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January 2022

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Scan the QR codes in this issue with your phone camera (touch code from camera view to focus, do not take picture) for an easy way to navigate to JFT information on the web!

^Scan this code to go to **www.jewishtulsa.org**!

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TULSA Jewish Review

A digital copy of the Tulsa Jewish Review can be found on our website at jewishtulsa.org

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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Tulsa Jewish Review, 2021 E. 71st St.,
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Jewish Tulsa

by JASMINE RIKIN, MARKETING COORDINATOR

Ask any Tulsa resident what's so special about Tulsa and you will usually get a response about Tulsa being some sort of an anomaly—a small tight-knit city with big city perks. In addition to the main Tulsa perks like cost of living and having virtually zero traffic, the Tulsa anomaly is appealing to so many and has been a major talking point when organizations like Tulsa Tomorrow and Remote Tulsa pitch the idea of making Tulsa home. I too, am enamored by Tulsa. Having grown up in this city, the burst of exponential growth that has made Tulsa a kind of “renaissance city,” is exciting to both watch and be able to take part in the change. That's another plus when talking about Tulsa, it is small enough to not be drowning in competition, but large enough to prove yourself and be able to take meaningful action.

When I think about the Tulsa Jewish Community, I find it both comforting and fascinating that this Tulsa anomaly seems to emanate itself. We too, seem to be this strange but wonderful anomaly. Filled with perks from being both big and small. Big enough to have multiple vibrant Jewish organizations but small enough to where you feel like you know everyone. Not too small though. I'm still meeting people who have a connection to Jewish Tulsa that grew up in this community as well, but we had not yet crossed paths... And I thought I knew everyone! This community will throw the most pleasant surprises at you when you least expect it and give you support when you most need it. With the influx of people making Tulsa their home (both Jewish and non-Jewish) and the growth the Tulsa community is incurring, it is becoming more apparent that this is a golden time to reassess and strengthen our community from within. To recognize all the value Jewish Tulsa possesses and use it to our advantage during this Tulsa growth spurt.

Our Jewish Tulsa anomaly comes with great perks, but also its own unique challenges. We are a vibrant community blessed with multiple organizations that bring value and unique perspectives to Jewish life. However, our community is still quite small which makes programming, organizing, and coming together a delicate task. Through kindness, respect and collaboration we can harness this rare golden opportunity and grow our own Jewish Tulsa community. I'm happy to say we've got kindness and respect down. Our Jewish community is already kind, compassionate, warm and caring, but collaboration seems to not yet be our strength.

We must continue to evolve in order to better serve our current community members and attract future Tulsans. Finding ways to work together will strengthen our connections across organizations and create stronger bonds and relationships among our Tulsa Jewish Community. As we begin 2022, our Executive Director Aida Nozick and JFT programming staff are working ahead to plan out 2022 programs and how we can be better collaborators with our fellows. Our goal is to look for opportunities that can strength our community from within. Can you imagine the how robust programming could be If all of the Jewish organizations in Tulsa can come together to collaborate on programming? Let's stop imagining and begin collaborating more in 2022. ■



Bright abstract shapes pattern with “United Jewish Tulsa” hidden within the shapes.



Three Jewish sisterhood groups gather together for a joint “Sips and Sisterhood” program at the Mother Road Market patio.

“We had a great joint program with the sisterhood groups of B’nai Emenah, Temple Israel, and the Jewish Federation of Tulsa on the patio of Mother Road market with kosher-style charcuterie boxes and wine tasting. The focus of the evening was on the Jewish values friendship (Chaverot), Sisterhood (Achat), and Unity (Achdut). We are looking forward to many more in the future! “

-Isabella Silberg, Director of Programs

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JFT Upcoming Events



Israel 101 - A Basic Knowledge Course | Monday, January 3,10,24,31 and Tuesday February 9 | 7:00pm | Dan Room

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



Open Tables | Sunday, January 9 | 5:30pm | Sylvan Auditorium

Pull up a chair, take a taste, and join us for the second of three Open Tables. Here you will find food, fellowship, and honest discussion: a perfect formula to facilitate a clearer understanding of and respect for persons of different faiths. For the past 13 years this has been the purpose of Open Tables.

See article on page 18

Register at: www.jewishtulsa.org/open-tables



Men's Club | Wednesday, January 12 | 12:00pm | Zarrow Pointe

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



43rd Annual Martin Luther King Jr. March | Monday, January 17 | 11:00am | Corner of N. Detroit Ave. & John Hope Franklin Blvd.

Join us as we march together as a united Jewish Tulsa for the 43rd annual Tulsa MLK Parade. Register for event day updates.

Register at: www.jewishtulsa.org/mlk2022



Sherwin Miller Museum of Jewish Art | New Exhibits Reception | Thursday, January 20 | 6:00pm

See flier on page 11 and article on page and 13

Please contact info@jewishmuseum.net to RSVP by January 12, 2022.

More info at: www.jewishtulsa.org/smm2022



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

See flier on page 7

Register at: www.jewishtulsa.org/comedyforpeace

JFT Upcoming Events Continued



Men's Club | Wednesday, January 26 | 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.

Register at: www.jewishtulsa.org/mensclub-jan26



The Council for Holocaust Education | Second Generation Voices | Thursday, January 27 | 7:00pm | Virtual Via Zoom

Q & A conversation with Alice Blue and Jim Jakubovitz, children of Holocaust survivors, as they share what it was like to grow up with parents whose early lives were lived in the shadow of the Holocaust.

See article on page 18 and flier on page 19

Register at: www.jewishtulsa.org/secondgenerationvoices



Ongoing all January | Winter Warmth Drive

Pearl Society | Winter Warmth Hat Making Day | Sunday, January 30 | 1:00pm | Sylvan Auditorium

Do you like to knit? Help warm Tulsans in need this winter.

Benefitting the Tulsa Day Center

Collecting items the Month of January (hats, scarfs, mittens). A bin will be located in the JFT lobby.

Collection campaign ends with an in-person event for Pearl Society members to make quick n easy fleece hats on Sunday, January 30th.

See flier on the back cover for Winter Warmth Drive information to learn how you can contribute!

More info at: www.jewishtulsa.org/ps-winterwarmthdrive



CSJCC | Annual Trivia Night | Saturday, February 5 | 6:00pm | Sylvan Auditorium

Gather your team of eight for an evening of wit and wisdom benefitting the Charles Schusterman Jewish Community Center.

See flier on Page 15

Register at: www.jewishtulsa.org/trivia2022

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 Director of Programs Isabella Silberg with any questions you may have. isilberg@jewishtulsa.org 918.495.1100

Go to www.JewishTulsa.org/events to view a full calendar of events.



Ensuring a vibrant Jewish future
Jewish Federation
Tulsa



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 the 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 managed 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.

Register at: JewishTulsa.org/Israel101

or email Chen Shoval with questions or accommodation needs at Emissary@jewishtulsa.org

The Jewish Federation of Tulsa Presents:

COMEDY FOR PEACE

No politics. Just laughs.



**Comedy Show and Dinner - Saturday, January 22
6:45PM - 9:00PM**

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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.

