

TULSA
Jewish Review

Tevet/Shevat 5784

January 2024

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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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THE STAFF SCOOP

Proud To Be...

by Isabella Silberg, Director of Development and Programming

The Jewish Federation of Tulsa is proud to announce the theme for the 2024 Annual Campaign: “Proud To Be ...” This theme emerges as a reminder of our resilience and unity during challenging times. As we navigate the aftermath of the October 7th massacre, life has been forever altered for us as Jewish people.

In these trying times, we have all witnessed with a broken heart the world turning against the Jewish people in ways that are both vile and horrific. The rise in antisemitic, anti-Zionism, and violent incidents—be it through text, social media, or physical acts—is appalling. It's crucial to emphasize that the Jewish people are fighting for their survival, and Israel is fighting for its life. With only 15 million Jews globally, the threat is real, and the consequences are profound. The chant "from the river to the sea" symbolizes the potential of wiping Israel off the map, resulting in the vanquishing of half the Jewish population. This is not a political stance but an undeniable fact.

As we launch the 2024 Annual Campaign with the theme “Proud To Be ...” it is our hope that we unite and act in a way that displays all the ways we can be proud—to be **Jewish, Israeli, Israeli-American, raising a Jewish family—whatever being Jewish means to you.** Now more than ever, we must stand together, resolute in our Jewish pride.

In Tulsa, there are only roughly 2,000 Jews and yet we have three strong congregations, a Jewish day school, a Jewish retirement center, a Jewish museum, a Jewish community center, an organization that works to relocate Jewish young adults and families to move to Tulsa (Tulsa Tomorrow), and a Jewish Federation. **We have so much to be proud of!** Which is the reason the Jewish Federation’s theme and mission for 2024 will center around our communal pride.

In 2024, we will prioritize resources to educate on the Holocaust and Judaism, incorporating Jewish values and traditions into all events. We encourage you to bring your non-Jewish friends to our programs, helping to foster understanding and appreciation for Jewish life here in Tulsa—and all over. We hope you will actively participate and support our efforts. Working together, we can unite and show the greater Tulsa community, our Jewish pride is strong and unwavering.

Together, let us rise above the darkness, united in our shared identity and resilience in the face of adversity.



Isabella Silberg

“Together, let us rise above the darkness, united in our shared identity and resilience in the face of adversity.”

Front Cover



Proud To Be... our 2024 Annual Campaign theme.

UPCOMING EVENTS



YJP Krav Maga | Tuesday, January 9 | 7 pm

Calling all Young Jewish Professionals interested in learning one of the world's leading self-defense methods! Krav Maga, originally developed for the Israel Defense Forces, is now taught around the world. The martial art combines techniques used in aikido, judo, karate, boxing, and wrestling. Our shaliach, Shahaf Feinkuchen, has over 12 years of experience in martial arts and will be instructing this class. No prior experience is needed, only the motivation to learn how to defend yourself and use your body better in threatful situations. *Please note: the class requires the ability to engage in moderate physical activity for 60 minutes, standing most of the time.*



RSVP at: JewishTulsa.org/krav-maga



CRC File Screening: Shared Legacies | Thursday, January 11 | 6 pm | Circle Cinema

The Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Commemoration Society, Jewish Federation of Tulsa, Tulsa County Sheriff's Office, and Circle Cinema invite you to a special presentation of the acclaimed documentary "Shared Legacies: The African American-Jewish Civil Rights Alliance." The event starts at 6:00 pm with a reception in the lobby, featuring a Chautauqua presenter playing Coretta Scott King. The 90-minute film begins at 7:00 pm followed by a panel discussion with representatives from the MLK Commemoration Society, Jewish Federation of Tulsa, and Tulsa County Sheriff's Office. All tickets are \$6 and available at CircleCinema.org or in-person at the ticket office.

UPCOMING EVENTS



JMoms | Tuesday, January 16 | 7 pm | TBA

Save the date for an exciting presentation on a surprise subject! More info to follow. JMoms is a group for Jewish moms with children 18 and younger, raising them Jewishly.

RSVP at: JewishTulsa.org/jan-jmoms



Colors of Israel | Thursday, January 18 | 7 pm

Back by popular demand—the Colors of Israel—adult education series. This 3-part monthly series will feature topics to educate about the multiculturalism in Israel society. In this series you will learn about the diversity and not-so-well-known aspects of Israel's society. Now more than ever, it is important for American Jewry to strengthen our bonds and connections to Israel. This 3-part series is an excellent opportunity to do so.



RSVP at: JewishTulsa.org/Israel-jan



Lunch Bunch with Eva Unterman | Wednesday, January 24 | 12 pm

In recognition of International Holocaust Remembrance Day, on January 27, Eva Unterman, a Holocaust survivor, is our keynote speaker for lunch bunch. Like many survivors in the years following the war, Eva continued to bravely share her story. Since 1978, Eva has committed to educating the Tulsa community and beyond through speaking engagements and serving as an active member of the Jewish Federation of Tulsa's Council for Holocaust Education. Now more than ever, Holocaust education is crucial. As firsthand accounts becoming increasingly rare, take advantage of this limited opportunity to hear from Eva Unterman. As always, there is an optional lunch for \$13 prepared by Chef Veronica.



RSVP at: JewishTulsa.org/lb-jan



Thursday,
January 11
6:00 pm
at Circle Cinema
\$6
for Film & Reception
SHARED LEGACIES

6:00 pm Refreshments and Chautauqua presenter as Coretta Scott King
7:00 pm Film
8:30 pm Panel discussion with MLK Commemoration Society, Jewish Federation of Tulsa, and Tulsa Co. Sheriff's Office

A collaboration between the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Commemoration Society, Jewish Federation of Tulsa Community Relations Committee, Tulsa C. Sheriff's Office, and the Circle Cinema.

TICKETS at: CircleCinema.ORG



Chaverim Xtreme | Saturday, January 27 | 6 pm | Tulsa Glass Blowing

Our Chaverim Xtreme group is for adults in their 40s-60s looking to have fun and enjoy time with Jewish friends. Join us at Tulsa Glass Blowing School to make a fun creation in honor of Tu B'shevat. Make your own one of a kind hand-blown flower out of molten glass as a reminder of the holiday of trees and nature. Tulsa Glass Blowing School is a nonprofit organization promoting community enrichment and positive change in the lives of vulnerable youth and adults. Cost \$10/person.



