

TULSA Jewish Review

Av/Elul 5783

August 2023



Upon Thy Gates:

The Winik Mezuzah Collection

Opening Reception

August 24th

at

*The Sherwin Miller Museum
of Jewish Art*

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Editor's Note: Correction to the July TJR article "Get Involved". The Sherwin Miller Museum of Jewish Art is a board and not a committee. SMMJA does also have its own committees. For interested volunteers, the committees are Membership, Collections & Exhibitions, Development, and Programs. Please feel free to contact David Patterson, SMMJA Board Chair or Tracey Herst-Woods, SMMJA Deputy Director, if you are interested in helping with tours, fund raising, acquisitions, or event planning.

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this event!

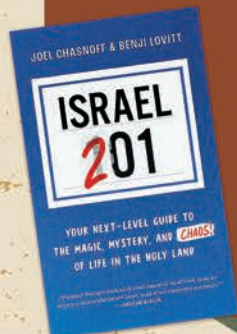
Our Jewish Future
Rooted in History



Jewish Federation of Tulsa
Celebrating 85 Years

Co-Author
Benji Lovitt

~Book Signing
following
the show~



Books sold
separately

Campaign Dinner & Show

Thursday, September 7 at 5:30 PM

Jewish Federation of Tulsa

Event Chairs: Rebekah Kantor-Wunsch and Brae Riley

FEATURING:

Benji Lovitt

Israeli-American comedian, educator, entertainer

\$60 per person or \$450 Per Table of 8

Includes: Cocktails, Dinner, & Dessert
catering by local Jewish chef Joel Bein,
and entertainment

TICKETS:

JewishTulsa.org/CampaignDinner23

or call Isabella Silberg 918-495-1100



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Front Cover



Mezuzah from *Upon Thy Gates:
The Winik Mezuzah Collection*
Photo from
The Winik Mezuzah Collection

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

It is hard to believe that summer is almost winding down! And what a summer it has been! Camp Shalom continues to keep our building alive with the laughter (and screams) of children having fun. I am amazed at the leadership, patience, and compassion our staff, counselors, and lifeguards present to campers each week, especially on those rainy indoor days when the camper's energy can be challenging. If you have never been to the CSJCC during camp hours, I encourage you to visit. Camp truly is a special time of year on our campus.

I am looking forward to many exciting events happening in August. On August 24, The Sherwin Miller Museum of Jewish Art will host an opening reception for *Upon Thy Gates: The Winik Mezuzah Collection*. This beautiful collection of 73 mezuzot showcases the diversity in artistic styles from one mezuzah to the next. You will be amazed at the collection of beautiful mezuzots we will be displaying on loan from the Oregon Jewish Museum and Center for Holocaust Education in Portland, Oregon (see page 14 for details).

On Sunday, August 27 we are partnering with the Circle Cinema to present *GOLDA* featuring Oscar winning actress Helen Mirren. This new release about the "Iron Lady of Israel", Golda Meir, focuses on her high-stakes responsibilities and decisions during the Yom Kippur War. This special afternoon showing will be paired with our foodie program, Feeding the Soul, starting at 1:00 pm. We will welcome Hunter Gambill, owner of the Gambill's Jewish Deli for a talk and Q&A. Lunch, of course, will feature selections from his brand new Jewish Deli that recently opened next to Mother Road Market (see page 7 for details).

Finally, we are announcing a new program, Chaverim Xtreme. This long overdue program targets community members 40+ that wish to gather for educational and social programming. Who says the Young Jewish Professionals get to have all the fun? The first program is on August 12 and will feature a curated chocolate, wine, and coffee or tea tasting at the Chocolate Nosh. (See page 6 for details).

Mazel Tov to our Zarrow campus family Amanda and Evan Anderson on the birth of their second son, Alden. Alden, mom, dad and big brother, Eisen are all healthy and happy bonding at home.



*If you have never been into
the CSJCC during camp
hours, I encourage you to
visit. Camp truly is a special
time of year on our campus.*

UPCOMING EVENTS



Pearl Society: Bodily Autonomy Program & Brunch | Sunday, August 6 | 11:00 AM | Barbara and Dave Sylvan Auditorium

The Pearl Society is a women's affinity group program that gathers quarterly for topics of interest about women, for women, and helping women. This program features a distinguished panel discussing bodily autonomy through their professional and personal life experiences. Panelists include Erika Stone DuBose, social worker; Maria Hernandez, Take Control Initiative; Suzanne Schreiber, State Representative; and Joshua Yap, M.D., Planned Parenthood Great Plains. Brunch catered by Jewish restaurant owner/chef Joel Bein. **Please sign up in advance so we have enough food.**

Register at: JewishTulsa.org/bodilyautonomy



Chaverim Xtreme | Saturday, August 12 | 7:00 PM | Chocolate Nosh

Chaverim Xtreme is a new program for our Gen X community members 40 – 65 years. Our inaugural program will begin with a Havdalah before a curated tasting experience at the Chocolate Nosh. You may choose from two options—alcohol (\$25) or non-alcohol (\$15). The alcohol option includes three, 2 oz servings of wine of your choice plus 3 bonbons or truffles. The non-alcohol option includes a full glass of freshly brewed tea (hot or cold) or coffee plus 3 bonbons or truffles. Limited space available! Registration is required by August 8.

Register by August 8 at: JewishTulsa.org/chaverim-august



JMoms | August 13 | 11:00 AM | Sharna and Irvin Frank Aquatics Center

We are inviting our JMoms and their kiddos to a family-friendly morning of swimming, schmoozing, and snacks at the Sharna and Irvin Frank Aquatics center. Snacks and beverages provided along with an optional free swim lesson for kids 3+.