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 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. 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 working as a comedian 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

Email Chen Shoval with questions or accommodation needs
Emissary@jewishtulsa.org



United Jerusalem

by CHEN SHOVAL, ISRAELI EMISSARY

I have one single memory of the divided Jerusalem from the period between 1948 and 1967, when the Jewish quarter in the Old City of Jerusalem was destroyed. After the return of the Jews to the Old City following the Six Day War, one building called the Horva Synagogue stood in ruins and remained broken until very recently. These ruins were reminiscent of a story from the past, a scar on the life of every Jerusalemite and even every Israeli. I can still remember it in ruins.

In the years between the 1948 War of Independence and the 1967 Six Day War, Jerusalem was divided into two cities: West Jerusalem, which was under the control of the State of Israel, and East Jerusalem, which was under the control of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan.

When the forces of the Jordanian Arab Legion overcame the minority of the Jewish quarter in 1948, no Jews were left in it. The Jewish synagogues were destroyed, all the Jewish men were taken as prisoners of war, and the women and children who survived were taken out of Old Jerusalem and sent to West Jerusalem. Even the right promised in the ceasefire agreement with the Jordanian government to give all Jews free access to the holy places in and around Jerusalem continued to be violated by the Jordanian government. The Jewish community in Israel was not given a foothold in the holy places of Israel, and again a Jew was not allowed to access the Western Wall nor anywhere else in Jerusalem. In 1967 after the Six Day War the IDF opened its gates to everyone.

The Six Day War was Israel's victory against all odds. The war is remembered in the Israeli and Jewish consciousness as a miracle, and, to this day, this war has produced many effects. Today instead of the fence that formed the border between Jordan and Israel, there is the Jerusalem City Tram. Areas that were in the fire line and in daily danger became the areas with the highest real estate prices, as these are the closest to the holy places. Tourists from all over the world could now visit the holy places such as the Mount of Olives, Gethsemane, the Church of the Holy Sepulcher, the Garden of the Tomb, etc. Jews from all over the world began to visit the Jewish Quarter and the Western Wall. Excavations began to take place in the Old City and the surrounding area. To this day, more and more findings indicate the deep connection of the Jews, and not only to Jerusalem.

Sixty percent of the city's population lives in East Jerusalem. Of this group, about 443,800 residents make up a 55% Arab majority. After the Six Day War, Israeli citizenship was

offered to its residents in exchange for relinquishing the Jordanian passport held by most residents who preferred to obtain permanent resident status out of opposition, upon principle, and because holding an Israeli passport meant no Arab country entry.

The city's unification influenced other areas such as education, employment, new neighborhoods, population growth, infrastructure, transportation and more. However, the most interesting outcome of Jerusalem's unification was that it allowed the mixing of cultures, religions, and customs. Although there are still arguments between the Jews and Arabs because Jerusalem is a core issue concerning peace with the Palestinians, there are many interface points for Jews and Arabs in Jerusalem. The Jerusalem hospitals and pharmacies work together with Jewish and Arab doctors and nurses who treat Jewish and Arab patients equally. There is

also a "mixing" of Jews and Arabs in the fields of banking, commerce, employment, entertainment, catering centers, cafes, malls, and even playgrounds in the seam areas. In the Old City there is cooperation between Jewish and Arab merchants and tourists. Jewish contractors purchase equipment and building materials in Arab neighborhoods, and Jerusalem Jews come to the Arab neighborhoods for garage services and shop in their shopping center. The large proportion of East Jerusalem workers in various branches of employment throughout Jerusalem has made them a crucial workforce in size and importance to Jerusalem's economic system.

Jerusalem's abundance of culture, spirituality, and diversity creates the most beautiful and most exceptional city on the globe. "Next year in Jerusalem!" But until then, come visit us at the Sherwin Miller Museum of Jewish to enjoy the upcoming Western Wall Exhibit. ■



Jerusalem cityscape



Chen Shoval

IAC 2021 - Finding Hope in the Heartland through Our Shared Connection to Israel

by JORDAN RAMBACH

From December 9th-12th, a small group of representatives from the Tulsa Young Jewish Professionals had the opportunity to attend the Israeli American Council Summit (IAC) in Hollywood, Florida, for the first time. For three days we were fortunate to hear from some of Israel's most important dignitaries and role players. This included Secretary of Defense, Benny Gantz, the majority of Israel's Senior Cabinet, Senior Officers of the IDF, journalists, and many others. This was a significant learning opportunity for us all, and it had a major impact on me personally. On behalf of us all, I want to start by thanking the Tulsa Jewish Federation for this opportunity and for its support in sponsoring us to attend IAC. Additionally, I want to thank our Tulsa Israeli Emissary and Federation Programming Coordinator, Chen Shoval and Isabella Silberg, whom without their effort this would not have been possible.

While I cannot begin to quantify the number of common themes we found throughout IAC as a group, there was one word that stuck out to me particularly and was posted all over the Summit. The Hebrew word, "mishelanu", which translates to "from one of us". Throughout our conversations at IAC, I believe this was a word that consistently gave us something to consider and pivot back towards. What does it mean to be one of us? What should our community look like and how is that identity evolving as we become further generational as a Jewish population in Oklahoma?

Right now we are in an important moment, not just as a Jewish community in the middle of America, but also as a global collective tribe. While this is not something new for many of us or something that we have become suddenly aware of, it is our duty to stay on top of our current challenges and our identity as a community to try to bridge this gap. In the past few years particularly, Judaism has become vastly delegitimized and brought into question by expanding social media, current media, and the long reach of the Internet. Anti-Semitism and anti-Jewish propaganda are now within reach and visible everywhere. The frequency of events is especially prevalent in Oklahoma, and we can feel the strain in our everyday lives. It is our duty as a Jewish community to stay vocal and loud in the everyday arenas where we exist, not only to center our identity, but also to combat these issues and dangerous narratives.

As Jewish people we have a lot of large opinions and ideas, and while we do not always have to agree with each other it is absolutely crucial that we listen to and create continuous dialogue with each other on all topics, big and small. From what I have been reminded of this past weekend, finding a way to leverage our differences in opinions to determine our identity and shared mission as a community, is the best path forward.

As we become further generational we are becoming more diverse, both racially and religiously. It is especially critical that we draw on this broad wealth of experience and knowledge to push ourselves forward as a community. It is also very important that we do not allow ourselves to become silenced by partisan arguments. Regardless of our political stances, we need to prioritize the Jewish culture of our city for our future. If we want Tulsa to continue to be the ideals we speak about,

we are going to need to have open dialogue and reject cognitive dissonance to understand that all true ideas can exist mutually. We are very fortunate because we have so many strengths and resource pools to draw from and we need to continue to incorporate everyone's voice and create transparency, now more than ever.

I want to issue a challenge to everyone who reads this to continue to be very proud of their Judaism, especially in Tulsa. I definitely understand that it can be a very cautious or difficult subject, but if we lose our voice then we jeopardize

our identity as a community. We are fortunate to have had great community leaders in the past and present who have set us up for the level of success and opportunity that we see ahead. While these current obstacles may feel larger than life, I remain more hopeful than ever because we have been positioned for success for a long time. We are still writing the early chapters of Jewish history in Oklahoma, and we are learning as we go. This process is not perfect, and it is not ever going to be easy, but the best things in life are the result of our shared devotion.