RSVP at: JewishTulsa.org/cx-jan

This program is made possible through JCC Association of North America in partnership with Israel's Ministry for Diaspora Affairs and Combating Antisemitism.

THE HISTORY OF ANTISEMITISM©

by Phil Goldfarb

ANTISEMITISM OR ANTI-JUDAISM REFERS TO PREJUDICE AND/OR DISCRIMINATION AGAINST JEWS AS INDIVIDUALS AND AS A GROUP, BASED ON STEREOTYPES AND MYTHS THAT TARGET JEWS AS A PEOPLE, THEIR RELIGIOUS PRACTICES, AND BELIEFS, AS WELL AS THE JEWISH STATE OF ISRAEL. IN FACT, ANTISEMITISM AND ANTI-JUDAISM IS ONE OF THE OLDEST, MOST PERSISTENT, AND MOST VIRULENT FORMS OF HATRED TO PLAGUE THE WORLD. IT HAS GONE ON FOR SO LONG THAT IT IS CALLED "THE LONGEST HATRED."



JEWS NOT ALLOWED

Historically, what began as a conflict over religious beliefs evolved into a systematic policy of political, economic, and social isolation, exclusion, degradation, and attempted annihilation. In the form of prohibitions, consignment to ghettos, markings on clothing (as if they were dangerous animals). Jews appear in the long history of humanity as an accursed species.

The first clear examples of anti-Jewish sentiment can be traced back to Alexandria in the 3rd century BCE. Alexandrian Jewry were the largest Jewish community in the world and the Septuagint, a Greek translation of the Hebrew Bible, was produced there. Also, one of the

earliest anti-Jewish edicts in about 170–167 BCE, sparked a revolt of the Maccabees in Judea.

There is a recorded instance in which an Ancient Greek ruler, Antiochus Epiphanes, desecrated the Temple in Jerusalem and banned Jewish religious practices, such as circumcision, Shabbat observance, and the study of Jewish religious books, during the period when Ancient Greece dominated the eastern Mediterranean.

After the advent of Christianity, a new anti-Judaism evolved. Initially, Christianity was seen as simply another Jewish sect since Jesus and the Disciples were Jewish and preached a form of Judaism. However, relations between the Jews in Judea and the occupying Roman Empire were antagonistic and resulted in several rebellions. It has been argued that European antisemitism has its roots in the Roman policy of religious persecution.

Ancient historians report that in 19 C.E., the Roman emperor Tiberius expelled the Jews from Rome as he tried to suppress all foreign religions. He sent young Jewish men, under the pretense of military service, to provinces which were noted for their unhealthy climate. He expelled all other Jews from the city, under threat of lifelong slavery for non-compliance. Four thousand Jews were sent to Sardinia but more Jews, who were unwilling to become soldiers, were punished.

The Jewish philosopher Philo of Alexandria describes an attack on Jews in Alexandria in 38 C.E. in which thousands of Jews died. In the year 70 C.E., Titus and the Romans destroyed and captured Jerusalem, and most Jews were scattered

throughout the ancient world mainly throughout the Mediterranean basin, when they were sold as slaves.

During the first few hundred years after the crucifixion of Jesus by the Romans, believers of both Judaism and

Christianity co-existed—sometimes peacefully, sometimes with animosity—as they sought to practice their faiths in the same lands.

With the conversion of the Roman emperors, Christianity became the sole established religion of the Roman Empire, and the early church fathers sought to establish Christianity as the successor to Judaism. The refusal of Jews to accept Jesus as the Messiah was viewed as a threat to the Roman rulers and to Christianity. Since both religions came from the Old Testament, Christians sought to establish their new religion as valid by claiming that it superseded Judaism.

When Christianity became the state religion of Rome in the 4th century, Jews became the victims of religious intolerance and political oppression. Christian literature began to display extreme hostility towards Jews, which occasionally resulted in attacks against them and the burning of the synagogues. The hostility against Jews was reflected in the edicts which were imposed upon them by church councils and state laws.

The Roman Emperor Constantine I instituted the Edict of Milan Laws recognizing Christianity as an official religion in 313 C.E. Jews were forbidden to own Christian slaves and they were also forbidden to circumcise their slaves. In the early 4th century, intermarriage between unconverted

(Continued on pg. 20)

UPCOMING EVENTS



Fitness Challenge: Habit Stacking

Take a moment to think about how the tiniest changes in your daily routine can stack up to improve your life. Habit stacking is identifying a current habit you already do and adding a new behavior on top. For example Coach Hannah, as a dancer, started to do calf raises every morning for the full two minutes she brushed her teeth. She saw small but mighty changes in her leg and ankle strength thus improving her ballet-pointe work. A simple change can make all the difference, even if the change is very small. This month, join us in stacking your habits! Interactive activities will be posted on the board weekly. Everyone who participates will be entered to win the book *Atomic Habits* by James Clear. This book will take you deeper into understanding how to create good habits and break bad ones!



CSJCC Open House | Wednesday, January 10 | 9 am-12 pm

Are you ready to commit to a fitness plan? The CSJCC is here for you! Join us at our fitness center Open House to tour the facility, view class and sports demos, and enter to win a FREE membership for a year. Current members who refer a friend (who join during the Open House) will receive a \$50 QT gift card. Please spread the word! The CSJCC is a friendly, clean fitness facility for all ages. **Anyone Can Join. Everyone Belongs.**



Social: Line Dancing Event | Wednesday, January 17 | 10:30 am

Join fitness instructor Hannah Bakewell for a line dancing activity! Learn traditional Israeli dances including the Hora and Oklahoma country line dancing. Snacks and drinks are provided after the activity, so please sign up in advance. All levels and ages are welcome.

Register at: csjcc.org/dancing24



Wellness Series with Sports Dietician Sloan Taylor | Tuesday, January 23 | 11 am

Start your year off with the right nutrition plan! Join us to learn how nutrition plays a role in your exercise goals and overall well-being with Sports Dietician Sloan Taylor. Sloan will present on how your nutritional needs may change as you age and how to ensure you are getting all the vital nutrients needed at any stage of life to stay active and healthy. Sloan is a knowledgeable Clinical and Sports Dietitian with a simple approach to understanding the right nutritional choices for each individual. *All Wellness Series events are open to the public so feel free to bring a friend!*

Register at: csjcc.org/wellness-jan



UPCOMING EVENTS

Krav Maga | Tuesday, January 23 | 7:00 pm



Learn the Israeli martial art of Krav Maga, originally developed for the Israel Defense Forces, and since has become one of the world's leading self-defense methods. Krav Maga is a combination of techniques used in aikido, judo, karate, boxing, and wrestling. Israeli Emissary, Shahaf Feinkuchen, has 12+ years of experience in Martial Arts, and will instruct the class. No prior experience is needed, only the motivation to learn how to defend yourself and use your body better in threatful situations. Please note: the class requires the ability to engage in moderate physical activity for 60 minutes, standing most of the time.