To ensure we have enough swim instructors, please register by August 9th for the swim lessons. JMoms is for mom's raising Jewish children ages 18 and under. RSVP required.

Register at: JewishTulsa.org/jmoms-august



YJP Lakehouse Shabbaton | August 18-20 | Grand Lake O' the Cherokees

Our third YJP Lakehouse Shabbaton will take place at Grand Lake. We will cook together and celebrate Shabbat (sponsored by OneTable) on Friday night, followed by bonding activities, Shabbat-inspired experiences throughout Saturday morning, and time on the water. We end with a meaningful Havdalah Saturday evening. It will be a weekend of bonding and building community. Cost is \$200/person and space is limited. This event is planned by the YJP Programming Board and JFT Staff.

Register at: JewishTulsa.org/yjplakehouse



**Sunday
August 27
1:00 pm
Circle Cinema**

\$36 includes
film, Golda, and
Feeding the Soul Lunch
with Gambill's Jewish Deli

Buy your seat at
JewishTulsa.org/FTS-Golda



Golda Meir, Israel's prime minister.

Film + Food: Golda & Feeding the Soul with Gambill's Jewish Deli | Sunday, August 27 | 1:00 PM | Circle Cinema

We are partnering with Circle Cinema and Gambill's Jewish Deli to present a Feeding the Soul program and the new film Golda starring Helen Mirren, Liev Schreiber, and Camille Cotton. Arrive by 1:00 pm to grab a seat and hear from chef/owner of Gambill's Jewish Deli, Hunter Gambill. Film starts at 2:00 pm. \$36 includes your choice of pastrami, brisket, or vegan sandwich, salad, drink, and the eagerly awaited film about Golda Meir, Israel's legendary, female prime minister. You must register in advance if you wish to attend Feeding the Soul. If you just want to see the film, get tickets at CircleCinema.org. Support local—support Jewish!

- Register: JewishTulsa.org/FTS-Golda
- Film Tickets only at CircleCinema.org



Maimonides Society Social | Thursday, August 31 | 6:00 PM | SMMJA Lobby

Named after the most famous Jewish physician of all time, Rabbi Moses ben Maimon, Maimonides, also known as Rambam, the Maimonides Society of the Jewish Federation of Tulsa is an affinity group for health care and medical professionals to connect through guest lectures, social gatherings, volunteer opportunities and more, while also supporting Jewish philanthropy. The next gathering will be a social honoring community member Dr. Diane Heaton, the newly elected President of the Oklahoma State Medical Association (OSMA). If you're a medical professional interested in joining the Maimonides Society, please contact Isabella at isilberg@jewishtulsa.org.

Register at: JewishTulsa.org/Maimonides-social



LAUGH AND LEARN WITH BENJI LOVITT

by Sandy Sloan, Director of Communications and Development

Israeli-American stand-up comic Benji Lovitt will be performing at the Jewish Federation of Tulsa's Annual Campaign Dinner, **Thursday, September 7 at 5:30 pm.** The Texas born, now Tel Aviv resident has delivered stand-up comedy and cultural presentations for audiences around the world. His perspectives on Israeli society and cultural differences have been featured on Israeli television and radio and in media outlets such as USA Today, BBC Radio, Time Magazine, The Atlantic, and The Times of Israel. Read more about Benji below and reserve your seat at his show by visiting: JewishTulsa.org/CampaignDinner23.

Tell us a bit about your upbringing? Were you raised in an observant or secular family?

BL: Something in between. My family lit Shabbat candles and went to a conservative synagogue. I seem to remember going most Friday nights, the highlight of which was running around and playing "tag" with my friends. Hey, a big part of synagogue is community, right?

What made you decide to make Aliyah in 2006?

BL: I grew up in the Young Judaea youth movement and spent many years at summer camp, leading up to my year abroad before college. I was very connected to Israel after that, finally moving from a corporate job to one in the Jewish world in my late 20s. It didn't happen overnight but at some point, I just knew that if I didn't give it a shot, I'd regret it forever. 16+ years later, I'm still here!

Have you ever performed a show to an audience that just didn't want to laugh? What did you do?

BL: Absolutely-every single comedian has. Michael Jordan missed thousands of shots in his career and even the best comedians have had bad shows. It's not fun! You just power through, do your best, and try to forget it as quickly as possible without too much self-loathing.

You are earning a living making people laugh about very complex issues surrounding Israeli politics. Have you received push back (or worse) by taking this approach and how have you dealt with negative feedback?

BL: Well, I don't get into politics too much (like expressing opinions about what candidates and policies I support). I may sometimes joke about political subjects (like how elections are different in America and Israel) but anyone who gets offended didn't understand the joke. I once had an American tell me she was offended by my joke about Yom Hazikaron (Israeli Day of Remembrance). I said, "Israelis tell me it's their favorite joke". What could she say?

What comedians do you admire?

BL: Bill Burr, Brian Regan, Mark Normand: three different generations of comedy and all very different.

Can you tell us about your experience performing for Jewish Federations? Why do you feel that supporting Jewish Federations is important?

BL: Federation crowds are among my favorite! I've had the privilege of performing for them both in the States and also in Israel. These are typically crowds that "get it" which makes my job easier. Living in Israel, I see the effect that the Federations have had on Israeli society: missions, funding teen trips, and more. I went on a Federation solidarity mission to Israel during the Second Intifada in 2003. The Israeli people were SO appreciative at a time when very few tourists were coming. That trip had an incredible effect on me.

What do you want to say to the Tulsa community to encourage them to attend your show?

