

TULSA Jewish Review

Av/Elul 5784
September 2024

'50s
Tulsa

A Stroll Down Memory Lane

THE MUSEUM GALA



The
Sherwin Miller
Museum
of Jewish Art



IN THIS ISSUE:

WHAT TO EXPECT AT
THE 58TH ANNUAL
MUSEUM GALA
ON OCTOBER 27, 2024
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Hostage Square

September 2024

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Front Cover



58th Annual Museum Gala

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.

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THE STAFF SCOOP

Executive Director Notes

by Wendy Thomas, Interim Executive Director

As my time here at the Jewish Federation of Tulsa comes to a close, I want to reiterate my deep appreciation for being welcomed, supported, and included in the life of this remarkable institution during the last ten months.

I could not be more excited to pass my keys to Joe Roberts. Joe has a remarkable background that feels right for the moment Jewish Tulsa finds itself in. I believe he will be an asset not only to our organization but to the community at large. Please enjoy reading more about him below and do all you can to make him and his family feel welcome as they settle into Tulsa.

I know my path will continue to cross with many of yours as we do good work in the nonprofit organizations that fuel the public life of our city.



Wendy Thomas

A Message from Our New Executive Director

by Joe Roberts, Executive Director

It is with a profound sense of privilege and anticipation that I introduce myself as the newest leader of the Jewish Federation of Tulsa. Having spent years in various leadership roles across major Jewish and pro-Israel organizations, as well as in the realms of politics and public affairs, I am thrilled to bring my passion and experience to Tulsa—a community known for its intentional and innovative approach to Jewish life.

My journey has taken me from the bustling political arenas of Washington, D.C. and Ohio, where I also ran for Congress, to the leadership of foreign policy think tanks and philanthropic efforts that have raised significant funds for causes that resonate deeply with our values. Most recently, I served as Managing Director at Winston Wilmont Public Affairs, leading initiatives in the spheres of defense and foreign affairs.

I am humbled to be entrusted with leadership in such a challenging time in the Jewish world. The challenges we face are nothing new—the renewed rise of antisemitism and efforts to delegitimize the State of Israel are issues we've faced before. I am dedicated to ensuring that Tulsa's connection to Israel is strong and meaningful, emphasizing the Jewish State's vital role in our Jewish identity and heritage, and its centrality in Jewish life in Tulsa and around the world. I am also prepared to stand against rhetoric and actions which harm the Jewish people through hatred.

Even though the challenges we face in this moment are pressing and serious, we cannot allow Jewish life to be wholly defined by them. In everything I've done throughout my career, fostering Jewish identity and ensuring the continuity of our people have been not just professional objectives, but

(Continued on p. 7)

*"I am humbled to be
entrusted with leadership
in such a challenging time
in the Jewish world."*



Joe Roberts

UPCOMING EVENTS



Lunch Bunch | Wednesday, September 11 | 12 pm | Jewish Federation of Tulsa

Join us for this month's Lunch Bunch featuring our new Executive Director, Joe Roberts! Fresh on the job, Joe will be available for an in-person meet and greet, providing a unique opportunity to get to know him. Joe brings extensive experience from the Federation system, including turning around the Jewish Federation of London, Ontario. He has also worked with the third-largest hospital foundation in Canada and in public affairs consulting. Excited to put down roots in Tulsa, Joe is eager to connect with our community and share his vision for the future.

Optional lunch for a purchase of \$13. Menu – Greek salad, pasta salad, fruit salad, veggie/cheese sandwiches on a croissant

RSVP: JewishTulsa.org/lb-sept11



**YJP Torah on Tap: Hot Takes with Rabbi Jasper
Thursday, September 19 | 6:30 pm | Heirloom Rustic Ales**

Join Temple Israel's Rabbi Jasper for an exploration of “hot” topics in Judaism, tailored for Young Jewish Professionals (21–40 yrs old). Delve into intriguing subjects such as Jews and tattoos, Shabbat restrictions, Women in Judaism, and more. Bring your burning questions and engage in open conversations and learning in an inclusive environment.

RSVP: JewishTulsa.org/yjp-torah



To RSVP for ALL Events visit: JewishTulsa.org/event



TICKETS & INFO: CIRCLE.CINEMA.ORG

(Continued from p. 5)

personal passions—and the importance of building and sustaining vibrant Jewish life has never felt more urgent.

The aspirations of our community define us. It is how we harness those aspirations and make them manifest that shapes our future. I’ve never seen a Jewish community that takes that ethos as seriously as Tulsa’s.