One last important takeaway I want to mention that we had from this weekend is the need to pivot back towards our conversations about Israel in the larger picture of these points. It is very important to our group identity as a Jewish community that we draw on our shared cultural connection. This being the larger global Jewish cultural ideals, and incorporating them as a way to strengthen our community and way to remind us how we got here and what we are here for.

Growing up in Tulsa for the last 26 years, some of the best memories I have are from our shared connection to Israel. I have always felt lucky to have grown up in our community because of how unique and strong it is for its size, and much of that is based on our shared mission and belief. Much of that continues to be centered on the strength in connection we have had with Israel and the cultural programming we have provided to our community's children through that. I can vividly remember some of my best memories as a child in Tulsa being related to Israel-centric events and programming that were non-partisan celebrations of our global culture. I am very proud of and thankful to my fellow Tulsa Young Jewish Professionals, and I am proud to be one of us. My hope in the future is that we can continue these values and standards as a shared means of finding strength together to pave our path forward. ■



Tulsa Young Jewish Professionals at the AIC Conference in Hollywood, Florida

Mizel Uniting With Jewish Tulsa

by AMANDA ANDERSON, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF MIZEL JEWISH COMMUNITY DAYSCHOOL

There are always different variations of old folktales. Many of us have read *Stone Soup*. Around the holidays our students read this book, about a woman who comes to town with nothing but a soup pot. With the assistance of the community, many offer to provide a carrot or an onion here or there. The cook, claiming the soup has not reached its full potential, needs more spices and ingredients. Over time, with many small contributions and the villagers sharing their resources, the soup becomes better and better.

There is another variation to this popular folktale with a Jewish lens, *Bone Button Borscht*. A tired beggar reaches a small town on a cold, wintery night seeking food and a warm bed. When the poor locals are reluctant to assist, he promises to make a delicious soup from six bone buttons. Curious to see this miracle come to life, the townspeople come to watch and without even realizing it, all assist the beggar with the task at hand. A delicious soup is soon prepared, and the locals learn an important lesson about the value of collaboration. This version of the story is mostly told around Hanukah, but the message can be used throughout the year.

In many of our Mizel classrooms our students studied these folktales and were able to make their very own Bone Button Borscht. Each student was able to take a recipe and multiply the ingredients to feed an entire class, learn basic cooking ideas, discover various beans/proteins, fresh fruits, and vegetables, and make healthy choices! There was someone in the community who started alone and with very little. The community banded together to give respect and realized everyone in the community has something to offer and should

be valued!

In Judaism, a huge mitzvah is feeding the hungry (the Jewish value of ma'achil re'evim). Through the lens of folktales, providing for the homeless or those in need is not only something we do around Yom Kippur, but rather throughout the year. Therefore, our students decided to donate our tzedakah from the second quarter to The Community Food Bank of Eastern Oklahoma. When we educate our students, they see the value and get excited about making a difference. ■

**some information was extracted from reformjudiasm.org*



Even in our three-year-old program, our students are engaged in and excited about reading.



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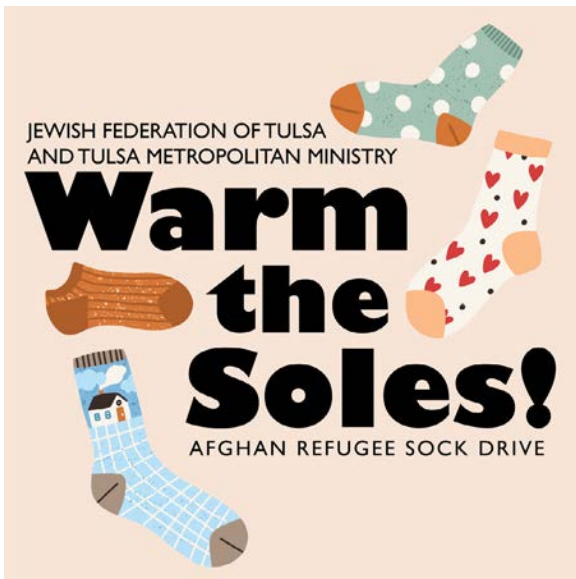
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Warm The Souls - Sock Drive Follow-Up

A big thank you to our community for helping us collect over 4,000 pairs of new socks to welcome our new Afghan neighbors and keep their feet warm. Our original goal was to deliver 1,800 pair of socks to Tulsa Metropolitan Ministry and our community greatly exceeded our expectations. Thank you!

Next up, the Pearl Society is sponsoring a Winter Warmth Drive benefiting the Tulsa Day Center. For the month of January we will be collecting new and slightly used winter hats, mittens, gloves, and scarves. Handmade, warm knitted and crocheted items are appreciated! See ad on the back cover of this issue for more information. ■



Sock Drive Photos From Left to Right: Jody Owens, Chris Moore, Owen Kelley, Brian Brouse, Aida Nozick, Chris Moore, Harvey Cohen



The Sherwin Miller Museum of Jewish Art presents

2022 Exhibit Opening Reception January 20, 2022 • 6 p.m.

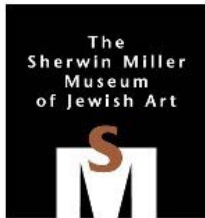
Hosted by Lori M. Frank and LaVonna Reed

Join us for the first reception of 2022 for the opening of the newest SMMJA exhibits including:

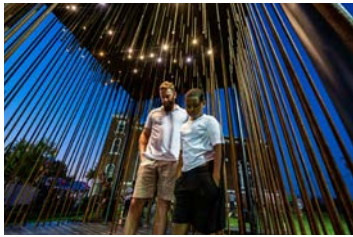
- **Society's Cage Photo Retrospective**
 - Will Eisner Traveling Exhibit
 - Holy Moses
- **White on Black, Linoprints by A. Raymond Katz**
- **Next Year in Jerusalem – The Western Wall Exhibit**

Featuring photographs by Jamie Glisson of Society's Cage in Tulsa in 2021, we honor the contributions of Tri City Collective.

Please contact info@jewishmuseum.net to RSVP by January 12, 2022. Refreshments and hors d'oeuvre will be served. Masks Mandatory. Event subject to change.



918-492-1818
info@jewishmuseum.net



**Society's Cage Photo Retrospective Exhibit
January-March**

Photographs by Jamie Glisson - - - *Society's Cage* experiential installation was exhibited in Tulsa, Oklahoma, to coincide with the centennial of the Tulsa Race Massacre from Sunday, May 30, through Juneteenth on Saturday, June 19, 2021. The pavilion was exhibited on the grounds of the historic Vernon A.M.E. Church at 311 N. Greenwood Avenue.

Society's Cage has previously been exhibited in Washington, DC, on the National Mall and in Baltimore, Maryland, on War Memorial Plaza.

"The intent of *Society's Cage* is to educate about racialized state violence through an immersive experience," says lead designer Dayton Schroeter, a principal at SmithGroup. "The installation complements the commemoration, remembrance, and reconciliation in spirit with the centennial of the Massacre, the most egregious and least-recognized instance of racial injustice in our nation's history."

