

# TULSA *Jewish Review*

Ab/Ehul 5782  
August 2022



## Back to School

Camp Shalom - Summer in Review  
Meet the 2022/2023 Mizel Teacher Cohort  
Why We Love Mizel  
School Supply Drive





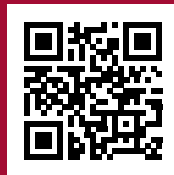
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AV/ELUL 5782  
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# TULSA Jewish Review

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## COVER



Mizel students learning through play.  
Photo courtesy of Mizel.

## Together We Are Making A Difference

by SANDY SLOAN, DIRECTOR OF COMMUNICATIONS AND DEVELOPMENT

The estimated 200,000 Jews living in Ukraine have been profoundly affected by the political and economic instability that have wracked the country. Thousands were trapped in conflict zones in the east. Thousands more have fled the fighting — the first time since World War II that Jews in Ukraine were displaced. The crisis speaks to the most fundamental reasons that Jewish Federations are so critical. Federations do not turn away. We are making a difference. Thank you for helping our Tulsa Jewish Federation make a difference!

Together our Tulsa community raised over \$83,000 providing direct aid to Jews in Ukraine, including food, housing, medical supplies, mental health services and transportation for refugees making Aliyah in Israel, through our global partner JFNA.

\* As of July 5, 2022 your generosity has made a direct impact:

- 80,556+ refugees have been evacuated (within Ukraine and to other countries)
- Nearly 565 tons of humanitarian aid has been delivered to Jews in Ukraine and those who have fled to Moldova
- Tens of thousands of vulnerable Jews have received lifesaving emergency assistance
- 174,000+ refugees received vital necessities like food, medicine, and psychosocial aid
- 60,000+ calls have been fielded by emergency hotlines

\* Sources: JDC (American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee) and JFNA (Jewish Federations of North America) ■



Ukrainian refugees arriving in Israel  
photo credit: Olivier Fitoussi for the The Jewish Agency for Israel



Sunday, September 11 | 6:00pm

# KICKOFF EVENT

with Mentalist/Musician/Entertainer

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Jewish Federation of Tulsa  
Barbara and Dave Sylvan Auditorium  
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**Tickets at**  
[JewishTulsa.org/campaignkickoff](http://JewishTulsa.org/campaignkickoff)



**Event includes**  
dinner, cocktails, dessert,  
a one-of-a-kind performance,  
and community!

Followed by a Super Sunday  
**PHONE-A-THON**  
Sunday, September 18  
2:00-4:00pm



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



**United Jewish Tulsa**  
Jewish Federation of Tulsa  
2022 Annual Campaign



# CALLING ALL SUPER VOLUNTEERS! **SUPER SUNDAY**



**Sunday, September 18, 2:00 – 4:00 pm**  
**@ CSJCC, Barbara and Dave Sylan Auditorium**

Volunteers are needed for our annual Super Sunday phone-a-thon!  
Join your Jewish community as we gather to make calls.  
Bring your family – games and childcare provided!  
Snacks and super sundae ice cream bar too!

**Sign up at: [JewishTulsa.org/SuperSunday22](http://JewishTulsa.org/SuperSunday22)**

or contact Sandy Sloan, [sandy@jewishtulsa.org](mailto:sandy@jewishtulsa.org),  
918.495.1100 for more information.

Super Sunday benefits the Jewish Federation of Tulsa Annual Campaign 2022  
**“United Jewish Tulsa”**

Co-Chairs: Jared Goldfarb and Andrew Spector

# Hallelujah:

## LEONARD COHEN, A JOURNEY, A SONG

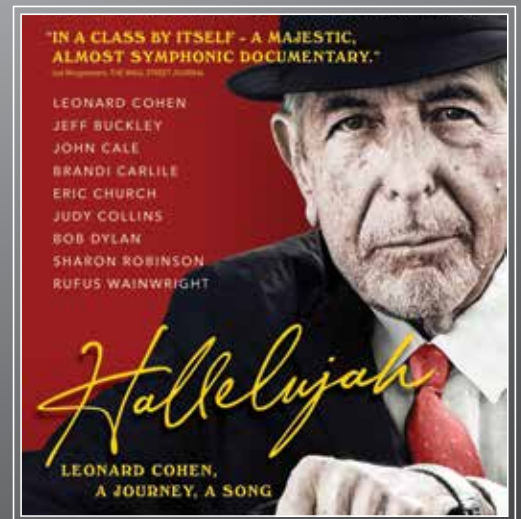
*Opening Reception*

**Sunday, August 7, 2022 | 1:00pm**

Live music featuring Chris Combs

*Feature Film*

followed by the film at 2:00pm



**Hallelujah: Leonard Cohen, a Journey, a Song**, is making its way to Tulsa!

This feature-length documentary explores the singer-songwriter, Leonard Cohen, as seen through the prism of his internationally renowned hymn, Hallelujah along with the song's dramatic journey from record label reject to chart-topping hit.

Sponsored by:



Live music  
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Tickets at [CircleCinema.org](http://CircleCinema.org)



# Reimagining Lunchtime

by ISABELLA SILBERG, DIRECTOR OF ISRAEL PROGRAMS

## Learn A Bunch in Just One Lunch

Lunch-time programs are a community staple. When I was hired as Program Coordinator at the Jewish Federation of Tulsa two years ago, the Retired Men's Club and Ladies Who Lunch groups were established ongoing programs. During the last year, we have brought in a diverse group of dynamic speakers and delicious lunches from our local, Jewish-owned bakery. Both groups have indicated that they enjoy the speakers and shared time with fellow community members, but things were getting a bit stale. About a year ago, I began asking the regular attendees their suggestions about the future of these programs. I surveyed the Retired Men's Club and got an overwhelming response of "being more inclusive", "involving the wives and women of the community", and "having a younger audience." From the Ladies who Lunch, I received comments like "change it up" and "let's bring in young professionals." To make these wishes a reality, a new program has sprouted dubbed The Lunch Bunch: Learn A Bunch in Just One Lunch. The Lunch Bunch will provide a mid-day program and space for community members—of all genders and ages—to come together and enjoy lunch coupled with a versatile program including speakers, entertainment and discussion ideas and topics. I hope you will join us in this mission!

The Lunch Bunch debuts Wednesday, August 24, either in-person with the option to purchase lunch for \$10 or virtually via Zoom. Our first speaker is Rhys A. Martin, author of Lost Restaurants of Tulsa and member of the Route 66 Commission. A Tulsa staple, Route 66 is the mother road

that runs directly through our city, with its motor inns, travel courts, diners, diminutive service stations and neon signs marking the way. Tulsa has 40-some properties along the way in various states of repair, but these properties are quickly being upgraded or removed to make way for new construction. Part of Vision 2025 the Route 66 Master Plan is currently implementing strategies to encourage economic development and tourism for the city of Tulsa. Please join us as we learn first-hand about the history and future of Tulsa's iconic Route 66.

Register at: [JewishTulsa.org/lunchbunch-aug24](https://JewishTulsa.org/lunchbunch-aug24)

Suggestions for future speakers are always welcomed and encouraged by contacting Isabella Silberg at [isilberg@jewishtulsa.org](mailto:isilberg@jewishtulsa.org)



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# Educators' Trip to Israel

by CHEN SHOVAL, ISRAEL EMISSARY

*We cannot see what is out there by simply looking around. Everything depends on the lenses through which we see the world. By putting on new lenses, we see things that otherwise would be invisible. —Parker Palmer*

Last June I had the honor to lead a first-of-its-kind-Educators' trip to Israel. My vision was to give local educators an opportunity to explore Israel and Israeli education from a first-hand experience, develop an "Israel tool kit" for their curriculum, and to deepen their connection and understanding of Israel to better inform students and our community.

