

# TULSA *Jewish Review*

*Heshvan/Kislev 5784*

*November 2023*



**We Stand with Israel**





# I'm a teacher at Holland Hall and an alumna.

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— **Tyne Shillingford '03**  
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## Uniting for Israel

On a blustery day in October, the Tulsa Jewish and non-Jewish community joined together with prayers, words, and songs in solidarity with Israel. The program was quickly put together by the Jewish Federation of Tulsa, Congregation B'nai Emunah, and Temple Israel and included words by Tulsa Mayor G.T. Bynum, Rabbis Dan Kaiman (CBE), Michael Weinstein (TI), and Yehuda Weg (Chabad), Israel Emissary Shahaf Feinkuchen and Daniella and Gilad Gurevitch, telling the crowd of 200 how

all three of their children are now back in Israel fighting with their IDF units. Many interfaith leaders were in attendance and joined on stage during prayers and candle lighting. Songs were sung, tears were shed, hugs were everywhere. Peace begins with us, here in our community. Thank you to those that joined us in person and online for this meaningful day as a united Jewish community. View the program on the Jewish Federation's YouTube channel: <https://tinyurl.com/Tulsaisrael>. ■



Rabbi Daniel Kaiman and Rabbi Michael Weinstein



Jenny Labow, Adam Weingarten, Morah Sara Levitt, Cantor Laurie Weinstein join in song.



Mayor G.T. Bynum



Flags for Israel



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Front Cover



Photo credit: Jewish Federation of  
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## 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*

Sustaining the culture, traditions, and collective memory of the Jewish people, through innovative intergenerational programming that is meaningful, educational, and fun.



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## SILENCE IS COMPLICITY

by Randee Charney, Member and Former Chair, Israel Engagement Committee

I was born in the summer of 1962 in our nation’s capital, a time of tumultuous upheaval. President Kennedy had been assassinated in November 1961, and the civil rights movement was underway, America’s growing involvement in the Vietnam war was beginning, and the Cuban Missile Crisis played out its drama and was of great concern for my young new parents.

And yet I have lived the entirety of my life with the State of Israel in existence. I can remember as an 11-year-old leaving Yom Kippur services at our vibrant DC synagogue seeing news cameras posted and reporters confronting congregants about the shocking invasion by Egyptian and Syrian armies that had just been launched. Before much was known, the shrieks of pain and sadness expressed at that moment have stayed with me all these years. The 1973 Yom Kippur war became the most devastating attack on Israel and its people until today. The intervening years of violence and terror did not present an existential threat to the State of Israel and the people of Israel until October 7, 2023—50 years plus one day to that day in 1973.

The unprecedented, unprovoked barbaric attack by the terrorist organization, Hamas, inside Israel has resulted in the murder of over 1,300 innocent lives and thousands more injured. And at least 150 women, children, and men taken hostage and hidden in Hamas controlled Gaza as of this Day 9 as I write this piece.

Unchecked evil anywhere is a threat to goodness everywhere. The Hamas terror attack resulted in the single greatest loss of life for the Jewish people since the Holocaust. Emblematic of the pure evil exacted on innocent human beings, Hamas laughed and celebrated the proliferation of dead bodies and blood and documented the unspeakable horrors to proudly share with the victims’ families and the world. I did not know humanity was capable of such unequivocal pure evil.

I implore my Jewish community here in Tulsa and American Jewry across this great country to understand clearly what is at stake here for Israel, for Jews everywhere, and in fact, all of the civilized world. The lessons of history show us that we must not stay silent. We must firmly stand up to evil and confront it without hesitation. Passed down by philosophers, historians, WWII veterans and Holocaust survivors alike, we should take heed to the oft quoted mantra: All that is necessary for evil to flourish is for good people to stay silent. This is **not** a time for good people to stay silent. This not an issue of red vs. blue, liberal vs. conservative, or hawks vs. doves. This is good vs. evil—unimaginable evil.

Hamas has a singular goal: to annihilate the Jewish people. They hold their own people in captivity and have no interest in bettering their lives economically or socially. Hamas must be stopped from its ongoing propagation of terror on a global scale and the perpetuation of hatred toward Israel, the US and Jews everywhere.

Regardless of where you align on the political spectrum here in the US or in Israel, Hamas and the pure evil it embodies must be stopped and forever eliminated at all costs. There cannot be neutrality. There cannot be equivocation. Don’t let the major news media gaslight you into thinking this is a “disproportionate response” or an “unfair advantage of military strength.” With Hamas in existence, there can be no Palestinian partner for peace, and many Arab friends are beginning to say this out loud. Good people here and everywhere must denounce and stamp out evil—Hamas, full stop. Otherwise, this terrorist regime will be knocking on our doors next along with Jews throughout the world. Your silence is complicity. May G-d grant us all the strength and moral courage to speak out. ■

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*Unchecked evil anywhere  
is a threat to goodness  
everywhere.*

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## UPCOMING EVENTS



### Fireside Chat with Booker T. Washington | Wednesday, November 1 | 7:00PM | Jewish Federation of Tulsa

This community program is presented by the Booker T. Washington Foundation for Excellence, Martin Luther King Commemoration Society, and the Jewish Federation of Tulsa. Step into history as Dr. J. Holmes Armstead, retired professor of Strategy and International Law, brings to life the remarkable legacy of Booker T. Washington. In this captivating fireside chat, Dr. Armstead will delve into the essence of Washington, unveiling his enduring impact on American education and civil rights. We will also explore the remarkable partnership between Booker T. Washington and the visionary Jewish philanthropist, Julius Rosenwald. Prior to the chat at 6 pm, join us for "Hornet Happy Hour" with snacks, beverages, and networking opportunities. This program celebrates the past, embraces the present, and inspires the future.



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



### Lunch Bunch at Circle Cinema | Wednesday, November 8 | 12:00PM

This series of the lunch bunch will take place at Circle Cinema. We will enjoy an optional lunch beginning at 12pm at Calaveras followed by the award-winning documentary Four Winters at 1pm. The film tells the courageous and not often told story of Jewish fighters, who against unimaginable odds, fought back fiercely against Hitler's war machine as it raged across Eastern Europe. Optional lunch at Calaveras is \$13. **Note: The film will also show at 7:00 pm that evening. Both film viewings are Free.**



RSVP at: [JewishTulsa.org/lb-nov8](http://JewishTulsa.org/lb-nov8)



### Maimonides Society Social | Thursday, November 16 | 6:00PM | SMMJA Lobby

Join us for an exclusive presentation by renowned professor of public policy and community member, David Blatt, as he delves into the history of health insurance in the US. All medical professionals, whether already a Maimonides Society member or considering membership, are invited. We will explore the evolution of healthcare coverage in America, from its beginnings to the today's complex and ever-changing landscape. David will guide us through the pivotal moments and transformative policies that have shaped the way we access and receive healthcare today. Whether you're a seasoned healthcare professional or just beginning your journey, this event is an excellent opportunity to deepen your connection to other Jewish healthcare professionals in our community, expand your knowledge, and gain a fresh perspective on the US healthcare system's intricate past.



RSVP at: [JewishTulsa.org/Maimonides-nov](http://JewishTulsa.org/Maimonides-nov)

## UPCOMING EVENTS



### Chaverim Xtreme Friendsgiving Potluck | Saturday, November 18 | 6:00PM

Calling all vibrant members of the Chaverim Xtreme community! Chaverim Xtreme is the place to be for those in their 40s to 60s who are past the young Jewish professional stage but still crave fun, friendship, and a deeper connection to our Jewish community. Our Friendsgiving gathering promises an evening filled with warmth, laughter, and delicious food. It's a potluck, so bring your favorite dish meat-free to share with your friends. This event is an opportunity to celebrate the spirit of togetherness and gratitude, all within the embrace of our vibrant community, while developing new and old relationships.



