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Jewish Review

Sivan/Tamuz 5781
June 2021



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Founded in 1930 by Tulsa Section, National Council of Jewish Women

(ISSN# 2154-0209)
Tulsa Jewish Review
(USPS 016-928) is published monthly by
JEWISH FEDERATION OF TULSA
2021 E. 71st St., Tulsa, OK 74136. Periodicals
postage paid at Tulsa, OK.

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Farewell from the Storyteller

by ALIX LIIV CAPLAN, DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF OPERATIONS

"I believe that I am a character in our people's story, with my own chapter to write, and so are we all. To be a Jew is to see yourself as part of that story, to make it live in our time, and to do your best to hand it on to those who will come after us." – Rabbi Lord Jonathan Sacks

TWO AND A half years ago I introduced myself to the Tulsa Jewish Community as a storyteller; I found the title fitting. I have been telling stories my entire life as an actor, a public policy advocate, and a Jewish non-profit professional.

Meaning and purpose are rooted in storytelling. Stories forge common bonds and give rise to introspection. A story captures time and place – a window into the values, perspective, and existence of individuals and institutions. The Jewish people are masters of storytelling. The Torah is the literary record of Jewish existence. It is hundreds of stories of the Jewish people.

I have spent the last few years telling the Jewish Federation's story to the best of my ability. It has been an honor and privilege to serve this community. I witnessed the precious moments of hope, fear, courage, and action. I have been inspired, moved, and humbled. I have found the JFT story an effective instrument to mold and strengthen character. So long as the narrative lives, it will greatly influence the next generation of Jewish leaders.

I hope you will continue to tell the JFT story, not just for its beauty but also to preserve the earlier chapters and the importance of the unwritten pages of tomorrow. Tulsa will always remain in my heart. It is the place I married, had my baby girl, and where I learned that Jews actually reside in Oklahoma! Please stay in touch. You can find me at alixliiv@gmail.com or 917-439-1991. Farewell, ya'll. ■



Alix Liiv Caplan

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The Pearl Society

by JENNIFER JOELS

O N **APRIL 27TH** the Jewish Federation of Tulsa Pearl Society held part two of a three-part Zoom series on Jewish women LEADERS in our community. THIS program focused on Jewish Women in Jewish Institutions and was dedicated to Jenny Brouse, of blessed memory, the first woman president of the Jewish Federation of Tulsa in 1979. There were 42 Pearl Society members and guests attending. Bekah Kantor moderated a panel of women leaders representing the Jewish institutions of Tulsa. Panelists included Brina Reinstein, past JFT campaign director, Jeanne Jacobs, past president of Temple Israel, and Jolene Sanditen, past president of B'nai Emunah.



The program provided insight into the challenges for women leaders as well as the value of women leaders. Some of the key points shared by the panel were that good leadership requires being visible, building relationships, delegating power, and being committed. More personal advice included, "If you want to be successful, surround yourself with people who are smarter than you," "Good girlfriends can get you through anything," and "Find passion in what you do."

We ended the night with a tribute to the past women presidents of our Tulsa Jewish Institutions, which included the following women:

Jewish Federation of Tulsa: Jenny Brouse, Susan Fenster, Sara Sanditen, Lynn Schusterman, Gloria Estlin, Lori Frank, and Angela Taubman

Temple Israel: Jeanne Jacobs, Paula Milsten, Shirley Burger, Ginny Katz, Dr. Estelle Leviton Avery, and Lesley Bumgarner

B'nai Emunah Synagogue: Stacy Schusterman, Jolene Sanditen, Sally Donaldson, and Elana Newman.

We are grateful to all of these women who paved the way for future generations of women to step forward as leaders and build a stronger Tulsa Jewish Community!

Pearl Society is a woman's philanthropic affinity group that is part of other Pearl Societies with Federations nationwide. For information about joining the Pearl Society, please contact the Federation Campaign Coordinator Sandy Sloan at sandy@jewishtulsa.org or 918-495-1100. ■

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JFT Event Recap



Israel Independence Day Celebrations in April

These events were a great time to get together again as a community. Through the flavors of the Falafel cooking class to Yom Hazikaron ceremony sounds, to the joy of meeting people in person while eating and playing, to the various Zoom programs, we strengthened our connection to Israel and learned more about its culture.



Men's Club | Wednesday, April 14th

This was our first in-person Men's Club in about a year. Chen Shoval's topic was Yom Hazikaron, Israel's remembrance day. This day is dedicated to fallen soldiers, and the commemoration has also been extended to civilian victims of terrorism. We had a meaningful conversation about the Holocaust and the differences between "always remember" and "never forget." These programs are open to men of all ages. If you're interested, please contact Isabella at isilberg@jewishtulsa.org.

Earth Day Celebration with Mizel students and Up with Trees | Thursday, April 22nd

The Jewish Federation of Tulsa partnered with Up With Trees and students from Mizel Jewish Community Day School to celebrate Earth Day. Kaitlyn Beard, a representative from Up with Trees, gave a presentation to the students on ways to identify the age of a tree and showed the proper technique for caring for and planting trees. The Jewish value of *l'dor v'dor* was discussed with the students by Isabella Silberg, and the importance of being good stewards of our planet so that we can continue passing our healthy earth on for generations to come. The presentation ended with special treats (dirt cups) for the children where they mixed mashed Oreos, pudding, and gummy worms to enjoy. Up With Trees generously donated saplings of American Plum trees to each child to plant in their yards.



JFT Event Recap



PJ Library Baking | Sunday, April 25th

To wrap up our Israel Independence celebrations, we had a Zoom baking class with PJ Library families. First, Jackie and Leah Karpman led us through a fun and interactive baking tutorial on how to make cake pops at home! Then, while the cake pops were hardening in the freezer, Chen Shoval led the families through an engaging Israeli trivia game. This event was the perfect sweet ending to a month of meaningful Independence Day observances. If you are interested in joining PJ Library – please contact Isabella at isilberg@jewishtulsa.org.



JMoms | Monday, April 26th

JMoms - a group of mothers with young children met in person for the first time. After meeting for six months on Zoom it was exciting to meet each other, talk finally, and share ideas for the summer plans with the kids.



Men's Club | Wednesday, April 28th

Our guest speaker was Hunter Stone Gambill, owner of Gambill's Pastaria & Grocery, Gambill's Wine + Coffee, and soon to be Green & Gambill's Jewish Deli. See article on page 25

Men's Club is open to all ages. If you are interested in joining in on the lunchtime entertainment, please contact Isabella at isilberg@jewishtulsa.org.



Mental Health Conversation | Monday, May 3rd

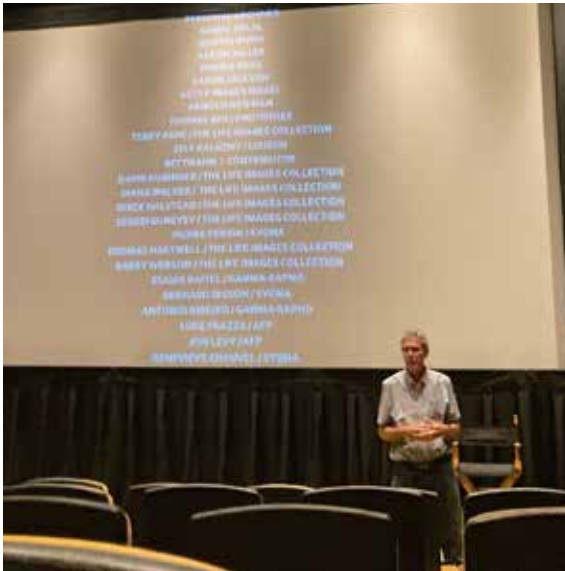
In partnership with the Jewish Federation of Oklahoma City, we talked about the importance of having these discussions in honor of mental health awareness month in May. Our speakers were Dr. Melanie Spector from Tulsa and Dr. Noel Jacobs from OKC. Dr. Spector specializes in working with adults, while Dr. Jacobs specializes with children and adolescents. The two discussed stigma, how both children and adults have changed since the emergence of Covid-19, and coping mechanisms. The two professionals noted how special it is that our two communities could come together and take part in “communal coping” by having these conversations. We look forward to more program partnerships.