Sara Levitt, Director of Jewish Life and Learning at Congregation B'nai Emunah and Rabbi Lillian Kowalski from Temple Israel shared this vision. With representatives from the three Jewish educational institutions—Mizel Jewish Day School, Temple Israel and Congregation B'nai Emunah—we totaled 14 participants (11 educators and 3 partners) trekking from Tulsa to Tel Aviv.

We visited holy sites such as the City of David, where we walked between the ruins and excavations and waded through a water tunnel built almost 3000 years ago. We explored the Western Wall Tunnels and put our notes and prayers in the Kotel brick cracks. We saw the Church of the Holy Sepulchre, a prominent holy site in Christianity.

In recent months, our Tulsa Jewish Federation created a new partnership with the Tamar Regional Council. They welcomed us with a reception and live music

before touring the regions' agriculture research and development center. Our trip continued with an archaeological dig in a cave from the Maccabees period, we floated in the Dead Sea, hiked Masada, swam in the blue waters of the Mediterranean Sea and relaxed during Shabbat on the beach in Tel Aviv.

We met with several diverse educational programs throughout the country, learning how they view and teach curriculum. From a bilingual school of Jews and Muslims where they speak Hebrew and Arabic equally, to a socialist kindergarten where the staff shares the duties and salary. From a kibbutz high school, where the teacher made reforms in the public-school system of how to evaluate students, to a musical program catering towards young people with special needs. We experienced the Forest Kindergarten in the Jerusalem mountains, where the school takes place in the forest—with no building, fence or clear borders. The kitchen is a bonfire in the middle of the area surrounded by rugs for the kids to sit on, trees to climb and a hammock to relax. It is so different than traditional classrooms in the US and made us realize that learning can be achieved in virtually any setting. The diversity of these programs taught us new methods and strategies to educate and connect to both students and our community.

It is hard to put into words all that we experienced. We bonded as a group while growing in our individual knowledge of Israel, traditional educational methods, our Jewish heritage and our surrounding world. I am very grateful for all the people that made this trip. It was magical to spend eight days with wonderful fellow educators and partners exploring my home. ■





## Upcoming Events



### Young Jewish Professionals | Lake House Shabbat | Friday, August 19-21

Our second YJP Lakehouse Shabbaton will take place at Grand Lake. We will cook and celebrate Shabbat on Friday night, enjoy some time on the water and end with Havdallah Saturday evening. It will be a weekend of bonding and building community. Cost is \$200/person and space is limited to 20 participants.

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



### The Lunch Bunch | Wednesday, August 24 | 12:00 pm | CSJCC

Learn a bunch in just one lunch! Rhys Martin, author of the Lost Restaurants of Tulsa and former Men's Club speaker returns to speak with the Lunch Bunch crew. Rhys will discuss the Route 66 commission, their work, and plans for the future. This program is open to all! Optional lunch is available for \$10

**Register at:** [www.jewishtulsa.org/lunchbunch-aug24](http://www.jewishtulsa.org/lunchbunch-aug24)



### Feeding the Soul | Et Al | Wednesday, August 31 | 6:30 pm | Foolish Things

Feeding the Soul uses food as a vehicle to explore culture identity, culture, and tradition. During this edition, Chef Marco of "Et Al" will prepare a dinner described as "border Mexican food." The cuisine that happens at the intersection of Mexican culture, American culture, and Texas culture. More specifically stemming from El Paso, where chef Marco grew up. Cost is \$48/person. Drink pairings are available for an additional \$29. A la carte drinks are available for purchase at the event.

**Register at:** [www.jewishtulsa.org/feedingthesoul-aug31](http://www.jewishtulsa.org/feedingthesoul-aug31)

## Upcoming Opportunities



### Honey Sales

Send the sweetest of all Rosh Hashanah greetings to your family, friends, and business associates!

**More information on page 28**



### Holiday Greetings

Wish friends, family members, and business associates a sweet new year with an ad in the Tulsa Jewish Review!

**More information on page 29**

## September Save the Dates!

Campaign Kickoff | September 11th  
Lunch Bunch | Wednesday, September 14th at 12pm  
Super Sunday | Sunday, September 18th

**Please contact Director of Programs Isabella Silberg with any questions.**  
[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.



Sarah Winkelman

**Introducing New Jewish Federation of Tulsa Team Member, Sarah Winkelman!**

Hi everyone, I'm Sarah Winkelman. I'm the new Digital Marketing Associate at the Jewish Federation of Tulsa! I just completed my two years of service with Teach for America in the Phoenix corps and I moved to Tulsa in mid-June after attending a trip this spring through Tulsa Tomorrow. Previously, I worked with ISRAEL21c as a digital ambassador while completing my degrees at Arizona State University. I've always wanted to work in the Jewish professional field, so I'm super excited to be with the Federation now! If you see me around, let's talk about dogs, traveling, Survivor (the show), sustainability, and food! If you're looking for restaurant reviews or places to recommend, let me know on my Instagram @taste.of.tulsa!

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# A Summer of Fun -- A Lifetime of Memories



**Camp  
Shalom  
2022**

see you next year!



## Swim for All Update



This year we expanded our use of the pool by starting a Swim for All program. Our second session of “Swim for All” concluded in July, and we have learned so much from our first year of facilitating this service. The need to learn basic water safety is tremendous for a large portion of our community, and we are so grateful to be able to host this program at the Sharna and Irvin Frank Aquatics Center.

## AQUATICS CENTER BACK TO SCHOOL HOURS

**Saturdays and Sundays Only  
beginning August 6  
12:00-8:00pm**



### Summer Fitness Challenge (Last Month!)

Memorial Day to Labor Day, go head-to-head with fellow JCC members in your favorite form of exercise. Whether you’re into strength training, running, group exercise, swimming, or something else, you’ll have a chance to test your mettle. Sign up and log your exercise times using our online leaderboard. At the end of the 100 days, the participants with the top three overall recorded exercise times will win a prize! Contact Hannah if interested! [fitness@jewishtulsa.org](mailto:fitness@jewishtulsa.org) or 918.495.1111



### Summer Fun at the Pool

We have family friendly pool parties happening all Summer long at the Sharna and Irvin Frank Aquatics Center!

Join us for our FINAL one Saturday, August 6th for an End of Summer Bash with an ice cream sundae bar. Event is free for everyone. Nosh Nook grill closes at 7:00pm

RSVP Required at [www.jewishtulsa.org/poolparties](http://www.jewishtulsa.org/poolparties)



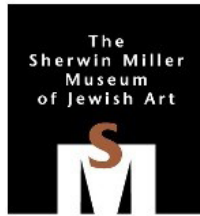
## 2022 Schedule

Classes are free to members!

