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Tamuz/Av 5783

July 2023

ISRAEL EXPERIENCES



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Front Cover



Masada, Israel from the
Young Jewish Professionals tour 2023
Photo by: Sarah Winkelman

JEWISH FEDERATION OF TULSA

MISSION:

The mission of the Jewish Federation is to preserve and enhance Jewish life and well-being in Eastern Oklahoma, Israel, and the entire world. The mission is being addressed by pursuing charitable, humanitarian, cultural, educational, health, and social service needs of the Jewish community as well as by engaging in community relations, outreach, and providing a variety of services to the broader Tulsa community. The Jewish Federation supports the Charles Schusterman Jewish Community Center, The Sherwin Miller Museum of Jewish Art, and Mizel Jewish Community Day School.

VALUES:

Kehila – Community

Fostering a connected and collaborative Jewish community, characterized by respect, empathy, and understanding.

Tzedek – Justice

Continuously improving the quality of life of all Tulsans, as well as our partners in Israel and abroad, through philanthropic giving of our resources and time.

L’Dor V’Dor –

From Generation to Generation

Sustaining the culture, traditions, and collective memory of the Jewish people, through innovative intergenerational programming that is meaningful, educational, and fun.



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DIRECTOR’S CORNER

by Aida Nozick, Executive Director

This time of year, the CSJCC is a hub of wonderful energy and activity. Campers of all ages come to our campus each day to fill their minds and bodies with laughter, friends, arts ‘n crafts, indoor and outdoor play, and of course, swimming in the beautiful Sharna and Irvin Frank Aquatics Center. Many campers arrive with little to no swimming experience. It brings me joy to see our lifeguards teach children this important life skill and watch first-hand how many campers start the week fearful and timid of the water, yet by Friday, they have gained confidence in their abilities.

The pool is especially busy this summer with the expansion of “Swim for All.” After a successful launch last summer providing free swim lessons to children from low income families, the program has tripled in size this summer. We are grateful to the George Kaiser Family Foundation and the Opportunity Project for supporting this important program. By the end of this summer, we will have helped teach 96 children lifesaving water safety skills!

This issue of the Review, we continue to write about the meaningful encounters and lessons our Young Jewish Professionals experienced during their recent travel to Israel. Many experienced Israel for the first time, while others had traveled there as a teen or through Birthright. Whether it was a first-time journey or return trip, our Young Jewish Professionals each came away with a profound experience deepening their commitment to their Jewish identity and their knowledge of Israel today.

I have a deep appreciation for our Israel Engagement Committee, Chair- Itzik Levin, and Shlichah - Chen Shoval, for coordinating this experience in Israel, as well as putting together a fantastic Israel 75 celebration for our Tulsa community at home. For Yom Ha’Atzmaut, Israel Independence Day, the Israel Engagement Committee pulled together a fantastic family festival including games, crafts, an Israeli marketplace, and of course, Israeli food cooked by our own chef Itzik Levin. Nearly 200 community members spent the afternoon at the Jewish Federation learning about Israel, spending time with friends, and making new friends.

We will be celebrating our emissary Chen and her family with a heartfelt farewell pool party and dinner on **Sunday, July 30 at 6:00 pm** at the Sharna and Irvin Frank Aquatics Center (more details on the JFT Upcoming Events page). We hope to see you there! While I am sad to see them go, Chen can leave knowing she made a positive difference in our community, bringing us her knowledge and love of Israel. While not close in proximity, Chen, Tal, and Agam will always remain in our hearts.



*By the end of this summer, we will
have helped teach 96 children
lifesaving water safety skills!*

UPCOMING EVENTS



Lunch Bunch | Wednesday July 12 | 12:00 PM | Auditorium

This Lunch Bunch features guest speaker Marcello Angelini, Artistic Director with the Tulsa Ballet. Marcello has served as the director since 1995, following a distinguished career as a principal dancer and guest artist with some of the most renowned troupes in the world. His studies began at home with his father in Naples, Italy, and continued through graduation from the Kiev Institute of Dance in the former Soviet Union on a special full government scholarship. At this program, we will hear about his process, successes, and challenges as Artistic Director for the Tulsa Ballet.

Menu: Tropical Themed – vegetarian Hawaiian sliders, pasta salad, fresh salad, fruit, and coconut pineapple dessert.

Register at: JewishTulsa.org/lbjuly



**PJ Library Pancake Brunch and Pool Party
Sunday, July 16 | 10:00 AM | Auditorium, then
The Sharna and Irvin Frank Aquatics Center**

PJ Library families are invited for a morning of pancakes and pool time! We will gather in the Barbara and Dave Sylvan Auditorium for pancakes and then move to the pool at noon for free swim time. The cost is free to attend but please let us know you're coming so we have enough food.

Register at: JewishTulsa.org/pjpancake



**YJP Pottery Painting | Monday, July 17 | 12:00 PM |
Purple Glaze Studio**

Inviting our young adult community for a painting social at Purple Glaze Studio! Beat the summer heat with an indoor painting activity and schmoozing with friends. We will provide light refreshments and snacks. Registration is \$18 per person and includes the studio fee and one ceramic piece.

Register at: JewishTulsa.org/yjp-painting



**YJP
Day of Service**



YJP Day of Service | Sunday, July 30 | 11:00 AM | TBD

Start your week by doing good! Come volunteer with your fellow young adults at the Refugee Resettlement Program. We will meet at the warehouse and help to sort through donations. There will be several stations for people of all abilities and skills; some stations require lifting heavy items, while other stations will be sorting through soft goods.

Register at: JewishTulsa.org/yjpvolunteer



UPCOMING EVENTS



**Shalom Shlichah | Goodbye Party For Chen and family
Sunday, July 30 | 6:00 PM
The Sharna and Irvin Frank Aquatics Center**

The Tulsa Jewish community is invited to say shalom to our shlichah, Chen Shoval, and her family. After three years as our community shlichah, her tenure is ending, and the family is headed for a new adventure. We will spend the evening with food and friendship poolside. Please register in advance so we have enough food. Dinner includes hamburgers, kosher hot dogs, veggie burgers, and more. Come prepared to share stories of time spent with Chen and her family!

