


TULSA *Jewish Review*

Kislev/Tevet 5784

December 2023



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MARCH FOR ISRAEL

Nearly 300,000 demonstrators gathered at the National Mall in Washington D.C. on November 14 to show support for Israel, call for the release of the hostages in Gaza, and denounce rising antisemitism. Speakers included family members of those held hostage, Israeli President Isaac Herzog, and several US Congressman and women, from both sides of the aisle. The march was organized by the Jewish Federations for North America and the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations.



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Front Cover



Hanukkah hanukkiah
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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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A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

I am happy to introduce Wendy Thomas as the new Interim Executive Director at the Jewish Federation of Tulsa. Wendy has a master's degree in arts administration through the School of Business from the University of Wisconsin Madison. She spent ten years teaching nonprofit administration as an adjunct at the University of Tulsa in their Arts Management program.

Wendy was, most recently, the Executive Director of Leadership Tulsa, mentoring and guiding boards and board members for 21 years. In her professional role she greatly increased the scope and reach of Leadership Tulsa programs. Prior to her role at Leadership Tulsa, she was Executive Director of the Arts & Humanities Council of Tulsa.

Wendy has served on numerous nonprofit boards and has served as president/chair of many. She is often called in to help organizations navigate challenging times in their history such as start-up, transition in leadership, and other types of financial or operational situations. "It is an honor and a privilege to serve a community that continues to make a positive impact in Tulsa," stated Wendy. During her time at the Jewish Federation, she will be instrumental in supporting the board of directors and staff and help lead the search for a permanent executive director.

Wendy is also a well-known presenter on board best practices and an adept facilitator of group process. She helps teams build knowledge, skills and connections with humor and sensitivity. Wendy recently put her board skills to use facilitating the Joint Board Institute, a day-long training for board members and lay leaders of all of Tulsa's Jewish organizations. Wendy was slotted to facilitate the Joint Board Institute long before our Interim Director role became available. The Joint Board Institute became an excellent way for Wendy to meet the many Jewish organization leaders, board members, etc. and I left the Joint Board Institute feeling even more confident in JFT Board's decision to engage Wendy for the Interim role.

Please join me in welcoming Wendy and feel free to stop by and introduce yourself next time you are on the Zarrow Campus.



Jared Goldfarb,
JFT Board President



"It is an honor and a privilege to serve a community that continues to make a positive impact in Tulsa."

—Wendy Thomas

UPCOMING EVENTS



Chaverim Xtreme Hanukkah Party | Saturday, December 9 | 7:00PM | TBD

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. Join us for a night filled with festive fun! Get ready to indulge in the warmth of tradition, good company and a modern twist on Hanukkah fun. More details coming soon!

RSVP at: JewishTulsa.org/cx-dec



Sisterhood Social Action Project | Sunday, December 10 | 10:00AM | DVIS

The sisterhood groups from Congregation B'nai Emunah Synagogue, Jewish Federation of Tulsa (the Pearl Society), and Temple Israel will partner for a social action project with Domestic Violence Intervention Services (DVIS). We will meet at DVIS this morning to help wrap gifts and assist with other projects. Sign up to volunteer for this effort!

This year, we are taking this project a step further and collecting items for the clients of several DVIS departments: legal, outpatient, shelter, and children through December 8. Shop from our Amazon wishlist or shop local from the DVIS wishlist (found on our website) and drop off items at any of the three Jewish organizations.

RSVP at: JewishTulsa.org/dvis



Community Wide Chanukah Celebration | Thursday, December 14 | 4:00–6:00PM | Williams Lodge @ The Gathering Place

Celebrate the festival of lights with your Tulsa Jewish community at The Gathering Place! Chabad, Jewish Federation of Tulsa, and Temple Israel are partnering with The Gathering Place to provide an evening of family-oriented entertainment for the holiday. Join us for themed crafts, delicious latkes, dreidel spinning, storytelling, and a menorah lighting. We hope to see you there for a very special Chanukah Celebration.

UPCOMING EVENTS



YJP Hanukkah Party with MoPo | Friday, December 15 | 7:00PM

Get ready to light up the night at the YJP Hanukkah celebration hosted by Ben Wagman! The Young Jewish Professionals Programming Board, in collaboration with Moishe Pod Tulsa are planning a night of community celebration for our young adults. Expect an evening filled with the warmth of a campfire, latke bar with all the toppings, lively dreidel competitions, and more. To make sure everyone can fully enjoy the festivities, we kindly ask everyone to use ride-share services to get to the event location. We will have a candle swap for all those who attend so please bring a candle your choice – scented candle, shabbat candles, or a set of Hanukkah candles.

RSVP at: JewishTulsa.org/yjp-hanukkah23



Lunch Bunch with Tulsa Opera | Wednesday, December 20 | 12:00PM | Jewish Federation of Tulsa

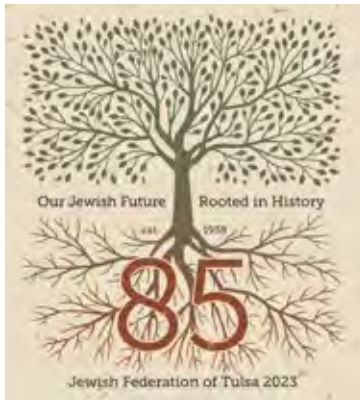
Join us for this very special program with the talented members of the Tulsa Opera. We are excited to welcome Dani Kiel, the Chief Operating Officer of the Tulsa Opera, along with select members from the Opera for a live performance. During this gathering, participants will gain unique insights into the Tulsa Opera's mission, their selection process for shows and performances, and the creative journey behind their productions. This event is not only an opportunity to witness the opera's brilliance but also a chance to engage in a Q&A session with the performers. Optional lunch is available for \$13 prepared by Chef Veronica. Menu is a hearty winter soup and salad combo with dessert.

RSVP at: JewishTulsa.org/lb-dec20



Both Campaigns Are Vital to Our Jewish Community

JFT—85 Years 2023 Annual Campaign



JewishTulsa.org/Donate
Please Donate by December 31



Israel Emergency Campaign



100% of your donation supports organizations on the ground.



A WAR JOURNAL AWAY FROM THE BATTLEFIELD

by Chen Shoval, Shlichah 2020 – 2023

Tal and I had just returned from a vacation in the Tamar Regional Council. We were at a festival, enjoying the Dead Sea and the unique nature of the area. During this trip, I realized how much I missed Israel, my home. The next morning, we planned to go to brunch with the family when we were hit by disturbing news. My mom said we were at war. I didn't understand what she meant, but rumors of terrorists and abductions in Israel were already hinting at what we were facing.