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
9AM Muscular Endurance	9AM Circuit Training	9AM Midweek Movement	9AM Circuit Training	9AM Jukebox Jams
	10AM Barre Belles	10AM Tap 'n Tone	10AM Barre Belles	10AM Stretching for Daily Functionality
Noon Core and Conditioning	Noon Spin	Noon Bootcamp	Noon Spin	Noon Bootcamp

Anyone can Join. Everyone belongs. For more information contact: [fitness@jewishtulsa.org](mailto:fitness@jewishtulsa.org)





918-492-1818  
 INFO@JEWISHMUSEUM.NET  
 TEMPORARY EXHIBITS



**Jews and Golf Exhibit  
 Now—August 29, 2022**

A new exhibit featuring fifteen Jewish golfers and artifacts from around the globe. We will also have original documents and objects in partnership with

Meadowbrook Country Club to honor the original founders.



**Besa: Code of Honor  
 Now—August 14, 2022**

Muslim Albanians Who Rescued Jews During the Holocaust

In 1933, Albania, a small and mountainous country on the southeast coast of the Balkan peninsula, was home to a population of 803,000. Of those only two hundred were Jews. After Hitler's rise to power many Jews found refuge in Albania. No accurate figures exist regarding their number; however, different sources estimate that 600-1,800 Jewish refugees entered that country from Germany, Austria, Serbia, Greece and Yugoslavia, in the hopes to continue on to the Land of Israel or other places of refuge. The remarkable assistance afforded to the Jews was grounded in Besa, a code of honor, which still today serves as the highest ethical code in the country. Besa means literally "to keep the promise." One who acts according to Besa is someone who keeps his word, someone to whom one can trust one's life and the lives of one's family.

This exhibit is on loan from the Illinois Holocaust Museum & Education Center and created by Yad Vashem, Israel.



**White on Black, Linoprints  
 by A. Raymond Katz, 1933  
 Now—December**

Following his studies at the American Institute of Chicago and the Chicago Academy of Arts, Raymond Balaban and Katz Theater Corporation to decorate

Katz was employed by

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.



**Next Year in Jerusalem The  
 Western Wall Through Art  
 Exhibit  
 Now—December**

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 expressed in media that includes 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.

COMING SOON

**Earth, Hand & Fire: Ceramics by Lisa Goldfarb  
 September 8- February 20, 2023**

Opens with a reception September 8 at 6:00 p.m. including a gallery talk with artist Lisa Goldfarb.

THE FIVE PILLARS  
OF THE  
MILLER MUSEUM  
*Gala*

**Volunteer | Education | Art | History | Partnership**

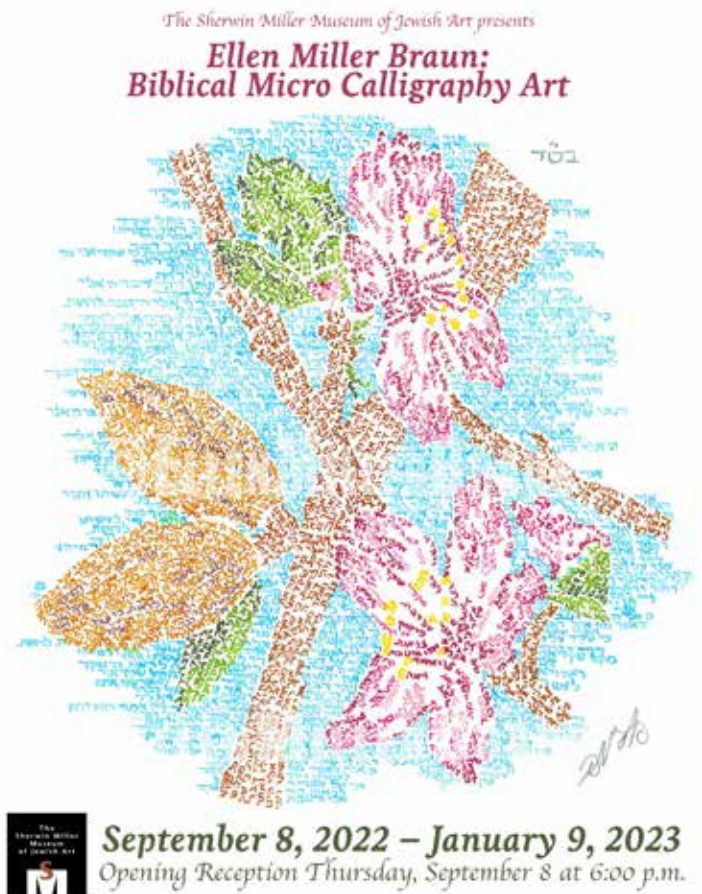
On Sunday, October 30, 2022, the Sherwin Miller Museum of Jewish Art will host its annual gala, “The Five Pillars of the Miller Museum,” celebrating the Museum’s 56th year. We are so pleased to return to an in-person gathering after virtual events the past two years. The evening will include a cocktail hour followed by a delicious catered dinner and festivities emceed by Ginnie Graham, editorial writer for the Tulsa World.

The Five Pillars categories exemplify the important fundamentals of the Museum’s success. This year’s gala will celebrate six truly outstanding people who have strengthened the museum through their time and talents. These honorees embody the Five Pillars of the SMMJA. We are proud to honor: Brina Reinstein (Volunteer), Charlotte Schuman (Education), Donna Matles of blessed memory (Art), Alan and David Livingston (History) and The Tulsa Historical Society lead by Michelle Place (Partnership).

In our rapidly changing world, we are reminded of the power of art to inspire, comfort, teach, and to prompt reflection. Your generosity will ensure our continued ability to engage and interest visitors through personal, in-depth art experiences, and to help us achieve our educational and programming goals.

If you would like to become a patron or have any questions, please contact Tracey Herst-Woods, Deputy Director of the SMMJA at 918.492.1818 or [development@jewishmuseum.net](mailto:development@jewishmuseum.net).

Lynn and Marc Goldberg, Gala Chairs  
Carol Miller, Patron Co-Chair  
Lesley Bumgarner, Patron Co-Chair ■





# Capturing Stories of WWII Oklahoma Veterans

by MIEKE EPPS, MSW  
MEMBER OF THE COUNCIL FOR HOLOCAUST EDUCATION

This is a call for veterans' stories! Veterans with Oklahoma ties who served during World War II anywhere in the world.

The Sherwin Miller Museum of Jewish Art (SMMJA) and the Council for Holocaust Education in Tulsa want to recognize and honor this special group of Oklahoma soldiers who were part of the Greatest Generation.

Their stories will be stored in digital format on permanent display within the Oklahoma WWII Veterans Memorial exhibit at the museum with a dedication planned for June 6, 2023, in honor of D-Day in 1944, when the Allies landed in France.

If you know someone who meets the criteria outlined above and would like to see him or her honored in this special way, please provide us with the following information, which can be submitted digitally or as a hard copy through the mail/in person.