JFT Event Recap



Jerusalem Day | Monday, May 10th

Jerusalem Day marks the union of Jerusalem, the return to the Western Wall, and the old city of Jerusalem. The connection between the West and East brought a new culture to the Israeli society, and this time we saw it through the eyes of fashion. The presentation was refreshing and taught us about Israeli fashion, past and present, and how we can learn from it concerning the story of Israel and its diverse society.



The Human Factor at Circle Cinema | Monday, May 10th

The Human Factor event was a collaboration with the Israeli Shlichah. The film talked about the Oslo accords that were signed between Israel and the Palestinians in the 90s. The movie showed the background which led to the accords and how they have been shaped. Afterward, we had a Q&A with special guest Chaim Shoval, father of Chen, the Israeli emissary. Chaim is an Israeli that was very aware of the Oslo accords process as they happened and all the events that occurred after.



Men's Club | Wednesday, May 12th

Our speaker was Tyrance Billingsley II, a Tulsa native and founder of Black Tech Street. He is an entrepreneur, ecosystem builder, and community leader. His vision of Black Tech Street is a place to attract Black entrepreneurs in the Black Tulsa Community through engagement and investment. His goal is for every Black child growing up in Tulsa to know that there is a place for them to succeed in the tech industry. This was a great presentation by Mr. Billingsley. If you are interested in joining future Men's Club lunchtime programming, check out our weekly Federation eblast or contact Isabella at isilberg@jewishtulsa.org for more details.

Start with a Welcome and Always Remember Gratitude...

by AIDA NOZICK, JFT EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

THE MIDRASHIM ABOUT the open and welcoming tent of Abraham and Sarah have always resonated strongly with me. Their tent was known to provide a warm and hospitable space for strangers and family alike. Visitors came from near and far seeking shelter, assistance, comfort, and support. I see important parallels between the open tent of Sarah and Abraham and our Jewish Federation in Tulsa, including my role as the Executive Director. As our matriarch and patriarch invited all to feel welcome in their home, as your Executive Director, I too intend to reach out to all, making every person feel welcome in our Federation community. My role will be to learn and to understand the needs of our community so I can use its wonderful resources for the benefit of all. I intend to welcome each of you into the tent of our Federation so that we can work together to enhance this already vibrant and wonderful community.

I am incredibly grateful to have been given the opportunity to work with and for this Jewish community, and I look forward to a great year of growth and progress. While I still have much to learn, I have picked up some basic knowledge along the way which guides my work.

These are some things you can expect from me as we begin working together:

I will focus my time on engaging with you, cultivating and nurturing relationships, listening and learning about what matters most, and looking for ways to inspire our community. One of the roles the Jewish Federation plays is to meet community members where they are and help them connect. We cannot afford to wait for people to come to us; instead, we need to be proactive and engage in community outreach. There are many ways to be Jewishly engaged. When we embrace innovation and collaboration and explore new ways of doing things, we allow ourselves to grow. I am confident that our strength as a Jewish community is in our ability to connect, relate, and find



Aida Nozick

meaning with each other and with Jewish life.

As the organization's leader, I will strive for operational excellence. Together, we will search for ways to collaborate, build consensus, and improve processes and procedures. We will follow best practices, strive for transparency, clarity, exceptional service, and open communication. Today, we are expected to act nimbly and efficiently during times of constant change.

I start every day with gratitude. Gratitude grounds me and helps me focus on what's important. On my computer screen I have a quote from Conan O'Brien (yes, really) as my screensaver that simply says, "Work Hard and Be Kind." I think most of life's challenges are really that simple in overcoming. We have all experienced roadblocks and obstacles that seem enormous and unbearable at times, but we can only control our own attitude and lead with kindness at the end of the day. So I challenge myself every day to bring forth my best self, to embrace victories big and small, and to define my own measure of success.

As we all have witnessed together these past 18 months, life is precious. A life full of meaningful relationships and a mindset of gratitude and appreciation go a long way to finding our happiest and most fulfilling days. I'd love to hear from you. Please reach out to me at anozick@jewishtulsa.org or on my cell at (219) 688-6238. ■

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JFT Upcoming Events



Ladies Who Lunch is back!!

This lunchtime program is for women of all ages. We meet at a chosen restaurant for a social gathering; each person pays their own check. Please contact Isabella Silberg at isilberg@jewishtulsa.org for more information.

Maimonides Society – Unlocking Implicit Bias | Tuesday, June 1st | 7 p.m.



Unconscious attitudes, also known as implicit biases, are ubiquitous and their effects are wide-ranging. Although unconscious, these biases affect our understanding, actions and decisions and ultimately have an impact on equity. Geared toward the healthcare industry, Dr. Jaabran Pasha, Assistant Dean of Student Affairs and Associate Professor for The University of Oklahoma School of Community Medicine, leans into difficult conversations in a straightforward, compassionate, empathic, and entertaining manner. The Maimonides Society provides a unique opportunity for healthcare and medical professionals to unite in fellowship, strengthen their commitment to Jewish values and community, enhance their philanthropic giving, and connect through guest lectures, social gatherings, and volunteer opportunities. For more information about the Maimonides Society, contact Sandy Sloan at sandy@jewishtulsa.org



Feeding the Soul | Monday, June 7th | 6:30 p.m.

Using food as a vehicle to explore identity, culture, and tradition, participants enjoy food from Tulsa’s restaurants and hear from local chefs about their culinary journey. For more information, please contact Isabella at isilberg@jewishtulsa.org.



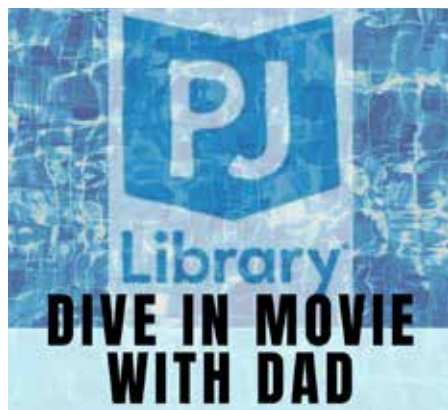
Men's Club | Wednesday, June 9th | 12 p.m.

Be sure to check out our weekly Federation eblast for more information! If you'd like to be added, please email Debbie O'Hearn at federation@jewishtulsa.org.

JFT Upcoming Events



Young Jewish Professionals Wine and Snack Pairing | Wednesday, June 9th | 7-9 p.m.
 Contact Isabella at isilberg@jewishtulsa.org.



PJ Library Dive-in Movie with Dad | Saturday, June 12th | 6-10 p.m.

Come join us for movie night at the Sharna and Irvin Frank Aquatic Center for Havdalah, movie, pool games, and food! All PJ families and those interested in joining PJ are welcome. For more information, please contact Isabella at isilberg@jewishtulsa.org.



Community Garden Class | Sunday, June 13th | 2 p.m.

Please join us for our next class titled "It's Not Too Early to Plan Your Fall Garden." Zoom Meeting ID: 821 2583 6254; Passcode: 222121.



Rosh Chodesh | Monday, June 14th | 6:45 p.m. | JFT's Sisterhood

Women meet during the new moon to talk about issues through personal, spiritual, and ritual celebration. For more information, please contact Isabella at isilberg@jewishtulsa.org.



Men's Club | Wednesday, June 23rd | 12 p.m.

Be sure to check out our weekly Federation eblast for more information! If you'd like to be added, please email Debbie O'Hearn at federation@jewishtulsa.org.

