

# THE JEWISH REVIEW

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OREGON & SOUTHWEST WASHINGTON'S JEWISH NEWSPAPER

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## Jewish Review to go weekly next month

*The Jewish Review Staff*

*The Jewish Review* is moving to a weekly publication schedule effective Thursday, May 7.

The move comes following feedback from the *Review's* reader survey ear-

lier this year. A significant portion of readers wanted to receive news updates about their Jewish community more frequently.

“Our biweekly schedule was a hold-over from *The Jewish Review's* print

days, when filling a certain number of pages was necessary to make offset printing feasible,” editor Rockne Roll said. “With modern digital publishing, it’s easier than ever to get information

See **WEEKLY**, page 10

## The pride of Jewish Portland, Deni drives Blazers' playoff push

By **BRUCE SHUTAN**

*For The Jewish Review*

Jews across the greater Portland area – and around the world – are kveling about Deni Avdija, a 25-year-old basketball sensation who is largely responsible for returning the Portland Trail Blazers to the NBA playoffs for the first time in five seasons.

A 6-8 forward, Avdija has averaged 24.3 points, 6.9 rebounds and 6.7 assists per game this season. In his first All-Star Game appearance on Feb. 15, the first ever for an Israeli-born player, he recorded five points, four assists, and one rebound for the “World” team.

His success has continued, and continues to fuel the Blazers’ success as a team. This was recently demonstrated in Avdija’s 41-point performance against the Phoenix Suns in the NBA

See **AVDIJA**, page 8

## 78 never looked so good!



From right, Emily and Sophia Yeomans dance and celebrate the 78th birthday of the modern State of Israel at the Jewish Federation of Greater Portland's Yom Ha'Atzmaut celebration Sunday, Apr. 26 at the Mittleman Jewish Community Center. Read about the Federation's Yom HaZikaron service from Monday, Apr. 20 on page 4 and see more pictures from the celebration on page 11. (Rockne Roll/The Jewish Review)

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The  
Jewish  
Review  
Podcast



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# CNS hosts Rabbi Nevins weekend of May 8-10

*The Jewish Review staff*

Rabbi Danny Nevins will headline the ninth annual Yoni Suher, z”l, Scholar-In-Residence weekend at Congregation Neveh Shalom Friday through Sunday, May 8-10.

Rabbi Nevins authored “Torah and Technology: Circuits, Cells, and the Sacred Path” in 2024 and previously co-wrote the 2026 *responsum* (Jewish legal opinion) which authorized same-sex marriage and the ordination of queer clergy within the Conservative movement.

He will present “Don’t Delegate Your Soul,” a discussion of Jewish thought on artificial intelligence, at a dinner Friday, May 8 at 7:30 pm following Kabbalat Shabbat services at Neveh Shalom. He will also give a *d’var torah* on resilience at Saturday morning Shabbat services, a dessert talk that evening at 7 pm on the Jewish implications of where the lines between what is

natural and artificial begin to blur, and a Sunday morning Mother’s Day Brunch lecture on May 10 titled “To Life: Jewish Wisdom in an Age of Modern Medicine.”

All the events are free, though donations are appreciated. Registration is required for all but Saturday morning services. The weekend is underwritten by the Stan and Ethel Katz Briller Jewish Education Fund of the Oregon Jewish Community Foundation and the generous donors to the Yoni Suher Fund of Congregation Neveh Shalom.

Neveh Shalom’s Scholar-In-Residence weekend is named in honor of Yoni Suher, z”l, who had significant connections to Portland’s Jewish community and Neveh Shalom. He was killed in a suicide bombing in Turkey along with three Israelis in his tour group in 2016.

For more information and to register, visit [tinyurl.com/DannyNevinsSIR2026](https://tinyurl.com/DannyNevinsSIR2026).

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# Registration now open - online - for Song of Miriam Brunch June 14

*The Jewish Review staff*

The Jewish Women’s Round Table’s Song of Miriam awards brunch is back – this time, with an online registration option.

This year’s brunch recognizing women volunteer leaders in Jewish community organizations is scheduled for Sunday, June 14 at 10 am at the Mittleman Jewish Community Center in Portland. In addition to the traditional method of registering by mail and paying with a check, JWRT now has an online registration form and will accept payments via Zelle, an electronic money transfer service supported by many major banks.

“We’re only a bit behind the times,” JWRT President Marki Maizels joked, “but we’re hoping that people will like this and we can continue it.”

This year’s honorees include Julie Caron from Greater Portland Hillel, Naomi Derner of Next Generations Group, Nicole Dorfman of Jewish Family & Child Service, Shoshannah Freilich of Corvallis’ Beit Am, Joan Glebow of P’nai Or of Portland, Rivka Malka Gleizer of Congregation Kesser Israel, Pauline Goldstein of the Congregation Shaarie Torah Sisterhood, Arielle Goranson of the Jewish Federation of Greater Portland, Jaimie Harper of Portland Jewish Academy, Michelle Kashinsky of the Mittleman Jewish Community Center, Darryl Kuperstock of Congregation Neveh Shalom, Susan Levy of Salem’s Temple Beth Shalom, Eve Miller of Beit Haverim in Lake Oswego, Margot Feves Pearmine of the Robison Foundation for Jewish Elders, Tivona Reith from Havurah Shalom, Libby Schwartz of Congregation Beth Israel, Debra Shein from the Oregon Jewish Museum and Center for Holocaust Education, Nava Yiskah Sherwood Barbachano from Congregation Ahavath Achim, Noah Shinneman from Congregation Kol Ami in Vancouver, and Ellen Zellinger of the Beth Israel Sisterhood.

JWRT has awarded the Song of Miriam awards, named for the sister of Moses who was a leader of the Israelite community during the Exodus from Egypt, annually since 1993. The corresponding awards brunch was cancelled from 2020 through 2022 due to the COVID-19 pandemic but has remained a staple of Portland’s Jewish events calendar, just as volunteers are an integral part of organized Jewish life.

In fact, Maizels pointed out, with the difficult realities facing modern life, “there’s going to be a really increased need for organizations like synagogues or Jewish organizations to step up, and they need volunteers. This is a way to reward them since they don’t get paid. This is recognition for them.”

The registration options are available on JWRT’s website, [jwrt.org](https://jwrt.org); those registering online will receive email confirmation with detailed directions to use Zelle through their bank to pay for the brunch, while those using the paper form must pay by check. Guests are also reminded to bring government-issued photo identification, as it is required for all persons entering the MJCC.

# Sharaka

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*Through public engagement, advocacy, and educational initiatives, Sharaka creates spaces for meaningful dialogue about the region, focusing on mutual respect, economic collaboration, and coexistence. Its work extends beyond policy discussions, connecting people on a personal level and fostering friendships and partnerships that contribute to long-term peace building efforts.*



**Jewish Federation**  
of Greater Portland



JEWISH FEDERATION  
ISRAEL 360

# Kay, community remember fallen on Yom HaZikaron

By ROCKNE ROLL

*The Jewish Review*

Yom HaZikaron, literally “Remembrance Day,” honors those who have fallen in battle to create and defend the modern State of Israel and those civilians who have died in terror attacks. They number more than 25,000 soldiers and 5300 civilians as of this year, and that number grows with a sorrowful regularity.