We don't live near Gaza or the northern border. We live right in the center of the country. But since October 7th, the day when our reality changed, our sense of security has been taken away. The thought of terrorists breaking into our home at any moment is terrifying. We constantly check that our windows and doors are locked. We are afraid to sit in our yard. We are suspicious of anyone passing by on the street. And we now have "weapons" from household items including scissors and knives that we sleep with beside our beds. We ensure we're always dressed, with shoes by the bed in case we get kidnapped or must run to a shelter. We calculate shower times, cooking times, and Agam's bed time, trying our best to not be surprised by a siren. We've learned that the rockets are usually fired either at the top of the hour or half past.

Our son hasn't been to kindergarten for over a month. The war coincided with the Sukkot holiday, and many parents, like us, are struggling to keep their children occupied, especially because we can't leave the house or meet friends. Only this week the kindergarten resumed partial activities. And even with all the difficulties, we constantly feel grateful that we have our loved ones, while so many families mourn.

The sense of unity among Israelis, the support of the global Jewish community, and the assistance of the US government are beacons of light in this crisis. The months leading up to the war were difficult, marked by hatred among brothers, disputes, protests, and a government that didn't seem to care about its citizens. Even now, there is a feeling that the government isn't functioning properly, but the community organizations mobilizing to help in all areas provides a sense of optimism. It's a hope that, after the war, we can come back and discuss the essence of the Jewish democratic state and how it will look. I really hope that all voices at the table will be heard and share the "burden."

Life before October 7th feels like a different world to me. It's like we were children living carefree lives, focused on insignificant details. The difficult feelings, the sense that Jews still have no safe place in the world, require all of us to fight for our home, our security, and ultimately, for peace in our region.

In the very early stages of the war, when I spoke with friends across the United States who work in colleges, I realized that this is a war of the Jewish people, not just the Israelis. This war shows again how Jews living outside Israel are still affected, whether they want it or not. Therefore, I believe it's important to continue to educate ourselves and our children about the Jewish people, our history, and the values that guide us in life, which often set us apart from the rest of the world.

Thank you, Tulsa community, for your support, your messages, and your warm social media posts. We feel your love reaching all the way to Israel and it means a lot to me and my family. ■



Chen with Tal and their son, Agam,

THE CAMPUS ANTISEMITISM PROBLEM

by Sandy Sloan, Director of Communications

Jewish college students across the United States have been harassed, threatened, and targeted for violence since the start of the October 7 Israel-Hamas war. Every day, we learn of another campus involved in harassment and terror toward Jewish students while leaders of these institutions of higher learning fail to counter the hateful rhetoric being spewed by their students.

Free speech, open debate, and acts of protest lie at the core of the college experience. For many young adults, this may be the first time in their lives they feel free to express themselves without the close watch of family members. Unfortunately, the reality on many college campuses has exceeded general acts of protest to straight intimidation of Jewish students.

While the situation in Israel and on campuses across the country is fluid, I wanted to get a sense of what is happening on college campuses in Oklahoma. On Nov. 6, nearly one month into the war, I spoke with the Executive Director of Hillel at The University of Oklahoma, Kasi Shelton. "As of now, our Israeli and Jewish students feel supported while they are on campus," she said. "Of course, there have been small incidents, such as graffiti chalking at OU with hateful messages, but no actual threats such as we are hearing at many Ivy League schools." A non-sanctioned student organization calling itself the Coalition for Palestinian Liberation staged a small walk out on campus, with 150 students participating. The walk out was peaceful with no incidents reported. The coalition also sent a statement of demands to the OU President and published it in the school newspaper. Director of the OU Schusterman Center for Judaic and Israel Studies, Alan Levenson, responded with a long letter to the president, clarifying the many misrepresentations as indicated in the coalition's letter.

"What I am hearing from students from the four campuses we represent is that any incidents that are occurring are not happening while on campus," Shelton reported. "Rather, I am hearing of students who have lost friends since the conflict began or are upset that friends aren't reaching out to offer support."

"We have a lot to be proud of. The Jewish students I speak with aren't anti-Palestinian, they are just responding with sadness. The term they grew up with, 'never again,' has been eliminated, which affects their overall sense of safety."

Hillel International's top priority is the safety and security of all Jewish students on their campuses, making it easier for students to express their Jewish identity without fear. As a result of Hillel's advocacy, more than 60 colleges and universities have issued statements condemning Hamas and supporting their Jewish students. As of this writing, OU leadership has not issued a statement. But according to Shelton, OU leadership called her immediately after the war began asking what they could do to support students.

Hillel at The University of Oklahoma oversees four campuses of Jewish activity: The University of Oklahoma (OU), Norman; Oklahoma State University (OSU), Stillwater; the University of Central Oklahoma (UCO), Edmond; and Oklahoma City University (OCU), Oklahoma City (note: next year Northeastern Oklahoma Hillel will fall under OU's umbrella organization, which will include The University of Tulsa).

I also spoke with a representative, who wished to remain anonymous, at The University of Tulsa. She told me that TU students have been completely silent since the conflict began. According to the source, there are very few Jewish students currently enrolled and the campus climate trends towards general apathy. Abortion has been the only controversial topic that has attracted protests in the past couple of years. When asked why she thought the university trended towards apathy on topics that are erupting in massive protests on other campuses, the source commented, "There's a sense of Oklahoma politeness here—a positive aspect of living in a red state."

After speaking with my TU source, I was informed by a community member that posters of hostages on campus were torn down by students. Many are saying this is clear antisemitism. Others say this is a misguided act of disrespect to victims of terror. Whatever the logic is for tearing posters off walls, society must remember the innocent lives on both sides.

While Oklahoma is a state that ranks high among hate crimes, it is heartening to learn the antisemitic activities at several of our college campuses, including here in Tulsa, are minor compared to the rest of the country. Whether this comes from a genuine concern for fellow Jewish students or a general indifference to world events, remains to be seen.

At the time of this writing, top institutions still have not denounced antisemitic activity on their campuses. ■

UPCOMING EVENTS

Fitness Challenge: Don't Lose it December

Over the past year, our members have been working on creating positive wellness habits. The month of December will be a time to combine all those fitness challenges to create one goal. Our December Fitness Tracker will combine our water intake, nutrition, sleep routine, steps, and mental and physical wellness. Grab your tracker at the fitness desk to end your calendar year with a bang—ensuring you put your best foot forward in the new year!



Social: CSJCC Day of Service | Wednesday, December 13 | 1:00–3:00PM

Join your CSJCC community for a volunteer opportunity at the Food Bank of Eastern Oklahoma. We will spend the afternoon sorting and packing canned foods for those in need. Please plan to be on your feet and wear comfortable shoes and clothing. We only have 18 spots available, so please sign up in advance. If you want to carpool to the food bank, please meet at the CSJCC at 12:15pm

Register at: csjcc.org/volunteer



Wellness Series: Seasonal Affective Disorder (SAD) with Dr. Sarah-Anne Schumann| Thursday, December 14 | 11AM

Shorter days, less sunlight got you down? Join us as Dr. Sarah-Anne Schumann explains Seasonal Affective Disorder (SAD) and ways to combat this common type of depression. Our Wellness Series is always free and open to the public so feel free to invite a friend. Light refreshments served.