RSVP at: [JewishTulsa.org/cx-nov](http://JewishTulsa.org/cx-nov)



### JMoms Friendsgiving | Tuesday, November 21 | 7:00PM | Tulsa Tennis Club

J Mom's is a group of mom's raising their children Jewishly! We welcome all those who have kids under 18 years old. We will gather casually with potluck food and enjoy the warm company and conversation about gratitude. Bring a meat-free dish to share, make new friends, and discover connection within your Jewish community.



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

**Lunch Bunch**

and

**Circle Cinema**

**Wednesday, November 8**

**12:00 pm**  
Lunch at Calaveras (optional)

**1:00 pm**  
Film at Circle Cinema:  
**FOUR WINTERS**  
AWARD-WINNING DOCUMENTARY.

The film tells the courageous and not often told story of Jewish fighters, who against unimaginable odds, fought back fiercely against Hitler's war machine as it raged across Eastern Europe.

Optional lunch at Calaveras is \$13.  
RSVP for Lunch Bunch only at:  
[JewishTulsa.org/lb-nov8](http://JewishTulsa.org/lb-nov8)

**FREE SHOWINGS**  
**at 1:00 PM & 7:00 PM**

**FOUR WINTERS**  
A STORY OF JEWISH PARTISAN RESISTANCE AND BRAVERY IN WWII



## PJ LIBRARY AND INTERFAITH LEARNING

by Wynter and Ryan Ferrell

We were led to the Jewish Federation of Tulsa through our son's enrollment in Mizel Jewish Community Day School. Through their education and fellowship programs, they offer a variety of activities that help us develop and deepen our understanding and appreciation of Jewish history, culture, and traditions. Education can help us engage in meaningful dialogue, foster relationships without judgment, and recognize that everyone is entitled to their own beliefs and values. Understanding and appreciating different perspectives is key to developing a tolerant and respectful society, and the Federation is on the forefront of these efforts in our community. We cannot think of a better opportunity to make a positive impact in this world and our local community than through our support of the Jewish Federation of Tulsa. Our involvement in the many programs and offerings, especially family related programming through PJ Library and Israel educational events, has been a true blessing for our family. We have forged lifelong friendships and memories for which we are truly thankful. ■



Wynter and Ryan Ferrell with their son, William.

# JEWISH JOURNEYS THROUGH FEDERATION.

## PJ LIBRARY

by Roniet and Eric Sachs

This past year, while still living in Southern California, our family registered our infant for PJ Library, a program delivering Jewish-themed books to young readers. This discovery, within our tight-knit Jewish community, kindled a love for reading and introduced our child to the beauty of our heritage. We read a PJ Book every night before bedtime and it has provided opportunities for us to engage in child-centered Jewish events and celebrations, strengthening our bonds.

Our journey continued to Tulsa, Oklahoma, where the Jewish Federation of Tulsa and PJ Library awaited. The transition was seamless, and thanks to Isabella and her team, we quickly started receiving books at our new home and were invited to join an array of local events. Our first PJ Library event, a pancake breakfast and poolside gathering, proved pivotal as we met families with children the same age, who would become cherished friends.

PJ Library goes so far beyond a beautiful collection of children's books; it's a warm embrace of community and belonging, regardless of location. It exemplifies how literature, culture, and shared experiences can foster connections. We extend our heartfelt gratitude to PJ Library for enriching our lives with books and, more importantly, a sense of family within the diverse tapestry of each Jewish community it touches. ■



Roniet and Eric Sachs' son, Ori, loves his PJ books.

## TEEN PROGRAMING

by Chloe Kirk, Director of Holocaust Education and Community Relations

This year, the Jewish Federation of Tulsa partnered with StandWithUs, an international, non-partisan, non-profit organization that fights antisemitism. StandWithUs came to Midrasha (weekly meetings for Jewish high schoolers) for a series empowering Jewish teens in our community by teaching them how to combat and respond to antisemitism. Gabriel Ivker, Southwest High School Regional Manager, spent time with our teens discussing his experiences dealing with antisemitism, how to report incidents, and how to fight hate and find pride in being Jewish. The three StandWithUs sessions took place in a private setting away from teachers, educators, parents and other adults, creating a safe space for teens to explore the ways antisemitism manifests, share their personal stories, hear solutions from their mentor Gabriel, and ask questions.

During these sessions, I spent time with the parents, discussing alongside Midrasha educators how to best support their teens through difficult situations. For many parents, there was sentiment that these are the easiest days of their child's lives. They live at home, supported by Jewish family, attending services and programs in a small, close-knit Jewish community, in a place where they have Jewish friends. But looking to the future, these parents envisioned a scenario where perhaps their child would attend a college with little to no Jewish presence, without a synagogue or Hillel, far from home where they would miss their supportive Jewish family and friends. Several parents shared their fears that once their teen went off to college, without that comforting environment of support, an upsetting antisemitic

incident may cause the teen to abandon their Jewish practice and be embarrassed by their Jewish identity. These parents felt helpless.

The StandWithUs sessions for parents taught them about their legal rights and reporting options when their children experience antisemitism. Parents learned how to have conversations with their teen about antisemitism. Several parents expressed feelings of encouragement by attending the StandWithUs programs, with one parent praising the timing of the program, sharing that her son had already experienced antisemitism at school. She felt the StandWithUs program was effectively helping her son feel prepared to handle the situation if it arose again, and in turn, she felt informed and able to support her son.

Another parent shared how she felt relief that her son would be able to continue his Jewish journey through college thanks to our program. It was so encouraging over the course of the three-part program to watch parents who were initially worried about their teen's future, feel supported and reassured. Antisemitism is on the rise nationwide and unfortunately Oklahoma is not immune. The best way to fight it is to educate. The Jewish Federation of Tulsa was pleased to empower teens to be confident and proud of their Jewish identity. I was encouraged to hear from parents how much of a difference this program made in their lives and how they no longer looked to the future with trepidation, but rather with excitement. ■

## LIFE-LONG FRIENDSHIPS AND LEARNING THROUGH YJP INVOLVEMENT

by Josh and Katie Falk

We have lived in Tulsa since 2019, but it was not until 2022 that we decided to become more involved with the Jewish community. It was Rosh Hashanah and we gathered in a restaurant in downtown Tulsa with 75 Young Jewish Professionals (YJPs) that we did not know, nor had we ever met. We both knew that we wanted to make new friends, build a community for us in Tulsa, learn more about what it means to have Jewish aspects in our lives, and what Judaism means overall for our future family. We are so grateful that we took the leap of jumping into "the unknown"—a new community with no former ties—as we were welcomed with open arms and smiling faces.

Since then, we have had the opportunity to be active within the YJP program and have made life-long friendships. We were fortunate to have attended the Jewish Federation of Tulsa trip to Israel this spring, as it was an impactful learning experience and an honor to be representing Tulsa and our amazing new community. The YJP group is very active in bringing Jewish adults in their 20s and 30s together through various programs, both entertaining and educational, to help learn how we can make Tulsa and the world a better place, as well as what it means to be Jewish in the modern world. Since the Israel trip, we have hosted events at our home, including "Shabbatluck" dinners, to help strengthen our bonds together and embrace our religion and our culture.