BL: I promise you'll laugh and probably even learn something as well. After every show, people approach me and share their personal stories about their Israel experiences (and those who haven't been are ready to book a ticket). And if you've lived in Israel or are a sabra? Then you HAVE to come. ■

Benji Lovitt

SUPER SUNDAY PHONE-A-THON

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Sunday, September 10, 11:00AM-2:00PM

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Event Chairs: Hillary and Ben Aussenberg

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SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 10, 11AM - 2 PM - Jewish Federation of Tulsa

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LEARNING AND LOVING IN ISRAEL

by Sarah Winkelman, Digital Marketing Associate

It has been six years since my Birthright trip and four years since a political interfaith trip through Arizona State University's Hillel. The Tulsa Young Jewish Professionals trip to Israel, sponsored by the Jewish Federation of Tulsa and the Charles and Lynn Schusterman Family Philanthropies, was filled with learning, making connections, and being a part of lifelong memories.

I started the trip at the Jewish Federations of North America General Assembly, together with 3,000 North American Jewish Professionals, learning about the organization's mission. I learned from current and former Knesset members about how the current political climate in Israel affects our Jewish community in Tulsa and shared in the mourning of Yom HaZikaron with the whole nation of Israel. When the rest of the participants from Tulsa joined after the conference, our group was complete and the adventures started! Every two or three days we were traveling to a new part of the country. While this was my third time in Israel, I came with a new perspective. On my previous trips, I was a college student, thankful for a free trip to have fun and maybe learn a little. This time, I hoped to learn more about Israel and how it relates to my everyday life of working in the Tulsa Jewish Community while making genuine connections and friendships with my fellow participants.

On our first night, we sat outside on a grassy hill in the city of Jaffa and went around the circle sharing a little bit about ourselves and our intentions for the trip. Everyone had their own feelings and reasons for coming on the trip, whether it was to learn about the diversity of Israel, make better connections with the participants, or challenge preconceived notions about Israel's politics.

Throughout the trip, we went to a

variety of different sites, all around the country, from a culinary tour of Tzfat, to a boat ride on the Sea of Galilee, to an emotional tour of Yad Vashem, to learning about Israel's Tech industry.

My favorite tour was with Dani Tirza, a retired colonel of the Israeli Defense Forces. My undergraduate degrees are in Political Science and Global Studies with a focus on the Israeli/Palestinian conflict, so this was right up my alley! Dani was in charge of constructing the separation barrier (AKA Anti-Terror Barrier or The Wall), and he took us around Jerusalem to show us the wall from multiple different viewpoints. He shared the struggles he dealt with when building the barrier, explaining that the Israeli government never wanted to cut through properties and force people to move out of their homes. He tried to figure out the exact line in the ground where the foundation for the wall would be to inflict the least amount of damage and impact on the Israeli and Palestinian sides. Dani gave examples of times he had to make decisions on how high the wall would be and what technology would be in that specific section of the wall. I loved hearing his rationale for each and every decision he made, it was truly fascinating.

After 10 amazing days, I said goodbye to my new friends as they began their journey back to Tulsa. David (my partner) and I stayed three more days in Jerusalem before we headed home. We spent two days touring through the city, seeing my favorite places from my previous time there, eating the best food, shopping for souvenirs, going to museums, visiting friends and family, and more. We returned to Tzfat to see more of my favorite city in Israel. This ended up being the most memorable time of the entire trip when David proposed on my favorite rooftop looking over the beautiful mountains!

David and I have lived in Tulsa for just over a year and to be able to take part in this life-changing trip is incredible. I came back with many ideas on how to incorporate Israel in my work with the Jewish Federation of Tulsa while also making lifelong friendships and memories—and of course, came back with a fiancé! I cannot thank the Jewish Federation of Tulsa and the Charles and Lynn Schusterman Family Philanthropies enough for helping make this trip a reality! ■

Sarah Winkelman at the Mount Scopus overlook in Jerusalem.



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* Shipping

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Orders accepted until Rosh Hashanah.

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A portion of all proceeds benefits the Jewish Federation of Tulsa's Annual Campaign.
Ensuring a vibrant Jewish future in Tulsa and around the world!

UPCOMING EVENTS



Fitness Challenge: The Kindest August

This August exercise your kindness! Pick up kindness cards from the fitness desk to pass around. Give kindness cards to your friends or someone working hard in the fitness center. We will have twelve examples of acts of kindness posted outside the gym as well. Every time you pass out a card at the CSJCC or perform an act of kindness outside, you can add a paper ring to our kindness chain hanging from the wall. As a community, let's make the longest chain possible! A little bit of kindness goes a long way!



End of Summer Bash | Fun for the Entire Family! Saturday, August 5 | 7:00 PM | The Sharna and Irvin Frank Aquatics Center



Bring the family to our end of summer bash at the pool! We will have an ice cream sundae bar and our Dive-in Movie, *Bad Guys* will begin at dusk. Family fun pool events are free to CSJCC members, \$20/family not yet members. The Nosh Nook will close at 7:00 pm.

Register in advance at: csjcc.org/summerbash



Line Dancing and Social | Wednesday, August 9 | 10:30 AM | Gymnasium



Join fitness instructor Hannah Bakewell for a line dancing activity! Learn traditional Israeli dances, the Hora, and Oklahoma country line dancing. Snacks and drinks are provided after this activity so please sign up in advance.

Register in advance at: csjcc.org/dancing



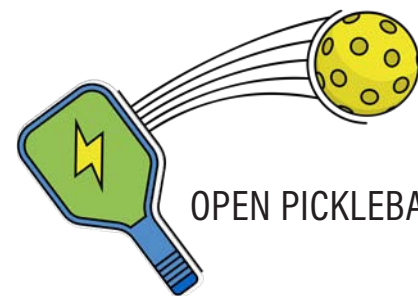
Wellness Series | Sloan Taylor, Sports Dietician Tuesday, August 22 | 11:00 AM | Dan Room



Join us to learn about how nutrition plays a role in your exercise goals and overall well-being with Sports Dietician and University of Tulsa Professor Sloan Taylor. Sloan will address how your nutritional needs may change as you age and how to ensure you are getting the right vital nutrients at any stage of life to remain active and healthy. Sloan Taylor is both a Clinical and Sports Dietitian. She works at Saint Francis Hospital as a Clinical Dietitian and at the University of Tulsa as an adjunct professor and as a Sports Dietician for the athletic department.

