

A vibrant photograph of a swimming pool with children playing. In the foreground, a young boy wearing a blue and white striped life preserver and colorful swim trunks is floating on his back with his arms outstretched. In the background, other children are swimming and playing near a blue slide and a lifeguard stand. The entire image is covered with a digital overlay of many blue and white bubbles of various sizes.

# TULSA Jewish Review

Iyar/Sivan 5784  
June 2024

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Front Cover



The Sharna and Irvin Frank Aquatics  
Center at the Charles Schusterman  
Jewish Community Center

## 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*

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#### *L'Dor V'Dor – From Generation to Generation*

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UPCOMING EVENTS



**Embracing Intersectional Identity: A Queer Black-Jewish Perspective on Juneteenth, Jewish Pride, and Pride Month | Thursday, June 6 | 7 pm | Jewish Federation of Tulsa**

The Community Relations Committee presents, "Embracing Intersectional Identity: A Queer Black-Jewish Perspective on Juneteenth, Jewish Pride, and Pride Month" with Jewish influencer @frumjewishblackboy. Tony Westbrook shares relatable stories, advances Jewish education, and spreads Jewish and Black joy to over 55,000 followers on social media with his motto, "I promise to be Jewish ten times more than anyone hates me for it". This Pride month, join us for an evening of conversation on navigating and embracing intersectionality within our community.



RSVP at: [JewishTulsa.org/crc-june](https://JewishTulsa.org/crc-june)



**JMoms Plant and Sip | June 25 | 7 pm | Wildflower Wine Jungle**

Come together in a community gathering with your JMoms friends, new and old. This program is only \$10/person and you get to create your own potted plant to take home with you, and enjoy some wine, snacks and mom camaraderie. JMoms is a group for moms with children 18 years old and younger, raising them Jewishly.

RSVP at: [JewishTulsa.org/jmoms-june](https://JewishTulsa.org/jmoms-june)



**Lunch Bunch | Wednesday, June 19 | 12 pm | Burnstein Auditorium @ Zarrow Pointe**

Join us for our next Lunch Bunch program, where we aim to learn a bunch in just one lunch! Our speakers for this program are from the team of Congregation B'nai Emunah Synagogue. Right in time for World Refugee Day, they'll delve into the important refugee resettlement work in Tulsa. At this program, you'll discover how communal involvement fuels this crucial mission and learn how you can contribute. From donations to volunteerism, we'll explore avenues for ongoing support and partnership across Tulsa. This program will kick-start a community drive for the refugee resettlement warehouse. We will have multiple drop off locations, including Congregation B'nai Emunah and the Jewish Federation of Tulsa. Optional lunch available for \$13!



RSVP at [jewishtulsa.org/june-lb](https://jewishtulsa.org/june-lb)

UPCOMING EVENTS



**YJP Pool Day | Sunday, June 30 | 11 am - 1 pm | Sharna and Irvin Frank Aquatics Center**

Join us for a come and go pool day with other young Jewish adults in Tulsa. We'll have an assortment of brunchy foods to nosh on while we network and relax by the pool.

RSVP at [jewishtulsa.org/YJP-pool](https://jewishtulsa.org/YJP-pool)



**MAYOR'S PROCLAMATION HONORING JEWISH AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH**

Since 2006, Jewish American Heritage Month (JAHM) is an annual recognition and celebration of American Jews' achievements and contributions to the United States during the month of May.



L to Rt: Chloe Chappell, Director of Community Relations and Outreach (JFT), Rabbi Dan Kaiman (Congregation B'nai Emunah), Rabbi Michael Weinstein (Temple Israel), Mayor G.T. Bynum, Rabbi Yehuda Weg (Chabad Tulsa), Jared Goldfarb, President (JFT), Sofia Thornblad, Chief Curator and Director of Holocaust Education (SMMJA), Tracey Herst-Woods, Deputy Director (SMMJA)



A SANCTUARY OF SUPPORT:  
CELEBRATING WORLD REFUGEE DAY WITH THE SYNAGOGUE’S  
REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT EFFORTS

by Brae Riley, CBE Board Member and Chair, JFT Community Relations Committee

Each year on June 20, the international community comes together to honor people who have been forced to flee on World Refugee Day. The date, established by the United Nations, recognizes the anniversary of the 1951 Convention related to the Status of Refugees. The core idea underscored on this day was the assertion that a refugee should not be returned to a country where they face serious threats to their life or freedom.

The 1951 Convention, a pivotal document, delineated the fundamental minimum standards for the treatment of refugees. These standards include the right to housing, work, and education while displaced, ensuring that they can lead lives of dignity and independence. These decisions were made in the aftermath of the First and Second World Wars, when millions of forcibly displaced people sought refuge and security, underscoring the gravity of the situation.

While no policy or proclamation can resolve all refugee issues, this date marks a turning point in humanitarian efforts. Resettlement agencies and service organizations exist to uphold these core ideas and enact programs that realize ideological commitments. In the Tulsa Jewish community, these efforts take the form of the Refugee Resettlement Department at The Synagogue | Congregation B’nai Emunah.

Operating in partnership with HIAS (formerly the Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society) and the U.S. State Department, this department is dedicated to assisting refugees who are unable to return to their homelands due to fears of persecution in settling and integrating into the community. The provided services extend beyond mere resettlement; they include facilitating English language learning, employment assistance, and helping refugees become engaged Tulsans.

Over the past year the resettlement office has served clients from Afghanistan, Burma, Syria, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Venezuela, Honduras, Ukraine, and more. The efforts are supported by volunteers, donors, and community partners. While specific needs and crises often demand particular responses, the Refugee Resettlement Department exists as an explicit example of the purpose of a religious community. Doing something bigger than yourself is possible when working alongside another person. That is strengthened when community is shared.

The Synagogue’s model of refugee resettlement is unique amongst congregations in the United States. It is the only fully-fledged resettlement agency housed inside a Synagogue. It regularly attracts attention and support both from within the Jewish community and beyond. The effort represents the Tulsa Jewish community’s commitment to

experimentation, innovation, and diversity.