Register at: csjcc.org/krav



Matter of Balance Class Series Wednesdays February 7 - March 27 | 10:00 - 11:15 am

Would you like to learn ways to improve your balance? Join us for an eight-week, cumulative series to be held on Wednesdays beginning February 7. CSJCC instructors will examine ways to identify fall risks, discuss the fear of falling, and offer exercises for all levels of ability to increase strength and balance. The program is geared to anyone concerned about falls; interested in improving balance, flexibility, and strength; and anyone who has restricted activities because of falling concerns. Because each class will build upon the previous one, you must commit to all sessions. Participants will exercise during class. Limited Space.



Register at: csjcc.org/MOB24

January Closings

<p>Monday January 1</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - CJSCC OPEN 12 pm - 5 pm - JFT CLOSED - SMMJA CLOSED 	<p>Monday January 15</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - CJSCC OPEN 12 pm - 5 pm - JFT CLOSED - SMMJA CLOSED
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Wednesday | January 10, 2024



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Charles Schusterman
Jewish Community Center



OLD COUNTRY TO THE PLAINS:
MORE KOSHER POP SK8 ART BY
STEVE MARCUS

by Sofia Thornblad, Director of Collections and Exhibitions

Using the skateboard deck as a canvas, New York City artist Steve Marcus explores the themes of tradition, spirituality, and local Jewish history in a series of artwork made especially for The Sherwin Miller Museum of Jewish Art. Marcus' unique style, inspired by cartoons and underground comics is a fun and refreshingly accessible approach to contemporary Jewish art that is masterfully showcased on 40 whimsical and thought-provoking skateboard decks.

Why forty decks? The number 40 has great significance throughout the Torah and Talmud and represents transition or change; the concept of renewal; a new beginning, and has the power to lift a spiritual state.

NYC artist, Steve Marcus has received honors and awards from the American Society of Illustrators, has several works in the permanent collection of the Oakland Museum of California, The Jewish Museum of Florida-FIU, The American History collection at the Harvard Library, The Yiddish Book Center, YIVO Institute for Jewish Research, and private art collections in the United States and abroad. He has collaborated with Allen Ginsberg, Ken Kesey, Timothy Leary, The Norman Mailer Estate, The New Orleans Jazz Museum, and The Red Hot Chili Peppers. Marcus has created artwork and illustrations for The New York Times, High Times Magazine and the infamous Cannabis Cup, The United Nations, MTV, Tattoo International, The Source, and Esquire. He's exhibited numerous times at Art Basel in Miami, Florida, The Museum at Eldridge Street in NYC, The Maine Jewish Museum, and The Bernard Heller Museum in NYC as well as other prestigious institutions and art galleries. ■

Save the Date

Thursday, February 8,

6:00 pm

Opening Reception!

Old Country to the Plains:

More Kosher Pop SK8 Art by Steve Marcus

THE SHERWIN MILLER MUSEUM OF JEWISH ART

CRC BUILDING BRIDGES TOWARDS A MORE JUST AMERICA

by Robert Cohen, Member, Community Relations Committee

On a steamy Mississippi night in 1955, a 14-year-old African American boy visiting from Chicago went to a local grocery and upon leaving, allegedly whistled at the 21-year-old white woman who owned the store. Then the men came for him. A few days later, a fisherman found his body, grossly disfigured from torture, weighted down by a discarded cotton gin, in the Tallahatchie River. His name was Emmett Till, a name likely unfamiliar to many in our Jewish community but seared into the memory of Blacks across the country.

Forty years later almost to the day, on a sparkling sunny morning in Washington, President Bill Clinton presented the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the nation's highest civilian honor, to an 80-year-old African American scholar lauded as the premier historian of the Black experience. His name was John Hope Franklin, a name also likely unfamiliar to many in our Jewish community but proudly emblazoned in the hearts of many of our Black neighbors.

Becoming more familiar with such iconic figures was one of the reasons two dozen members of the Tulsa Jewish community attended this year's John Hope Franklin Reconciliation Dinner at the Greenwood Cultural Center on November 16. A greater goal of their attendance was to renew and build new relationships with leaders and members of Tulsa's Black and other ethnic communities. The Jewish community was also well represented among the event's sponsors, with generous support provided by the Charles and Lynn Schusterman Family Philanthropies, the Anne and Henry Zarrow

Foundation, the George Kaiser Family Foundation, Annie and Jeff Van Hanken, and Russ and Gail Newman.

It was the 12th year for the dinner, which brings together more than 500 guests of all ages, races, ethnicities, religions, and languages from across Tulsa to get to know each other. The event featured speakers from the Emmett Till Interpretive Center and Memorial Commission in Sumner, Mississippi. Benjamin Saulsberry, community engagement and museum director, and Jessie Jaynes-Diming, civil rights tour guide and Emmett Till Memorial Commission member, talked about efforts to obtain national monument designation for the center.

The Jewish Federation of Tulsa's Community Relations Committee (CRC) facilitated the attendance of four committee members because, to reverse the old adage, we have to "talk the talk" as well as "walk the walk." We must sit together, learn each other's stories, acknowledge that our challenges are mutual, commit to shoulder one another's burden, and work side-by-side to realize our goals.