Register in advance at: csjcc.org/wellness-august

FEATURED CLASS:



OPEN PICKLEBALL

MONDAY NIGHTS

6:00 - 9:00 PM

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CSJCC.ORG/FITNESS

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*Note: You will receive a QT card when your friend signs up and pays for membership.

2023 HOURS May 27 -September 4 HOURS OF OPERATION

Monday - Thursday 12 - 8 PM

Friday Closed

Saturday and Sunday 12 - 8 PM

Back to School Hours:
Weekends Only August 7 - September 4



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MEZUZOT FROM AROUND THE WORLD

by Sofia Thornblad, Director of Collections & Exhibitions

If I had to pick a favorite object of Judaica, it would probably be *mezuzot* (plural of *mezuzah*). Easily identifiable, they have adorned Jewish doorposts for thousands of years. They proudly mark a home as belonging to a Jewish family, while keeping an important tradition alive.

For those who may not know, a mezuzah (from the Hebrew word for doorpost) is a handwritten scroll containing a prayer which is placed inside a decorative case and affixed to the doorway as one enters the home. Among the oldest of Jewish traditions, mezuzot are often associated with the concept of protection, and serve as a constant reminder of G-d and a symbol of one's Jewish identity. This tradition and the title of the exhibition come from a mandate in the Torah to "love the Lord your G-d with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might. Take to heart these instructions... and inscribe them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates." So that explains why the mezuzah is important and why it is hung on the doorpost. Yet mezuzot are not restricted to the exterior doorways. Observant Jews may affix them to every doorway of every room in the house except the bathroom.

Our upcoming exhibition "Upon Thy Gates: The Winik Mezuzah Collection" showcases 73 mezuzot from around the world. These intricately decorated boxes are made in a variety of materials, ranging from reeds, to wood, glass, or metal. The parchment inside the box contains the two most sacred prayers of Judaism, the Sh'ma (or Shema), and the

V'havta, both taken from the book of Deuteronomy. The prayers on the tiny scrolls are written by a skilled calligraphist, making them exquisite works of high-quality craftsmanship. Mezuzot are a celebration of Jewish identity and art.

This exhibition comes to us from the Oregon Jewish Museum and Center for Holocaust Education in Portland, Oregon. The actual mezuzot, however, come from all over the world, and were collected by Elaine and Norman Winik on their worldwide travels.

On a personal note, this exhibition comes at an important time for me. Many in the Tulsa Jewish community are aware that I am currently converting to Judaism. I smile every time I see a mezuzah "in the wild" so to speak. I can't wait to hang one in my own entry once my conversion is complete. When a friend brought me back a mezuzah from her recent trip to Israel, I was so moved and I realized that very soon I will be a member of the Jewish community I have grown to love.

There is another reason why mezuzot are so important to me, and that is because my first experience with a mezuzah had to do with the absence of one. There was a time in not too distant history, when mezuzot not only identified Jewish homes, but marked families as victims. As they headed unknowingly into the abyss of the Shoah, Jewish families would often take their mezuzot with them—or they would be violently ripped from walls in the wake of deportations.

By the end of the war in some European towns, all that was left of entire communities were dents in doorways. Literal scarred wood—wounds that could be patched up but never healed. In Krakow, these scars are still visible to the careful eye. In 2017, I confronted one such mezuzah scar. Who lived here? Who removed the mezuzah? What happened to its owner?

In many ways, I regret that I learned about mezuzot in the former Jewish district of Krakow. Mezuzot are not a thing of the past that were destroyed forever alongside the 6 million. Long before the Shoah, mezuzot were a powerful example of Jewish LIFE. And they still are. "Upon Thy Gates" focuses on the celebration of Jewish homes and traditions. It is my hope that this exhibition will help you see mezuzot with new eyes. That is certainly what it has done for me! ■

Opening Reception

THURSDAY, AUGUST 24 | 6PM

Upon Thy Gates: The Winik Mezuzah Collection
August 24 — December 2023

An exciting new exhibition presenting 73 mezuzot showcasing a wide range of styles, materials, and Jewish symbols. The mezuzot were created in places all over the world, including Israel, the United States, Denmark, England, Ethiopia, Germany, the Netherlands, India, Iran, Italy, Morocco, Poland, and Yemen, and date from the late 18th to the 21st century. On loan from the Oregon Jewish Museum and Center for Holocaust Education in Portland, Oregon and collected by Elaine and Norman Winik on their worldwide travels. Wherever Jewish people live—so too are mezuzot!

CURRENT EXHIBITIONS

Greetings From Israel | Now through December 2023

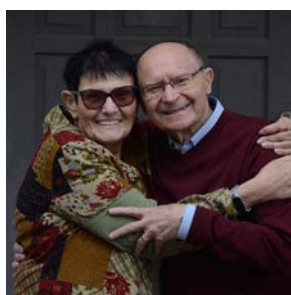
Come see why The Sherwin Miller Museum of Jewish Art is home to the largest Judaica collection in the Southwest! Greetings from Israel showcases gems from the Museum's permanent collection, Israeli artists, and beautiful objects from the holy land.