This June, to mark World Refugee Day, the Jewish Federation of Tulsa will be hosting a Lunch Bunch program featuring Rabbi Kaiman and Genevieve Jaber speaking on The Synagogue’s refugee resettlement work. Rabbi Kaiman has led the work to establish this new model and Genevieve Jaber serves as director of the Refugee Resettlement Department. They both can speak in great detail about the state of refugee services in Oklahoma, shifting dynamics in US attitudes towards resettlement, and the place of refugee issues in a global conversation. Their presentation will help the Tulsa Jewish community mark the celebration of World Refugee Day and highlight the significant accomplishments of the Refugee Resettlement Department. Lunch Bunch will take place on June 19 at the Burnstein Auditorium at Zarrow Pointe. For more information see JFT events on page 6. ■



YJP’s volunteering in the warehouse in the summer of 2023

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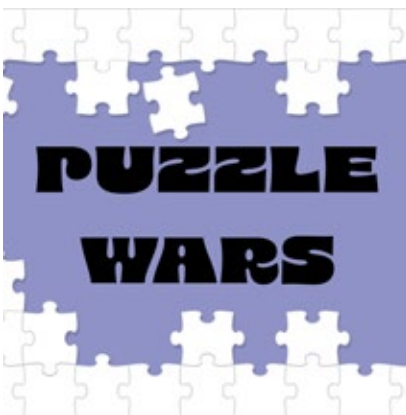
## UPCOMING EVENTS

**Fitness Challenge: Brain Health**

June is the Alzheimer's and Brain Awareness Month. This month we are focusing on sharpening up your brain. Many parts of your brain can be improved by engaging in "brain games" daily. Engaging in cognitively stimulating activities and brain training over the course of your life can positively impact how well your brain functions, including memory, attention, thinking, language and reasoning skills. Stop by the fitness desk for a new brain game packet every week in June. If you complete the packet and turn it in each month, you will be entered into our monthly drawing. Let's exercise the brain together!

**Open House Pool Party | Sunday, June 2 | 12 – 8 pm**

Community Open House Pool Party! Tell your friends, family, neighbors, and co-workers. Test out the "water" at the Sharna and Irvin Frank Aquatics Center for free this day only. \$25 per person QT card will be awarded to all CSJCC members that refer a friend who pay for a summer pool membership at the Open House.

**Puzzle Wars | Wednesday, June 5 at 10:15 am | Dan Room**

In honor of Alzheimer's and Brain Awareness Month we challenge you to "Puzzle Wars." Sign up in advance and we will make small teams and "race" to see who can finish their puzzle(s) first.

RSVP at: [csjcc.org/puzzle](https://csjcc.org/puzzle)

**Mini Try-athlon | Thursday, June 20 | 9 am**

Challenge yourself at our 2nd mini Try-athlon! Test your mental and physical abilities with an 8-minute swim, 20-minute stationery bike ride, and 15-minute treadmill run. There is a 15-minute break between the swim and run to change clothes. All participants will receive a CSJCC "Try-athlon" t-shirt. We hope you join us for this fun and challenging Mini-Try! Cost to participate is \$15/per athlete.

RSVP at: [csjcc.org/mini-try](https://csjcc.org/mini-try)



## UPCOMING EVENTS

**Meet John Linhardt and Watch *Killers of the Flower Moon* Tuesday, June 25 | 11:30 am | Dan Room**

Join us to for lunch and a movie! Guest speaker, CSJCC member, and local celebrity, John Linhardt will discuss his role in the Martin Scorsese film Killers of the Flower Moon. John will share his experience being an extra in the film including his on camera "run-in" with Leonardo DiCaprio. Light lunch provided. Clips of the film will be shown during John's presentation. Following John's talk, we will show the film in its entirety, telling the shocking story of the 1920s Osage nation murders that occurred in nearby Fairfax, OK. Lunch includes Kosher Hot Dog with toppings of your choice, chips, pickle, drink, and dessert for \$5.

RSVP at: [csjcc.org/film](https://csjcc.org/film)

**Wellness Series: Advancing the Science—the Latest in Alzheimer's and Dementia Research Wednesday, June 26 | 10:15 am | Dan Room**

Join us to hear from Meggie Gaskins, Director of Communications for the Alzheimer's Association Tulsa Chapter who serves as a Research Champion for the Association. Meggie will present on the latest advances in Alzheimer's and dementia research, including an overview of Alzheimer's and other dementia, highlighting the current research, the new era of treatment, and what's on the horizon in battling this disease that affects millions of Americans.

RSVP at [csjcc.org/june-wellness](https://csjcc.org/june-wellness)

**FEATURED CLASSES:**

– *Open Basketball* –

Youth Basketball (ages 10 - 17) –  
Wednesday 5 - 7 pm

Adult Basketball (ages 18+) –  
Monday/Wednesday 7 - 9 pm



**FREE** for CSJCC members,  
\$5 guest fee non-members

**• SHAVUOT CLOSINGS •**

**CSJCC**

Tuesday, June 11 — Fitness center and pool close at 5 pm

Wednesday, June 12 — CLOSED

Thursday, June 13 – Fitness Center open 12 - 5 pm  
Pool open 12 – 8 pm

**JFT AND SMMJA**

Tuesday, June 11 — Closed at 12 pm

Wednesday, June 12 — CLOSED

Thursday, June 13 – CLOSED



**–PICKLEBALL–**  
**LESSONS WILL BEGIN**  
**AGAIN IN AUGUST!**

During the months of **June** and **July** pickleball lessons will not be offered.



## SWIM FOR ALL: A LIFESAVING PROGRAM

by Laura Allen, Director of Community Outreach and Membership

Some of my fondest childhood memories involve swimming at the neighborhood pool every summer. We were always the first ones to arrive and the last ones to leave. I was fortunate that my parents had the means to pay for swim lessons, but not all children are so lucky.

Here at the Charles Schusterman Jewish Community Center, we believe every child should have the opportunity to learn

them, it can inspire and motivate them to engage more in the learning process. Additionally, it reinforces the importance of water safety and swimming skills within the family unit, leading to a safer and more confident community in and around water.

Lessons include teaching each child to put their head underwater and blow bubbles, to kicking and using their arms in a free style stroke. Towards the end of the four-week

to swim. Swimming is a life skill that can truly save lives and drowning is one of the leading causes of death in children. You may have heard about the CSJCC Swim For All program offering free swim lessons to low-income families in our neighborhood. Swim for All debuted in the summer of 2022 with a small group of 36 kids. Last year, we doubled the program to offer lessons reaching 64 children. This year, we are thrilled to announce the continued growth of this meaningful program, offering free lessons to 96 children, continuing our partnership with neighborhood Title 1 schools Marshall and McClure Elementary Schools, in the month of June. An exciting new component of our Swim for All program includes adult swim lessons. After speaking with parents and guardians of the children attending Swim for All last summer, I learned that the parents/guardians along with other adult family members had also never had the opportunity to learn to swim. As a result, we are adding adult lessons for low income families in our area in July. Implementing adult swim lessons not only benefits the adults by equipping them with life-saving skills but also creates a positive learning environment for children. When children see their guardians actively participating and learning alongside

lessons, children will have the opportunity to use the slide and swim to the ladder or jump off the diving board. It is so inspiring and gratifying to see the children, filled with pride, from what they have accomplished in a short amount of time. If you stop by the pool during lessons, please encourage the children and make them and their families feel welcome as a part of our community. We are fortunate to offer Swim For All at no cost to families through two grants received from George Kaiser Family Foundation and The Opportunity Project. Having supporters who recognize the value of Swim for All makes a difference in ensuring lifesaving skills for local children in need, as well as great summer memories. We are grateful to be able to provide this service in our Sharna and Irvin Frank Aquatics Center! ■