Community Corner

We want to feature the community's noteworthy events in this new column called "The Community Corner." Please email your submission to federation@jewishtulsa.org.

James Earl Tacherra will become Bar Mitzvah on June 12, at 10:30 a.m., at Temple Israel

James is the son of Jacob and Rebecca Tacherra and grandson of James and Susan Tacherra of Bolinas, CA, and Greg and Jolene Thompson of Collinsville, OK. James is currently in the 8th grade in Owasso, where he plays football and soccer as well as participates in Boy Scouts of America, in which he has earned the rank of Life Scout.

James was born in Dothan, AL, while we lived on Fort Rucker. He spent his early years on the beaches of northern California, where he began his Jewish studies with his Bubbie as his teacher. James excelled and went on to earn two religious awards in Cub Scouts, including the Maccabee emblem. After that, we moved to Oklahoma and James started his studies at Temple Israel almost four years ago where he has fit right in and flourished within his Temple Israel family.

James' Bar Mitzvah project is making personal hygiene kits for the homeless population in Tulsa and surrounding areas. These kits will include personal care items such as shampoo, conditioner, soap, toothbrush, toothpaste, bottled water, granola bars, and socks. He will be working with the Denver House of Tulsa to deliver to those in need.

B'nai Mitzvah services will be available on Zoom for our community. In-person services will be reserved for family only. Please call Temple Israel at 918-747-1309 for the link. ■



Anna & Ogden Farr will become B'nai Mitzvah on June 19, at 10:30 a.m., at Temple Israel

Anna is the younger twin but makes up for it in attitude! She is happy to be back to in-person school where she is a captain on the Pom Team. Anna has a wide variety of interests including art, cooking, and Netflix. She is looking forward to a vacation this summer, preferably on the beach. Her future aspirations range from a veterinarian to a social media influencer, but we know she will be enthusiastic and outgoing. She has been studying hard and is excited to share her bat mitzvah with our Temple Israel community.

Ogden has been attending Shorashim at TI with his sister since 2014. He is happy to share this long-awaited bar mitzvah with all of Temple Israel. When he is not in school, Ogen enjoys X-Box, riding his bike, and especially sports. His favorite teams are the Philadelphia Eagles, St. Louis Cardinals, and any Oklahoma State team. Although starting quarterback may not be in his future, sports broadcasting is certainly a possibility. In the near future, he is looking forward to spending more time with his friends and attending baseball games this summer.

B'nai Mitzvah services will be available on Zoom for our community. In-person services will be reserved for family only. Please call Temple Israel at 918-747-1309 for the link. ■



Marriage Announcement

Ann and Stan Shapiro are happy to announce the marriage of their son Matt to Nicole Boettcher in Leipzig, Germany on May 12, 2021. Nicole is the daughter of Gisela and Guenther Boettcher of Roepisch, Germany. The couple will reside in Leipzig, Germany and San Francisco, California. ■

The Jewish History of the Tootsie Roll

by © PHIL GOLDFARB

LITTLE DID ANYONE know that when Jewish immigrant Leopold Hirschfield arrived at Castle Garden (before Ellis Island) in New York on January 30, 1884, sailing on the SS Neckar from Bremen, Germany, that his future invention will change the sweet tooth cravings of millions of people from around the world.

Hirschfield was born in Laupheim, Germany on August 18, 1867, to confectioner Abraham (1815-1884) and Amalie Rosengard Hirschfield (1837-1931) and was named after his recently deceased grandfather, Leopold Hirschfield, in the Jewish tradition. With little money, Leopold had a set of skills that set him apart from other immigrants...he was a candy maker.

He initially settled in Brooklyn, opening up a tiny candy shop specializing in hard candies and penny candies of all sorts and proceeded to make a living for himself. His candy shop did not sell much chocolate, if any, because it was still quite expensive, available only to those who could afford it and melted during the summer.

Five years after his arrival, Leopold married another German immigrant, Henrietta Laubheimer (1865-1922) on June 23, 1890, in Manhattan, NY. Their only child named Clara B. Hirschfield was born on July 8, 1891. Clara's nickname from her father? Tootsie!

Shortly afterward, in 1891, he began to work at a candy manufacturing factory. He worked his way up to becoming a superintendent at the Stern & Saalberg Confectionery Company located in Manhattan, New York, owned by German Jewish immigrants Julius Stern (1845-1904) and his son-in-law Jacob Saalberg (1863-1931). The first candy that Hirschfield created for his new company was called Bromangelon (also known as Bro-Man-Gel-On) Jelly Powder, a pink powder substance, which when you added hot water transformed into a sweet, fruity jelly dessert. The unusual name meant "Angel's Food." Jelly desserts were the rage at the turn of the century with Jell-O being the only survivor today.

Hirschfield was an inventor not only of newly conceived candies and confections but machines as well. The U.S. Patent Office awarded him Patent 530,417 in December 1894, which was for a machine for depositing confectionery into molds, Patent 543,733 for a bonbon dipping machine, and Patent 543,744, which describes a novel fork for dipping bonbons, both awarded in July 1895. In addition, he would receive four other patents.

The story of the Tootsie Roll began around 1896 when Clara would wait for her father at the end of his day at work,

and when she saw him walking down the street, she would run toward him, jump into his arms, and say, "Daddy, Daddy, make me some candy!" His talents made it easy for him to say yes to Clara's request. "Yes, my little Tootsie, I will make you some candy." So he would go into the kitchen of his home and gather whatever was available (sugar, cocoa, butter, milk, molasses) and cook up a concoction that he would pour in small coin-sized dabs onto a baking sheet to cool. Then, when it had hardened, he would pry these candies off the baking sheet and give them to Clara.

In May of 1907, the now named Leo Hirschfield and a Director of the Company, applied for a patent for a candy-making technique that would give Tootsie Rolls their distinctive texture as he wanted to create a chocolate-tasting candy that would not melt in the heat and that would be an economical alternative to more expensive traditional chocolates. Before air conditioning and refrigerators, candy-sellers spent the hot summers trying to sell candies like taffy and marshmallows, which could stand some heat without melting. Chocolate, on the other hand, was nothing but a sticky mess in the summer weather...until the Tootsie Roll!

The U.S. Patent 903,088 for the treat was awarded in November 1908. The patent associated with the Tootsie Roll-making process describes how Hirschfield achieved that hard-but-not-too-hard texture that still characterizes the Tootsie Roll today. Most pulled candies (which the Tootsie Roll is) are "light and porous" after being made, the patent reads. However, the Tootsie Roll was baked at a low temperature for about two hours. Afterward, it would be shaped and packaged. According to the patent, the idea



An advertisement for Chocolate Tootsie Rolls. At the top, it shows a display of the candy rolls in a tray. Below the tray is a circular graphic with the text "Biggest New Idea in Candy CHOCOLATE TOOTSIE ROLLS". The main text of the advertisement reads: "The Most Inimitable, but the Most Imitated Candy in Years". It then explains that there is a reason why these rolls are so popular and that imitators have copied the packaging but not the flavor. The advertisement concludes with the manufacturer's name: "Sole Manufacturers: THE STERN & SAALBERG COMPANY, 416-418 WEST 45th STREET, NEW YORK".

was to give the treat “a peculiar mellow consistency” that would help it maintain its shape and not melt. Stern & Saalberg started officially selling “Tootsie Rolls” in September 1908.

In November 1908, Stern & Saalberg applied for a trademark for “Tootsie” for their chocolate candy. The trademark was registered on September 14, 1909, and the Stern & Saalberg Company had a candy hit. Americans just could not get enough of their “Chocolate Tootsie Rolls” as it proved extremely popular with consumers because of their unique chewy and chocolatey consistency. Tootsie Rolls became so popular that the Company had to take out ads in the trade papers cautioning their customers against accepting inferior imitations.