The fate of our small Jewish community is inextricably tied to the advancement of other minorities and a more just American society. We cannot adequately address critical issues—from Israel to equality—without partnering with other faith communities, ethnic groups, and civic leaders. The CRC is committed to sustaining, expanding, and deepening such efforts. ■

The Community Relations Committee (CRC) seeks to build bridges of understanding with the general community; promote understanding within the Jewish community as to matters impacting relations with the non-Jewish community; develop programs and materials explaining issues of peace and security for Israel and Jewish communities throughout the world; and promotes equality of opportunity, freedom of religion, separation of church and state, and freedom of thought, opinion, and association. ■



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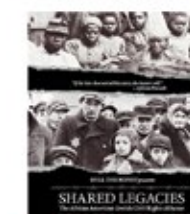
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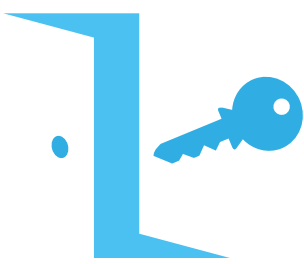
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with The Center



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Rave Reviews

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UNLOCKING POTENTIAL: THE KEYS TO SUCCESSFUL TEACHING

by Amanda Anderson, Executive Director and Alin Avitan, Hebrew and Judaic Studies Teacher

Every student is a unique individual, akin to a door waiting to be opened. We delve into the metaphorical keys that our dedicated teachers use to unlock the potential within each student, fostering an environment where doors swing open, and hearts are embraced.

Different Keys for Different Doors: Embracing Diversity in Learning



Just as there are countless doors in a student's educational journey, there are equally diverse keys to unlock them. Our talented teachers understand and appreciate the uniqueness of each student, tailoring their approaches to match individual learning styles, strengths, and challenges.



Open Doors and Hearts: Beyond Knowledge, Fostering Emotional Support



Education is more than the transfer of knowledge; it's about creating a space where students feel valued and supported. Our educators at Mizel JCDS work tirelessly to not only open the doors to knowledge but also to open hearts, providing emotional support and encouragement to help students thrive.



Smart and Wise Teaching: Balancing Intelligence and Wisdom



Effective teaching requires both intelligence and wisdom. Being smart involves mastering the subject matter while being wise involves connecting with students on a personal level, motivating them, and creating a positive learning environment. Our teachers at Mizel JCDS embody this delicate balance.



Each Door Has a Key: Creative Problem-Solving in Education



In the face of challenges, our teachers act as problem-solvers, believing that for every obstacle, there is a solution. They creatively find the right "key" to help students overcome difficulties and achieve success, fostering resilience and a growth mindset.



Going Deep in Kindness and Love: The Human Connection in Education



At the heart of successful teaching at Mizel JCDS, lies the profound connection between teachers and students. Going deep in kindness and love, our educators build strong, positive relationships that significantly impact students' motivation, engagement, and overall well-being.



Making Each Key: Craftsmanship in Teaching



Our teachers are not just facilitators of information; they are key-makers. They craft strategies, lesson plans, and approaches that resonate with each student. This involves understanding individual needs and preferences and tailoring the teaching process to unlock the unique potential within every child.



At Mizel JCDS, we celebrate the artistry and depth that our teachers bring to the classroom. Each day, they unlock doors, hearts, and futures, making a lasting impact on the lives of our students.

A FIVE-ALARM FIRE THAT MUST BE EXTINGUISHED

Excerpts taken from U.S. Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer

The highest-ranking Jewish elected official in American history gave a lengthy and passionate speech in November on the floor of the U.S. Senate. Chuck Schumer, the Senate Majority Leader, gave a stark warning about the rise in antisemitism against American Jews. Here are some excerpts from that speech.

"I want to describe the fears and anxieties of many Jewish Americans right now, particularly after October 7, who feel there are aspects of the debate around Israel and Gaza that are crossing over into antisemitism, with Jewish people being targeted simply for being Jewish and having nothing to do with Israel."

Schumer said that too many Americans are exploiting arguments against Israel and leaping toward a virulent antisemitism. The normalization and intensification of this rise in hate, he said, is the danger many Jewish people fear most.

The Democratic Senator from New York went on to explain the pain he felt as a descendant of Holocaust survivors, saying when he heard about the October 7 massacre, "it struck me on a deeply personal level."

Schumer spoke of the difference between being critical of Israel's government—which he noted is not inherently antisemitic—and denying the Jewish people the right to a state of their own, stating that as a glaring example of the double standard Jewish Americans so fiercely object to.

Schumer also suggested that many young liberals who have taken up the Palestinian cause are unaware of the vast history of oppression against Jews. His plea to all Americans is three-fold:

"First, learn the history of the Jewish people, who have been abandoned repeatedly by their fellow countrymen—left isolated and alone to combat antisemitism—with disastrous results.

"Second, reject the illogical and antisemitic double standard that is once again being applied to the plight of Jewish victims and hostages, to some of the actions of the Israeli government, and even to the very existence of a Jewish state.

"Third, understand why Jewish people defend Israel—not because we wish harm on Palestinians, but because we fear a world where Israel is forced to tolerate the existence of groups like Hamas that want to wipe out all Jewish people from the planet. We fear a world where Israel, the place of refuge for Jewish people, will no longer exist. If there is no Israel, there will be no place, no place for the Jewish people to go when they are persecuted in other countries."

Schumer went on to say "I implore every person and every community and every institution

to stand with Jewish Americans, and to denounce antisemitism in all of its forms. ... We are stewards of the flames of liberty, tolerance and equality that warm our melting pot and make it possible for Jewish Americans to prosper alongside Palestinian Americans and every other immigrant group from all over the world."

Senate Majority Leader Schumer's powerful speech in its entirety is worthy of a read. Click the QR code to view. ■



*Criticism of Israel ...
"can sometimes cross into
something darker, into
attacking Jewish people
simply for
being Jewish."*



Butterflies

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BIRTHDAYS:

Bob Berman

THE CHANGING FACE OF HATE AND EXTREMISM

by Leah White, ADL Texoma

The Anti-Defamation League was founded in 1913 with the timeless mission “to stop the defamation of the Jewish people and to secure justice and fair treatment to all”. Today, ADL continues to fight all forms of antisemitism and bias through its work in 25 regional offices and one office in Israel. The ADL Texoma office covers North Texas and Oklahoma. Regional efforts include training law enforcement about hate crimes, extremist groups and international terrorism, safeguarding civil rights and the separation of church and state through legislative and other efforts, fielding incident response, advocating for Israel, and promoting interfaith relations.

In November, Temple Israel presented a program on Hate Groups in Oklahoma. Below is a short summary for those who were unable to attend.