Society's Cage debuted in Tulsa in partnership with Tri-City Collective, Inc.; Tulsa Artist Fellowship; Jewish Federation of Tulsa; Vernon A.M.E. Church; Temple Israel (of Tulsa); and Sharna Newman Frank Educational Gallery Philanthropic Fund.



**Will Eisner Traveling Exhibit
January 13 - March 27**

This exhibition of giclées is from scanned or photographed original art by Will Eisner. The Giclées are very high-resolution fine art digital prints.



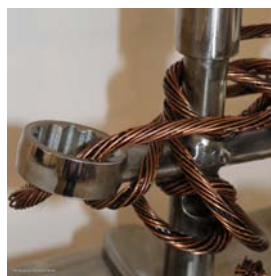
**White on Black, Linoprints by A. Raymond Katz, 1933
January - December**

Mural painter, stained glass and mixed media artist. Born in Hungary, Katz' first name Sandor, was anglicized to Alexander upon his arrival in the United States, ca. 1909. Also known as Raymond Katz. Following his studies at the American Institute of Chicago and the Chicago Academy of Arts, he was employed by Balaban and Katz to decorate movie palaces. His mural commission, *Ten Commandments* at Chicago's Century of Progress exhibition in 1933 was based on the Hebrew alphabet. Subsequent murals and stained-glass window designs commissioned by synagogues throughout America display symbolic images interpretive of Jewish traditions. Author of *Black on White* (1933), *The Ten Commandments* (1946), *A New Art for an Old Religion* (1952), and *Adventures in Casein* (1951).



**Next Year in Jerusalem (L'Shana Haba'ah B'Yerushalayim). The Western Wall Through Art Exhibit
January - December**

Take a look through the museum's collection to find artistic impressions of the Western Wall through mediums including wood, paint, photography, metal, and more.



**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.



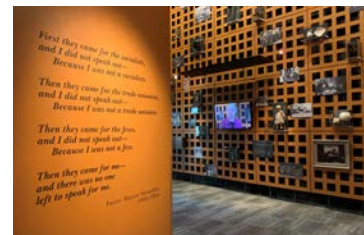
Jews Rock

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.

New Year, New Exhibits

by MICKEL YANTZ, SMMJA DIRECTOR OF COLLECTIONS AND EXHIBITIONS

The beginning of 2022 will showcase a new collection of exhibits truly displaying diverse artwork which can only be found at your local Jewish Art Museum.

We start the year with two great shows pulled from the riches of our museum's own permanent collection – *White on Black* and *The Western Wall*. *White on Black* is a portfolio of A. Raymond Katz from 1933. Recently donated to the museum by Allen Avery, *White on Black* shows a distinct simplistic style influenced by the popular Art Nouveau style of the time.

Katz was born in Hungary. He immigrated to Chicago in 1909 where he finished art school and became a leader in public murals across America displaying hidden Hebrew and Judaic symbolism.

Also, from the museum's collection is *Next Year in Jerusalem (L'Shana Haba'ah B'Yerushalayim): The Western Wall Through Art Exhibit*. Be sure to stop in and take a look through the museum's collection to find artistic impressions of the Western Wall through mediums including wood, paint, photography, metal and more. There will be a live feed from the Western Wall in Israel and an interactive component for guests to leave prayers and thoughts at our wall.

Our first traveling exhibit of the year comes directly from the Will Eisner Studio in New Jersey. The SMMJA and Will Eisner Studio have been partners since 2017 and host the local Will Eisner Comic Fest the first Saturday of every March in celebration of Eisner's birthday. This year is extra special with the *Will Eisner Giclée Art Exhibition*. This exhibition of giclées is from scanned or photographed original art by Will Eisner and comes from publications dated from 1936 to 2017.

Will Eisner is considered one of the most influential comic book artists of all time. Since the 1930s, Eisner has written and illustrated numerous comic books and weekly strips, including *The Spirit* (1940-52), instructional comics for the U.S. Army and 16 graphic novels. A master of the graphic novel field and mentor to generations of comic book and graphic artists, he authored *A Contract With God*, *Fagin the Jew*, *The Name of the Game* and *The Protocols of Zion*. In a career that spanned more than 50 years, he has touched every nerve of social consciousness and Jewish history.

Our feature exhibit showcases the partnerships of many beyond the Tulsa Jewish Community with *Society's Cage a Photographic Retrospective*. Photographs by Jamie Glisson of *Society's Cage* experiential installation were exhibited in Tulsa, Oklahoma, to coincide with the centennial of the Tulsa Race Massacre. The Cage was in Tulsa from May 30 through Juneteenth on Saturday, June 19, 2021, and was exhibited on the grounds of the

historic Vernon A.M.E. Church on Greenwood Avenue. The cage has previously been exhibited in Washington, DC, on the National Mall and in Baltimore, Maryland, on War Memorial Plaza. "The intent of *Society's Cage* is to educate about racialized state violence through an immersive experience," says lead designer Dayton Schroeter, a principal at SmithGroup. "The installation complements the commemoration, remembrance, and reconciliation in spirit with the centennial of the Massacre, the most egregious and least-recognized instance of racial injustice in our nation's history." *Society's Cage* debuted in Tulsa in partnership with Tri-City Collective, Inc.; Tulsa Artist Fellowship; Jewish Federation of Tulsa; Vernon A.M.E. Church; Temple Israel (of Tulsa); and Sharna Newman Frank Educational Gallery Philanthropic Fund.

Join the museum for a reception January 20, 6 p.m. to celebrate the newest exhibits and hear from our partners at the Tri-City Collective. Please contact info@jewishmuseum.net to RSVP by January 12, 2022. ■

5TH ANNUAL
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• Vendors
• Cosplay contest
• Exhibit
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FREE Admission
to the Festival and
Museum!

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The Spirit character was created by Will Eisner

Tobias Picker – On Tulsa and His Opera Emmeline

by SANDY SLOAN, CAMPAIGN COORDINATOR

Exposed to music at an early age, for Tulsa Opera Artistic Director and Grammy Award winning Composer Tobias Picker the arts were a part of his DNA. One grandfather was a cantor, the other a violinist, his grandmother played piano, his mother was a fashion designer and an accomplished artist, and his sister played violin. Tobias himself went to Julliard Prep and later attended the Manhattan School of Music, Julliard, and Princeton for undergraduate and graduate degrees in music. “Exposure and education,” Tobias states, on a recent Zoom video interview. “It’s all about exposure and education. My parents exposed me to great music and art from the time I learned to talk. My (elementary) school taught art and music. I recall winning first place in a school-wide contest for my maquette of Puccini’s “Girl of the Golden West” when I was nine. The prize was a trip to see that opera at the old Metropolitan Opera House on 39th Street.” This is how Tobias’ story begins.

Early in his career, Tobias worked solely as a symphonic and chamber music composer. He didn’t write his first opera until 1996, at age 42, when he composed “Emmeline”. Last year marked the 25th anniversary of the acclaimed opera which premiered at the Santa Fe Opera. The Wall Street Journal called it “...one of the best operas written in the past 25 years.” “Emmeline” won critical acclaim worldwide, and lucky for us, “Emmeline” will be performed by Tulsa Opera, February 25th and 27th, at the Tulsa Performing Arts Center.