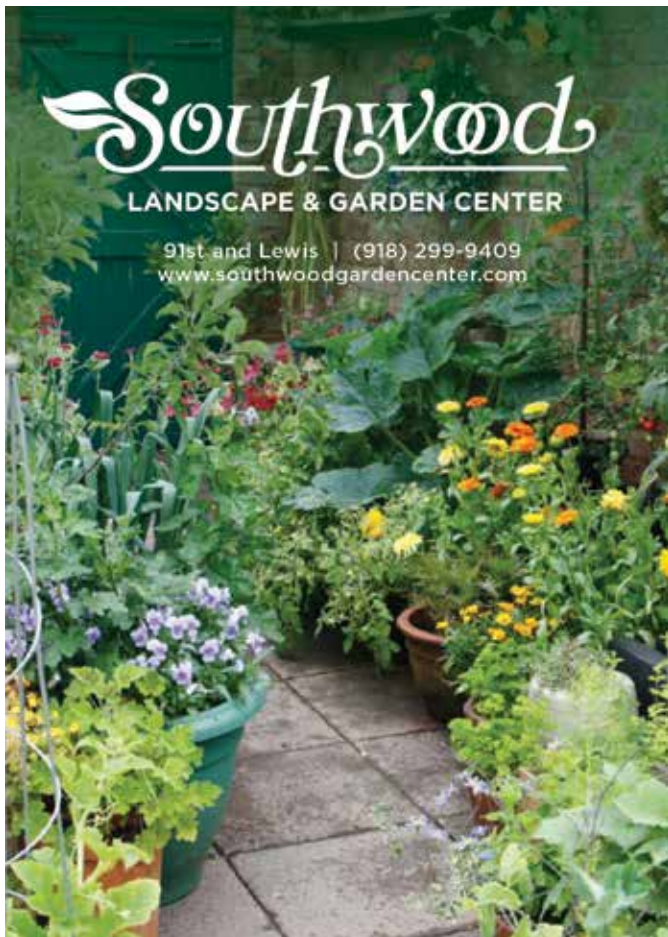
Tootsie Roll 1 Cent Candy Wrapper


Leo was the first to wrap the candies individually. This novel idea revolutionized the candy industry and made Tootsie Rolls stand out among competitors’ candy because they did not stick together and saved retailers time when trying to scoop candy from bulk containers. By 1913, Hirschfield was the Vice President of Stern & Saalberg, and seven hundred million pieces of Tootsie Rolls “rolled” out the door and into the mouths of Americans with the Tootsie Roll catchphrase of: “Making the World Sweeter.” The company changed its name to Sweets Company of America in 1917 and became listed on the New York Stock Exchange in 1922. However, by 1920 Julius Stern had died, Jacob Saalberg had retired, and Hirschfield was pushed out of The Sweets Company of America, so he ventured out on his own to start the Mells Candy Corporation in 1920.

The end of the story is not quite so sweet. While Tootsie Rolls made Leo Hirschfield a wealthy man, by 1921, his wife was seriously ill and recuperating in a sanatorium. Hirschfield himself suffered from a disease of the stomach. On January 13, 1922, he shot himself in his room at the Monterey Hotel at 94th Street and Broadway in Manhattan and died that same day. The note he left for his attorney said: “I’m sorry, but I couldn’t help it.” He is buried along with his wife (who died nine months later) at the Fresh Pond Cemetery in Middle Village, Queens County, New York.


Today, Tootsie Roll Industries (name adopted in 1966) is one of the largest candy manufacturers in the world, and their products are sold in over 75 countries. Approximately 64 million Tootsie Rolls are made daily and remain a staple of many people’s childhood memories of candy, and in some places, it still sells for a penny. It took until 2009, but Tootsie Rolls finally became certified kosher by the Orthodox Union

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






David Dopp



Levi Olsen



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See JFT Happenings
Pages 6-12



Sanditen/Kaiser Holocaust Center

The Sherwin Miller Museum of Jewish Art Sanditen/Kaiser Holocaust Center doubled the size of the Museum's Holocaust Center space and provided for new state-of-the-art displays, greatly enhancing the Museum's Holocaust education capacity. The new Holocaust Center is the cornerstone of what goes on at The Sherwin Miller Museum of Jewish Art and will continue to bring in new visitors every day to learn why and how the Holocaust occurred and how to ensure it never happens again. The center showcases over 250 artifacts from soldiers and survivors never before seen by the public. The horrifying events are told through the experiences of five Holocaust survivors who made Oklahoma their home. Their first-hand accounts, along with the artifacts and documents, will help you walk into the history and lessons learned during the Holocaust. Also featured in the only Holocaust Center in the region is a one-of-a-kind art installation from local Oklahoma artists. The Museum's Sanditen/Kaiser Holocaust Center honoring Mildred and Julius Sanditen & Herman and Kate Kaiser showcases the effects of hate locally and worldwide.



Michael Knigin: The Holocaust and Anne Frank

Now–Aug. 8

In 1974 the Israel Museum and the Jerusalem Foundation invited noted artist Michel Knigin to Israel. His charge was to establish the first professional lithographic and silk screen atelier in Israel. Knigin began meeting survivors of the Holocaust and interpreting their suffering through sketches that became montages. In recognition of his work, the Israel Museum granted Knigin full and unrestricted access to its Holocaust archives including pictures of the victims in the camps, of revolts, deportation, ghettos, liberation, and of course, Anne Frank. This exhibition is both a chronology of the terrors into which Anne Frank was born and a record of her response to them.



Women's Art from the Collection

Now–Dec.

Although 60 percent of Master of Fine Arts students are women, female artists only make up 30 percent of those shown in galleries. Work by women artists makes up only 3–5% of major collections in the United States and Europe. The SMMJA would like to showcase the women's art we have in our collection as our dedication to promote and collect more Jewish art by women.



Jews in Space

Now–Summer

Explore the world of motion picture sci-fi through artifacts, costumes, and more by showcasing Jewish actors, directors, and screenwriters in cinematic sci-fi.



Reuven Rubin

Now–Dec.

Reuven Rubin is celebrated as a pioneer in the Israeli art world. Born on November 13, 1893, in Romania, Rubin served as Israel's first ambassador to the country of his birth. His paintings use radiant, earthy colors and simple techniques, reminiscent of the work of French-Russian artist Marc Chagall, to explore the biblical landscapes of his home in Israel and its folk history. He regularly drew the countryside and people who inhabited it, transforming his observations into more fantastical and dream-like scenes through his unique artistic vision.



Go Figure: Figurative Art by Theodore Fried

Now – Sept. 12

Born at the beginning of an era in both art and politics, Theodore Fried was a talented young artist whose career intersected with the major movements in modern art during the 20th century. From Paris in the 1920s to New York after WWII, Fried was a member of the School of Paris and the Society of Modern Painters and Sculptors in New York. The survival of his talent and vision continued in New York. After his safe arrival in 1942, Fried established a studio and began to rebuild a body of American works. Exploring subject matter in the City-Central Park neighborhood life, Fried began to show his modern paintings in contemporary exhibitions, garnering fresh recognition of his figurative works and color compositions. Following his death, he appointed a trust to perpetuate his work, and in 2004, the SMMJA received his estate.



Oklahoma WWII Veterans Memorial Dedication

Sun., Jun. 6 • 1:30 p.m.

Join us on the 77th Anniversary of D-Day with speaker Bill Parker, the first man on Omaha Beach, as we dedicate the Oklahoma WWII Veterans Memorial. Flyover by the Tulsa Warbirds and David Rule's film *Tribute to WWII Vets* will be part of the event. Masks will be required and social distancing will be observed. Refreshments will be served.



Tikkun Middot with Rabbi Weinstein on Zoom

“Repairing One’s Character” through the study of Jewish values. Join us on Thursday afternoons as we unpack our Jewish values, creating an awareness and a better understanding of who we are as Jews and as people. RSVP to rsvp@templetulsa.com to get the Zoom link.