Sign up at: [csjcc.org/wellness- SAD](https://csjcc.org/wellness-SAD)



Cardio Drumming | Friday, December 15 | 10AM

Cardio Drumming is a full-body exercise class utilizing exercise balls, buckets and drum sticks. The low-impact class uses movement through drumming to benefit both the mind and body. Cardio drumming is a fun, fast-paced way to get your heart rate up, improve your rhythm and burn calories. If you enjoy movement, want to improve your hand eye coordination or just love music, join Coach Hannah and try this 45-minute workout. The class is limited to 12 participants, please sign up in advance to reserve your spot.

RSVP at csjcc.org/drumming

CARDIO DRUMMING WITH HANNAH!



Special! Open Basketball



FREE for the month of December

College ages kids back home for winter break? Join us for the month of December as we open the basketball court for

OPEN PLAY EVERY WEDNESDAY FROM 7:00 - 9:00 PM.

You must be at least 16 years old to play. All non-CSJCC members must check in at the front desk prior to hitting the courts.

FEATURED CLASS:

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MONDAYS AT 12PM

Be prepared for a fun mix of exercises and movement patterns that will tighten, strengthen and shape your core! We will execute body exercises to improve our cardiovascular fitness, core strength, and challenge our body.



Chanukah Celebration

AT GATHERING PLACE

THURSDAY, DEC. 14, 4 PM - 6 PM

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GAIL LAPIDUS SAYS GOODBYE TO FCS

by Dr. Jennifer Airey

It is impossible to say for certain exactly how many lives Gail Lapidus has touched over the course of her career. In her thirty-eight years at Family and Children's Services, she has grown the budget from a \$1 million organization to \$153 million, overseen the creation of dozens of innovative new programs, and helped to lift countless people out of poverty and abuse. Her impact on the Tulsa community can be felt in the expanded footprint of the organization to which she devoted her life's work, but talk to her friends, and they will speak first and foremost of her impeccable character, her desire to improve the world, and her sense of moral leadership. Lapidus, her friends report, is the kind of person who carries blankets and food in her car so she can hand them out at moment's notice to an unhoused person in need. She feels a deep ethical responsibility to her community, which drives her to lead with passion and conviction, always seeking to learn and grow and help. She is the person who steps in in a crisis and looks to problem solve, embodying the concept of tikkun olam in all the best ways. Thus, it is no surprise that she has been such a central and dynamic figure in the Tulsa community for so many years.

Lapidus graduated from the University of Oklahoma in 1973 with a bachelor's degree in social work, and in 1974, she joined Family and Children's Services as a twenty-two year old case worker. She later completed a masters degree in social work, and practiced as a family therapist before transitioning into administrative work. In 1986, she became the Executive Director of Family and Children's Services and several years later, the organization's CEO, the position she would hold for the next three and a half decades. When Lapidus first joined Family and Children's Services, the organization was a small, local family provider. Under her guidance, it expanded to become one of the largest providers in the state, and it now serves as many as one in six Tulsans. Lapidus's visionary strategic leadership also led to the creation of programming now central to Tulsa's social services offerings. Family and Children's Services currently partners with over sixty schools to provide mental health care to Tulsa's children and teens; the COPES hotline and mobile crisis team work with the Tulsa Police Department, Tulsa Fire Department, and a crisis care center to provide short-term care and crisis stabilization to those in need; the Certified Community Behavioral Health Center addresses the needs of Tulsans with complex mental and physical

health conditions, substance abuse problems, and food and housing insecurity; and the Women in Recovery program, developed in conjunction with the George Kaiser Family Foundation, seeks to combat high rates of female incarceration in Oklahoma by offering intensive outpatient drug-treatment programs. Currently, approximately twenty-five percent of mentally ill adults in the Oklahoma Department of Mental Health Substance Abuse Services client court system receive treatment through Family and Children's Services, a truly stunning figure. Lapidus's commitment to improving the lives of all Tulsans is also reflected in the amount of money she has raised over the course of her career—over thirty-four million dollars across four capital campaigns—funds which have gone to build new facilities, expand programming, and help those in need.

The widespread impact of Lapidus's work and the esteem in which she is held by her colleagues is evident in the sheer number of awards she has won over the years. She is the recipient of the League of Women



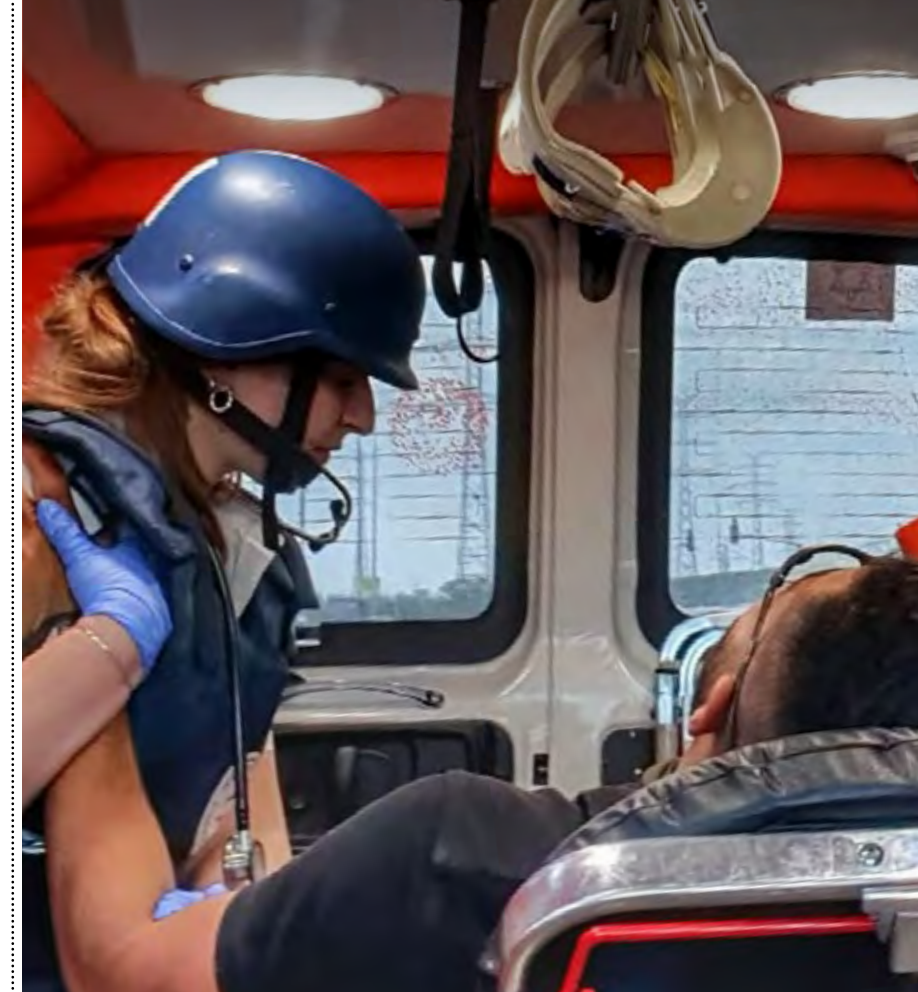
Gail Lapidus

(Continued)