1. Where the soldier served during WWII, military branch, rank, etc.
2. Special achievements, awards or medals (Purple Heart, Silver Star, etc.)
3. A high-resolution photo (300 dpi or higher) of the veteran in military uniform. The Museum can also scan in the original picture.
4. His or her life story from birth to death (or to date)

Contact person: Tracey Herst-Woods; SMMJA Deputy Director.  
Phone: 918.492.1818 E-mail: [twoods@jewishmuseum.net](mailto:twoods@jewishmuseum.net)  
Address: 2021 East 71st Street, Tulsa, Oklahoma 74136

## A Look Into One Veteran's Story:

Kenneth Renberg was born Gunter Renberg in 1920 in Delmenhorst, Germany, and was sent by his parents to America in 1937 to escape the rising Nazi persecution of the Jews. He lived with an aunt and uncle in Enid, OK, and finished high school there in 1939. When the Germans invaded Poland that same year, officially beginning WWII in Europe, Renberg volunteered for the Oklahoma National Guard. After the U.S. entered the war in 1941, Renberg was assigned to Army intelligence as an interrogator. In 1944 that work included interviewing German prisoners in England ahead of the D-Day invasion. After D-Day, Renberg led an interrogation team known as the Ritchie Boys that moved with the infantry through western Europe. He was wounded near St. Lo, France, when a shell exploded and hit him in the shoulder, qualifying him for a Purple Heart. Back in action later in Germany, Renberg took temporary charge of a prisoner-of-war camp. After the war, Renberg graduated from the University of Tulsa with a degree in petroleum engineering. He went on to a long and successful career with local firms. Renberg passed away November 3, 2018 at the age of 97. ■



*Kenneth Renberg*



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## 2022-2023 School Year Teacher Introductions

by AMANDA ANDERSON,  
 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF MIZEL JEWISH COMMUNITY DAYSCHOOL

Flo & Morris Mizel Jewish Community Day School cannot wait to welcome back our students and families on Thursday, August 18! Each year we choose a theme for the school year, I am excited to announce this year is “Better Together” “ or in Hebrew, “Yachad Tov Yoter” יחד טוב יותר

This theme has a few meanings and applications. It refers to the fact that Mizel is not just a community school, it is an equal set of parents, students and staff from diverse backgrounds and cultures, brought together by common values. Mizel students learn to recognize others’ differences while accepting each other as part of a whole. Better Together combines Torah and Mada (science). Better Together teaches values of honesty, compassion, earnest effort and basic human morals. Students will explore these and other aspects of the Better Together theme across grades and throughout the year via weekly Table Talks. For our new studying program “Shabbat Table” Table Talks will facilitate family discussions, the weekly podcast on Jewish education, books of the month, monthly projects and assemblies.

Our students will continue to learn team-building skills enhancing their develop as individuals and in group environments. The beginning of the school year is an exciting time. We have new stories to share from the summer, new students and teachers, and continued hopes and dreams for our students to learn and flourish!

Continue reading to learn about our amazing staff for the 2022-2023 school year.



**Amanda Anderson**  
 Executive Director

How long have you been with Mizel?

**This will be my 2nd year**

What is your education background?

**I studied education at the University of Oklahoma. I have a masters in elementary mathematics and instructional leadership and curriculum w/ administration. I taught in Norman and Oklahoma City before moving to Tulsa.**

Where are you from?

**I was born on Florida but moved to Oklahoma when I was 9.**

What are you looking forward to most this school year?

**Watching Mizel JCDS grow and welcoming in our returning and new families!**

What is your favorite animal?

**A giraffe**

What is your dream vacation?

**Somewhere tropical**





**Carol Adams**

Elementary School Teacher

How long have you been with Mizel?  
**I have been with Mizel since 2006.**

What is your education background?  
**B.A. and M.A. from Northeastern State College. 50+ years in education**

Where are you from?  
**I was born in Jenks, OK; Lived in Bristow, OK since 1989.**

What are you looking forward to most this school year?  
**Working and Growing with the students. Working with the Mizel staff. And Meeting our new families**

What is your favorite animal?  
**Dog BUT, I have a black goat named Mr. Billy. He showed up at our front door and is still here.**

What is your dream vacation?  
**I've always wanted to go to Israel, Scotland, Austria, and Ireland.**



**Alin Avitan**

Hebrew and Judaic Studies

How long have you been with Mizel?  
**This is my tenth year**

What is your education background?  
**Studied at Marie Victorian College - World Geography, Tourism, French and Early Childhood Education at Jewish Adult CEGEP**

Where are you from?  
**I was born in Beersheva Israel. I moved to Canada in 1987 and then to Oklahoma in 2002.**

What are you looking forward to most this school year?  
**Being Stronger Together! I love bringing all the different cultures, brought together by common values and being part of the Mizel family.**

What is your favorite animal?  
**A dog**

What is your dream vacation?  
**A tropical Island with all the people I love**



**Veronica Berkowitz**

Cooking Instructor and Teacher's Aide

How long have you been with Mizel?  
**I have been here one year**

What is your education background?  
**Food & Hospitality/Culinary Arts**

Where are you from?  
**Mexican American**

What are you looking forward to most this school year?  
**Teaching the kids how to cook**

What is your favorite animal?  
**Tracker, my service dog**

What is your dream vacation?  
**On the beach in Hawaii or Australia**



**Emily Carpenter**

STEAM Instructor,  
Art Instructor, &  
Librarian

How long have you been with Mizel?  
**This is my first year at Mizel.**

What is your education background?  
**I started out as an outreach coordinator for National Wildlife Refuges in Florida and Idaho, where I developed educational experiences for children and adults and then I moved to Oklahoma. I started out at the Tulsa Zoo as an educational specialist! Then I worked for Tulsa Public Schools as a teacher!**

Where are you from?  
**Salina, KS**

What are you looking forward to most this school year?  
**Getting to know a whole new group of students!**

What is your favorite animal?  
**My spoiled cat, Roger!**

What is your dream vacation?  
**A tour of museums and ancient sites across Greece**



**Lauren Drover**

Early Childhood  
Teacher

How long have you been with Mizel?  
**I have been on this campus since I was three years old.**

What is your education background?  
**I have worked at Camp Shalom for as long as I can remembers. I worked for TPS and then found this magical place, Mizel JCDS. I joined the staff 2013.**

Where are you from?  
**I was born and raised in Tulsa, Oklahoma.**

What are you looking forward to most this school year?  
**Watching my students from last year grown in Kindergarten, and my current students to grow and learn together, creating meaningful learning experiences**

What is your favorite animal?  
**I love ALL animals, but horses are my favorite!**

What is your dream vacation?  
**To take a vacation!**



**Drew Nezler**

Executive Assistant

How long have you been with Mizel?  
**This is my first school year with Mizel.**

What is your education background?  
**I have a Bachelor of Science Degree in Hospitality Management from Chaplin School of Hospitality & Tourism Management at Florida International University**

Where are you from?  
**Sunny Palm Beach, Florida**

What are you looking forward to most this school year?  
**Getting to know the students, staff, and families.**

What is your favorite animal?  
**An otter**

What is your dream vacation?  
**A year on the MS The World to cruise ship to see the world.**





**Mary Rothman**  
Early Childhood Teacher

How long have you been with Mizel?  
**This is my first school year with Mizel.**

What is your education background?  
**I have a Bachelor of Science Degree in Early Childhood Education from NSU. Master's Degree in Curriculum and Leadership Studies from OSU.**

Where are you from?  
**I was born in San Antonio, TX; but I grew up as a military child living all over the United States. I have lived in Tulsa for 45 years now, so I feel like I am from Tulsa now.**

What are you looking forward to most this school year?  
**Getting to know my students and families and forming a strong relationship with them all.**

What is your favorite animal?  
**A Sloth**

What is your dream vacation?  
**Has always been to ride every roller coaster in the USA. but since I am past my prime on that one, then second is to visit New Zealand, where they filmed the Hobbit movies.**



**Chelsea Sexton**  
Teacher's Assistant

How long have you been with Mizel?  
**6 years**

What is your education background?  
**Homeschooled my whole life**

Where are you from?  
**Oklahoma City**

What are you looking forward to most this school year?  
**I look forward to sharing pre-K with my son and watching all the kids learn amazing things!**

