



TULSA  
**Jewish Review**

*Kislev/Tevet 5782  
December 2021*

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# Holland Hall

*Tulsa's PreK through Grade 12 Independent Episcopal School*

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KISLEV/TIVET 5782  
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## My Dream Job

by YOLANDA CHARNEY



Yolanda Charney

Before I tell you about my “Dream Job” I want to give you a bit of history about the Jewish Federation of Tulsa. The founding leadership of Tulsa’s Jewish Community came together in 1938 to establish a Jewish community-wide organization. It was named the Tulsa Jewish Community Council. The organization’s purpose and goals were established, officers were elected, and committees were formed, one which was a Public Relations Committee. This committee was charged with interacting within the wider Tulsa Community including Interfaith, interethnic, and interracial relations as well as advocating in legislative and governmental issues that might impact the Tulsa Jewish Community.

Tulsa’s Jewish Community had always been a staunch supporter of the State

of Israel. Tulsa was known throughout the country as one of the highest per-capita financial supporters of Israel since its creation in 1948. This was never an issue with those outside of the Tulsa Jewish Community. However, after the 1973 Yom Kippur war and ensuing Arab Oil Embargo, things in the Arab-Israeli conflict began to heat up throughout the world.

By 1975 the Board of Directors of the newly renamed Jewish Federation of Tulsa decided the time had come to hire a staff person to oversee the now renamed Community Relations Committee (CRC). This is where I come into the story. I was hired by Federation CEO Nathan Loshak on a part-time basis. I had little experience but was referred to the Federation by a friend who had seen my work as President of the Tulsa Section of the National Council of Jewish Women and as NCJW/Oklahoma Legislative Chair.

My part-time position soon became a full-time position with a 25-member volunteer board. Our responsibilities grew. Anti-Israel letters to the editor became a frequent occurrence, so I organized volunteers to reply to the numerous editorials with knowledge, compassion, and tact. With volunteer assistance, I established a speaker’s bureau, bringing Israeli Scouts and Israeli Scholars into public schools, universities, and local civic organizations.

The CRC worked hard to strengthen our ties to the Black and Latino communities. We assisted with the revitalization and incorporation of the Martin Luther King Society. The first citywide MLK Interfaith Service at the Boston Avenue Methodist Church, continues to be held to this day. This was three years prior to our country declaring Martin Luther King Day a national holiday.

When the leader of the White Aryan Resistance (WAR) Movement came to Tulsa to recruit, the Jewish Federation of Tulsa CRC partnered with the Tulsa Urban League to pass a non-binding resolution at City Hall condemning the visit. We then reached out to our contacts in the media and, with the help of the press, the group left town early.

## COVER



Sherwin Miller Museum of Art  
55 and Fabulous  
Gala Artwork  
Auctioned off at Event  
With text reading “HOW DO YOU  
JEWISH?” applied.

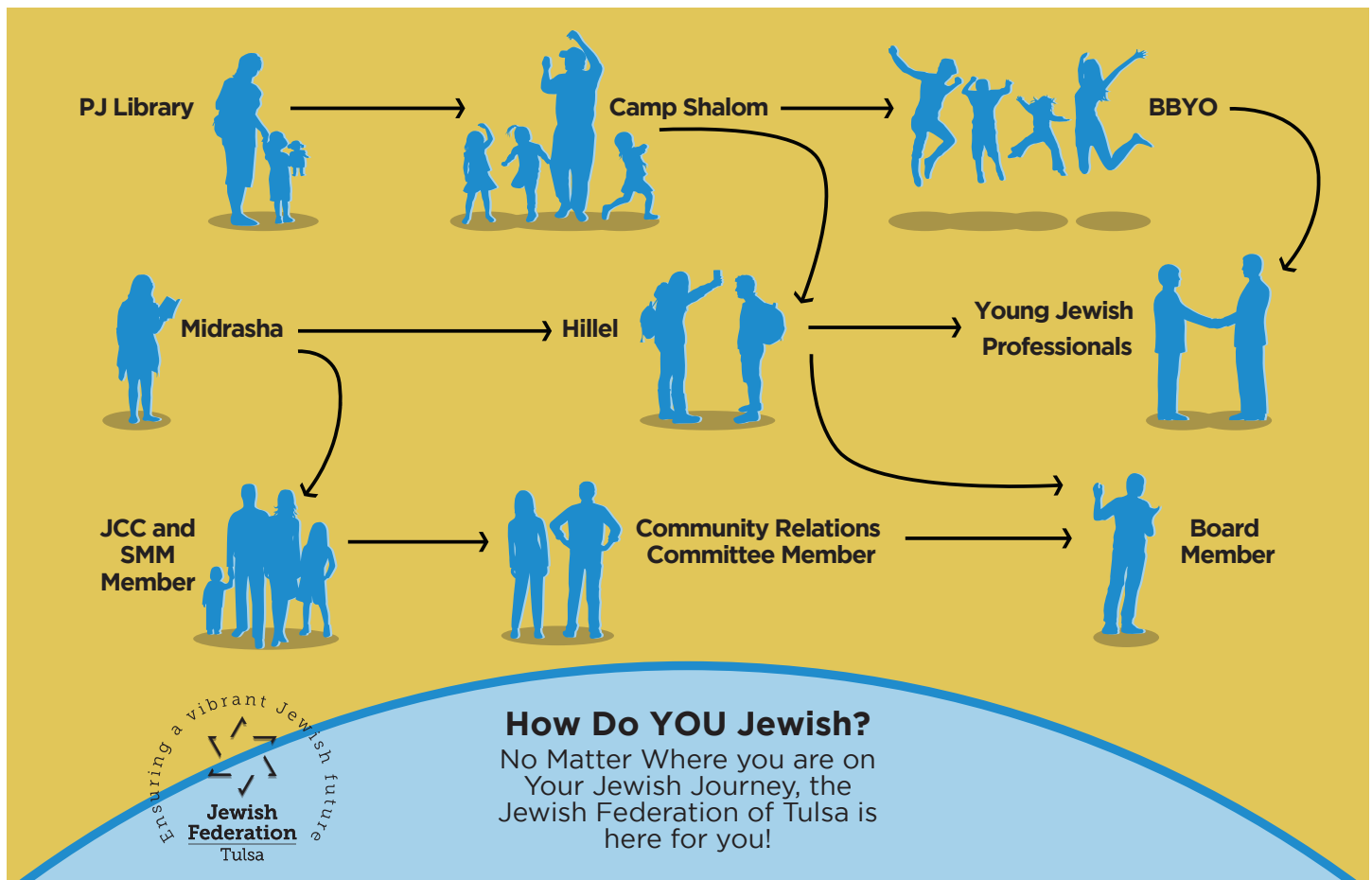
Another major achievement during my time with the Jewish Federation of Tulsa was forming a coalition with the Tulsa Urban League and the Tulsa Equality Center, creating the basis for the SAY NO TO HATE campaign. This led to me receiving the Martin Luther King Commemoration Society's Keeping the Dream Alive Award on January 20, 1992

Interfaith relations was the easy part of working for the Jewish Federation of Tulsa! We always partnered with Tulsa Metropolitan Ministry (TMM) and National Conference of Christians & Jews (NCCI) which later became OCCJ (Oklahoma Center for Community and Justice) when presenting important issues including the Holocaust, Religious Roots of Antisemitism, Kristallnacht, and more with national speakers and scholars. I am most proud of being the project director of the first Oklahoma Conference on the Holocaust in Fall 1978. The national and international scholars included Father John Palikowski with the Conference of Catholic Bishops, Dr. Franklyn Littell from Temple University, Rabbi Jim Rudin with the American Jewish Committee, and Dr. Shalmi Barmore from Yad Vashem, Jerusalem.

Other times, the Federation would partner with the University of Tulsa, Oral Roberts University, and the Tulsa City-County Library. Two noteworthy events were: 1) JFT, TMM, NCCJ and TU submitted a bid to

have Tulsa as the site for the XIVth National Workshop on Christian-Jewish Relations, and in November, 1994, we made it happen! 2) The Jewish Federation of Tulsa, Oral Roberts, Richard Roberts, and Pastor John Hagee from Texas presented Tulsa's First Night to Honor Israel. It was held at ORU's Mabee Center with over 4,000 ORU students in attendance, along with the public and members of the Tulsa Jewish Community. Leading prayers that evening were ORU President Oral Roberts and Congregation B'nai Emunah's Rabbi Arthur D. Kahn, of Blessed Memory. In our pre-event planning meetings we were assured that our Jewish Community would be welcomed to a non-denominational service. As was the case with Rabbi Kahn and Rev. Oral Roberts praying the 23rd Psalm in Hebrew and English! I will forever be grateful to Rabbi Kahn for trusting us and participating in this historic event. Night to Honor Israel continues to this day at Victory Christian Church.

For 20 years I felt as if I truly made an impact working to bring diverse communities together through open dialogue, educational opportunities and programs. My Jewish journey evolved over my lifetime (and continues to evolve), but the Jewish Federation of Tulsa was and is an integral part of my life. I am forever grateful for the experiences I had as a staff member at JFT. ■



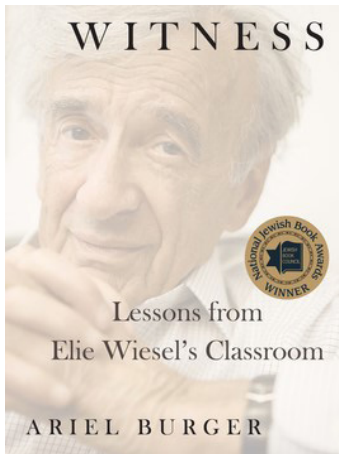
## JFT Upcoming Events



### Men's Club | Wednesday, December 8 | 12:00pm | Dan Room

Presentation by Heidi Braver, volunteer manager for LIFE Senior Services. Her presentation will introduce *Give 5*, an innovative, free, community-based civic matchmaking program designed for Tulsa area retired or soon-to-be retired residents. The program will acquaint cohort members with nonprofit organizations addressing our city's primary areas of need and help solidify purpose and meaning in retirement.