Register at: JewishTulsa.org/shalomshlichah



Save the Date



Sunday, August 6, 2023
11:00 AM

Sylvan Auditorium
Brunch & Panel Discussion

Chairs: Jackie Lasky, Lori Lieb,
and Sue Ginsburg

More details
coming soon!



SAVE THE DATES

Annual Campaign Dinner
Thursday, September 7
5:30PM
Cocktails, Dinner, Entertainment
Featuring Israeli-American
Comedian Benji Lovitt
Event Chairs: Rebekah Kantor Wunsch and Brae Riley

Super Sunday Phone-A-Thon
Sunday, September 10
11AM – 2PM
Event Chairs: Hillary and Ben Aussenberg

GET INVOLVED! JEWISH FEDERATION OF TULSA (JFT) COMMITTEES

BUDGET AND ALLOCATIONS — BRAD SANDITEN, CHAIR
Oversee and provide oversight to all matters related to JFT's finances, property, and budget. The budget and allocations committee ensures JFT is operating with the financial resources it needs to provide programs and services to the community.

CAMPAIGN — BRIAN BROUSE, CHAIR
The Campaign Committee organizes, coordinates, and conducts the annual fundraising activities of the JFT. The annual campaign sustains the overall operating expenses including the programs and services offered through CSJCC, SMMJA, and JFT.

CHARLES SCHUSTERMAN JEWISH COMMUNITY CENTER (CSJCC) — OPEN
Organizes programming and activities with respect to the use of the community center facilities, including recreational, educational, and cultural programming. Members of the Charles Schusterman Jewish Community Center Committee must be members of the CSJCC.

COMMUNITY RELATIONS (CRC) — VYACHESLAV KHRAPAK, CHAIR
CRC seeks to build bridges of understanding with the general community; promote understanding within the Jewish community as to matters impacting relations with the non-Jewish community; develop programs and materials explaining issues of peace and security for Israel and Jewish communities throughout the world; combats antisemitism, and promotes equality of opportunity, freedom of religion, separation of church and state, and freedom of thought, opinion, and association.

COUNCIL FOR HOLOCAUST EDUCATION (CHE) — ALICE BLUE, CHAIR
CHE assists teachers in the Tulsa area with Holocaust curriculum development, provides education about the Holocaust to the Tulsa community through commemorative events, builds and maintains relationships with interfaith community groups to promote tolerance and acceptance, and partners with other community organizations to support events associated with Holocaust remembrance and education.

FACILITIES — MICHAEL MUDD, CHAIR
Determines, analyzes, and makes recommendations to the board of directors with respect to major upkeep, maintenance, repair, renovation, and betterment of the physical plant, offices, and other facilities owned or occupied by the Federation.

FOUNDATION — RUSS NEWMAN, CHAIR
The Jewish Federation of Tulsa Foundation Committee ensures the survival and growth of the Jewish community by building assets and providing funds for programs, services, and capital needs of the Jewish Federation of Tulsa, and other nonprofit organizations that promote Jewish values in the Tulsa regional area and Israel.

ISRAEL ENGAGEMENT — ITZIK LEVIN, CHAIR
The Israel Engagement Committee develops, coordinates, and provides resources for educational programs in the Jewish community relating to the State of Israel. It engages in all activities which have an Israel component and encourage volunteer opportunities, missions, and travel to Israel. The committee guides all programming activities related to the Shalihach/Shlichia (emissary) including budget oversight.

INVESTMENT — TYLER CORETZ, CHAIR
Recommends and implements investment policies with respect to the safekeeping, investment, and reinvestment of the funds and securities of JFT.

OKLAHOMA JEWISH FILM FESTIVAL — JFT AND CIRCLE CINEMA STAFF
Help plan the films and programming activities for the annual Oklahoma Jewish Film Festival.

PROGRAMMING — JENNIFER JOELS AND LORI LIEB, CO-CHAIRS
The purpose of the programming committee is to assist with the creation and implementation of all programs offered by JFT.

SAFE AND SECURE — LORI FRANK, CHAIR
Ensures the facility meets safety guidelines, advises on safety protocols and best monitoring equipment, coordinates staff trainings, and ensures overall safety of campus.

SMMJA — DAVE PATTERSON, CHAIR
Provide direction and oversight for all activities of the Sherwin Miller Museum of Jewish Art.

TULSA JEWISH REVIEW — SANDY SLOAN, EDITOR
Responsible for planning of the monthly TJR publication. The TJR committee makes recommendations for editorial content, advertising, and community news, and oversees the financial condition of the publication.

Committee chairs and members must be supporting members of the Jewish Federation of Tulsa Annual Campaign. Contact Holly Hughes at 918-495-1100 to find out how you can support your Federation with your time and talent. ■



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Shalom Community

by Chen Shoval, Israel Emissary

Near the end of May we celebrated Israel's 75th anniversary and 50 years of the Shlichut program at the Jewish Federation of Tulsa. Many hours were spent planning and coordinating these events with the dedication of the Israel engagement committee and chair, Itzik Levin. The two-week long festivities were a time of meaningful commemoration, celebration, and connection.

We started off with an amazing Young Jewish Professional Trip to Israel. For 8 days we traveled around Israel, met people, and heard their stories, learning about the different narratives in Israeli society and about the co-existence and the gaps between Jewish-Israelis to the Arab-Israelis. We enjoyed the spirituality of the beautiful north, we joined a secular Shabbat service, and we were lucky to have a discussion led by Rabbi Jasper and Rabbi Kaiman learning about Israel's place in Jewish life (I can tell you, there is no one answer). Jerusalem was the place where we connected to ourselves, and to our Jewish community, identity, and belonging. The trip was transformative in many ways. Participants' prejudices and preconceptions have changed about Israel, about the culture and its people, about the political and geopolitical climate, and about Israel's approach to the Israeli Arabs and the Palestinians. I'm proud to see the effect of the trip on the participants, as their willingness to be involved in the Tulsa Jewish community is already being felt. Thank you, Isabella Silberg, Sarah Winkelman, and Chloe Kirk, for helping ensure the trip was successful. Thank you to the Jewish Federation of Tulsa and Charles and Lynn Schusterman Family Philanthropies for sponsoring the trip and believing in this important mission.