What is your favorite animal?  
**A giraffe**

What is your dream vacation?  
**Would be to go to Australia to visit the Australia Zoo**



**Adam Weingarten**  
Music and Physical Education Teacher

How long have you been with Mizel?  
**This is my first year**

What is your education background?  
**Jewish Educator, Musician, Sound Engineer, Counselor at Camp Ramah in the Berkshires, Hebrew School Teacher at B'nai Emunah**

Where are you from?  
**Rye Brook, NY near Westchester**

What are you looking forward to most this school year?  
**Working with the students to better understand what they love most about music and to develop new ways of studying, appreciating and teaching the subject!**

What is your favorite animal?  
**A lion**

What is your dream vacation?  
**A private Island, maybe in Hawaii**

## Why We Love Mizel

by PATRICIA GROSS, MIZEL PARENT

We moved to Oklahoma in 2021 with only a month left of the school year. After a rough year of covid-based obstacles, our kids found a home. Immediately, our kids began making new friends. As parents, we became part of a close-knit community of families that support one another, celebrate birthdays and enjoy spending time both in and outside of school events. This past school year (2021-2022) only supported our initial impression. When we think about how long we may live in Oklahoma, Mizel continues to be a big reason we stay. Three things come to mind when we think about “Why Our Family Loves Mizel”: educational excellence, depth of programming, and unique facilities.

### Educational Excellence.

Within the first month, we noticed a huge difference between the approaches used at Mizel verses our previous schools. Our eldest’s reading and math skills skyrocketed, and our preschooler was thriving by being challenged to expand his learning in new ways. Over the next year, our same feelings were echoed 10-fold as our kids continued expanding their learning, reading and math skills and Mizel continued to expand its programming. One of the unique aspects of Mizel is its low teacher to student ratio. This allows teachers to truly invest in each child’s learning and progress. All our children’s teachers have flexible teaching styles so that if one of our children is struggling on a certain topic, they provide extra feedback, exercises or guidance. If one of our children is excelling beyond the curriculum, they quickly adapt and continue to facilitate our child’s growth. We have a close relationship with all our children’s teachers with almost daily communication at drop-offs and pick-ups, regular notes home and follow-up on any matters that need attention.

### Depth of Programming.

Mizel allows for real depth within their programming. Our kids loved the expansion of Mizel’s Hebrew, STEM, nature, art, music, cooking, and dinosaur yoga (social/emotional skills learning) programs. Mizel’s Hebrew teacher, Morah Alin, is an Israeli native and brings wonderful cultural aspects into her classroom from food, music, interactive games, and even sister school relationship with an elementary school in Ashkelon, Israel. Morah Alin uses an immersive and interactive program for homework too. Since we have family in Israel, this interaction also means our

children will be able to better communicate on future visits. This year, our children also got to participate in the exclusive Mizel Meal Makers program led by Morah Veronica. By the end of the year, our oldest son was able to make a 3-course meal and presented the final meal celebration by serving all the parents of his class alongside his other classmates and “Meal Makers.”

### Unique Facilities.

Mizel also has an amazing and beautiful facility that allows for a lot of outdoor space and interaction with nature, an excellent art museum on grounds, and access to the Jewish Community Center athletic facilities. Mizel interacts with the larger Jewish Community through the JCC, PJ Library and Jewish Federation. Mizel also has a close-knit relationship with the larger community allowing for interactive field trips and onsite presenters. Our children also connect with the older adults at Zarrow Pointe. It has been a wonderful experience for our children and we are excited to see these types of experiences expand.



*Mizel students walking into school. Photo courtesy of Mizel.*



# Flo and Morris Mizel Jewish Community Day School 2022-2023 Academic Calendar

## 2022

**August 14** Back to School Ice Cream Social  
**August 18** First Day of School  
**\*August 27** Havdallah at the Pool  
**September 5** Labor Day- No School  
**September 19-23** PTO Book Fair  
**September 25-26** Rosh Hashanah- No School  
**October 5** Yom Kippur- No School  
**October 10-11** Sukkot- No School  
**\*October 12-14** Scholastic Book Fair  
**October 17** Shemini Atzeret- No School  
**October 18** Simchat Torah- No School  
**\*October 23** Annual Fundraiser  
**November 23-25** Thanksgiving Break- No School  
**December 19** Winter Break

## 2023

**January 3** Teacher Work Day  
**January 4** Students Return from Winter Break  
**January 16** MLK Day- No School  
**February 20** President's Day- No School  
**March 13-17** Spring Break- No School  
**April 6-7** Passover- No School  
**April 12-13** Passover- No School  
**May 25** Last Day of School  
**\*Open to the community!**

## Fall 2022 Fundraiser

save  
the  
date



Sunday, October 23  
11am-2pm

More information to come.

MIZEL'S  
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BOOK FAIR

OCT. 12-  
OCT. 14



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## Back to School Supply Drive | Now thru August 12

The Jewish Federation of Tulsa and Zarrow Pointe are joining forces in collecting much needed school supplies for two neighborhood public schools.

Drop off supplies at one of two drop-off locations:

- CSJCC lobby
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**Israeli-born Tulsan and playwright, Ilan Kozlowski, receives “The Leon Rollerson Diamond Award” for his play “Shades of White”**

“Shades of White” by Israeli-born local playwright Ilan Kozlowski, is set in 1990’s Tulsa, OK and explores the relationships between an Israeli immigrant, a former member of the Ku Klux Klan, and their wives.

Following its premiere at the University of Tulsa in 2017, the play was named a finalist in the international New Works of Merit Playwriting contest. A grant from the Dan Allen Center for Social Justice sponsored a second production at the Tulsa Performing Arts Center as part of SummerStage Tulsa 2018. Most recently, “Shades of White” enjoyed a successful production at the Broken Arrow Community Playhouse in March and April 2022.

Among those in attendance in Broken Arrow was Leon Rollerson and members of the Leon Rollerson Foundation. Leon Rollerson is a legendary jazz bassist who has been inducted into four Halls of Fame and has been awarded the Key to the City of Tulsa. “The Leon Rollerson Diamond Award” program recognizes those who have been leaders in the community to help remember and honor the history of the African American Experience through their lives, talents, businesses and organizations during the Juneteenth Celebration and throughout the year.”

Ilan Kozlowski is humbled and honored to have received the Leon Rollerson Diamond Award at the Greenwood Cultural Center during its 2022 Juneteenth Celebration.

Ilan wrote “Shades of White” because he wanted to inspire the healing of our societal divisions through a message of love, hope, humor and reconciliation. ■

**Have a Simcha or achievement to announce to the community? Contact Marketing and Communications Coordinator, Jasmine at [jrikin@jewishtulsa.org](mailto:jrikin@jewishtulsa.org) for more information.**

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CircleCinema.org | 918.585.3456 | 10 S. Lewis Ave, 74104

# Harry Houdini: Magician Extraordinaire ©

by PHIL GOLDFARB

**E**rik Weisz (aka Harry Houdini) was born in Budapest, Hungary on March 24, 1874, to Rabbi Mayer Sámuel Weisz (1829–1892) and his wife Cecília Steiner Weisz (1841–1913).

Weisz arrived in the United States on July 3, 1878, aboard the SS *Fresia* with his mother and his four brothers. After arrival, the family changed their name to the German spelling of Weiss and Erik became Ehrich. Initially, the family lived in Appleton, Wisconsin where his father served as rabbi of the Zion Reform German-Jewish Congregation and according to legend, little Ehrich wore tefillin and spoke Yiddish.