Josh and Katie Falk in Jerusalem



(Continued)

While the Tulsa Jewish community may not be as large as Dallas or Miami, we are thriving. The Tulsa Jewish Community is active and engaged. Through the multiple programs executed throughout the year by the Jewish Federation of Tulsa, it allows us the opportunity to have meaningful experiences. We are honored and humbled to have been given so much in the last year by the Jewish Federation of Tulsa. We feel it is our responsibility to give back to our community by volunteering and financially supporting our Federation through their annual campaign. It is our hope that future generations have the same opportunities and experiences that we were offered. This is just a small token of our appreciation for all the Federation does and continues to do. We are happy to give back what has been given to us.

Tulsa is a special place for Jews. We are proud to have taken that first step into a much larger community and have found so much joy and fun in this amazing place with this tight knit Jewish community. Thank you! ■

## NEW PROGRAMMING AIMED AT GEN XERS

by Isabella Silberg

Chaverim Xtreme, where life's adventures continue beyond your 40s! Whether you're married, single, with grown kids, or without, our welcoming community is ready to connect you with fantastic Jewish programming that speaks to your journey.

Our Chaverim Xtreme series began with a memorable kickoff event in August at a local coffee, wine, and chocolate shop. We began the evening with the ritual of Havdalah, marking the end of Shabbat and the beginning of a new week. The connections and excitement formed that night are just the beginning! Participants comments about the inaugural Chaverim Xtreme program included: "I really appreciate the focus on programming for our age group" and "I love that this age group is finally being recognized and look forward to participating in future events."

Next up, get ready for a Havdalah and Friendsgiving potluck to celebrate the warmth of friendship and gratitude. And as the holiday season approaches, join us for a festive Hanukkah party filled with light, laughter, and tradition.

If you are a Gen Xer, we hope you will join us as we continue to build our community! ■



Left to right, Rachel and Veronica Berkowitz, Kimberly Butler, and Mindy Galoob at Chaverim Xtreme Event.



Feeding the Soul Event at Gambill's Pastaria

## FEEDING THE SOUL

by Isabella Silberg

The adult program Feeding the Soul is one where we embark on a flavorful journey through culture, identity, and tradition—one meal at a time. Our mission is simple: to connect with local restaurants and dive into the heart and soul of their culinary creations.

Food is more than just sustenance; it's a powerful expression of heritage and history. Through Feeding the Soul, we explore the world's diverse cuisines, savoring dishes that tell stories of generations past and the communities that have shaped them.

Feeding the Soul is more than a dining experience; it's a cultural immersion, a celebration of diversity, and a journey of self-discovery. Come hungry for knowledge and leave with a heart full of new experiences. ■

# "THE YJP PROGRAMMING MISSION IS SIMPLE YET POWERFUL:

TO RETAIN AND DEVELOP THE NEXT GENERATION OF JEWISH LEADERS IN TULSA. OUR MISSION WOULDN'T BE POSSIBLE WITHOUT THE SUPPORT OF OUR ANNUAL CAMPAIGN AND PARTNERSHIPS WITH LOCAL ORGANIZATIONS, LIKE TULSA TOMORROW AND MOISHE POD TULSA. TOGETHER, WE ARE BUILDING A STRONGER, MORE CONNECTED COMMUNITY."

—ISABELLA SILBERG, DIRECTOR OF DEVELOPMENT AND PROGRAMMING.

## ANYONE CAN JOIN, EVERYONE BELONGS

by Isabella Silberg

The Charles Schusterman Jewish Community Center (CSJCC) is committed to enriching the lives of community members through a diverse array of adult education programs. Our mission extends far beyond just physical fitness – it encompasses the mind, body, and spirit.

Our comprehensive adult education offerings cater to individuals of all ages, from young adults to seniors. Whether you're looking to break a sweat in one of our fitness classes or embark on a journey of lifelong learning through our engaging series, there's something for everyone.

For those who crave adventure and the great outdoors, our newly launched hiking series promises exhilarating experiences in the heart of nature, fostering both physical wellness and a deep appreciation for the world around us.

As we extend a warm welcome to new members of our Jewish community in Tulsa, our Shalom Newcomer Program stands as a beacon of community connection. This complimentary three-month membership provides a taste of the vibrant, inclusive, and enriching environment we offer, making it easier than ever to integrate into our close-knit community.

In partnership with the Tulsa Tomorrow program, we are actively recruiting and nurturing new members, ensuring that our community continues to thrive and evolve. Join us at the Charles Schusterman Jewish Community Center, where you are greeted by your first name and anyone is welcome and everyone belongs. ■

## GIVING BACK

by Norman Kopp

As a native Tulsan, I have been a member of the Tulsa Jewish community my whole life. My family belonged to B'nai Emunah and Temple Israel and participated in programs of the Tulsa Jewish Community Council, as the Tulsa Jewish Federation was called when I was growing up.

I enjoy volunteering whenever I can. It is an opportunity to contribute, to meet new people and make new friends. This year's historic Israel celebration was special to me, not only because it was Israel's 75th anniversary, but also because my mother organized the first Israel celebration for the TJCC in the late 1970s.

In our rapidly changing world, continued connection with the Jewish community through Federation programs is important. It helps to keep us grounded and to maintain our individual & collective identities. The Tulsa Jewish community isn't just a group of people. It is family. ■





## UPCOMING EVENTS

**Fitness Challenge: No Skip November**

November's fitness challenge, No-Skip November, is all about achieving a weekly goal. Sign-up at the fitness desk with Hannah or Benny and set your workout goal for each week in the month. Your goal can be to workout one day or five or six days! We recommend at least one day of rest! Each day you workout, you will check off a box next to your name on our fitness tracker. Each week you meet your fitness goal, your name will be entered into a month end drawing. That is up to five chances to win! We will be drawing five winners who will receive a JCC Fitness T-Shirt! Setting weekly fitness goals with a friend or community members holds you accountable and gives you encouragement to always finish what you start!


**Wellness Series: We Should Talk Clarehouse Presentation | Thursday, November 2 | 2PM | Burnstein Auditorium**

CSJCC is partnering with Zarrow Pointe to provide a free advanced planning workshop featuring local actors in two vignettes portraying the contrast of prepared and unprepared families facing life-threatening illness. These one-act plays are followed by a guided look at their Healthcare Toolkit, a comprehensive resource for navigating serious illness. Participants will receive a free Health Care Tool Kit and walk away with the tools and knowledge to have tough conversations and—paperwork needed—to ensure your wishes are carried out.

RSVP at [csjcc.org/talk](https://csjcc.org/talk)


**FALL HIKING SERIES**
**Fall Hiking Series: Thursday, November 9 | 11AM | Osage Forest of Peace**

Join us on our 3rd and final gathering of our Fall Hiking Series. This hike will be one of ease and peace. The Osage Forest of Peace has hiking trails to discover as well as a Labyrinth, a Zen Garden, and wildlife. We will hike together as a group and also have time to explore the grounds on your own. Please plan on spending at least an hour and wear proper clothes and shoes. We will plan to meet at the CSJCC and carpool.

Sign up at: [csjcc.org/nov-hike](https://csjcc.org/nov-hike)


**Dessert Social | Tuesday, November 14 | 11AM**

Thanksgiving is almost here and we are thankful for all our CSJCC members. This fun social is a way to come together to share our favorite Thanksgiving desserts, recipes, and traditions. We will provide a variety of favorite holiday desserts, but please feel free to bring your favorite dessert to share as well! Desserts can be homemade or store bought—your company is what is most important!