My role here in Tulsa represents not just a new chapter for myself and my family but an exciting opportunity to contribute to a community that aligns so closely with my vision of proactive, inclusive Jewish engagement.

What has been built here—with intentionality, sense of purpose, and a forward looking vision that honors our past—is truly incredible.

My family—my wife Marielle, our two young sons Michael and Reuben, our beloved dog Crunch, and ChiChi the cat—are all excited about this new adventure and becoming integral parts of this vibrant community. Together, we look forward to walking this path of communal growth, learning, and contribution.

Thank you for welcoming us with open arms. I am eager to meet each of you as we write the next chapter of Tulsa’s Jewish story together, ensuring that our collective future is as bright and promising as the community you all have dedicated yourself to building.

I am eager to move forward with shared purpose, as we build not just community, but a home in Tulsa for all who wish to join us in this meaningful Jewish journey. And, I’m grateful that we’re doing it together, because after all, a thriving Jewish community takes all of us, from all backgrounds and forms of Jewish expression, working together towards a common future.

Thank you for entrusting me to help build that future together.

I know my path will continue to cross with many of yours as we do good work in the nonprofit organizations that fuel the public life of our city. ■



If you have already arranged for a bequest or other planned gift to JFT, we would ❤️ to honor your support.

Please contact Isabella Silberg,
918.495.1100 or
isilberg@jewishtulsa.org
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ECHOES OF OCTOBER 7TH: A JOURNEY OF REMEMBRANCE

by Shahaf Feinkuchen, Israel Emissary

On Shabbat, October 7th, 2023, the morning of Simchat Torah, Hamas unleashed a vicious attack on Israel, killing over 1,200 innocents, taking over 250 hostages, and shattering the global Jewish community's sense of safety. The attack, launched by the fundamentalist terror organization, Hamas, together with other terror organizations and civilians who joined in to loot and plunder, changed Israel and global Jewry forever. The vast majority of those killed were men, women, elderly, children, babies, pets, and farm animals, who were in the terrorist's path that fateful day.

As of this writing (August 7), 116 hostages have been returned alive, and 24 bodies have been recovered. Currently, 111 people are still held in Gaza, along with 4 others taken before the attack. Of those held captive, 41 are known to be dead.

Since October 7th, Israel has been engaged in combat in the Gaza Strip, to take down Hamas and bring the hostages home. Israel is also fighting multiple Iranian-backed terrorist organizations, Hezbollah in Lebanon, Houthis in Yemen, and Iran itself. As of this writing, 390 Israeli soldiers and 45 Israeli civilians have been killed in the fighting.

It is hard to believe that we will soon mark one year since life has changed dramatically for Jews around the world. On the one-year anniversary it is important for our community to mourn those who lost their lives and embrace their families, pray for the remaining hostages, pay tribute to the heroes who fought to defend our people, and reaffirm our community's strength, resilience, and commitment to Israel.

To commemorate the one-year anniversary, there are two programs for our community to come together:

MONDAY, OCTOBER 7, 7:00 PM AT THE SYNAGOGUE | CONGREGATION B'NAI EMUNAH

YIZKOR (MEMORIAL) SERVICE FOR VICTIMS OF 10/7

Yizkor is a memorial practice rooted in the habits of Jewish tradition. It is the mechanism through which we always mark the memory of our loved ones. This year, as we approach the anniversary of October 7, The Synagogue will host an additional Yizkor service in memory of those lost as a result of the attacks one year ago. The service will begin at 7:00 p.m. and include readings, songs, music, and recitation of names of those we remember. As always, The Synagogue appreciates advance notice of your intention to participate through registration at tulsagogue.com. All are welcome to attend.

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 10, 6:00 PM AT JEWISH FEDERATION OF TULSA

A STORY OF SURVIVAL AND STRENGTH

For this special community gathering, we are honored to host a courageous speaker from the organization Faces of October 7th, whose mission is to combat antisemitism by building bridges of understanding. In a world where mass media often distorts perspectives on distant lands, this organization advocates for direct engagement, counters misinformation, supports victims, and fosters resilience. This evening, we will hear a personal story of action in the face of tragedy. Our remarkable speaker will share their powerful account of surviving the October 7th massacre, leaving us with the responsibility of bearing witness and sharing their story with others. Following the story, we will stand together against antisemitism and in solidarity with the survivors through a post-program ceremony to commemorate the lives lost and support the ongoing fight to bring all hostages home.

