – as Senior Rabbi

Michael Cahana pointed out Friday night, Beth Israel has only had female cantors in its long history.

"[Cantors Schiff and Cahana] paved the way for all women who wanted to be cantors one day," Cantor

Green said. "It never even occurred to me that because I was a woman, I would be limited in my ability to become a cantor because I had these two incredible women to look up to and learn from."

## BB360 (continued from page 9)

– from living rooms to parks to coffee shops.

"They learn prayers. They learn everything in the Torah service," Schneiderman

explained. "There's a lot of music involved. Sometimes with my students, I will say, 'let's take a prayer and look at the English of it, let's in-

terpret it, and let's write a song about it."

The program costs \$3,600 per year, and there's still time for students to jump

into the recently begun first-year cohort. More information about BB360's program is available online at [bb-360.org/bnai-mitzvah-program](https://bb-360.org/bnai-mitzvah-program).

## HOFFMAN (continued from page 6)

with extended rants praising President Donald Trump. Hoffman also criticized, both from the podium in Portland and in print in *The Jerusalem Post*, the Israeli government's continued

denial of foreign journalist access into Gaza.

Born in suburban Chicago, Hoffman graduated from Northwestern University's Medill School of Journalism and worked at the *Miami*

*Herald* and *The Arizona Republic* before making *Aliyah*. After serving in an IDF combat unit, he transferred as a reservist to the IDF's public affairs division – for reasons that resonate in his

work today.

"I wanted to use my skills and experience as a journalist to help Israel against its enemies," he said.

Learn more at [honestreporting.com](http://honestreporting.com).

## FESTIVAL (continued from page 9)

"Body and Soul: State of the Jewish Nation" by Gloria Greenfield, which focuses on Jewish connection to *Eretz Yisrael*. It will be followed by "I am Israel," David Kiern's 2017 documentary of the people who make up the modern Jewish state. Shani Laws will lead the discussion.

Tuesday, Feb. 10, will delve into American Jewish history with Mark Levin's 2009 documentary "Schmat-

ta: Rags to Riches to Rags," about the rise and decline of New York City's Garment District and the Jews who made it the hub of the clothing industry in America. Avrel Nudelman will lead the post-film conversation.

Tuesday, Mar. 10, will be another double feature night; this one about Jews from the Grecian island of Rhodes. First, "The Longest Journey," Ruggero Gabbai's 2013 documentary, exam-

ines the history of Rhodes' Jewish community, from their arrival in ancient times to their deportation by the Nazis during the Second World War. Albert Menashe will lead the post-screening discussion. It will be followed by a look at Rhodes Jews in Los Angeles in Gregori Viens 1995 documentary, "Island of Roses," with a discussion lead by Richard Matza.

The festival concludes

Wednesday, April 15 with "Turkish Passport." Bural Arliel's 2011 film details the rescuing of Jews in Turkey by Turkish diplomats and is marketed as "the only Holocaust film with a happy ending." Betty Nacamulli will head the last post-film discussion for the season.

Each screening is free. Advance registration is required and available online at [ahavathachim.com](http://ahavathachim.com).

# COMMUNITY SECURITY TRAINING CLASSES

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DECEMBER 10  
JANUARY 15  
FEBRUARY 19

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**NEXT ISSUE**

Issue date Deadline

DEC 3

NOV 26

# Security Corner

## Real lives, real stories

By JESSICA ANDERSON

Last week, P'nai Or hosted a screening of "A Tree of Life: The Pittsburgh Synagogue Shooting" at East-side Jewish Commons. This HBO documentary recounts the story of the October 2018 shooting at the Tree of Life Congregation, which also served as the home for Dor Hadash and the New Light Congregation. All three congregations lost members that day. The film is many things, but it primarily tells the story of the people most directly impacted by the attack. These include those who survived, some who saved themselves, those who did not survive, and the people they left behind. The film is also a testament to training – the Pittsburgh community security director provided the Tree of Life congregation with active threat training three weeks prior to the attack and conducted a security walkthrough. Those actions directly contributed to congregants getting themselves out of the building.

The movie also addresses the bias that fueled the attack and the politically divisive environment during those years (which continues). Despite that, it ends on a hopeful, healing note. Literally and figuratively, the documentary closes with a song, "Healing Tones," a composition performed by the Philadelphia Orchestra and featuring Tree of Life



*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.*

survivor Audrey Glickman on the shofar. A clarion call to action that could be borne out of that shooting.