“Emmeline” is based on the novel of the same name centered on a true story written by his friend, the late Judith Rossner (*Looking for Mr. Goodbar*). The opera is a re-telling of the Greek Oedipus myth from Oedipus’ mother, Jocasta’s, point of view, but transplanted to 19th century New England. However, this production differs from all that precede it. Tobias speaks of his Jewish values and how he is excited about the cast he chose, which exemplifies the ancient value of inclusion. “This is the first color conscience cast of “Emmeline” since it was written,” states Tobias. “No other opera company has done that with ‘Emmeline’ before. As the artistic director, I can produce and cast the great operatic masterpieces of the past. But I also have the opportunity to produce my own opera and my contemporary’s operas. ‘Emmeline’ is imbued with my own values of inclusion, fairness, and justice. There are lessons to be learned. The story is universal, it’s not about ‘white’ people, it’s about people, and it’s about how cruel humans can be to one other.”

Not only is music in his DNA, but so is his cultural upbringing. “I have written seven operas and though it may not be apparent on first glance, they are all imbued with Jewish themes, not only socially and culturally, but musically,” claims Tobias. “Most Jewish singers and musicians who have performed my music have commented to me on the Jewish influences in my music. I don’t set out to sound Jewish...but the music I compose comes from my blood. I can’t help it!”

Since opera is unknown to this writer, I had to ask Tobias what I have been missing. He enthusiastically expresses, “Opera can be emotionally overwhelming because it is performed by real people; it is designed to speak to your heart and mind. The music of “Emmeline” is very accessible although the story is tragic, but that’s the nature of storytelling in the operatic

tradition.” It’s obvious the love Tobias has for this artform as he continues, “Opera is life. Living and breathing. As Jews we emphasize life – the importance of Chai. Opera is exciting because it celebrates life through all artforms, and none of the other artforms can incorporate all that opera contains.” Tulsa’s founding fathers and mothers must have known this, as opera was first heard in Tulsa at the brand-new Epperson Opera House built in 1904, just six years after Tulsa’s incorporation, before sewers, street paving and before the construction of City Hall in 1906. This little-known fact helped draw this world-renowned composer to T-Town in 2016 when he was offered the position of Tulsa Opera’s Artistic Director.

“Tulsa is a beautiful city,” Tobias declares. “The people are warm and welcoming, and the city has a rich life for the arts.” Rich indeed. Tulsa Opera will celebrate its 75th anniversary next year and is the oldest performing arts organization in the state and the 10th oldest opera company in America. Tobias splits his time between New York City and Tulsa. When not composing or working, Tobias loves going to the Gathering Place and can often be found rocking in the teak chairs by the lake eating an ice cream cone. Be on the lookout for Tulsa’s prolific composer who The Wall Street Journal calls “our finest composer for the lyric stage” the next time you are at the park!

Author’s note: Tobias Picker’s extensive catalog and accomplishments are too numerous to include here. For more information, visit: TobiasPicker.com ■



Tobias Picker, Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsberg, and Aryeh Lev Stollman after RBG performed the couple’s wedding ceremony at the US Supreme Court, March 9, 2016. Note: Award-winning author and librettist, Aryeh Lev Stollman is currently working on the libretto for Tobias’ next opera, “Lili Elbe.”

Saturday, February 5, 2022

TRIVIA NIGHT

Doors open at 6:00pm, Trivia Begins at 7:00pm
in the Dave and Barbara Sylvan Auditorium

Gather your team of eight for an evening of wit and wisdom
benefitting the

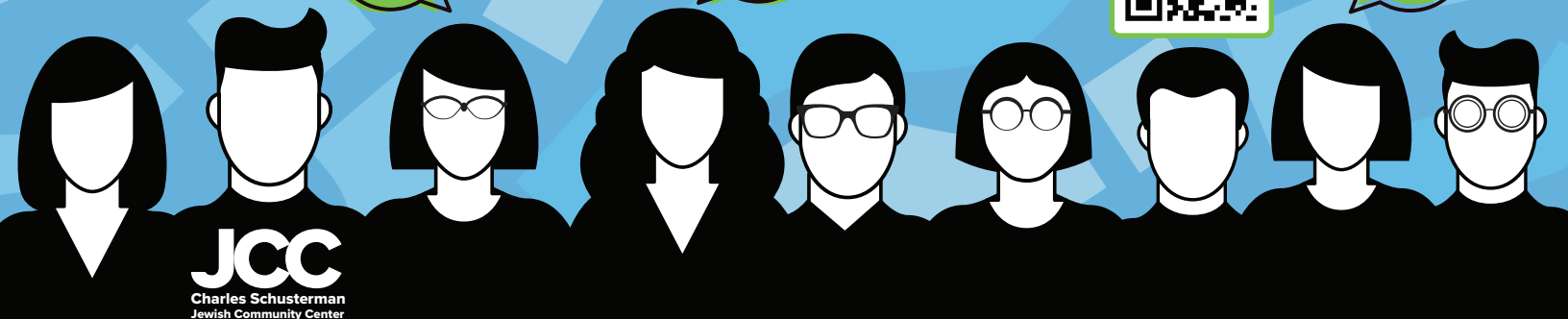


Food - Drinks - Raffle - Trivia

ages 21 and up - \$300 per table of 8

www.jewishtulsa.org/trivia2022

SCAN ME



Tickets and Sponsorship info at: www.jewishtulsa.org/trivia2022

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). Masks are required when not eating or drinking. Thank you for your continued tikkun olam!

Contact Martha Kelley for questions and accomodations mkelley@jewishtulsa.org 918.495.1100

JANUARY FITNESS CHALLENGE:



21 DAYS TO MAKE OR BREAK A HABIT



Kick off the New Year with our 21-Day challenge

It's simple, just follow these steps:

- 1 - Pick a health & wellness habit to make or break
- 2 - Pick up 21 day challenge form at the JCC Fitness Desk
- 3 - Start anytime in the month of January



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CLASSES

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- Core and Conditioning** - Mondays Noon-1 PM
- Circuit Training Class** - Tuesdays/Thursdays 9-10 AM
- Barre Belles** - Tuesdays/Thursdays 10-11 AM
- Midweek Movement** - Wednesdays 9-10 AM
- Tap 'N Tone** - Wednesdays 10-11 AM
- Spin** - Tuesdays/Thursdays Noon-1 PM
- Jukebox Jams** - Fridays 9-10 AM
- Bootcamp** - Wednesdays/Fridays Noon-1 PM

For class descriptions visit www.csjcc.org/fitness-schedule

JCC HOURS OF OPERATION:

Mon – Thurs _____ 6:00 a.m.—9 p.m.
 Friday _____ 6:00 a.m.—5 p.m.
 Saturday _____ Noon—5 p.m.
 Sunday _____ 9 a.m.—5 p.m.



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ANNOUNCING THE B'NAI MITZVAH OF SYDNEY STONE

Sydney Stone Gebhardt will become a B'nai Mitzvah on January 22, 2022, at 10:30AM.

They were born at home in Yuma, Arizona, and have also lived in Charlotte, NC; Raleigh, NC; and Plano, TX. Sydney is the fourth of five children in a very busy — and loud — family.