Devorah Kay, who made *aliyah* from South Africa in 2020, spoke specifically of one of those fallen at the Jewish Federation of Greater Portland’s commemoration of Israel’s Memorial Day the evening of Monday, Apr. 20, at the Mittleman Jewish Community Center: her second son, Eli Kay, z”l.

Kay was the first of his family to relocate to the Jewish state; Immediately following his graduation from high school in 2016, he left Johannesburg and became an Israel Defense Forces paratrooper. His brothers followed him, and with his sister planning to do so, his parents made the move amidst the COVID-19 pandemic. Just 11 months after his parents’ arrival in Israel, Kay was shot and killed in a terrorist attack in Jerusalem’s Old City Sunday, Nov. 21, 2021. Four others were wounded and the gunman, a Hamas-affiliated Palestinian man from East Jerusalem, was killed by police.

“My story tonight is not only about loss. My story tonight is about life,” Devorah Kay said. “My story tonight is about choices that myself and my family have made. My story is about honoring Eli’s legacy.”

She recalled being informed of Eli’s death by her



eldest son, who had just gotten married. She recalled her own words at hearing the news – “We will be ok” – and her husband’s – “*Baruch Dayan HaEmet*,” a Hebrew phrase which translates to “Blessed is the True Judge” and is traditionally uttered after being informed of someone’s death.

“Those two phrases, mine and his, became our path forward,” Kay told an audience of hundreds at the MJCC. “Words spoken in darkness, not knowing what they meant, but choosing to trust.”

More than 17,000 people attended the funeral the following day. Thousands more made their way up the steps to the Kay’s apartment for *shiva*, the seven-day mourning period following the funeral. The public outpouring had a profound impact on Kay.

Above: Devorah Kay addresses the Jewish Federation of Greater Portland’s Yom HaZikaron gathering Monday, Apr. 20 at the Mittleman Jewish Community Center. Left: Congregation Beth Israel’s Rabbi Michael Cahana lights a memorial candle to commemorate Israel’s national day of remembrance. (Rockne Roll/The Jewish Review)

“One of the first interviews I had during the week of *shiva* was from an Israeli newspaper. And they said to me, ‘So when are you leaving?’ I said, ‘Leaving? Where would I be going?’” Kay recalled. “They said, ‘But you’ve just had this happen to you.’ And I said, ‘Yes, that’s why I’m staying. Do you see what you’re witnessing around our home?’” “This is our home,” she added.

A home thousands have died to defend; lives that were remembered that day. Chabad of Hillsboro Rabbi Menachem Rivkin spoke of one, Shauli Greenglick, z”l, killed in battle in December of 2023.

“People often ask, ‘Why does G-d take the best people?’ But maybe it’s not the right question. G-d does not take them. They give, they

choose, they step forward, they run toward danger, they sacrificed. They put their personal dreams aside,” Rabbi Rivkin said.

Another such soldier was Shir Eliat, z”l, who was killed on Oct. 7, 2023.

“Shir did not think of herself first. Even in her final moments, she was protecting others,” Jacob Magnezi said of her. “This is who she was: a leader, a guardian, a source of courage and heart. We mourn the life she did not get to live, the future that was stolen from her, but we also hold on to what she gave to this world; her smile, her spirit.”

Others were remembered alongside them: Karin Shwarcman, z”l, killed at the Nova Music Festival, Hillel Yakkov, z”l, killed in combat with the IDF’s Golani Brigade in Lebanon in 2024, Amir Khouri, z”l, an Arab Israeli police officer killed attempting to stop a terrorist attack in B’nai B’rak in 2022, and Beniya Naftali-Ruevel, z”l, a paratrooper killed in combat in Gaza in 2014.

Earlier in the evening, Kay spoke of living in Israel as being part of something bigger than oneself. It’s something her family continues to embody as they manage the Eli Kay Vineyard in the Negev, which serves as a recovery center for those affected by post-traumatic stress. It’s something everyone mentioned in Portland Monday evening, and every one of the more than 31,000 killed by war or terror in modern Israel, were a part of.

“For all of us, it is embracing this land with all its complexities,” Kay said, “not only as a place to live, but as a mission to fulfill.”

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# Horenstein hypes up OJCYF's "Night in Tel Aviv"

By **ROCKNE ROLL**

*The Jewish Review*

The Mittleman Jewish Community Center was dressed up Israeli-style for the Oregon Jewish Community Youth Foundation's "A Night in Tel Aviv" fundraiser Thursday, Apr. 16. The white and blue *Magen David* flag adorned each table, along with signs bearing the names of streets in Israel's coastal metropolis. A spread of falafel, hummus and other Israeli staples awaited attendees. Even the evening's keynote speaker, Dorice Horenstein, got in on the act in a sparkling white suit.

"This is how Tel Aviv in the evening looks like, my friends," she said of her ensemble. "I know because I was born in Tel Aviv."

Horenstein talked about her childhood, the influence her mother had on her through positivity and choosing joy in her life and the value of community. She also recalled her experience in the Israel Defense Forces' officer selection course as a young woman – just before the end of the course, each of the 40 remaining candidates in the group were required to name five people from the group that they thought should be removed from the training process. The candidates stayed up late that evening trying to mend fences and build connections with one another in the hopes of not having their names written down by their peers. As this swirled around her, Horenstein said she recalled a teaching from her school days.

"There are three names by which a person is called: the name your parents give you, the name people give you, and the name you give yourself," she said, "and the most important name of all is the one that you give yourself, that you earn."

She also spoke of resilience – and she was not the only one.

"Antisemitism has been rampant in recent years, and we are reminded that we have to stay strong as a community," OJCYF Board Member Sol Kodesch said. "In fact, over 70 percent of Jewish teens have experienced antisemitism, with around half experienc-



Above: Dorice Horenstein takes the stage at the Oregon Jewish Community Youth Foundation's "A Night in Tel Aviv" annual fundraiser Thursday, Apr. 16 at the Mittleman Jewish Community Center. Below left: OJCYF Board members coordinate the evening's production. Below right: A table display evoking the Israeli seaside metropolis of the evening's theme. (Rockne Roll/The Jewish Review)



ing it in schools. Let us have a moment to recognize the victims of antisemitic hatred and their resilience as a whole."

In the face of this, it is perhaps unsurprising that OJCYF chose to focus on addressing antisemitism in their grant-making process this year. But they also focused on addressing homelessness – not just with grantmaking, but through the clothing drive for Blanchet House that was hosted at the gala.

"We are part of a larger community, and half our group felt that it was imperative to support the community at large, as Judaism teaches us to pursue justice for the broader community," OJCYF Board Member Molly McCoy said. "These are real-life decisions that

we as OJCYF Board Members get to make, and it's been empowering for us to be able to speak up and find a way as a group to move forward."

While the impact that OJCYF has on the community, Jewish and non-Jewish alike, is significant – the foundation awarded its millionth grant dollar last year – the experience of serving on the board also has an impact on those who do so.

"I've learned so much about the grant-making process and how to make a difference in your community," Gabriel Horowitz said, "but I've also developed an amazing connection with other dedicated Jewish teams that I'll always value."

Learn more at [ojcf.org/ojcyf](http://ojcf.org/ojcyf).