Humans of The Holocaust | Now through December 2023

An eye-opening photographic collection telling the human story of Holocaust survivors, their children, and Jews around the world who are affected by antisemitism today. The project tells the story of the Holocaust in a wholly unique way: through the medium of digital storytelling. With inspiration and optimism, The Humans of the Holocaust offers a fresh perspective about the experiences of Holocaust survivors, showcasing individual stories of how the human spirit can overcome even the most inhumane circumstances. Photographer Erez Kaganovitz, is third generation, grandson of a Holocaust survivor.

Donna Matles Retrospective | Now through March 1, 2024

Donna Matles, of blessed memory, was a genuine artist. As a respected artist, jewelry designer, wood turner, and conservator of Judaica, she helped launch the Fenster Gallery, which later became The Sherwin Miller Museum of Jewish Art. The Donna Matles Retrospective exhibition is on display in the Mildred and Julius Sanditen Gallery of the The Sherwin Miller Museum of Jewish Art.





ISRAEL SHINES BRIGHT AT GLOBAL GATHERING

by Sarah Winkelman, Digital Marketing Associate

Global Gatherings was a 13-week long summer program hosted on Friday mornings at the Gathering Place. The goal was to showcase different cultures and peoples who live here in Tulsa. This family-friendly event featured a different region of the world each week and local organizations were invited to share about their culture. On July 7, the featured region was West Asia (a new way to say the Middle East). The Jewish Federation of Tulsa was asked to participate and show off our Israeli pride.

Two of our committees, Israel Engagement and Community Relations, represented our community with five different stations of hands-on learning activities. Two stations were food samples with challah and bamba, a traditional snack loved by Israeli children. Craft activities were available at three different stations—decorating a hamsa and writing your name in Hebrew; creating a friendship bracelet; and attaching felt “Jerusalem stones” to an outline of the Tower of David. Chloe Kirk, Director of Community Relations, read PJ Library stories about peace and coexistence in Israel and Hannah Bakewell, CSJCC Fitness Manager, taught two rounds of Israeli dancing to get the kids (and parents) up and moving. Of course, we had a table promoting Camp Shalom and CSJCC’s family fitness and pool memberships to appeal to the over 250 families that walked through the door!

It was an excellent experience teaching kids and their families about traditional Israeli food and showing them a side by side visual comparison of the real Tower of David in photos next to the one they were creating themselves! This feel-good event showcased our Jewish community in Tulsa and the many good things about Israel. We applaud the Gathering Place for hosting these weekly events and thank them for including us in the West Asia region. ■



Global Gatherings hamsa station.

WHY WE CHOSE MIZEL

by Annina Collier, Mizel JCDS parent

In the spring of 2022, my family had a big decision to make. How could we transition our kids into a classroom environment after being home-schooled during the pandemic? My husband and I are former public school kids, but we felt it would be too jarring for our children to suddenly enter overcrowded classrooms in under-funded public schools.

We took a tour of Mizel, and while we were impressed with the small class sizes, the extracurricular activities, and the fantastic teachers and staff, one moment sealed the deal that Mizel was right for us. While visiting the 2nd and 3rd grade classrooms, a student dropped a giant bin of colored pencils, and they scattered all over the floor. In my elementary school, that would have been an invitation for ridicule and taunting. But at Mizel, every single child immediately jumped up and began to help pick up the colored pencils, without any prompting from an adult. “This school is raising good people,” I thought, and we registered our kids for pre-k and second grade that day.

My kids had no experience with Hebrew or Judaic learning, so that summer, Morah Alin met with my daughter via Zoom to help her catch up – even though Morah Alin was on break in Israel. By the first day of school, my daughter could write the Hebrew alphabet, and by the end of the year, she could read fluently in Hebrew. My daughter has had a blast learning Hebrew, and it’s inspired in her a love of language and culture that will serve her well her entire life.

I spent the first month of school repeatedly explaining to my kids why weekends exist. Spending two days at home seemed like a drag, and they’d rather be at school. And what kids don’t like snow days? Mizel kids don’t – mine whined during last winter’s ice storm. What could be better proof that Mizel is inspiring a love of learning and community?

My kids have grown and learned so much this year. In August, if you’d handed my son a pencil, he might have held it eraser-side down. But by May he could write his name – legibly!

My daughter has gained confidence, learned to love kickball, and established a diverse academic foundation.

As a non-Jewish family with no specific faith tradition, we asked about the appropriateness of our attending Shabbats and other celebrations, and we were enthusiastically encouraged to attend. While I would certainly have understood if we were treated as observers, we have been welcomed with open arms. It’s been wonderful for all of us, and my kids have been inspired to incorporate Jewish traditions into our

Continued.



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Continued.

family. They sing the HaMotzi before meals, and Jewish songs are the new soundtrack to our lives. We feel so fortunate to be part of the Mizel family, and grateful to the community, donors, and leaders that support the school.

As the summer stretches in front of them, my kids are counting the days until they can return to their beloved Mizel. Here's to August! ■

Annina Collier, mom of Stella and Rocco, wrote this tribute for the Mizel JCDS Annual Meeting



Rocco and Stella headed to class at Mizel JCDS.

EVA K. UNTERMAN CONFERENCE FOR HOLOCAUST EDUCATORS

by Janet Dundee, Member, Executive Committee, Oklahoma SB1671 Holocaust Legislation Coalition

For several years, the Council for Holocaust Education has conducted summer teacher workshops on various aspects of Holocaust history. This summer the workshops had additional importance for the teachers attending—Oklahoma Senate Bill 1671. Passed unanimously by the Oklahoma legislature in 2022, SB 1671 makes Holocaust curriculum available to grades 6-12 language arts and visual arts teachers, in addition to standards already in place in social studies classes to provide age-appropriate instruction to all Oklahoma public school students.