Voters's Madam President Award, the YWCA's Woman of Moxie Award, the Tulsa Business Journal's Woman of Distinction Award, the Mayor's Commission on the Status of Women's Pinnacle Award, the Association for Women in Communications Newsmaker Award, the Non-Profit Management Excellence Award from The Support Center of Oklahoma, the One Award from the Oklahoma Center for Non Profits, and the Distinguished Alumnae Award from the University of Oklahoma. She has also been honored by the Mental Health Association, the Schusterman Family Foundation, and the Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority, all of whom recognize the immensity of her contributions to the community. But recognition is secondary for Lapidus, who in all things is driven by a deep sense of compassion and respect for the economically underprivileged. As she explained in a 2021 interview, her clients "all had the same troubles or worries and fears I did, but they also didn't know where the next meal was coming from, or how they were going to get shoes for their child or boots for their job. I grew to have this enormous respect for people who don't have means and their ability to still love and dream and wish and find ways to make things work." She has been a tireless advocate for those in need, fighting for fair public health policies, and defending against proposed regulatory measures that would negatively impact the mentally ill.

The Tulsa Jewish community and the Tulsa community as a whole are in Gail Lapidus's debt for making our city and our state a better, more compassionate place to live. It is therefore with great joy that we thank her for her service and wish her well as she embarks upon her very well-deserved retirement. ■

NO ONE SAVES MORE LIVES IN ISRAEL IN TIMES OF CRISIS.



This Chanukah, there are many ways to support Israel and its people, but none is more transformative than a gift to Magen David Adom, Israel's emergency medical system. Your gift to MDA isn't just changing lives — it's literally saving them — providing critical care and hospital transport for everyone from victims of heart attacks to casualties of rocket attacks.

Join the effort at afmda.org or call 866.632.2763.



GREETINGS FROM TEL AVIV NIGHTS

The City That Never Sleeps MUSEUM GALA!

by Tracey Herst-Woods, Deputy Director of the SMMJA and
Katherine Frame, Past President of the SMMJA

The “streets of Tel Aviv,” created for The Sherwin Miller Museum of Jewish Art’s Annual Gala last month, were the site of a variety of splendid festivities. It was an immersive experience that included typical sidewalk cafés, spice shuk and flea markets. All this, along with evocative and intricate backdrops of park and ocean scenery, was designed and orchestrated by Gala Chairs Miranda and Philip Kaiser. These two creatives, leading their industrious committee, produced the evening’s atmosphere with a playful, exuberant ambience that brought a fresh spirit to the Gala. Patrons and guests enhanced the audacious vibe with their colorful and casual Tel Aviv party attire—just the sight of which immediately set everyone at ease and evoked a resonant vitality to the affair.

The planning for the 57th anniversary celebration began last January for the Oct. 22nd Gala. The Tel Aviv Nights committee enthusiastically provided the energy (and later, the muscle) to transform the space into a party to be remembered. Committee members supplying unwavering support were Allan Avery, Laurie Berman, Brian Brouse, Lori Frank, Lynn Goldberg, Betty Lehman, Carol Miller, David Nierenberg, Brina Reinstein, Angie Stolper, Barbara Sylvan, Cynthia Thetge and Nancy Wolov.

The Gala also featured a live art experience by John Hammer and cuisine from all around Israel, created by featured chefs Matthew Amberg, Joel Bein, Hunter Stone Gambill and mixologist Andy Cagle. When the party moved to the Barbara and Dave Sylvan Auditorium, celebrants were treated to the family-style offerings of Chef Devin Levine from Cox Convention Center. Speeches were few, leaving time for entertainment by emcee Barry Friedman.

On the minds of many, and because of the ongoing Israeli war to end Hamas, Israeli emissary Shahaf Feinkuchen addressed the assemblage to acknowledge the distress felt by all. His brief message was followed by Jenny Labow on guitar singing Hatikvah.

The evening wrapped up with a live auction of two unique items: A dinner for 10 by the participating chefs, and an original portrait of Albert Einstein, created exclusively for the Gala by John Hammer.

Wholehearted thank-yous go to those who made the evening so special, including the tireless Gala committee led by the Kaisers, whose industry and contributions were essential. And of course to the event patrons and donors for their generous contributions.

For in-kind gifts, we thank the following, for without their generosity the evening could not have been the same: Matthew Amberg, the B’nai Brith Youth Organization (BBYO), Joel Bein, Luke Benedict, Amanda Bilbury, Jane and David Breckinridge, Richie Bolusky, Andy Cagle, Katherine Frame, Barry Friedman, Hunter Stone Gambill, John Hammer, Kayley Giacomo and Raygen Treat with Hightail Creative Company, Kate Lehman, The Patriot Golf Club, Ranch Acres Liquor.

All of these gifts maintain Holocaust education, cultural and historical programs, and Museum operations. They further the mission of preserving and promoting Jewish heritage, culture, history and community through art and education.

The supporters of the Sherwin Miller Museum of Jewish Art are the reason for the Museum’s continuing success and why it continues to thrive. THANK YOU! ■

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WHAT'S IN STORE FOR 2024 SMMJA UPCOMING EXHIBITIONS

by Sofia Thornblad, Director of Collections and Exhibitions

*2024 IS SHAPING UP TO BE AN EXCITING YEAR
OF EXHIBITIONS AT
THE SHERWIN MILLER MUSEUM OF JEWISH ART. HERE'S
A SNEAK PEEK AT 2024 INCLUDING INTERNATIONALLY
RENOWNED VISUAL ARTISTS AS WELL AS SOME NEW AND OLD
FAVORITES FROM THE MUSEUM'S COLLECTION.*

◆ Old Country to the Plains: More Kosher Pop SK8 Art by Steve Marcus | February 8 — June 14, 2024

New York City artist, Steve Marcus' newest exhibition, *From the Old Country to the Plains, Kosher Pop. SK8 Art* includes new designs he created especially for The Sherwin Miller Museum of Jewish Art. Using the skateboard deck as his canvas, Marcus seamlessly explores themes of tradition and spirituality for a contemporary take on Jewish art and history. Building upon his well-received exhibition, *Jewish Quarter Pipe, Kosher Pop Sk8 Art* displayed at the Galicia Jewish Museum in Krakow, Poland in 2023, Marcus provides a refreshingly accessible approach to contemporary Jewish Art. Inspired by cartoons and underground comics, his whimsical work of 40 thought-provoking skateboard decks are sure to inspire all ages and backgrounds.