Yom Hazikaron, Israel's Memorial Day, was significantly different this year from previous years, as we welcomed more than 80 people for
Continued.

Photo: The annual Israel family festival, celebrating Yom Ha'atzmaut (Israel Independence Day).

an Israeli dinner and community service. This year we commemorated the 50-year anniversary of the Yom Kippur War and honored Itzik Levin, who was a soldier leading troops during the war. The annual ceremony included songs, text reading, and blessings. I want to thank Alin Avitan for her commitment creating a profound ceremony, in addition to preparing an amazing Israeli dinner.

In Israel, the celebration of Yom Ha'atzmaut starts right after Yom HaZikaron ends. We started the celebration a week and a half later with the screening of an interesting film followed by a discussion about Israel's place in the Jewish world, especially in the face of rising antisemitism in the United States.

The following day we welcome five former shlichim at the Shalom brunch and celebrated the Shlichut programs 50th anniversary in Tulsa. We heard from the Jewish Agency for Israel's Western Regional Program Director, Algom Ben Horin, about the global work of JAFI and how the support of the Tulsa Jewish community helped to save his friend, Masha, from Ukraine. We held a panel with the past shlichim (emissaries) who shared their significant experiences, a favorite place in Tulsa, and what they took with them back from Tulsa to Israel.

On Sunday, we held the annual Israel family festival, celebrating Yom Ha'atzmaut (Israel Independence Day), where families enjoyed an Israeli market, stations, crafts, Israeli food, and more. The theme, "When Tulsa's country meets Israel's country" could be felt throughout the entire day. The festival ended with a special guest performance by the Israeli "Country Boy" Omer Netzer. I was so happy to see so many familiar faces during the day! It brought my time here in Tulsa full circle.

The following Lunch Bunch program featured Yaakov Klein presenting Jewish/Israeli/European humor. Yaakov was a shliach in Tulsa 43 years ago, and today uses Jewish humor as a therapeutic and healing tool.

Putting on the Israel 75 celebrations was hard work. I would not

I feel truly fortunate to be a shlichah in the Tulsa Jewish Community . . . I value all the friendships I have made and amazing memories you have created for me and my family.

have succeeded without the help of our incredible volunteers, committee members, partners, and staff. Thank you! And thank you, community members. I feel truly fortunate to be a shlichah in the Tulsa Jewish Community. Your support, feedback, and participation, these past three years has made a lasting impact on me. I value all the friendships I have made and amazing memories you have created for me and my family.

It is not quite goodbye yet. Leave aside the fact that I hate goodbyes, but rather, so long until we meet again, hopefully in Israel someday. I hope to see you all at the farewell gathering on July 30th at the Sharna and Irvin Frank Aquatics Center. Shalom! ■



Children enjoying the crafts activities during the Family Fun-Fest

WITNESSING THE JEWISH AGENCY'S IMPACT

by Vyacheslav "Stan" Khrapak, M.Ed.



A cool breeze animated the Israeli flags adorning the Jewish Agency for Israel building in Jerusalem on Tuesday, May 2nd, 2023 as our group approached. The Young Jewish Professionals of Tulsa had been traveling across Israel for more than a week when we entered the famous courtyard where David Ben-Gurion and the other architects of the modern state of Israel often convened.

We were welcomed by Jay Weinstein, Mission Team Leader in the Financial Resource Development Unit at the Jewish Agency. Jay oversees the creation of meaningful in-person and virtual experiences that connect Jewish Agency donors and partners to the work of the organization in Israel and abroad. We sat in the shade on the stairs in front of the building while Jay, with the help of some laminated black and white photos, went through the history of the Agency and its critical impact on the Jewish people and the Israeli state over the last century. In order to gain insights about some of the meaningful work being done by the Agency in the present day, we followed Jay into the building. We were directed to the Emergency Communications Room to learn about the on-the-ground rescue operations and support for Jewish refugees who are fleeing Ukraine due to the horrors of the Russian invasion.

Immediately upon entering the room, a large map of Ukraine was visible on the wall. I noticed a line drawn on the map indicating the warfront, bisecting the eastern and southern sections of the country. Elsewhere on the map, Jewish agency operation bases and evacuation routes were marked. Enthralled by the harrowing rescue stories shared by Jay and his colleague, our group learned that the Jewish Agency has strategically relocated tens of thousands of Ukrainian Jews to Israel since the start of the invasion of Ukraine in 2022. Over 450 volunteers and staff members gave their time and energy to aid Ukrainian refugees who were displaced due to bombardment, threat of violence, and occupation. Incredible effort was necessary to field hundreds of thousands of phone calls, plan evacuations, and deliver life-saving aid to Ukrainian people.

As a Ukrainian-American who was born in Kyiv, this was a cathartic experience. While I sat there, a lump in my throat forming, I couldn't help but draw parallels

between my work of relocating Ukrainian humanitarian parolees to Tulsa and the bold, comprehensive actions being taken by the Agency. As Lead of the inTulsa Visa Network, I had directly contributed to the relocation of over twenty Ukrainian parolees to Tulsa. I knew firsthand the immense challenges associated with processing the legal and logistical elements of relocating families from besieged Ukraine to another country. The

Our group left the Agency building that day with a renewed hope.

realization that the Jewish Agency for Israel had done this on a scale of tens of thousands was tremendously impressive.

I was humbled and moved by the Jewish Agency's humanitarian mission. I am proud of the fact that the Jewish Federation of Tulsa has been a lasting, supportive partner to the Jewish Agency and the compelling work they do around the world. Our group left the Agency building that day with a renewed hope. I extend my gratitude to the Jewish Federation of Tulsa and Charles and Lynn Schusterman Family Philanthropies for sponsoring the trip and giving our group the opportunity to connect directly with our partners in Israel ■

Vyacheslav "Stan" Khrapak, M.Ed. is a JFT Board Member, Chair of the JFT Community Relations Committee, and a Young Jewish Professional.