Register at: [www.jewishtulsa.org/mensclub-dec8](http://www.jewishtulsa.org/mensclub-dec8)



### Council for Holocaust Education Book Discussion "Witness" | Wednesday, December 8 | 6:00 pm | Dan Room

Join the Council for Holocaust Education in book discussion *Witness* by Ariel Burger.

Moderated by Dr. Hank Knight. Discussion will be in-person at the Jewish Community Center with Chanukah-inspired food to nosh.

Contact Council for Holocaust Education Director Nancy Pettus with any questions. 918-606-7781

Register at: [www.jewishtulsa.org/witness](http://www.jewishtulsa.org/witness)



### Sips & Sisterhood | Tuesday, December 21 | 6:30pm | Mother Road Market Patio

Join us for a night on the heated patio of Mother Road Market for a private wine pairing & Kosher-style charcuterie box. The sisterhood groups from The Synagogue | Congregation B'nai Emunah, Temple Israel, and The Jewish Federation of Tulsa will be coming together for a night of sips and sisterhood celebration. Membership is not required.

Register at: [www.jewishtulsa.org/sipsandsisterhood](http://www.jewishtulsa.org/sipsandsisterhood)



### Men's Club | Wednesday, January 12 | 12:00pm | Dan Room

Presentation by Rhys A. Martin, author of *Lost Restaurants of Tulsa*.

Rhys is the President of the Oklahoma Route 66 Association, serves on the Tulsa Route 66 Commission, and is an adviser for the Route 66 Alliance. He loves to connect with people and share his experiences.

Register at: [www.jewishtulsa.org/mensclub-jan12](http://www.jewishtulsa.org/mensclub-jan12)

## JFT Upcoming Events Continued



### **Men's Club | Wednesday, January 26th | 12:00 pm | Dan Room**

Presentation by Sally Van Schenck, Director of Communication & Community Outreach for the Court Dog Program at the Tulsa County District Attorney's office. The Tulsa County District Attorney's Special Dog Unit is a successful program that benefits children involved in the court process. Beginning in 2010 in Tulsa, the program has now grown to more than five court dogs. When children have suffered physical, sexual, and/or emotional abuse, it is

often difficult for them to speak about their experiences. Giving these children a dog as their partner in the courthouse helps to relax them and provides them with a sense of security. The trust, acceptance, and tactile comfort of a friendly dog can alter the physiology of a nervous child. Accompanied by a court dog, the child may feel safer to share past events in an unfamiliar setting. Authorized by statute (12 O.S. Sec 2611.12), these dedicated dogs and certified handlers are available to accompany children through interviews, preliminary hearings, and jury trials.

**Register at: [www.jewishtulsa.org/mensclub-jan26](http://www.jewishtulsa.org/mensclub-jan26)**



### **Israel 101 - A Basic Knowledge Course | Monday January 3,10,24,31 and Tuesday February 8 | 7:00pm | Dan Room**

Let's be honest, Israel is increasingly becoming a complex topic.

With antisemitism on the rise and so much misinformation, it is important to set the record straight about Israel, its history, and its future. Learn a breadth of topics about Israel through this five-class course led by Israel Emissary Chen Shoval. Come with questions, leave with context and the tools to educate others.

**See flier on page 6 - Register at: [www.jewishtulsa.org/israel101](http://www.jewishtulsa.org/israel101)**



### **Comedy For Peace | Saturday, January 22 | 6:45pm | Sylvan Auditorium**

**See flier on page 7**

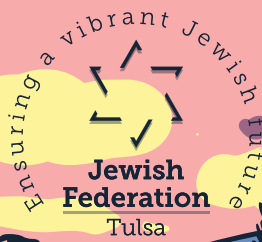
**Register at: [www.jewishtulsa.org/comedy for peace](http://www.jewishtulsa.org/comedy-for-peace)**

As part of the Jewish Federation of Tulsa's ongoing commitment to provide a safe and healthy facility, we are requiring all individuals attending events within the JFT campus to be fully vaccinated for COVID-19 (with the exception of children under the age of 12).

Thank you for your continued tikkun olam!

**Please contact Program Coordinator Isabella Silberg with any questions you may have. [isilberg@jewishtulsa.org](mailto:isilberg@jewishtulsa.org) 918.495.1100**

Go to [www.JewishTulsa.org/events](http://www.JewishTulsa.org/events) to view a full calendar of events.



# Israel 101

**A Basic Knowledge Course**

**5 Classes @ 7:00 pm**

Join us, once a week to discuss and learn about Israel.  
At the Charles Schusterman Jewish Community Center.  
Dinner will be served at each meeting.

## **Class Descriptions:**

### **Jan. 3 - Location Location Location**

Learn the history of the land of Israel, how it is the epicenter of importance to so many faiths, and how it became a home for the Jewish people.

### **Jan. 10 - A Society of Minorities**

Israel is a true melting pot. Explore diversity in Israel from Arab Israelis to Ethiopian Jews to LGBT+ life.

### **Jan. 24 - Peace, Co-Existence, and the Israel Defense Force**

Analyze the peace process through years, the relationship between the Israelis and the Palestinians, and what it is like to serve in the IDF.

### **Jan. 31 - Start-ups, Technology and Innovation**

Learn how Israel became a start-up nation, how they manage to bloom the desert, and what innovations Israel brought to the whole world.

### **Feb. 9 - Zionism and Antisemitism**

Investigate different perceptions of Israel around the world and in the media. Discuss how antisemitism often is associated with anti-Israel and what can we do about it.

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**Register at [JewishTulsa.org/Israel101](http://JewishTulsa.org/Israel101)  
or email Chen Shoval with questions [Emissary@jewishtulsa.org](mailto:Emissary@jewishtulsa.org)**





**Comedy For Peace is an accessible, funny, fun, and meaningful show, that brings diverse Interfaith communities together with the belief that we can make a difference through the art of comedy. Our show is a relief from the concerns of the day, with an important message that we, the people, just want to live together peacefully.**

**SAVE THE DATE**  
Sunday, January 22  
6:45PM - 9:00PM  
DAVE AND BARB SYLVAN AUDITORIUM

**THE COMEDIANS:**

**Tehran Von Ghasri**

One of the hottest rising comedians on the comedy scene. With a diverse contrasting background of Black, Persian, Muslim, and Jewish, street smarts and educated, Tehran brings a fresh, unique perspective to comedy and humor. As seen on Comedy Central, HBO and Fox. He performs regularly in the Laugh Factory in L.A.

**Steve Marshall**

New York based Jewish American comedian, actor, and writer. A wild, unique, energetic, and smart performer. Marshall has with 30 years' experience in the biggest clubs in the city, and tours regularly throughout the United States.

**Usama Siddiquee**

A Muslim Bengali-American stand-up comedian and actor based in New York. He most recently traveled to Montreal as one of the new faces at Just For Laughs in 2018, shortly after he was passed at the world famous Comedy cellar in New York. He participated in the last season of America's Got Talent and is a rising star in the comedy world.

**Erik Angel**

Erik Angel is an Israeli-Jewish-American comedian now living in NYC and works as a commedian and producer. Angel established Comedy For Peace in March, 2019. Angel performs regularly in clubs in New York and LA, in addition to shows in Israel, Italy, Poland, Tokyo and Moscow. Angel's comedy deals with the fact that he is a new immigrant in his 40's, freshly married, who discovers for the first time in his life that he is Jewish and speaks English Falafel 24/7. Erik Angel's comedy is very surprising and clever, with high energy.

**Tickets are \$10 per person. Register at [JewishTulsa.org/ComedyforPeace](http://JewishTulsa.org/ComedyforPeace) or email Chen Shoal with questions [Emissary@jewishtulsa.org](mailto:Emissary@jewishtulsa.org)**

# The Holiday of Holidays

by CHEN SHOVAL, ISRAELI EMISSARY

I grew up in Rosh Ha'ayin, a small town next to the Tel Aviv region. Growing up, there were not many places to hang out. Kfar Kasem, an Arab village next to mine, was 5 minutes away from my house. I remember waking up to the sounds of prayers coming from the speakers in the mosque. As a teenager, my friends and I used to go out to eat Hummus, Shop for Chachkes, or just have lunch after school. Because of this exposure I thought I knew what "co-existence" was.

Later in my life I moved to Haifa, known in Israel as the "co-exist" city. The British saw Haifa as a model of shared life between Jews and Arabs; the first mayor of the city was an Arab man and every immigrant to the city learned both Arabic and Hebrew to get a job. That was before the state of Israel was established. After 1948 many of the city's Arabs left/were forced to leave (depends on who you ask) and the majority of the city population became Jewish. Despite these facts, the character of the city remained as a "co-exist" city.

I lived there for almost four years. My first encounter with an Arab was at the building where I lived. It was in an ultra-orthodox neighborhood. We stood outside the building talking for about 15 minutes. I learned he studied in Haifa University where I was going to study. He was a psychologist and lived with his wife and children. Only after I asked him for his name did I understand he was an Arab married to a Jewish woman living in a building of Hassidic Jews. That's when I understood I didn't yet know what "co-existence" meant.

Living in Haifa was very interesting and different for me. First, the size of the city was new. Second, having to climb four floors with grocery bags to get to my home was often exhausting. But what was so fascinating was the "co-existence" and culture of respect in the city. The reason I use quotation marks is because it's not perfect 'co-existence', but it's the best we have in Israel.

