

TULSA

# Jewish Review

Tishri/Heshvan 5784  
October 2023

*Greetings From*  
**TEL AVIV • NIGHTS**  
*The City That Never Sleeps*

The Museum Gala

The  
Sherwin Miller  
Museum  
of Jewish Art







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**— Tyne Shillingford '03**  
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### Correction September Article Exploring Jewish Identity at BBYO Summer Programs:

BBYO summer program opportunities are made possible to Tulsa members through the following funds: The Ellen Singer BBG Heart and Soul Fund, Alex & Marj Singer BBYO Leadership Fund, David Finer BBYO Scholarship Fund, Marj & Herschel Rubin BBYO Leadership Endowment Fund, Dave & Barbara Sylvan BBYO Fund, and the Scott Sanditen BBYO Scholarships.

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Front Cover



Annual SMMJA Gala Design by Stephanie Krauthaim.

## JEWISH FEDERATION OF TULSA

### MISSION:

The mission of the Jewish Federation is to preserve and enhance Jewish life and well-being in Eastern Oklahoma, Israel, and the entire world. The mission is being addressed by pursuing charitable, humanitarian, cultural, educational, health, and social service needs of the Jewish community as well as by engaging in community relations, outreach, and providing a variety of services to the broader Tulsa community. The Jewish Federation supports the Charles Schusterman Jewish Community Center, The Sherwin Miller Museum of Jewish Art, and Mizel Jewish Community Day School.

### VALUES:

#### *Kehila – Community*

Fostering a connected and collaborative Jewish community, characterized by respect, empathy, and understanding.

#### *Tzedek – Justice*

Continuously improving the quality of life of all Tulsans, as well as our partners in Israel and abroad, through philanthropic giving of our resources and time.

#### *L’Dor V’Dor –*

#### *From Generation to Generation*

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## DIRECTOR’S CORNER

by Aida Nozick, Executive Director

It’s October and time to gather one’s family under the sukkah. Sukkot is such a wonderful time of year; the intense summer heat is fading into a distant memory and the air is crisp and fresh. Sukkot is a time to appreciate the bountiful harvest of fall, and the shelter of our homes and bodies. I am particularly looking forward to this year’s *Sukkot with the Shaliach* event on Thursday, October 5 as this will be Shahaf’s first Sukkot with us here in Tulsa. Sukkot in beautiful Liberator’s Park is always a family-friendly, all ages event. We hope to see you under our Sukkah!

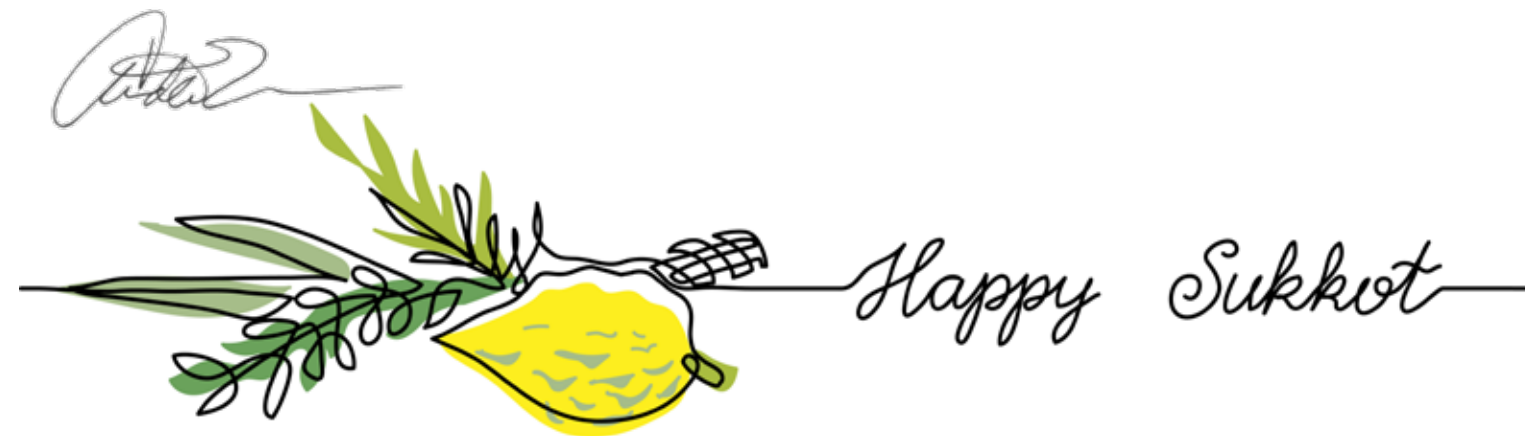
Fall fundraising season is in full swing. The Jewish Federation kicked off our Annual Campaign season with a packed auditorium for a wonderful night of comedy and community on September 7th. Hard-working staff, lay leaders, and volunteers pivoted immediately to Super Sunday, our annual phone-a-thon to community members. Our goal for this year’s Annual Campaign is \$1.5M. Annual Campaign supports everything we do here at the Jewish Federation, including producing our wonderful Tulsa Jewish Review. We are grateful for your continued generosity each year, ensuring we continue to improve the quality of Jewish life here in Tulsa and around the world. Thank you for helping your Jewish Federation thrive for 85 years!

The Sherwin Miller Museum of Jewish Art will hold its annual Gala on October 22. This is not your usual, run-of-the-mill gala. Event chairs, Philip and Miranda Kaiser, have ensured this year to be lively and full of surprises. Be prepared to be transported to Tel Aviv as the Federation will be transformed into a festive street party! From the decorations, to the attire, to the cocktail hour, to the many chefs, this year’s gala is one not to be missed. More information about Tel Aviv Nights on page 12.

Meanwhile, in the actual city of Tel Aviv, a group of 10 Jewish moms from Tulsa will be about to embark on a 10-day personal journey with MOMentum Unlimited and co-sponsored by the Federation. MOMentum is a global organization focused on the greatest influencer—the Jewish mother. MOMentum offers powerful, curated journeys to Israel for women to connect, grow personally and spiritually, and bring this wisdom back to their homes and communities. I am so jealous of the amazing transformational experience these women are about to embark on! Stay tuned to our social media channels and the December TJR for trip photos and highlights.



*Thank you for helping your Jewish Federation thrive for 85 years!*





UPCOMING EVENTS



**Sukkot with the Shaliach | Thursday, October 5 | 4:00–7:00 PM | Liberators’ Park**

Stop by anytime throughout the evening for this family-friendly event! There will be a variety of arts and crafts stations to leave your mark on the Sukkah, including making magnets and learning Origami designs. Enjoy Sukkot-themed charcuterie boards made by one of our very own YJPs, Katie Falk, and stay for the official program beginning at 6 pm. Shahaf will educate about the holiday of Sukkot with the theme Sukkat Shalom (Peace within the Sukkah). This event is free and is perfect for all ages!



RSVP at: [JewishTulsa.org/sukkot](http://JewishTulsa.org/sukkot)



**Lunch Bunch | Wednesday, October 11 | 12:00 PM | Barbara and Dave Sylvan Auditorium**

Our speaker for this month’s program is **Kellyn Register from the Gathering Place**—rated the best city park in the country in USA Today poll. Kellyn has held the role of Horticulture Manager since 2018. Her responsibilities include directly managing the day to day horticulture operations of 66 acres to ensure plant health, aesthetics, and safety. She directly manages 14 Horticulturists and assists with managing the arborist and irrigation team. She is a key member of the park’s Safety Committee and coordinates ongoing safety trainings for her team. Optional lunch is available for \$13. Menu is a fall themed soup and salad combo with dessert by Chef Veronica.



RSVP at: [JewishTulsa.org/lb-oct](http://JewishTulsa.org/lb-oct)



**MahJong Meet Up | Sunday, October 15 | 2:00 PM | Lecture Hall**

Inviting all levels of mahjong players—beginner, intermediate, and advanced—to our kickoff social and open play. This will be a time to meet other people interested in Mahjong, share contact information, and enjoy some tasty treats. Intermediate to advanced players should bring their own set for play following the social time. Beginners will receive their first lesson of an eight-week series. Cost for the beginner series is \$36. Light nosh and drinks provided! This is a partnership between JFT and CSJCC.