Vyacheslav "Stan" Khrapak and wife Morgan Creekmore

UPCOMING EVENTS



Consistency Is Key | July Fitness Challenge

Consistency is key to developing good habits. For the month of July, we are encouraging consistency with your health and wellness regime. When we discover consistency, we discover momentum. Momentum builds and keeps us on track with our goals. Pick up a Consistency Calendar from the fitness desk and keep yourself accountable this month by creating and meeting your fitness goals. Stay consistent, build momentum, and create good habits that keep you strong, healthy, and feeling happy throughout the month—and for the long haul!


Dive-In Movie | Fun for the Entire Family!
Saturday, July 15 | 6:00 PM |
The Sharna and Irvin Frank Aquatics Center


Our fun and unique Dive-In Movie series continues! Family fun pool events are free to CSJCC members all summer long. Join us for *Minions: The Rise of Gru* beginning at dusk. The Nosh Nook will be open for burgers, hot dogs, and more. Complimentary snow cones and evening glow party once dark. Free to CSJCC members, \$20/family not yet members.

Register in advance at: csjcc.org/diveinmovie


Adult Dive-In Movie | 21+ over
Saturday, July 22 | 9:00 PM |
The Sharna and Irvin Frank Aquatics Center


Cool off with classic film *Jaws*, a cold beverage, friends, and bobbing in the pool on a floatie (if you dare!). This Stephen Spielberg cultural phenomenon is known for its masterful use of suspense, building of unbearable tension, and creating a multi-generational fear of the water. Adults only come if you dare! No outside food or beverages. The Nosh Nook will be open for food and alcoholic and non-alcoholic beverages. \$10/CSJCC members, \$20/not yet members. Price includes one beverage per guest. Bring your favorite floatie!

Register in advance at: csjcc.org/adultdiveinmovie

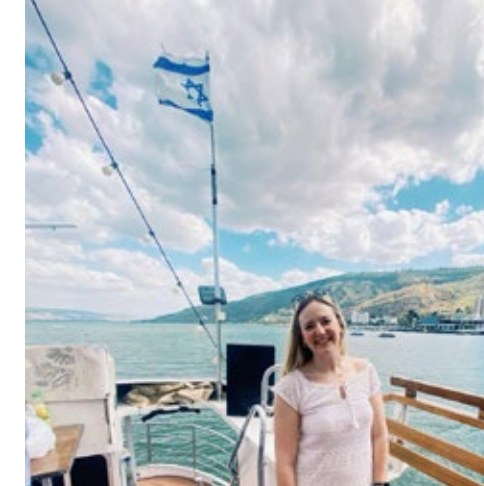

Wellness Series | Life Long Learner with the Osher Life Long Learning Institute
Wednesday, July 19 | 10:00 AM-12:00 PM | CSJCC Lobby

Stop by the lobby between 10-12 pm to learn about the Osher Life Long Learning Institute (OLLI) at OSU. Geared towards adults 50 and better, OLLI offers classes, travel, and social activities to enrich participants' quality of life. Learn about OLLI programs and classes with Executive Director, Robbin Davis. This is a great way to keep your brain active and engaged which is key for healthy aging and happiness. A few recent class topics have been, Getting to know your Apple Tech, History of Dinosaurs, Films of James Garner, and Let's Play, Canasta. Each semester new classes are available. Classes are active, social, engaging, and fun! No registration, drop in to learn more about OLLI.


FITNESS STAFF ISRAEL EXPERIENCES

by Hannah Bakewell and Benny Ortiz

It was an honor to travel on the Young Jewish Professionals trip to Israel and as the trip went on, it became more apparent how many opportunities needed to be seized. As a community we can help many people. We can give, listen, commune, make someone's day, and possibly change someone's life. During our first days there, we visited the Peres Center for Peace and Innovation. Shimon Peres' story struck a chord with me when he mentioned he always wanted to be a shepherd when he grew up. He did not become your typical shepherd, but he did become a shepherd to the people. He was a leader and encouraged many to dream big. When we dream big, we can seize those dreams and make them a reality.



Hannah Bakewell on Sea of Galilee

I have known I am an empath, but the trip showed me just how deeply and internally I feel about other peoples' stories. We met with a company called Spark-IL. Spark-IL defines themselves as the opportunity to, "Support Israel's Dreamers. Sustain Israel's Future. Interest-Free Loans for Israel's Most Deserving Entrepreneurs." We heard a personal story of how one woman, Gilat, was helped and supported by Spark-IL. I felt a personal connection to her through her experience as a professional dancer. She saw a need in her neighborhood for their children and with some help and an idea, she was able to make her dreams a reality. When people ask what my favorite part of the trip was, this was it. Gilat showed me we all have the opportunity to add something truly good to this world—no matter your walk-in life. This was the biggest lesson. No matter your world view or how you have been shaped, whether it is through religion, culture, or through people you meet, we all experience the same range of emotions and have something truly special that can shine a light. ■

My experience in Israel was incredible! I still am having a hard time finding the right words to describe the experience. It does not feel real that I went on this amazing trip and saw so many historical sites. It is mind blowing that Israel turned 75 years old but has thousands of years' worth of stories. After this trip, I have a much closer connection to all of the stories I grew up hearing about the land of Israel. It is so hard to pick one thing that I enjoyed the most, but I fell in love with Jerusalem. The old city contrasted with the modern city shows how history is embraced but also, demonstrates progression. I brought home with me an appreciation of how unique and special Israel is, new friendships and connections made on the trip, and most importantly the incredible experience of traveling to Israel. ■



Benny Ortiz on Masada



TRIVIA NIGHT FUNraiser

by Sandy Sloan, Director of Communications and Development

The CSJCC held its annual Trivia Night fundraiser on June 8, inside the Barbara and Dave Sylvan Auditorium (the event was moved indoors from its originally planned poolside location due to nearby lightning). A packed room of 19 enthusiastic teams participated for bragging rights and a free table at next year's fundraiser. After a 3-way tie, team "Anything but Sports" took home the title, beating out the defending champions for the past several years.