The best example that exists in Haifa would be the Holiday of Holidays created to celebrate the three main religious holidays in December: Hanukkah, Christmas,

and sometimes Ramadan. Incidentally, the majority of Christians in Israel are Arabs. This holiday started as an initiative of Biet HaGefen, a community center for Jews, Muslims and Christians that offered after-school programs, adult activities, and even theaters. In 1993 they decided to combine the holiday celebrations into one big holiday: the Holiday of Holidays. Even today every weekend in December there is a festival in the neighborhood where Beit HaGefen and the German colony are located. There are concerts, markets, kid's arts and crafts, street performances, and much more. Since '93 people from all over Israel visit; Jewish Israelis come to see Christmas holiday decorations because most Israeli towns don't have them. We have Sufganiyot (donuts) in the bakeries and Dreidels in the shops.



*Haifa, Israel - December 29, 2019: The Holiday of Holidays in the German Colony, with a Christmas tree, Hanukkah Menorah, Muslim Crescent and the Baha'i shrine, in Haifa, Israel*

I think it doesn't matter why Israelis attend the festival. Whether it is to see the Christmas lights, to light a candle in the huge Menorah, to have hot wine, or to enjoy the fun activities and atmosphere. A great message comes from Haifa: You can live next to each other with a different faith and even benefit from the experience.

Coming to Tulsa and seeing the interfaith life here with the variety of organizations, programs, and shared lives made it ever more clear to me that we can live with each other, we can care for each other, we can learn about each other, and see the differences as the beauty in the other.

Next month we will have a comedy show especially for young Tulsa adults presented by Comedy 4 Peace. This crew is made up of Jewish, Muslim and Christian comedians who will, in a fun and humorous way, send the same message: by knowing each other's faith we can understand each other better. ■



*Chen Shoval*

# Programming for Everyone

by ISABELLA SILBERG, PROGRAM COORDINATOR

As I approach my one and a half year anniversary as program coordinator at the Jewish Federation of Tulsa, I am incredibly proud of the growth of JFT engagement. Our community has endured the ups and downs of a global pandemic, trying our best to connect through Zooms, to in-person activities, and hybrid programs but has proven to be resilient and adaptive every step of the way.

We live in an ever-changing technological, globalized, media driven, fast-paced, instant-gratification world. We are constantly reinventing ourselves and changing, based upon the times in which we live. We try to walk a fine line between those who came before us and those who will lead us into the future. With that being said, our young Jewish professional community has grown over 50% in the last year. I have seen the growth of new leaders taking on committee responsibilities and sharing their ideas and passions which has led to co-planning programs with me, and lots of new Jewish Tulsans coming out of the woodwork looking to get plugged in. I am extremely thrilled to see this type of growth in our community and know there's even more growth to come. However, our work is not over yet!

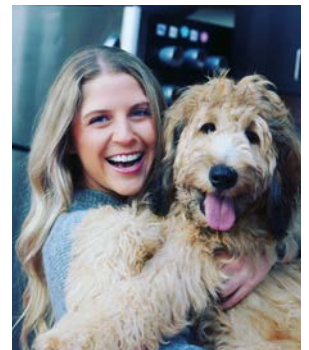
When the Pew Research Study findings were released in 2021, it was found that about four-in-ten married Jews (42%) have a non-Jewish spouse. This was a statistic and niche area that I feel correlates to our community and an important area to consider while gathering and creating engaging programming. Israeli Emissary, Chen Shoval and I have worked together to make interfaith education programming a high priority and have had great success planning innovative ways to teach Jewish values and traditions to our non-Jewish partners and friends. For example, our Sip 'N Snack program attracted over 30 young Jewish professionals, some with a non-Jewish partner to learn about the seven species of Sukkot. With young families teaching Judaism in their household, we want to make sure parents have the tools and support they need to teach traditions, values, and identity.

I have been in communications with Jewish Tulsans of all ages to understand their wants and needs for programming that helps to enrich their Jewish identity and how each individual experiences Judaism in Tulsa. For example, Our Men's Club group showed interest in gathering back in person and enjoying each other's company in addition to a lunch meal and guest speaker from the Tulsa community and beyond. Our Men's Club group has almost tripled in size, peaking at our highest attended meeting at the end of October with 22 attendees. Our PJ Library programs have reached a new high of serving 70 active families, a number that continues to grow.

As an organization, we strive to meet the needs of our constituents, long-standing and new, to explore their Judaism through a variety of program opportunities. Some will plug in and out, some opt for traditional practice, and others find spiritual and cultural fulfillment in bringing Jewish values and traditions to a weekend at Grand Lake, a yoga session at a brewery, or Hanukkah celebration with fellow young Jewish professionals. And yet, our Jewish values within the community remain unchanged and deeply rooted.

I am so proud of the growth of our Jewish community engagement over the last year and a half. I will continue to plan programs that cater to specific wants and needs of all ages while always keeping the foundation of Jewish life and inclusivity at the epicenter of it all. I hope you will join us for one of our upcoming programs. If you need help finding what events are right for your unique interests, please don't hesitate to get in touch! ■

ISilberg@jewishtulsa.org



Isabella Silberg



On December 9th, a group of nine young Jewish professionals from the

community will attend the IAC National Summit in South Florida. This conference is organized by the Israel American Council, an organization that builds an engaged and united Israeli-American community through its multi-generational approach. During the three days of the summit we will participate in lectures,

workshops and thought-provoking discussions regarding Israel, the United States and the controversial issues taking place in the Middle East today. Our goals for the trip and participating in the summit are to create a dialogue with young people from all across the US while putting Tulsa on the map and to discuss the complicated layers related to Israel and personal Jewish identity. Those attending the conference with us are the future leaders of the Tulsa Jewish community and it is important that they feel a personal connection in supporting a strong US-Israel relationship. We are excited to share what we learn in the January issue of the Review! ■

# 55 Years & Fabulous Celebrating Women in the Arts Museum Gala

by TRACEY HERST-WOODS, DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF THE SMMJA

Museum patrons gathered virtually on Sunday, October 24, 2021, via Zoom to celebrate the 55th Anniversary of the Sherwin Miller Museum of Jewish Art! This year's theme, **Celebrating Women in the Arts**, created a remarkable evening. The week prior to the Gala, females in the community participated in a one-of-a-kind art experience organized by Rebecca Joskey. Two of those pieces were auctioned off the night of the Gala. Thank you to all that participated.

A salmon dinner, created by Kate and Tuck Curren of Biga, was provided for pick-up prior to the Gala. Guests enjoyed a performance by the Mosaic Duo. This violin and harp duo was a musical delight. Continuing with the theme, guests were entertained with the poetic grace of our keynote speaker, noted Jewish poet Erika Meitner. She enlightened the guests with some of her powerful poetry. Erika's presentation ended with a witty and sometimes funny question and answer repartee with Gala Chair, Nancy Wolov.

During the course of the evening, the Museum made a special presentation to the family of Katharine Penson Miller honoring her legacy by dedicating the Katharine

Penson Miller Fine Arts Gallery in her memory. The evening featured a virtual musical tour of the temporary exhibit Celebrating Female Artists. Many thanks to the 55 Years & Fabulous committee who adapted again, when the decision was made to move solely to a virtual format: Gala Chair, Nancy Wolov, for all your hard work and endearing personality, for inspiring all of us with your vision and drive; Board Chair, Angie Stolper, for being the calming voice and consistently doing what was needed; all the local contributors to the artwork by female artists, you helped create an amazing exhibit like no other.

A special thank you to all event patrons and donors for your generous contributions. These gifts support educational, cultural, and historical programs, as well as Museum operations to further the mission of preserving and promoting Jewish heritage, culture, history, and community through art and education. The SMMJA community and supporters are the reason the Museum continues to thrive and succeed. THANK YOU! ■

## DOUBLE PLATINUM

Ruth Nelson

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Diane Wolff

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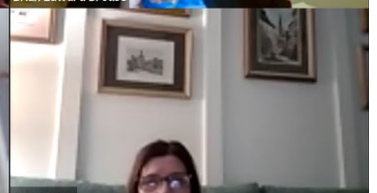
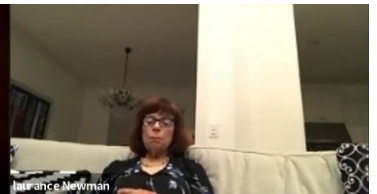
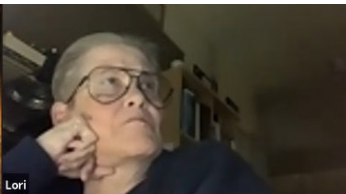
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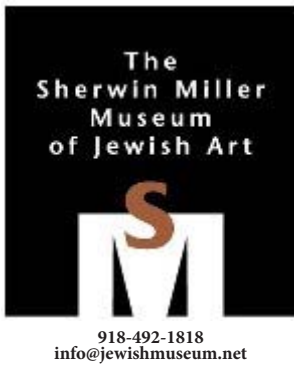
# 55

YEARS &

# Fabulous

CELEBRATING WOMEN IN THE ARTS





**Fine Art Two Times-Photography by Tracey Herst-Woods-Original Art by George Tobolowsky**  
**Now - January 2022**

The style of fine art photography is using the another artist's original work and creating a new piece of art out of the photographers vision. The goal of fine art photography is to express an idea, a message, or evoke an emotion through the camera lens of the photographer, by doing so, the photographer showcases the other artist's inner magic.



**New Patterns - Simon Waranch Glass Exhibit**  
**Now - January 2, 2022**

Fire, metal, wood. These eternal, essential elements commingle through Simon Waranch's skillful creativity, forming a uniquely identifiable body of work. Waranch, still a college student, is primarily a glass artist. He has been refining his craft since being introduced to it while still in high school. Waranch's dedication and innate talent has opened doors to mentorships with glass artists across the country and around the world. Though the experiences of engaging with these masters inform his work,

Waranch continues to bring something new to the dialogue. His current explorations with metal and wood reinforce his ability to continue to move the needle forward while working with these timeless materials.



**Jews Rock**

This permanent exhibit is now open featuring photographs of music's Jewish icons through the lens of photojournalist Janet Macoska. Also featured are hand-painted guitars by Oklahoma artists showcasing Jewish musicians.