◆ Jacob's Ladder: Angel Imagery from our Collection March 28 — December 31, 2024

Our collection is home to many winged beings. Join us on a trip up Jacob's Ladder and encounter these angels. The exhibition will consist of a mixture of media, including sculptures and paintings.

◆ Invited to Life | December 5, 2023 – June 2025

In *Invited to Life*, award-winning author and photographer B.A. Van Sise explores the varied and sometimes complicated lives of Holocaust survivors living in the United States. The exhibition is an exploration of strength, endurance, and resiliency, portrayed through a mosaic of American experience and told in elegant photographs and stunning prose. Says B.A. Van Sise about the project, "This has possibly been the single hardest assignment I have ever taken on. I chat with the subjects, listening to their stories, and I end up carrying part of their lives within me, after I leave."

◆ Shrine to the Feminine | September 5 – November 21, 2024

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. ■

NURTURING JEWISH VALUES AT MIZEL JCDS

by Amanda Anderson, Executive Director

At Flo & Morris Mizel Jewish Community Day School, we play a crucial role in promoting and preserving Jewish values, culture, and identity. They serve as educational institutions that integrate both secular and religious studies within a Jewish framework. Here are some of the key reasons why Mizel JCDS are important for nurturing Jewish values:

1. **Preservation of Jewish Identity:** Mizel JCDS provides an environment where students can immerse themselves in Jewish traditions, history, and values. This helps ensure the continuity of Jewish identity and heritage from one generation to the next.
2. **Education in Jewish History and Tradition:** Mizel JCDS offers comprehensive instruction in Jewish history, the Hebrew language, Torah studies, and other important aspects of Judaism. This knowledge is fundamental in understanding and practicing Jewish values.
3. **Religious Education:** Mizel JCDS often incorporates religious studies, enabling students to deepen their understanding of Jewish customs, rituals, and moral teachings. This education can foster a strong commitment to Jewish religious practices and values.
4. **Community and Belonging:** Mizel JCDS provides a close-knit community where students can build strong connections with peers who share their faith and core values. These connections can be essential in fostering a sense of belonging and identity.
5. **Ethical and Moral Development:** Jewish values emphasize principles such as tzedek (justice), chesed (kindness), and tzedakah (charity). Mizel JCDS integrates these values into our curricula, helping students develop strong ethical and moral foundations.
6. **Cultural Understanding:** A thorough education in Jewish culture and traditions helps students appreciate the diversity and richness of Jewish heritage. This understanding can contribute to a stronger sense of identity and pride.
7. **Language Proficiency:** At Mizel JCDS, all students are taught Hebrew, which is not only the language of the Torah but also a key aspect of Jewish identity. Proficiency in Hebrew allows students to engage with sacred texts and connect with Jews worldwide.
8. **Preparation for Jewish Life:** Mizel JCDS prepares students for a life that is deeply rooted in Jewish values. This can include guidance on how to observe Jewish holidays, perform mitzvot (commandments), and participate in synagogue life.
9. **Tikkun Olam (Repairing the World):** Jewish values place a strong emphasis on social justice and making the world a better place. Mizel JCDS instills in our students a sense of responsibility to engage in g'milut chasadim or acts of kindness and contribute to the well-being of society.
10. **Critical Thinking and Jewish Identity:** Mizel JCDS encourage students to engage in critical thinking and intellectual exploration within a Jewish context. This helps young people to develop a well-informed and thoughtful Jewish identity.

In summary, Mizel JCDS is vital for the transmission of Jewish values, culture, and identity to future generations. We provide a holistic education that combines secular and religious studies, fostering a deep connection to Jewish heritage and values while preparing our students for active participation in both the Jewish community and the broader society. ■

Elazar Shirley practicing Hebrew



TULSA TOMORROW: BRIDGING COMMUNITIES AND BUILDING A VIBRANT JEWISH FUTURE

by Rebekah Kantor-Wunsch

In the heart of the dynamic and growing city of Tulsa, a dedicated group of leaders within the Jewish community embarked on a mission to foster growth and connection. Tulsa Tomorrow, a visionary project, aims to not only grow the Tulsa Jewish community, but also to bridge the gap between existing Jewish institutions and newcomers, making them feel truly integrated into Jewish life. This article delves into the inspiring work of Tulsa Tomorrow and its commitment to building a strong, interconnected Jewish community in Tulsa.

At the core of Tulsa Tomorrow's mission is the cultivation of connections. Whether prospective Tulsans participate in group cohort trips throughout the year, visit independently, or seek assistance in making connections within the community, Tulsa Tomorrow is there to provide unwavering support. The goal is to welcome newcomers and help them embark on a curated journey to discover Tulsa's charms and Jewish community.

Despite the challenges faced by the pandemic, Tulsa Tomorrow's Executive Director, Rebekah Kantor-Wunsch, has played a pivotal role in facilitating the move of 61 individuals to Tulsa, officially calling it their new home. Since its inception in 2017, Tulsa Tomorrow has assisted 79 individuals, including families, couples, and singles, in making Tulsa their home. Notably, the organization has played a role in retaining an additional

5 individuals by helping them find employment in the city.

In a recent Weekend Experience, Tulsa Tomorrow hosted a diverse cohort of 16 people from various states, all eager to explore Tulsa as a potential place to live. Their journey included a mix of Jewish community introductions, educational insights into Tulsa's history, music scene, nightlife, and sightseeing. The weekend was more than just a trip; it was a delightful introduction to the essence of community.

One of the most memorable moments of the Weekend Experience was the Shabbat gathering at The Canopy. This event showcased the unity and significance of Shabbat in Tulsa's Jewish community. Special shout-outs were given to the incredible song leaders and Moishe Pod, who made Shabbat a truly magical experience, emphasizing opportunities for involvement in Jewish life beyond institutional programming.

The Havdalah ritual, held in the home of a Tulsa Tomorrow board member, was a beautiful moment of togetherness. It highlighted how traditions can bring individuals closer in the most personal and intimate settings, reinforcing the sense of community.

To provide a deeper understanding of the Tulsa Jewish community, Tulsa Tomorrow arranged for insights from clergy representing Chabad, Congregation B'nai Emunah, the Jewish Federation of Tulsa, and Temple



Tulsa Tomorrow October 2023 Cohort

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Israel. Their perspectives gave a glimpse into the diverse congregations and their active involvement in the community, highlighting the enduring spirit that unites them. Participants also learned about the pivotal role of Mizel Jewish Community Day School in supporting Jewish life.