RSVP at: [JewishTulsa.org/mahjong-oct](http://JewishTulsa.org/mahjong-oct)



**JMom’s Candle Making | Tuesday, October 24 | 7:00 PM | Wick and Flame Candle Bar**

J Mom’s is a space for mother’s raising Jewish children to support each other, share experiences, bond as moms, and grow as parents. This series will meet at a new candle shop where you can make your own candle and have a conversation around “being the light” as we enter fall season.



RSVP at: [JewishTulsa.org/jmoms-candle](http://JewishTulsa.org/jmoms-candle)



by Chloe Kirk, Director of Holocaust Education and Community Relations

AS WE CELEBRATE 50 YEARS of the Shlichut program, in partnership with the Jewish Agency for Israel, we happily welcomed our new Shaliach, Shahaf Feinkuchen and his wife Hadas, to Tulsa last month. I sat down with Shahaf to learn more about him.

**Chloe:** Hi Shahaf, welcome to Tulsa! Our community is so excited to get to know you. Tell us about yourself.

**Shahaf:** I’m so happy and excited to be here. I’ll start with a fun fact about me, my name is the Hebrew word for seagull.

**Chloe:** How neat! So, tell me what made you decide to become an Emissary?

**Shahaf:** I worked for many years in the field of non-formal education, Zionism, and social activism, and I wanted to work in an area promoting these values I believe in. My wife Hadas and I got married last year (one day before Erev Rosh Hashanah) and I thought it was a good time to set out on a new adventure. I heard a lot about the Shlichut program from friends and colleagues, so once it crossed my mind I immediately applied. I had to go through several tests and interviews in the course of the last six months until I was accepted.

**Chloe:** What attracted you to Tulsa?

**Shahaf:** I won’t lie, when Tulsa was first mentioned I had to open a map and look for it. I only knew the name “Oklahoma” from the musical and also from a steakhouse in my hometown of Ra’anana. I talked to people from the Jewish Federation of Tulsa, as well as former Shlichim, and did some research myself. It started to sound like Tulsa would be a perfect match. The small but close community would be a place where we are known and warmly welcomed. We can do meaningful work here without getting lost in a big city. Finding a place where we could make strong connections and really be a part of a Jewish community was important to us. The connection the Tulsa Jewish community has to Israel impressed me, and the fact that the Shlichut program has existed here for 50 years speaks for itself.

**Chloe:** I think Tulsa is definitely the right place for you! You started to talk about your professional background, could you tell us more? It sounds very interesting.

**Shahaf:** Sure. When I was in 4th grade I began participating in a youth movement called HaMahanot HaOlim and I never really left. It deeply affected my path in life. There, I met my now wife, Hadas, in addition to learning about Israeli society, Zionism, Judaism, and social justice, and I practiced being a young Madrich (counselor).

After I completed my military service as a commander in an

IDF infantry unit, I moved to a small community with friends from the movement, located in the small town of Migdal HaEmeq (next to Nazareth). I worked as the manager of the movement’s local chapter and led many other Madrichim and teens in weekly activities, trips, camps, volunteering projects, and demonstrations.

Recently, I worked at an institution called Chagim Center, where I was responsible for coordinating and planning Jewish cultural and educational programs for IDF soldiers. I met soldiers from different units and helped make their service more meaningful.

**Chloe:** Wow, you have an interesting background! I look forward to seeing what you bring to our community. Tell us about your hobbies, what do you and Hadas like to do for fun?

**Shahaf:** When I was in elementary school I fell in love with martial arts. I practiced karate where I achieved a black belt, and I also practiced mixed martial arts (MMA), krav maga, and even some capoeira. In 2020 I studied for a krav maga instructor diploma and I had the chance to teach over the past few years. Hadas enjoys yoga. Together we like hiking and traveling. We’ve been to Thailand, the Philippines, Romania, Bulgaria, Sinai, and Italy. We hope to get to know the USA better since it’s our first time here and there’s so much to discover! ■



Our new Shaliach, Shahaf Feinkuchen and his wife Hadas in Tulsa. Photo by Itzik Levin.



# COMMUNITY, CAMPAIGN, COMEDY

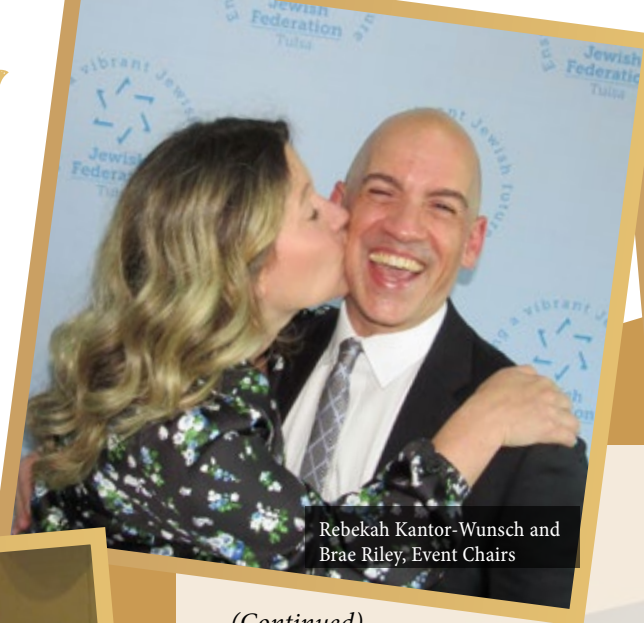
by Isabella Silberg, Director of Development and Programming

*THE JEWISH FEDERATION OF TULSA'S ANNUAL CAMPAIGN DINNER AND SHOW IS A HIGHLY ANTICIPATED EVENT IN THE LOCAL COMMUNITY, AND THIS YEAR, IT COINCIDED WITH ONE OF THE BUSIEST TIMES FOR THE JEWISH COMMUNITY—THE HIGH HOLIDAYS. DESPITE THE CHAOS OF THE SEASON, THE EVENT—SPEARHEADED BY DEDICATED STAFF, CAMPAIGN COMMITTEE, AND COMMUNITY MEMBERS—DELIVERED AN UNFORGETTABLE EVENING FILLED WITH FUN, LAUGHTER, AND A GENEROUS SPIRIT.*

The success of the evening was made possible by the hard work and dedication of many individuals. Chef Joel Bein, a generous community member, worked tirelessly to cater a beautiful and tasty dinner. Israeli performer Benji Lovitt brought the house down with his humor, adding an extra layer of entertainment to the event. But the real stars of the evening were the community members who turned out in full force to support the cause.

One of the most striking aspects of this year's campaign dinner and show was the noticeable cross-generational attendance.

It is important to note that this didn't happen overnight; it was the result of sustained efforts from the Jewish Federation of Tulsa and their partnership with the local initiative, Tulsa Tomorrow. Together, they have been working diligently to attract and retain young Jewish adults in Tulsa, ensuring the community's continued growth and vibrancy. The chairs of the event, Brae Riley and Rebekah Kantor-Wunsch, worked tirelessly to provide a fun evening to all ages.



Rebekah Kantor-Wunsch and Brae Riley, Event Chairs



Campaign chair, Brian Brouse collects pledge cards with a smile.



Below left to right, Hadas Cohen, Shahaf Feinkuchen, Algom Ben-Horim (JAFI), Aida Nozick (Executive Director), and Matan Poler



Leah Clayman, Brina Reinstein, Jared Goldfarb, Brian Brouse, Irene Burnstein

*(Continued)*

The evening commemorated the Jewish Federation's 85-year history with a Mayor's Proclamation from the City of Tulsa naming, September 7, 2023 "Jewish Federation of Tulsa Day." Eric Fingerhut, CEO of the Jewish Federation of North America sent heartfelt well-wishes (read by event chair Brae Riley), congratulating the board, lay leaders, and community members of our commitment and important work for the Jewish community for over eight decades.