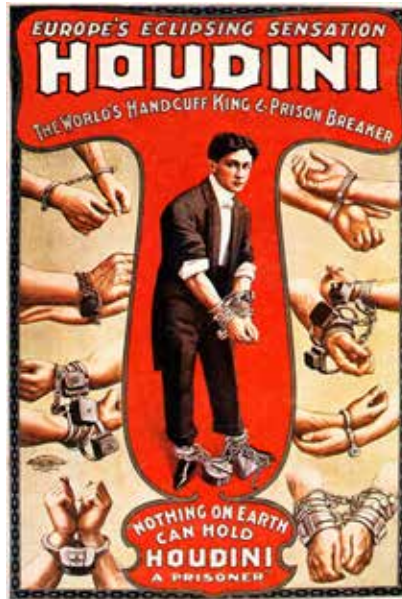
On June 6, 1882, Rabbi Weiss became an American citizen and therefore so did his family. Losing his job at Zion in 1882, Rabbi Weiss and family moved to Milwaukee and fell into dire poverty. When he was eight years old, Ehrich sold newspapers and worked as a bootblack to help support his family. The next year he made his public debut as a nine-year-old trapeze artist, calling himself “Ehrich, the Prince of the Air.” Ehrich grew up hearing Yiddish, Hungarian, and German at home, but very little English as he ran away from home at age 12 in 1886, hoping to find work to support his impoverished family. He rejoined the family in New York City a year later in 1887 where they had moved.

Shortly after moving to NYC, his father took him to see a traveling magician and his interest in magic and in performing began. After reading a biography in 1890 about the famous French magician, Jean-Eugene Robert-Houdin (1805-1871), he took the stage name, Harry Houdini, in honor of Houdin. The first name of Harry was likely adapted from “Ehri” a nickname for “Ehrich” which is how he was known to his family. Some Houdini historians trace young Ehrich’s interest in magic to his father’s sermons; after seeing the rabbi hold a congregation captivated, the power of performance became clear.

Houdini began his magic career in 1891 with little success. He performed in dime museums and sideshows, and even doubled as “The Wild Man” at a circus. Houdini focused initially on traditional card tricks and at one point, billed himself as the “King of Cards.” Though his magic met with little success, he soon drew attention for his feats of escape using handcuffs.

In 1894, while performing with his brother “Dash” (Theodore) at Coney Island as “The Brothers Houdini,” Houdini met a fellow performer, Wilhelmina Beatrice “Bess” Rahner, a Roman Catholic who was appearing in a song and dance act called The Floral Sisters. Bess and Houdini married after a three-week courtship with Bess replacing Dash in the act, which became known as “The Houdinis.” For the rest of Houdini’s performing career, Bess worked as his stage assistant.

Houdini’s big break came in 1899 when he met vaudeville impresario Martin Beck at a Minneapolis beer-hall performance. Impressed by Houdini’s handcuffs act, Beck advised him to concentrate on escape acts and booked him on the Orpheum vaudeville circuit and within months, he was performing at the top vaudeville houses in the country. Houdini’s feats would involve the local police who would strip search him, place him in shackles and lock him in their jails. In 1900, Beck arranged for Houdini to tour Europe. He gave a demonstration of his escaping from handcuffs at Scotland Yard and succeeded in baffling the police so effectively that he was booked at the Alhambra Theater in London for six months. His show was an immediate hit and his salary rose to \$300 a week (equivalent to \$10,132 in 2022 dollars).



Houdini continued his act in the United States in the early 1900s, constantly upping the ante from jails, handcuffs, chains, ropes, and straightjackets to locked, water-filled tanks and nailed packing crates as he became the highest-paid performer in American vaudeville. As a Jewish “mama’s boy” and with his new-found wealth, Houdini purchased a dress that was made for Queen Victoria and then arranged a grand reception where he presented his mother in the dress to all their relatives. Houdini said it was the happiest day of his life.

Houdini was able to escape because of both his great strength and his equally uncanny ability to pick locks. In 1912, his act reached its pinnacle with the Chinese Water Torture Cell, which would be the hallmark of his career. In it, Houdini was suspended by his feet and lowered upside-down in a locked glass cabinet filled with water, requiring him to hold his breath for more than three minutes to escape. The performance was so daring and such a crowd-pleaser that it remained in his act until his death as the possibility of failure and death thrilled his audiences.



He also expanded his repertoire with his escape challenge act, in which Houdini invited the public to devise contraptions to hold him. These included nailed packing crates (sometimes lowered into water), riveted boilers, wet sheets, mail bags, and even the belly of a whale that had washed ashore in Boston.

In 1918, Houdini used his clout to establish The Rabbis' Sons Theatrical Benevolent Association, a fraternal organization that raised money for charity including the Red Cross, The Young Men's Hebrew Association, and the war efforts during WWI. Among the other "rabbis' sons" were Al Jolson, Irving Berlin, and all of the Three Stooges.


In the final years of his life, Houdini launched his own full-evening show, which he billed as "Three Shows in One: Magic, Escapes, and Fraud Mediums Exposed."

On October 22, 1926, while in Montreal, Canada, giving a lecture on spiritualism at the Princess Theater, he was asked by a McGill University student named Jocelyn Whitehead (1895-1954) if he could withstand a blow to the stomach. Before he could prepare himself for the blow, the student suddenly hit him three times, the last blow rupturing his appendix. Harry thought he would recover and went on to perform several times over the next few days.

He then traveled to Detroit, Michigan, where he performed at the Garrick Theater. After performing his act, he was rushed to the Detroit Grace Hospital where he died of peritonitis, secondary to a ruptured appendix and a streptococcal infection at 1:26 p.m. on October 31, 1926, at age 52. In his final days he believed that he would recover, but his last words before dying were reportedly: "I'm tired of fighting... I do not want to fight anymore."

Harry Houdini is buried in the Machpelah Jewish Cemetery in Ridgewood, Queens, NY next to his parents. On February 11, 1943, Bess died aboard a train bound for New York from California. She was not permitted to rest beside her husband at the Machpelah Cemetery because she was not Jewish but is buried at the nearby Gate of Heaven Cemetery in Hawthorne, New York. In a posthumous ceremony on October 31, 1975, Houdini was given a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame.

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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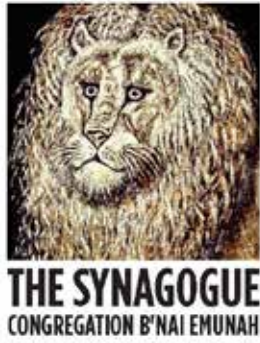
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S I N C E 1 9 6 2



**Afternoon/Evening Services**  
**Every Wednesday and Friday • 5:30 p.m.**

Each week, we gather together to experience traditional daily prayer and establish a quiet space for those who are mourning a loved one or observing the anniversary of a loss (yahrtzeit). All use these opportunities to recite a communal Mourner's Kaddish. Wednesday gatherings take place in the Sanctuary and we ask that in-person attendees let us know in advance for security purposes. Friday gatherings always take place in the Synagogue Zoom Room at 918 583 7121.

**Shabbat Morning Services**  
**Every Saturday, August 6, 13, 20, 27 • 9:30 a.m.**

Each week, our community gathers together to sing the liturgy of the tradition, study the weekly Torah portion, and spend time amongst family and friends. Some arrive in person and others participate online. All are welcome to participate in this experience, either in person or on Zoom. Members and friends can access the Synagogue Zoom Room at 918 583 7121.