## TULSA'S RACQUET GUY

by Maren Hettler, Tulsa Jewish Review Intern



John Linhardt

John Linhardt is a self-proclaimed “racquet guy.” “There are soccer people and there are baseball people, and then there are racquet people,” he said. For him, racquet sports are a way of life. Linhardt was working as a tennis professional in Oklahoma City when he discovered squash through a friend. He’s been playing since the 1980s.

Squash, a sport similar to racquetball, has its roots in 19th century England but has garnered a global following. “It’s a worldwide sport,” Linhardt said. The sport is most popular in the United Kingdom, Egypt, and Pakistan.

Unlike larger fitness centers in Tulsa, the Charles Schusterman Jewish Community Center (CSJCC) offers two well-maintained squash courts and is the only place to play in the entire city. Squash is played with a rubber ball in a four-walled court.

After moving to Tulsa from Oklahoma City, Linhardt’s search

for a place to play squash led him to the CSJCC. “There just happened to be two squash courts here at the CSJCC and I’ve been playing here ever since,” he said. “It’s really the only facility in Tulsa with squash courts.”

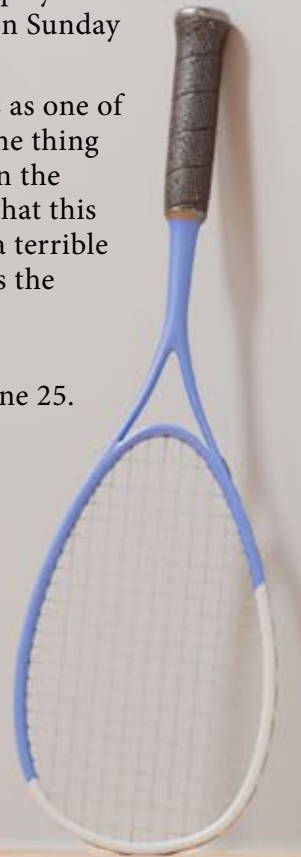
Outside of his love for racquet sports, Linhardt worked as an extra on the film “Killers of the Flower Moon.” After hearing that the movie was looking for Oklahomans to be extras on the film, he decided to submit his contact information and a picture of himself. Several months later, he received an email saying that he would be an extra in the film.

“I went two years not knowing if I was going to be in the movie or not,” Linhardt said. He ended up making it into a 15-second clip of the film.\*

Linhardt enjoys the people at the CSJCC almost as much as he enjoys playing squash. “The most memorable thing about the CSJCC has always been the people, whether it’s the staff members or the people there to work out,” he said. He’s been able to make new friends during his 29 years of being a member and often plays squash with other members on Sunday afternoons.

Linhardt thinks of the CSJCC as one of the hidden gems of Tulsa. “One thing that we members talk about in the locker room is how we hope that this place never gets popular. It’s a terrible thing to say, but I think this is the best-kept secret in town.”

\*Learn more about John’s experiences on the film on June 25. See page 11 for details. ■





# NEW EXHIBITIONS

## Opening Reception SUNDAY, JUNE 9 | 6PM

### Beyond the Mold: Unpacking Ken Doll's Evolution | June 9 - November 3

Enter the world of American masculinity and pop culture through the lens of the iconic Ken doll and his companions in *Beyond the Mold: Unpacking Ken Doll's Evolution*. This captivating museum exhibit traces Ken's transformation from his debut in 1961 to the present day, showcasing vintage Ken, Brad, Allan, and other male dolls in Mattel's Barbie universe. Discover the intersection of queer culture and fashion as reflected in Ken's evolving style, and explore the profound influence of the gay rights movement on his representation. Additionally, witness the significant role the Jewish community played locally and nationally in responding to the HIV/AIDS crisis, while learning about the doll's namesake, Kenneth Handler, and his untimely death from the virus.

Partners include: The Vintage Barbie Museum, the Center for Queer Prairie Studies, and Tulsa Artist Fellowship. Curators: James Houchens, Karl Jones, and SMMJA Chief Curator, Sofia Thornblad.



### Sidney Sheldon: Master Storyteller June 20 - August 23

Hidden gems in our collection are two original scripts belonging to the Jewish playwright and author Sidney Sheldon. One from *Easter Parade* and the other is from *The Bachelor* and the *Bobby Soxer*. This exhibit will center around the images included in these scripts.

# CURRENT EXHIBITIONS



### Old Country to the Plains: Kosher Pop SK8 Art Closing June 14

If you haven't seen this one-of-a-kind skateboard art, be sure to get to the museum before June 14. New York City artist Steve Marcus created 40 new works specifically for The Sherwin Miller Museum of Jewish Art. Marcus' unique style, inspired by cartoons and underground comics, explores the themes of tradition, spirituality and local Jewish history in a fun and refreshingly accessible approach to contemporary Jewish art, masterfully showcased on skateboard decks. Many of the decks have already sold. If interested in purchasing a deck, please see Museum staff. A portion of all sales benefits the Museum.



### Spartan Boys: A Tulsa Jewish Story Through September 9

In partnership with the Tulsa Air and Space Museum, this historical exhibit is dedicated to the story of The Spartan School of Aeronautics, and the training of 42 technical staff members of the young Israeli Air Force, who in 1949 came to the Spartan College of Aviation and Technology in Tulsa, for a 9-month training. They were known as the "Spartan Boys." The Spartan Boys were "adopted" by families of the Tulsa Jewish community during their time of study. Upon completion of their training, they returned to Israel as certified aircraft mechanics. One young mechanic, Bob Golan (of blessed memory), originally from Poland who went to Israel after the Holocaust, ended up moving to Tulsa and becoming a docent at The Sherwin Miller Museum of Jewish Art.