Brotherhood Shabbat Service on Zoom

Fri., Jun. 4 • 6 p.m.
Join TI Brotherhood as they present Dr. Peter Rao with the prestigious Isaiah Award. The night will include guest speaker, Janet Duvall, Executive Director, Tulsa Glassblowing School. RSVP to rsvp@templetulsa.com to get the Zoom link.

Shabbat Learning Through the Ages on Zoom

Sat., Jun. 5 • 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. RSVP to rsvp@templetulsa.com to get the Zoom link.

Temple Israel Annual Meeting on Zoom

Sun., Jun. 6 • 11 a.m.
Information about the annual meeting is in the May/June bulletin and look for additional information in your weekly eblast. RSVP to rsvp@templetulsa.com to get the Zoom link.



James Tacherra Bar Mitzvah Service on Zoom

Sat., Jun. 12 • 10:30 a.m.
Join us on Zoom as James Tacherra is called to the Torah as a Bar Mitzvah! An outdoor, in person service will be reserved for family only.



Sisterhood Outdoor Movie

Sun., Jun. 13 • 7:30 p.m.
Join TI Sisterhood outdoors under the tent at Temple Israel for the movie “Fiddler – A Miracle of Miracles.” Movie snacks will be available! RSVP to rsvp@templetulsa.com.

Zam’ru L’Shabbat Outdoors Under the Tent & on Zoom & Facebook Live

Sat., Jun. 19 • 10:30 a.m.
Enjoy the music of Cantor Weinstein and Eliyahu’s Minor Prophets as we welcome Shabbat with a joyous celebration outdoors, under the tent. RSVP to rsvp@templetulsa.com to get the Zoom link.



Anna & Ogden Farr B’nai Mitzvah Service on Zoom

Sat., Jun. 19 • 10:30 a.m.
Join us on Zoom as Anna & Ogden Farr are called to the Torah as a B’nai Mitzvah! An outdoor, in-person service will be reserved for family only.

Wine Tasting Event

Sat., Jun. 19 • 7 p.m.
Join us at Temple Israel outdoors, under the tent, for an evening of fun and flavorful wine tasting. The evening will include a Sommelier presentation, red wines, white wines, fruit and cheeses. RSVP to rsvp@templetulsa.com for more information and to reserve your spot.

Shabbat Service Honoring Jews by Choice on Zoom and Outdoors Under the Tent

Fri., Jun. 25 • 6 p.m.
A special Shabbat service where we will be honoring the newest members of our community who are Jews by choice. RSVP to rsvp@templetulsa.com to get the Zoom link.

Temple Israel’s Havdalah with Cantor Laurie Weinstein & Cantorial Soloist Jenny Labow on Facebook Live

Sat., Jun. 26 • 7:30 p.m.
Join your Temple Israel Music Team as we separate the sacred from the sublime and begin the week anew. They will offer the prayerful songs of Havdalah and their soulful music of the new week.



Two Rabbis And...

Every Friday, June 4, 11, 18 and 25 • 11 a.m.
Rabbis Fitzerman and Kaiman convene a weekly conversation to reflect on pertinent topics of the day, interview special guests, and talk about ideas relevant to Synagogue life. They hope you’ll join them. Zoom meeting ID: 918-583-7121.

Shabbat Together

Every Friday, June 4, 11, 18 and 25 • 6 p.m.
As days and weeks go by, we are invited to pause, reflect, and enjoy time together. “Shabbat Together” is a short, digital gathering where we take a few moments to connect with community as we enter Shabbat. The gathering begins at 6:00 p.m. A weekly Yahrzeit service precedes this experience at 5:45 p.m. We conclude everything in time for you to enjoy a Shabbat meal at home. Synagogue Zoom Room, Meeting ID: 918 583 7121.

Panim el Panim Shabbat Morning Services

Every Saturday, June 5, 12, 19 and 26 • 10 a.m.
Our tradition speaks of a special power that exists when a group of people gathers together for prayer. “Panim el Panim” is a live broadcast service led by Rabbis Kaiman and Fitzerman. Rooted in our in-person Shabbat morning service, we spend time singing, reflecting, studying Torah, and connecting. To take part in this experience, join us in our Synagogue Zoom Room, Meeting ID: 918 583 7121.

Family Day of Service

Sun., Jun. 6 • 9 a.m.
Synagogue Families are invited to spend the morning working on several different community service projects and giving back to our local community. All projects will be outside and distanced in accordance with Covid safety protocols. Check the Synagogue website for more details and to RSVP.



Braiding with Brae

Thurs., Jun. 17 • 6:30 p.m.
Why do we braid challah? To make it beautiful. The more beautifully we can braid, the more beautiful our challah. Our own Brae Riley is a talented braiding artist who regularly shares his accomplished artistry during our Zoom celebrations. For this workshop, Brae will help us develop our skills and deepen our bread-braiding toolkit. Contact Eric Hunker at ehunker@bnaiemunah.com to reserve free challah dough for curbside pick-up the afternoon of this experience, or feel free to make your favorite dough and have it ready for braiding along with us.

A Mind to Work

by **REV. DR. ROBERT R.A. TURNER**, PASTOR, HISTORIC VERNON AME CHURCH

NEHEMIAH 4:6 6 “So we built the wall, and the entire wall was joined together up to half its height, for the people had a mind to work.” Historic Vernon and the larger community of Tulsa are doing work reminiscent of this great Hebrew text. The herculean effort to repair the walls of our church, including the windows, has been immensely aided by our gracious neighbors such as the Schusterman, Zarrow, and Kaiser Foundations, along with a grant from the National Trust for Sacred Places African American Action Fund.

It is amazing to know that by the time this article is published, the first phase of the Vernon Restoration campaign will be complete. This includes repairing our \$1 million appraised value stained glass windows, restroom renovation, and the preliminary work on the Prayer Wall for Racial Healing. As a result of these new and fascinating developments, the next few weeks will be a time of great anticipation and remembrance.

On May 31st we will have a dedication for our Prayer Wall of Racial Healing at 10:00 am. This space will be dedicated for people of all faiths to come and pray for the racial healing of the world. The wall idea was inspired by both the Prayer or Wailing Wall of Jerusalem and the tragic but resilient history of the Greenwood District. On a much smaller level, Greenwood has suffered from attacks and devastation, as did Jerusalem, and as the Western Wall is the last that remains from the glorious temple, our basement is the last that remains on Greenwood from the glorious 1921 Historic Black Wall Street/Greenwood Ave.

Afterward, at noon, “The Book of Redemption” will be unveiled. One of the economic tragedies from the massacre is that it was called a riot in the immediate aftermath which caused very severe financial consequences. It led to all of the claims filed by the blacks of Greenwood being denied because of a “riot clause” within the policies. Therefore, those who made the hard decision to stay also had to come up with the money to rebuild everything independently. The members of Vernon chose not only to stay but immediately began to build the sanctuary on top of the basement again, using their own money to do so. The church secretary of Vernon in the 1930’s took copious notes of those who gave, including their address, phone number, and the amount of their gift. Detailed information like this was recorded in a ledger named “The Book of Redemption.” Unfortunately, because of the age and use of the book, it had fallen into disrepair. Thankfully, due to the involvement of Sarah Stitt, First Lady of Oklahoma, and the leadership at the Institute of the Bible, “The Book of Redemption” has finally been restored at no cost to Vernon. Additionally, a duplicate has been made so the individuals who contribute to this current capital campaign and the next can have their names in this book. Following this ceremony to unveil the book, from 1:00-3:00, we will have family fun sponsored by Anthem Church, and at 6:30 we will begin our weeklong Centennial Revival entitled, “God of Our Weary Years.” On Tuesday, June 2nd, we will have a reparations workshop hosting Alderman Robin Simmons.