As we all know, there has been a sharp increase in antisemitic incidents since the beginning of the conflict in Gaza. From October 7 through November 20, ADL has documented 1,402 antisemitic incidents across the United States—a 315% increase from incidents reported during the same time frame in 2022. At least 280 of these incidents occurred on college campuses. The data includes 35 antisemitic assaults, 241 incidents of antisemitic vandalism, 535 acts of harassment, and 591 anti-Israel rallies with antisemitic rhetoric. The incidents took place in 47 states in the District of Columbia, including Oklahoma. That’s an average of about 25 incidents per day. Keep in mind that Jewish

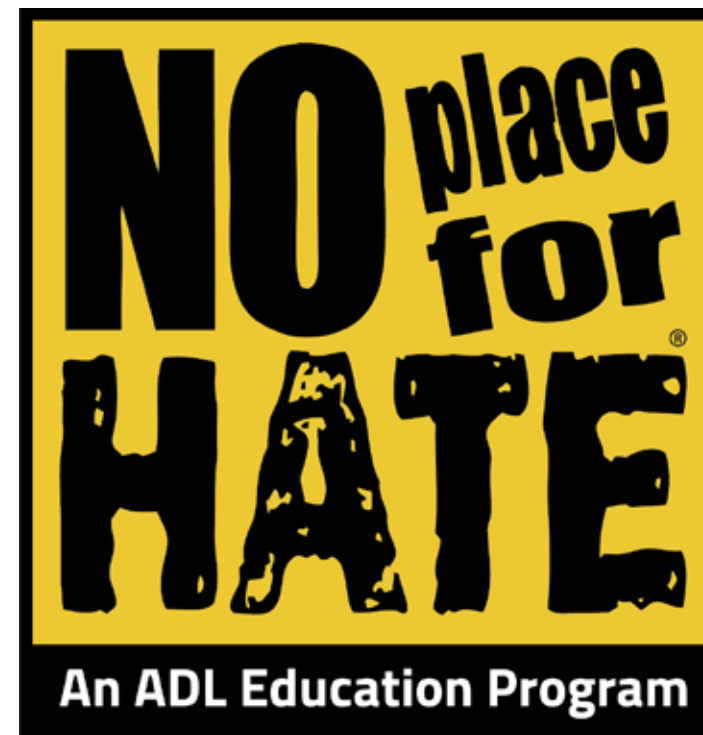
Americans represent 2% of the U.S. population, yet are the targets of 55% of all religion-based hate crimes according to the FBI.

According to the data, much of the antisemitism locally is seen in the form of extremist propaganda. There are a few extremist groups to be aware of that are active in Oklahoma:

- The Goyim Defense League (GDL)—a loose network of individuals connected by their virulent antisemitism.
- Patriot Front—a Texas-based white supremacist group whose members maintain that their ancestors conquered America and bequeathed it to them alone.
- Oath Keepers—a large but loosely organized collection of right-wing anti-government extremists who are part of the militia movement, which believes that the federal government has been co-opted by a shadowy conspiracy that is trying to strip American citizens of their rights.
- Aryan Freedom Network—AFN is a small but growing neo-Nazi group based in Texas that directs its vitriol at the Jewish, Black, and LGBTQ+ communities.
- QAnon—a decentralized, far-right political movement rooted in a baseless conspiracy theory that the world is controlled by the “Deep State.”

Each of these groups espouse vitriolic antisemitism and white supremacist themes via the internet, through propaganda distributions, and in street actions.

If you or someone you know experience a hate incident, please report it to both law enforcement and ADL. You can report by incidents to ADL by going to www.adl.org/report-incident. It’s a simple form and once submitted, your report is in ADL’s database and will be sent to local staff to follow up with resources and assistance. Reporting to ADL is important because it helps us to follow trends happening regarding hate and extremism and to better prepare for future incidents. The ADL can also track individuals with extremist tendencies and help law enforcement by sharing information. You can also report to the Tulsa Police Department through its non-emergency number at (918) 596-1100 or to the FBI: 1-800-CALLFBI (225-5324). ADL Texoma office can be reached via email at: texoma@adl.org. ■



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S I N C E 1 9 6 2

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Jews and Christians was prohibited by the provisions of the Synod of Elvira. The Council of Antioch (341 C.E.) prohibited Christians from celebrating Passover with the Jews while the Council of Laodicea forbade Christians from keeping the Jewish Sabbath. The conversion of Christians to Judaism was also outlawed. Religious services were regulated, congregations were restricted, but Jews were allowed to enter Jerusalem on Tisha B'Av, the anniversary of the destruction of the Temple.

Discrimination against Jews became worse in the 5th century. The edicts of the Codex Theodosianus barred Jews from civil service, the army, and the legal profession. The Jewish Authority was abolished, and the scope of Jewish courts was restricted. Synagogues were confiscated and old synagogues could only be repaired if they were in danger of collapsing.

During the next three centuries (300–600 C.E.) a new pattern of institutionalized discrimination against Jews occurred. Jews were forbidden to marry Christians (399 C.E.), were prohibited from holding positions in government (439 C.E.) and were prevented from appearing as witnesses against Christians in court (531 C.E.).

As Jews were officially being ostracized, certain bizarre fantasies about them arose in Northern Europe that foreshadowed the antisemitism of the 20th century. It was alleged that Jews had horns and tails, were engaged in ritual kidnapping and murder of Christian children, using their blood in ritual sacrifices, and for spreading disease. The latter allegation, referred to as “blood libel,” was devised by Thomas of Monmouth in 1150 to explain the mysterious death of a Christian boy. This theme recurs in English and German myths.

The Latin word *deicida* (slayer of god), from which the word *deicide* is derived, was first used in the 4th century. In the context of Christianity, *deicide* refers to the responsibility for the death of Jesus. The accusation that the Jew’s committed *deicide* has been the most powerful warrant for antisemitism by Christians. The early church taught that “the Jews” conspired to kill Jesus and were responsible even though Jesus and his apostles were all Jewish and the Romans who actually executed him in the story were not.



During the Middle Ages in Europe there was a full-scale persecution of Jews in many places, with blood libels, expulsions, forced conversions, and killings. In the 12th century, there were Christians who believed that some, or possibly all, of the Jews possessed magical powers and had gained these powers from making a pact with the devil.

Although the Catholic kingdom in Spain issued a series of anti-Jewish edicts already in the 7th century, persecution of Jews in Europe reached a climax during the Crusades. At the time of the First Crusade in 1096, a German Crusade destroyed flourishing Jewish communities on the Rhine and the Danube rivers.