**Oklahoma WWII Veterans Memorial**

The Memorial is now open to the public and honors the men and women who served in World War II.



**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.



**Women's Art from the Community and the SMMJA Collection**  
**Now-Dec.**

Although 60% of Master of Fine Arts students are women, female artists only make up 30% 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.



**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.



**November 11th Veteran's Day Open House Event Photos (from left to right)**

Millie Woodfin, docent-in-training Linda Brooks, an Navy veteran Thomas Woodfin  
 WWII veteran Frank Reisinger  
 Army veteran Bruce Arnold  
 Lisa McCury with Husband and Vietnam veteran Dennis McCury

**Page 11 - 55 and Fabulous Gala Photo Descriptions:**

- A - Rebecca Joskey leads Amanda Anderson in painting the murals to be auctioned at the gala
- B - Gala keynote speaker Erika Meitner
- C - Females in the Community participate in a one-of-a-kind art experience organized Rebecca Joskey
- D - Performance by the Mosaic Duo
- E - Zoom snapshot of gala participants

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## Playing to Learn at Mizel JCDS

by AMANDA ANDERSON, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF MIZEL JEWISH COMMUNITY DAYSCHOOL

Ten years ago, the first educational experience many young children received was around age 5 in kindergarten. Social norms and behaviors such as how to play nice with others, walk to and from classrooms, clean up their own areas, etc. were taught at this time. However, nowadays, students are expected to have mastered these social norms and behaviors by the time they enter kindergarten. Thus, the big push for students to attend early childhood programs.

The Oklahoma Play to Learn Act, which was passed in May 2021, focuses on the importance of child-centered, play-based learning as the most developmentally appropriate way for young children to learn. Legislative supporters of the act have stated “play is a child’s innate way of learning and a natural avenue to discover new things and generate questions from their environment. Play-to-learn methodologies foster the development of imagination, curiosity, and enthusiasm in students, which we know from research, leads to innovation and critical thinking skills.” As a result, play-based learning is becoming ever apparent in early childhood classrooms.

In our three and four-year-old programs, students are developing and fine-tuning their emotional growth, creating and maintaining friendships, increasing their vocabulary by speaking in longer sentences, and acquiring physical skills much earlier. Our teachers can create learning environments to promote movement, creative expression, exploration, socialization and reading for pleasure, among other skills. All while following state standards and doing what is best for their students.

Learning does not have to take place sitting behind a desk and in a quiet environment. Education is ever-evolving, and practices are changing. So, if you walk past a classroom and see controlled chaos, students playing pretend, or even painting up to their elbows, they are more than likely learning. ■



*Mizel first and second graders perform a song at the Thanksgiving Feast luncheon*

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Mizel Chanukah Celebration

# HOLIDAY MART

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Friday, December 24th	_____	Closed all day
Saturday, December 25th	_____	Closed all day
Thursday, December 30th	_____	Close at 5pm
Friday, December 31st	_____	Closed all day
Saturday, January 1st	_____	Closed all day

**DECEMBER FITNESS CHALLENGE  
NOON CLASS PROMOTIONS**

All December, join us for any noon fitness class and be entered to win one of five \$50 gift cards. Go to [csjcc.org/fitness-schedule](http://csjcc.org/fitness-schedule) to view the full fitness class schedule.

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**SCHOOL'S OUT  
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8:30am-4:30pm  
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[www.csjcc.org/schools-out-programs](http://www.csjcc.org/schools-out-programs)

**Save The Date**  
Saturday, February 5, 2022

**TRIVIA NIGHT**

**JCC**  
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# Come Visist 2021 Kristallnacht Art Contest Winners

by NANCY PETTUS, DIRECTOR OF HOLOCAUST EDUCATION

Comments such as “I think every project should win first prize.” and “They all broke my heart.” could be heard among our 2021 Kristallnacht Art Contest judges as they struggled to choose the three prize winners in the High School and Middle School divisions and then select 10 Honorable Mention projects at each level from our group of 45 entries. Taking their task very seriously, Zarrow Pointe residents Arlene Chemers, Marilyn Kulick, and Isrella Taxon read each artist’s statement and earnestly pondered the merit of each artistic creation. The criteria used to evaluate the pieces were: historical accuracy; originality; attention to detail; and work/time investment. A HUGE thank you, judges, for your time and expertise. I know it was not an easy task.

For the past 3 years our Kristallnacht Art Contest has offered Fall semester students an opportunity

to showcase art from area schools that reflects the artist’s(s) response(s) to their study of Kristallnacht. As a secondary goal, our hope is to generate an interest in the study of the Holocaust among the teachers and students we encounter. I would like to recognize and thank the five participating schools and their teachers: Jenks HS, teacher Christina Henson; Skiatook HS, teacher Katrina Morrison; Broken Arrow Centennial MS, teacher Courtney Cunningham; and All Saints Catholic MS, teacher Holly Proctor. Prize money in each division is: 1st Prize: \$250; 2nd Prize: \$150 and 3rd Prize: \$50. Congratulations to the winners, honorable mention, teachers, and all who participated.

Student art will be on display in the Sharna Newman Frank Education Gallery at the Jewish Federation of Tulsa for the next month. We welcome you to visit and enjoy Kristallnacht’s artistic and insightful interpretation, as reflected in these students’ creations.



*back row, left to right: Jude Kuehnert, Seamus Loller, Tanner Thach, Phillip Hughes, Holly Proctor, teacher  
front row: Nancy Pettus, Owen Govier, Claire Goodman, Jaelin Brooks*

## KRISTALLNACHT ART CONTEST - HONORABLE MENTION

### All Saints Catholic Middle School

Joelin Brooks, The Silence in the Night  
Tanner Thatch, Kristallnacht: Night of Shattering Lives  
Owen Govier, Silence on the Hill  
Phillip Hughes, Jewish Fire and Ice  
Seamus Loller, Fade

### Jenks High School

Ayden Yahn, Star of Broken Glass  
Jacob Vincent, The Struggle  
Sara Bence, Taylor Rafferty, The House of Glass  
Alexander Beck, Shattered Glass  
Emma Woodard, Questions  
Isalas Brano Segura, Embers of Hatred  
Yulisa Sanchez-Ceron, Concentration Camp Uniform  
Caitlin Keeling, Shattered View  
Cameron Mitchell, Reflection  
Mason Morrison, Ethan McClain, Synagogue in flames

### Centennial Middle School in BA

Giselle Guadalupe-Gomez, The Child  
Emily Bickle, Mariah Rodriguez, Gerry Rivas, Taylin Anderson, Synagogue Flames  
Hudson Lott, Gabriel Wilson, Runaway Fire  
Kalel Patel, Dark Silence  
Lila Harrison, Lillian Schmeiling, Lost  
Reed Duin, Shooting Star

## KRISTALLNACHT ART CONTEST - MIDDLE SCHOOL DIVISION WINNERS

First Place (A)  
**“The Secret Under the Rubble”**  
by **Jude Kuehnert**  
All Saints Catholic School  
Award \$250

Second Place (B)  
**“Reaching for Help”**  
by **Claire Goodman**  
All Saints Catholic School  
Award \$150

Third Place (C)  
**“The Four Faces”**  
by **Aiden Kim, Roxy Orozco,  
Icker Poras, and Kaycee  
Blackford**  
Broken Arrow Middle School  
Award \$50

## KRISTALLNACHT ART CONTEST - HIGH SCHOOL DIVISION WINNERS

First Place (D)  
**“Lost Knowledge”**  
by **Sylvana McClure**  
Jenks High School  
Award \$250

Second Place (E)  
**“No One Wants You”**  
by **Isabella Simpson**  
Jenks High School  
Award \$150

Third Place (F)  
**“Through the Storefront”**  
by **Jackson Calder**  
Jenks High School  
Award \$50



## We Must Not Remain Silent

by NANCY PETTUS, DIRECTOR OF HOLOCAUST EDUCATION



*Dr. John K. Roth*

“Believe in truth”; “Be as courageous as you can”; “Set an example for generations to come”; a mere snippet of the power-packed presentation by Dr. John K. Roth, our 2021 Kristallnacht Remembrance keynote speaker, whose words of wisdom were delivered via Zoom to an audience of over 75 at such a pace that I gave up on taking notes. Dr. Roth, whose credentials are a story in itself, spoke with a potent sensitivity in conveying his message that it’s not OK to stand by idly in the face of injustice. It’s not OK to fall victim to a stupidity that makes people...” capable of any evil and at the same time incapable of seeing that it is evil.” Using example after example, Dr. Roth argued convincingly that the consequences of being a bystander pose a serious threat to our democracy. His urgent message to defend our fragile democracy by being “patriots who believe in truth, take nothing good for granted, and act as courageously as we can “were rightly intended to shake our complacency. Thank you, Dr. Roth, for opening our eyes to the dangers of diverting our eyes with indifference from the principles for which our democracy stands.



**A Federation Farewell to Debbie O'Hearn  
Thank you for 31 years!**



After 31 years, Executive Assistant Debbie O'Hearn has announced her retirement at the end of this year. Debbie has been a treasure at the Jewish Federation of Tulsa office handling numerous job duties for six executive directors: Nathan Loshak, David Bernstein, Perry Simon, Barry Abels, Drew Diamond, and current Director Aida Nozick.

Debbie has worn so many hats over the years the mere title of Executive Assistant doesn't do justice. Just a few of the projects she has taken on include room rental coordinator, garden manager, Tulsa Jewish Review editor, community directory coordinator, and phone administrator. Her additional tasks are too numerous to include, but the importance remains—Debbie did anything needed to pitch in and keep the Federation running smoothly.

Although Debbie is retiring from the Federation, she isn't quite ready to sit at home. Her next adventure is working full-time for The Silver Gallery, a jewelry business she has worked seasonally for the past 12 years. Debbie is thrilled to be offered this opportunity because the job includes traveling to various cities in the US, which she loves.