The event succeeded in bringing the community together for a night of joy and camaraderie. Beyond the entertainment and fellowship, it also served a crucial purpose—raising funds to secure a bright future for Tulsa's Jewish community. These funds are instrumental in supporting

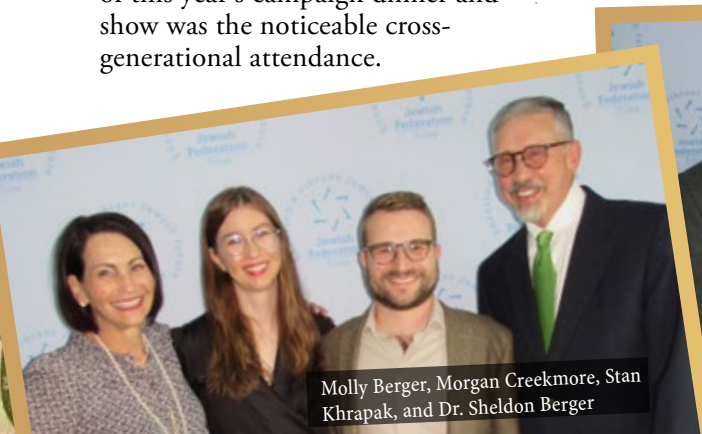
essential programs, initiatives, and services that strengthen and sustain the community.

Following the campaign dinner and show, the Jewish Federation of Tulsa wasted no time in continuing their fundraising efforts with the Super Sunday phone-a-thon. Some may have called it crazy to host such an event just days after the campaign dinner, but it turned out to be a resounding success. Once again, the community rallied together to support another year of the annual campaign.

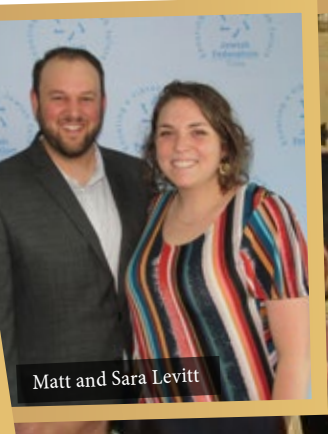
A special thanks goes to Ben and Hillary Aussenberg for leading the Super Sunday effort, which featured a tailgate theme, adding a festive twist to the fundraising activities. The volunteers who gathered at the Jewish

Federation of Tulsa on that day played a vital role in making the phone-a-thon a success, demonstrating the power of collective action within the community.

In conclusion, the 2023 Jewish Federation of Tulsa Campaign Dinner and Show was a shining example of what a united community can achieve. It showcased the commitment, resilience, and generosity of the Tulsa Jewish community, and it served as a reminder that even during the busiest times, we can come together to ensure a bright and prosperous future for all. This event was not just a dinner and show; it was a celebration of community, culture, and a shared vision for generations to come. ■



Molly Berger, Morgan Creekmore, Stan Khrapak, and Dr. Sheldon Berger



Matt and Sara Levitt



Mark Lobo, Ree Kaplan, Ed Kaplan, Stan Shapiro, Ann Shapiro, Marc Bookbinder, Irene Bookbinder, and Nancy Lobo

*IT WAS A CELEBRATION OF COMMUNITY, CULTURE, AND A SHARED VISION FOR GENERATIONS TO COME.*



## UPCOMING EVENTS



### Fitness Challenge: Walk-tober

This month we are focusing on the power of walking. Taking a walk on a regular basis can benefit your cardiovascular fitness, help you maintain a healthy body weight, and help fight heart disease along with many other conditions. For every 5 miles you walk in October, you will get to place a footprint on the wall by your name. Every 2,000 steps equal a mile! Footprints will be available at the fitness desk. Get your steps in by walking in your neighborhood, going on a hike, walking your dog, or utilizing one of our many treadmills. Whatever it may be, we want our CSJCC members to cover the entire wall! Prize includes gift cards for new fitness gear or even some new walking shoes!



### Member Appreciation Day & Walk-tober Kickoff Event | Monday, October 2 | 9:45 AM



Join us for the kickoff of our second annual Walk-tober. This fitness challenge was a hit last year and the CSJCC wants to start you off on the right foot! We will meet at the sports complex track. Join in with your community for some laps, possible giveaways upon our path, and earn footprints for the Walk-tober challenge.

Learn more at [csjcc.org/walktober](http://csjcc.org/walktober)

### Social: Dips and Dice Monday, October 9 | 10:15 AM | Dan Room



You bring the dips and we will bring the dice! Join us for this unique social gathering and bring your favorite dip to share. Dips can be homemade or store bought—please no meat, dairy is ok. As we snack on dips we will provide a variety of fun and challenging board games to play. Feel free to bring your favorite board games to share. This enjoyable social activity is to meet new people, strengthen community, and keep your brains active!

Sign up at: [csjcc.org/dipsdice](http://csjcc.org/dipsdice)

### Wellness Series: Tech Talk for iPhones Monday, October 16 | 10:15-12:15 PM | Dan Room

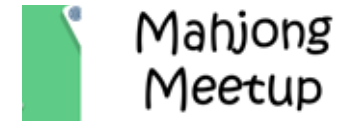


Sign up for a 15-minute session for one-on-one iPhone assistance. Meet in the Dan Room, bring your iPhone and question(s).

Sign up at the fitness desk or by contacting Laura Allen, 918-495-1111, [lallen@jewishtulsa.org](mailto:lallen@jewishtulsa.org).



## UPCOMING EVENTS



### Mahjong Meetup | Sunday, October 15 | 2:00 pm

See page 6 for details



### FALL HIKING SERIES

### Fall Hiking Series: Ancient Keystone Forest Friday, October 20 | 11:00 AM



Take a hike through the 500-year-old cedars on this 1,380-acre nature preserve alongside Keystone Lake. The ancient crossttimbers of this forest have survived ice, fire, and drought where post oak and red cedar trees have aged from 300-500 years, making this forested area older than the United States! Trails are mostly dirt with some uneven terrain and rocks. Please dress appropriately for hiking with proper shoes, clothing, and water. The hike has breathtaking views and lots of wildlife. Restrooms are available in the parking lot. Plan on being out for at least one-hour, although the hike can be adjusted based on participants.

Sign up at: [csjcc.org/oct-hike](http://csjcc.org/oct-hike)

## October Holiday Closings

- October 1, Sunday – SMMJA – CLOSED for Sukkot  
– CSJCC Fitness open 12-5 pm
- October 7, Saturday – ALL CLOSED for Simchat Torah
- October 8, Sunday – ALL CLOSED for Simchat Torah

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# TEL AVIV

by Katherine Frame and Tracey Herst-Woods

**M**ark your calendar if you haven't already for **Tel Aviv Nights—A Street Party!** on Sunday, October 22, 2023. By this time, you will have received your invitation to what promises to be an exciting and totally different evening—the annual Sherwin Miller Museum Gala. The celebration of the Museum's 57th year promises festivities unlike any of those past, courtesy of the gala committee and chairs, Miranda and Philip Kaiser.

You may have visited the real Tel Aviv that the New York Times named "The Mediterranean Capital of Cool." The city with the savvy attitude and cultural astuteness is one that never sleeps. Anticipate the gala venue itself transformed to capture the look and feel of a Tel Aviv street with vendors, umbrellas, and sidewalk cafés reflecting the energy and dynamism that projects a contagious exuberance, all enhanced by your attire!

What we Tulsans might call casual chic is Tel Aviv party attire. Put simply: comfortable, colorful, casual. No black tie affair, this Tel Aviv is a beach town, remember. Have you ever seen a black tie—or any tie, for that matter—on a beach?! Right. So, don't think you'll see one at this. You can hardly go wrong, really. Let your Tel Aviv party attire add to the revelry and remember **it's a party**. Simply follow my Mother's criterion for a good time: clean, covered, and comfortable!

Gala happy hour chefs and bartenders will prepare appetizers and cocktails with a unique take on Tel Aviv street food and spirits. These featured chefs—all part of the Jewish community—are Matthew Amber, Joel Bein, Andy Cagle, and Hunter Stone Gambill. Happy hour entertainment will include a creative experience: watching Pop Impressionist John Hammer at his easel.

In keeping with the evening's easy attitude, it will continue with an informal Israeli-themed dinner prepared by celebrated Tulsa chef Devin Levine and emceed by comedian Barry Friedman. This not-to-miss occasion and your generosity will support and enhance the essential educational and programming mission of the Museum and will be an evening you won't soon forget. Chair Miranda Kaiser says, "Many of us have come away having had to sit through yet another boring, black tie, rubber chicken kind of fundraising event where long speeches and unintelligible auctioneers sucked the very life out of us for several hours, and we've thought to ourselves, 'Why?! Why is the formula always the same for these things? Why can't someone change it up and make it fun for once?! Try something new?!'"