In the Second Crusade in 1147, the Jews in France were the victims of frequent killings and atrocities. Following the coronation of Richard, the Lionheart in 1189, Jews were attacked in London. When King Richard left to join the Third Crusade in 1190, anti-Jewish riots broke out throughout England. Following these crusades, Jews were subject to expulsions, including, in 1290, the banishing of all English Jews.

In the first large-scale persecution in Germany after the First Crusade, 100,000 Jews were killed by Rintfleisch knights in 1298. The Jews were also subjected to attacks during the Shepherds' Crusades of 1251 and 1320. In 1396, 100,000 Jews were expelled from France and in 1421, thousands were expelled from Austria. Many of those expelled fled to Poland.

In the centuries that followed, Jews were denied citizenship, barred from holding posts in government and the military, excluded from most occupations, forcing them into pursuits like money lending, trade, and commerce. In many parts of Europe, Jews were forced to wear yellow badges.

During the middle of the 14th century, the Bubonic Plague spread throughout Europe, killing an estimated one-third of the population. Fear, superstition, and ignorance prompted the need to find someone to blame, and the Jews were a convenient scapegoat because of the myths and stereotypes that were already believed about them. Though Jews were also dying from the plague, they were accused of poisoning wells and spreading the disease. In reality, their relative isolation in the ghettos and their rituals of cleanliness such as removing grains from their homes that would have drawn flea-infested rats, have been suggested as shielding many Jews from the Black Death. In Germany and Austria, it is estimated that 100,000 Jews in their communities were burned alive for this by their hatred and violence. There were other false accusations including using the blood of Christian boys to make Passover Matzoth and for desecrating the Catholic Church sacramental wafers.

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Pope Clement VI tried to protect Jews by a papal bill dated July 6, 1348, and by an additional bill soon afterwards. However, several months later, 900 Jews were burnt alive in Strasbourg, where the plague had not yet affected the city. The Jews of Prague were attacked on Easter of 1389 while the massacres of 1391 marked a decline in the Golden Age for Spanish Jewry.

Stereotypes in Christian church art were used to inflame the masses. In 1517 Martin Luther launched the Protestant Reformation and wrote a pamphlet in 1545 titled “The Jews and Their Lies,” claiming that Jews thirsted for Christian blood and urging the slaying of the Jews.

When he failed to convert many Jews, his agitation morphed into hatred, and he turned against them. “Their synagogues... should be set on fire, and what does not



burn must be covered over with earth so that no man will ever see stone or cinder of them again,” he said. “Their houses also should be razed and destroyed.... All their prayer books... should be taken from them.” Some scholars feel that these scurrilous attacks mark the transition from anti-Judaism (attacks motivated because of the Jews’ refusal to accept Christianity) to antisemitism (hatred of Jews as a so-called race that would contaminate the purity of another race)

Increasingly, Jews were subjected to political, economic, and social discrimination, resulting in the deprivation of their legal and civil rights. They were restricted to living in ghettos and, beginning in the 13th century, Jews were required to wear a distinctive symbol (a badge and/or a pointed hat) so that they could be immediately recognized. Many secular and religious states forced Jews into segregated districts called ghettos.

When it suited the ruler, the Jews were expelled and Jewish migration occurred. Throughout history, Jewish communities moved from country to country as political and religious movements persecuted and banished them. In 1290, Jews are expelled from England by Edward I after the banning of usury in the 1275 Statute of Jewry. In 1306–1394 Jews are repeatedly expelled from France and

readmitted, for a price. While in 1343, Jews persecuted in Western Europe are invited to Poland by Casimir the Great.

In Spain, a major antisemitic law occurred. The Alhambra Decree on March 31, 1492 gave Spanish Jews three choices: leave Spain, convert to Catholicism, or be put to death. Approximately 200,000 converted while anywhere from 40,000-100,000 Jews were expelled. Many Jews remained in Spain after publicly converting to Christianity and became Crypto-Jews (estimates are 50,000-70,000). Crypto-Judaism is the secret adherence to Judaism while publicly professing to be of another faith. The descendants of Jews expelled from Spain or Portugal at the start of the Spanish Inquisition in 1492 became Sephardic Jews. The word Sephardim is derived from the word “Sepharad” which is the Hebrew word for “Spain.”

In many European countries however, the “Age of Enlightenment” saw the dismantling of archaic corporate, hierarchical forms of society in favor of individual equality of citizens before the law. In many countries, enhanced civil rights were gradually extended to the Jews, though often only in a partial form and on condition that the Jews abandon many aspects of their previous identity in favor of integration and assimilation with the dominant society.

In 1744, Frederick II of Prussia limited the number of Jews allowed to live in Breslau to only ten so-called “protected” Jewish families and encouraged a similar practice in other Prussian cities. In 1750 he issued an edict forcing these “protected” Jews to “either abstain from marriage or leave Berlin.” In 1750, the Archduchess of Austria Maria Theresa ordered Jews out of Bohemia but soon reversed her position, on condition that they pay for their readmission every ten years, while in 1752 she introduced a law limiting each Jewish family to one son.

In 1782, Emperor Joseph II of Habsburg abolished most of the Jewish restrictions in his Edict of Tolerance, on the condition that Yiddish and Hebrew were eliminated from public records and that judicial autonomy was annulled. Also, during the French Revolution for the first time in history in 1791, King Louis XVI proclaimed that Jews living in France would be considered full French citizens.

That same year, the next major antisemitic event occurred. On December 23, 1791, Empress Catherine II aka Catherine the Great of Russia issued an edict creating the Jewish Pale of Settlement. The definition of “Pale” means “boundary” or “territory” or “jurisdiction.” The Pale consisted of about 20 percent of the territory of European Russia. Jews were required to live within its boundaries unless they had special permits. Their exclusion from cities, including cities within the Pale, led to the creation of many Jewish provincial towns, or Shtetls.

In 1793, Russia’s annexation of Polish and Lithuanian lands significantly increased the Jewish population living in the Pale to nearly five million, or 40 percent of the world Jewish

(Continued from page 21)

population at that time. These restrictions of where to live were added to restrictions of profession, land ownership, and education. They were barred (with exceptions) from colleges, universities, and from government jobs. They were not allowed to practice certain crafts, skills, and trades.