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## GENEALOGY IN THE DIGITAL AGE: UNVEILING ANCESTRAL ROOTS WITH AI TECHNOLOGY

Co-Hosted by the Jewish Genealogy Society of Tulsa  
and Congregation B'nai Emunah

**Date:** Sunday, June 9, 3 pm CST

**Speaker:** Jerry Scherer , Toronto, Canada

**Moderators:** Rabbi Marc Fitzerman (CBE) and Phil Goldfarb (JGS  
of Tulsa)

**Zoom Meeting ID:** 918 583 7121 Passcode: None

**The Meeting:** Join Jerry Scherer as he shares his firsthand experiences of leveraging AI technology to trace his own roots. Discover how Jerry utilized AI chatbots and cutting-edge applications to navigate vast genealogical databases, uncover hidden connections, and piece together the intricate puzzle of his family history. "Remember the days of old, consider the years of many generations," (Deuteronomy 32:7). Jerry will highlight the importance of preserving the past to honor our ancestors and leave a meaningful legacy for future generations. Don't miss this enlightening discussion on the intersection of genealogical exploration and modern technology.

**About the speaker:** Jerry Scherer, the son of Holocaust survivors, was born in Siberia. After spending three years in a Displaced Persons camp housed in the former barracks of the Waffen-SS, he and his parents emigrated to Montreal in 1949. Jerry is an engaging speaker who has presented at various events. His talks are rooted in extensive personal genealogical research. Drawing on his proficiency in integrating technology into education, Jerry is exploring how AI technology can enhance genealogical research.

As the vice-president of the Jewish Genealogical Society of Toronto, Jerry Scherer is actively involved in the community. His recent presentations on 'Genealogy in the Digital Age' have generated enthusiasm among audiences, inspiring them to learn how to incorporate AI technology into their own genealogical pursuits.

This event is free and open-to-the public.

## DRIVING OUT DARKNESS IN THE HEARTLAND

by Chloe Chappell, Director of Community Relations and Outreach

In April, I was invited by the Jewish Community Relations Bureau (JCRB) Kansas City to attend a regional summit on combating antisemitism, "Driving Out Darkness in the Heartland". This gathering of over 400 people, both Jewish and other faiths, from professional and volunteer settings across the region, aimed to create unity in the fight against this ever-increasing hatred.

The Summit began on a Monday night with a "Unity Seder" at a local synagogue, where many of the attendees were not Jewish, and yet we sat together sharing the Seder experience. We listened to beautiful renditions of traditional Passover songs from Cantor Aron Hayoun and his grandson, who recently fled to the United States to escape crippling antisemitism in their native France. We were told that knowing people who are Jewish helps to recognize and understand the issue of antisemitism, and that's what the Unity Seder aimed to do—get conversations going and foster the beginning of new relationships between different communities.

The next day, the symposium began at Rockhurst University. During the opening remarks we heard from Mindy Corporon, who lost both her father and son during the Overland Park Jewish Community Center shooting, on April 13, 2014, when a white supremacist entered campus and opened fire. Mindy is not Jewish and neither were her family members. The words she shared will forever stay with me, "**Hate doesn't discriminate," she said. "I never thought something like this could happen to me as a white Christian."** It drove home just how important combating antisemitism is. As a Jewish person, I understand the threat and pain of experiencing antisemitism myself, but until that moment I don't think I had consciously acknowledged how this hatred extends to those who aren't Jewish.

Next, we heard from Mike Signer, former Mayor of Charlottesville, VA during the infamous Unite the Right rally in August 2017. Mike shared the hate he received from white supremacist organizers of the rally (including death threats), who were motivated by the Great Replacement Theory, and how he found the strength to keep moving forward in the fight against antisemitism. Our last speaker of the morning was Holly Huffnagle, U.S. Director of Combating Antisemitism at the American Jewish Committee (AJC). Holly shared a number of statistics from a recent

AJC study that were both fascinating and alarming. Illustrating our reason for the Summit, the study found almost 3 in 4 U.S. adults say antisemitism is a problem in the United States today. (U.S. adults includes both Jewish and non-Jewish respondents). Additionally, almost 4 in 10 U.S. adults said they personally saw or heard antisemitism in the past 12 months. Although we feel, at times, like we are fighting this fight alone, 92% of U.S. adults in the study agreed with the statement, "**antisemitism affects society as a whole, everyone is responsible for combating it**". Our second day ended with a closing session featuring AJC CEO Ted Deutsch, and Second Gentleman Douglas Emhoff. They advised that the path ahead is to name it and shame it, condemning antisemitism on both sides of the political spectrum, and to continue to find Jewish joy and pride wherever and whenever we can.

The third and final day of the Summit was reserved for professional development of Jewish community relations staff in the heartland. I gathered with leaders from Kansas City, Omaha, Des Moines, and St. Louis to discuss the challenges unique to our region and share best practices moving forward. Our session also included speakers such as author Leonard Zeskind, who spoke about hate groups he studies and monitors in our region. The bottom line of this portion of the summit: Jews working with Jews isn't enough to combat antisemitism.

Attending this Summit was invaluable to me as the Director of Community Relations for the Jewish Federation of Tulsa. I learned even more about the importance of coalition building and how to accomplish that goal in such a polarized society, something I continue to do as I interface with our community partners. I felt inspired to hear the amazing work being done by other organizations in our region. I felt supported by other communities outside of the Jewish community, and I made lasting connections with fellow JCRC professionals putting in work alongside me. Combating antisemitism is the cornerstone of the CRC's mission, with our flagship program being Student to Student, a peer to peer initiative where Jewish teens speak about their Jewish identity to local high school students. At a time when it feels like the world is against us, this summit made me empowered and encouraged to keep fighting antisemitism for all of our futures. ■



# FOR THOSE WHO MISSED IT . . . A BRIEF REVIEW OF YOM HASHOAH 2024

by Alice Blue, Chair, Holocaust Education Committee

The speaker this year was Dr. Danny M. Cohen, Distinguished Professor of Holocaust Memory and Design of Human Rights in the School of Education at Northwestern University, who spoke to the theme of *Standing at the Threshold: Shaping the Future of Holocaust Education*. Danny is a young, vibrant educator who is also co-chair of the Illinois Holocaust and Genocide commission. He spoke about his personal odyssey to find information about his survivor grandfather from Amsterdam, who died before Danny was born and never really shared with his mother and other family members. The quest that began at age 17 became the shaping force of his personal and professional lives: how to find out what we can; how to design questions of research and remembrance for those who do not have personal stake in the Shoah, and how we address those hidden figures who were pursued by the Nazis. That category includes the Roma, all people with disabilities, LGBTQ citizens of



Yom HaShoah 2024: Event Chair, Sue Ginsburg; Director of Holocaust Education, Sofia Thornblad; CHE member Eva Unterman; keynote speaker, Professor Danny M. Cohen; and CHE Chair, Alice Blue.

occupied countries, political opponents of the regime, and people of color. Our study of the Holocaust must move us to universal messages about hate and brutality.