Despite less-than-ideal weather conditions, the Weekend Experience participants embraced the opportunity to visit the awe-inspiring Gathering Place. This park, named one of the best city parks in the country, left a lasting impression. Participants were unable to explore hiking trails or the Philbrook Museum & Gardens, but they found solace in the beauty of this remarkable urban oasis.

An integral part of the experience was an exploration of Tulsa's rich history, including a meaningful visit to Greenwood Rising. Here, participants learned about the Tulsa Race Massacre, a somber chapter in the city's past. However, they also witnessed the city's unwavering commitment to educate and grow, ensuring such a tragic event never occurs again.

A downtown tour, led by Jeffrey Tanenhaus, provided insight into Tulsa's Art Deco architecture and its historical significance. Each building shared a unique story, connecting the past to the city's present.

A visit to the Woody Guthrie Center offered a treasure trove of knowledge and inspiration. It deepened the participants' appreciation for Tulsa's musical legacy and how it continues to influence this vibrant city.

Grant Bumgarner, a young Jewish adult in Tulsa, guided the group through midtown neighborhoods, showcasing their diversity and charm. The experience offered a glimpse into the multifaceted tapestry that makes up Tulsa.

The Weekend Experience received a remarkable rating of 4.6 out of 5 stars from the participants, underlining the positive impact Tulsa had on them. One participant, Laney Sheffel, expressed how the trip helped her feel integrated into the Tulsa Jewish community, emphasizing the group's care and commitment to the city.

Tulsa Tomorrow shines as a beacon of unity in this vibrant Jewish community. By forging connections, educating newcomers, and sharing the city's culture, it ensures a thriving, interconnected future for Tulsa's Jewish population, bridging the past to a brighter tomorrow. ■



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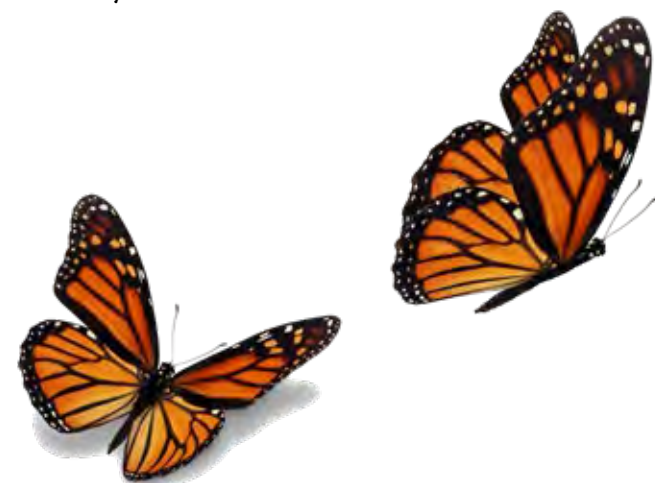
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THE JEWISH MAN OF 1,000 VOICES®

by Phil Goldfarb

Melvin Jerome Blank the Jewish voice actor and comedian referred to as “The Man of a Thousand Voices” is regarded as one of the greatest voice actors of all time whose career spanned over 60 years. He was born on May 30, 1908, in San Francisco, California, to Eva (née Katz 1880-1956), a Lithuanian Jewish immigrant, and Frederick Blank (1879-1941), a German Jew. He had an early fondness for voices and dialect, which he began practicing at the age of 10. He claimed that he changed the spelling of his name when he was 16, from Blank to Blanc, because a teacher told him that he would amount to nothing and be like his name, a “blank.” After graduating from high school in 1927, he divided his time between leading an orchestra, becoming the youngest conductor in the country at the age of 19; and performing shtick in vaudeville shows around Washington, Oregon, and northern California.

Blanc began his radio career also at the age of 19 in 1927, when he made his acting debut on the KGW program *The Hoot Owls*, where his ability to provide voices for multiple characters first attracted attention. He moved to Los Angeles in 1932, where he met Estelle Rosenbaum (1909–2003), whom he married a year later before returning to Portland.

Blanc returned to Los Angeles and began working as a voice actor in radio and in 1936, began working for Warner Bros. and his first cartoon was *Picador Porky* (1937) as the voice of a drunken bull. He soon after received his first starring role as Porky Pig's voice in *Porky's Duck Hunt*, which marked the debut of Daffy Duck, also voiced by Blanc.

Following this, Blanc became a very prominent vocal artist, voicing a wide variety of the “Looney Tunes” characters. Bugs Bunny, as Blanc made his debut in *A Wild Hare* (1940), was known for eating carrots frequently (especially while saying his catchphrase “Eh, what's up, doc?”). To follow this sound with the animated voice, Blanc would bite into a carrot and then quickly spit into a spittoon. During World War II, Blanc served as the voice of the hapless Private Snafu in a series of shorts as a way of training recruited soldiers through the medium of animation as well as appearing as Private Sad Sack on various radio shows.

He was a regular on the Jack Benny Program in various roles, including Benny's “Maxwell” car and Polly the Parrot. The first role came from a mishap when the recording of the automobile's sounds failed to play on cue, prompting Blanc to take the microphone and improvise the sounds himself. The audience reacted so positively that Benny decided to dispense with the recording altogether and have Blanc continue in that role. One of Blanc's characters from Benny's radio programs was “Sy, the Little Mexica”, who spoke one word at a time. He continued to work with Benny on radio until the series ended in 1955 and followed the program into television.

Radio Daily magazine wrote in 1942 that Blanc “specialize in over fifty-seven voices, dialects, and intricate sound effects”, and by 1946, he was appearing on over fifteen programs in various supporting roles. His success on The Jack Benny Program led to his own radio show on the CBS Radio Network, The Mel Blanc Show. Blanc played himself as the hapless owner of a fix-it shop. Blanc also appeared on such other national radio programs as The Abbott and Costello Show, The Great Gildersleeve, Burns and Allen, and August Moon on Point Sublime.

He became known worldwide for his work in the Golden Age of American Animation as the voices of Bugs Bunny, Daffy Duck, Porky Pig, Elmer Fudd, Tweety, Sylvester, Yosemite Sam, Foghorn Leghorn, the Tasmanian Devil, and numerous other characters from the Looney Tunes and Merrie Melodies theatrical cartoons. He later voiced characters for Hanna-Barbera's television cartoons, including Barney Rubble and Dino on The Flintstones, Cosmo Spacely on The Jetsons, Secret Squirrel on The Atom Ant/Secret Squirrel Show, the title character of Speed Buggy, and Captain Caveman on Captain Caveman and the Teen Angels and The Flintstone Kids.