In Italy, the Jesuit priest Antonio Bresciani's highly popular 1850 novel, "L'Ebreo di Verona" (The Jew of Verona) shaped religious antisemitism for decades. In the Papal States, Jews were baptized involuntarily, and, even when such baptisms were illegal, forced to practice the Christian religion. In some cases, the state separated them from their families.

The term "antisemitism" was first coined in 1873 by Wilhelm Marr, a German political agitator in his work, "Victory of Judaism over Germanism." His thesis was that Jews were conspiring to run the state and should be excluded from citizenship.

The next major antisemitic event was the May Laws, issued by Czar Alexander III in May 1882. The Laws banned Jews from inhabiting certain areas, restricted Jewish education, Jews could not own property or a mortgage outside of shtetls/villages and could not transact business on Sundays or Christian Holidays. These Laws remained in effect for over 30 years until the 1917 Russian Revolution. Pogroms (Russian word for havoc) ensued. In Russia, although most Jews themselves were extremely poor, they were blamed for all the problems of the Russian peasantry. Pogroms were instigated by the czarist secret police throughout the Pale.

In Russia, czarist secret police in 1903 published a forged collection of documents that became known as "The Protocols of the Elders of Zion." The two dozen "protocols," claiming to be minutes from a secret conclave of Jewish leaders, outline a sinister plot for Jews to rule

the world by controlling the media, rigging the economy, and stirring religious discord. Translated into dozens of languages, the Protocols made their way across Europe, the U.S., South America, Japan, and the Middle East.

Between 1917 and 1921, after the Russian Revolution, more than 500 Jewish communities in Ukraine were wiped out in pogroms. About 60,000 Jewish men, women, and children were murdered. Between 1881 and 1921 over 2 million Jews left The Pale of Settlement for the United States and other countries.

As Jews began to assimilate into European society, conspiracies about Jewish power began to spread, including through the falsified document Protocols of the Elders of Zion. In 1921, the London Times exposed the Protocols as not only a work of fiction, but brazen plagiarism. The Protocols had been lifted from Maurice Joly's 1864 French political satire, "Dialogue in Hell Between Machiavelli and Montesquieu." The revelation did not dilute its influence however, Protocols became a playbook for Adolf Hitler, who cited it in many of his early speeches and Nazi propaganda.

The next major antisemitic event was The Holocaust. There are books, accounts, movies, documentaries, courses, and Museums about the Holocaust. Nazis hated human rights and the philosophy of the Age of Enlightenment. As stated in Adolf Hitler's Mein Kampf, "the Jews must be excluded absolutely from the community of the German people." This rabid antisemitism is at the origin of the racial laws of the Third Reich, adopted in Nuremberg in 1935. Pre-WWII there were 9.7 million Jews in Europe and during WWII, six million Jews were murdered...men, women, children, infants.

In the case of the Catholic Church, it would eventually lead
(Continued →)



to real change, when in the 1960s, the Church removed the historic and dangerous charge against the Jewish people of being responsible for the death of Jesus.

However, in recent years, there has been a concerning upsurge of antisemitism around the world. This resurgence of antisemitism is a great concern, especially as we move further and further away from the lessons of the Holocaust and WWII. Modern antisemitism is a repackaging of historic tropes. Antisemites have adapted conspiracy theories of the blood libel as well as Jewish influence in economic and governmental affairs to fit new circumstances. An example is the accusation that Jews are responsible for spreading COVID-19, just as Jews were accused of spreading the plague a millennium ago.

With the October 7, 2023 Massacre by Hamas on Israel, the attacks on Jews around the world has increased significantly. This, of course, is yet another form of antisemitism and anti-Judaism.

This article is taken from a presentation to the Jewish Genealogical Society of Tulsa in 2023. ■

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



Jewish Genealogy Society of Tulsa
Next Meeting
Sunday, January 28 at 2:00 pm
at the Jewish Federation of Tulsa

Topic: Being Jewish In The Pale Of Settlement . . . How Our Ancestors Lived and What They had to Go Through

New members are always welcome!

**Family Jewish Cooking Club
Sunday, January 7 | 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 four-part cooking series, the Family Jewish Cooking Club. The second edition of the series will meet 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 per family and includes lunch and materials. Visit www.tulsagogue.com to hold your spot!

**Blatt + Blue
Thursday, January 11 | 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.

**Bibi-Dibi
Friday, January 12 | 5:30 p.m.**

Whether your little ones are still in the early stages of development or beginning to explore the world around them, there's a welcoming space for you in our Bibi-Dibi circle. Join us each month for a Shabbat gathering crafted for babies and their families. Revel in the joy of singing songs, playing games, and savoring a delightful Shabbat dinner. It's an excellent opportunity to establish and embrace your own family traditions. While no reservation is required for the celebration, we ask you to secure your spot for the meal by calling or visiting our website. The festivities commence at 5:30 p.m., with dinner starting at 6:00 p.m.



**Shabbat Maker Workshop
Tuesday, January 16 | 7:00 p.m.**

Uncover the beauty of Shabbat traditions and create your own ritual treasure! Join us for this quarterly workshop to build your own hand-crafted Shabbat set. Our second workshop will focus on crafting challah covers as we learn from felt artist Taylor Painter-Wolfe. We'll study their origins and the rituals around this practice and create our own set to kick off your Shabbat table. Secure your spot today and let the magic of Shabbat traditions come to life in your own hands! Please be in touch with Sara Levitt at the Synagogue or visit www.tulsagogue.com to reserve your spot.

**Lifelong Learners
Wednesday, January 17 | 11:30 a.m.**

Join Rabbi Kaiman and fellow seniors from all walks of life at the Synagogue for an enjoyable blend of lunch and interesting stories. Starting at 11:30 a.m., sessions feature engaging tales from our civilization's literature. If you're coming from Zarrow Pointe, a free bus leaves at 11:00 a.m. (but you can use your own vehicle if you prefer). Lunch from Queenie's is on us! This collaboration is our way of making learning and sharing more accessible. Save your spot by calling the Synagogue at 918-583-7121 or registering at www.tulsagogue.com.

**ShulSchool Late Night:
Havdalah Pajama
Saturday, January 20 | 7:00 p.m.**

Get ready to unwind and experience the magic of Havdalah with your friends from ShulSchool! Our next Late Night program is all about saying goodbye to Shabbat in the coziest way we know how, in our Pajamas! We'll eat dinner, learn about Havdalah, create our own Havdalah items, and more! This program is designed for elementary-aged students (without parents!). Cost is \$10 per child. Hold your spot by visiting the Synagogue website or sending a note to Morah Sara at slevitt@bnaiemunah.com.