Besides speaking to the crowd of over 300 at Congregation B'nai Emunah, Danny met with several hundred high school students from Jenks and Street School, psychology students and professors at TU, a group of houseless teens at Youth Services of Tulsa, and, finally, teachers and docents in an educators' workshop.

Other highlights of the May 9th program included a musical piece, "The Holocaust Suite," originally submitted as an art entry by a local high school student. The student composer, Rick McKee, went on to become a famous musician/composer working in the Disney Studios.

*"Our candle-lighting ceremony  
this year became a living story  
of survivor transmission . . ."*

Our candle-lighting ceremony this year became a living story of survivor transmission, as all seven candles were lit by descendants of those who escaped extermination.

The annual art contest saw a robust effort of over 130 entries from Tulsa area middle and high schools. The



AJ and Oliver Finer,  
3rd and 4th generation  
Holocaust survivors

winning pieces are on display at The Sherwin Miller Museum of Jewish Art.

This successful event was chaired by Sue Ginsberg, with dedicated committee members from the Council for Holocaust Education including Dr. Hank Knight, Brian Brouse, Christina Henson, Dr. Elana Newman, Jennifer Means, Klara Bode, Jackie Hill, Betty Lehman, Mieke Epps, Bob McCormick, and Eva Unterman. Additional thanks go to JFT Director of Holocaust Education, Sofia Thornblad. ■

## • TRAIN by Danny M. Cohen •

Over ten days in 1943 Berlin, six teenagers witness and try to escape the Nazi round-ups. This young adult thriller is based on real events and inspired by hidden stories of Nazi genocide. Giving voice to the unheard victims of Nazism — the Roma, the disabled, intermarried Jews, homosexuals, political enemies of the regime — this book will change how we think about Holocaust history. Suitable for age 13 and up, TRAIN is an edge-of-your-seat page-turner that will inspire and surprise students and adults alike.

"A stunning achievement... From the start, TRAIN's historically grounded depiction of Hitler's young victims creates unrelenting compassion and suspense." – Dr. Phyllis Lassner, Holocaust scholar

"TRAIN not only fills a gap in Holocaust literature; it is also powerful, moving, and hard to put down." – Alexis Storch, The Center for Holocaust and Humanity Education



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1st Place HS Art Contest, The Mother and the Shoes by Annabelle Smith, Edison Preparatory High School

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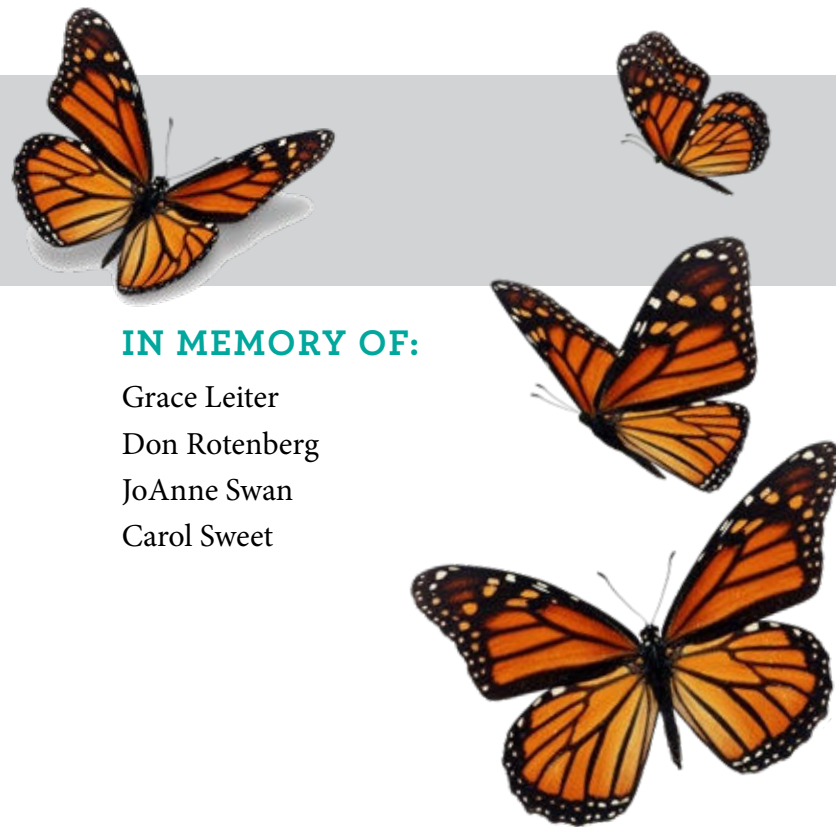


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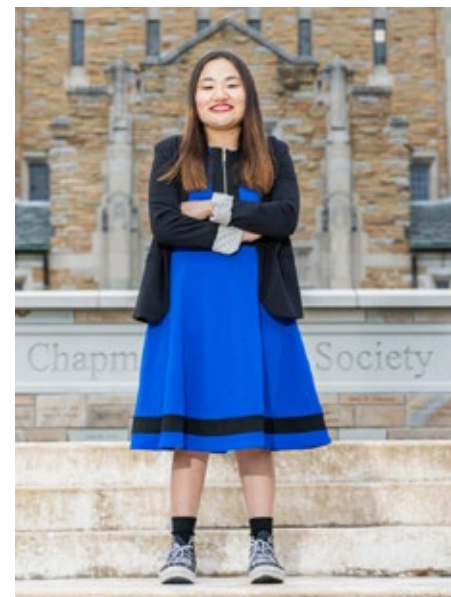
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**Lilah Jacobs**, daughter of Jen Zilin and Mike Jacobs, and granddaughter of Jeanne Jacobs, a University of Tulsa sophomore, has been selected to take part in the U.S. Department of State's Critical Language Scholarship (CLS) Program. This initiative provides instruction in Arabic, Chinese, Russian, and others that are essential to the country's security, prosperity, and engagement with the world. Lilah is triple majoring in Political Science, Economics, and Spanish, and will begin Chinese (Mandarin) classes through the competitive CLS program this summer. Additionally, Lilah recently won the TU Holloway Scholarship, for being one of the outstanding political science majors this year. Lilah intends to use her language skills for a career in public service upon graduation. Mazel Tov Lilah!

**Brandon Sweet**, son of the late Carol Lynne Sweet and grandson of Rosalie and Robert Hanson graduated from University of Tulsa on May 10 with a BFA degree. Mazel Tov Brandon!