# NIGHTS —

# A STREET PARTY!

Well guess what? We felt the same way, so decided to be the ones to do just that. We've flipped the gala formula on its head—now it's a longer, more leisurely, interactive happy hour followed by a shorter, informal, delicious dinner. No long speeches, no ranting auctioneers, and no black tie

Please come out and support this inaugural event and help make it a success. You fail us now and we're back to four hours of 'Can we leave yet?!' If you would like to become a patron, purchase a ticket, or have questions, please contact Tracey Herst-Woods, Deputy Director of the SMMJA at 918.492.1818 or [twoods@jewishmuseum.net](mailto:twoods@jewishmuseum.net). We hope to see you at the **party of the year!** ■

## Remembering CHARLES A. TAYLOR

by Tracey Herst-Woods, Deputy Director of  
The Sherwin Miller Museum of Jewish Art



*Charles A. Taylor, where do I begin. Your 20-year plus tenure as the preparator at The Sherwin Miller Museum of Jewish Art allowed us to be who we are today, playing a key role in all we do. You were loved by all who knew you... your dedication to the museum never wavered and your craftsmanship was unmatched. This profound loss will be felt for years to come.*

Charles A. Taylor, 70, resident of Tulsa, Oklahoma passed away Sunday, September 3, 2023. He was born Monday, September 8, 1952 in Tulsa, Oklahoma to Clifford H. Taylor and Mary J. (Roop) Taylor. He is survived his wife Debe Taylor and his two sisters, Liz Pounds and Kathy Harrison. Charles was a son, husband, brother, co-worker, friend, family member, and master craftsman. I have had the pleasure to work with Charles for almost 14 years. The beauty in his work, surrounds us in our Museum. Everywhere we look Charles had a hand in its creation. From the new Sanditen/Kaiser Holocaust Center, to the Collection Room, to the intricate displays in the Museum's permanent collection, Charles' light shines. His accomplishments are on full display at our Museum. We not only grieve the loss of his unique personality but the artistry of the work he left behind. I will always remember the wonderful, funny, and educational stories he would tell. I always told him that he must have lived 100 lives because he had done so much and knew so many people!

Charles' love of the Native American community and culture started as a child during Boy Scouts. It was nurtured during his time at University of Tulsa while working toward his anthropology degree. In later years he became a member of the Native American Church and attended services regularly among multiple tribal communities. He worked for the Delaware Tribe building their Tribal Museum. He used his extensive artistic skills to create feather, bead, leather, and woodwork for tribal members. Some of his extensive works were gourd rattles, bead handles with tassels, wooden staffs, boxes, and feather fans. He was held in such high regard that tribes would come to him with their most important projects for Charles to put his personal touch on.

Charles talked about his wife Debe often and loved her so much! He also talked about his sisters, Liz and Kathy. I will always hold Charles and his family in the highest regard. Charles, you were a once in a lifetime and you will never be forgotten! Please, keep his family in your thoughts. ■

There will be a **Celebration of Life** on

Tuesday, October 3, 2023 at 2:00 p.m.

in the Barbara and Dave Sylvan Auditorium.

All are welcome. May his memory forever be for a blessing.



TICKETS STILL AVAILABLE: [JewishMuseumTulsa.org/Gala2023](http://JewishMuseumTulsa.org/Gala2023)



### CURRENT EXHIBITIONS

#### Is Barbie Jewish? | Now through October 31, 2023



In collaboration with the Center for Queer Prairie Studies (which is supported by the Tulsa Artist Fellowship, a cultural initiative of the George Kaiser Family Foundation), SMMJA is hosting a pop up exhibit "Is Barbie Jewish?" This exhibit consists of 25 vintage Barbies and explores the Jewish roots of Barbie and her creator, Ruth Handler, the daughter of Polish-Jewish immigrants. Hop on the Barbie trend in the Sharna Newman Frank Education Gallery.

#### Upon Thy Gates: The Winik Mezuzah Collection | Now through December 2023



An exciting new exhibition presenting 73 mezuzot showcasing a wide range of styles, materials, and Jewish symbols. The mezuzot were created in places all over the world, including Israel, the United States, Denmark, England, Ethiopia, Germany, the Netherlands, India, Iran, Italy, Morocco, Poland, and Yemen, and date from the late 18th to the 21st century. On loan from the Oregon Jewish Museum and Center for Holocaust Education in Portland, Oregon and collected by Elaine and Norman Winik on their worldwide travels. Wherever Jewish people live—so too are mezuzot!

#### Humans of The Holocaust | Now through December 2023



After growing up with the Holocaust hammered into his Israeli education, photographer Erez Kaganovitz, a third generation, grandson of a Holocaust survivor, wanted to change the paradigm of "dark and gloomy" to a human story of optimism. Humans of the Holocaust engages the viewer with striking and sometimes whimsical images of people who've triumphed by living well.



## A SUCCESSFUL PARTNERSHIP: JEWISH FEDERATION OF TULSA'S ANNUAL SCHOOL SUPPLY DRIVE

by Isabella Silberg, Director of Development and Programming

For the last several years, the Jewish Federation of Tulsa, in collaboration with the local community and Jewish institutions rally together to support the educational needs of students and teachers at McClure and Marshall Elementary Schools. The annual school supply drive has been a beacon of hope for these two neighborhood schools, ensuring that students have the necessary tools to excel and teachers have the resources they need to educate effectively. This year, the drive took on a new dimension of collaboration, as we joined forces with the "Supplied for Success" initiative of the Tulsa Community Foundation, amplifying its impact and ensuring the efficient allocation of resources.

the Amazon link, shopping locally and dropping off supplies, and volunteering their time to assist with the drop-off day at McClure and Marshall Elementary Schools. It was a heartwarming display of unity and shared responsibility towards the education of the next generation.

The collaboration with "Supplied for Success" ensured the unmet needs of students and teachers were fulfilled, while avoiding duplication of supplies already provided by the initiative. It was a strategic move to optimize resources and address the unique requirements of McClure and Marshall Elementary Schools. This thoughtful approach ensured that every donated item would make a meaningful difference.

The school supply drive beautifully exemplifies the Jewish value of *tzedakah*, which means to help those in need. It's not merely about charity but about justice and righteousness. This drive is an example of the essence of this value by ensuring that the students and teachers who needed assistance the most received it, thereby fostering a more equitable educational environment for all.

The driving force behind this initiative was the dedicated Social Justice Committee from Temple Israel, led by the passionate and committed Leah Clayman. Their vision, unwavering determination, and genuine concern for the welfare of the community set the stage for the success of this year's drive. Together with the support of Congregation B'nai Emunah, which served as a collection point for donated supplies, and Zarrow Pointe retirement center, which provided essential transportation for drop-offs, they orchestrated a well-coordinated effort that made the supply drive possible.

The impact of this annual initiative extends far beyond the physical supplies collected. It instills in the hearts and minds of the students, teachers, and community members the profound sense of belonging and the knowledge that they are not alone in their educational journey. It sends a powerful message that education is a shared responsibility, and when a community comes together, incredible things can happen.

Community involvement was crucial to the success of this drive. Generous community members embraced the spirit of giving by donating supplies through

As we reflect on the success of the 2023 school supply drive, we extend our heartfelt gratitude to all those who contributed, volunteered, and supported this important endeavor. Your dedication to the betterment of our local schools and community is a testament to the power of collaboration and compassion. With each backpack filled, pencil sharpened, and notebook provided, you've helped pave the way for a brighter future for the students of McClure and Marshall Elementary Schools.

In the spirit of *tzedakah*, let us continue to support one another, uplift those in need, and work towards a more just and equitable society for all. ■





## LIFE ON ZARROW CAMPUS

by Sandy Sloan, Director of Communications and

Lauren Drover literally has grown up on the Zarrow Campus. She first began coming to the campus, at age 3, with her father, Alan Drover, who was the Assistant Camp Director at the Charles Schusterman Jewish Community Center during this time—a position he held for 25 years. Lauren loved coming to Camp Shalom as a child, especially since she could see her father during the day, who had a passion for teaching kids. Lauren continued coming to camp each summer, attended middle school camp (prior to the current Counselor-In-Training (CIT) program), and progressed to Junior Counselor and then finally Counselor. It was apparent that Lauren loved teaching small children as she quickly took over planning learning activities from other seasoned counselors.