Sydney attends Union 8th grade center where they are a straight-A student, and recently started competitive debate. They love spending time with their siblings and their dogs, and spend their free time reading.

They are very committed to addressing social injustices, especially issues facing the LGBTQIA+ community, and fighting systemic racism.

Sydney is very excited that their family is here from around the country to celebrate with them!



ANNOUNCING THE ENGAGEMENT OF RACHEL AND JONATHAN

With great joy, Mindy and Harris Prescott announce the engagement of their daughter Rachel, to Jonathan Cooper, son of Sharon and Stuart Cooper, of Roslyn, New York. A June 12, 2022 wedding will take place in St. James, New York.

Open Tables Opens Hearts to Open Minds

by NANCY PETTUS, DIRECTOR OF HOLOCAUST EDUCATION

"...it is better to build a longer table than to build a taller fence."

These words are present in each piece of correspondence from Vicky Langston, founder of Open Tables, and shape the values that guide the organization.

On Sunday, January 9 at 5:30 pm in the Barbara and Dave Sylvan Auditorium we invite you to pull up a chair, take a taste, and join us for the second of three Open Tables. Here you will find food, fellowship, and honest discussion: a perfect formula to facilitate a clearer understanding of and respect for persons of different faiths. For the past 13 years this has been the purpose of Open Tables.

At the potluck dinner, participants will be seated at tables with people from other faith groups to share not only food but also dialogue. Through this experience we hope to generate a connection among people who are neighbors and fellow citizens of the community and the world. Since the objective of this exchange is to build relationships, guests are asked to approach discussion with respect for others' opinions and beliefs.

Participants are requested to bring the following: A favorite meatless dish to share; an open mind; respect for those of different traditions; a readiness to dialogue; and \$10 which covers participation in the remaining Open Tables for the 2021-22 season.

If you are interested in attending the January 9 Open Tables www.jewishtulsa.org/open-tables

Feel free to send any questions, comments, or concerns to npettus@jewishtulsa.org ■



Open Tables participants enjoy a variety of foods from different cultures

Second Generation Voices

by NANCY PETTUS, DIRECTOR OF HOLOCAUST EDUCATION



Alice Blue points to a picture of her mother that she discovered in the Bergen-Belsen Concentration Camp exhibit featured at our 2016 Interfaith Yom HaShoah Commemoration.

To commemorate International Holocaust Remembrance Day, the Council for Holocaust Education, a committee of the Jewish Federation, invites you to join us on Thursday, January 27, 2022, for "Second Generation Voices," a Q & A conversation with Alice Blue and Jim Jakubovitz, children of Holocaust survivors, as they share what it was like to grow up with parents whose early lives were lived in the shadow of the Holocaust.

With the dwindling number of Holocaust survivors growing smaller each year, the lessons of the Holocaust are in danger of being erased from our memory and, eventually, our history. The importance of these first-person accounts cannot be emphasized enough. Fortunately, however, many survivor stories have been preserved on film. And even more fortunate for those who live beyond a survivor's physical existence, there are the second and third-generation family members to carry their parents' and grandparents' stories forward, keeping their legacies and the lessons of their experiences alive. ■

THE COUNCIL FOR
HOLOCAUST EDUCATION



Second Generation Voices

International Holocaust Remembrance Day
Thursday, January 27th - 7:00pm Via Zoom

A Conversation With Alice Blue and Jim Jakobovitz,
Children of Holocaust Survivors

Register for Zoom info:
www.jewishtulsa.org/secondgenerationvoices

Contact Nancy Pettus with any questions NPettus@jewishtulsa.org



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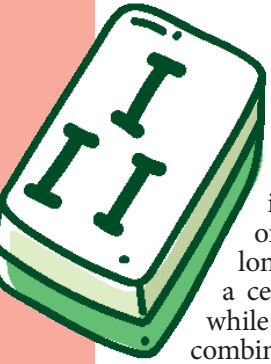
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Jews and Mahjong©

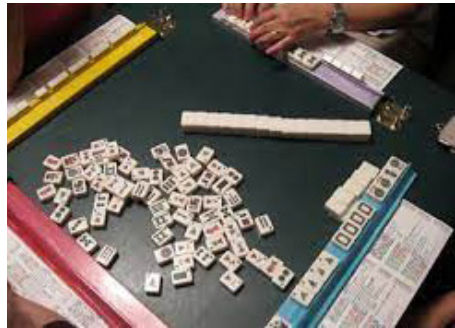
by PHIL GOLDFARB



From the 1920s until the present, Mahjong has captured the imagination of American Jewish players like few other games. Mahjong requires cooperation and strategy between players, creating an ideal environment for interaction among people. The social aspect of the game accounts for its importance and longevity among Jewish communities for over a century. Mahjong is intellectually stimulating, while simultaneously using luck and chance. The combination of skill, strategy, and fate keeps it really lively along with a sense of connection, pattern, and ritual.

Although the historical creation of Mahjong is questioned, game experts generally agree it evolved near Shanghai in the mid or late 1800s. In Chinese, the game was originally called 麻將 (pinyin: máquè), meaning sparrow, which is still used in some dialects in southern China. It is said that the clacking of tiles during shuffling resembles the chattering of sparrows. Entrepreneurs and American tourists brought the game to the United States which spread like wildfire in the early 1920s.

When brought to America, Abercrombie & Fitch sold the first Mahjong sets. It was so successful that the co-owner of the company, Ezra Fitch, sent emissaries to Chinese villages to buy every mahjong set they could find, they sold a total of 12,000 mahjong sets in the first year. The 1923 Ziegfeld musical "Kid Boots" even included an Eddie Cantor song, "Since Ma is Playing Mah Jong."



Many variants of Mahjong developed during the early 20th century. However, the most common manner, eventually becoming "American Mahjong," was most popular among Jewish women who are responsible for the most accepted and modern form of Mahjong played today. Standardization came with the formation of the National Mah Jongg (with an additional g) League (NMJL) in 1937. In addition, the first American Mahjong rulebook, *Maajh: The American Version of the Ancient Chinese Game*, was written by NMJL's first president, Mahjong enthusiast, and co-founder, Viola L. Cecil.

Another co-founder of the league, Dorothy Meyerson, laid an important foundation for the development, adaptation, and its eventual spread of Mahjong among Jewish women in particular. Meyerson already had a network of traveling agents for her Mahjong rulebook "That's It!" named to evoke the exclamation of an excited winner.

In the fall of 1937, nearly 400 women crowded into the Essex House Hotel in New York City. Women from across the New York region gathered to answer the call by Viola Cecil, madam president of the National Mah Jongg League wanting to standardize and Americanize the rules of the



game as well as help restore Mahjong from social decline, confusion, and possible disruption. Most, though not all, were Jewish, including Cecil herself. Cecil became president with Meyerson as vice president.

Meyerson helped build the infrastructure for the game, particularly women within certain socio-economic classes. Frequent patrons of department stores such as Macy's, not only shopped, but were also offered free, in-store Mahjong lessons to learn the "new way" to play Mahjong. Department stores such as the Stearns Company in Cleveland and Bamberger's in New Jersey hosted "clinics" where sales representatives simultaneously taught customers Meyerson's version, sold her rulebook "That's It!", and mahjong sets, while promoting an image of the game's resurgence.