On June 15 and June 16 teachers from all over Oklahoma gathered in Oklahoma City's Belle Isle Metropolitan Library and at the Jewish Federation of Tulsa's Barbara and Dave Sylvan Auditorium and Zarrow Pointe's Burnstein Auditorium to learn about SB 1671 and how they can incorporate Holocaust studies into their classroom curriculum. The response was overwhelming! A total of 140 teachers and presenters participated in this year's workshops, with teachers receiving seven hours of professional development credit for attending.

Oklahoma Representative John Waldron and Oklahoma Senator Joanna Dossett, both former teachers, attended the workshops to assure teachers that they have the right and the obligation to teach the Holocaust in their classrooms. The newly informed curriculum, written by a group of curriculum experts, adheres to Oklahoma State Education Department guidelines and state standards.

Charlotte Schuman, the driving force behind SB 1671 and this summer's workshops, informed teachers about available resources. Schuman praised the coalition of lawmakers, advocates, and educators whose hard work and commitment provided the opportunity to open a conversation with students on the lessons of the Holocaust to Oklahoma public schools. Also speaking was Michael Korenbilit, whose story of his parents' experiences as Holocaust survivors emphasized the importance of looking to the second-generation to carry the vital messages that should never fade in our memories.

Holocaust survivor, Eva Unterman, was once again a keynote speaker at both workshops. Her message encouraged teachers to provide this important curriculum for their students. In both cities, Eva was interviewed by local media, including all four Tulsa television stations, KWGS, and the Tulsa World. When asked how hate and genocide grow, Eva replied, "It all starts with words." She emphasized that workshop teachers and their students, who have always been Eva's heroes, are "now witnesses to the Shoah". In Eva's honor, the summer workshops bear her name.

The Jewish Federation of Greater Oklahoma City and the Jewish Federation of Tulsa provided support and resources to host the Teacher Workshops. In 2024, the Senate Bill 1671 Holocaust Education Coalition has a goal to incorporate and promote teacher development workshops in smaller communities in the state and to develop "host workshops" in under-served areas. ■



Eva Unterman interview with local media.

THE JEWISH HISTORY OF PEEPS®

by Phil Goldfarb

Under his original name Samuel Bernstein, he immigrated to the United States at the age of 18 on December 27, 1909 sailing on the SS Merion from Liverpool to Philadelphia. On the ship's passenger manifest, his occupation was listed as "candy maker."

In a short time, he was known as an innovator in his field. In 1916, according to the Candy Hall of Fame, he invented a machine that mechanically inserted sticks into lollipops which was such a hit that it earned him the Key to the City of San Francisco. He called it the "Born Sucker Machine." Company history also gives Born credit for creating a better way to make chocolate sprinkles and the solid chocolate coating that's used for Eskimo Pies.

In 1923, Born earned enough money to open his own chocolate retail store and factory in Brooklyn, New York where he displayed his freshest chocolate in the window with a sign that read "Just Born." He called his company Just Born Quality Confections because he claimed his products were so fresh it was as though they were just born. On November 28, 1923 he married Anna Schaffer (1899-1991) in Manhattan, NY and brought his brothers-in-law, Irv and Jack Shaffer, into the business. During the 1920s and '30s, Just Born grew rather significantly mostly due to the acquisition of other candy companies. Sam and his partners acquired Norma Chocolate Works in 1926, and valiantly survived the depression. Due to buying up of companies, they came into ownership of a giant factory in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania, recruited workers from the stagnant steel industry, and moved Just Born there in 1932.

No one knows for sure when Roscoe E Rodda and Rodda Candy made its first "3Dmarshmallow chick," but speculation was that marshmallow chicks were first made as a special-order item for loyal customers in the early 1940s, who enjoyed them as more of a decorative item than to actually eat.

What is documented is that making these types of shaped marshmallows was an extremely labor-intensive process. It took perhaps as many as 80 people to make a limited amount only during the Easter season. Each worker spooned small batches of freshly-made marshmallow—made from the flower of the marshmallow plant, whipped egg whites and lots of sugar—into a fluted steel tip, which squirted out the mixture in the shape of baby chicks. Then, they were left to air-dry.

In 1953 Just Born purchased the Rodda Candy Company and Jewish immigrant Sam Born developed the Peeps we know today. While it took Rodda 27 hours to make one tray of these first Peeps by hand, Born and his son Ira Brahm "Bob" Born (1924-2023) who was a big believer in automation, mechanized the process so that it took just six minutes. Bob Born built the "Depositor," an automated machine that spit out six rows of five Peeps at a time. For six decades, the Depositor made perfect Peeps and in 2014 it was finally replaced with a new state-of-art-machine.

After returning from serving in the U.S. Navy in World War II, Bob Born was supposed to work at the candy company temporarily as he was studying to go to medical school, but he fell in love with the business and stayed for decades. Born also invented the Hot Tamales candy by reworking the company's recipe for Mike and Ike candy into a red spicy cinnamon candy. Born began a tenure as president of Just Born candy and served in that capacity for over thirty years. His hometown of Bethlehem, Pennsylvania has designated the first day of the Easter season as Bob Born Day.

On March 22, 1959, Sam Born died on board the Cunard liner, Britannic of a massive cerebral hemorrhage, while it was at sea at exactly 45.13 North and 07.55 West according to his death certificate having departed from Lisbon in route to Southampton. He and his wife were on the last lap of a 14,000 mile world cruise which began January 23, 1959 going from Lisbon to Portugal to Cherbourg, France. He is buried at Montefiore Cemetery, Springfield Gardens, Queens County, New York.

By the 1960s, shapes other than the iconic chick were introduced and today over 50 varieties are offered year-round, many in conjunction with holidays like

Continued.