“At one point, my current supervisor, Amanda Anderson, was a CIT while I was her counselor,” Lauren recalled. “Imagine my surprise when it was announced that Amanda would be the new executive director and my supervisor at Mizel Jewish Community Day School!” Lauren has been the preschool teacher at Mizel JCDS since 2012. She always knew she wanted to teach, her father taught at Edison, but working as a camp counselor helped steer her towards her passion in Early Childhood Education. “Working as a Camp Shalom counselor taught me that teaching has to be fun,” stated Lauren.

Lauren went on to receive her degree in Early Childhood Education from OSU. Soon after graduating, she received a call from then Mizel Executive Director, Sandi Tilkin, asking if she was interested in teaching at Mizel JCDS. “Lauren brought a different perspective to the Mizel preschool program,” said Sandi. “I recall her asking me if she could decorate her room in a particular way to mirror her philosophy. I told her to go for it. Much to my surprise it consisted of lamps, cushions, and just a warm atmosphere that hadn’t been there before.”

Lauren’s classroom is different from most classrooms in Tulsa because she involves kids in the decision-making on what activities they want to learn. “If kids want to learn about the rainforest, I will turn my entire classroom into a rainforest. Most teachers don’t have the freedom and flexibility that I have,” Lauren commented. “My classroom is an immersive classroom.”

“Morah Drover’s classroom is nothing short of Disney World, literally,” beams Executive Director Amanda



Students engaged in the Morah Drover’s Rainforest Curriculum.

Anderson. “She exudes passion and commitment to her students and families. She fosters an environment in which her students can learn through play, taking some of the best-researched practices and implementing them in her classroom, continuously meeting the needs of her students and giving them the best foundation to learn and grow.”

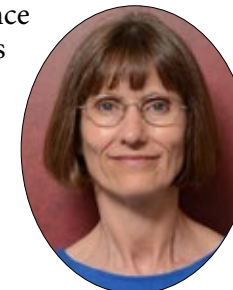
While many teachers look forward to summer off, Morah Drover, as she is called in the classroom, looks forward to pivoting to a preschool teacher at Camp Shalom. “I love Camp Shalom and I love watching kids grow up here. Camp parents often tell me their kids learn more in one week at camp than months at their local school. That speaks volumes to the program built here over the decades.”

Lauren has literally spent more time on our campus than at her own home. She comes in early and often doesn’t leave until 7:30 p.m. Teaching is her passion. “The school here and the JCC is my home away from home. I would never go anywhere else,” Lauren expressed. “Both Mizel and Camp Shalom are underappreciated in Tulsa,” Lauren continued. “My goal is to ensure the success of both programs by continuing to teach our kids a love of learning—during the school year and over the summer too. Seeing that light bulb go off in a child’s mind makes all the hard work worth it!” ■

## 2023 RUTH ANN COOPER AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN HOLOCAUST EDUCATION

by Nancy Pettus, SB 1681 Director of Professional Development

The Ruth Ann Cooper Award for Excellence in Holocaust Education acknowledges invaluable contribution in the field of Holocaust education. Annually it honors one individual, whose outstanding work in promoting the lessons of the Holocaust across the Tulsa community and surrounding areas, goes above and beyond expectation.



Jackie Hill

In 2023, the Council for Holocaust Education honors Ruth Ann’s legacy by recognizing Jackie Hill, long-time Public Relations Manager at the Tulsa City/County Library. Since 2001, Jackie’s partnership with the Council for Holocaust Education, a committee of the Jewish Federation of Tulsa, has offered promotional assistance for Holocaust-related events. The flyers, posters, NPR publicity, articles in Library publication’s, and book displays at our annual events are only a few ways in which she has contributed to the mission of keeping the lessons of the Holocaust alive.

Elie Wiesel once said, “When you hear a witness, you

become a witness.” In July 2001, Jackie promoted “From Holocaust to Hope”, a panel discussion held at the Nathan Hale Library. Panelists included Eva Unterman (Holocaust survivor), Ruth Ann Cooper (Carver MS educator), John Travers (TCC educator) and Cliff Michaels (Holocaust liberator). The program was such a success that it was repeated in the fall of 2001 at Central High School. This was the first time Jackie met Eva Unterman, who told her story of being a child survivor of the Holocaust. Jackie recalls, “After that first program, Eva asked me to be on the Council for Holocaust Education. That’s when it all started.”

Thus, for the next two decades Jackie has worked tirelessly to facilitate any and all requests from the Council for Holocaust Education to promote programs that create “witnesses” of those fortunate enough to attend. Thank you, Jackie, for your faithful service to our mission, and congratulations on this well-deserved award!

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# THE HISTORY OF THE HORA®

by Phil Goldfarb

Nothing is more symbolic of the Jewish wedding than the hora. The hora has joined the ranks of the rings, the seven blessings, and the broken glass as an essential component of the wedding ceremony. Given the long history of the Jewish religion and culture, you might be surprised to know that the hora was only popularized about 100 years ago.

Horă (plural: hore) is a traditional Romanian and Moldovan folk dance where the dancers hold each other's hands and the circle spins, usually counterclockwise, as each participant follows a sequence of three steps forward and one step back. The traditional Bulgarian dance "horo" comes in many shapes, not necessary to be in a circle as a curving line of people is also acceptable. Bulgarians believe that each village has their own type of horo. They differ by the rhythm of the music and the steps taken and there are probably over one hundred types of horo dances in the Bulgarian folklore. The horo dance was mainly for fun, as a contest of skills, or for show, leading to the development of the variety of horo dances.

The hora (הורה), which differs somewhat from that of some of the Eastern European countries, is widespread in the Jewish diaspora and played a foundational role in modern Israeli folk dancing. It became the symbol of the reconstruction of Israel by the socialistic-agricultural Zionist movement.

In the early days, hora was popular mainly in kibbutzim and small communities, often continuing for hours. The hora became popular in group dances throughout Israel, and at weddings and other celebrations by Jews in Israel, the United States, United Kingdom, and Canada. The dance appeared in North America in the early 20th century, well before modern Israeli independence, brought directly from Eastern Europe by Jewish immigrants. In klezmer music, the hora refers to a circle dance. The hora has a slow, limping gait in triple meter, often three/eight time and generally leads into a faster and more upbeat duple meter. Among Yiddish-speaking Jews, the triple-meter hora has also been called zhok or krumer tants (meaning "crooked dance").

After the solemnity of the wedding ceremony, this lively tradition brings loved ones together on the dance floor for a good time. The hora dance is typically performed at one of two times during the wedding reception—immediately after the first dance to welcome guests to the celebration, or right after dinner to reenergize the crowd.

It begins with guests holding hands and dancing in circles around the newlyweds. Eventually, the couple, and often their immediate family members, are hoisted up into the air while seated on chairs holding a handkerchief between them, following Jewish tradition, as guests continue the circle dance around them. There are other popular elements to the hora, including pairs of guests linking arms and spinning in a circle, and smaller groups of men dancing in circles or lines with their arms around each other's shoulders. It's a lively and fun tradition that guests of all ages, religions and cultures can enjoy as a community to celebrate the newlywed couple. Horas are also performed at other special occasions, such as bar and bat mitzvahs where the honoree and sometimes his or her family members are also raised on a chair, copying the wedding tradition.

The meal is called Se'udat Mitzvah, the festive meal and a term known as mitzvah tanz is the obligation for men of the family to dance for the bride's happiness. This tradition still exists in more religiously observant communities. The hora arose as a variation from Eastern European folk dances, first made popular by Baruch Agadati, a Jewish-Romanian modern choreographer, and was originally performed in Palestine in 1924 when it was called the Hora Agadati.

Everyone in attendance should partake in the hora as a witness to the wedding that is taking place as it can be a vehicle through which the guests can physically express the intensity of their joy over the union of the bride and groom. In some communities, the dancing is separated by gender, and in other communities everyone dances together.