RSVP at [csjcc.org/dessert](https://csjcc.org/dessert)



## November Holiday Closings

- |                        |   |                                 |
|------------------------|---|---------------------------------|
| November 22, Wednesday | – | JFT and SMMJA – CLOSED at 12 pm |
|                        | – | CSJCC Fitness closed at 5 pm    |
| November 23, Thursday  | – | ALL CLOSED                      |
| November 24, Friday    | – | JFT and SMMJA – CLOSED          |
|                        | – | CSJCC Fitness open 12 – 5 pm    |



## SCHOOL'S OUT THANKSGIVING BREAK CAMP

**8:30am - 4:30pm | \$50 per day**  
**November 20 - 21: 1st - 10th grade**  
**November 22: 3 years old - 10th grade**  
**Limited space, sells out fast!**

**REGISTER AT [CSJCC.ORG/CAMP](https://CSJCC.ORG/CAMP)  
OR SCAN THE QR CODE**





## LEARNING A NEW SKILL AT 87

by Sarah Winkelman

Shirley Dennis has always wanted to learn how to swim. When her son-in-law, a current CSJCC member, saw a water aerobics class being added to the fitness class schedule, he suggested that she join and go to the class with her daughter, Paula. She called Laura Allen, CSJCC Director of Community Outreach & Membership, who teaches the class, and let her know in advance about her swimming abilities. Laura suggested Shirley arrive early each day to learn some basic skills before the actual class begins. “When we first met she was terrified to put her face in the water and wouldn’t let me let go of her,” recalled Laura. Shirley was determined to move past her fear and pick up this survival skill that she has wanted to learn her entire life. After four months of working consistently with Laura, Shirley can now swim the full width of the Waters Aquatics Center as an 87-year-old!

Shirley’s favorite thing about water aerobics is building strength and getting some movement in her life. She is grateful for this special bonding time with Paula and is



Shirley Dennis ready for water aerobics.

so happy she has made new friends in the class too. The whole class encourages her and keeps an eye on her while in the water. Shirley expressed a message that she wants everyone to take to heart, “You can be afraid, but you have to challenge your fear. You can learn a new skill at any age! Get out and try something new today!” ■

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## REMEMBERING SHERMAN RAY

by Sofia Thornblad, Director of Collections and Exhibitions

Sherman Ray sewed himself a beautiful life—both literally and physically. Born in Bialystok, Poland in the spring of 1921 and passed away September 24, 2023, at the age of 102, Sherman was in many ways a relic of before.

As most in the Tulsa Jewish community know, before Sherman settled in Tulsa in the late 1940’s, he survived the Shoah, Hebrew for the Holocaust. When his family was rounded up for deportation to Auschwitz, he jumped off of the train destined for the inferno. He evaded capture for some time, before being discovered and imprisoned in Auschwitz II Birkenau, where he remained until the end of the war. He credited his survival with his skills as a tailor. The Nazis kept him alive because he was useful at sewing their uniforms.

His family was scattered to the wind at the death camp of Treblinka.

Today, he leaves behind a son, Ralph, and a daughter, Frieda.

I met Sherman twice. Once time in the early days of this summer, and the other, just recently before he was hospitalized.

When I initially met Sherman, he held my hand, and repeatedly told me, “My dear, you could smell it in the air.” The “it” he was referring to was the fear building in European Jewish communities prior to World War II and the Shoah. Of course, in the 1930’s nobody could imagine what this “it” would eventually become.

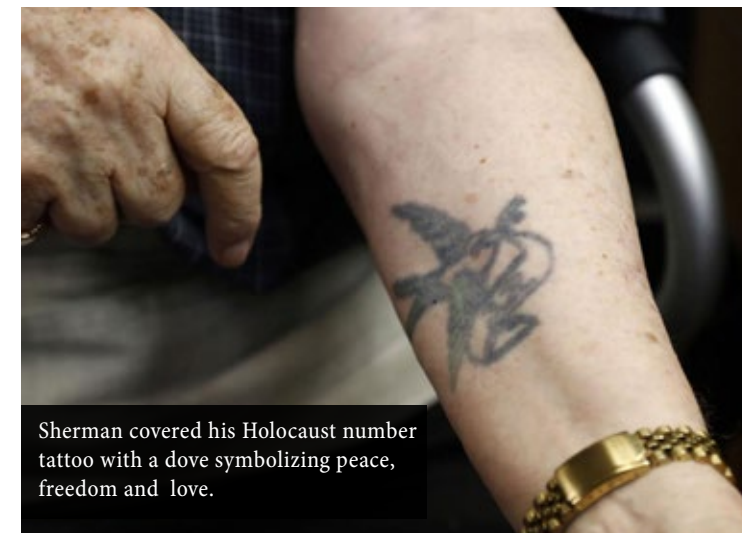
Like all survivors, there was much more to Sherman than this survival. He told me how strong he was, something I could have guessed from his incredibly firm handshake.

Our second meeting was with photographer B.A. Van

Sise, who was in town to photograph portraits of local survivors. These photographs will be the centerpiece of an exhibition of B.A.’s work titled “Invited to Life” which will open at The Sherwin Miller Museum of Jewish Art in December 2024. As he spoke with Sherman’s daughter in law Jerilyn, I watched Sherman sleep. In his sleep, he began to gesture and smile. It occurred to me that he had one foot in this world, and one foot in another. Perhaps he was dreaming of Before. Perhaps he was dreaming of his work as a tailor, which was his career and passion after Auschwitz, and until the Covid pandemic shut down his shop.

During Sherman’s funeral, his son Ralph spoke of fond memories with his father. Memories that had nothing to do with Sherman’s survival, but everything to do with what it was like to grow up with an old-world tailor as a father. Funerals have a funny way of reminding us of who that person was at their very core. And that before was not as far back in time as we often think.

I am honored to have gotten to spend brief moments with Mr. Ray. He was an important local witness to the Holocaust, and his video testimony helped shape the new Sanditen/Kaiser Holocaust Center at The Sherwin Miller Museum of Jewish Art. May his memory forever be a blessing. ■



Sherman covered his Holocaust number tattoo with a dove symbolizing peace, freedom and love.



Sherman Ray



# ISRAEL UNDER SIEGE: GLOBAL UNITY AND EMERGENCY RELIEF INITIATIVES

by Danielle Gurevitch, PhD., Chair of the Dangoor Centre, Bar Ilan University, TU Visiting Professor

Israel is immersed in a dire situation. On October 7, the gates of hell were seemingly swung open from the Gaza Strip, and the death toll has surged to over 1200 Israeli casualties at the time of this writing. This violent onslaught against Israel has captured global attention, showcasing unimaginable scenes of innocent men, women, and children falling victim to mass violence. Approximately 250 children, women, and men are being held hostage by Hamas, their fates uncertain. Additionally, over 2000 individuals have sustained injuries. Every Israeli family bears the heavy weight of losses, impacting not only family members but also friends and colleagues. Funeral notifications arrive every few minutes, and the final tally is yet unknown. The uncertainty persists regarding how many of our compatriots have been taken to Gaza as hostages by Hamas.

Shortly after the attack, a TZAV 8 (emergency mobilization warrant) was issued to all Israelis, both men and woman of age, although it turned out to be unnecessary. One hundred percent of reserve servicemen, including those beyond the age of 45, volunteered for duty. Israelis stranded abroad, unable to return home to join the fight, have been supported by fellow Israelis and Jewish community families who open their homes and connections to facilitate their return.

National and regional leaders have been tirelessly working to serve the Israeli community. A remarkable grassroots effort has taken root among Israelis worldwide, with individuals and organizations coming together to provide support during this time of need.

As an Israeli abroad (cannot even say active Israeli as we all are), our primary focus centers on delivering urgent relief to Israeli families under attack and providing life-saving equipment to our brave soldiers on the front lines. We are committed to ensuring safety and peace as swiftly as possible. Israeli and Jewish movements, both lay and professional, from around the world unite in support, displaying unwavering commitment to Israel during these challenging times.