"I have so many favorite memories working at the Federation," states Debbie. "I wouldn't know where to begin. I have met so many wonderful people over the years and have memories I will always cherish." When asked what she will miss working at the Jewish Federation Debbie stated, "the people I will miss the most...and what I won't miss is taking minutes at meetings!"

Luckily for us, Debbie still plans to attend events in the Jewish community. After 31 years, I think we can all agree Debbie is an honorary Jew! The Board and Directors and staff will miss Debbie and thank her tremendously for her hard work, loyalty, and dedication to helping make the Jewish Federation of Tulsa a better place. You will be missed! ■

## Meet the new faces of the Federation Staff

Hello, I'm Jim Gilbert. I am the new Facilities Manager here at the Jewish Federation of Tulsa. I am excited to have the opportunity to work with a great team and the Jewish community. Some of my background is being a Director of Operations for the University of Oklahoma physical Rehabilitation Hospital for more than 10yrs. I worked at City Plex Towers as the lead technician and coordination over facility electrical department. I have been a licensed operating engineer through the City of Tulsa since 1988 and I hold an Oklahoma boiler operators license. I enjoy home projects and traveling. I also like going out to eat with friends and family and trying different restaurants. ■



Hello everyone! My name is Katherine Jackson and I am the new Accounting Associate at the Federation. In my role, I assist with all financial tasks for both the Jewish Federation of Tulsa and the Sherwin Miller Museum of Jewish Art. Prior to working here, I worked for a local manufacturing company for 18 years. I most recently worked as an Inventory Analyst and prior to that I worked 12 years in accounting. When I am not at work, I enjoy spending time with my family. I am married to my high school sweetheart and we just recently celebrated our 24th wedding anniversary! We have one daughter who lives in Missouri and is attending MSSU to become a teacher. We also have one fur baby, a border collie named Bodie. ■



David Dopp



Levi Olsen



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## Community Corner

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### **Samantha Marilyn Cortez, daughter of Enrique and Margarita Cortez, will become a Bat Mitzvah on December 11th, 2021.**

Samantha is a seventh grader at Oklahoma Information and Technology School. She participated in Mathcounts Club, Science Olympias Club, and Music Club. She enjoys traveling, listening to music, dancing, and spending time with family and friends. Samantha has attended B'nai Emunah Sunday school, Hebrew Language Lab and is looking forward to Midrasha next year. For two years she has belonged to Zemer (Synagogue Youth Choir). She has enjoyed participating in the Hannukah performances as she loves to sing. Samantha has two older siblings, Maren and Enrique Cortez. She is the granddaughter of Mario Sosa and Rita Cardenas of Saltillo Coahuila, Mexico, and Javier Hernandez and Aurora Alvarez of Saltillo Coahuila, Mexico.

She is thrilled to lead services in person surrounded by her family and friends. Preparations for her Bar Mitzvah have been led by Katherine Sandler and Sara Levitt. The community is invited to join the Cortez family for services at 9:30a.m. in person or through Zoom at the Synagogue's Zoom Room. The meeting ID is 918 583 7121.

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### **Zeki Gavriel Jacobs, son of Michael and Jennifer Jacobs, will become a Bar Mitzvah on December 18, 2021.**

Zeki is a seventh grader at Monte Cassino. Always the athlete, he runs cross country and plays soccer and basketball with school and competitive teams. He is a graduate of Zarrow International School's Spanish immersion program. He's learning to play guitar and loves spending time with friends.

Zeki has attended B'nai Emunah Sunday school, Hebrew Language Lab, and Midrasha, and is currently a madrich for the second grade Sunday School class. He has enjoyed summers at Camp Shalom for nine years and has been a Counselor-In-Training for the last two. Zeki has two siblings, Lilah (17) and Tyger (11). He is the grandson of Jeanne Jacobs of Tulsa, OK, and Ellen and Barry Zilin of Woodbridge, VA.

On June 5, 2021, the originally planned, pre-pandemic ceremony date, Zeki led virtual services online and chanted his first Haftarah portion from home. He is now looking forward to the opportunity to lead services in person surrounded by family and friends.

Preparations for his Bar Mitzvah have been led by Kathy Sandler and Sara Levitt. The community is invited to join the Jacobs family for services at 9:30 a.m. in the Synagogue Zoom Room. The meeting ID is 918 583 7121.

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### **Congratulations to Erla Pease and John Sieler on their engagement (wedding)**

John and Erla have been together for over ten years. They decided that the pandemic has brought them even closer and it would be a nice time to celebrate nuptials. The bride's daughter, Robyn Pease Barr, lives in England and the groom's daughter, Hannah Sieler Sowle, lives in Seattle. They and their husbands will (were able to) come to Tulsa for the family celebration. The couple will honeymoon with their families in Puerto Vallarta, Mexico.

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### **Call The Woof Pack Tulsa for All your Dog Walking Needs**

Dog walker Miles Zeligson began *The Woof Pack Tulsa* dog walking business in October 2021.

When you live a busy life, it is hard to consistently provide the attention and care that your pets can demand. That's where The Woof Pack comes in! Our dog walking services not only provide your dog with needed exercise, but also engage minds so that you can come home to a satisfied dog. When you hire a dog walker, it allows a dog's human to get out of the house and do some of the things they can't otherwise do! Miles also started The Woof Pack because he knows his work matters to dogs. Knowing his own dogs have been home alone while he's been gone, being a dog walker means knowing that each day he's making a dog really happy and healthier! And lastly – it's nice to know that someone's always happy to see you. Not everyone can say that about their job! No matter what kind of mood I'm in when I start my day, I always smile at how happy my canine clients are to see me.

The Woof Pack provides dog walking and dog pop-in services. Walks services are Monday-Friday and pop-ins on the weekends and holidays if scheduled ahead of time.

Fun Fact: The majority of dog owners (79 percent) think their dog should be walked at least twice a day, but 57 percent say they skip dog walks every week. Thirty eight percent of owners actually walk their dog once or less per day.

[www.thewoofpacktulsa.com](http://www.thewoofpacktulsa.com)





*Samantha Cortez*



*Zeki Gavriel Jacobs*



*John Sieler and Erla Pease*



*Miles Zeligson*

# It's not too late to save a life in Israel this year.



For more than 90 years, American donors have provided vehicles, training, and supplies to Israel's national paramedic and Red Cross service, equipping them to treat the sick and injured under the most difficult circumstances and to save lives.

In fact, this past year Magen David Adom's 30,000 EMTs and paramedics have been on the front lines in the fight against coronavirus while also contending with terrorist and rocket attacks, riots, car accidents, and other threats to Israeli lives.

If you want to make a real difference in Israel, no other organization has a greater impact on its people than Magen David Adom.

**Make an end-of-year donation at [afmda.org/saving-lives-2021](https://afmda.org/saving-lives-2021)**



**Saving lives. It's in our blood.**

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## BBYO Tulsa Kallah - A Truly Meaningful Experience

by CLAIRE AND JULIA BUTKIN

Each year the Tulsa BBYO community embarks upon a weekend retreat in Henryetta to engage in self exploration and bonding activities. This year over 30 teens made the journey to explore their Jewish identity, build relationships, and make new friends.

Tulsa BBYO is a strong community of teens who are compassionate leaders and learners who truly care for one another. This tight connection can be seen throughout the year at various events but is especially highlighted at Tulsa Kallah, where teens eat, sleep, play, hang out, and learn together.

Kallah weekend is centered around a yearly theme. Past themes have been justice, self-control and identity. The theme is kept secret by the planning committee and is revealed on the first night of Kallah. This year event planners Eliana Joels, Liam Johnson and Claire Butkin chose trust as the theme. Trust is such an integral aspect of life for all people but especially adolescents. Over the weekend, we explored what it means to trust someone, what it means to trust the government, what it means to trust yourself, and even what it means to trust your

religion. These deep discussions, along with powerful workshops led by Rabbi Dan Kaiman, fun programming, and beautiful services steered by international BBYO song leaders, Happie Hoffman and Eric Hunker, provided Tulsa's Jewish youth with an impactful and unforgettable weekend that will continue to challenge their views on trust. Hallie Sternblitz, the regional president stated, "Tulsa Kallah is an example for what all BBYO conventions should be".

The thoughtful programming centered around Jewish identity and trust was plenty of fun. We had a screen-free weekend with plenty of outdoor time, a football game, group activities, and of course, a talent show that provided lots of laughs!

The BBYO community is strong all over the world, but Tulsa is different. This is because of the connections the teens have for each other and bonds formed at events like Kallah. We are grateful to David Finer for putting his heart and soul into making Tulsa BBYO a special time in our lives! ■



# The Tulsa Tomorrow Experience

by REBEKAH KANTOR, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF TULSA TOMORROW

For what seemed like yesterday but also a lifetime ago, Tulsa Tomorrow hosted their first cohort of prospective new Tulsans since October of 2019. In true fashion the weekend consisted of Jewish community introductions, sightseeing, networking with some of Tulsa's leading professionals and community influencers, and more.

A full Tulsa Tomorrow weekend doesn't lack the experience of dinner in the home of a local. Not only did we enjoy Havdalah with the nice Tulsa Fall weather outside at David Finer's, but we also had a meaningful Shabbat dinner in Rebekah Kantor's family home. Nothing says "Welcome to Tulsa" more than this!

To further introduce our visitors to the Jewish community, clergy from Temple Israel, B'nai Emunah, and Chabad provided their insight on their congregations and community involvement. We were fortunate enough to have a personal, abbreviated visit at The Sherwin Miller Museum of Jewish Art and a tour of all the JCC has to offer. Our facilities are truly remarkable and state of the art!

Between driving through neighborhoods and walking the streets of downtown with Jeffrey Tanenhaus, it's surprising if this wasn't the highlight of the trip! There's nothing like being a tourist in your own city and learning about the history and culture of Tulsa with those who are thinking about moving here.