Often, the hora needs no formal introduction, but you will want to find someone who has experience with this traditional Jewish dance—not only so they can introduce it, but so they can call out instructions, such as "circle to the left" or "everyone to the middle".. As soon as the music starts playing, guests will likely know what to do or the emcee may introduce the hora by asking the couple to stand in the middle of the dance floor and all of their wedding guests to stand in circles around them and hold hands.

Starting with Hava Nagila is a great way to get people on their feet; moving from Hava Nagila into other klezmer or Israeli dance tunes will keep guests from getting bored. The dance steps are simple: the dancers face the center, take one step forward, one back, three to the left, and five to the right, so that soon the circle



(Continued)

moves counterclockwise. Once the guests understand the rules, a whole new range of possibilities opens up: the line can be broken into multiple lines with multiple leaders and reattached at the leaders' whims.

At the next wedding that you attend... spread the word of the different kinds of horas, have fun, and breathe life into this cherished Jewish tradition. ■

Phil Goldfarb is the president of the Jewish Genealogical Society of Tulsa and can be e-mailed at: phil.goldfarb@cox.net.



  
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# LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF (LEV 19:18)

by Alan Levenson, Director, Schusterman Center for Judaic and Israel Studies

Although I have visited Israel dozens of times since 1973, weeks before the outbreak of the Yom Kippur War, I never cease to find something surprising. Visiting last August for the World Conference of Jewish Studies (TJR October 2022), I was stunned to find the introductory address to this academic conference delivered by Isaac Herzog, the President of Israel. Subsequently, I learned that his father, Israeli President Chaim Herzog had addressed this gathering too. I also discovered a Yiddish museum/bookstore inside the massive Tel Aviv Central Bus Station. The hostility of the Israeli Founders toward Yiddish has thankfully been consigned to the past – you can see a Yiddish ‘Tevye the Dairyman’ in Tel Aviv as well as Broadway.



Gay Pride Poster at Neve Tzedek

of biblical verse set against a rainbow poster, the ubiquitous symbol of Gay Pride. The rainbow flag accompanied the many “demokratia” banners hanging down from bridge overpasses as we drove into the city. I am embarrassed to admit that I did not go to a demonstration that Saturday night in Tel Aviv – they’ve become a national phenomenon and a source of morale building, socializing, and of course, an intergenerational and peaceful protest against PM Netanyahu’s judicial changes. This poster, set in front of a chatchke shop, reads “Love Your Neighbor as Yourself,” a famous injunction from the Holiness Code in Leviticus 19:18.

Whether or not the average Israeli would know chapter and verse seems less important to me than the certainty that most Israelis would recognize this dictum as biblical (the vav at the beginning of the verse is one giveaway), and that the Bible (Tanach) is being adopted for a progressive message.

I only wish I saw more of that in Oklahoma. ■

Another conference brought me back to Israel in June in Akko (also called Acre), a famous port city in the North. Many Americans can’t get enough of Jerusalem, some love the Negev Desert, everybody has fun in Tel Aviv. For me, the Galilee and the Golan in the north win the prize for natural beauty. Nahariyyah is not a high-class town, that’s probably why the conference organizer lodged us there, but any Oklahoman will find a view of the Mediterranean spectacular. As I approached one group of teenagers after another, clearly Israeli-born and raised, I heard lots of Russian. Compared to the unfortunate dissipation of Yiddish and Arabic among earlier immigrations of Ashkenazim and Mizrahim respectively, I found it comforting that these Israelis are holding onto bilingualism.

Visiting my niece Noa in one of the many new apartment complexes being built in Akko, I could stare down right into the campus of Western Galilee College (see photo). As a historian by trade, one quirk of Israel I have always enjoyed are the street signs, usually named after some person, date, or organization in Jewish history — there are so many to choose from! In this new complex I found a slew of names with more contemporary resonance, including three iconic singers Shoshana Damari, Naomi Shemer (“Jerusalem of Gold”) and Arik Einstein, the last, a rock’n’roll icon who died in 2013. I was glad to see that Israel developers haven’t abandoned that quaint use of street signs to applaud creativity.

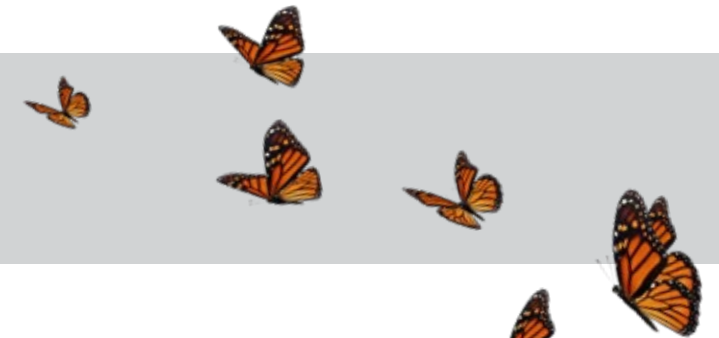


Western Galilee College Path of Peace Street

Tel Aviv supplied the best surprise this trip, in the form



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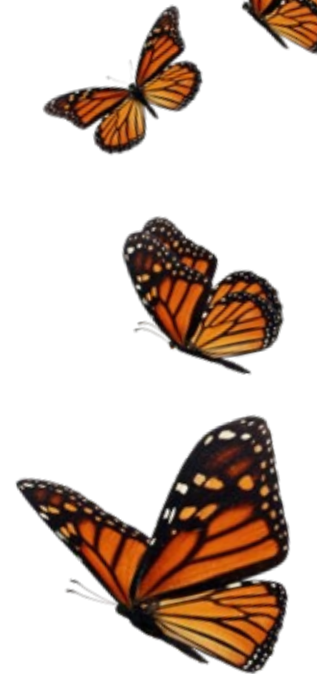
- Irene and Marc Bookbinder
- April and Richard Borg
- Ronnie Cohen
- Joan Green
- Klara and Randi Klein
- Myrna Lubin
- Mindy and Harris Prescott
- Sylvia Prussack
- Gail and Kip Richards
- Dorothea Rogers
- Marilyn Smith
- Barbara Sylvan
- Eva Unterman
- Bette and Wynn Wozobski

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Levi Weg and Chaya Goldstein

**Levi Weg and Chaya Goldstein** were wed in Ann Arbor, Michigan on August 24th. Levi is the son of Rabbi Yehuda and Etel Weg. Levi was born and raised in Tulsa, then went on to study in Yeshivas in Chicago, New York, and the United Kingdom. He has served as a rabbinic intern in Rhode Island, Ukraine, and Denmark. Levi is currently the administrator of the Chassidic Derher Magazine.

Chaya grew up in Ann Arbor, Michigan where her parents direct Chabad activities at the University of Michigan. Chaya has a Bachelor's in Education and currently teaches at the United Lubavitch Yeshiva in New York.

The Chupah took place at the Chabad House of Ann Arbor with the celebration and dinner at Michigan Union at the University of Michigan. The couple will reside in Brooklyn.



Yolanda & Harold Charney

**Yolanda & Harold Charney** (posthumously) will be inducted into the 2023 Tulsa Historical Society's Hall of Fame, on October 2nd at Southern Hills Country Club.



## CELEBRATE SIMCHAS!

Share your simchas with the community! Send us your b'nai mitzvah, wedding announcement, birth of a child, graduation, or other milestone for our "simchas" section each month. Send submissions to Sandy Sloan, [sandy@jewishtulsa.org](mailto:sandy@jewishtulsa.org)



David Dopp



Levi Olsen



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### Refuge in the Sukkah Tuesday, October 3 – 6:30 p.m.

Our sukkah is temporary because we connect ourselves to the experience of fragility and impermanence. These are notions well known to refugees throughout generations who have had to flee one home in search of another. This year on Sukkot, we're highlighting the work of our Refugee Resettlement department with a dinner and program held inside our sukkah. Our meal will feature foods from the various populations we have worked with over the past year. From Ukraine to Afghanistan, Myanmar to Syria, and even the Democratic Republic of the Congo, our work and client base is diverse and represents the welcoming values we embody as a Synagogue. Join us in recognizing and honoring the work of our Refugee Resettlement program during this special international culinary dinner, as we are reminded that we are all descendants of refugees from somewhere. Please reserve your spot call calling the Synagogue at (918) 583-7121 or visiting our website [tulsagogue.com](http://tulsagogue.com)

### Shmini Atzeret Yom Tov and Shabbat Services

**Saturday, October 7 - 9:30 a.m.**

The final days of the holiday season bring us back together for the two last mornings of Yom Tov services. Each morning will begin at 9:30 a.m. Yizkor will be chanted at 11:00 a.m. on October 7. On October 8, join us for the traditional finale to B'nai Emunah's holiday celebrations, as members and friends gather following services for the annual Simchat Torah Luncheon. The meal is complimentary; however reservations are appreciated. Weather permitting, we will eat for the last time in the sukkah. We thank the Zarrow Families for underwriting this final luncheon of the holiday season and Alin Avitan for serving as our caterer.