For security reasons, RSVP is required and photo IDs will be checked upon arrival.

RSVP: JewishTulsa.org/israel-story ■

Echoes of October 7th: A Journey of Remembrance

Save the Dates

October 7, 2024

...★...

Yizkor (Memorial) Service for Victims of 10/7

Monday, October 7, 7:00 pm
at The Synagogue |
Congregation B'nai Emunah

Yizkor is a memorial practice rooted in
the habits of Jewish tradition.

...

Includes readings, songs, music,
and recitation of names of those we
remember.

...

All are welcome.

Advance RSVP is appreciated at
tulsagogue.com

...

October 10, 2024

...★...

A Story of Survival and Strength

Thursday, October 10, 6:00 pm
at Jewish Federation of Tulsa

Guest speaker from the Faces of
October 7th, an organization created
to fight widespread misinformation.

...

Post-program ceremony to
commemorate the lives lost and
all hostages.

...

For security reasons, RSVP is required
and photo IDs will be checked
upon arrival.

RSVP: JewishTulsa.org/israel-story

...

UPCOMING EVENTS

**Fitness Challenge: STEEP-tember**

Elevate your fitness levels by conquering stairs throughout September with this exhilarating STEEP-tember Stairway Challenge! Commit to climbing a set number of flights of stairs each day. Start with a manageable number based on your current fitness level and gradually increase throughout the month. A flight of stairs is typically 13-16 steps. Find some steps or even a single step, and start improving your health by enhancing heart and lung function and boosting blood circulation. As a community, we will track our flights and move our CSJCC climbers up the mountain!

**Tzedek: Meals on Wheels | Wednesday, Sept 4 | 10:15 am Meals on Wheels**

Our CSJCC Tzedek project is heading back to Meals on Wheels! Join us as we volunteer our time stuffing and sealing envelopes for important mailings to support the Meals on Wheels mission. Please arrive by 10:15 am as our shift is from 10:30 – 12:30 pm. We will be seated the majority of the time. 12 spots available. Save your spot soon!

RSVP: csjcc.org/tzedek-sept

**Wellness Series: Rosh Chodesh with Cantor Laurie Weinstein Tuesday, Sept 24 | 10:15 am | Asher Room @ CSJCC**

Music and Meditation comes to the CSJCC. In honor of Rosh Chodesh, the first of the month on the Jewish calendar, we will come together for grounding and renewal of ourselves—inside and out. This month is important as it is Rosh Chodesh Tishrei. Tishrei, the name of the month, contains our most holy days, and the month begins with Rosh Hashanah (New Year). This time is not only for celebration but also for self-reflection, finding the strength to apologize to those we have hurt, and asking for forgiveness. While the work is challenging, introspection through music and meditation can quench those parched fields of self-awareness. I hope you'll join us for this meaningful time together. The Wellness Series is free and open to the public.

RSVP: csjcc.org/wellness-sept24

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Coming in September

Tue 9/17
Special presentation with Gilcrease Museum and Tulsa photographer Don Thompson. See doc "Through a Lens Darkly" and learn about the latest photo for Gilcrease in Your Neighborhood

Wed 9/25 & Sun 9/29
Recorded live from Wales, Matthew Borne presents a new magical dance version of the classic "Edward Scissorhands." On the big screen at Circle for two shows only!

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

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

**Fall Hiking Series | Thursday, Sept 12 | 10:30 am Oxley Nature Center**

Our first hike of the Series is a beginner-friendly, short hike. The hike has some uneven surfaces, yet is manageable for most members. We will meet at the Oxley Nature Center, please park in the main lot. The hike will be about one hour. Hannah, Benny, and Laura will lead you through trails of forests, grasslands, and wetlands. September is Fall Prevention Month and this is a great way to strengthen your balance. When we improve our balance we become stronger and safer on our feet. Contact Laura Allen at 918-935-3661, allen@jewishtulsa.org with questions.

RSVP: csjcc.org/hiking-sept

**Wellness Series: MIND Diet | Wednesday, Sept 18 | 10:15 am Dan Room @ CSJCC**

The MIND Diet is a combination of the Mediterranean and the DASH (Dietary Approaches to Stop Hypertension) diet. It is heart healthy diet, adding more omega 3s and decreasing sodium and saturated fats. The MIND diet has been shown to slow the effects of some neurological disorders like Alzheimer's, along with increasing cardiovascular function. Experts regard both Mediterranean and MIND diets as two of the healthiest ways to eat. Whitney Yaffe, MS RD/LD is a Clinical Nutrition Manager III with Hillcrest Healthcare System and Camp Shalom parent. The Wellness Series is free and open to the public.