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# 'Points of Light' illuminate OJMCHE annual gala



Photographs by ROCKNE ROLL

*The Jewish Review*

The Oregon Jewish Museum and Center for Holocaust Education hosted a colorful display of light along with four metaphorical lights of the community at their annual fundraising gala Thursday, Apr. 23, at the Sentinel Hotel in Downtown Portland. Eva Aigner, Lori Delman, Dan Sharp and Inge Hoogerhuis addressed the impact OJMCHE has had on their lives while Interim Executive Director Gail Mandel provided a preview of the museum's strategic plan to be unveiled later this summer at OJMCHE's annual meeting.



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# Israel-Cascadia Enduro Exchange to promote high-speed, two-wheeled cultural connections

The forested hills of Israel and the loamy slopes of the High Cascades don't have obvious similarities. They actually both offer exceptional mountain biking and are populated by exceptional riders. Benjamin Morgan is one of a handful of people who has experienced riding in both environments up close – and now it's his mission to bring riders from these two disparate locales together.

"When you're out mountain biking with these people, it just creates a really awesome sense of community," Morgan said. "And I felt the need to bring these communities together and also promote what Israel has going on in the mountain biking world."

To that end, Morgan has launched a non-profit, the Global Outdoor Opportunity & Network for Stewardship (GOONS, for short) and its flagship

program, the Israel-Cascadia Enduro Exchange. A fundraiser to support the program is scheduled for Monday, June 22 at pFreim Brewing in Milwaukie from 6-8 pm; a portion of the brewpub's sales during the evening will go to support the program.

"Enduro" is a format of mountain bike racing that combines the high-speed descents and jumps of downhill racing with the intense climbing of cross-country racing. Racers are required to ride the entirety of the course but are only timed on the descending portion. Without the benefit of being ushered to the top of the course like a downhill race, and without the spandex-clad packs of cross-country racing, Enduro racing reflects the riding experience of an average rider's day out mountain biking, but at the highest level of athletic competition. Like oth-

er forms of cycling, Enduro racing has become quite popular in Israel.

"Bicycling in general is a really popular sport in Israel," Morgan said. "Within the past 10 years, there have been some really solid internationally ranked riders and racers out there competing at the at the top level."

One of them has been Noga Korem. A former cross-country racer who turned to enduro racing, she racked up a lengthy string of top 10 finishes in UCI Enduro World Cup, the preeminent professional competition series. After capping off her career with a seventh-place finish at the 2024 UCI Enduro World Championships, she retired to focus on nurturing the next generation of Israeli riders. She's now partnering with Morgan on the Israel-Cascadia Enduro Exchange.

See **EXCHANGE**, page 10

## 'Labors of Love,' Ginzberg's latest, screening at Cinema 21 Monday, May 18

*The Jewish Review staff*

"There are two American women who left their mark on Palestine and then Israel: Golda Meir and Henrietta Szold," filmmaker Abby Ginzberg said.

Ginzberg's latest feature is about the latter.

"Labors of Love: The Life and Legacy of Henrietta Szold" will come to Portland for a Monday, May 18 screening at 7 pm at Cinema 21 in Northwest Portland, followed by a Q-and-A session with Ginzberg moderated by Rockne Roll, editor of Portland's *The Jewish Review*. The screening is sponsored by the Jewish Federation of Greater Portland and Portland Hadassah, the local chapter of the organization Szold co-founded in 1912 and served as president of until 1926.

"I tend to make films about people who are sort of under the radar, but who inspire me

and who I think if other people knew about, they would inspire them, as well," Ginzberg said. "So Henrietta fits a profile of the type of films that I do."

Szold was a trailblazer. She was the first woman to study at the Jewish Theological Seminary of America, after promising Rabbi Solomon Schechter that she would not seek ordination and the first editor of the Jewish Publication Society. A visit to Ottoman Palestine in the 1900s solidified her commitment to Zionism, and she worked through Hadassah in the US to support medical care, soup kitchens and other services for those in the region before eventually making *aliyah* herself in 1933, joining up with Youth Aliyah to help thousands of young Jewish children escape the coming Holocaust. She laid the cornerstone of Hadassah Hospital on Mount Scopus

in Jerusalem in 1934.

Despite her many achievements, her name is not especially well known, even in the modern country that she spent her life trying to bring about.

"In Israel, when people said, 'What are you doing here?' And I said, 'I'm working on a film about Henrietta Szold,' they would say, 'Oh, you mean the street?' I was like, 'No, I mean the woman for whom the street is named,'" Ginzberg recalled. "People know her as the name of a street in Israel, but they have no idea that Hadassah Hospital was her vision."

Ginzberg has her own unique connection to Szold; she is the granddaughter of Rabbi Louis Ginzberg, who rejected the affections of Szold, 15 years his senior, in 1902.

"I am the granddaughter of the man who basically

launched the second half of her life by telling her he is marrying somebody else," Ginzberg said.

While Szold died in 1945, never getting to experience Jewish self-determination in *Eretz Yisrael*, she had a particular vision for it. Szold was a long-time supporter of *Brit Shalom*, an organization focused on Jewish/Arab Unity and a binational state with distinct institutions for Jewish and Arab populations. She cofounded the Ihud party in 1942, which lived on after her death and opposed the United Nations partition plan that, in part, sparked the 1948 War of Independence.

"Because I am absolutely no expert on Zionism, I was scared that I was going to end up having to tell a story about all the debates in the Zionist world in the 1920s.

See **GINZBERG**, page 10

## AVDIJA (continued from page 1)

Play-In Tournament Tuesday, Apr. 14. Portland won the game, 114-110, to secure the seventh seed in the league playoffs. He's since averaged 22 points per game in Portland's first round playoff series against the San Antonio Spurs, which Portland lost four games to one following a 114-95 defeat Tuesday evening.

Avdija, who lives in Israel during the off season, grew up in Herzliya, an upscale coastal city just north of Tel Aviv known for its popular beaches, luxury marina and high-tech industry. As a professional athlete who keeps odd hours and travels often to different hotels, observing Jewish holidays has been challenging. "It's a little tricky, but I do whatever I can," he said during a mid-day break from warm-ups and layups at the Blazers' practice facility in Tualatin the Thursday following the win over Phoenix.

Despite accounting for just 0.2 percent of the world's population, Jews have made their mark in countless professions and have produced a disproportionate share of Nobel laureates. Asked whether his Jewish background drove an unyielding commitment to excellence on the basketball court, his answer was steeped in humility.

"It's just me being me, being a hard-working guy and humble," he noted. "I stay grounded most of the time. My parents did a great job of raising me to be a competitor and not backing down and being afraid."

Knowing Jews are expected to become doctors, lawyers, accountants or similar professionals, not professional athletes per se, Avdija credits his parents with being very supportive of his career choice. "I don't think your religion really dictates what you're going to do in life and whatever you're capable of doing," he believes. "I think everybody can do everything. I enjoy being an athlete and competing, and that's what I did."