If the Gathering Place isn't inspiring, who knows what is!? It's not hard to believe that "the best city park in the country" puts Tulsa on the map. Above all, George Kaiser led an impactful tour for our group and was able to touch on all the work he's doing to better the city of Tulsa. Talk about "Wow"!

For all the remote-working candidates, 36 Degrees North offers the perfect office space on weekdays. This co-working space will make their transition easier and give them the opportunity to meet other young professionals and entrepreneurs in Tulsa. If not, TYPROS is one of the best organizations in town, making it easy to find other young professionals with like-minded interests or goals for making Tulsa a better place to live in. During the Tulsa Tomorrow Weekend, all of the visitors had the opportunity to visit with members of each organization and establishment to learn more about community involvement and co-working in Tulsa.

Turkey Mountain Urban Wilderness encompasses over 300 acres of rugged park land located only a few miles from Tulsa's vibrant downtown. The landscape creates a sense of being far from city life, with visitors surrounded by a thick canopy of trees including native Post and Blackjack Oak, Hickory, Redbud and other species. Many of the visitors

enjoyed a relaxing walk with their peers in an unexpected part of Tulsa.

For those interested in music and culture, the trip offered the options to visit the Woody Guthrie Center and Greenwood Rising. Woody Guthrie was one of the first artists who realized the power of his craft to create social change. He became a voice for those who were disenfranchised and a source of power for those who needed strength. Today, Woody is an inspiration to realize the power of your own voice. His message is still relevant and vital in the fight for equality and justice. Greenwood Rising tells the remarkable and resilient story of Greenwood and its community by finally bringing this story to vivid life on the very site where Black Wall Street used to stand.

Away from the "serious" and onto the "fun," each night ended with groups of Tulsa's young Jewish adults gathering with the cohort at local bars and, need it be said, Oktoberfest! What a way to end the trip experiencing one of the best festivals in Tulsa for a genuine good time!

In a full packed 3.5 days in Tulsa, Tulsa Tomorrow brought 18 candidates to experience the city from a unique perspective. Tulsa Tomorrow has received a 5-star rating on the trip survey and is excited to begin the next steps of facilitating a relocation for several interested participants.

Curious how you can help future new Tulsans? Contact Rebekah Kantor for ways to get involved, whether big or small! [TulsaTomorrow@gmail.com](mailto:TulsaTomorrow@gmail.com) ■



*Tulsa Tomorrow October 2021 Cohort visits the Center of the Universe Landmark with Tulsa Tour's Jeffrey Tanenhaus*



# The Jewish Tulsan Librarian of Congress©

by PHIL GOLDFARB

The Librarian of Congress is the head of the Library of Congress, appointed by the president of the United States with the advice and consent of the United States Senate. The Librarian of Congress appoints the U.S. poet laureate and awards the Gershwin Prize for Popular Song as well as having broad responsibilities around copyright, extending to electronic resources and fair use provisions. From 1802 to date, there have only been 14 Librarians of Congress. The only Jewish one who grew up in Tulsa was the 12th Librarian of Congress, Daniel J. Boorstin.

Daniel Joseph Boorstin was born October 1, 1914, in Atlanta, Georgia to Jewish attorney Samuel Aaron Boorstin (1887-1967) and his wife Dora Olsan Boorstin (1894-1948), both who are buried at Rose Hill cemetery in Tulsa. His grandparents on both sides of his family were Russian-Jewish immigrants. Samuel, who participated in the defense of Leo Frank, a Jewish factory superintendent in Atlanta, Georgia who was accused and convicted of the rape and murder of a 13-year-old girl. After Frank's 1915 lynching led to a surge of anti-Semitic sentiment in Georgia, the family moved to Tulsa, Oklahoma, where Daniel Boorstin was raised and attended public schools. He graduated from Tulsa's Central High School in 1930, at the age of 15. While at Tulsa Central he was the President of the National Honor Society, on the school Speaker's Bureau, Debate Team and Student Senate. In the Central H.S. yearbook, he was listed as being "Tulsa High Schools Orator and Student Par Excellence."

Although Samuel wanted his son to go to the University of Oklahoma, become an attorney and join his own law firm, Daniel had other ideas. He entered Harvard College, which awarded him the bachelor's degree summa cum laude in 1934. As a Rhodes Scholar in 1934, he entered Balliol College, Oxford, from which he received his B.A. in Jurisprudence (first class honors) in 1936 and his Bachelor of Civil Laws (first class honors) in 1937. Simultaneously, he was enrolled as a student at the Inner Temple, London, and passed the English bar examinations. He became a Barrister-at-Law in 1937.

Boorstin returned to the United States in 1937 as a Sterling Fellow at Yale University Law School, where he worked toward a doctor of judicial science degree, which was awarded in 1940. From 1938 to 1942, he was an instructor on the faculty of Harvard University Law School, where he taught English, American history, literature, and also legal history. He was admitted to the Massachusetts bar in 1942.

While teaching at Harvard, he met his future wife, Ruth Carolyn Frankel (1917-2013) a Wellesley College graduate and the sister of a legal assistant who worked for him. They were married on April 9, 1941, and she became his most trusted partner, editor, and the mother of their three sons, Paul, Jon, and David. Their first collaboration was titled:

The Mysterious Science of the Law published by Harvard University Press in 1941.

After a brief tour as a lawyer with Franklin Roosevelt's Lend-Lease administration, Boorstin joined the faculty of Swarthmore College in 1942. In 1944 he left Swarthmore for the University of Chicago where he rose rapidly through the ranks of the history department, becoming a full professor in 1956. In 1966, he was appointed to an endowed chair, the Preston and Sterling Morton Distinguished Service Professor of History.

At the University of Chicago, he wrote *The Lost World of Thomas Jefferson* (1948), *The Genius of American Politics* (1953), and the first two volumes of *The Americans*, his analysis of American history and culture's distinctive characteristics.

In 1969, after a distinguished and productive 25-year academic career and many honors in the United States and abroad, Boorstin left the University of Chicago to become director and senior historian of the Smithsonian Institution's National Museum of History and Technology (today known as the National Museum of American History) from 1973-1975. Focusing on the Smithsonian's participation in the forthcoming U.S. Bicentennial in 1976, he brought new intellectual energy to the institution, along with exhibitions such as "A Nation of Nations" that provided a new, broad social context for a new generation of Smithsonian exhibitions.

President Gerald Ford nominated Boorstin to be Librarian of Congress and he served from November 12, 1975-September 14, 1987. For the first time in the Library's history, the new Librarian took the oath of office at a formal ceremony in the Library. Held in the Jefferson Building's Great Hall, the occasion symbolized what was to be a hallmark of the Boorstin administration... public emphasis on the institution's dual role as both a legislative and a national institution. The ceremony's participants included national leaders from both the legislative and the executive branches of government, including President Gerald Ford, Vice-President Nelson Rockefeller, and Speaker of the House Carl Albert (ironically, another Oklahoman born in McAlester and OU Alum), who administered the oath of office.

In 1976, Boorstin held a press conference to announce that he had discovered the contents of President Lincoln's pockets when he was assassinated in 1865. They had been in a wall safe in the Librarian's office. Boorstin had these artifacts put on public display, where they have become the most popular attraction for tourists visiting the American Treasures of the Library of Congress exhibition in the Library's Jefferson Building. He was instrumental in creating the American Folklife Center in 1976, and the Center for the Book in the Library of Congress in 1977.

A highlight of the Boorstin administration was the occupancy of the new James Madison Memorial Building in 1980; when it opened, it was the largest library building in the world. In collaboration with Architect of the Capitol, Boorstin initiated legislation, approved in 1984, that eventually led to the renovation and restoration of the Library's two older structures, the Jefferson (1897) and Adams (1939) Buildings. The Mary Pickford Theatre in the Madison Building, opened in 1983, greatly enhanced public access to the Library's unparalleled motion picture collections.

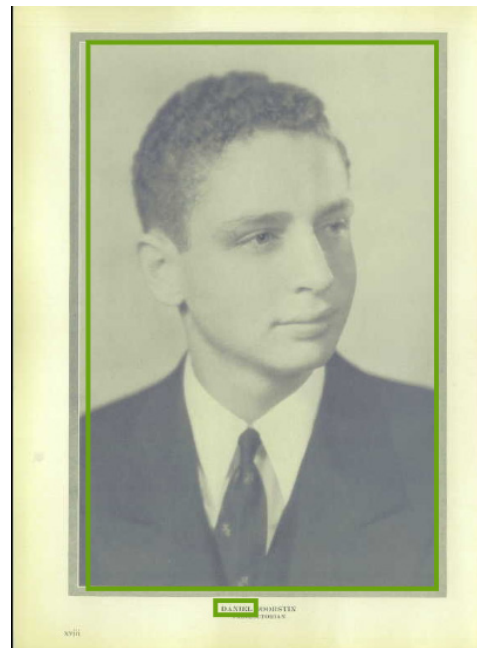
On July 21, 1987, the House of Representatives approved a bill designating Boorstin as Librarian of Congress Emeritus. The Senate concurred to the House amendment on July 22, and it was signed into law by President Reagan on August 4, 1987.

Throughout his career, Boorstin was a prolific author with Ruth as his collaborator and wrote more than 20 books. He continued his work as an historian while Librarian of Congress, carefully pointing out that his research and writing took place in the morning at home—and not at the Library. His books include the trilogy: *The Americans: The Colonial Experience* (1958), which won the Bancroft Prize; *The Americans: The National Experience* (1965), which won the Parkman Prize; and *The Americans: The Democratic Experience* (1973), which won the Pulitzer Prize; *The Genius of American Politics* (1953); *The Image* (1962); and his world history trilogy: *The Discoverers* (1983), *The Creators* (1992), and *The Seekers* (1998).