Secure Community Network has partnered with HBO to encourage community viewing of this film as a catalyst for training and security awareness. A typical event includes a viewing followed by a panel discussion and active threat training. If your organization or community group would like to host this type of event, please let me know. For the P'nai Or event, our speaker was a member of the Eugene community with ties to Pittsburgh. They were in Pittsburgh at the time and affiliated with one of the affected congregations. They spoke eloquently about the aftermath of the event, its impact, and how they live with bias in their own community.

Recent news events demonstrate the pervasive need for education. The late August shooting at Annun-

ciation Catholic school in Minnesota and the October attack at the Church of Latter-day Saints in Michigan highlight how at-risk many communities are. As my time permits, I have consistently supported other communities and non-profits through training and security consultations. The Jewish community is fortunate to have developed a security program that is unavailable within most other groups, and I have always believed in the importance of lifting all boats.

To enhance security awareness in other communities, I will be hosting an interfaith training in early January. This will touch on awareness within houses of worship and active threat response. If you have contacts in other faith-based communities, please let me know. I would love to include them on the invite list. I can always be reached at 872-273-9214 or [janderson@securecommunitynetwork.org](mailto:janderson@securecommunitynetwork.org).

**Free subscription:** [jewishportland.org/subscribe](http://jewishportland.org/subscribe)

# Portland's Hogland joins Mothers Rebuilding Israel

By NOA AMOUYAL  
*For Momentum*

Portland resident Jamie Hogland recently took part in Mothers Rebuilding Israel, a new initiative in partnership with Momentum, Birthright Israel, and the Jewish Federations of North America. Mothers Rebuilding Israel is an offshoot of Volunteer in Israel, a joint initiative of the latter two organizations. This weeklong volunteer mission is the first of its kind, designed specifically for Jewish mothers, offering them a hands-on opportunity to support Israeli families and communities in the wake of the Oct. 7 attacks.

Since Oct. 7, Volunteer in Israel with Birthright has brought more than 17,000 volunteers to Israel. Mothers Rebuilding Israel expands this effort, bringing Jewish women together to contribute on the ground while strengthening their connection to Israel and to one another.

Hogland, who recently made *Aliyah* and is waiting to officially move to Israel once her daughter can join her, said of her experience: "I went on a Momentum trip in 2022 and came back inspired to start a partner organization, Jewish Mothers of Oregon, that works with Momentum. I've always wanted to go on a mission trip, but there haven't been many opportunities that offered what I was looking for. When Momentum presented this opportunity, I knew it was perfect for me."

Participants spent the week volunteering on farms, distributing aid packages, assisting with rebuilding efforts, and connecting directly with Israeli families in areas most affected by the war. The program also included visits to Hostage Square and southern towns impacted by the attacks, as well as a meaningful Momentum-led Shabbat in Jerusalem focused on solidarity, healing, and resilience.

"Just weeks after Oct. 7, we launched the volunteer program inspired by Birthright alumni who asked how they could help. Today, we are proud to see so many Jews come together. Mothers Rebuilding Israel engages Jewish mothers, leaders in their families and communities, to stand shoulder to shoulder with Israelis in rebuilding and healing," said Gidi Mark, CEO of Birthright Israel.

"This mission is about more than service; it is about presence, solidarity, and the extraordinary strength of Jewish women," said Lori Palatnik, Founding Director of Momentum. "We are showing up for Israel when it matters most."

Momentum, a global movement dedicated to empowering Jewish women and strengthening Jewish families and communities, works closely with Israel's Ministry of Diaspora Affairs and Combating Antisemitism to bring Jewish parents, primarily mothers, to Israel, equipping them to strengthen their Jewish identity and inspire change within their local communities. Since its founding in 2008, Momentum has reached more than 25,000 individuals across 37 countries, creating a powerful ripple effect of Jewish pride and resilience worldwide.

# Brown, Dabareiner named Rising Voices Fellows

By JENNIFER SARTORI  
*Jewish Women's Archive*

Portlanders Naomi Granek Brown and Marlo Dabareiner are among The Jewish Women's Archive's newest cohort of Fellows for the Rising Voices Fellowship (RVF), a leadership development program for young Jewish women and non-binary teens in tenth through twelfth grades who are passionate about feminism, Judaism, and writing as a tool for social justice.