Avdija is one of just four Jewish NBA players; the others being Ben Saraf and Danny Wolf, both of whom play for the Brooklyn Nets, and Domantas Sabonis of the Sacramento Kings who is in the process of converting to Judaism, according to public statements



Portland forward Avdija (in red) squares up against Phoenix's Jordan Goodwin in the 2026 NBA Play-In Tournament game between the Trail Blazers and the Suns Tuesday, Apr. 14 at the Mortgage Matchup Center in Phoenix. Avdija scored 41 points in the Blazers' upset victory. (Tyra Hunt/Portland Trail Blazers)

by his wife. Avdija is well-acquainted with Saraf, who grew up in Moshav Gan Yoshiya, Israel. He has also spoken with Blazers acting coach Tiago Splitter about the Brazilian-born former NBA player's Jewish roots, though "we didn't really get into it too much," he hastened to add.

Although low key about his Jewish and Israeli roots, he is embracing his role on such an enormous stage. "It feels amazing to represent such a small country, giving people a lot of peace and hope, especially in harsh and tough times," he explained. "They have a little something to watch and escape from all the things happening in the world right now."

Given the current highly charged political environment and developments overseas, the Blazers asked that there be no questions about politics or antisemitism as a condition for this interview. In fact, Avdija has largely avoided controversial topics – preferring instead to focus on basketball.

Like Kobe Bryant, Michael Jordan, and other elite NBA stars, Avdija reached the pinnacle of his career by grinding out his relentless pursuit of high performance both on and off the court. "I just try to be a better player and person every single day, and that's what got me here: hard work and dedication," he says.

The Blazers roster is as diverse as it is talented. The team is tied with the Golden State Warriors as the second most heavily international squad, with seven players apiece hailing from outside the United States. Joining Avdija are Toumani Camara (Belgium), Sidy Cissoko (France), Duop Reath (an Australian born in South Sudan), Rayan Rupert (France), Shaedon Sharpe (Canada), and Matisse Thybulle (whose dual citizenship is with Australia and the U.S.). This past season, the NBA featured a record 135 international players from 43 nations. It comes at a time when European stars increasingly are making their dominant presence known in a game invented by Americans.

"We're a very international team – having different cultures and perspectives, and I think it's fun," he said. "We're all getting along pretty good. Everybody's just learning from everybody and their roots. At the end of the day, we're a bunch of good human beings. It doesn't really matter where you're from or what you've been through. We have a good camaraderie around the team."

He describes being in the first playoff series of his six-year career as a high watermark that fills him with pride and a sense of accomplishment. "I think it's great for me, for the country I represent, and just in general," he says. "I'm super happy that I can have a challenge like that, and hopefully I can learn and do better."

*Bruce Shutan is a versatile journalist based in Portland who has written for nearly 140 publications, corporate entities, and individuals over four decades. He also ghostwrites independently published business books and memoirs and is an at-large member of the Cultural Synagogue Board of Directors. Find more of his work at [bruceshutan.com](http://bruceshutan.com).*

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# 106<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL MEETING

2025  
REVIEW

**WEDNESDAY  
MAY 27**

4:30 PM - 6:00 PM

**MITTLEMAN JEWISH  
COMMUNITY CENTER**

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*The evening will include sharing highlights of the past year, electing and welcoming new board members, thanking our outgoing board members, giving out several awards,*

**AND MUCH MORE!**

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**Jewish Federation**  
of Greater Portland

## WEEKLY (continued from page 1)

to readers rapidly, and that's what we're aiming to move towards."

The *Review* will also be updating its website, making alterations to its layout and increasing the connectivity between the e-newspaper and the website. These changes are all designed to make reading *The Jewish Review* easier, particularly on mobile devices.

"While many readers enjoy our Flipbook and PDF formats, which we are absolutely retaining," Roll said, "one of the most frequent comments I have heard is the

difficulty of accessing our coverage on a phone screen. When we roll out our new formatting, you will be able to click or tap on any story in our layout, including our feature photo packages, and go to the piece on the website for easier reading."

The *Review* will continue to feature Community Security Director Jessica Anderson's "Security Corner." Her column will appear every other week, with other writers providing commentary on alternating weeks. The *Review* will also continue highlighting community events of in-

terest while seeking to dive further into feature-style work on cultural subjects.

"The data from our Reader Survey made it clear that events coverage is important to readers – for many of them, it is our most important subject – and readers think the *Review* does it well. So, it's 'steady as she goes' in that regard," Roll said. "While it may seem counterintuitive, a more frequent production schedule should actually increase the opportunities to do more deep-dive reporting because each deadline isn't quite as

big a lift production-wise."

Meanwhile, The Jewish Review Podcast will shift to a monthly featured conversation format, with Roll interviewing leaders and luminaries from Portland and beyond.

"After two-and-a-half years, there's clear evidence that our best performing episodes have been those where we delve deep into big-picture topics," Roll explained. "Reducing our episode frequency provides space to identify and cultivate those conversations to give important voices and subjects the attention they deserve."

## EXCHANGE (continued from page 7)

"[Korem] and her husband are really active in creating downhill trails. They receive a lot of government funds to do it and then within her network of sponsors, she's been able to create these camps and educational groups to really bring up the next generation of riders," Morgan explained.

In the first phase of the exchange program, a group of those Israeli riders will make the schlep to the Pacific Northwest – bikes and all – in June of this year to connect with the local mountain biking community, do some trail building and maintenance with the Westside Trail Federation and cap the experience off at the Yacolt Burn Enduro in Southwest Washington, the third stop of the Cascadia Dirt Cup series. Phase two will see a group of American riders head off to Israel in

November for a similar experience, culminating with the series finale of the Israel Enduro Series.

Like almost any other activity that involves coming from or going to Israel, all these plans are subject to international events. Those events, and the negative perceptions they've cast on Israel, are a big part of what motivates Morgan. Working in the craft beer industry and pursuing mountain biking, Morgan is about as Northwestern as it gets, but his experience living and riding in Israel was profoundly impactful, and his own feelings about the American government give him a frame of reference for separating the actions of a country's leaders from what a place and a people are really about.

"There's a disconnect between the people of a region and politics and

look, I'm not a fan of what's going on here in the States and a lot of the leadership decisions that are being made. I'm not a fan, but it doesn't reflect who I am as an American," he said. "This program really opens up the opportunity to create bonds over cycling, whether or not conversations happen over what's going on in the world or it's just getting together and mountain biking. To have Americans come back and say, 'I've been to the north of Israel and the Negev desert. There's some pretty awesome stuff over there, and the people that ride there are really great people and they put in a lot of hard work to build this vibrant mountain biking community.'"

Learn more at [zeffy.com/en-US/donation-form/israel-cascadia-enduro-exchange-seeding-fund](https://zeffy.com/en-US/donation-form/israel-cascadia-enduro-exchange-seeding-fund)

## GINZBERG (continued from page 7)

And I thought, 'That's not the film I wanted to make,'" Ginzberg said. "I ended up doing a portrait of the amazing stuff that she accomplished and positioning her in a world where women were not very influential."

As part of the fundraising efforts to make the film, those donating at least \$1,000 were able to dedicate that contribution to their mother or grandmother – often women who were involved in

Hadassah and are the main reason Szold is recognized in the US at all.

"Somebody asked me the other night at a screening, 'Why do you think she's not known?' So I asked the question, 'How many people in the audience know who Frances Perkins is?' Nobody," Ginzberg recalled. "She was the first female Secretary of Labor. It's not just Henrietta we don't know. We don't know a lot of women's history,

and we don't know a lot of women's names. History has been, as we see, largely written by men about men. So [the film is] a contribution, I think, to understanding what this remarkable woman did."