Once again JFT Director, Aida Nozick and CSJCC Deputy Director, Martha Kelley went head-to-head concocting their favorite margarita recipes for the 2nd Annual Margarita drink-off. This year, Trivia host Josh Ritchey called the competition a tie! Aida's drink was a spicy mix of jalapeno and mint, while Martha stuck to her favorite classic recipe.

"The night was engaging, heartfelt, and fun. The room just felt nice!" said CSJCC Deputy Director Martha Kelley. "A big thank you to all the participants, volunteers, and sponsors that made this evening a success! Over the past five years, Trivia Night supporters have helped fund over \$86,000 in camp Shalom scholarships, providing families with a safe, healthy, and fun summer camp experience for their child(ren). We are grateful for your continued support helping us provide a top-notch summer camp experience for Tulsa's kids! ■



Trivia Night Winners: Team "Anything But Sports"

~CALL FOR INTEREST~

Mahjong Meetup

Have you been curious about learning how to play Mahjong, or having a central location to play with others?

Looking for players of all skill levels!

Fill out the interest form at jewishtulsa.org/mahjongmeetup

Contact
Isabella, isilberg@jewishtulsa.org or
Laura, lallen@jewishtulsa.org for questions!

Wish Them a Sweet New Year!

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 to submit your ad
or contact Isabella Silberg at isilberg@jewishtulsa.org 918.495.1100

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(up to 15 words)

CURRENT EXHIBITIONS

“As curator, people always ask me what my favorite pieces are in our exhibitions. Here are a couple examples that speak to me from what is currently on view.”

—Sofia Thornblad, Director of Collections & Exhibitions



Humans of The Holocaust | June 15 – December 31, 2023

What is interesting about Humans of the Holocaust is though the context of the exhibition is deeply heartbreaking, the images are not. There is one exception, and that is the photograph of the last survivor of Babi Yar, Michael Sidko. “Over the course of two days on September 29-30, 1941, Nazi Germany’s forces and Ukrainian accomplices massacred approximately 33,771 Jews. Among those massacred were my infant brother Volodya, my baby sister Clara, and my mother,” recalled survivor Michael Sidko of that horrific day.



Greetings From Israel | May 8 – December 31, 2023

This exhibition was my first to assemble here at the Sherwin Miller Museum. It will always have a special place in my heart! The exhibit has quite a few images by Israeli artist Yaacov Agam. My favorite is this lithograph titled “Star of Love” which was created in honor of the 35th anniversary of Israel’s independence. Greetings from Israel showcases pieces from the museum’s permanent collection.



Stories of Survival | Through August 6, 2023

Stories of Survival contains images of objects that belonged to survivors of several genocides. This dress was worn by a five-year-old named Clarisse who was murdered in the Rwandan genocide. It is so incredibly difficult to comprehend the loss of little ones that happens during such atrocities. This dress articulates that loss, though it doesn’t make it any easier to process.

The Museum Gala
Greetings From TEL AVIV NIGHTS
The City That Never Sleeps
 October 22, 2023
 The Sherwin Miller Museum of Jewish Art
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THE 5th JEWISH BEATLE ©

by Phil Goldfarb

Brian Samuel Epstein was born on Yom Kipper, September 19, 1934 to Harry (1910-1967) and Minnie Malka (1914-1996 nicknamed “Queenie” by her family, as Malka means “queen” in Hebrew) Epstein. The family was of Russian and Latvian Jewish descent.

Epstein’s parents moved him from one boarding school to another, including a Jewish school in Kent, United Kingdom. He spent two years at Wrekin College in Wellington, Shropshire where he was taught the violin. In December 1952, Epstein was conscripted to do his national military service as a data entry clerk in the Royal Army Service Corps and was posted to the Albany Street Barracks, London in spring 1953. By January 1954 after ten months of duty, he was discharged from the army on medical grounds for being “emotionally and mentally unfit,” as he had seen numerous Army psychiatrists who recommended an early medical discharge due to his admitting that he had homosexual feelings.

The Epstein family were successful retailers in Liverpool, and Brian was put in charge of their music shop, where he displayed a gift for spotting talent. His father, Harry Epstein had expanded the family furniture store to sell musical instruments, and it was here that Paul McCartney’s father bought a piano for his son. Epstein worked hard to make it a success, and it became one of the biggest musical retail outlets in England, called North End Music Stores (NEMS). Through his diligent work in the record department, Epstein gained considerable knowledge of the pop music business and in fact he started a regular music column in the *Mersey Beat* called “Stop the World—And Listen To Everything in It: Brian Epstein of NEMS.”

He soon became familiar with a new local band, The Beatles (all of whom bought music at his store), and for his 21st birthday booked a party at The Cavern Club where they played. Epstein returned regularly to the club over the next three weeks to watch the band, before proposing to become their manager.

In an afternoon meeting with the group at NEMS on December 3, 1961, Epstein proposed the idea of

managing the Beatles. He drew up a five-year contract, technically for their parents since The Beatles were all under 21 and needed consent. The Beatles signed the contract with Epstein on January 24, 1962 giving Epstein 10 to 15 per cent of their income. Epstein then formed a management company, NEMS Enterprises, telling his parents that managing the group was only a part-time occupation and would not interfere with the family business! That first contract between the Beatles and Epstein was auctioned in London in 2008, selling for \$240,000 in 2023 dollars!

Epstein had no prior experience of artist management, yet he had a strong influence on the band’s early dress code and stage demeanor transforming their image from a scruffy group in blue jeans and leather who cursed, drank, ate, smoked, would stop and start songs when they felt like it, talked to each other on stage while pretending to hit each other, to wearing suits and ties and presenting a “fresh” look.