**Mazel Tov to Rebekah Kantor-Wunsch and Travis Wunsch.**

They welcomed their first child on Wednesday, May 8, 2024. Eden Alley was born at 7 lbs 6 oz, and 20 inches long. The whole family is healthy, happy, and are thrilled to begin the next chapter in their lives!



**Mazel Tov to Hunter Gambill**, owner of Gambill's Jewish Deli and Gambill's Pastaria & Grocery for being featured on the Food Network on May 10th.



Share your simchas with the entire 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 for the Tulsa Jewish Review to Sandy Sloan, [sandy@jewishtulsa.org](mailto:sandy@jewishtulsa.org)





## THE JEWISH Q-TIP®

by Phil Goldfarb

Leo Gerstenzang was a Polish American inventor who, in 1923, created the first contemporary cotton swab or Q-Tips. His product, which was initially named “Baby Gays,” went on to become one of the most widely sold brand names.

Gerstenzang was the son of Saul (Szoel) Gerstenzang (1856-1919) and his wife Helen (Hanne) Borstein Gerstenzang and was born on June 3, 1892 in Warsaw, Poland. He immigrated to Chicago, Illinois, in 1912, arriving aboard the SS President Lincoln on February 22, 1912 from Hamburg, Germany at the age of 21.

After serving in the trenches with the US Army during World War I, he became associated with the then-fledgling Red Cross Organization. Because of his fluency in languages and first-hand knowledge of Europe, Gerstenzang was called upon by ex-President Herbert Hoover, then Relief Administrator, to assist in the Relief Administration’s rehabilitation activities.

From 1918 to 1919, he returned to Europe as a representative of the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee. In 1919, back living in Chicago, he became a naturalized US citizen on September 29, 1919. By 1921, Leo had moved to New York City where on October 30, 1921, he married Ziuta Buchalew (1901-1994), also a Warsaw, Poland Jewish immigrant and they had one child, Elizabeth (Betty) Gerstenzang (1923-2017).

In 1922, after service in other war rehabilitation agencies and a brief period spent in the banking business, Gerstenzang founded the Leo Gerstenzang Infant Novelty Co., a firm dealing in accessories essential to baby care.

One day in 1923, Leo Gerstenzang found himself watching his wife, Ziuta, applying cotton balls to toothpicks in an attempt to reach hard-to-clean areas for their infant daughter Betty during her daily bath routine. He told his wife she ought to have an extra pair of hands as he saw her struggle to hold the lively infant,

and at the same time using this makeshift cleaning device. This particular day, the cotton fell off and he began to imagine things. The cotton might get stuck in the baby’s nose or ear; the toothpick might have a rough or sharp edge; or, if the baby suddenly moved her head, the end of the toothpick might injure her seriously when her eyes were being cleaned.

Perhaps, thought Gertenzang who was now inspired, if there was only a ready-made swab, tightly wound on a smooth stick. He investigated and found that none existed. Here was a universal need about which nothing was being done. He decided to buy a machine and make a business of fabricating a fine ready-to-use cotton swab. However, no machine existed that could be adapted to perform the operation.

Being mechanically minded, he conceived the idea of manufacturing a ready-to-use cotton swab by automatic machine. At last, after some time, intensive experimentation, and the expenditure of all the money he could raise, he developed a machine. It would take a stick of carefully selected and cured non-splintering birchwood with blunt ends and do the intricate job of winding cotton on both ends of the smooth stick.

In 1923, Gerstenzang introduced Baby Gays, the first sanitized cotton swabs. They were similar to those sold today, except for a few key differences. They were made of wood, instead of plastic or paper; they were single, not double-sided; they were meant to be used for baby care, rather than everything under the sun; and, most importantly, they didn’t discourage putting them inside of ears. The package itself was designed so that a parent could open it with just one hand and grab a swab with the other hand all the while holding their baby.

In 1926, he changed the name of the product from Baby Gays to Q-Tips Baby Gays, where “Q” stood for quality or Cutie Tips and the word “tips” describes the cotton swab at the end of the stick. Eventually the Baby Gays part was dropped and the product was called simply Q-Tips.



“Every mother will be glad to know about Q-tips Baby Gays (the Q stands for “quality”), sanitary boric tipped swabs for the eyes, nostrils, ears, gums, and many other uses,” a 1927 print advertisement read.

Although first made of wood, cotton swab spindles were later developed with rolled paper, which was safer and less likely to pierce ear tissue. It was an easy shift for Gerstenzang in 1958, when he purchased a paper manufacturer.

Leo Gerstenzang died on January 31, 1961 and is buried at the Ferncliff Cemetery in Hillsdale, NY while the Leo Gerstenzang Science Library honors him at Brandeis University.

Q-tips were meant to be a kind of fix-all, used also for the nose, eyes, gums, make-up, manicures, cleaning out tiny nooks and crannies, arts, and crafts, for medical procedures, etc. Over time, everything but the ear became their express purpose. Yet, most continue to use them only for excavating their canals.

Unfortunately, in the United States, between 1990 and 2010, an estimated 263,338 children went to hospital emergency rooms for cotton swab injuries, which equates to about 35 injuries a day. According to the Journal of Pediatrics, 73 percent of these cases involved ear cleaning.

Now, most doctors don’t recommend using cotton swabs to clean ears, as they can not only injure you, but push the ear wax ever deeper into your ear canal. In fact, all Q-tips boxes have come with the following warning since the 1970’s: “Do not insert inside the ear canal.” Much like a cigarette pack warning however, it’s gone largely ignored. ■

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

## ISRAELI ARCHAEOLOGY IN TULSA - WHAD'YA KNOW?

by Phil Goldfarb

Miriam Belmaker is an Israeli Archaeologist in Tulsa who has been taking students to Israel over the summers to participate in excavations and collaborates with them in her lab at the University of Tulsa. An associate professor of Anthropology at TU, she directs the paleoecology and zooarchaeology lab where they analyze bones of animals from sites across the world with a focus on Israel and the Near East. Her aim is to reconstruct ancient climates and environment in light of human evolution. Her sites include ‘Ubeidiya – a 1.6-Million-year-old site in Israel, which boasts of the earliest presence of Homo erectus out of Africa. Miriam has some of the bones here in Tulsa, on loan from the Israel Antiquity Authority, and loves to show them off!