The Vibrant UnXeptable Global Movement and the New York protest movement, in conjunction with Brothers and Sisters in Arms, synagogues, Israeli American Council (IAC), and numerous communities throughout the United States, have forged alliances. They are working diligently to expedite the use of funds, having already raised over half a million dollars in four days. These funds are earmarked for life-saving equipment for the soldiers

on the front lines. Moreover, joint efforts have garnered tens of thousands of dollars for the residents of the South. Close communication with local communities ensures the effectiveness of our assistance. These combined efforts are saving lives.

It is also important to acknowledge the ongoing struggle within the media for public opinion. In spite of what may appear to be impossible, there are many individuals who, due to a lack of understanding, support the aggressive assault and view it as a legitimate aspect of the Palestinian movement. Hamas is widely classified as a terrorist organization, making any form of support for them absolutely unacceptable.

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to President Biden and the American people for their unwavering support of Israel's right to sovereignty. Our hearts are heavy with sorrow for today's events and those that may still unfold. We stand in solidarity with our families and friends in Israel, sharing in the collective grief, terror, and uncertainty they face. Our thoughts are with the soldiers and reservists who are at the forefront of our movement, bravely reporting for duty to defend our country. We also express our solidarity with the Israeli security and aid forces on the ground, diligently rescuing, evacuating, and caring for the casualties.

Lastly, we pray for the safety of the hostages mostly innocent civilians in Gaza, and actively pushing for government-led negotiations for their release. The Zazim movement, in collaboration with Compact (Zazim's sister organization in Germany), has launched a campaign urging the German government to mediate a deal for the return of the hostages in exchange for Palestinian prisoners. Germany has successfully mediated such deals in the past and possesses the necessary tools and capabilities to bring Israel and Hamas to the negotiating table. Qatar is also reportedly involved in mediating a potential agreement. International cooperation is essential to ending their suffering.

In times of crisis, we remember the words of Psalm 23: "Though I walk through a valley of deepest darkness, I fear no harm, for You are with me; Your rod and Your staff—they comfort me." *Continued . . .*

Note: statistics as of October 10, 2023.

*Danielle and Gilad Gurevitch moved to Tulsa from Israel last year. Currently all three of their adult children have been called back to IDF duty in support of the war effort.*



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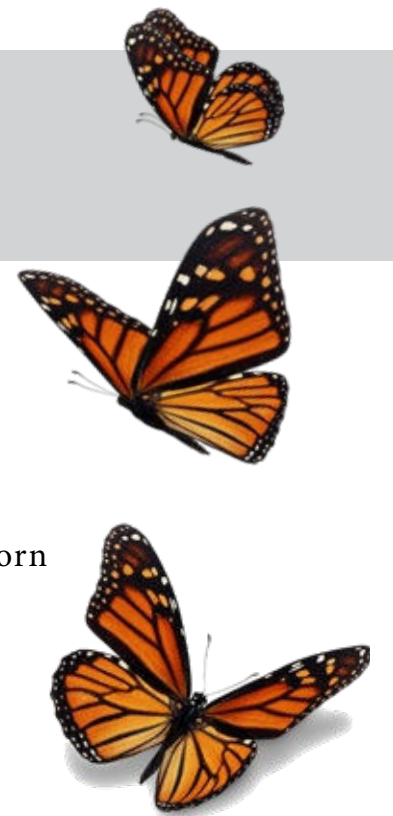
Linda Allen  
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## BIRTHDAYS:

Joan Green

## IN MEMORY:

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Dorothy "Dottie" Horn



ZARROW POINTE

(Continued)

**LET US STAND TOGETHER AND SUPPORT ISRAEL** during this difficult hour and conclude with a prayer in Hebrew for the peace and healing of the country:

אָבינו: שְׁבִשְׁמִי: צוֹר יִשְׂרָאֵל וְגוֹאֲלוֹ,

בְּרַךְ אֶת מְדִינַת יִשְׂרָאֵל,

אֲשֵׁית צְמִיחַת גְּאֻלָּתָנוּ.

הִגְן עָלֶיהָ בְּאַבְרַת חֶסֶד,

וּפְרֹשׁ עָלֶיהָ סִכַּת שְׁלוֹמָךְ,

וְשַׁלַּח אוֹרֶךְ וְאַמְתָּךְ לְרִאשִׁיָּהּ, שְׂרִיָּה וְיוֹעֲצִיָּהּ,

וְתִקְנֶם בְּעֶצֶה טוֹבָה מִלְּפָנֶיךָ.

חֲזֵק אֶת יְדֵי מִגְבֵי אֶרֶץ קִדְשֵׁנוּ,

וְהַנְחִילֵם אֱלֹהֵינוּ: יְשׁוּעָה

וְעֻטְרַת נֶחֱחוֹן תַּעֲטֹרָם,

וְנִתֵּן שְׁלוֹם בְּאֶרֶץ,

וְשִׁמְחַת עוֹלָם לְיוֹשְׁבֶיהָ.



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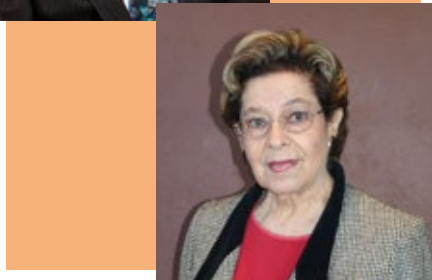
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Yolanda & Harold Charney

**Yolanda and Harold (of blessed memory) Charney** were inducted into the Tulsa Historical Society's Hall of Fame on October 2. Hall of Fame inductees are visionaries—civic and business leaders, philanthropists, educators, artists, and community volunteers. Tulsa Hall of Fame members are selected based on their exemplary dedication to their professions, civic, and philanthropic endeavors.

Early in his legal career, Harold worked for Tulsa County Legal Aid, serving indigent clients from all backgrounds. He also served on the Owasso City Council and later served as the Owasso City Attorney. Harold worked passionately on behalf of Owasso, helping to establish the vision and the foundation that would allow for Owasso's tremendous growth over the last 20 years from a small bedroom community to a thriving suburb.

Yolanda positively impacted many Tulsans as the Director of Community Relations for the Jewish Federation of Tulsa and the National Council of Jewish Women. Three Oklahoma governors appointed Yolanda as the state liaison for the US Holocaust Memorial Council and she was the co-convenor of the Fourteenth National Workshop on Christian/Jewish Relations, held in Tulsa, in 1994. Yolanda's numerous community service awards began in 1984 and continue today.

Congratulations to Harold and Yolanda Charney for making Tulsa a better community for all!



Natalie Charney and Avi Oved

**Natalie Charney and Avi Oved** were married on September 10 in the gardens of Tulsa's Philbrook Museum, surrounded by family and close friends with Rabbi Marc Fitzerman officiating. Natalie is the daughter of David and Randee Charney of Tulsa. After honeymooning in Bali, the couple will reside in Los Angeles, California.



## 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)



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

*Join us for a look at how antisemitism and hate have evolved through the years and is presenting itself in modern times.*

The evening includes:

- Kristallnacht Commemoration
- Student Art Competition on Display



Featured speaker:  
Leah White, ADL Texoma

RSVP: [JewishTulsa.org/ADL](http://JewishTulsa.org/ADL)



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# THE JEWISH CAT-EYEGLASSES MAVEN®

by Phil Goldfarb

Altina (“Tina”) Schinasi lived a creative life as an artist, inventor, designer, and entrepreneur. She was born on August 4, 1907 at her family’s mansion at 351 Riverside Drive in NYC to Sephardic Jewish immigrants and grew up in New York City. Her father, Morris (original name Moses) Schinasi (1861-1928), emigrated to New York City from Magnesia, Turkey in 1893 while his wife Laurette Ben Rubi Schinasi (1882-1958) was from Salonica, Greece. The two met when Morris Schinasi was on a business trip to Salonica — Laurette was the granddaughter of his business partner. They married in 1902 in Greece and Morris established a successful family-run international tobacco business by inventing a cigarette rolling machine, selling readymade cigarettes, and eventually amassing a large fortune.