RSVP: csjcc.org/wellness-sept18





Opening Reception SHRINE TO THE FEMININE

featuring
Artist Talk with Dave Lebow

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 5 | 6 PM

Shrine to the Feminine | September 5 – November 21

Shrine to the Feminine is a vividly colorful celebration of the feminine as represented by artists Dave and Ruth Lebow. Ruth Lebow, of blessed memory, was an important member of our Tulsa Jewish community. She was also an artist. Her son Dave, born and raised in Tulsa, followed in her footsteps. Now residing in Los Angeles and working in animation, Dave's work is both imaginative and often whimsical. His work has been commissioned for film and television productions such as Dexter, Life in Pieces, Medium, Future Man, and Mosquito State. Dave has exhibited his work globally, including at the Museum of Fine Arts in Santa Fe and the Halle Saint Pierre Museum in Paris. In this exhibition, paired with his mother's work, we see Dave's evolution as an artist and his celebration of the female form and feminine power.

Warning: This exhibition contains provocative imagery intended for adult audiences 18 and older.

CURRENT EXHIBITIONS



Modern Day Hatred | September 19 – February 2025

When World War Two ended and Nazi concentration camps were liberated, the world made a promise of never again. Never again to Jewish people and all other genocides. Yet the hatred that sparked the Holocaust has existed throughout history and continues to this day. Inspired by the opening section of the Sanditen/Kaiser Holocaust Center, Modern Day Hatred examines how racism, antisemitism, homophobia, and other forms of hate have manifested in Oklahoma from the past to the present. By using the Holocaust as a case study, we emphasize the principle of "never again" for all persecuted people. The exhibition focuses on the historic events of Kristallnacht, the Tulsa Race Massacre, and the Osage murders of the 1920s, as well as the ongoing global responses to them. Featuring objects from the SMMJA, images from the Tulsa Historical Society, and items that survived the Race Massacre, viewers will learn about hate groups in Oklahoma and the efforts of local organizations to combat them. Special thanks to Greenwood Rising for their assistance.



by Tracey Herst-Woods,
Deputy Director of the SMMJA

Our celebration of the Museum's 58th year, '50s Tulsa: A Stroll Down Memory Lane, will be on Sunday, October 27, 2024. The festivities will convey a time when Tulsa's great promise was exemplified in the oil and gas boom, the distinctive beauty of her architecture and flourishing family businesses.

Supporters will take a step back in Tulsa history to reminisce about enterprises like Renberg's, Froug's, OTASCO and Sooner Pipe & Supply. They will be welcomed into our mid-century home for a fabulous 50's dinner party. To make the most of this flashback, guests are encouraged to don '50s attire to enjoy refreshments and dinner — inspired by '50s cuisine courtesy of Joel Bein and Amanda Simcoe, owners and chefs of the Meat and Cheese Show.

This evening will delight senses beyond taste and sights, as we rock out to a soundtrack of iconic music and enjoy the feel of classic cars. Gala Chair Andy Cagle is excited to announce, "In partnership with The Tulsa Historical Society and Museum, we'll be presenting a vintage slice of Jewish Tulsa's history. And be on the lookout for some fun surprises!" Our guests can expect a retro immersive experience of a golden period of growth and enthusiasm for Jewish Tulsa, and applaud the artifacts assembled in our marvelous collection.

Art's power to instruct, evoke emotions, and to comfort is a boon to our community and future generations. Gala patron gifts make up close to one-third of our operating budget. We're optimistic that TJR readers will contribute to further Museum efforts to engage and inspire visitors and help meet our educational and programming goals.

To learn how you can help advance the Museum's mission to preserve and promote Jewish heritage, culture, history and community, please contact Tracey Herst-Woods, Chief Museum Officer at 918.492.1818 or twoods@jewishmuseum.net.



RSVP by October 11, 2024



LET'S CELEBRATE!



Museum Gala 2023

For event details, visit
JEWISHMUSEUMTULSA.ORG/GALA2024

MIZEL JEWISH COMMUNITY DAY SCHOOL: A MODEL OF CONTINUOUS GROWTH AND EXCELLENCE

by Amanda Anderson, Executive Director, Mizel JCDS

Mizel Jewish Community Day School (JCDS) is a shining example of growth, community engagement, and educational excellence. We have experienced remarkable expansion and development, positioning itself as a beacon of high-quality education in the region.