You are most welcome to attend any of our events, just observe the social distance and face mask protocols. Space will be limited for indoor activities. All of the events being held are meant to commemorate or remember, not celebrate the massacre. Although I do celebrate the fact that Historic Vernon AME is still here in the exact location it was in 1921, I do lament the lack of accountability, justice, and repair that has occurred since. It is my hope these occur so true healing can begin. But, for it to happen, we must have what Nehemiah and the Israelites who returned to Jerusalem had “a mind to work.” ■



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Sherman Ray – 100 Years Strong

O **N WEDNESDAY, MAY 5, 2021,** Sherman Ray celebrated his 100th birthday. It is an exception that one lives long enough to gain the status of a centenarian. To do so itself is worthy of recognition, and while surviving the Holocaust is not the only thing Sherman is recognized for, it is a sobering thought that he is the last survivor living here at Zarrow Pointe.



Sherman Ray

Happy birthday, Sherman! Here's to life and living it strong!

The following is an introduction to his interview at age 95 and written by John Erling with Voices of Oklahoma:

Sherman Ray survived the WWII Nazi death camp, Auschwitz, by sewing German uniforms. He was targeted by the Germans not once but twice to be transported to the infamous Auschwitz. The first time, as a young man, was with his family. Sherman had heard rumors of the camps and wanted his family to jump from the train with him to escape, but they refused, so he jumped alone. That was the last time he saw his parents, sister, and younger brother. They were among thousands of Jews rounded up after Hitler's army stormed through Poland.

After leaping from the moving train, Sherman hid in the woods and lived by whatever means available. Eventually, he was captured a second time by German soldiers and transported to Auschwitz—this time he was not lucky enough to escape. After arriving at the concentration camp, Sherman was saved by his tailoring skills, and the soldiers put him to work making Nazi uniforms. For four years he made his captors' clothing while watching many other Jews die of starvation and disease and hearing the screams of those in the death chambers.

Sherman was liberated in 1945 and eventually came to Oklahoma City and then Tulsa where he continued his work as a tailor and became the owner of Ray's Tailor Shop.

The number B2526 was tattooed on his wrist by the Nazis. Sherman had the constant reminder of his past covered with a butterfly tattoo to help him forget.

His fondness for America is apparent when he says, "If I have to give my life for this country, I will." ■



Sherman in his Tulsa tailoring shop in the 1980s.

Butterflies

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IN HONOR

Tamika Fields

Opinion: From Flat Earth to the-Election-was-Stolen

by DREW DIAMOND

DO NOT BELIEVE the Earth is flat.

However, I do recognize there are people who believe this and have constructed an entire flat-Earth conspiracy theory.

I have no problem with flat-Earthers. They are entitled to their beliefs and, as far as I can tell, pose no threat to any of us.

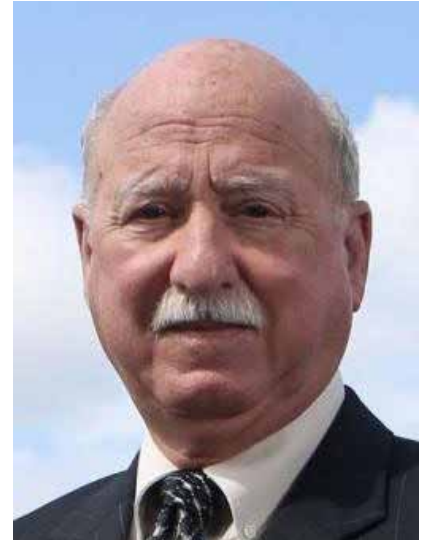
Until recently, the notion that the world's governments and scientists have conspired against us all to conceal that the world is flat has been described as the ultimate conspiracy theory.

Today, as conspiracy theories go, the flat-Earthers take a backseat to "the election-was-stolen" conspiracy crowd. In stark contrast to the flat-Earth true believers, the election-was-stolen, MAGA-cap-wearing, Confederate-flag-carrying, Nazis-symbol-wearing people who on Jan. 6 stormed the U.S. Capitol building have proven to be a threat to our democracy and to our very lives.

These anti-democracy conspirators are frightened. They fear the inevitable march of a colorful America. Instead of taking their place in an increasingly lively and imaginative culture, they choose to close themselves off in ways marked by violence and racist diatribes. This behavior engenders a dangerous period for our country.

Let me be clear. I'm not talking about everyone who voted for President Donald Trump or even everyone who raised questions about the election. There was a broad continuum of reasons to vote for Trump, including tax policy, international affairs and concerns about the potential of a Joe Biden administration. I don't agree with those, but neither do I condemn those who made a different political choice based on mainstream American values. Wanting to make sure the election was free and fair wasn't wrong either, although once it's been shown to be that way, it should be accepted.

Rather, I'm talking about the hard-core anti-democratic conspirators at the vanguard of an ugly movement. They would like to believe they speak for a lot more people than they do. They react, I think, from fear.



Drew Diamond



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What they fear most are facts that cannot be beaten into submission or shouted away. For example, according to the U.S. Census Bureau, the U.S. is projected to become a majority minority nation for the first time in 2043. While the non-Hispanic white population will remain the largest single group, no group will make up a majority. All in all, minorities, now 37% of the U.S. population, are projected to comprise 57% of the population in 2060.

The political and cultural ramifications of these inevitable demographic changes underpin a great deal of fear, particularly among white supremacists. They are terrified the new minority majority will behave like them. Federal law enforcement officials have identified white supremacists as the deadliest domestic terrorist threat now facing the U.S. In fact, one of the white supremacists' stated goals is to incite a race war.

Resisting them requires an unyielding response that ensures we not become the evil we are fighting. The actions of the "election was stolen"



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crowd along with the politicians that support and enable them have laid bare their collective racism. Marked by anti-American violence, this crowd disguises their behaviors in make-believe patriotism.

Real American patriots look like the young men I found myself standing with in an Army barracks during basic training in 1967. These young men were Black, Latino, Native American, white, Christian, Muslim and Jewish — mostly from poor and working-class families.

Considering my fellow soldiers, I am reminded of Rabbi Lt. Roland B. Gittelsohn, the first Jewish Marine Corps chaplain. In the aftermath of World War II's bloody battle for Iwo Jima, Rabbi Gittelsohn's delivered a powerful eulogy at the grave site for the fallen soldiers. He referenced patriotism with these words:

"Here no man prefers another because of his faith or despises him because of his color...Among these men, there is no discrimination. No prejudices. No hatred. Theirs is the highest and purest democracy."

What drives the anti-American racist is a quest to maintain the power they have and feed their unquenchable need for more power. This need, fueled by anger, will be their undoing as anger overpowers reason. Without reason, plans inevitably fail.

In defending our democracy, waiting for someone to fail should only be one part of our response. Enhancing social justice and anti-racist actions through voting rights expansion, criminal justice reform, and the protection of every person's civil rights, human rights and dignity must continue to be the first line of defense.

In this fight, it has become clear that changing the hearts and minds of those lost in the QAnon domain is a difficult undertaking. But difficult does not mean impossible.

For those who fear the other and, at the same time, fear becoming the other, there is a path forward. It is possible to use our political, cultural and justice systems to impact their behavior by preventing their violent acts and, along the way, providing opportunities for all to fully participate in the reality of a diverse America.

Drew Diamond recently retired as executive director of the Jewish Federation of Tulsa and is a member of the Tulsa World Community Advisory Board. Article appeared in Tulsa World May 8, 2021, print edition. ■

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S I N C E 1 9 6 2

Will I Fight or Will I Surrender? Reflections on 2021 Yom HaShoah Interfaith Commemoration

by TORI DOWLER

THE TITLE “**CHOOSING** to Act: Jewish Women’s Resistance in the Holocaust” captures my eye. I cannot even imagine the courage and strength it took for Jewish women to resist. From where did the energy, the mentality, the physical strength, and the hope come to keep these remarkable women fighting? No matter how hard the Nazis tried, they could not dim the light the Jewish women brought to the world.