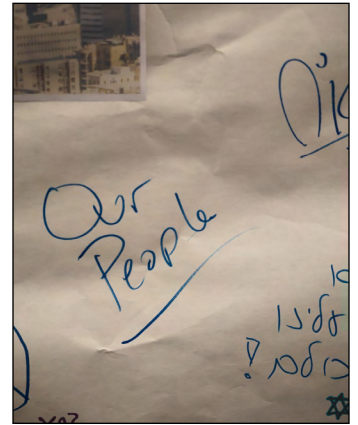
Learn more and purchase tickets for the May 18 screening at [eventbrite.com/e/labors-of-love-the-life-and-legacy-of-henrietta-szold-film-screening-tickets-1985393140328](https://eventbrite.com/e/labors-of-love-the-life-and-legacy-of-henrietta-szold-film-screening-tickets-1985393140328).

# Portland celebrates Yom Ha'Atzmaut at MJCC

Photographs by ROCKNE ROLL

*The Jewish Review*

Hundreds of revelers danced and sang along with Israeli band Hashayara at the Jewish Festival of Greater Portland's Yom Ha'Atzmaut celebration Sunday, Apr. 26 at the Mittleman Jewish Community Center. The party, marking 78 years since the declaration of the State of Israel, also included food, a pair of bounce-houses for children and a cutout of Israeli basketball sensation Deni Avdija.



# OJMCHE hosts week of 'In This Sand' workshops

*Oregon Jewish Museum and Center for Holocaust Education*

The Oregon Jewish Museum and Center for Holocaust Education will host In This Sand: Seven Days of Collective Care with Cara Levine, a free week-long series of participatory workshops and group experiences May 18-24 in Portland.

Through seven events, Levine and the museum invite the public to explore grief, healing, and Jewish identity through shared creative practices and multiple lenses, including pewter casting, poetry, sound healing, and guided conversation. Inspired by shiva, Judaism's seven-day mourning period, In This Sand expands on the themes of Levine's current exhibition, Without End: Recent Work on Grief, transforming the museum into an active space for reflection, connection, and creative expression. The program reflects Levine's core artistic ambitions: to confront suffering as a shared human experience while fostering empathy and mutual understanding.

"I've been shaped in a way where I'm very tuned into the loss that we're all carrying and that we're all experiencing all the time," Levine said. "It's something that creates a level of understanding, mutuality — for me — in a

world that sometimes is bearable and sometimes is unbearable."

Like her work, this week-long residency is rooted in the values Levine inherited from her family, including compassion, curiosity, social justice, and *arvut hadadit*, the principle of mutual accountability.

"Caring for each other is a Jewish value," said exhibition curator Yaelle Amir. "This show is all about caring for each other and about having a personal experience with other people."

In This Sand offers many opportunities for participants of all ages, from teens to families to elders. The opening sessions, Silverlinings, invite participants to draw an object lost to climate disaster using the gallery sandbox, then cast it in pewter. Interested parties can sign up for these one-on-one sessions on the OJMCHE website. Later in the week, Portland artist Daniela Naomi Molnar leads a poetry workshop exploring how to turn grief over climate change into a creative force. Mediator Dorit Price-Levine facilitates a guided conversation on loss and shifting Jewish identity in the wake of Oct. 7. Additional events include a family-focused workshop on navigating children's big feelings with the nonprofit OK YOU, a

session with Rabbi Sarah Rensin about applying the power of the Kaddish to the challenges of aging, and a sound healing experience with The Lantern.

The programs welcome participants of all backgrounds and offer an accessible entry point into contemporary Jewish identity. No prior artistic experience is required. By changing visitors from observers to active participants, In This Sand encourages people to process grief through art, ritual, and our shared humanity—recognizing loss as both personal and collective.

In our challenging moment of climate change, warfare, and political division, Levine's activist art offers a welcome home for empathy, compassion, and collective responsibility.

"Cara creates opportunities through her work," Amir said. "Every part of her practice is an offering." She creates activist art for everyone.

As the culminating program of Without End, In This Sand reflects OJMCHE's commitment to presenting art as a catalyst for dialogue, healing, and a broad exploration of modern Jewish identity.

Space is limited for all events. Learn more and register at [ojmche.org/events/inthissand](http://ojmche.org/events/inthissand).

## Brodkins headline Kesser Israel weekend May 15-16

*Congregation Kesser Israel*

Rabbi Ken and Aviel Brodtkin, who helped transform Portland's observant Jewish community during their 17-year tenure here, will be serving as Scholars in Residence at Congregation Kesser Israel May 15 and 16.

The Brodtkins, currently leading Congregation Bnai Israel in Manalapan, N.J., also will be attending the Portland Kollel's 20th Anniversary Dinner on May 13.

"We are delighted, and honored, to be able to welcome the Brodtkins for this special Shabbat," said Sura Rubenstein, Kesser's board president. "They have done so much, individually and together, to strengthen Jewish life, both within our congregation and throughout Portland."

Under the Brodtkins' leadership, Congregation Kesser Israel moved from its original location in the heart of Portland's Jewish immigrant community to its current location near the MJCC. Rabbi Brodtkin, together with the Portland Kollel, established an eruv, expanded Oregon Kosher, and assisted with the construction of Rachel's Well, the community mikvah. In 2011, Aviel Brodtkin and her husband established Maayan Torah Day School, which Mrs. Brodtkin served as principal for 10 years. The school is currently celebrating its 15th anniversary.

In August 2022, the Brodtkins took on a new challenge at Congregation Bnai Israel, a longstanding Conservative congregation that decided to return

to its Orthodox roots to appeal to the younger, more traditionally observant families moving into its surrounding community.

Today, in addition to their roles at Bnai Israel, the Brodtkins consult with other communities seeking to overcome challenges. "None of it is easy," Rabbi Brodtkin said, "But every challenge carries within it an opening for renewal, clarity, and rebirth."

On May 16, Rabbi Brodtkin will speak at Shabbat morning and afternoon services at Kesser Israel, with Aviel Brodtkin speaking afterwards during lunch.

For more information, call (503) 222-1239 or email [office@kesserisrael.org](mailto:office@kesserisrael.org); to register for lunch: [kesserisrael.org/form/Brodtkin\\_Shabbaton\\_Lunch](http://kesserisrael.org/form/Brodtkin_Shabbaton_Lunch).

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# LABORS OF LOVE

The Life and Legacy of Henrietta Szold

*A film by Peabody Award Winner Abby Ginzberg  
with Tovah Feldshuh as the voice of Henrietta Szold*



**Monday, May 18 at 7pm**

Apost-screening discussion with director  
Abby Ginzberg will be moderated by  
Rockne Roll, Editor of the Jewish Review.

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**A visionary leader and one of history's most influential,  
yet under-recognized, American Jewish women,  
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Henrietta founded Hadassah in 1912, an organization that has played a pivotal role in the modern healthcare system of Israel for more than 114 years, built on a mandate to treat all people equally.