On January 24, 1961, Blanc was driving alone when his sports car was involved in a head-on collision on Sunset Boulevard; his legs and his pelvis were fractured as a result. He was in a coma and completely non-responsive. About two weeks later, one of Blanc's neurologists at the UCLA Medical Center tried a different approach than just trying to address the unconscious Blanc

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himself: address his characters. Blanc was asked, “How are you feeling today, Bugs Bunny?” After a slight pause, Blanc answered, in a weak voice, “Eh ... just fine, Doc. How are you?” The doctor then asked Tweety if he was there, too. “I tawt I taw a puddy tat”, was the reply. The show’s producers set up recording equipment in Blanc’s hospital room and later at his home to allow him to work from there. Some of the recordings were made while he was in a full body cast as he lay flat on his back with the other Flintstones co-stars gathered around him.

Throughout the late 1970s and 1980s, Blanc performed his “Looney Tunes” characters for bridging sequences in various compilation films of Golden Age-era Warner Bros. cartoons, such as The Bugs Bunny/Road Runner Movie, The Looney Looney Looney Bugs Bunny Movie, Bugs Bunny’s 3rd Movie: 1001 Rabbit Tales, Daffy Duck’s Fantastic Island, and Daffy Duck’s Quackbusters. His final performance of his “Looney Tunes” roles was in Bugs Bunny’s Wild World of Sports (1989). After spending most of two seasons voicing the diminutive robot Twiki in Buck Rogers in the 25th Century, Blanc’s last original character was Heathcliff from 1980 to 1988.

In the live action/animated movie Who Framed Roger Rabbit (1988), Blanc reprised several of his roles from

Warner Bros. cartoons (Bugs, Daffy, Porky, Tweety, and Sylvester). His final recording session was for Jetsons: The Movie (1990).

Blanc began smoking cigarettes when he was 9 years old. He continued his pack-a-day habit until age 77, after he was diagnosed with COPD. A doctor who examined Blanc’s throat found that he possessed unusually thick, powerful vocal cords that gave him an exceptional range, and compared them to those of opera singer Enrico Caruso. On May 19, 1989, he entered Cedars-Sinai Medical Center in Los Angeles with a bad cough. He was originally expected to recover, but when his health worsened, doctors discovered he had advanced coronary artery disease. After nearly two months in the hospital, Blanc died at 2:30 pm on July 10, 1989, at Cedars-Sinai. He is buried in the Jewish Beth Olam Cemetery in Los Angeles, CA. His gravestone is inscribed, “THAT’S ALL FOLKS.” ■

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



CALLED TO CONVERT: MY JOURNEY TO JUDAISM

by Maren Hettler

Growing up in the Bible Belt, I was only ever exposed to Christianity. Although my parents tried to raise my brother and I without a focus on a particular religion, I went to Christian preschool, Christian summer camps, and was surrounded by other Christians.

As I got older, I started to question certain aspects of Christian theology, like the Holy Trinity, that had never made sense to me. I first began to look into Judaism at the end of 2020. I found that its emphasis on making the ordinary holy, repairing the world, and the pursuit of knowledge was a perfect fit for my beliefs. My parents were surprised but supportive when I told them that I wanted to convert.

In the spring of 2021, I emailed Rabbi Michael Weinstein at Temple Israel about potentially converting. After meeting with him, I signed up for conversion classes through the Union for Reform Judaism and was expected to learn everything I could about Judaism. That meant 21 weekly, hour-long conversion classes in addition to independent study. I was also expected to become an active member of Tulsa’s Jewish community. I joined a local BBYO chapter and started attending services at Temple Israel regularly.

According to a 2021 survey by Tablet Magazine, nearly half of all American rabbis have seen a significant increase in people looking to convert. Some, like me, fell down an internet rabbit hole during the pandemic that led to a love for Judaism. Others took an ancestry test and were eager to reconnect with their Jewish heritage. Many were raised as Reform Jews but weren’t considered Jewish under stricter halachic standards and decided to convert to Conservative or Orthodox Judaism. Despite the stereotype that people only convert to Judaism for the sake of marriage, most rabbis said that candidates are less likely than ever to be converting to marry a Jewish partner.

Once the candidate and the rabbi feel they are ready to convert, a beit din is assembled. A beit din is a Jewish court of law usually made up of three rabbis. They conduct an interview, asking the candidate about the path that led them to Judaism and what was taught during conversion classes.

When the beit din has guaranteed that the candidate is ready to convert, the candidate immerses in a mikveh, a pool used for ritual purification. After submerging in the mikveh, the convert is considered to be Jewish.

They’re usually called up for an aliyah, ascending the platform where the Torah is read.

This summer, just one week after my conversion was finalized, I spent three weeks in Israel. My favorite part of the trip was the time we spent in Jerusalem. Being at the Western Wall on Shabbat, talking to Palestinians and Israelis living in the West Bank, and visiting Mount Herzl and Yad Vashem were such meaningful experiences for me. My experiences in Israel have shaped my Jewish identity, given me the opportunity to learn about other cultures, and strengthened my connection to Israel.

Judaism has enriched my life in ways I couldn’t have imagined. I am very active in the local teen movement, BBYO, and am on the board of the Nona Bloch Salomon BBG Chapter. I’m so grateful for the warmth and inclusivity I have experienced from the Jewish community. I am excited to continue deepening my connection to Judaism because it has become an integral part of my identity. ■



Maren Hettler (2nd from right) with her Tulsa BBG Chapter (BBYO).

December Closings

Sunday | December 24 – SMMJA CLOSED
– CJSCC OPEN 9 am – 5 pm

Monday | December 25 – ALL CLOSED

Sunday | December 31 – SMMJA CLOSED
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Shema – Babies Jewish Music Class
Sunday, December 3 | 10:30 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. We'll sing, dance, move, and explore together at the Synagogue. Interested in joining us? Please be in touch with Morah Sara or register at www.tulsagogue.com

Shabbat for Everyone - Chanukah
Friday, December 8 | 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! 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 starting at 6:15 p.m., please register on the link below. The service will be broadcast live on Zoom.

Winterlight Chanukah Festival
Sunday, December 10 | 5:30 p.m.
 Let loose outside as we light up the night. We'll pour into the street in front of the Synagogue for an electronic dance party, fried foods, interactive light installations, and a communal candle-lighting. Dress warmly for this outdoor party which starts at 5:30 p.m.

Blatt + Blue
Monday, December 18 | 7:00 p.m.
 Visit 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.



Lifelong Learners
Wednesday, December 20 | 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 provide this service in cooperation with our fellow Jewish institution. Please reserve your spot by calling the Synagogue at 918-583-7121 or registering at www.tulsagogue.com.