**Lifelong Learners**  
**Wednesday, August 3 • 11:30 a.m.**

Ageless seniors from every corner of the community are invited to join Rabbi Dan Kaiman at the Synagogue for lunch and rabbinic storytelling from the literature of our civilization. The session will begin at 11:30 a.m. and a bus will leave from Zarrow Pointe at 11:00 a.m. each time. No charge for transportation (you may of course, come in your own vehicle) and lunch from Queenie's will be provided. Please reserve your spot by calling the Synagogue at 918-583-7121.

**Synagogue Bakehouse**  
**Thursday, August 4 • 7:00 p.m.**

All are invited to come together in the kitchen of the Synagogue for an evening of baking, learning, and schmoozing.

We're serious about our baked goods at the Synagogue and see sweet treats as a way to show care and concern. Be a maven, the Yiddish word for someone who deeply understands their craft. We'll learn about the beautiful community tradition of baking for celebrations from community baking experts and fill the freezer with yummy treats for upcoming baby namings and other celebrations. To join us, please be in touch with Sara Levitt at [slevitt@bnaiemunah.com](mailto:slevitt@bnaiemunah.com)

**Tisha b'Av**  
**Saturday, August 6 • 8:00 p.m.**

The Synagogue will observe Tisha b'Av, the fast of the Ninth of Av, with a public reading of narratives drawn from the literature of the Holocaust. The first-hand accounts force us to consider the terrible inhumanity of Nazi brutality, and the extremes of suffering and deprivation. This will be a digital experience in the Synagogue Zoom Room at 918 583 7121. The program will begin at 8:00 p.m.

**Biblical Infusions with Inner Circle Vodka Bar**

**Wednesday, August 10 • 6:30 p.m.**

In partnership with Andy Cagle and our friends at Inner Circle Vodka Bar, we'll participate in a workshop experience crafting uniquely flavored vodkas inspired by flavors referenced in the Torah. From fenugreek to citron to pomegranate, we hope this will be an accessible way to explore the text that sits at the heart of the Jewish community. To register for this event visit [www.tulsagogue.com](http://www.tulsagogue.com). Reservations include all materials needed for the workshop.

**Blatt + Blue**  
**Thursday, August 11 • 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 lead an exchange on Foxtrot, a film that focuses on the unique experience of Israeli families with military service. The film is available to view on Amazon. Join us on Thursday, August 11 at 7:00 p.m. for a lively discussion in the Synagogue Zoom Room at 918 583 7121.

**Bibi-Dibi: Shabbat for the Littlest**  
**Friday, August 12 • 5:30 p.m.**

Babies, babies, and more babies! Our monthly session for our youngest members and their families resumes with an in-person session beginning at 5:30 p.m. With toys, songs, and sweet

activities, we introduce concepts of rest, Shabbat, and Jewish values. It all culminates with a delicious family picnic. Space is limited and advance registration is required. Please visit [www.tulsagogue.com](http://www.tulsagogue.com).

**Shabbat for Everyone**  
**Friday, August 19 • 6:15 p.m.**

It's not just for you and it's not just for me. It's Shabbat for Everyone at CBE! Join us for a festive Shabbat dinner in the Synagogue at 6:00 p.m. We'll then move to the Sanctuary for our musical celebration highlighted by song, dancing, and storytelling at 7:00 p.m. The service will be broadcast live on Zoom at 918 583 7121. Make your reservations in advance on the Synagogue website, [www.tulsagogue.com](http://www.tulsagogue.com).

**Shul School: The Launch**  
**Sunday, August 21 • 9:00 a.m.**

School is back in session! Synagogue families are invited to join us on Sunday, August 21 to launch into our school year with joy and community. We'll gather at the Synagogue to meet our teachers, check out classroom spaces, reconnect with old friends, learn about the year ahead, sing, and more. Parents should plan to attend with their students! Interested in learning about our supplemental school programs at the Synagogue? Be in touch with Morah Sara at [slevitt@bnaiemunah.com](mailto:slevitt@bnaiemunah.com) for questions and registration information!

**Booksmart: David Maraniss**  
**Monday, August 22 • 7:00 p.m.**

We are thrilled to welcome Pulitzer Prize winner David Maraniss for a special in-person program to celebrate his new biography of Jim Thorpe, Path Lit By Lightning on Monday, August 22. Jim Thorpe rose to world fame as a mythic talent who excelled at every sport. He won gold medals in the decathlon and pentathlon at the 1912 Stockholm Olympics, was the star of the first class of the Pro Football Hall of Fame, and played major league baseball for John McGraw's New York Giants. But despite his colossal skills, Thorpe's life was a struggle against the odds. As a member of the Sac and Fox Nation, he encountered duplicitous authorities, racist discrimination, and had his gold medals unfairly rescinded. For all his travails, Thorpe did not succumb, and his victories have just officially been recognized again. Path Lit by Lightning is a great American story from a master biographer.



## BLATT + BLUE : *FOXTROT* ON THURSDAY, AUGUST 11

One of the great cultural divisions in the Jewish world is the issue of military service. It's a near-universal fact-of-life in the State of Israel and terra incognita in the rest of the Jewish community. American Jews have very little recent experience in the fraught realm of armed conflict and the routines of military life.

Foxtrot does not try to bridge this gap, but it allows us to see into the lived experience of an Israeli family at odds with the military establishment. Michael and Dafna Feldmann, an affluent Tel Aviv couple, learn that their son, Jonathan, a soldier, has died in the line of duty. The Israel Defense Forces refuse to inform the distraught parents where and how Jonathan died, or if his body had been recovered.

Several hours later, they are notified almost matter-of-factly that there has been a mix-up, and that it was some other Jonathan Feldman who has been killed. An angry Michael demands that the IDF allow Jonathan to return home. Although they promise that Jonathan will return by the next day, Michael demands his son return immediately and calls in a favor to have Jonathan's homecoming hastened. As styled by Director Daniel Maoz, that is merely the beginning of a story that grows more complicated as the film unfolds.

Participants who would like to screen the film in advance can easily locate it on the Amazon Instant Video platform and many others. The film was screened in the competition section of the 74th Venice International Film Festival where it won the Grand

Jury Prize Silver Lion. It won the Ophir Award for Best Film, therefore becoming the Israeli entry for the Best Foreign Language Film at the 90th Academy Awards. The discussion session on the film will take place on Thursday, August 11, at 7:00 p.m.

Blatt + Blue is one of the longest-running projects at the Synagogue. Born in March 2020, it has run without a break for twenty-nine months, spotlighting a diverse and provocative roster of films and television. The series expresses the Synagogue's own commitments to an inclusive and pluralistic vision of the Jewish world. No single endeavor can capture the whole of the Jewish experience. No single institution can exhaust the rich possibilities of Jewish life. Film and television enthusiasts David Blatt and Alice Blue begin each session with a summary of the featured material. It means that you'll be able to follow the conversation even if you have to delay your viewing of the film. After that, it's questions and comments from the Zoom Room audience.