In addition, she not only works on other early human sites but also on much latter sites such as Tel Dan and Hazor. These large biblical sites have been excavated extensively, but something was missing... where are the small rodent remains, we expect to find in such large settlements? Miriam has initiated with several of her colleagues in Israel, a new program to sieve large quantities of soil through a fine mesh under water. While laborious, this process is the only way to extract the skeletal remains of little critters: mice, small birds, reptiles and amphibia or even small fish bones. They yield exciting insights about where people kept the storage, where were the public areas and if people consumed smaller sized fish such as sardines. (on a side note, it also allows us to find more beads and other small jewelry...a nice benefit).

To conduct her research, she is maintaining a large

comparative collection. These are skeletal remains of recent species with known provenance. She uses these modern remains to aid in the identification of fossil remains. Since her works are primarily in Israel and the Near East, she collaborates with the Steinhardt Museum of Natural History

*“She is now the mentor for a small but growing group of Jewish students on campus and they are holding a range of activities while reviving the Hillel house...”*

in Tel Aviv where she is associate curator. The museum sends to Tulsa specimens that they are no longer interested in, so Tulsa is the only University collection in the Tri state area (and beyond) that has a large near eastern faunal collection.

Miriam was born in North Carolina but made Aliya with her family at the age of 3. She grew up in Israel and completed her PhD at the Hebrew University. After six years at Harvard and a year at the college of William & Mary, she came to TU where she has been since 2012. She participates in several large research programs in China, Kazakhstan, Jordan, and Republic of Georgia in addition to her focus on Israeli Archaeology.

One of her passions on campus is student life, advising and helping students reach their full potential. She is now the mentor for a small but growing group of Jewish students on campus and they are holding a range of activities while reviving the Hillel house that has been out of use since Covid. She is looking forward to involving Hillel International with the Jewish Federation of Tulsa, Congregation B’nai Emunah, and Temple Israel, as well as more members of the community, to increase Jewish presence and visibility on the TU campus, while sharing Jewish values, traditions, and customs with students and faculty. Miriam is excited to share Israeli archaeology, Jewish history and the land of Israel ecology with the Tulsa community. If you are interested in a tour of the labs or class, please contact her at Miriam-belmaker@utulsa.edu. ■



Miriam Belmaker



## Jewish Genealogy in the Digital Age

# UNVEILING YOUR ROOTS WITH ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

with Genealogist Jerry Scherer

Sunday, June 9 at 3 p.m. CT | Zoom Access Number: 918 583 7121

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Free and Open to the Public



### Family Jewish Cooking Club Tuesday, June 4 | 5:30 p.m.

Join the club and embark on a flavorful, family adventure. The fourth and final edition of the series will meet for dinner, schmoozing and a hands-on kitchen session. Each family will leave with their Shavuot themed dish in hand, along with a recipe and instructions to recreate the experience at home.

### Genealogy in the Digital Age: Unveiling Ancestral Roots with AI Technology Sunday, June 9 | 3:00 p.m. | On Zoom

This online Zoom session is in collaboration with the Tulsa Jewish Genealogy Society of Tulsa. Guest speaker, Jerry Scherer, son of Holocaust survivors, will share his firsthand experiences and insights into how artificial intelligence can transform genealogical research. For more information and to receive the Zoom link, please contact us at 918-583-7121 or check the event page.

### Shavu'ot Journeys Dinner Tuesday, June 11 | 6:00 p.m.

We begin this harvest festival with a celebratory dinner featuring seasonal foods connected to the central ideas of the holiday. Following the mass consumption of cheesecake, we'll explore the theme of life journeys as they are found in traditional Jewish texts. We'll honor members of our community that have chosen Judaism to be a part of their lives in their own personal journey.

### Shavu'ot Yom Tov Services Wednesday, June 12 and Thursday, June 13 | 9:30 a.m.

As always, a full complement of Yom Tov services will take place throughout the holiday. Each morning will begin at 9:30 a.m. These services will include Torah readings tied to the season, messages associated with the holiday, and sweet treats at the conclusion.

### Father's Day Morning Co-Ed Sandlot Softball Sunday, June 16 | 10:00 a.m.

Grab your glove and bat and join us for a fun-filled game of softball and grilling. Don't feel like playing, but like watching an entertaining game? Bring the whole family to enjoy a day in the park and a cookout lunch.

### Lifelong Learners Wednesday, June 19 | 11:30 a.m.

Ageless seniors from all over the community are invited to join Rabbi Kaiman and our community for a lunch and literature session, starting at 11:30 a.m. A complimentary bus service is available from Zarrow Pointe at 11:00 a.m. Please reserve your spot by visiting [www.tulsagogue.com/events](http://www.tulsagogue.com/events) or by contacting the Synagogue at (918) 583-7121.

### Blatt + Blue: The Gatekeepers Thursday, June 20 | 7:00 p.m.

The Gatekeepers can be screened for a token fee on Amazon Prime any time this month. Join the moderated discussion in the Synagogue Zoom Room. The Zoom meeting ID is 918 583 7121, and the session will conclude at 8:00 p.m. Newcomers are welcome to join the dialogue.

### Shabbat Shalom: Musical Circle Friday, June 21 | 5:30 p.m.

Experience a musical Shabbat evening with songs and stories, starting at 5:30 p.m. This event is an ideal introduction to Shabbat traditions, welcoming participants of all ages and backgrounds.

### Shabbat Shalom Dinner Friday, June 21 | 6:15 p.m.

There are few things better than a bountiful Shabbat feast enjoyed with family and friends. Join us for this catered dinner filled with conversation and community. We'll do the cooking and cleaning so you can relax and enjoy. Please register online so we can plan for your participation.

### Shabbat Talks Friday, June 21 | 7:00 p.m.

Join us in community conversation and interaction to discuss relevant themes of the season.

### Seventeenth Street Deli Sunday, June 23 | 5:30 p.m.

Indulge in the delectable offerings of the Seventeenth Street Deli, where our kitchen crafts dishes with a perfect blend of slow cures, a touch of pepper, and heaps of love. Our much-loved pop-up restaurant is making a return, inviting you to enjoy both dine-in and take-out dinner services. Ensure your place in this culinary experience by pre-registering at [www.tulsadeli.org](http://www.tulsadeli.org) and choose from our delightful pastrami, corned beef, or deli egg salad options.

### Afternoon/Evening Services

Join us on Wednesdays and Fridays at 5:30 p.m. in the Davis-Goodall Chapel for traditional prayer and community Mourner's Kaddish. Both in-person and Zoom participation are available. Please register for in-person attendance on our website.

### Shabbat Morning Services

Every Saturday at 9:30 a.m., we celebrate Shabbat through song, Torah study, and fellowship. These services, available both in-person and via Zoom, offer a chance to mark anniversaries, celebrate milestones, and engage in our congregation's ritual life. ■



Don't miss all the great Circle Cinema films and events this month, scan the code for up-to-date listings and showtimes.