As the stories were told, I began to realize everything these fierce females had to do to survive. Alice Blue’s comment on “protecting somebody else’s child” demonstrated how tight-knit this female circle was, even throughout the worst time. The concept of “every man for himself” was not the mindset the mothers, wives, sisters, friends allowed. . . . unlike nowadays when family turns against family for simply having different opinions. Blue said it best when she referred to her parents and all Holocaust survivors as heroes.

It can be hard to find a way to tell a story and make it relatable; however, art is often an effective medium. Watching the Tulsa Youth Opera singers’ performance, I saw their grasp of the pain and suffering these victims endured to survive another day. Their song Ani Ma’amin (translation: I Believe) shows the strength of these women to fight.

Jewish women’s resistance in the Holocaust is rarely covered in the general information one receives about the Holocaust in school. However, it has never been more apparent to me that this topic is worth exploring. Each of guest speaker Sheri Rosenblum’s female resistor’s stories left a significant impression on me. Speaking of escape as one of the earliest forms of resisting, Jewish families chose to send their children to Great Britain, knowing they would likely never see them again. The incredible selflessness of this act speaks for itself. The bravery it took to contribute to Emanuel Ringelblum’s archive of the historical facts, first-hand perspectives, and evidence of what was really going on in the Warsaw ghetto is mind-boggling. These treasures stored in milk cans allowed the Jews to write their true history.

“If I was going to die, I was going to die a fighter, not because I’m a Jew.” – Sonia Orbuch. Orbuch, a true fighter, devoted a major portion of her adult life to teaching students to stand up for injustice. Her words make me reflect. It is one thing to have an opinion and say I stand for something, but will I actually stand strong when the time comes? Will I fight, or will I surrender? Not only did Rosenblum’s speech enlighten and teach me, but it also left an everlasting impression. From the strong and courageous women who fought and survived, many families have grown, and stories have been told that would not have existed. And to those who fought and perished, thank you for choosing to fight, even with all odds stacked against you. You are all heroes. ■

2021 YOM HASHOAH ART CONTEST WINNERS



THIRD PLACE
ROOTS OF OUR HISTORY
BY
HANNAH WEIS
JENKS HS



FIRST PLACE
HIDDEN THEN, REMEMBER FOREVER
BY
MARTHA TURNER, MORGAN HALLER
JENKS HS



SECOND PLACE
THEIR FIRST STEPS
BY
CHARITY HARPER
JENKS HS

HS 2021 WHITE ROSE ESSAY CONTEST WINNERS

- 1ST Luke Wilson:** "The Heroics of Female Resistance"; Cascia Hall; Teacher, Melissa Halve
- 2nd Ash Blevins:** "Small Actions, Big Results"; Cascia; Teacher, M.Halve
- 3rd Seth Brown:** "Leave Your Mark"; Stilwell HS; Teacher; Robynne Parris

HONORABLE MENTION

- Greer Boedeker:** "Resistance Inspires Change"; Cascia; M.Halve
- William Sides:** "Worthy Heroes"; Cascia; M. Halve
- Ava Sorensen:** "The Heroic Female Resisters"; Cascia; M.Halve
- Hudson Luessenhop:** "The Use of Public Platforms to Incite Change"; Cascia; M.Halve
- Isabella Smith:** "What is Your Legacy?"; Cascia; Teacher, M.Halve
- Hailey Polson:** "Risk of a Lifetime"; Cascia; Teacher, M.Halve
- Victoria Soranno:** "How to Take a Stand"; Cascia; M.Halve



White Rose Founders: Hans & Sophie Scholl, Christoph Probst



Caroline Rabb (2nd) Isaac Oliphant (1st) Genevieve Burk (3rd)

MS 2021 WHITE ROSE ESSAY CONTEST WINNERS

All Students are from Monte Cassino; Teacher, Shandy Dotolo

- 1ST Isaac Oliphant:** "The Act of Resistance"
- 2nd Caroline Rabb:** "Remarkable Resistance"
- 3rd Genevieve Burk:** "Stood"

HONORABLE MENTION

- Sofia Laptun:** "The World's Courageous Women"
- Olivia Hulver:** "We Mustn't Forget"
- Cole Dukelow:** "Women that Inspire Me"
- Tara Samiee:** "Fearless"
- Divya Thomas:** "The Women Beyond the Scene"
- William Soranno:** "The Only Tired I was, was Tired of Giving In"
- Grace Donnelly:** "Holocaust Heroines and Female Resisters"

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The Sherwin Miller Museum of Jewish Art invites you to the

Oklahoma WWII Veterans Memorial Dedication

Bill Parker
The first man on Omaha Beach will speak about how telling this story has changed his life.

Tribute to WWII Vets
View David Rule's newest film.

Tulsa Warbirds
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Barbara and Dave Sylvan Auditorium

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The Magic is in the Teacher

by JANET DUNDEE

We are presenting Denise White, a professional Education Consultant who has been consulting and coaching teachers at Mizel Jewish Community Day School during the 2021 spring semester.

Talking to Denise is an exhilarating experience. Her dedication to the belief that students should love learning and teachers should be valued as the most important asset in a school aroused in her the desire to go back to college and study to become that sort of teacher she describes.

Having taught elementary classes for ten years, Denise understands where kids are coming from. As a young student herself, she observed her brother as a person who did not enjoy school. While Denise couldn't wait to get to her classes, her brother would rather have been elsewhere, and she began to wonder why.

Consequently, Denise placed herself on a lifelong journey to develop concepts that would prove to turn even the most difficult classroom situations into a learning experience for every child.

Co-authored with Alisa Braddy, also a Professional Development Specialist, Denise wrote a handbook for teachers entitled *Ready-to-Go Instructional Strategies that Build Collaboration, Communication and Critical Thinking*. This book is designed to answer teachers' questions about finding valuable tools for intentional, purposeful instruction. In addition, the authors write about how to engage students in critical thinking. Many teachers have found pathways to student-centered learning in their handbook.

Tom Padalino, Education Director at Mizel JCDS, knew Denise from their years spent re-booting Thoreau Demonstration Academy in Tulsa. Tom was eager to bring Denise to work with the Mizel faculty and was able to obtain a grant to do so.

For several months Denise has been working with teachers to build upon the curriculum to engage students in Student-Centered Learning. She has spoken about movement as an integral part of human life and how to use purposeful movement in the classroom. Denise calls this Stand Up, Hand Up, Pair Up, where students receive instruction from their

teacher and then use that instruction in relevant situations. Students find the meaning of what they are learning and use it to connect that learning to life lessons.

Tom Padalino calls that Rigor, Relevance, and Relationships. These concepts, which Denise demonstrates to teachers, are now a part of the classrooms at Mizel JCDS.

Denise believes that the multi-grade classrooms at Mizel are "amazing." She explains that older students become models of thinking for the younger students, nurturing the younger ones in their classes with the support of their teachers. In addition, multi-grade classrooms offer learning accessible to all the students. Targeted instruction with small guided groups can produce a rich environment for students. As a result, students learn to love going to school.

Denise has become a valuable asset for Mizel JCDS teachers. Her love of learning is clearly heard in the enthusiasm she shows as she speaks about her work.

Just take a look at Denise's photo on this page. The sparkle in her eyes shows she loves kids and wants the very best for them. Her life's work as a Professional Education Consultant has brought important ideas to the Mizel faculty on which they can build during the next school year.

For Denise, school is not a place where kids sit quietly in their seats, sometimes bored or fidgety or even tuned out. Instead, the classrooms allow students to access learning in real-time. For Denise, the "Magic is in the Teacher," and the students are richly rewarded.

If this is the description of the school for your child, call for a tour and check out Mizel. Contact Tom Padalino at 918-494-0953. ■



Denise White



**Enrolling for in person classes,
Pre-K through 5th grade.**

Call Tom Padalino, Director,
at 918-494-0953 to schedule a tour.