He held twenty honorary degrees, including an honorary Doctor of Laws from the University of Tulsa and Doctor of Letters from Oglethorpe University in 1994. He was inducted into the Tulsa Hall of Fame in 1989 and received the Oklahoma Book Award in 1993 for *The Creators*. The Boorstin Collection is housed at the University of Oklahoma Bizzell Library

Boorstin retired in 1987, saying that he wanted to do full-time writing. He died of pneumonia February 28, 2004, in Washington D.C. Ruth Boorstin died on December 1, 2013, in Encino, California.

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



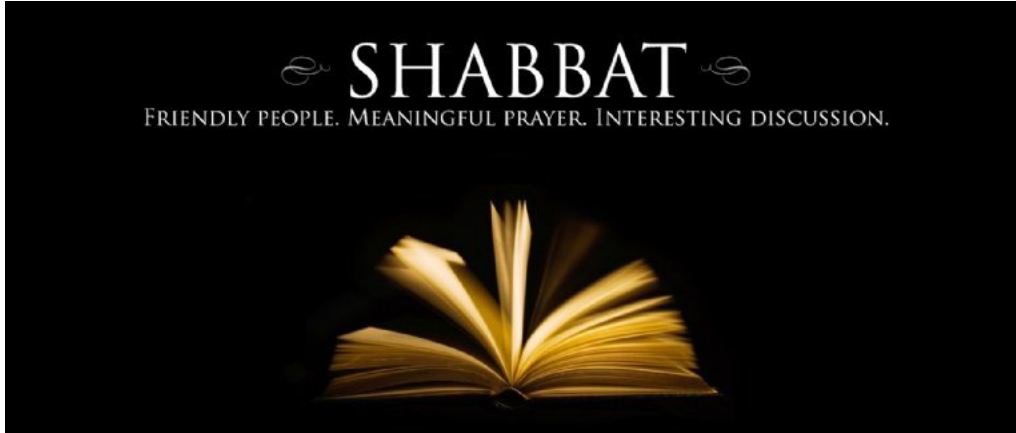
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**In Case You Missed it - Nov 28th Light Up Tulsa Chanukah Caravan**





### Two Rabbis And...

Every Friday, December 3, 10, 17, 31 • 11 a.m.

Rabbis Kaiman and Fitzerman convene a weekly conversation to foreground news of the day, interview special guests, and talk about ideas relevant to Jewish community life. It's an ongoing conversation about our shared journey in a diverse, multicultural Jewish world. Join us on Zoom at 918 583 7121 for the recording. The resulting podcast is available on Spotify, iTunes, and the Synagogue website.

### Shabbat Together

Every Friday, December 3, 10, 17, 24, 31 • 5:30 p.m.

The portal moments of candle lighting, kiddush, and the first bite of challah, remind us that Shabbat is an ideal time to enjoy time in each other's company. Shabbat Together is a short, digital gathering where we take a few moments to connect with the whole community as we enter Shabbat. We hope that this experience will be especially meaningful to those who are mourning a loved one or observing the anniversary of a loss (yahrzeit). We'll 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

Shabbat Yachad Morning Celebration  
Every Saturday, December 4, 11, 18, 25 • 9:30 a.m.

Our tradition speaks of the special power that exists when people gather together for prayer. Panim el Panim is a live broadcast service on Zoom led by Rabbis Fitzerman and Kaiman. Rooted in the traditional practice of the Synagogue, we focus on the concerns of the liturgy, Torah study, and offering prayer for those in need of healing. Our handbook is a fully transliterated presentation of the Shabbat morning service with expert commentary and guidance. Shabbat Yachad is COVID-safe gathering in the Synagogue Sanctuary marking

our incremental return to life in three dimensions. We'll be digital on December 4 and 25, and three-dimensional on December 11 and 18. To take part in the digital celebration, join us in our Synagogue Zoom Room, Meeting ID: 918 583 7121. To participate in Shabbat Yachad, please make your reservation at tulsasynagogue.com.

### Baker's Dozen

Every Monday • Noon to 5:30 p.m.

Our cookie-baking program is in full swing and we need bakers! We are collecting cookies, bars, and single-serve baked goods and delivering them immediately to frontline workers around the city. All are invited to participate and any gift in any amount is appreciated. Please wear a mask and deliver your cookies to the designated table at The Synagogue entrance on Mondays from 12:00 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. If you have any questions, please contact Natalie Shaver at nshaver@bnaiemunah.com.

### Millennials: Stories of Refuge and Resettlement

Tuesday, December 2 • 7:00 p.m.

Join other young Jewish adults on Thursday, December 2nd at 7:00 p.m. for a powerful evening of storytelling. We'll hear from Tulsa community members who have come to our country as refugees and learn about their experiences along the way. Inspired by their stories, we'll hear from our own new Director of Refugee Resettlement, Amber Knecht, as to the ways in which we can support the Synagogue's new effort to support and resettle refugees in Tulsa. We'll be joined by Molly Bryant, Case Management Program Manager - Immigrant and Refugee Services at the YWCA and her team to help us better understand the full picture of support for this work in the larger Tulsa community. The evening begins with a Chanukah candle lighting and treats. For more information and to let us know you'll be joining us, please contact Natalie Shaver at nshaver@bnaiemunah.com.

### ToGather: Festival of Lights Sunday December 5 • 10:30 AM

Celebrate Hannukah with your friends at the Synagogue! Families with young children are invited to join us on Sunday morning at 10:30 a.m. for our ToGather experience. This month will be focused on Hannukah! We'll learn all about Hannukah, light candles, read a story, sing, eat a special holiday treat, and create

a beautiful craft just for Hannukah. Please be in touch with Morah Sara at slevitt@bnaiemunah.com to hold your spot or for questions.

### Winterlight

Sunday, December 5 • 6:00 p.m.

Join us for a Festival of Lights at the front door of the Synagogue on Sunday, December 5, at 6:00 pm. We'll light the menorah, frolic among the inflatables and carnival games, and celebrate the warmth and coziness of the season with the festive music of the Klay Kodesh band. Free latkes, donuts, hot chocolate, and more will be provided. All are invited to attend and no reservations are necessary. For more information, please visit the Synagogue website at www.tulsasynagogue.com.

### Blatt + Blue: Leona

Thursday, December 9 • 7:00 p.m.

Our ongoing film and television series, Blatt+Blue, spotlights the discussion leading skills of film and television enthusiasts David Blatt and Alice Blue. This month they will discuss Leona, Isaac Cherem's insightful and moving film about a young Jewish woman in Mexico City who finds herself torn between her family and her forbidden love. Join us on Thursday, December 9 at 7:00 p.m. for a lively discussion in our Synagogue Zoom room. The meeting ID is 918 583 7121.

### Bat Mitzvah of Samantha Cortez

Saturday, December 11 • 9:30 a.m.

We are happy to announce the coming celebration in honor of Samantha Cortez, daughter of Margarita Hernandez and Enrique Cortez, on December 11 at 9:30 a.m. For more information, please see Samantha's profile elsewhere in the Review.

### Braiding with Brae

Thursday, December 16 • 7:00 p.m.

Why do we braid challah? To make it beautiful. Our own Brae Riley is a talented braiding artist who regularly shares his accomplished artistry during our celebrations. Join us for one last workshop to develop your challah skills for the new year. Contact Natalie Shaver at nshaver@bnaiemunah.com to reserve your free dough and supplies 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. We'll put it in our home ovens and have fresh challah for Shabbat.



**Shabbat for Everyone**  
Friday, December 17 • 6:15 p.m.

We are excited to welcome all ages to our monthly Shabbat service. We'll begin with a festive meal and continue with the music and words of celebration in the Sanctuary. Please make your reservations on the Synagogue website at [www.tulsagogue.com](http://www.tulsagogue.com).

**Bar Mitzvah of Zeki Jacobs**  
Saturday, December 18 • 9:30 a.m.

We are happy to announce the coming celebration in honor of Zeki Jacobs, son of Jennifer and Michael Jacobs, on December 18 at 9:30 a.m. For more information, please see Zeki's profile elsewhere in the Review.

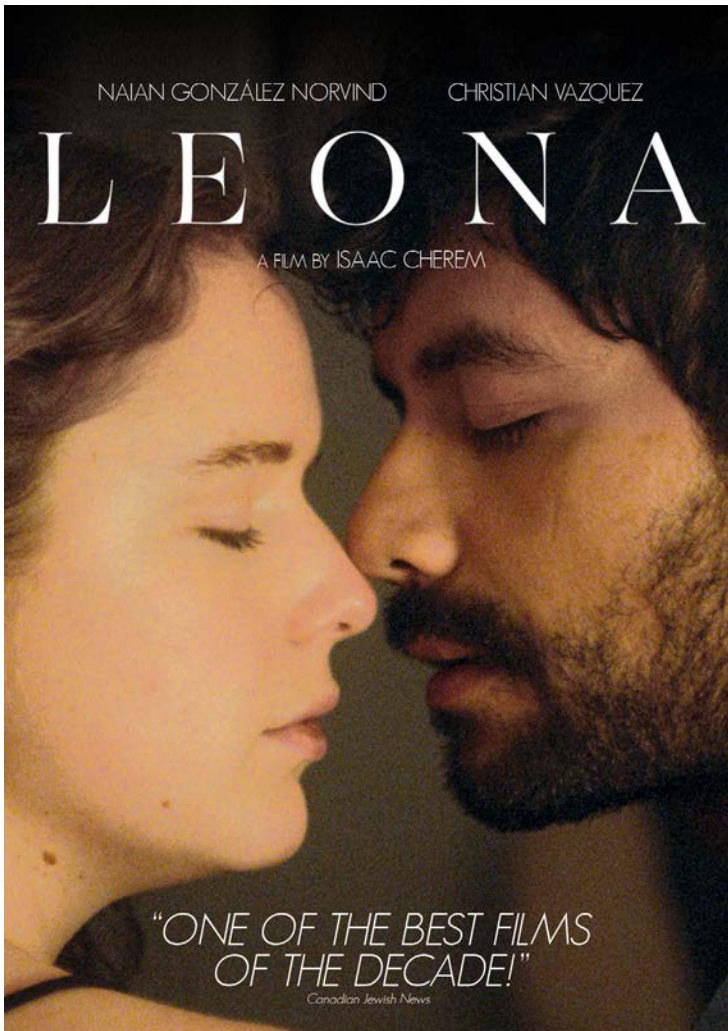
**Twenty-Four for Twenty-Four**  
Friday, December 24

This winter, the Synagogue is proud to continue our annual tradition of cooking and delivering twenty-four complete Christmas Eve meals—turkey included—for families with loved ones in hospice care. We're concerned about people who may not have the ability to provide a festive holiday meal for themselves. As part of this project, we invite families and individuals within the Synagogue community to underwrite the cost of these Christmas meals. Don't hesitate to reach out if either of these forms of support feels meaningful to you. If you are interested in participating as a cook or a delivery driver, please contact Natalie Shaver at [nshaver@bnaiemunah.com](mailto:nshaver@bnaiemunah.com).