CookieBake 2023
Sunday, December 24 | 9:00 a.m.
 We invite all community members to bake their favorite cookies and bars at home for this project any time during the month of December. If you begin early, please wrap your contribution securely and freeze it at home. Please drop your baked goods at the Synagogue on December 24, before 10:00 a.m. We will tray everything for eventual distribution to hospital emergency rooms, waiting rooms, police and fire stations, the Ronald McDonald house—wherever essential services are

offered on Christmas Day.
24 for 24
Sunday, December 24 | 9:00 a.m.
 Volunteers will help prepare and deliver 24 complete turkey Christmas meals for families in hospice care who may not have the ability to provide a festive holiday meal for themselves. Kitchen volunteers will cook a meal worthy of the season, and later a separate group will make delivery of the hot Christmas eve meals to the homes of the recipient families.

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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HOSTAGES AND MISSING FAMILIES FORUM



Shabbat Service w/Torah in person, on Zoom & Facebook Live • Fri., Dec. 1 • 7:30 p.m.

Join us as we welcome in Shabbat with the chanting of Torah. Stay for a sweet oneg afterwards. RSVP to rsvp@templetulsa.com for the Zoom link.

Shabbat Learning in the Kitchen • Sat., Dec. 2 • 10:30 a.m.

What's in the middle of the sufganiyot? Rabbi Jasper will be cooking up this delicious Hanukkah treat in our Temple Israel kitchen, and you can not only discover how to make them but also "What's in the middle!" The class costs \$10 and is for ages 15 and up. Visit www.templetulsa.com/rsvp to reserve your spot at the chef's table.

Finding God in an Age of Reason with Rabbi Weinstein on Zoom • Thurs., Dec. 7 & 21 • 2:00 p.m.

In this course we will spend time studying, learning, and sharing 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.

1st night Hanukkah Lighting • Thurs., Dec. 7 • 5:00 p.m.

We will gather on the Temple Israel lawn in front of our building to light our Hanukkah on this 1st night of Hanukkah. Come and enjoy sufganiyot, hot chocolate, and joyous Hanukkah songs. All are welcome!

Zamru L'Shabbat Hanukkah Service & Birthday Service followed by Congregational Dinner • Fri., Dec. 8 • 6:00 p.m.

Celebrate with Cantor Weinstein and the TI Choir in person or online, as we welcome Shabbat & Hanukkah with festive music! Bring your own Hanukkah to light before the service. We will also celebrate our December birthdays. Stay for a delicious Hanukkah dinner catered by Fountains. RSVP for dinner by Tues., Dec. 5. RSVP to rsvp@templetulsa.com for the Zoom link.

Young Family Hanukkah Event • Thurs., Dec. 14 • 4:00 p.m.

Young families are invited to meet at The Gathering Place for a special, Tulsa community Hanukkah Event. Shabbat Service w/Torah in person, on Zoom & Facebook Live • Fri., Dec. 15 • 7:30 p.m. • Join us as we welcome in Shabbat with the chanting of Torah. Stay for a sweet oneg afterwards. RSVP to rsvp@templetulsa.com for the Zoom link.

Brotherhood Breakfast • Sun., Dec. 17 • 9:30 a.m.

On Sunday, December 17, Temple Israel Brotherhood will host a breakfast at 9:30 a.m. At 10:00 a.m. Jacob Krumwiede, Director of

Pop Culture at OKPOP, will be the guest speaker. Cost for breakfast is \$8 with advanced RSVP and \$10 at the door. There is no charge to come and hear the speaker without breakfast. RSVP at www.templetulsa.com/rsvp.

Zarrow Pointe Shabbat Service • Fri., Dec. 22 • 6:30 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 Temple members, Zarrow Pointe residents, and all other friends in our community who would appreciate being together on Shabbat.

Anniversary Shabbat Service in person, on Zoom & Facebook Live • Fri., Dec. 22 • 6:00 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 December anniversaries. RSVP to rsvp@templetulsa.com for the Zoom link.

Classic Temple Israel Shabbat Service with Rabbi Emeritus Charles P. Sherman • Fri., Dec. 29 • 7:30 p.m.

Rabbi Weinstein has invited Rabbi Sherman to conduct a CLASSICAL(early 21st century)TI SHABBAT EVE SERVICE. Familiar prayers & melodies from Gates of Prayer siddur. Torah & Commentary, Sermon & congregational participation in historic format, followed by an old-fashioned Oneg Shabbat in honor of Rabbi Sherman's 80th birthday.

**FROM STRENGTH TO STRENGTH:
EMBARK ON A JOURNEY OF GROWTH AND
CELEBRATION AT TEMPLE ISRAEL!**

by Rabbi Michael Weinstein

Step into a world where Jewish life and learning thrive, and Temple Israel stands unwaveringly committed to our vision. For over a century, our synagogue has been a beacon of ritual warmth and ceremonial beauty, epitomizing the richness of our Jewish Tradition. It serves as the vibrant hub for worship, life-cycle celebrations, education, social justice, and gatherings for all ages.

In the pulse of our community, experience the undeniable strengths that define us and witness the exciting trajectory of our growth. Attend our Shabbat evening services and immerse yourself in the welcoming ambiance of our Pre-neg, setting the stage for a memorable and inclusive experience. The energy of our Casual Friday potluck dinners and the success of our catered congregational dinners are testaments to the lively spirit that pervades Temple Israel.

On Sundays, our bustling building hosts a myriad of activities. Shorashim classes engage the young minds, while the Adults Rak, Sisterhood, and Sociable Seniors events create a dynamic atmosphere. Weekends are abuzz with opportunities for adult learning, from Shabbat Morning Learning Through the Ages to Brotherhood Breakfasts, the Klar Lecture series, and the zen of yoga through Music and Meditation. Explore the growth of our community through Young Jewish Professionals and inclusive lgbTI events.

Celebrate life's milestones with us, as our lifecycle calendar expands with an increasing number of weddings, Baby Namings, and B'nai Mitzvah. Temple Israel has something for everyone, including those passionate about Social Justice. During the High Holy Days, our community rallied to raise over \$60,000 for the Food Bank of Eastern Oklahoma. Our annual Veteran's Day tradition of collecting QT gift cards for the Coffee Bunker has garnered immense support.

I am captivated by the warmth of our Temple Israel Family. Join us in the upcoming months for our Scholar in Residence Weekend, featuring Rabbi Eric Gurvis and his wisdom on Mussar for the Tulsa Community. If it's been a while since you've experienced the vibrancy of Temple Israel, now is the perfect time to reconnect. For those already part of our community, your involvement is invaluable, and we appreciate the richness you bring.

Temple Israel opens its doors to all of Tulsa, inviting you to contribute a piece of yourself as we continue to grow from strength to strength. If you have questions or interest, please contact our Director of Congregational Life, Lesley Bumgarner, lesley@templetulsa.com. Come, be part of our journey! ■



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