The school's enrollment has steadily increased, now serving 64 students, a significant rise from previous years. This growth reflects the community's trust and confidence in the school's ability to provide an outstanding education. Notably, Mizel JCDS has achieved accreditation through Cognia, an accomplishment recognized by the State Department of Oklahoma and the Oklahoma Private School Accreditation Association. This accreditation is not just a milestone but a testament to the school's commitment to continuous improvement and educational excellence.

We are proud to be a diverse and inclusive community, with 50% of our student body identifying as Jewish. This cultural richness enhances the learning environment, fostering a sense of unity and mutual respect among students and staff.

To accommodate our growing student population and enhance educational offerings, Mizel JCDS added three new staff members. This expansion will support the school's robust curriculum, which includes innovative programs in yoga, art, STEM, music, and physical education. These programs are designed to provide a holistic education, nurturing the physical, intellectual, and creative growth of each student.

We now offer education from preschool, starting at age three, through fifth grade. This comprehensive age range allows the school to provide a continuous and cohesive educational experience, laying a strong foundation for lifelong learning. The preschool program emphasizes early childhood development, preparing young learners for the academic and social challenges ahead.

We look to the future, our vision remains clear: to provide an exceptional education that fosters academic excellence, personal growth, and cultural understanding. The school's continuous growth, commitment to accreditation, and innovative programs are all part of our strategic approach to achieving this vision. In 2025, we will be celebrating 50 years of excellence!!

We are more than an educational institution; we are a thriving community dedicated to the continuous growth and development of our students. With our robust curriculum, diverse community, and strategic partnerships, Mizel JCDS is well-positioned to continue its trajectory of excellence, preparing students for success in an ever-changing world! ■



64 students

Cognia Accreditation

3yrs to 5th Grade

Welcome Staff

We are excited to have a full staff of 14 highly qualified individuals! I am proud welcome our awesome staff for the 2024-2025 school year:

- Lauren Drover | Prekindergarten Teacher
- Chelsea Sexton | Prekindergarten Teacher's Assistant
- Gigi Grimes | Kindergarten Teacher
- Marolyn Maxey | 1st Grade Teacher
- Emily Carpenter | 2nd Grade Teacher
- Jennifer N'siah | 3rd Grade Teacher
- Maja Mead | 4th & 5th Grade Teacher
- Veronica Berkowitz | Culinary & Teacher's Assistant
- Trisha Riddoch | Librarian & Reading Specialist
- Alin Avitan | Hebrew & Judaic Teacher
- Angela Smith | Art & STEM Teacher
- Adam Weingarten | PE & Music Teacher
- Drew Netzer | Executive Assistant
- Amanda Anderson | Executive Director



GLOBAL GATHERINGS

by Chloe Chappell, Director of Community Relations and Outreach

On Friday, July 26, the Community Relations Committee and Israel Engagement Committee joined together to participate in The Gathering Place's annual *Global Gatherings* event. Global Gatherings celebrates the vibrancy of the Tulsa community through a multi-week cultural program highlighting various regions and cultures of the world present in the city. Guests were immersed each week in a new region of the world to learn about different cultures through hands-on activities, art, storytelling, dance, music, and more inside the ONEOK Boathouse. The CRC and IEC represented Israel during the West Asia region (a less politically charged term for the Middle East).

Our team wore blue shirts with "Tulsa, Oklahoma" written in Hebrew and proudly displayed the Israeli flag at our tables, which included crafts, Israel-themed swag, information about the CSJCC and Camp Shalom, as well as free food samples of Bamba and Bissli from Israel. We spent time making bracelets for children with their name in Hebrew, creating a Tower of David with foam tiles, sharing food, and handing out Israel postcards, buttons, backpacks, and Israeli flags. Visitors received a Global Gatherings passport to stamp weekly at each destination, gaining a beautiful stamp of the Jerusalem emblem in their passport when they stopped at our table.

We had so much fun sharing information about Israel and the Hebrew language with visitors who were curious and excited to learn more. During the event, Hannah from the CSJCC taught two hora dancing sessions with children which was a huge hit! Our Israeli Emissary Shahaf read two Israel-themed stories with children crowded around him to listen in delight. This year, over 600 adults and children attended, more than double the attendance from the previous year. At a time when tensions are high and antisemitism is on the rise, we were proud to use this opportunity to show our Jewish pride and love for Israel, as well as represent our organization to the greater Tulsa community. ■



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WORLD IN A BOX



World in a Box: Israel Engagement Committee members and Israel Emissary Shahaf Feinkuchen stamp kids passports at World in a Box.