**Cookie Bake 2021**  
Friday, December 24

Cookie Bake is our annual cookie drive where we invite all members of the community to bake their favorite treats for distribution to hospital emergency rooms, waiting rooms, police and fire stations, and other essential service personnel required to work on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day. Bake your favorite treats at home and drop them off at the Synagogue every weekday until 9 a.m. on Christmas Eve. We will need two teams of volunteers – one group to tray the cookies and one group to hand-deliver them throughout the city. For more information on how you can get involved, please contact Natalie Shaver at [nshaver@bnaiemunah.com](mailto:nshaver@bnaiemunah.com).

## BLATT + BLUE : LEONA ON DECEMBER 9



The Jewish community of Mexico is unknown territory for most North American Jews. It has its own dynamic, and a culture distinct from the rhythms and commitments of our own experience.

The next session on December 9 of B'nai Emunah's long-running film series will take a look at some of these differences in a discussion of *Leona* by filmmaker Isaac Cherem. In the close-knit Jewish community of Mexico City, Ariela, a free-spirited painter, faces pressure to find a suitable husband as all her friends begin settling down and forming families of their own. Although she is content with her work and her independence, Ariela's life takes a turn when she falls for a man outside her faith. As their relationship blossoms, she struggles to navigate the tumultuous clash between her family's expectations and her own passions.

Month after month, Blatt + Blue spotlights film and television enthusiasts David Blatt and Alice Blue, who 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.

*Leona* is easily available on Amazon Prime for a modest rental fee. Join the Zoom discussion on Thursday evening, December 9, at 7:00 p.m. The Zoom meeting ID is 918-583-7121 and the session will conclude at 8:00 p.m. Please note that security protocols are always in place during Synagogue

events. If there is a film you'd like to see in these sessions in the future, please reach out to Rabbi Marc Fitzerman at [marboofitz@bnaiemunah.com](mailto:marboofitz@bnaiemunah.com). ■



**Challenges of Reform Judaism • Thurs., Dec. 2, 9, 16 & 23 • 2:00 p.m. • “Repairing One’s Character” through the study of Jewish values.**

Join us on Thursday afternoons, as we unpack our Jewish values, creating an awareness; a better understanding of who we are as Jews and as people. RSVP to [rsvp@templetulsa.com](mailto:rsvp@templetulsa.com) to get the Zoom link.

**Zamru L'Shabbat Hanukkah Service • Fri., Dec. 3 • 6:00 p.m.**

Join Cantor Weinstein and Eliyahu’s Minor Prophets, in person or online as we welcome Shabbat and celebrate Hanukkah with joyous holiday songs! RSVP to [rsvp@templetulsa.com](mailto:rsvp@templetulsa.com) to get the Zoom link.

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

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

**Hanukkah Havdalah on Facebook Live • Sat., Dec. 4 • 6:00 p.m.**

Join the Temple Israel Music Team, as we separate the sacred from the

sublime and begin the week anew with Hanukkah Havdalah on Facebook Live! Sing along as they offer the prayerful songs of Havdalah, and the festive music of Hanukkah. <https://www.facebook.com/TempleIsraelTulsa>

**Young Families Hanukkah Program • Sun., Dec. 5 • 5:00 p.m.**

Young families are invited to come together at Temple Israel for a special Hanukkah program. We will have activities, a story, songs, and a full hanukiah of candles to celebrate the last night of the holiday. For more information contact Rabbi K. at [rabbikay@templetulsa.com](mailto:rabbikay@templetulsa.com).

**Tot Shabbat • Fri., Dec. 10 • 6:00 p.m.**

Join us as we create a sacred space for our young families with songs, prayers, and an activity with our short monthly Tot Shabbat Service. Stay for the complimentary pizza dinner. RSVP by Tuesday, December 7. Contact Rabbi K at [rabbikay@templetulsa.com](mailto:rabbikay@templetulsa.com) for more information.

**Shabbat Service w/Torah on Zoom & Facebook Live • Fri., Dec. 10 & 24 • 7:30 p.m.**

Join the Temple Israel Clergy Team as we welcome in Shabbat with the chanting of Torah. RSVP to [rsvp@templetulsa.com](mailto:rsvp@templetulsa.com) to get the Zoom link.

**The Bible as a Resource for a Time of Crisis: A Torah Study • Sat., Dec. 11 • 11:00 a.m.**

Temple Israel will co-host with Or Ami in California, and other synagogues around the country for a Torah Study with Rabbi Dr. Tamara Cohn Eskenazi, the Effie Wise Ochs Professor of Biblical

Literature and History Hebrew Union College and Editor, Torah: A Women’s Commentary. Registration and more info at: [orami.org/rsvp](http://orami.org/rsvp).

**Book Club Author Talk on Zoom • Sun., Dec. 12 • 2:00 p.m.**

Join Rabbi Kowalski online as we speak with Author Lori Banov Kaufman about her book Rebel Daughter. Questions can be submitted in advance. RSVP to [rabbikay@templetulsa.com](mailto:rabbikay@templetulsa.com).

**Brotherhood Breakfast • Sun., Dec. 12 • 9:30 a.m.**

Temple Israel Brotherhood Breakfast is coming back in-person! On Sunday, December 12, 2021, Temple Israel Brotherhood will host a breakfast at 9:30 AM featuring guest speaker, Bruce Dart, Ph.D., Executive Director of Tulsa City-County Health Department. Dr. Dart will share his insights about the Covid-19 pandemic. Cost for breakfast is \$8 with advanced RSVP and \$10 at the door. There is no charge to come and hear the speaker without breakfast. To RSVP, email [rsvp@templetulsa.com](mailto:rsvp@templetulsa.com) or call (918) 747-1309 by Thurs., Dec. 9th.

**Zarrow Pointe Shabbat Service • Fri., Dec. 17 • 6:30 p.m.**

For our Temple friends and family at Zarrow Pointe, we hope you will join us for this meaningful Friday night service on the Zarrow campus. We look forward to seeing you there!

## Winter Solstice

by CANTOR LORI WEINSTEIN

As we move toward our Winter Solstice and our days grow shorter, I watch the birds migrating, squirrels storing food, and even the coats on my dogs beginning to thicken. The natural world begins its process of hibernation, slowly transitioning before our eyes. As the world goes dark, we too feel its impact. This is a time of hibernation, turning inward toward our light so that we feel hope during these long nights. Many of you who know me well, know that I am a yogi. I practice mainly vinyasa and at times hatha or yin at least 5 times a week either online or in person at various studios in Tulsa. I also am fascinated with history and its intersection with human existence. This fascination leads me to ask those existential questions that have plagued humans since the beginning of time: who, where, and moreover WHY. I strive to make sense of it all, and we know that at times these existential questions remain unanswered.

To find answers, every generation has cultivated narratives to explain the origin of life: the “Big Bang,” Genesis 1-2, Egyptian, Native American, and a myriad of other origin stories depending on the ancient culture one studies. Even flood stories permeate many of the ancient societies in the near East and not only involve a man named Noah. Torah, whether we believe it to be through HaShem out of the mouth of Moses, a compilation of narratives with codes of law interspersed, or at the hand of divinely inspired humans, is the story of our people, how Jews came to be. Events of history shape every generation of people in as much as water changes the course of rivers, wind the shape of the land; we may not see the result. Creation is eternal.

Why am I mentioning yoga and history together? Are cultures and their spiritual practices intertwined? I have a hypothesis, that Abraham (then Abram) came from an ancient civilization further east than the Mesopotamian Valley perhaps in a region near the Himalayas. Remember, this is a hypothesis. I know the Torah claims in Genesis 11:31, that the family left Ur for the land of Canaan. I cannot help but to wonder did his ancestors move to Ur from elsewhere, like the Indus-Sarasvati civilization.

As I delve deeper into my yoga practice, I realize that many of the teachings of the yoga sutras parallel the teachings of our middot. Both are about personal character; both are attained through introspection; both include moments of silence to engage the mind; both practice peace and wholeness. Importantly, both ideas root in the concept of freedom from bondage; both are about creation and renewal. Each time I step on my yoga mat, I find areas of tension in my life that need release. Each time I sing at services from Temple Israel's bima, I am refreshed, uplifted. We are created b'tzellim Elohim; a yoga practice may close with “the light in me sees and honors the light in you” My kishkes say there is more to this; there may never be a full answer. Possibly, Hinduism and Judaism are religious relatives only practiced differently. I am no expert. I only wish that I could live 1000 years from now to see what archaeologists and anthropologists discover. That will be for my children's children to witness. As the days grow shorter, the light within me pours forth to illumine a pathway toward shaleim and shalom. May we continue to discover, create, and renew through these days of introspective hibernation. ■

*1 JPS Tanakh*

*2 An ancient Asian Indian civilization. There is much information in the last 20 years. JSTOR.org is a place to begin.*



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