The writing-based program equips Fellows with skills, support, and a public platform to use their voices to make change. Fellows develop as leaders by learning about Jewish women's history in a pluralistic setting, encountering and interacting with a range of opinions and views, and forming and expressing their own responses to historical narratives, current events, and cultural trends. RVF provides teens with a much-needed space for connection, community, and support.

Throughout the year, Program Manager Maya Garfinkel will guide fellows through the process of writing, editing, and publishing opinion pieces. The cohort meets regularly for online webinars, as well as for two immersive in-person retreats, to explore Jewish and feminist topics that inform their writing. Guest facilitators from a wide variety of fields and backgrounds offer the fellows contemporary role models and diverse perspectives. The curriculum emphasizes an intersectional approach to Jewish feminism, with attention to the broad diversity of the Jewish people in terms of race, ethnicity, denomination, gender and sexuality, and disability, as well as to the Fellows' own multifaceted identities.

"From the start, the Rising Voices Fellows have approached this experience with curiosity, openness, and drive, eager to learn and grow together," reflects Garfinkel. "Their unique Jewish, feminist perspectives shine through their writing, and in our webinars and peer collaborations, it's clear that we go further together in community. I look forward to supporting their continued learning and writing in the year ahead."

Following the opening retreat in August, one Fellow reflected, "How wonderful it felt to be with other people who are very smart and are interesting and also just learning about Judaism and feminism!"

For the 2025-2026 year, JWA accepted eighteen Fellows from nine states across the U.S., as well as the District of Columbia and Hong Kong, from a diverse and competitive national pool of applicants.

Fellows' opinion pieces are posted on JWA's online publication, Jewish Women, Amplified.

The Jewish Women's Archive documents Jewish women's stories, elevates their voices, and inspires them to be agents of change. A dynamic feminist organization that marshals Jewish women's diverse histories to shape compelling conversations and inspire action, Visit [jwa.org/risingvoices](http://jwa.org/risingvoices) to learn more about the program and this year's cohort.

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

# Events

See all of Portland's Jewish community events online at [jewishportland.org/community-calendar](http://jewishportland.org/community-calendar)

## Nov. 19: EJC Sigd Celebration

Ethiopian Jewish holiday celebration at 6 pm at the Eastside Jewish Commons. \$10. Register online at [events.humanitix.com/sigd-a-jewish-ethiopian-community-holiday-celebration](http://events.humanitix.com/sigd-a-jewish-ethiopian-community-holiday-celebration).

## Nov. 20: Yiscah Smith

Author reading at the Eastside Jewish Commons at 7 pm. \$12-15 sliding scale. Register online at [events.humanitix.com/author-reading-yiscah-smith](http://events.humanitix.com/author-reading-yiscah-smith).

## Nov. 20: The Race to Build an AI Super Scientist

Research discussion with Prof. Ido Kaminer at 7 pm. Preregistration required at <https://secure.ats.org/page/89351>.

## Nov. 21: EJC Free Noontime Concert - Cello Jam

Free concert at the Eastside Jewish Commons at noon. More information at [ejcpdx.org/events](http://ejcpdx.org/events).

## Nov. 21: Family Shabbat Dinner at the JI

Community Shabbat dinner at

the Mittleman Jewish Community Center at 6 pm. \$5 per person, \$15 per family. Preregistration required online at [operations.daxko.com/programs/redirector.aspx?cid=5319&pid=24278&sid=338016](http://operations.daxko.com/programs/redirector.aspx?cid=5319&pid=24278&sid=338016).

## Nov. 22: Women's Torah Study

Weekly Torah study at Congregation Ahavath Achim at 10:30 am. Free. For more information, email [info@ahavathachim.com](mailto:info@ahavathachim.com).

## Nov. 22: Sephardic Foundations

Weekly Sephardic history study at Congregation Ahavath Achim at 12:30 pm. Free. For more information, email [info@ahavathachim.com](mailto:info@ahavathachim.com).

## Nov. 23: Tales In Clay: Workshop with Ahuva Zaslavsky

Art workshop at the Oregon Jewish Museum and Center for Holocaust Education at 11:30 am. Registration online at [events.humanitix.com/tales-in-clay](http://events.humanitix.com/tales-in-clay).