For nearly a year, the band made no money and Epstein paid for all of their expenses. Over that time, Epstein met with executives from Columbia Records, Decca, EMI, and several other big labels, all of whom rejected The Beatles. Eventually, Epstein threatened to stop selling EMI records at his stores, so EMI agreed to a cheap, “nothing to lose” recording contract through their smaller Parlophone label.

Epstein guided the group and took care of them, kept them focused, set up the branding that launched “Beatlemania” including the famous synchronized bow at the end of their performances and ultimately made the Beatles the best-selling and most influential music band in history. In turn, the band loved and trusted their manager, and never even read the contracts he brought them to sign. Epstein was the best man at both John Lennon’s and Ringo Starr’s weddings as well as



Brian Samuel Epstein (center) with The Beatles

being godfather to Julian Lennon. Epstein worked round-the-clock, and soon became dependent on both stimulants and sedatives. He started taking stimulants, usually Preludin, which did not require a prescription at the time. Epstein explained his use of the drug as the only means of staying awake at night during numerous concert

tours. Epstein also developed dependencies on the drug carbromal, a barbiturate-like sedative/hypnotic.

After the group’s first recording session on June 6, 1962, it was felt that an experienced studio session drummer rather than Pete Best would improve the recordings. Lennon, McCartney, and Harrison decided Best needed to be replaced and, uncomfortable with sacking him themselves, asked Epstein to sack Best so that Starr could join the band. Epstein finally dismissed Best on August 16, 1962 more than two months after the first recording session at EMI Studios.

NEMS had a staff of twenty-five at the time of its move from Liverpool to London in 1964 and while booking the Beatles’ concerts, they also presented groups as an opening act. At one time, Epstein also managed Gerry and the Pacemakers as well as the Moody Blues. Epstein accrued money as promoter, booking agent, and manager for all concerts. The Beatles were constantly in demand by concert promoters, and Epstein took advantage of the situation to avoid paying some taxes by accepting “hidden” fees on the night of a performance, which he always kept in a brown paper bag.

Days after sitting shiva for his father, Epstein died of an overdose of Carbrital, a hypnotic preparation combining the barbiturate pentobarbital with the bromide carbromal, in his locked bedroom on August 27, 1967 at age 32. Epstein was found on a single bed, dressed in pajamas, with various correspondence spread over a second single bed. His death was officially ruled an accident, caused by a gradual buildup of Carbrital combined with alcohol in his system.

The Beatles did not attend Epstein’s funeral, both to allow his family some privacy and to avoid attracting fans and the media. Epstein was buried in the Long Lane Jewish Cemetery, Aintree, Liverpool. McCartney summarized the importance of Epstein when he was interviewed for a BBC documentary about Epstein, saying, “If anyone was the Fifth Beatle, it was Brian.”

While the Beatles were among the earliest entrants into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame in 1988, Epstein was not included in the Hall’s “Non-Performers’ Section” until 2014. On August 27, 2022, the 55th anniversary of his death, a bronze statue of Brian Epstein was unveiled near the former site of his family’s NEMS record shop in Liverpool. ■

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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ANNOUNCING OUR NEW EXECUTIVE BOARD

by Amanda Anderson, Executive Director, Mizel JCDS

In 2021 Mizel JCDS worked with Leadership Tulsa to help better prepare our school and board of directors for success and a sustainable future. They helped us develop a comprehensive strategic plan focused on growth and financial sustainability. Currently, we are over half way complete with our three-year strategic plan and have seen substantial growth and achievement of our goals!

Mizel JCDS has a bright future, including many big milestones ahead! In August, we are breaking ground on a new playground structure for our students to play, learn, and grow. The space will also be ideal for parents to gather. For the upcoming 2023-2024 academic year, the school is increasing staff members as well as student enrollment. With the new achievement of receiving accreditation, our school will continue to improve and thrive. Looking forward to 2025, Mizel will be celebrating our 50th Anniversary since opening as Heritage Academy in 1975.

Decades of success is due in part to our dedicated leadership. I am proud to present our new executive board. Our board members are invested and passionate about the continued success of Mizel JCDS.

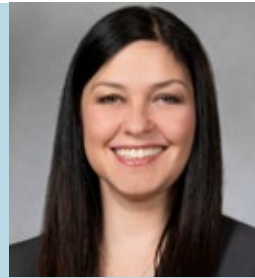
❖ Rachel Budavich, President

Rachel is Associate Chair and lecturer of Biology at Oral Roberts University. She has two daughters enrolled at Mizel JCDS. She most recently served as PTO President at Mizel JCDS. In her free time, she enjoys all things plants and gardening.



❖ Jenny Labow, Secretary

Jenny is the office manager/clergy assistant and cantorial soloist at Temple Israel. In her free time, you can catch her and her band performing at various venues around Tulsa.



❖ Sarah Downing, Assistant Secretary

Sarah is a special education teacher with Tulsa Public Schools. She is an alumna of Heritage Academy/Mizel JCDS. Both of her children currently attend Mizel JCDS. In her free time, she enjoys cooking with children.



❖ Tracey Herst-Woods, Vice-President

Tracey is the Deputy Director of The Sherwin Miller Museum of Jewish Art. Her daughter was a graduate of Mizel JCDS and recently graduated from Owasso High School in 2022. In her free time, she enjoys movies, walks, and hanging out with friends.



❖ Shelby Brewster, Treasurer

Shelby is a CPA and manager at HoganTaylor. She has two children, and just welcomed her little boy in June! In her free time, she likes to read and spend time with family.



❖ Rande Charney, Heritage Academy Foundation (HAF) Board President

Rande is a Program Officer at Charles and Lynn Schusterman Family Philanthropies, where she supports Tulsa grantmaking, research, and special projects related to various social justice and education initiatives. In her free time, she enjoys spending time with family and friends and being active on the tennis court, the ski slopes, walking, or exercising in general.