Upon Morris Schinasi’s death in 1928, he left \$1.3 million (roughly \$22 million in 2023 dollars) to be allocated to several hospitals and Jewish charities, as well as to erect a hospital in Turkey and a new synagogue building for the Bual Zion Congregation, a Conservative synagogue in Chattanooga, Tennessee.

After being tutored at home during her younger years at the Horace Mann school in the Bronx, Schinasi then attended the Dana Hall School in Wellesley, Massachusetts, graduating high school in 1924. She often felt isolated as one of the only Jewish students on campus and tried to hide that part of her identity from her classmates. After her graduation she spent time with her younger sister in Paris and studied art for a short time with a woodblock artist instead of going to college. In the late 1920s, she began to study painting with Samuel Halpert, a Russian Jewish immigrant at the Nicholas Roerich Museum on the Upper West Side and working as a window dresser for multiple stores on Fifth Avenue. In this position, she worked with Salvador Dalí to help fully realize and execute his window designs at the Bonwit Teller & Co. department store. Schinasi continued art classes at the Art Students League of New York and received instruction from artists George Grosz, who had fled Germany in 1932 and Maurice Sterne, a Jewish sculptor and painter from Latvia.

One of Schinasi’s most remarkable accomplishments was the design and creation of the Harlequin glasses (also known as cat-eyeglasses). She wanted to create a more stylish design than those typically found at the optician. Many major manufacturers rejected

her designs, inspired by the Italian Harlequin mask, because they were too edgy. She pushed forward and partnered with a boutique optical shop called Eugene on Madison Avenue, where one of the first pairs was sold to writer Clare Boothe Luce. She patented her design in the late 1920s, and by the late 1930s Schinasi’s successful production of the frames and partnership with department stores saw the cat-eyeglasses become a popular fashion accessory worn by many American women. Schinasi’s designs took off and she soon established her own eyewear company.

The cat-eyeglasses became a hallmark of glamor in the late 1930s and were a dominant eyeglass silhouette through the mid-20th century, worn by the likes of Lucille Ball, Marilyn Monroe, and Audrey Hepburn. She has been credited with transforming eyeglasses into a fashion accessory as her revolutionary design was recognized by Vogue and Life magazine. She also received the Lord & Taylor American Design Award in 1939.

Schinasi made another move in the mid 1940s, this time traveling to the West Coast. After first expanding her eyeglass business in California and opening a factory manufacturing sunglasses, Schinasi sold the company so that she could focus more on painting, sculpture and, later in life, filmmaking. She returned to art classes, spent time in her art studio and also volunteered as an art therapist. She spent many years working on her “chairacters” sculptures, which featured a combination of figure (the sitter) and function (the seat) made from plaster and fiberglass. These sculptures were featured in the Los Angeles Times Magazine and on Good Morning America.

Drawing, painting, and sculpting were all in Schinasi’s skill set, and she expanded her artistic repertoire to include filmmaking in the 1960s with her documentary film *George Grosz’ Interregnum*. This short film features the work of her former instructor, George Grosz, a German caricature artist well-known for his anti-Nazi work and was nominated for an Academy Award for Best Documentary Short in 1960 and won the Venice Film Festival’s first prize. It was praised for its use of Grosz’ illustrations to create a captivating and original narrative.

Schinasi’s interest in filmmaking continued and she started work on yet another project. After acquiring the film rights to Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.’s historic account *Stride Toward Freedom: The Montgomery Story*, she met with him in 1961 to deliver a script

and discuss producing a film about the March on Washington. She also met with civil rights activists Rosa Parks and Ralph Abernathy and attended a service to hear Dr. Martin Luther King Sr. preach. However, Schinasi could not raise funding for the film and it was never made.

Schinasi spent the later part of her life again focused on her artwork. She also made two additional moves; the first to Washington, D.C. in 1973 and her final move in 1990 to New Mexico. With each move, Schinasi expanded her social circle to include more artists, writers, filmmakers, scientists, politicians, and other creative minds. While in New Mexico, she started writing her memoir and published *The Road I Have Traveled* in 1995.

Among her many accomplishments, Schinasi also had a full personal life. She was married four times: first to architect Morris Sanders, second to Viennese doctor Eric Barrett, then to political scientist Charles Carey, and finally to Cuban artist Celestino “Tino” Miranda. She had a strong fondness for and connection to her two sons, Denis and Terry Sanders. They were both



filmmakers and in 1955 won an Academy Award for Best Short Subject for their work on *A Time Out of War*.

In 2014, her grandson Peter Sanders and her granddaughter Victoria Sanders produced and directed *Altina*, a documentary about her life. Altina Schinasi died in Santa Fe, New Mexico on August 12, 1999 at age 92. ■

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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# OPEN TABLES CELEBRATES 15 YEARS

by Maren Hettler, Tulsa Jewish Review Writing Intern

*"...it is better to build a longer table than to build a taller fence." — Author unknown*

Vicky Langston moved to Tulsa in 2004, just three years after 9/11.

"I wanted to do something that brought people of different faiths together because there was a lot of Islamophobia at the time," she said. In 2008, she decided to take action by creating a program called Open Tables, which brings people of all faiths Jewish, Muslim, Christian, Hindu and Baha'i families together for potluck dinners that inspire interfaith dialogue.

Langston had always been passionate about interfaith work, but never had the opportunity before moving to Tulsa. Before retiring, she worked as a school teacher for 29 years. Her husband, a Methodist minister, was assigned to churches in towns all over Oklahoma, many of which lacked religious diversity. After moving to Tulsa, they joined Boston Avenue Methodist Church, not realizing that they were already well known for interfaith work. Langston joined the OCCJ (Oklahoma Center for Community and Justice) Trialogue Committee, which hosted interfaith discussion groups on Sunday afternoons.

"It was a great stepping stone for me," Langston said in reference to her time on the committee. "On that committee I was able to meet people from other faiths, and without them I don't think Open Tables would have made it this far." When Langston came up with the idea for Open Tables, she approached members of the Trialogue Committee to take leadership roles in guiding the program. Open Tables' committee is made up of representatives from the various faiths involved in the program, with each committee member tasked with recruiting participants from their respective faith community to attend the dinners.

For the first two years, participants would be assigned to a group made up of people from various faiths. Each one would take turns hosting a dinner at their house, using shared meals to promote interfaith dialogue. "When you share a meal with someone, you find out a lot about them," Langston said. At the end of the year, there was a potluck dinner for everyone to come together and celebrate.

The potluck dinners emerged as the most successful part of the program, primarily because participants didn't have to worry about hosting duties. As a result, the program has now expanded to include three potluck dinners each year, with dinners no longer taking place at people's homes.

During the pandemic, the dinners were held on Zoom, cutting attendance from 150 people to 60. Now the number is steadily building back up, with around 100 people attending each dinner. In addition to Jews, Muslims, Christians, Hindus and Baha'is, the program tried to include Buddhists and Sikhs, but Langston said that it was difficult to get them involved because there are so few in Tulsa.

Each person attending is asked to bring a favorite dish to share, along with an open mind. There's a small fee that

helps cover supplies like name tags, plates and napkins, but because of their potluck format, the dinners don't require much extra funding and are held at religious centers around Tulsa.