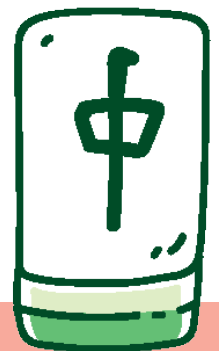
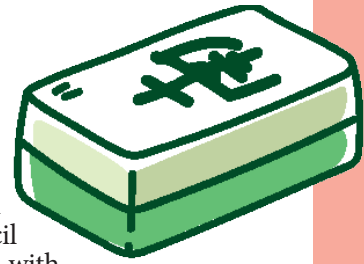
Membership of the National Mah Jongg League quickly mushroomed to more than 35,000 by 1941. Over the ensuing decades, eventually hundreds of thousands of players, a majority of Jewish American and Asian families, played their "national" version of the international Chinese game.

The founders believed that by standardization of a simplified scoring system and having fewer choices for winning hands could unite American players around their new "national" game to regain widespread popularity.

Mahjong in America created both economic and cultural change, and for many it served as a symbol of both cultural identity and assimilation as their new game grew primarily through Jewish women's networks, creating a solid consumer base that would last for generations.

To the degree that even today it is seen as an ancient game has added to its popularity among Jewish players. The Jewish women who founded the National Mah Jongg League were entrepreneurial and tried to market mahjong to a wide audience, so they were careful not to position themselves as a Jewish organization. While some of their charitable contributions did go to Jewish refugee organizations in the early years, only after the Second World War did you see a close affiliation to Jewish charities and Jewish life.

On Sunday evenings in the early 1940s, New York households within predominately Jewish neighborhoods, part of the nation's first experimental residential television systems could watch Meyerson teach the game with a specially enlarged Mahjong set. Mahjong nights in America often involved dressing and decorating rooms in Chinese style, to give homage to the customs and organization.



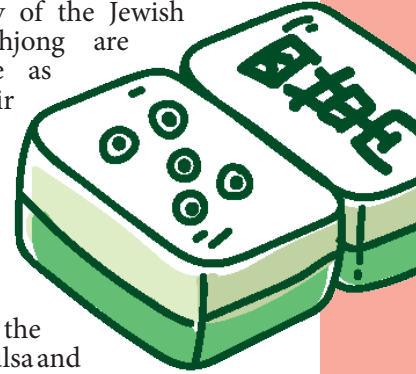
In the decades during and after World War II, Mahjong became the basis of important community building among highly educated American Jewish women who were relocated to the suburbs and had worked outside the home before having children. As families moved away from crowded urban centers, they encountered feelings of isolation in new suburban areas. Young Jewish mothers often turned to Mahjong as a way of building new friendships, connecting with others to create communities, and supporting a network of Jewish American culture.

Unfortunately, by the 1960s Mahjong became stereotyped with a negative connotation as a game played by “American Jewish mothers.” Ironically, powerful and successful Jewish women created, implemented, and supported the game to its fruition of the National Mah Jongg League.

Mahjong became a powerful marker within many communities. Although many Jewish women called it “our game,” though drawn from a shared American past and it was a Chinese game, which was (like Jews) different. Those things are subtle and subliminal, but as it spread along Jewish women’s networks, Mahjong became a powerful way of middle-class integration.



This iconic tile game with significant Jewish participation is attracting a new generation of players both younger and older. Additionally, many new retirees who now have the free time to learn the game are using Mahjong as a way to build new connections in retirement communities. Mahjong is not as popular as it once was, but the visual appeal of the game and its intellectual challenge, combined with its deep cultural heritage, has contributed to a renewed attraction of younger contemporaries. Many of the Jewish daughters, once rejecting Mahjong are now returning to the game as a way to connect with their Jewish identities and rekindle memories of their mothers. In our communities, we should continue to support and nurture the game of Mahjong as never to lose it.



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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Mincha and Ma'ariv
Every Wednesday and Friday • 5:30 p.m.

We are delighted to return to the Synagogue Sanctuary every Wednesday and Friday evening for Mincha and Ma'ariv service. Advance registration is required at tulsagogue.com. We hope that this experience will be especially meaningful to those who are mourning a loved one or observing the anniversary of a loss (yahrtzeit). We'll conclude everything in time for you to enjoy a meal at home. You can also join us virtually in the Synagogue Zoom room, Meeting ID: 918 583 7121.

Shabbat Morning Services
Every Saturday, January 1, 8, 15, 22, 29 • 9:30 a.m.

Our tradition speaks of the special power that exists when people gather together for prayer. We are excited to now return to in-person, COVID-safe gatherings in the Synagogue Sanctuary every Saturday morning. To participate in Shabbat Morning Services, please make your reservation at tulsagogue.com. You can also join us digitally in our Synagogue Zoom Room, Meeting ID: 918 583 7121.

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 front desk at The Synagogue 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.

Pajama Havdalah
Saturday, January 8 • 5:30 p.m.

Join us to say goodbye to Shabbat with your friends at the Synagogue. Families with young children are invited for an evening of coziness, crafts, bedtime story, Havdallah, and more! We'll kick off the evening with a Pizza Dinner and wrap up with a special bedtime treat. Children and their adults are encouraged to attend in their favorite pajama's. The cost is \$5 per person. To hold your spot please be in touch with Morah Sara at slevitt@bnaiemunah.com.

Two Rabbis And...
Friday, January 14 • 11 a.m.

Rabbis Kaiman and Fitzerman convene a monthly 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.

Millennials: Our Inheritance
Saturday, January 15 • 6:00 p.m.

Join other Young Jewish Tulsans for a one-of-a-kind Tu B'shvat celebration at Inheritance Juicery in downtown Tulsa. Inspired by the traditional Kabbalistic seder, we'll sample four delicious juice blends, nosh on organic food and cocktails, and learn about local environmental initiatives. Finally, we'll discuss how each of us can live out our value of sustainability in the coming year. For more information and to make a reservation, please contact Natalie Shaver at nshaver@bnaiemunah.com.

Blatt + Blue
Thursday, January 13 • 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 *1945*, a critically-acclaimed film in which two Jewish survivors of the Holocaust arrive in a Hungarian village in August, 1945 and must contend with the paranoid reactions of the local villagers. Join us on Thursday, January 13 at 7:00 p.m. for

a lively discussion in our Synagogue Zoom room. The meeting ID is 918 583 7121.

B-Mitzvah Family Program
Sunday, January 23 • 10:00 a.m.

6th Grade families and those preparing for B'nei Mitzvah are invited to join us for the first of three sessions in this series of preparation, reflection, and learning for B'nei Mitzvah families. Students and parents will learn together to help lay a foundation for the preparatory year of student ahead of a Bar or Bat Mitzvah. The B-Mitzvah program begins at 10:00 a.m. alongside the morning of ShulSchool studies. For questions, please be in touch with Morah Sara at slevitt@bnaiemunah.com.