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**Vanessa E. Bennett, OD**  
Optometric Physician





**Finding God in an Age of Reason with Rabbi Weinstein on Zoom • Thurs., June. 6, 13 & 20 • 2:00 p.m.**

In this course we will spend time studying, learning, and sharing our differing theological expressions. For some, God is a personal god, while for others, God is universal. What if God were merely morality? What of a punishing god, or a god of salvation? How do we, as individuals understand God, and what role does God play in our lives?

**Zamru L'Shabbat in person, on Zoom & Facebook Live • Fri., June 7 • 6:00 p.m.**

Join Cantor Weinstein, Cantorial Soloist Jenny Labow, and Elijah's Minor Prophets, as we welcome in Shabbat and celebrate with joyous songs!

**Tikkun Leil Shavuot • Tues., June 11 • 6:30 p.m.**

Join us for cheesecake and study as we observe this "night of Shavuot".

**Brotherhood Shabbat & Birthday Shabbat Service in person, on Zoom & Facebook Live • Fri., June 14 • 7:30 p.m.**

Join Temple Israel Brotherhood for this special Shabbat service. During this service, we will honor June birthdays. Stay for a sweet oneg afterwards.

**Pride Shabbat • Fri., June 21 • 6:00 p.m.**

This year, Pride Shabbat is on June 21st! This community led service will feature liturgy and music from queer and affirming composers and writers. Our guest speaker will be Rabbi Mike

Moskowitz, an Orthodox Rabbi from NYC. He will speak about his positive experiences with the LGBTQIA+ community. Following the service there will be a delicious dinner! This joyful evening Shabbat is open to everyone. Please RSVP for the dinner by going to [www.templetulsa.com/rsvp](http://www.templetulsa.com/rsvp).

**Torah Study with Rabbi Mike Moskowitz • Sat., June 22 • 10:30 a.m.**

Join us as we welcome Rabbi Mike Moskowitz from Congregation Beit Simchat Torah (CBST) in New York City. He will be our guest speaker during Pride Shabbat on June 21st at 6:00pm as well as our guest teacher on Saturday morning at 10:30am at Temple Israel. He will share his experience as an Orthodox Rabbi who is the father of a transgender son. Please RSVP for this by emailing [rsvp@templetulsa.com](mailto:rsvp@templetulsa.com).

**Zarrow Pointe Shabbat Service • Fri., June 28 • 6:30 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.

**Anniversary Shabbat Service w/Torah in person at Temple Israel, on Zoom & Facebook Live • Fri., June 28 • 7:30 p.m.**

Join us as we welcome in Shabbat with the chanting of Torah and celebrate significant June birthdays. Stay for a sweet oneg afterwards. ■



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S I N C E 1 9 6 2

## A COMMUNITY MADE IN OUR IMAGE

By Rabbi Tzvia Jasper

“Merry Christmas!” “Happy Easter!” These are greetings that we hear endlessly in the winter and spring. As Jews, we typically have one of two responses. Either we ignore the greeting and buy our avocados at Reasor’s or frustratedly reply, “Happy Holidays!” Often, the Jewish experience is overlooked in Tulsa. In a city overflowing with evangelical Christians, Judaism is the farthest from anyone’s mind. And yet, that does not stop us. Time and time again, we raise our voices and tell our neighbors we are here. We celebrate Hanukkah at the Gathering Place, host the Oklahoma Jewish Film Festival at Circle Cinema, and march behind our banner in the Martin Luther King Jr. or Pride parades. On each occasion throughout the year, we proudly display our Jewish heritage.

In June, we turn our attention to another minority community that shares a similar experience as the Jewish people of Tulsa. The LGBTQIA+ community in Tulsa makes up approximately 3.8% of the total population. The media often portrays them as ‘problematic’ and with far more influence over individuals than in reality. The queer (a term that has been reclaimed by those who identify as LGBTQIA+) and the Jewish community have often been on the receiving end of violence and hatred. This year’s Yom HaShoah speaker, Danny M. Cohen, PhD, recalled the Nazi violence perpetrated against the queer community both during and after the Holocaust.

While many of you who are reading this do not identify within the queer community, we all can identify with the feeling of being ‘other.’ We can identify with the struggle to be seen and heard. We can identify with the feeling of being scared. Just as Rabbi Abraham Joshua Heschel marched beside Reverend Martin Luther King Jr., it is time to ask ourselves if we are willing to march alongside the queer community who are still subjugated to discrimination and hate.

At Temple Israel, we are committed to praying with our feet. We care deeply about those on the fringes of our community. Whether they are black, indigenous, a person of color, queer, or something else entirely, we work hard to be a place of belonging. In that vein, we

created an auxiliary committee, cheekily titled lgbTI. This blooming committee works to ensure that our programs represent diversity, equity, and that they are inclusive.

This committee is devoted to programming beyond June. While Pride takes place in June, we understand that we don’t stop being a part of who we are once that month is over. This past year, some of the events the committee developed included an Adult Education class titled “Torah QUEERies,” which looked at the trans experience of liberation related to Passover’s theme of liberation, traveling to the state capitol building to participate in the ACLU Advocacy Day training, and creating an inclusive Pride Shabbat service.

Oklahomans for Equality is planning its Pride Parade for October to avoid the excessive heat in June. However, due to its proximity to Yom Kippur, Temple Israel will move forward with celebrating Pride on June 21st at 6:00 pm. Some exciting highlights to look forward to include a community-led service, thematic music, and a guest speaker. This year, we are excited to welcome Rabbi Mike Moskowitz from

Congregation Beit Simchat Torah in New York City, the largest LGBTQIA+ congregation in the world. As an Orthodox Rabbi, he will share his experience of being the father to a transgender son. This fabulous evening will conclude with a Shabbat dinner. Whether you are officially a member of Temple Israel or just want to come and celebrate with us, this Shabbat is open to anyone and everyone! To be a part of the fun, visit our website, [templetulsa.com](http://templetulsa.com) to RSVP.

Since its formation, lgbTI and Temple Israel has become the safe place for queer and affirming Jews to congregate. As the Tulsa City Council and the Oklahoma legislators diligently work to erase the queer experience, we see it as our Jewish responsibility to be a haven for those who are at the intersection of Judaism and queerness. There is still plenty of work to be done, but with the help of each of you, every Jew in Tulsa, whether they are LGBTQIA+ or otherwise, will know a community made in their image. ■



Rabbi Mike Moskowitz





Jewish Federation of Tulsa  
2021 East 71st Street  
Tulsa, OK 74136



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