"The main goal is for people to find out that we have more in common with each other than we think. We all want the same things in life," said Langston. Through each dinner, Langston's vision of a less-divided world has begun to take shape as people come to know each other as individuals instead of stereotypes.

Open Tables is celebrating the beginning of their 15th year on November 5 at the Boston Avenue Jubilee Center, back where it all started in 2008. This year, childcare will be offered for the first time, making it easier with families with young children to participate.

Langston's goal for the program is to help create more understanding among people of different religions. "We have such a divided world, and I think that's a concern for a lot of people," she said. She believes that interfaith dialogue and fostering understanding among diverse religious communities is key to a more unified world. "It was just in my heart that was what I needed to do." ■



Participants greet each other at an Open Tables dinner.

**"Christian Nationalism in America: Past and Present" with Rachel Laser and Robert P. Jones Thursday, November 2 | 7:00 p.m.**

In a remarkable event set to take place on November 2, two distinguished thought leaders, Rachel Laser and Robert P. Jones, will come together to discuss Jones' new book, "The Hidden Roots of White Supremacy," and the forms of Christian Nationalism our country has seen both past and present.

Rachel Laser, an accomplished advocate and CEO of Americans United for Separation of Church and State, brings her expertise on the intersection of religion, politics, and civil liberties. She has been a tireless champion of church-state separation, working to safeguard the constitutional rights of all Americans.

Robert P. Jones, a respected scholar and CEO of PRRI (Public Religion Research Institute), is renowned for his research on religion, culture, and politics. His work has provided invaluable insights into the evolving landscape of American religious identity and its profound impact on society.

During this event, Laser and Jones will engage in a thought-provoking conversation that promises to illuminate the challenges and opportunities we face as a society in these transformative times. They will share their unique perspectives and experiences, fostering a deeper understanding of the complex issues that shape our nation's discourse.

This partnership event is made possible through a diverse network of sponsors, including, Magic City Books, All Souls Unitarian Church, Fellowship Congregational Church, and Tulsa Metropolitan Ministries.

Don't miss this unique opportunity to be part of this stimulating conversation. Register at [www.tulsagogue.com](http://www.tulsagogue.com) to join us for



an evening of discussion and dialogue about the future of our democracy.

**Bibi-Dibi Friday, November 3 | 5:30 p.m.**

Crawling? Barely walking? Not yet talking? There's a place for you in our circle at Bibi-Dibi. It's a monthly Shabbat gathering for babies and their families. We sing songs, play games, and share a beautiful Shabbat dinner. We see this as an excellent way to build your own family traditions. While no reservation is necessary for the celebration, we ask that you make reservations by calling or visiting our website if you plan to join us for the meal. The celebration begins at 5:30 p.m. and dinner starts at 6:00 p.m.

**Family Jewish Cooking Club Sunday, November 5 | 12:00 p.m.**

Food is an essentially delicious way to connect to our traditions and one another. Join the club and embark on a flavorful, family adventure in our new four-part series; the Family Jewish Cooking Club. We'll meet on four Sundays throughout the year just after ShulSchool for lunch, schmoozing, and a hands-on kitchen session. Throughout the experience we'll learn about the history and meaning of a dish and get to work making it ourselves. Each family will leave with their dish in hand along with a recipe and instructions to recreate the experience at home. The cost is \$36.00 per family and includes lunch and materials. Visit [www.tulsagogue.com](http://www.tulsagogue.com)

to hold your spot!

**Seventeenth Street Deli Sunday, November 5 | 5:30 p.m.**

In the kitchen of the Seventeenth Street Deli we do things right. Slow cures, too much pepper, and lots of love. Our pop-up restaurant is back with both dine-in and take-out dinner service available. Please pre-register for your meals at [tulsadeli.org](http://tulsadeli.org) and choose between pastrami, corned beef, or deli egg salad. You can call us at 918-583-7121. A complete meal is \$18. Register soon before all the spots are gone.

**Learning Over Lunch: Separation of Church and State November 6th, 13th and 20th | 12:00 p.m. – 1:30 p.m.**

Following the success of our summer Learning over Lunch series, we're back this fall with a new topic! Join Morah Sara Levitt for a three-part series on the Jewish perspective on the Separation of Church and State. This round, we'll invite a few local experts in this field to deepen our own understanding of the issues at hand. Our series will follow the highly anticipated event on Christian Nationalism in America on November 2nd. Participants should bring their own dairy vegetarian lunch. To learn more and RSVP please visit the Synagogue website at [www.tulsagogue.com](http://www.tulsagogue.com) or call 918-583-7121

**Blatt + Blue: Thursday, November 9 | 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.

**Shabbat for Everyone Friday, November 10 | 6:15 p.m. dinner – 7:00 p.m. service**

Just like the name suggests, it's an accessible, kid-friendly, musical Shabbat experience for everyone!



(Continued)

Newcomers and experienced community members come together to sing, dance, and welcome Shabbat alongside one another. No reservation is necessary for the celebration, which begins at 7:00 p.m., but if you like to join us for dinner, please register at [www.tulsagogue.com](http://www.tulsagogue.com). The service will be broadcast live on Zoom at 918 583 7121.

**Doing Jewish: Navigating the Jewish Internet**  
**Sunday, November 12 | 10:00 a.m.**  
 In the age of Wikipedia and Rabbi Google, the way in which we learn and remember has drastically changed. As a fire hose of information hits us in the face, how are we to know how to separate the truth from fiction, crazy from critical? Join us for an exploration of online Jewish resources that can help you navigate your own learning and exploration. Feel free to bring along your own internet browsing device for this inter-connected workshop. Doing Jewish sessions are monthly workshops on practical Jewish living. Think of these as one-off sessions to deepen familiarity across the depth and breadth of Jewish life. For more information, contact Rabbi Kaiman.

**Sisterhood Book Club**  
**Sunday, November 12 | 11:00 a.m.**  
 Sisterhood members will be discussing Code Name Sapphire, by Pam Jenoff. This historical novel is based on the true story of the Belgium resistance fighters who stopped a train bound for Auschwitz. Jews did fight the Nazis during World War II, which you can learn from this New York Times Best Seller by a prolific, talented writer.

**INTRO to Judaism**  
**Monday, November 13, 20 and 27 | 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. This is an 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 Fieldtrip to First Americans Museum - OKC**  
**Wednesday, November 15 | 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 on a special tour-guided "field trip" to the First Americans Museum in Oklahoma City. Transportation from the Synagogue to the First Americans Museum will be provided, leaving the Synagogue at 10:00 a.m. A bus leaving Zarrow Pointe at 9:30 a.m. will transport participants to the Synagogue. It's our pleasure to provide this service in cooperation with our fellow Jewish institution. Lunch will be provided at the Museum. Please reserve your spot by calling the Synagogue at 918-583-7121 or visiting our website.

**Six Years of Magic City Books with Author Michael Cunningham**  
**Thursday, November 16 | 7:00 p.m.**  
 Our partners and friends at Magic City Books are celebrating their 6th anniversary with special guest Michael Cunningham, the Pulitzer Prize-winning novelist of The Hours, for an event to launch his first novel in more than a decade, Day. Magic City Books co-founder Cindy Hulsey believed that books could change lives because a book changed her life. The Hours by Michael Cunningham was the book that changed Cindy's life and inspired her to switch

careers and become a librarian. We are honored that Michael Cunningham will join us for an event to celebrate his new novel and be joined in conversation by Cindy's friend and colleague from the Tulsa City-County Library, Rebecca Howard. This is a ticketed event, each ticket comes with one (1) hardcover copy of Day (\$28 value) by Michael Cunningham and one (1) seat at the event on Thursday, November 16. Tickets can be purchased through [www.magiccitybooks.com](http://www.magiccitybooks.com).