Join the discussion in the Synagogue Zoom Room with two dozen regular participants. 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). ■





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Est 1914

**Have a great and productive summer! Temple Israel Clergy and Staff.**

**Challenges of Reform Judaism on Zoom Thurs., Aug. 4, 11, 18, & 25 • 2:00 p.m.**

Join us as we look at the societal challenges the Reform Movement has faced throughout American history. From the ethical question of slavery during the Civil War era, to Interfaith Marriage in the synagogue; from

the early foundations of Zionism, to the Jewish response to LGBT in the latter 20th century; from the 1950's Encouragement to seek out the Convert, to the 1970's Rabbinical Ordination of Women. RSVP to [rsvp@templetulsa.com](mailto:rsvp@templetulsa.com) for the Zoom link.

**Shabbat Learning Through the Ages on Zoom • Sat., Aug. 6 • 10:30 a.m.**

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

**Shabbat Service w/Torah in person, on Zoom & Facebook Live • Fri., Aug. 12 & 26 • 6:00 p.m.**

Join the Temple Israel Clergy Team as we welcome in Shabbat with the chanting of Torah. Our summer Torah

service begins at 6:00 p.m. Masks are optional for all vaccinated individuals; required for unvaccinated individuals. RSVP to [rsvp@templetulsa.com](mailto:rsvp@templetulsa.com) for the Zoom link.

**Shabbat Service & Congregational Dinner • Fri., Aug. 19 • 6:00 p.m.**

Come to Temple Israel for an early Shabbat service and stay for the delicious congregational dinner afterwards! Look for more information in our E-blast and on our website. RSVP to [rsvp@templetulsa.com](mailto:rsvp@templetulsa.com) for the service Zoom link.

**Zarrow Pointe Shabbat Service in person • Fri., Aug. 26 • 6:45 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! Masks are optional for all vaccinated individuals; required for unvaccinated individuals.

## Art and Creativity

by RABBI TZVIA JASPER

Shalom, my name is Rabbi Tzvia Jasper. I am proud to call myself the new Engagement Rabbi at Temple Israel. I was raised and went to college in the Midwest; and I have spent the better part of the past six years in Cincinnati, studying at the Hebrew Union College- Jewish Institute of Religion. With me to Tulsa, I bring my spouse Yonah, and our pet tortoise, Godzilla.

Among my passions for Judaism, I am also an artist. I firmly believe that through Judaism and our sacred teachings, we can turn our lives into meaningful pieces of art. As I have begun exploring Tulsa, I am finding inspiration all around me, such as the art deco architecture, or the beautiful landscape in The Gathering Place!

Art has always been a way for me to understand the world around me and connect to the Holy One. My early connections to Judaism and art began at URJ Camp, OSRUI in Oconomowoc, Wisconsin. I was 10 years old, I had never been away from home for so long, let alone around so many Jews before! I grew up as the 'token Jew' in a not-so-Jewish suburb of Chicago. So much so, that I recall raising my hand in 5th-grade, at the end of our ancient Egypt unit, only to ask when the teacher was going to tell the rest of the story (the Exodus story). The poor teacher had no idea what to do with me. You can imagine how excited I was to be around so many Jews at summer camp.

At OSRUI, you had a chance to pick a specialized unit. I chose art. I spent all day learning new art techniques and finding ways to integrate Jewish texts and motifs. This was the first time that I realized the power of the visual image, both to our tradition and to storytelling. After my time at camp were through, I knew I wanted to continue exploring my take on "Jewish art."

I took every art class available; I learned to throw clay, use oil paints, do mosaics, and so much more.

As a teenager, I attended a Jewish day school for High School, learning all the topics which I would later geek out about in Rabbinical school, like Talmud, Midrash, and Modern Jewish Thought. Four years had passed since my first experience at Jewish camp. My excitement about using my creativity to express the words of my heart was unwavering. My inspiration had changed.

A door was opened to me, one which led me deeper into Judaism. I was learning how to interact with our Tradition, learning to find my own voice in the brushstrokes of my canvas. Looking back, my path was always leading me to the rabbinate. From the time I was a child, being the only one bringing that "weird gross cracker" for a week straight every year in the spring, to now, living as a Jew in a non-Jewish world, Judaism was incredibly important to my identity. It was my secret, what made me feel special, as if I belonged somewhere.

Today, I continue to practice art. In my free time...you may find me interpreting a passage from the Tanach, either through creative writing, or on a canvas. When attending worship, you might hear the latest prayer I have composed, drawing on the struggle which many of us feel when trying to connect to the Holy One.

Art might not be the way most of us connect to our Judaism. For you, that connection might be on a rooftop overlooking the city during Shabbatluck, marching in the Pride Parade, or getting coffee with a new friend. Whatever way we choose, being Jewish is who we are, and our tradition is ours for the exploring. ■





**YOU'RE INVITED TO**  
**SOCIABLE SENIORS**

**AN AFTERNOON AT PHILBROOK! FEATURING  
AN EXHIBIT OF WORKS BY FRIDA KAHLO**

**Sunday, August 21 12:40 PM**

We'll meet on Sunday, August 21, by 12:40 p.m. at the museum's rotunda, and a docent-guided tour will begin promptly at 1:00 p.m. After the tour, we'll gather for dessert and schmoozing beginning at 2:00 p.m. Philbrook's 'Kitchen 27' restaurant will provide a delicious array of desserts for us to enjoy.

**The total cost for each person will be \$15.**

**Call 918-747-1309 or RSVP at  
[www.templetulsa.com/rsvp-for-events](http://www.templetulsa.com/rsvp-for-events)  
by August 16**



*Sociable Seniors is Temple's social group for members and community friends ages 60+ -- invite friends to join us!*

**Let's count on one another.**

Proud to play an active role in making our community better.

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# Wish family, friends and business associates a Sweet & Happy New Year!

Send the sweetest of all Rosh Hashanah greetings!

Place Your Order Now!



Just in time for Rosh Hashanah, we will ship an 8 oz jar of Kosher honey with a personalized card reading:

*"Shana Tova - Wishing you a Healthy and Happy New Year." - signed with your name.*

Cost is **\$13.00 per jar.**

Order by August 1<sup>st</sup> for free shipping within the U.S.  
Additional fees apply for international orders.\*

**Ordering is quick and easy!**

Go to [orthoney.com/JFT](http://orthoney.com/JFT).

- Add \$6.50 per jar for shipping within the U.S.
- Regardless of order date add:
  - \$25 for Canada and \$35 for other countries
  - \$6.50 for APO/FPO military addresses

Order through September 1<sup>st</sup> for delivery by Rosh Hashanah. Orders accepted throughout the High Holidays.

For more information contact:

Isabella Silberg  
918-495-1100  
[isilberg@jewishtulsa.org](mailto:isilberg@jewishtulsa.org)





**Honeycrisp Apple - \$72**

Custom text (up to 80 words)  
and an image, graphic, or logo  
(preview for approval provided)



**McIntosh Slice - \$36**  
Family name & greeting  
(up to 15 words)

**Fuji Slice - \$18**  
Family name

**Gala Apple - \$54**

Custom text (up to 40 words)

**Empire Apple - \$180**

Custom text (up to 100 words)  
and an image, graphic, or logo  
(preview for approval provided)



## Holiday Greetings Ads

Wish friends, family members, and business associates a sweet new year through an ad in the Tulsa Jewish Review!  
Reserve your ad by Monday, August 15th!

Go to [www.JewishTulsa.org/shanahtovah](http://www.JewishTulsa.org/shanahtovah) to submit your ad  
or contact Isabella Silberg at [isilberg@jewishtulsa.org](mailto:isilberg@jewishtulsa.org) 918.495.1100



Jewish Federation of Tulsa  
2021 East 71st Street  
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