**Doing Jewish: Exploring
Jewish Music
Sunday, January 21 | 10:00 a.m.**

Dive into the world of Contemporary Jewish Music in our next Doing Jewish workshop. Explore a diverse range of sounds, from soulful tunes to vibrant rhythms, capturing the essence of modern Jewish identity. Whether you're a music lover or just curious, join us for an engaging journey through the dynamic and diverse landscape of contemporary Jewish music. Experience the fusion of tradition and innovation that defines the heartbeat of our musical heritage. Don't miss this chance to discover, appreciate, and celebrate the rich tapestry of Jewish musical expression. Rabbi Kaiman will lead the session. Register at tulsagogue.com

**Sisterhood Book Club
Sunday, January 21 | 10:30 a.m.**

Sisterhood members will be discussing *Women of Fire*, by Lisa Barr. Sandi Tilkin will lead the review of the book. Sisterhood is looking forward to a great discussion. The book club will be meeting at the Sherwin Miller Museum.

**Seventeenth Street Deli
Sunday, January 28 | 5:30 p.m.**

Indulge in the delectable offerings of the Seventeenth Street Deli, where our kitchen crafts dishes with a perfect blend of slow cures, a touch of pepper, and heaps of love. Our much-loved pop-up restaurant is making a return, inviting you to enjoy both dine-in and take-out dinner services. Ensure your place in this culinary experience by pre-registering at tulsadeli.org and choose from our delightful pastrami, corned beef, or deli egg salad options.

For those with a passion for both great food and kitchen camaraderie, we extend an invitation to volunteers interested in joining our dynamic team. Connect with us at 918-583-7121 or tulsadeli.org to be part of the culinary magic.

**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. ■



CELEBRATE SIMCHAS!

Share your simchas with the entire 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 for the Tulsa Jewish Review to Sandy Sloan, sandy@jewishtulsa.org



David Dopp



Levi Olsen



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Shabbat Learning Through the Ages • Sat., Jan. 6 • 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 for the Zoom link.

Finding God in an Age of Reason with Rabbi Weinstein on Zoom • Thurs., Jan. 11, 18 & 25 • 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?

Family Shabbat in person • Fri., Jan. 12 • 6:00 p.m.

During Family Shabbat Cantor Weinstein and Rabbi Jasper create a sacred space for our young families with songs and prayers. Stay for the complimentary dinner. RSVP by Thurs., Jan. 11. Contact Rabbi Jasper at rabbitzvia@templetulsa.com for more information.

Birthday Shabbat Service w/ Torah in person, on Zoom & Facebook Live • Fri., Jan. 12 • 7:30 p.m.

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

MLK Parade • Mon., Jan. 15 • 10:00 a.m.

TI friends and family will meet at the corner of N. Detroit and John Hope Franklin Blvd. to pray with our feet, as we support the annual Martin Luther King Jr. march for social justice. Watch the iTinerary for coming details.

Zarrow Pointe Shabbat Service • Fri., Jan. 19 • 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.

Casual Friday • Fri., Jan 19 • 6:00 p.m. before services

Casual Friday is our new moniker for a potluck dinner followed by services. Please bring a kosher style dish to share with friends. Drinks and dessert will be provided. We'd love to see you there!

Shabbat Service w/Torah in person, on Zoom & Facebook Live • Fri., Jan. 19 • 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.

Anniversary Zamru L'Shabbat Shirah • Fri., Jan. 26 • 6:00 p.m.

Celebrate with Cantor Weinstein, Cantorial Soloist Jenny Labow, and *Elijah's Minor Prophets*, in person or online as we welcome in Shabbat Shirah with joyous songs! We will also celebrate significant January anniversaries. Arrive at 5:30 p.m. for a pre-oneg. RSVP to rsvp@templetulsa.com for the Zoom link. ■

RAV AND REV

by Rabbi Tzvia Jasper

This past year, Temple Israel has been building a partnership with Southminster Presbyterian Church in Brookside. This relationship has been one rooted in our mutual love and respect for interfaith dialogue. After several conversations, Rabbi Jasper and Reverend Lane realized how similar our congregations' values are and how much our communities desire diverse learning opportunities. That is when we began a series called 'Rav and Rev.'

This series began with a conversation at Gambill's. At this meet-up, over delicious deli delights, we talked about how difficult it can be to love your neighbor. So often, our neighbor is one who does not have our best intentions in mind, yet both of our sacred texts encourage us to love them anyway. This vulnerable conversation offered insight into the struggles many of us share, both day-to-day and in a global sense.

Following the success of our first event, during a power outage last spring, our friends at Southminster Presbyterian opened the doors of their church for us to use for our Pride Shabbat service. That colorful service concluded with a Kiddush that allowed us to deepen our relationship with one another.

In November, Rav and Rev continued with an Elote dinner and discussion on the topic, "What are we leaving for the next generation?" This conversation allowed us to dive into topics such as the importance of education, caring for one another, and caretaking of the Earth. During this conversation, our two congregations decided to engage in the value of

Ovdah Ul'shomrah, "tend and till the Earth," as seen in Genesis 2:15. We have created an opportunity for intentional fundraising.

The Tulsa Garden Center at Woodward Park is home to the Tulsa Arboretum. After the devastating winds over the summer, the Arboretum needs new trees to be planted. Through our Rav and Rev series, we would like to donate a new tree. Through our combined effort, we are looking to raise \$2,500; this amount provides the Arboretum with one tree and covers the maintenance of that tree for five years. The tree will also come with a plaque which both communities will share. The name of this project is **Genesis 2:15**.

As stewards of this land, it is our responsibility to sustain the land for the next generation. Rav and Rev will spend the next year learning, discussing, and understanding how we can lean on this partnership to build a better Tulsa for everyone.

Genesis 2:15 is a year-long project; if you are interested in contributing to our cause, there are two ways to get involved. The first is writing a check to Southminster Presbyterian Church with the memo line "Genesis 2:15." This will go into an account set aside for this project. Additionally, we would love to welcome you into our partnership. Our next meetup is scheduled for **February 22nd at 6:00 pm** at Southminster Presbyterian Church. This will be a soup potluck! Please watch the iTinerary for ways to RSVP or email rabbitzvia@templetulsa.com. ■



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