**Bar-Mitzvah of Henry Watt**  
**Saturday, November 18 | 9:30 a.m.**  
 Henry is an 8th-grade student at Monte Cassino, where he is an excellent student. He is also a proud member of Mensa. He enjoys basketball and has been on a competitive team. Henry is an avid gym-goer with his dad, and has become very adept at weightlifting, when not crushing it on his Xbox with his buddies. Henry has been preparing for his Bar Mitzvah under the tutoring and guidance of Morah Sara.

Henry is the son of Kym and Ken Watt; grandson of Ken and Deborah Johnson, of Cheyenne, WY; Jeanie and Paul Vaughan, of Tulsa, OK; and Patty and Bryan Watt, also of Tulsa. Henry has seven aunts and uncles, and dozens of cousins located in Oklahoma, Wyoming, Utah and North Carolina. Also considered family is Henry's early-life nanny, Queen Holt, and her son, Quentin, both of Tulsa.

The community is invited to join the Watt family for services at 4:00 p.m. in person at Congregation B'nai Emunah or in the Synagogue Zoom Room. The meeting ID is 918-583-7121.

**Family Day of Service**  
**Sunday November 19 | 9:00 a.m.**  
 ShulSchool and students and their families are invited to Family Day of Service. On Sunday, November 19, families will join their children for a day of intergenerational

(Continued)

learning, celebration, and action. We'll learn about the Jewish obligation of caring for others. The morning will include a T'fillah experience, project-based learning, snacks, and community! Our work begins at 9:00 a.m. Please be in touch with Morah Sara for more information at [slevitt@bniaemunah.com](mailto:slevitt@bniaemunah.com)

**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. ■



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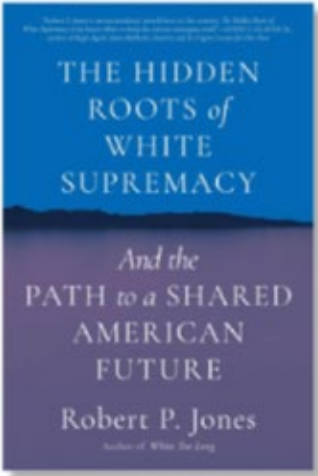

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**NOVEMBER 2 • 7:00 PM**

**CONGREGATION B'NAI EMUNAH**

REGISTRATION REQUIRED: [TULSAGOGUE.COM/EVENTS](http://TULSAGOGUE.COM/EVENTS)





### Finding God in an Age of Reason with Rabbi Weinstein on Zoom • Thurs., Nov. 9, 16 & 30 • 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? No learning on Thanksgiving Nov. 23.

### Taste of Judaism • Thurs., Nov. 2 • 6:30 p.m.

The last class of our 3 Class Series, 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., Nov. 3 • 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

joyous songs! Arrive at 5:30 p.m. for a pre-oneg. RSVP to [rsvp@templetulsa.com](mailto:rsvp@templetulsa.com) for the Zoom link.

### Shabbat Learning Through the Ages on Zoom • Sat., Nov. 4 • 10:30 a.m.

Borrowing from our Temple Israel monthly Shabbat morning experience, we will join to study and learn from one another. We will explore Torah and Traditional Rabbinical texts based on themes of this week's Parsha, Torah Reading. RSVP to [rsvp@templetulsa.com](mailto:rsvp@templetulsa.com) for the Zoom link.

### Zarrow Pointe Shabbat Service • Fri., Nov. 10 • 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.

### Birthday Shabbat Service w/ Torah in person, on Zoom & Facebook Live • Fri., Nov. 10 • 7:30 p.m.

Join us as we welcome in Shabbat with the chanting of Torah. During this service, we will honor significant November birthdays. Stay for a sweet oneg afterwards. RSVP to [rsvp@templetulsa.com](mailto:rsvp@templetulsa.com) for the Zoom link.

### Klar Lecture Series/Anti-Defamation League Speaker • Sun., Nov. 12 • 7:00 p.m.

Temple Israel presents **HATE GROUPS IN OKLAHOMA: FIGHTING HATE FOR GOOD.** Guest speaker Leah White of the ADL TEXOMA will look at how antisemitism and hate have evolved through the years and is presenting itself in modern times.

The evening includes Kristallnacht Commemoration and Holocaust Student Art Competition on Display. This wonderful lecture is made possible by The Irma and Louis Klar Pulpit Memorial Fund.

### Family Shabbat in person • Fri., Nov. 17 • 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., Nov. 14. Contact Rabbi Jasper at [rabbitzvia@templetulsa.com](mailto:rabbitzvia@templetulsa.com) for more information.

### Social Justice Shabbat • Fri., Nov. 17 • 7:30 p.m.

Temple Israel will honor the Food Bank of Eastern Oklahoma on Social Justice Shabbat. RSVP to [rsvp@templetulsa.com](mailto:rsvp@templetulsa.com) for the Zoom link.

### Music & Meditation • Sat., Nov. 18 • 10:30 a.m.

Join Cantor Weinstein to flex, stretch, and nourish our minds, our bodies, and our souls through song, breath, and movement.

### Friendsgiving Casual Friday • Fri., Nov. 24 • 6:00 p.m.

Meet us at Temple Israel before services and bring your Thanksgiving leftovers. Please be sure it's Kosher style! Enjoy a meal with friends before worship. Beverages and desserts provided. Service begins at 7:30 p.m.

### Anniversary Shabbat Service w/Torah in person, on Zoom & Facebook Live • Fri., Nov. 24 • 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 significant November anniversaries. RSVP to [rsvp@templetulsa.com](mailto:rsvp@templetulsa.com) for the Zoom link. ■

## FRIENDSGIVING

by Rabbi Tzvia Jasper

It is hard to believe that the High Holy Days are now in our rear-view mirror. During the month of Elul, leading up to the Days of Awe, we spend a significant amount of time preparing not just the logistics of the holidays, but our souls as well. We do the work of seeking Teshuvah, repentance. We plan a BreakFast that our family and friends can enjoy. Some of us build a sukkot, and then we must take it down. Then it all concludes with a huge party where we dance with the Torah scrolls.

It is a lot of work, but woven through it all is the sacredness of that period of time. It is simply *kodesh*, holy. We see people whom we have not seen in ages. Our voices join in harmony as we sing our prayers. That time of year is incredibly special. So, it stands to reason that there could be a post-High Holy Day slump. For so many of us, it is hard to transition from *kodesh* to chol, the mundaneness which follows. College kids return to school, work resumes, and life goes on as if you did not just spend 12 hours at the Temple reflecting on how we are perfectly imperfect. How, then, can we capture the sacred community we work so hard to build throughout the remainder of the year?

At Temple Israel, this is what we are constantly working towards. On November 24th, we are offering a chance to rekindle the flame of the holidays with our Casual Friday 'Friendsgiving' dinner. Starting at 6:00 p.m., we will have a potluck-style community dinner, followed by services. This is your chance to bring your leftovers from Thanksgiving and celebrate this time of year with your chosen family. This dinner is open to everyone in the community. We will have babysitting available for those who need it. This is just one opportunity for Casual Friday Potlucks. Throughout the coming year, we will continue to share in these warm, enriching, sacred moments. Some of our future Casual Friday dates include January 19th, May 17th, and June 28th. They will all have a potluck dinner preceding our 7:30 p.m. service.

Every week, we have an opportunity to recapture the holiness that the Jewish months of Elul and Tishrei provide. This is done through Shabbat services and community events. The Holy Days may be over, but there is still so much to come! Thank you to everyone who shows up in whatever capacity they can, thus making our spaces *kodesh*. ■

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