Questions? Contact [pnwinfo@hadassah.org](mailto:pnwinfo@hadassah.org)

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# Safety goes on the road

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## NEXT ISSUE

**Issue date    Deadline**

**MAY 7**

**MAY 4**

By **JESSICA ANDERSON**

I'm writing this from 30,000 feet in the air, en route to the New Orleans Jazz & Heritage Festival, a yearly event featuring all genres of music and great food over two weekends. New Orleans is one of my favorite U.S. cities, and I think it is hands down in the top three for most unique American cities. The mix of culture, language, food, and history is unlike any other place in the U.S. If you know, you know. It also has its share of crime, and it made me think that as we approach travel season, I would visit the topic of safety while traveling.

A trip to Jazz Fest brings to mind a couple of safety considerations – time spent at the festival in large crowds and navigating in the city. But travel safety starts before you even leave the house. For starters, I tell no one outside my personal circle that I'll be out of town, particularly if I'm leaving an empty house. This may sound dramatic, but I could tell you some crazy tales about break-ins that happened while people were away. In one instance, someone told a casual acquaintance in the neighborhood that he was going away; in another case, the person told their cab driver that he was going to be on an extended overseas trip. This homeowner also needed a new furnace right before he left and had three different companies come to the house to give him quotes, also telling them that they would have to wait three weeks for installation because he was going out of town! Not good. In



*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.*

both cases, these two people experienced a break-in at their house while they were away. Along these lines, I never tell my cab, Lyft, or Uber driver what my plans are, where I'm going, or for how long. If we're chatting, and they ask about my trip, I'm always either doing an up-and-back day trip to Seattle (if I just have a small carry-on) or I weave my left-behind husband or house sitter into the conversation, so they know the house isn't empty. You do not have to tell the truth to anyone in these situations. The same recommendation holds for posting pictures from your trip on social media while you're away - you're advertising to the world that your house is empty.

So, I've made it to the airport and am on my way. I don't access the free WIFI at the airport without turning on my private Virtual Public Network (VPN). I recently took a call from someone who had Bitcoin stolen in a scam that started because he accessed his Coinbase account on free, public WIFI. If you think, well, I don't do those kinds of investments, know it could have been any of his financial accounts. Is

it a pain to have to wait until you can find private WIFI or to have to use a VPN? Yes, it is but do it. Accessing accounts over cell phone data is far safer and more anonymous than using unsecured WIFI.

After landing at Louis Armstrong Airport, I'm headed to the Airbnb in a Lyft. It's late here, and if I were alone in the car with a male driver, I might consider calling someone to chat while in the car. It might make him think twice about doing anything concerning, being that I could relay information to my friend on the phone. Tomorrow morning, I'll join more than 60,000 others at the fairgrounds. I'll have a backpack with me, but my cash, phone, and credit cards I'll keep in a hip bag. I did this recently, traveling in Europe after hearing about pickpockets (though I never had a problem). In large, pressed-in groups, I stay mindful of my bag, sometimes switching it around to my front, where I have more control over it. Situational awareness in crowds doesn't mean I'm constantly checking around myself. It means that I know where I am in re-

See **SECURITY**, page 19

# The View from Mount Scopus

## Exodus in reverse, part two: A different danger

*Editor's Note: This is the second of a two-part series. Part one appeared in the Apr. 15, 2026 edition.*

By EZRA COHEN

I had more time to “let the bread rise” than when the Israelites left Egypt four thousand years ago—but not much.

The Sunday after I decided to leave found me and two female friends – one from Rome, the other from Denver – who’d also decided to leave and felt safer making the journey with a guy, on a packed bus chugging south down the highway. Though I still had misgivings about leaving, I could not ignore my excitement at the prospect of being free from the sirens and the ongoing threat we’d been living under for three weeks now. Five hours later, we arrived in Eilat, a small border town on the Red Sea from which Jordan, Saudi Arabia, and Egypt can all be seen. There, the prospect of relief felt more intoxicating still.

Our proximity to Egypt, however, belied the difficulty we’d have actually getting there. There was a line, a payment, a guard and another guard who insisted that one of my companions who’d made aliyah a year prior did not have a military exemption. It took an hour before she finally convinced them otherwise. On the Egyptian side of the crossing, a guard pointed to my trusty – and not inexpensive – binoculars and told me they were a security threat. I either had to hand them over or return to the Israel crossing and give them to someone to take back for me. I could almost touch Egypt from where I stood, but I couldn’t give up my binoculars. Against the objections of my parents who feared I might not successfully cross back again, I returned to Israel, gave the binoculars to the

mother of a friend who lived nearby and lined up again on the Israeli side of the border to begin Exodus Round Two. Freedom, it seemed, didn’t come easy.

It was when we finally arrived in Taba, where we were greeted by aggressive, turbaned taxi drivers casting long, leering looks at the girls, when I started to wonder whether freedom would come at all. Missiles from above were not a threat anymore, but throughout the evening, as tried to enjoy the decadent hotel buffet and the belly-dancers, we felt watched at every juncture, deeply aware of being Jews having come from Israel to an Arab country. It occurred to me that perhaps we’d escaped from one kind of danger only to arrive in another.

But I also felt almost giddy with relief to have escaped the

missiles, and when the girls were safely back in the room, I couldn’t resist testing out the smoke-filled casino. Ordinarily crowded with Israelis gamblers, I found myself instead surrounded by Egyptians. They bantered with me at the Blackjack tables, and to some degree I found myself relaxing, enjoying myself and the company of the men I was surrounded by. Still, though, even as I could relax a bit, I felt suddenly like a stranger in a strange land, overwhelmed by the journey, as though we had escaped from one kind of danger only to end up in another.

Fifteen hours later, I landed in Athens. The city seemed eerily calm and relaxed. For the first time in a month, there were no sirens, no missiles, no imminent threats. Or so it seemed.

As I wandered blearily around the city, I saw graffiti everywhere that suggested otherwise. “Death to the IDF.” “Free Palestine.” On the way up to see the Acropolis, I saw a wall on which was scrawled: “Kill all Zionists.” A Jewish star hanging from a crudely drawn noose was on an alley near downtown.

I’d come from a place where long-range missiles expressed the desire of a group to kill the Jews, but here those people walked right past me on the street. I thought that my chances of getting attacked here for wearing the Magen David on my neck were far higher than the actual risk of dying in a missile attack in Israel. My parents’ wishes notwithstanding, I couldn’t help pondering the trade-offs of crossing borders and flying rickety airplanes just to end up in an equally hostile environment.

It occurred to me that this was exactly the feeling the Israelites felt when they finally escaped Egypt only to spend the next 40 years wandering through the Sinai desert. Many became furious with Moses, believing they were misled by false promises. Some, according to legend, deserted the group altogether. As I continued to make my way back to Oregon, through Portugal and then New York, I wondered if I too had somehow been misled.

*Portland native Ezra Lev Cohen is currently studying at Hebrew University in Jerusalem and reports for The Press Service of Israel as an intern. He’s a junior at Macalester College, in St. Paul, Minn, majoring in journalism and geography. He is thrilled to be going back to Israel this summer as an intern with the Maccabi Media Team. Find him on Instagram at @ezzy\_reports and connect with him on LinkedIn or by email at ezzycohen@icloud.com.*



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

## JFCS Seder serves 70

Jewish Family & Child Service, Congregation Beth Israel, WRJ/Beth Israel Sisterhood, and Congregation Neveh Shalom Sisterhood came together to host more than 70 people for the 65th JFCS Community Seder during *Pesach* earlier this month. (Robyn Taylor/Jewish Family & Child Service)



# Avdija a modern-day Koufax for a different world

*Editor's Note: This story was originally published in the Forward ([forward.com/news/sports/820981/deni-avdija-israeli-basketball-trail-blazers](https://forward.com/news/sports/820981/deni-avdija-israeli-basketball-trail-blazers)). To get the Forward's free email newsletters delivered to your inbox, go to [forward.com/newsletter-signup](https://forward.com/newsletter-signup).*

By LOUIS KEANE

*The Forward*

Something strange, funny and frankly delicious happened on social media last Tuesday night: A legion of extremely online sports fans came forward to admit that the NBA's most famous Israeli was, unfortunately, very good at basketball.