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Maya Berman

Maya Berman is celebrating her Bat Mitzvah on July 22 at Temple Israel. Maya will be at 9th grader this fall at Edison High School. Being raised in a mixed faith household she has chosen to follow her Jewish roots and is very excited to be completing her studies and having her Bat Mitzvah. When she's not in class or studying Hebrew, she enjoys playing soccer and was recently captain of the school team at Tulsa Honor Academy Middle School and is proud to be an honor roll student for the entirety of her 8th grade year. Maya's hobbies include babysitting, being an assistant religious school teacher, playing trivia games with her brothers, eating ramen or mac & cheese, and generally being a caring friend to those who are lucky enough to call her such. Her four parental figures—Ben Berman, Tina Haney, Nadja Berman, Amy McGehee—are extremely proud of Maya for making her commitment to her Jewish studies and can't wait to see the woman she will grow into.



Lilah Jacobs

Congratulations to **Lilah Jacobs** for her first published blog post with the American Civil Liberties Union of Oklahoma! Lilah is a political science and economics major at the University of Tulsa and is currently an intern with

the ACLU Oklahoma. She is deeply concerned with current social justice trends and is thrilled to have a platform to write for change in our state, whether that is queer rights or criminal justice reform. For Asian American Pacific Islander Heritage month, Lilah wrote a blog post about Anti-Chinese political rhetoric and the resulting racially motivated hate. Read her article at: <https://www.acluok.org/en/news/anti-chinese-fervor-and-aapi-hate>.



Eliana Joels

Eliana Joels graduated in the top 10% of her class at Union High School. She is an active member in the Tulsa Jewish community, participating in BBYO, Midrasha, and was a Madrichim at Shul School. She

is the daughter of Jennifer and Samuel Joels. Next year she will be attending the University of Kansas where she will be majoring in Speech, Language and Hearing. She hopes to graduate KU in 5 years with an accelerated masters in Speech Language Pathology. She has received the KU Excellence scholarship and the Jeanette Altman Frieden BBYO Excellence for Education Scholarship in support of her education. At KU Eliana hopes to be involved in Hillel and rush for a sorority.



CELEBRATE SIMCHAS!

Share your simchas with the community! Send us your b'nai mitzvah, wedding announcement, birth of a child, graduation, or other milestone for our "simchas" section each month. Send submissions to Sandy Sloan, sandy@jewishtulsa.org

Synagogue Sandlot Co-ed Softball and Picnic Sunday, July 9 – 10:00 a.m.

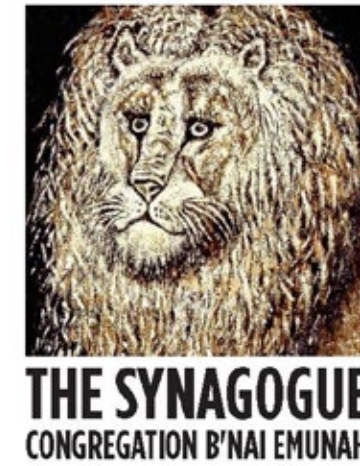
Grab your glove and bat and join us for a fun-filled game of softball at Whiteside Park. Don't feel like playing, but like watching an entertaining game? Join us for a community picnic following the game and bring the whole family to enjoy a day in the park with water play area. Let us know you'll be attending at www.tulsagogue.com.

The Lunch Hour with Sara Levitt: The Jewish history of Reproductive Justice Tuesday July 11th, 18th and 25th | 12:00 p.m.

As the landscape of Reproductive Justice continues to shift in our country, the need to understand what Judaism has to say on this topic grows. Join Morah Sara Levitt for a three-part series on the Jewish history and perspectives on reproductive Justice. We'll explore how Jewish communities have understood and dealt with issues surrounding reproduction, women's health and women's rights throughout the ages. Our text gives us great insight into how our ancestors shaped Jewish understandings of reproductive ethics and choice and influence our own understandings in our world today. Bring your (dairy-vegetarian) lunch with you and we'll bring drinks and treats. Let us know you'd like to join us by emailing Sara at slevitt@bnaiemunah.com or call 918-583-7121

Blatt + Blue: Thursday, July 13 – 7:00 p.m.

Visit www.tulsagogue.com for more information regarding the movie selection and viewing options. Join us for our conversation at 7:00 p.m. on Zoom (918 583 7121). Newcomers are welcome to join the dialogue.



THE SYNAGOGUE CONGREGATION B'NAI EMUNAH

Shema: Babies Jewish Music Class Sunday July 16 | 10:00 a.m.

Join us for the next gathering in a series of Jewish music classes for babies and their adults! We'll blend the best of what we know about early childhood education and the joy of Jewish music for this class geared towards kiddos 2 and under with their adults. This session will focus on the holiday of Tu B'av, the ancient celebration of love, as we sing, dance, move, and explore together at the Synagogue. Interested in joining us? Please be in touch with Morah Sara at slevitt@bnaiemunah.com.

Doing Jewish: Burial Rituals Sunday, July 16 – 10:00 – 11:00 a.m.

One of the sacred tasks of Jewish community is the work of the Chevra Kadisha, our volunteer Jewish burial society. Alongside experienced volunteers, this session will be an opportunity for a closer look at these practices and the nuances of how these sacred responsibilities unfold. Doing Jewish are monthly workshops on practical Jewish living. Think of these as one-off sessions to deepen familiarity across the depth and breadth of Jewish life. For more information, contact Rabbi Kaiman.

Lifelong Learners Wednesday, July 19 - 11:30 a.m.

Gathering in person for ongoing learning and exploration, ageless seniors from every corner of the community are invited to join Rabbi Kaiman at the Synagogue for lunch and rabbinic storytelling from the literature of our civilization. The sessions always begin at 11:30 a.m., and a bus leaves from Zarrow Pointe at 11:00 a.m. each time. No charge for transportation (you may, of course, come in your vehicle), and lunch from Queenie's will be provided. It's our pleasure to provide this service in cooperation with our fellow Jewish institution. Please reserve your spot by calling the Synagogue at 918-583-7121 or visiting our website.

Family Fun Day at the Herman and Kate Kaiser YMCA Sunday July 23rd | 10:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

Missing your ShulSchool and Synagogue friends? We're excited to head back to the Herman and Kate Kaiser YMCA for a morning of connection, food, and fun with Family Fun Day. We'll meet by the pool at 10:00 a.m. and wrap up the day with lunch together. The cost is \$5 per person. You can hold your spot by visiting the Synagogue website or by being in touch with Morah Sara at slevitt@bnaiemunah.com.