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Halloween and Christmas. The company has three Peeps retail stores with t-shirts declaring "Imagine World Peeps." Fans can also participate in annual Peep diorama contests held across the country where scenes are recreated using Peeps.

The Born family has a strong tradition of supporting Jewish causes and have been honored by the Federation of Jewish Philanthropy, the United Jewish Appeal and the Israeli government's Shema Yisrael Award. Sam Born's grandson, Ross Born, and his cousin, David Shaffer, are now co-CEOs of Just Born Quality Confections; the company is still family — and Jewish—run!

Today, 5.5 million Peeps are produced daily through a mechanical process using conveyor belts and itty-bitty paint guns. Just Born is the tenth largest candy company in the country and all of their candy is made in the USA and Canada using globally sourced ingredients. They employ more than 600 associates, most of whom are at their world headquarters and candy factory in Bethlehem, PA. Finally, something to think about when eating a Peep...according to a 2013 customer survey,

nearly two thirds of Peep lovers bite its head off as the first thing that they do and decapitate the poor bird-shaped marshmallow! ■

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





After nine months the waiting is over! Mazel Tov to the Amanda and Evan Anderson on the birth of their second baby boy, Alden, on June 14th. Alden was 6 lbs, 10 oz, 19 ¾ inches and is healthy and happy. First born, Eisen, is loving being a big brother!



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

MILITARY HISTORY CENTER OPENS HOLOCAUST EXHIBITS

The Military History Center located at 112 N Main Street in Broken Arrow, OK has unveiled a small Holocaust exhibit. Included are unusual memorabilia items from WWII such as boots covered with straw made at the all-female prisoner Ravensbruck concentration camp. These rare boots were made to help insulate the German soldiers on the Eastern Front to protect them against sub-zero temperatures. The exhibit includes an excellent 18-minute video with narration, scrapbook, as well as a Nazi helmet on loan by The Sherwin Miller Museum of Jewish Art. The museum is certainly a great place to stop and visit. The hours are Tuesday-Friday 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM and Saturday 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM. ■





David Dopp



Levi Olsen



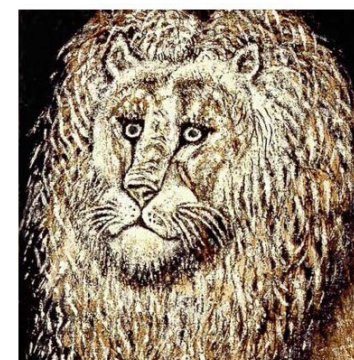
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Tu B'Av Date Night
Wednesday, August 2 – 7:00 p.m.
Join us for a unique dining date night experience to celebrate the Jewish holiday of love. Visit www.tulsagogue.com for more details.

Bibi-Dibi
Friday, August 4 – 5:30 p.m.
Crawling? Barely walking? Not yet talking? There's a place for you in our circle at Bibi-Dibi. It's a monthly Shabbat gathering for babies and their families. We sing songs, play games, and share a beautiful Shabbat dinner. We see this as an excellent way to build your own family traditions. While no reservation is necessary for the celebration, we ask that you make reservations by calling or visiting our website if you plan to join us for the meal. The celebration begins at 5:30 p.m. and dinner starts at 6:00 p.m. Let us know you'll be attending at www.tulsagogue.com.

Synagogue Sandlot Co-ed Softball and Picnic
Sunday, August 6 – 10:00 a.m.
Grab your glove and bat and join us for a fun-filled game of softball at Whiteside Park, 4009 S Pittsburg, Tulsa. Don't feel like playing, but like watching an entertaining game? Bring the whole family to enjoy a day in the park with an impressive water play area and join us for a pizza lunch following the game. Be sure to grab those swimsuits. There is limited seating, so please bring a folding chair or picnic blanket. Let us know you'll be attending at www.tulsagogue.com.

Blatt + Blue:
Thursday, August 10 – 7:00 p.m.
Blatt + Blue is the longest-running project at the Synagogue dating from the height of the pandemic. It is now forty-one months old and continues to spotlight a diverse and provocative roster or films and television. The series expresses the Synagogue's commitment to an inclusive and pluralistic vision of the Jewish world. Visit www.tulsagogue.com.



THE SYNAGOGUE CONGREGATION B'NAI EMUNAH

[com](http://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.

Seventeenth Street Deli
Sunday, August 13 – 5:30 p.m.
In the kitchen of the Seventeenth Street Deli we do things right. Slow cures, too much pepper, and lots of love. Our pop-up restaurant is back with take-out dinner service available between 5:30 and 7:30 p.m. on Sunday, June 18. Please pre-register for your meals at www.tulsadeli.org and choose between pastrami, corned beef, or deli egg salad. You can call us at 918-583-7121. A complete meal is \$18. Register soon before all the spots are gone.

Lifelong Learners
Wednesday, August 16 - 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, www.tulsagogue.com.

Shabbat for Everyone – Shul School Edition
Friday, August 18 – Dinner at 6:15, Services at 7:00 p.m.
Join us in welcoming back students and teachers for another school year - services led by Klay Kodesh, our instrumental and vocal ensemble. We prepare a lovely Shabbat dinner so you can relax. A joyful and lively musical service will brighten your evening, lift your spirits, and send you singing into a restful weekend. No reservation is needed for the service at 7:00 p.m. Please register to guarantee your place at the dinner table being served at 6:15 p.m.

ShulSchool – The Launch
Sunday, August 20 – 9:00 – 12:00 p.m.
School is back in session! A new year of learning, community and fun begins Sunday, August 20th at 9:00 a.m. at the Synagogue. Parents are invited to drop their students off in their classrooms and join Morah Sara for bagels and a schmooze! ShulSchool is the Synagogue's supplemental educational program for pre-school through 7th grade students. Our program is steeped in community building, values exploration and creating fluent Jewish identity. Interested in learning more? Be in touch with Morah Sara at slevitt@bnaiemunah.com for questions and registration information!