**THE SYNAGOGUE**  
CONGREGATION B'NAI EMUNAH

### Simchat Torah and ShulSchool Sunday, October 8 – 9:30 a.m.

This year's holiday season brings a happy collision of a ShulSchool Sunday morning and Simchat Torah. ShulSchool families will receive special instructions for the morning from Morah Sara. Our traditional service will begin at 9:30 a.m. and by 10:00 a.m. we'll be swirling in circles celebrating the Torah reading cycle. Children will wave colorful flags and participate in the festivities, highlighting the importance of passing down Jewish traditions to the next generation. The morning concludes with a luncheon at the conclusion of services lovingly catered by Alin Avitan in the Synagogue Sukkah. No charge for this meal, but please signal your participation through a reservation by calling the Synagogue at 918-583-7121 or visiting our website [tulsagogue.com](http://tulsagogue.com).

### Blatt + Blue:

**Thursday, October 12 – 7:00 p.m.**

Visit [tulsagogue.com](http://tulsagogue.com) for more information regarding the movie selection and viewing options. Join us for our conversation at 7:00 p.m. on Zoom (918 583 7121). Newcomers are welcome to join the dialogue.

### Shema: Babies Jewish Music Class

**Sunday, October 15 - 10:00 a.m.**

Join us for the next gathering in a series of Jewish music classes

for babies and their adults! We'll blend the best of what we know about early childhood education and the joy of Jewish music for this class geared towards kiddos 2 and under with their adults. This session will focus on the story of Noah's Ark and the animals in the world around us, as we sing, dance, move, and explore together at the Synagogue. Interested in joining us? Please be in touch with Morah Sara.

### INTRO Begins

**Monday, October 16 - 7:30 p.m. - Zoom**

Looking into Judaism? Born Jewish and want to know more? Sharing your life with a Jew and want to crack the code? INTRO explores Jewish culture, history, and wisdom in a setting where questions are more important than answers. Classes are joined with beautiful Shabbat celebrations, supportive discussion groups, and many opportunities for interactive, experiential learning. On Monday, October 16 at 7:30 p.m. we'll kick off our 18-session Introduction to Judaism Course, which is affiliated with the Miller Intro Program at American Jewish University. To promote accessibility, this round of INTRO will be taught on Zoom. For more information or to register, visit [tulsagogue.com/intro](http://tulsagogue.com/intro)

### Lifelong Learners

**Wednesday, October 18 - 11:30 a.m.**

Gathering in person for ongoing learning and exploration, ageless seniors from every corner of the community are invited to join Rabbi Kaiman at the Synagogue for lunch and rabbinic storytelling from the literature of our civilization. The sessions always begin at 11:30 a.m., and a bus leaves from Zarrow Pointe at 11:00 a.m. each time. No charge for transportation (you may, of course, come in your vehicle), and lunch from Queenie's will be provided. It's our pleasure to



(Continued)

provide this service in cooperation with our fellow Jewish institution. Please reserve your spot by calling the Synagogue at 918-583-7121 or visiting our website.

#### **Shabbat Maker Workshop**

**Thursday, October 26, 6:00 p.m.**

Uncover the beauty of Shabbat traditions and create your own ritual treasure! Join us for this quarterly workshop to build your own hand-crafted Shabbat set. Our first workshop will focus on the candles and candlesticks that invite us to the light of Shabbat. We'll study their origins and the rituals around this practice and create our own set to kick off your Shabbat table. Each workshop will be led by Morah Sara Levitt in partnership with a local artist and teacher. Secure your spot today and let the magic of Shabbat traditions come to life in your own hands! Please be in touch with Sara Levitt at the Synagogue or visit tulsagogue.com to register.

#### **Sisterhood Membership Luncheon**

**Sunday, October 29 – 10:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.**

CBE's Sisterhood will host a brunch for Sisters and Future Sisters. Members and not-yet-members will move beyond mingling with some fun getting-to-know-you activities to meet new Sisters and deepen our connections with each other. The brunch will also be a jumping-off point to organize groups around shared interests so women can gather regularly to do things they love--Sunday brunch, knitting, mahjong, pickleball, anyone? The possibilities are endless! Join us for brunch, say hello to old friends, and meet Jewish women in our community! The event is free and open to all.

#### **Afternoon/Evening Services**

**Every Wednesday and Friday • 5:30 p.m.**

Each week, we gather to experience traditional daily

prayer and establish a quiet space for those mourning a loved one or observing the anniversary of a loss (yahrtzeit). All use these opportunities to recite a communal Mourner's Kaddish. Both gatherings take place in the Synagogue's Davis-Goodall Chapel, with full participation available both in-person and through the Synagogue Zoom Room. We ask that in-person attendees register in advance on our website. Friday gatherings always occur in the Synagogue Zoom Room at 918 583 7121.

#### **Shabbat Morning Services Every Saturday • 9:30 a.m.**

Each week, we convene on Saturday morning to sing the liturgy of the tradition, study the weekly Torah portion, and spend time amongst family and friends. All are welcome to participate in this experience in person or on Zoom. Members and friends can access the Synagogue Zoom Room at 918 583 7121. ■



#### **Scotch Tasting in the Sukkah • Sun., Oct. 1 • 7:00 p.m.**

Celebrate Sukkot in style with Scotch Tasting in the Sukkah. Rick Ewing, a Scotch expert from the Malt Whisky Society of Oklahoma, will teach us and lead us through tasting five different scotches from five regions in Scotland. Join us to sip in the Sukkah, enjoy snacks to complement your scotch and find out which scotch is your favorite! Each attendee will go home with a Glencairn Whisky glass. Cost is \$30 per person. Space is limited, so make your reservation by September 23rd.

#### **Young Adult Sukkah Hop • Tues., Oct. 3 • 6:00 p.m.**

Join Temple Israel, Tulsa Tomorrow, and the Moishe Pod for a Sukkah Hop. Never been to one? Here's what to expect. A Sukkah Hop is a progressive dinner, starting at one house for appetizers, moving to another house for entrees, and a third house for dessert. The twist? Each one will have their take on a Sukkah. This free dinner will give you a chance to celebrate Sukkot with your friends and shake a lulav and etrog.

#### **Not Your Bubbe's Simchat Torah • Fri., Oct. 6 • 6:00 p.m.**

You won't want to miss our Simchat Torah Party! On October 6th at 6:00 pm, join us for services where we will unscroll the entire Torah and start reading it again from the beginning. Then, we will party like it is 5784 with a DJ, dancing, and delicious food! This party is open to everyone of all ages. So, bring your dancing shoes and let's party!

#### **Family Shabbat in person • Fri., Oct. 13 • 6:00 p.m.**

During Family Shabbat Rabbi Jasper creates a sacred space for

our young families with songs, prayers, and an activity. Stay for the complimentary dinner. RSVP by Tues., Oct. 10. Contact Rabbi Jasper at rabbitzvia@templetulsa.com for more information.

#### **Birthday Shabbat Service in person, on Zoom & Facebook Live • Fri., Oct. 13 • 7:30 p.m.**

Join us as we welcome in Shabbat. During this service, we will honor October birthdays. Arrive at 5:30 p.m. for a pre-oneg. RSVP to rsvp@templetulsa.com for the Zoom link.

#### **Finding God in an Age of Reason with Rabbi Weinstein on Zoom • Thurs., Oct. 19 & 26 • 2:00 p.m.**

In this course we will spend time studying, learning, and sharing in our differing theological expressions. For some, God is a personal god, while for others, God is universal. What if God were merely morality? What of a punishing god, or a god of salvation? How do we, as individuals understand God, and what role does God play in our lives?