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

Each week, we gather to experience traditional daily prayer and establish a quiet space for those mourning a loved one or observing the anniversary of a loss (yahrtzeit). All use these opportunities to recite a communal Mourner's Kaddish. Both gatherings take place in the Synagogue's Davis-Goodall Chapel, with full participation

Continued.

available both in-person and through the Synagogue Zoom Room. We ask that in-person attendees register in advance on our website. Friday gatherings always occur in the Synagogue Zoom Room at 918 583 7121.

**Shabbat Morning Services
Every Saturday • 9:30 a.m.**

Each week, we convene on Saturday morning to sing the liturgy of the tradition, study the weekly Torah portion, and spend time amongst family and friends. All are welcome to participate in this experience in person or on Zoom. Members and friends can access the Synagogue Zoom Room at 918 583 7121. ■



Shul School fun at Congregation B'nai Emunah

SUNDAY MORNINGS AT B'NAI EMUNAH SYNAGOGUE

by Susie Serafin

Every Sunday morning, I wake up and go to the Synagogue where I am the Pre-K /Kindergarten Shul School teacher. At 8:30, my colleagues and I meet with Sara Levitt, the Director of Education, for a few minutes to go over the morning schedule. There we are, standing by the front doors, a small, sleepy, but honorable group of adults, dedicated to spending a few hours every Sunday morning with the Jewish children in Tulsa. It's a very important part of my life and an honor to spend time with the children and their families.

I try to plan a fun morning that allows the children to play with their friends and learn about being Jewish. Sara keeps us busy with singing and story telling. Snack-time is always a winner, as is Circle Time. When we sit together in a circle, all the children are excited to share their thoughts, ideas, opinions, and answers to my questions. They are always entertaining, funny, and surprising. I really enjoy Circle Time because it's such an intimate time together. We are definitely a little family in our own way. It's in this circle that the children can say smart or silly things, and learn how important listening to others is. The last 15 minutes of the morning, in the Chapel with Sara, is always lively and fun—kids with parents, kids on my lap, kids dancing—as we all sing and enjoy our Jewish heritage together.

Sometimes, I just let the children play together in little centers around the room—coloring, reading to each other, dressing dolls, playing kitchen, talking on imaginary telephones, and building dinosaur cities and towers. I just watch the beauty, the simplicity, of children interacting together with no TV's or other technology. It is wonderful watching them all get along so naturally. Being Morah Susie truly completes my Jewish identity!

Each week, when the parents come in and drop off their kids, I know they appreciate the Shul School, and the programming Sara creates for their children. I am fortunate to have wonderful Madrichim, my teen assistants, who help me manage the morning activities; and, of course, the children love playing with them. Overall, Shul School is a well-organized fun place to spend my Sunday mornings, and most of the credit, in my opinion, belongs to the amazing hard work, musical talent, love of Judaism, and the creativity of Sara Levitt, whom I thank very much for asking me to join her team of educators. I encourage any of you who are interested in joining our Shul School team of educators to contact Sara Levitt at Congregation B'nai Emunah Synagogue. ■



The World of the Rabbis: Talmud's Greatest Hits with Rabbi Weinstein on Zoom • Thurs., June 8, 15 & 22 • 2:00 p.m. • The Talmud is the central text of Rabbinic Judaism. Compiled in the 6th century, it has served our Tradition as the primary source of Jewish Law, Theology, and the centerpiece of Jewish life until modernity. This course will expose the learner to some of the Talmud's more popular and unusual texts. RSVP to rsvp@templetulsa.com for the Zoom link.

Shabbat Service w/Torah in person, on Zoom & Facebook Live • Fri., June 2 • 7:30 p.m. • Join the Temple Israel Clergy Team in person or online as we welcome in Shabbat with the chanting of Torah. RSVP to rsvp@templetulsa.com for the Zoom link.

Temple Israel's 2023 Annual Fundraiser • Sun., June 4 • 5:00 p.m. • Join us for our annual fundraiser and pizza party at Temple Israel on the east lawn, featuring Lou Malnati's Chicago style deep dish pizza flown in specially for this event! Help us reach our goal 1 slice at a time! To donate go to www.templetulsa.com/fundraiser. RSVP for your pizza at www.templetulsa.com/rsvp.

Sociable Seniors at Summer's 5th Night • Thurs., June 8 • 6:30 p.m. • Sociable Seniors will gather near Restoration Hardware at 6:30 p.m. We'll each bring our own picnic supper and drinks, and dessert will be provided. No charge. The Jenny Labow Band will begin their show at 7:00 p.m. (Utica Square provides metal folding chairs, but if you'd rather bring a portable, comfier chair, please do so.) RSVP by calling 918-747-1309 or email rsvp@templetulsa.com by June 5th.

Brotherhood Shabbat • Fri., June 9 • 7:30 p.m. • Temple Israel's Brotherhood Shabbat takes place once again with this year's guest speaker Phil Armstrong, OCCJ President & CEO. RSVP at www.templetulsa.com/rsvp.

Zamru L'Shabbat in person, on Zoom & Facebook Live • Fri., June 16 • 6:00 p.m. •

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

Zarrow Pointe Shabbat Service • Fri., June 23 • 6:45 p.m. • We cordially invite all those who wish to join us for this meaningful Friday evening service with music, held in the Burnstein Auditorium at Zarrow Pointe. We welcome not only Temple members and Zarrow Pointe residents, but all other friends in our community who would appreciate being together on Shabbat.

Pride Shabbat Service • Fri., June 23 • 7:30 p.m. • Temple Israel supports our LGBTQ community with a special Shabbat service lead by Rabbi Tzvia Jasper. All are welcome to attend and stay for a delicious oneg afterwards. RSVP to rsvp@templetulsa.com for the Zoom link. ■



Last Day of Shorashim, Spring 2023 Semester



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