Doing Jewish: Roadmap to the High Holidays
Sunday, August 20 – 10:00 – 11:00 a.m.
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 at rdk@bnaiemunah.com or register to attend at www.tulsagogue.com.

Continued.

An Evening in Conversation with Dr. Tiffany Crutcher
Friday, August 25 Dinner at 6:15, Presentation at 7:00 p.m.

Join us in conversation with Dr. Tiffany Crutcher as we discuss criminal justice and police reform, youth development and policy advocacy. Dr. Crutcher is a native of Tulsa, Oklahoma who was thrust into the national spotlight following the death of her twin brother, Terence Crutcher, who was shot by a police officer in Tulsa, Oklahoma, while holding his hands in the air. The murder of her brother compelled Tiffany to speak out against police brutality, particularly the killing of unarmed black men. She has chosen to turn her personal tragedy into an opportunity to bridge fear, mistrust, and help transform a justice system that has long perpetuated injustice. Dr. Crutcher has remained committed to organizing coalitions throughout the country that promote the interests of minority

communities. Crutcher is the Founder of the Terence Crutcher Foundation and Demanding A Just Tulsa Coalition. Let us know you'll be attending at www.tulsasynagogue.com.

FETO (Free Eggs to Order) Morning Seminar: Jewish Ukrainian History and Roots
Sunday, August 27 - 10:00 - 12:00 p.m.

Join us for eggs and conversation with Dr. Boris Dralyuk, as we explore Jewish life in Ukraine as it once existed. Dr. Drayluk is the Editor-in-Chief of the Los Angeles Review of Books. He is a literary translator and holds a PhD in Slavic Languages and Literature from UCLA, where he taught Russian literature for a number of years. Let us know you'll be attending at www.tulsasynagogue.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 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. ■



The World of the Rabbis: Talmud's Greatest Hits with Rabbi Weinstein on Zoom • Thurs., August 3, 17, 24 & 31 • 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.

Birthday Shabbat Service in person, on Zoom & Facebook Live • Fri., Aug. 11 • 6:00 p.m. • Join us as we welcome in Shabbat. During this service, we will honor August birthdays. Arrive at 5:30 p.m. for a pre-oneg. RSVP to rsvp@templetulsa.com for the Zoom link.

Young Family Event • Sat., Aug. 12 • 7:00 p.m. • Join Temple Israel for a young Family Event! We will have a night on the town and go to a Tulsa Drillers game! The game is on August 12th, and it is Drillers vs. Amarillo. The game starts at 7:05 pm. The event costs \$5 per person with a family cap of \$18. RSVP on our website www.templetulsa.com/rsvp.

Music & Meditation • Sat., Aug. 19 • 10:30 a.m. • Join Cantor Weinstein to flex, stretch, and nourish our minds, our bodies, and our souls through song, breath, and movement.

Young Adult Trivia • Wed., Aug. 23 • 6:00 p.m. • Fun fact...It's that time of year again! Join Temple Israel for trivia at Welltown Brewing. Temple Israel will buy the drinks! Who will come out on top? Will it be Team Hebrew Hammer? Team Matzo Ballers? Or someone new? Please RSVP by emailing rsvp@templetulsa.com.

Anniversary Shabbat Service in person, on Zoom & Facebook Live • Fri., Aug. 25 • 6:00 p.m. • Join us as we welcome in Shabbat.

During this service, we will honor August anniversaries. Arrive at 5:30 p.m. for a pre-oneg. RSVP to rsvp@templetulsa.com for the Zoom link.

Casual Friday • Fri., Aug. 25 • 6:00 p.m. after services • Casual Friday is our new moniker for services, followed by a bring-your-own dinner! This picnic-style dinner will be supplemented with drinks and some sweet treats! Services are at 6:00 p.m. We'd love to see you there!

Sociable Seniors Go To "Golda" • Sun., Aug. 27 • A special afternoon is being planned for all TI Sociable Seniors on Sunday, August 27, at the Circle Cinema. The new movie "Golda" stars Helen Mirren, Liv Schreiber and Camille Cottin. It focuses on the intensely dramatic and high-stakes responsibilities and decisions that Golda Meir, also known as the 'Iron Lady of Israel', faced during the Yom Kippur War. Watch for more details in upcoming iTneraries. This event is open for all Sociable Seniors, Temple Israel's social group for members and community friends 60+. Invite a friend to join us! ■

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NEW YEAR, NEW CLASS
 by Cantor Laurie Weinstein

With the new year around the corner, I am eagerly anticipating the High Holy Days and all the majesty and music that accompanies these most sacred of days. These days fill me with deep introspection, with awareness of time, and with the blessing that is life. Along with this anticipation, I am excited to announce a new opportunity for all to engage. Beginning August 19 at 10:30 AM, Temple Israel will offer a Music, Meditation, and Movement class for our community on Shabbat

mornings. Inspired by my own yoga and meditation practice and the wonderful Cantor Natalie Young, who offered such an event during our Scholars in Residence weekend, we will gather to flex, stretch, and nourish our minds, our bodies, and our souls. Watch the iTneraries for details surrounding our first event and future events. I look forward to singing, breathing, and moving with you as we hold space for the sacredness of time together and for the gift of renewal. ■




Cantor Laurie Weinstein



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★ The Pearl Society is a women's affinity group that gathers quarterly ...

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Panelists



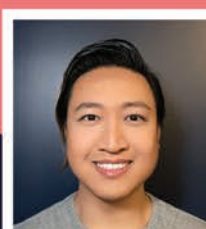
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