Deni Avdija, the 25-year-old forward for the Portland Trail Blazers, had just scored 41 points and the winning basket in a game that clinched his team's first playoff appearance in five years. He had been a revelation even the most irrational haters couldn't deny.

"Deni a f—ing hooper bro I'm sorry I'm sorry," grieved one social media user. Said another: "I don't think there's ever been a player to shut me up as much as Deni has tonight."

What was so upsetting about this? "Accidentally celebrated Denicide," one person confessed, using a crude portmanteau you can probably figure out. Another said Avdija had beaten his opponent "IDF style." Their bitterness was not about Avdija the basketball player, in other words. It was about his country of birth, the wars it has waged and the awful human toll of the last two-and-a-half years.

It is both the projection of anti-Israel resentments onto Avdija and his ability to transcend them that make him the defining Jewish athlete of our time, a Sandy Koufax figure for the 21st century. Koufax's decision to sit out a 1965 World Series game on Yom Kippur evoked Jewish questions of assimilation in midcentury America. Avdija's breakthrough, and the tempest it has provoked, reflect the tensions around Israel and Zionism inherent to today's American Jewish experience.

Avdija has mostly stayed out of the fray of Israeli-Palestinian affairs, but he has not been silent. He has posted standard (though hardly neutral) solidarity messages along the lines of "Am Yisrael Chai." After Oct. 7 — an attack in which he personally knew some victims — he Sharpied the names of fallen Israeli soldiers on his shoes. "I'm from there, and I respect my country, and I stand behind it," he told *The Athletic* earlier this year. "I'm a proud Israeli, because that's where I grew up." While Avdija has not actively defended his country's leadership, he also has not condemned it.

He also served, albeit briefly, in the Israeli army. Drafted by

the Washington Wizards as a teenager, he was exempt from mandatory service, but he enlisted anyway and did something along the lines of basic training before moving to the States. This was in 2020, long before World War III began and, as the Guardian's Lee Escobedo wrote, at an age most people have not formed ironclad opinions. Avdija never saw combat.

Nevertheless, online NBA fans have taken to calling him a war criminal, and some — ironically, I think? — have attributed his ability to earn free throws to the domineering influence of Benjamin Netanyahu. These insults will sound familiar to many American Jews, many of whom have felt themselves at one moment or another become someone else's proxy for the war in Gaza.

Avdija's response, then, can become a proxy for ours. "It's frustrating to see all the hate," he said in January. "Like, I have a good game or get All-Star votes, and all the comments are people connecting me to politics. Like, why can't I just be a good basketball player? Why does it matter if I'm from Israel, or wherever in the world, or what my race is? Just respect me as a basketball player."

Perhaps a desire to overcome that bias has fueled his recent success. After last Tuesday's masterpiece, he poured in 30 points, 10 rebounds and 5 assists in a loss to the heavily favored San Antonio Spurs; in Game 2, Avdija used his signature deceleration move to set up the game-winning dunk. It felt especially good, he said afterward, to win on the Israeli Day of Independence.

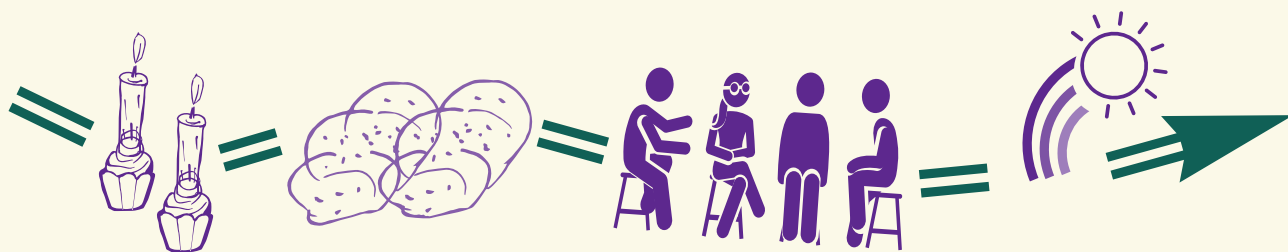
Freighted with the ambassadorship of an unpopular country, Avdija is only comfortable representing it by being the best basketball player he can be. That approach, I would argue, is as valid as the frustration he isn't saying or doing more. This is sports, where the dreams and anxieties of the viewing public are always projected onto the contestants, and this is the sports hero we're getting.

No Jewish pro athlete since Koufax — not a slugger like Shawn Green or another ace pitcher like Max Fried; not an Orthodox overachiever like Ryan Turell — has been as charged as the post-10/7 Israeli NBA star. Avdija, who made his first All-Star team this year, unites and divides simply by keeping his team on TV. At the outset of every playoff game, NBC allows each team's starters to introduce themselves and state their alma mater. Avdija, who did not attend college, says "Herzeliya, Israel." It feels significant.

*Louis Keane 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.*



# NEXTGEN JEWISH COMMUNITY EDUCATIONAL EVENING



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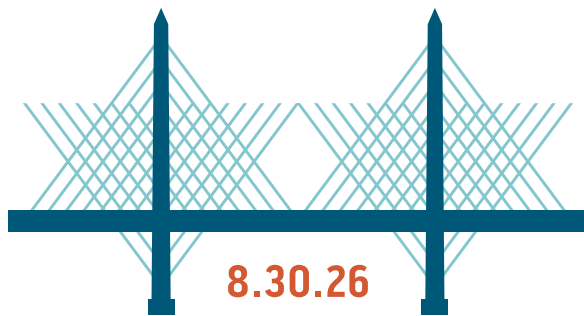
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# Portland



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## Apr. 29: Shalom Snuggles

Adult-and-baby community group at 9:15 am at Maayan Torah Day School. More information and registration at [fs29.formsite.com/vgKYQG/zobti9emki/index](http://fs29.formsite.com/vgKYQG/zobti9emki/index).

## Apr. 29: Learn to Dance!

Weekly Beginner Israeli Folk Dance class at the Multnomah Arts Center in Southwest Portland at 7 pm. For more information, visit [sites.google.com/site/pifd-news](http://sites.google.com/site/pifd-news).

## Apr. 29: Washington County and Beaverton Candidate Forum

Forum for Beaverton and Washington County candidates at 7 pm. Email [rachel@jewishportland.org](mailto:rachel@jewishportland.org) for more information.

## Apr. 30: Spaghetti Dinner at BB Camp

Dinner and camp tour at BB Camp at 5 pm. Registration at [bb-360.org/spaghetti](http://bb-360.org/spaghetti).

## Apr. 30: Rooted - Nature Inspired Embodied Healing

Women's wellness class at the Eastside Jewish Commons at 7 pm. More information at [ejcpdx.org/events](http://ejcpdx.org/events).