Zarrow Campus | 2021 East 71st Street

New Deli in Town

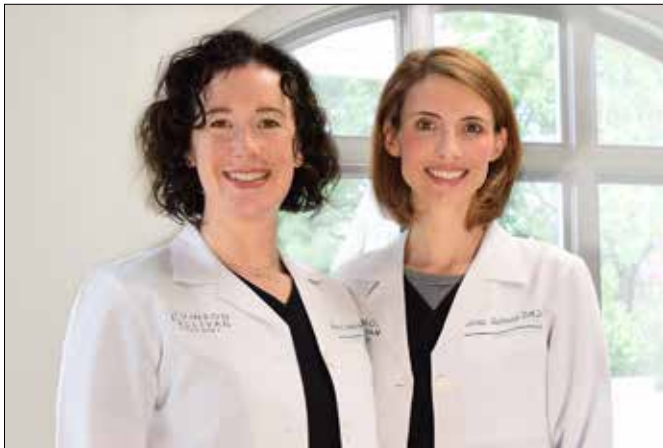
by HUNTER GAMBILL

THIS STORY BEGAN when I was fourteen years old and my mom helped me get a job at a restaurant owned by a person from our congregation in Oklahoma City. I grew up going to Temple B'nai Israel and Emanuel Synagogue. At sixteen, I went to culinary school. By twenty-one, I was the assistant director of food and beverage for three Nevada casinos. I married Anna, a Tulsa native, and we then moved to Oregon where I learned winemaking, brewing, and distilling while I was in grad school.

Both of us being adventurous, we moved to Guatemala where I worked at a brewpub and studied Spanish while sipping on Central American hot chocolate. Then, after some travel, we decided to throw our lot on an adventure in China where we ended up spending seven years. In my last year in China I served at the US Embassy as a Consular Warden for the province of Shandong.

After nearly eleven years of marriage we decided we wanted to start growing our family. We figured it would be best to have family close by, so we chose Tulsa. Four years ago we moved back and started Oklahoma Distilling Company with our life savings. I also went to law school, and my wife took a job with TCC, which is what we lived on while trying to grow our business. We adopted Zoey, a lab-Pyrenees hybrid. Zoey is the name of the urban winery we started the following year which shares space with our cidery, Angry Bear, Oklahoma's first cidery. A little over a year-and-a-half ago, River joined us. He gives the best hugs, loves stealing Zoey's ball, much to her chagrin, and yelling "Da Da."

Since moving back we've been able to make many things happen. Look out for our other projects in Tulsa: Taqueria Escondido, which specializes in traditional al pastor on handmade blue corn tortillas; Gambill's Wine & Coffee, a Spanish/Latin American-inspired wine, tapas, and coffee bar where we use coffee and chocolate we roast at the distillery; and Gambill's Pastaria & Grocery, a no-frills Italian-American restaurant with fresh-made pasta. In Norman I've partnered with a restaurant friend, Brady Sexton, owner of Scratch, to open Recess Taco Park. In July in Oklahoma City we'll open our second distillery location and Gambill's Mexican Brewpub.



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Hunter Gambill

What I am most excited about is opening Green & Gambill's Jewish Deli in Tulsa. Any concept I do has to be something I think is needed in our community, creatively interesting, and fun. I am partnering with a good friend of mine, Adam Green, owner of Mac's Barbecue in Skiatook. While we search for our permanent location, Adam and I decided to get a trailer to start building our menu, concept, and client base. We'll be parked out front of Bar 473 and have regular hours.

Adam and I have endless creative energy, so we're not trying to recreate Katz's. As an expert in smoking meat, he's got pastrami down to an artistic science with a coffee rub using Gambill's Coffee. I'm throwing in my mom's brisket recipe, the same recipe I've enjoyed every Pesach since I can remember. We have a number of specialty items like the Pauli D, an homage to my mom, which is brisket, provolone, horseradish mayo, and brisket-laden onions on sourdough. Having spent some time in Israel and no stranger to a vertical rotisserie due to running a taqueria specializing in al pastor, we'll be serving up some of my favorite Sephardic foods like shawarma and falafel.

I was recently asked if I was worried about anti-Semitism by calling it a "Jewish Deli." When I see blatant anti-Semitism, I will push against it with blatant pride in the traditions into which I was born. The food we are making has a solid basis in American-Jewish cookery, and we are excited to continue it in Tulsa while adding our own flair. It is not Kosher, nor should it be considered "Kosher-style." ■

virtual



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Blatt + Blue Review *The Cakemaker*

SPECIAL TO THE REVIEW

THE SYNAGOGUE CONTINUES in June to explore provocative, offbeat films and television that reflect on the Jewish condition. Next up is *The Cakemaker*, Ofir Raul Graizer's work on the convergence of appetite, desire, forbidden love, and the deeply complicated relationship between Jews and post-war Germans.

Thomas, a young and talented German baker, is having an affair with Oren, an Israeli married man who dies in a car crash. Thomas travels to Jerusalem seeking answers. Keeping his secret for himself, he starts working for Anat, his lover's widow, who owns a small café. Although he bakes outside the structures of rabbinical supervision, Thomas's delicious cakes turn the place into a city attraction. Finding himself involved in Anat's life in a way far beyond his anticipation, Thomas stretches his lie to the breaking point and feels compelled to flee. Yet Anat follows. The film was released unrated, but includes explicit content.

Blatt + Blue is now in its second year of monthly gatherings. Film and television enthusiasts David Blatt and Alice Blue begin each session with a summary of the featured material. It means that you'll be able to follow the conversation even if you have to delay your viewing of the film itself. After that, it's questions and comments from the Zoom Room audience.

The film is currently available on Amazon Prime Video and may be rented for a small fee. Join the Zoom event with David and Alice on Thursday evening, June 10, at 7:00 p.m. The Zoom meeting ID is 918 583 7121, and the session will conclude at 8:00 p.m. If there is a film you'd like to see in these sessions in the future, please reach out to Rabbi Fitzerman at marboofitz@bnaiemunah.com. ■



Podcasting Far and Wide

SPECIAL TO THE REVIEW

LIKE MANY SYNAGOGUES and community institutions, early in the pandemic we began convening weekly Zoom gatherings as a means of connecting and feeling a part of each other's lives. Fairly quickly, these informal gatherings started to structure themselves around a special guest who would give us insight into their workplaces, adaptations to life in a pandemic, and reports from the front lines. We spoke with doctors and agency heads, civic leaders, and academics. Before we knew it, our gatherings had formed themselves into a presentation we started calling "Two Rabbis and..." and our audience waxed and waned depending on the weekly guest.

These conversations were delightful and stimulating, and we were pretty pleased with the weekly experience. Then a member of the congregation asked if we would record a session because our 11:00 a.m. meeting time conflicted with their work schedule. We readily agreed and realized what we had on our hands was the beginning of a weekly podcast. We mastered some of the technical challenges with a little futzing, and we're now broadcasting our show every week. Our "studio audience" can still attend the live recording, but what we've seen happen is exponential growth week after week. We think this means that some of you are tuning in to these recordings. And now have a way to connect to the Synagogue while you're walking the dog or folding laundry. We think that's an excellent thing.

We've recorded and published almost 20 episodes representing interviews that span the gamut from the incoming direction of the Jewish Federation, Aida Nozick, to understanding the George Floyd verdict with Dr. Stephen Galoob. What we hope we're doing is shining a spotlight on Tulsa's diversity, highlighting exciting projects, and helping our city come alive for those near and far. Whether one is considering a move to Tulsa or is a stalwart participant in Tulsa's civic life, we think there's something to be gained by having these conversations. If you'd like to tune in, search for "Two Rabbis and..." on any podcast player. We can be found on Apple Podcasts, Spotify, Amazon, and every other major platform. Please leave us a review, give us a rating, and subscribe so that our new episodes will be delivered directly to you. ■



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