## Nov. 23: Klezmer Workshop with Christina Crowder

Music workshop at 2 pm at the Eastside Jewish Commons. \$18. Register online at [events.humanitix.com/klezmer-workshop-with-christina-crowder-moldavian-and-bessarabia-jewish-tunes](http://events.humanitix.com/klezmer-workshop-with-christina-crowder-moldavian-and-bessarabia-jewish-tunes).

## Nov. 25: Jewish Singles Night

Singles event hosted by Ahavath Northwest at 7 pm at Leikam Brewing. For more information, visit [ahavathnorthwest.com](http://ahavathnorthwest.com).

## Nov. 30: Friendsgiving Israeli Style

Young adults Friendsgiving sponsored by the Jewish Federation of Greater Portland at 5:30 pm. More information at [jewishportland.org/israelifriends-giving](http://jewishportland.org/israelifriends-giving).

## Dec. 3: How to talk about Israel to your friends and colleagues

See story, page 2.

# Obituaries

Submit obituaries to The Jewish Review's online form at [form.jotform.com/JFGP/jr-obituary](http://form.jotform.com/JFGP/jr-obituary)

## ILAINE COHEN

Congregation Beth Israel mourns the loss of Ilaine Joyce Cohen, z"l, who passed away on Nov. 1, 2025, at the age of 92.

Ilaine is survived by her son Stuart Cohen (Barbara) and daughter Stacie Cohen, and two beloved grandchildren, Will and Caroline. Ilaine was preceded in death by her spouse of 50 years, Edwin Cohen, z"l, her sister Roberta Hunt, z"l, and her parents, Hy and Sybil Samuels, z"l.

A Celebration of Life for family and friends will be held at a later date.

Donations in Ilaine's name may be made to William Temple House and Portland Literary Arts.

## JOEL KRANE

Congregation Beth Israel mourns the loss of Joel Krane, z"l, who passed away on Nov. 8, 2025, at the age of 98.

Joel is survived by his wife of 72 years, Sue Krane, his daughters Allison O'Connor (David), Barbara Krane, and Cheryl Krane; his grandchildren, grandchildren-in-law, and great-grandchildren Mac Brown, Alexander Cohan, Emma Cohan, Greg Cohan, Jessie Cohan, Tasha Cohan, Avery Cohan-Brown, Hazel Cohan-Brown, Indigo Dixon, McKenna Dixon, AJ Krane, James Krane, Spencer Krane, Tierra Krane, Hershel Le Boff, Jared Le Boff, Olivia O'Connor, Greg Rosen, and Lucy Rosen-Krane; his sister-in-law Maxine Coplin, his nephews Jeff Coplin and Jeff Weinstein, and niece Linda Weinstein. Joel was preceded in death by his sisters Charlene Weinstein, z"l, and Marilyn Hasson, z"l.

A funeral was held Monday, Nov. 10 at Beth Israel Cemetery. Donations in Joel's name may be made to The American Cancer Society and the National Breast Cancer Foundation.

## KEITH GARNETT

Congregation Beth Israel mourns the loss of Keith Garnett, z"l, who passed away on Nov. 9, 2025, at the age of 76.

Keith is survived by his children, Michael Garnett (Sang-hee) and Elizabeth Levenson (Joel); and grandchildren, Leah Garnett, Lukas Garnett, Jack Levenson, and Rachel Levenson. Keith was preceded in death by his parents, George and Jeanne Moshofsky, z"l.

A funeral will be held Sunday, Nov. 23 at 10 am at Congregation Beth Israel.

Donations in Keith's name may be made to the Forest Park Conservancy.

## JOAN LUBAR

Congregation Beth Israel mourns the loss of Joan Lubar, z"l, who passed away on Nov. 14, 2025, at the age of 83.

Joan is survived by her sons, Larry and Nathan Sykes (Diane); her grandchildren, Drew and Maya Sykes; and her siblings, Charles and Nancy Lubar. Joan is preceded in death by her parents, Lenora Abrams and Nathan Lubar, z"l.

There will be a Celebration of Life on Saturday, December 13 at 11 am at Sunnyside Grange in Clackamas.

Donations in Joan's memory can be made to Clackamas Women's Services.