## May 1: Sephardic Community Shabbat Dinner

Shabbat dinner at Congregation Ahavath Achim at 6:45 pm. Registration at [ahavathachimpdx.weebly.com/monthly-shabbat-diners.html](http://ahavathachimpdx.weebly.com/monthly-shabbat-diners.html).

[com/monthly-shabbat-diners.html](http://ahavathachimpdx.weebly.com/monthly-shabbat-diners.html).

## May 2: Sephardic Foundations

Weekly Torah study class at Congregation Ahavath Achim at 12:30 pm. Learn more at [ahavathachimpdx.weebly.com/sephardic-foundations.html](http://ahavathachimpdx.weebly.com/sephardic-foundations.html).

## May 3: Introduction to Talmud Study with Rabbi Emily Kapor-Mater

Weekly Talmud study at Congregation Neveh Shalom at 9:30 am. More information at [members.nevehshalom.org/form/adult-ed--intro-to-talmud-25-26.html](http://members.nevehshalom.org/form/adult-ed--intro-to-talmud-25-26.html).

## May 3: Krav Maga Introductory Course

Weekly self-defense course at the Mittleman Jewish Community Center at 10 am. More information at [oregon-jcc.org/culture](http://oregon-jcc.org/culture).

## May 3: Wee Kol Ami

Family play group at Congregation Kol Ami at 10 am. More information at [sue-meyer.wufoo.com/forms/m1fmfvb61bbz39e/](http://sue-meyer.wufoo.com/forms/m1fmfvb61bbz39e/).

## May 3: A Letter to Uncle Bruce

Grief processing workshop at the Oregon Jewish Museum and Center for Holocaust Education at 11:30 am. Registration at [ojmche.org/events/a-letter-to-uncle-bruce-grief-processing-through-letter-writing/](http://ojmche.org/events/a-letter-to-uncle-bruce-grief-processing-through-letter-writing/).

## May 3: Public tour of

## Psychedelicatessen

Art exhibit tour at the Oregon Jewish Museum and Center for Holocaust Education at noon. Registration at [ojmche.org/events/public-docent-led-tour-of-psychedelicatessen-a-powerful-dose-of-art-by-steve-marcus-3/](http://ojmche.org/events/public-docent-led-tour-of-psychedelicatessen-a-powerful-dose-of-art-by-steve-marcus-3/)

## May 3: Public tour of Without End

Art exhibit tour at the Oregon Jewish Museum and Center for Holocaust Education at 1 pm. Registration at [ojmche.org/events/public-curator-led-tour-of-without-end-recent-work-on-grief-by-cara-levine-3/](http://ojmche.org/events/public-curator-led-tour-of-without-end-recent-work-on-grief-by-cara-levine-3/).

## May 3: Portland Jewish Writers Circle

Writing group at 2 pm. For more information, email [benschubert@icloud.com](mailto:benschubert@icloud.com).

## May 3: Israeli Folk Dance Intermediate Class & Open Dance

Weekly dance class and session at the Southwest Community Center. Class at 2:30 pm, open dancing at 3:30. More information at [sites.google.com/site/pifd-news](http://sites.google.com/site/pifd-news).

## May 3: 29th Street Writers Author Readings

Public reading at the Eastside Jewish Commons at 3 pm. More information at [ejcpdx.org/events](http://ejcpdx.org/events).

## May 3: Schechter Spark

Camp fundraiser in Portland, Seattle and Vancouver, B.C. at 4 pm. More information at [campschechter.org/spark](http://campschechter.org/spark).

## May 5: Israeli American Lag B'Omer Celebration

Potluck celebration at 6 pm. For more information, email [esegal@nevehshalom.org](mailto:esegal@nevehshalom.org).

## May 6: Fragments - Yoni Avi Battat in Concert

Concert at the Eastside Jewish Commons at 7:30. Tickets at [events.humanitix.com/yonibattatconcert](http://events.humanitix.com/yonibattatconcert).

## May 7-17: 2026 Portland Jewish Music Festival

Details and tickets at [ejcpdx.org/pjmf26](http://ejcpdx.org/pjmf26).

## May 7: JFCS Community Connection

Virtual support group at 2 pm via Zoom. [jfcs-portland.org/community-connection/](http://jfcs-portland.org/community-connection/).

## May 7: PJC goes to First Thursday Night Market

Young adult social outing at Deschutes Brewery in Northwest Portland at 6:30 pm. For more information, [portlandjewishconnection@gmail.com](mailto:portlandjewishconnection@gmail.com).

## May 8-10: Scholar-in-Residence 2026 with Rabbi Danny Nevins

See story, page 2.

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

## LYNDA BAKER

It is with deep sadness that Congregation Shaarie Torah announces the passing of Lynda Baker, z"l, beloved cousin of Craig and Keith Berne. Lynda passed away on Apr. 19, 2026, at the age of 82.

She is survived by her son Randy Baker, her cousins Keith (Rosie) Berne, Craig (Jan) Berne, Rick (Audrey) Berne, Steve (Peggy) Berne, Scott Fenton, Cliff (Sherry) Fenton, and their families. She was predeceased by her mother Ronnie Wood, z"l, her brother Michael Laufer, z"l and her aunt and uncle Lee and Frank Berne, z"l.

A funeral was held Tuesday, Apr. 21 at Congregation Beth Israel Cemetery. Donations in Lynda's memory can be made to Congregation Beth Israel.

## LORRAINE GOLDFOOT

It is with deep sadness that Congregation Shaarie Torah announces the passing of Lorraine Goldfoot, z"l. Lorraine passed away on Mar. 3, 2026.

She is survived by her children, Tamara (Robert) Jensen, Wendy (Thomas) Hardy and Charles Goldfoot; and by her four grandchildren and four great-grandchildren. She was predeceased by her husband, Nathan Goldfoot, z"l, parents Harry and Frances Slifman, z"l and brothers Gary Slifman, z"l and Marvin Slifman, z"l. Many people may remember hearing Lorraine's beautiful voice as she sang at many services and simchas throughout the community.

Internment was held on March 6 at Willamette Cemetery.

## SECURITY (continued from page 14)

lation to the exits and major walkways, and I'm attuned to the sounds and feel of the crowd. If I hear something stirring, I notice and am available to react, but I'm not constantly looking out for it. As in all safety situations, the sooner you're able to identify that something's happening, the quicker you can figure out what to do.

Walking back to our Airb-

nb in the evening, even in what appears to be a nice neighborhood, we're paying attention to what's going on around us, noticing that passing cars keep moving and there aren't people behind us or approaching. I would consider crossing the street or temporarily changing direction. This is the time when I'm most focused on safety, and sometimes it's

far smarter to call an Uber than risk walking in parts of town you're unfamiliar with.

I've filed this article before I get home, but I promise you I had a great time and stayed safe. Any attention I paid to my safety and security was simple, easy, thoughtful, and didn't detract at all from my enjoyment. That is really what safety and security are all about. Small actions, min-

imal distractions, and big potential impact. As I say in my trainings, it's like putting on seatbelts. We don't expect to get into an accident, but if we do, we're more prepared and protected.

For training dates and class descriptions, check out the Security page on the JFPG website, found at <https://jewishportland.org/security>.

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