#### **Taste of Judaism • Thurs., Oct. 19 & 26 • 6:30 p.m.**

God, Torah and Israel are the pillars of Judaism and Jewish life. This course offers students the opportunity to interact with traditional and contemporary Jewish texts. Our learning will engage the group in discussion and experiential exercises. A Taste of Judaism is designed for the Jew and non-Jew alike; for the prospective ger, conversion candidate, and the educated, observant Jew interested in furthering their understanding. Students will bring their backgrounds, experiences, and understandings together in an opportunity for learning, growth and engagement.

#### **Zamru L'Shabbat • Fri., Oct. 20 • 6:00 p.m.**

Celebrate with Cantor Weinstein, Cantorial Soloist Jenny Labow, and Elijah's Minor Prophets, in

person or online as we welcome Shabbat with joyous songs! Arrive at 5:30 p.m. for a pre-oneg. RSVP to rsvp@templetulsa.com for the Zoom link.

#### **Birkat Hachayim, Blessing of the Pets • Sat., Oct. 21 • 10:30 a.m.**

Do you have a furry baby who has sadly never had their B'nai Mitzvah? Join us on October 21st at 10:30 am at Temple Israel as we offer all our furry companions a "Bark Mitzvah" during the Shabbat when we read the Noah story.

#### **Zarrow Pointe Shabbat Service • Fri., Oct. 27 • 6:45 p.m.**

We cordially invite all those who wish to join us for this meaningful Friday evening service with music, held in the Burnstein Auditorium at Zarrow Pointe. We welcome not only Temple members and Zarrow Pointe residents, but all other friends in our community who would appreciate being together on Shabbat.

#### **Anniversary Shabbat Service w/Torah in person, on Zoom & Facebook Live • Fri., Oct. 27 • 7:30 p.m.**

Join the Temple Israel Clergy Team in person or online as we welcome in Shabbat with the chanting of Torah and celebrate October anniversaries. RSVP to rsvp@templetulsa.com for the Zoom link.

#### **New Member Lunch and Learn: Where Do You Plug In? • Sat., Oct. 28 • 11:30 a.m.**

Are you someone who has joined Temple Israel in the last five years? This event is for you! Come enjoy a complimentary lunch and learn about our Temple Israel Family and the many opportunities for you to connect, volunteer, learn, and socialize. Watch our iTinerary for details and to RSVP.

#### **Trunk or Treat • Sun., Oct. 29 • 12:30 p.m. •**

Temple Juniors will be enjoying a Halloween trunk or treat event

## INTRO TO JUDAISM AT THE SYNAGOGUE

by Rabbi Dan Kaiman

**E**mbark on a profound exploration of Judaism with the Synagogue's comprehensive 18-week Introduction to Judaism course. Whether you're a curious newcomer or seeking a deeper connection to Jewish traditions and culture, this course is your gateway to a rich and ancient heritage. Guided by Rabbi Kaiman, you'll delve into the fascinating world of Judaism, gaining a deep understanding of its history, customs, and values.

In this immersive course, you'll unravel the layers of Judaism, starting with its historical roots and evolving through centuries of tradition. Each week, you'll dive into a new aspect of Jewish life, including its religious texts, festivals, rituals, and ethics. Engaging discussions, hands-on activities, and guest speakers will bring the lessons to life, allowing you to absorb the wisdom and beauty of Judaism firsthand. By the end of the 18 weeks, you'll have a strong foundation in Jewish culture and spirituality, enabling you to

participate more meaningfully in Jewish community life or simply enrich your own spiritual journey.

Our Introduction to Judaism course is open to people of all backgrounds, whether you're Jewish or not. It's perfect for individuals who want to deepen their understanding of Judaism, those considering conversion, interfaith couples seeking harmony in their relationships, or anyone with a genuine interest in Jewish culture and history. Come with an open heart and an eagerness to learn, and leave with a newfound appreciation for the profound teachings and vibrant traditions that have shaped Jewish life for millennia.

To promote accessibility, this year's course will be offered primarily on Zoom with occasional opportunities for in-person enhancements. The regular class meeting time will be Mondays at 7:30 p.m. For more information visit tulsagogue.com/intro ■



(Continued)

complete with games, candy, and even costume contests! Parents are encouraged to join the costume fun!

**Brotherhood Breakfast • Sun., Oct. 29 • 10:00 a.m.**

Temple Israel Brotherhood will serve up its first extensive breakfast buffet of 5784 at 9:30 AM Sunday, October 29th, featuring guest speaker, Shahaf Feinkuchen, Israeli Shaliach, who has just begun his service to Tulsa. Cost for breakfast is \$8 with reservation and \$10 at the door. There is no charge to come and hear the speaker after breakfast. Watch our iTinerary for details and for how to RSVP.

**Young Adult Halloween Hurrah • Sun., Oct. 29 • 6:00 p.m.**

Temple Israel's Young Adult gay-straight alliance invites you to our lgbTI Halloween Spectacular event. We will watch scary movies, eat way too much pizza, and feast on popcorn! The fun begins at 6:00 p.m. ■

**YOUNG JEWISH PROFESSIONALS**

**SUKKAH HOP**  
**TUESDAY, OCT. 03<sup>rd</sup>**  
**6-9 PM**

**TULSA TOMORROW**

**RSVP by September 28<sup>th</sup>**

**OCTOBER @ TEMPLE ISRAEL**

by Rabbi Tzvia Jasper

In October, we have a LOT happening at Temple Israel! On top of our holiday services, we have many programs planned that are geared for our YJP cohort. Here's what to expect!

On October 1st, come visit the Temple Israel Sukkah at 7:00 pm for a delicious event. We are hosting **Scotch Tasting in the Sukkah**, where you can sample a variety of scotches paired with light bites. The scotches have been curated by the President of the Oklahoma Malt Whisky Society, Rick Ewing, and he will lead us through the tasting.

On October 3rd from 6-9 pm, please join Temple Israel, Tulsa Tomorrow, and the Moishe Pod for a **Sukkah Hop**. Never been to one? Here's what to expect. A Sukkah Hop is a progressive dinner, starting at one house for appetizers, moving to another house for entrees, and a third house for dessert. The twist? Each one will have their own take on a Sukkah. This free dinner will give you a chance to celebrate Sukkot with your friends and shake a lulav and etrog.

If you haven't celebrated enough, then you won't want to miss our **Not Your Bubbe's Simchat Torah Party!**

On October 6th at 6:00 pm, join us for services where we will unscroll the entire Torah and start reading it again from the beginning. Then, we will party like it is 5784 with a DJ, dancing, and delicious food! This party is open to everyone of all ages. So, bring your dancing shoes, and let's party!

But wait, there's more! Do you have a furry baby who has sadly never had their B'nai Mitzvah? Join us on October 21st at 10:30 am at Temple Israel as we offer all our furry companions a **Bark Mitzvah** during the Shabbat when we read the Noah story.

Last but certainly not least, who could forget about Halloween? Our gay-straight alliance invites you to our **lgbTI Halloween Spectacular** event. We will watch scary movies, eat way too much pizza, and feast on popcorn! The fun begins at 6:00 pm. on October 29th.

If you are FALLing in love with these events, then check your iTinerary or email Rabbi Jasper at rabbitzvia@templetulsa.com to get more information.

Until then, Shanah Tovah, Happy New Year! ■

**The Boxyard Sukkah**

**Oct. 2-5**  
**JewishOK.com/Sukkah**

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REVEALING HOW ITS MYSTICAL SECRETS RELATE TO YOU

JOIN RABBI WEG FOR A REMARKABLE NEW SIX-WEEK COURSE FROM THE JEWISH LEARNING INSTITUTE.

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SAVE  
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Temple Israel Presents



# HATE GROUPS IN OKLAHOMA: FIGHTING HATE FOR GOOD

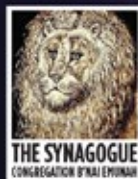
## Sunday, November 12, 7:00 pm

at Temple Israel, 2004 E. 22nd Place, Tulsa 74114

Featuring guest speaker Leah White, ADL Texoma, Senior Associate Regional Director

*Join us for a look at how antisemitism and hate have evolved through the years and is presenting itself in modern times. Together we will analyze data, trends, and ways to combat the rise in hate through educational and community programming.*

In partnership with:



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