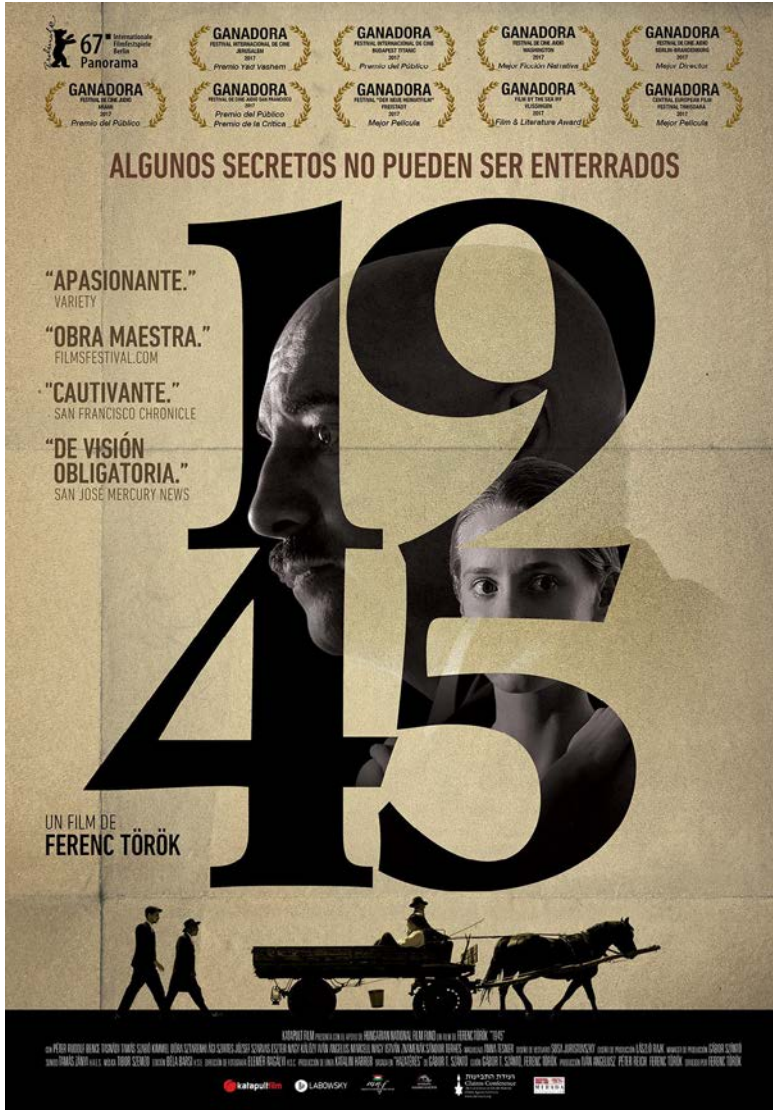
Shabbat for Everyone
Friday, January 28 • 6:15 p.m.

It's not just for you and it's not just for me. It's Shabbat for Everyone at CBE. We're thrilled to be moving our monthly, musical, Friday night service back into the Sanctuary. We'll begin with a festive meal and continue with the music, dancing, and words of celebration. All are welcome to take part in this inclusive and accessible experience. Please make your reservations on the Synagogue website at www.tulsagogue.com.

Women's Wellness Retreat
Saturday, February 5

Save the date for our second annual Women's Wellness Retreat. We'll explore everything from mental health and food to Mikvah (ritual bath) to song and dance. The retreat will kick off by welcoming Shabbat and end with a powerful Havdallah experience akin to the prophetess Miriam! Please keep an eye out on the Synagogue website at www.tulsagogue.com for more information.

BLATT + BLUE : 1945 ON JANUARY 13



At the close of the Second World War, the focus of Jewish self-redemption shifted in many directions: family reunification, immigration to America and Palestine, memorialization, and the restoration of ownership.

1945 is a 2017 Hungarian film directed by Ferenc Török. It concerns two Jewish survivors of the Holocaust who arrive in a Hungarian village in August, 1945 and the paranoid reactions of the villagers, some of whom fear that these and other Jews are coming to reclaim Jewish property. The film garnered stratospheric ratings on Rotten Tomatoes and was featured on the festival circuit the year it came out

The next session on January 13 of B'nai Emunah's long-running film series will look at Torok's film as part of the postwar response to the Holocaust

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.

1945 is easily available on Amazon Prime for a very modest rental fee. Join the Zoom discussion on Thursday evening, January 13, 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. ■



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Challenges of Reform Judaism
• Thurs., Jan. 6, 13, & 20 • 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 for the Zoom link.

Zamru L’Shabbat - Shabbat Shirah • Fri., Jan. 14 • 6:00 p.m.

Join Cantor Weinstein and Elijah’s Minor Prophets, in person or online as we welcome Shabbat Shirah and celebrate with joyous holiday songs! RSVP to rsvp@templetulsa.com for the Zoom link.

Tot Shabbat • Fri., Jan. 21 • 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 for more information.

Shabbat Service w/Torah on Zoom & Facebook Live • Fri., Jan. 21 • 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 for the Zoom link.

The B’nai Mitzvah of Sydney Gebhardt • Sat., Jan. 22 • 10:30 a.m.

The whole community is welcome as Sydney Gebhardt is called to the Torah as a B’nai Mitzvah!

Havdalah in person & on Facebook Live • Sat., Jan. 29 • 6:00 p.m.

Join the Temple Israel Music Team in person and on Facebook Live, as we separate the sacred from the sublime and begin the week anew with Havdalah. Sing along as they offer the prayerful songs of Havdalah. <https://www.facebook.com/TempleIsraelTulsa>

Souper Showdown in person following Havdalah • Sat., Jan. 29 • 6:30 p.m.

• Baby, it’s cold outside...so let’s get together and sample some award-winning chili and soup recipes. Prize given for the favorite dish! Sign up by Thursday, January 27 at RSVP@templetulsa.com.

Kehilla

by KLARA BODE

“Alone, we can do so little; together, we can do so much.” – Helen Keller

Our country is clearly divided at this time, and this division is causing breakdowns in many areas. Among them is a resurgence in overt antisemitism. It is imperative, now more than ever, that the Jewish community stands together. We are clearly stronger when we do.

Our Tulsa Jewish community is very fortunate that, for such a small community, we have mighty resources--financially, and with dedicated, involved lay leaders and volunteers. When we work toward common goals such as combating antisemitism and all forms of hatred, providing safe places for coming together, welcoming the stranger amongst us, and aiding the broader Tulsa community we are more effective when we pool our resources.

We have marched shoulder to shoulder in the MLK parades, shown our support with the LBGTQ+ among us by marching in the Pride Parades, sent money to communities hit by natural and man-made disasters, and expressed our outrage over remarks made at the Broken Arrow City Council, and, at times, by our elected representatives. We show up when there is a crisis, when there is suffering, when we see injustice, and when we can improve others’ lives. We, too, should come together at those moments of calm, success, and pride.

Let’s continue to be a model for Tulsa and beyond to show what unity and cooperation can yield. ■

Martin Luther King Jr. Day



January 17, 2022 - 11:00AM

Join us as we march together as Jewish Tulsa at the 43rd annual Tulsa MLK Parade. Register for event day updates.

www.jewishtulsa.org/mlk2022



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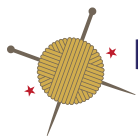


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Contact Sandy Sloan With Questions 918.935.3696 - Sandy@jewishtulsa.org