World in a Box is a yearly event sponsored by Tulsa County Library and Tulsa Global Alliance. This free educational event brings families with children ages 5-10 together to take virtual trips around the world to each of Tulsa's nine Sister Cities. This year 18 different countries presented their culture through hands-on activities, live performances, and arts and crafts. The JFT Israel Engagement Committee (IEC) was on hand teaching about Israel and stamping the kids "passports."



IEC Chair, Itzik Levin eagerly awaits for kids to arrive at the Tulsa Global Alliance, Tiberias, Israel sister cities booth.

WALK FOR YOUR LIVES

On Sunday, August 11, nearly 50 community members gathered joining the global movement calling for the release of the hostages in Gaza. Although the event moved indoors due to rain, participants answered the call by walking the CSJCC gym for 30 minutes and 9 seconds, signifying 309 days of captivity. Thanks to the Israel Engagement Committee for coordinating this local effort as part of the worldwide movement to show world leaders that we all care about the hostages and their safe return home.



LET'S BEGIN BY WORKING TOGETHER

by Representative John Waldron

In July, members of the SB1671 Oklahoma Holocaust Legislation Coalition met with members of the Cherokee Nation to discuss ways to collaborate and coordinate education efforts. The Coalition was formed by a group of legislators and citizens to promote Senate Bill 1671 by encouraging and developing a curriculum for teaching Holocaust studies in Oklahoma classrooms in multiple disciplines for grades 6-12. The Coalition has supported conferences around the state to promote Holocaust education. To expand this effort, we took a road trip to Cherokee country. As Administrative Consultant of the Coalition, I had the pleasure of driving Charlotte Schuman, the Coalition's Chair, and Nancy Pettus, our Professional Development Consultant, down the turnpike to Tahlequah on a fine sunny day.

The trip began with a tour of Sequoyah School, a charter school that teaches children in an immersive Cherokee language environment. All signage in classrooms is in the Cherokee language and teachers speak only Cherokee as they teach the usual subjects one finds in public schools throughout the state. Tribal leaders are determined to preserve this linguistic heritage and efforts are paying off. Children learning the language now will be able to raise their children to speak Cherokee as their first language, a remarkable reversal of historical trends and traumas. It's a tremendous testament to their determination and vision, and a truly remarkable example of the spirit of Oklahoma. It had Charlotte thinking about the flourishing of the Hebrew language after the creation of the state of Israel.

We had a productive conversation with Cherokee Nation Chief of Staff Dr. Corey Bunch, about the relationship of historical

experiences between the Jewish and Cherokee communities. We emphasized themes of resilience, survival, and flourishing through cultural affirmation. We live in an age when teachers struggle to find the balance of what can be discussed in the classroom and how to help students process the difficult episodes of our shared past. Could a better appreciation of the Holocaust help students understand the Trail of Tears—and vice versa?

We discussed the possibility of collaboration, bringing Holocaust studies, and the progress we have made to Sequoyah school. Most importantly, by emphasizing our common humanity, we can help students learn how to build a better future for themselves. So, it seems fitting and natural to include other Oklahoma communities that have experienced and overcome historical trauma in our conversations and conferences. As Oklahomans, it only makes sense to work together towards this common goal. In the Cherokee Language, **Gaduji**, or in Hebrew, **Ovdim beh-yachad: Working Together**.

After a delicious lunch featuring Cherokee dishes (I had the Indian tacos), we were gratified to meet Deputy Principal Chief Bryan Warner. He took a break from his duties to say hello to the visitors and make us feel welcome. Remarkable things are happening inside the Cherokee Reservation—a true cultural renaissance—and Warner's pride in these accomplishments was self-evident. When a community musters the will and the resources to overcome trauma and assert their cultural heritage and identity, they do more than preserve their past. They build a future in which young people can take pride in their identity and learn to work constructively together.

The SB1671 Holocaust Legislation Coalition has high hopes for continuing its work in Oklahoma education. It was never just about the Holocaust, or Jewish history. The Coalition is dedicated to the celebration of our common humanity, and in that regard, we are always looking for partners. It makes a lot of sense to work with the Cherokee Nation, and we have every hope of the relationship bearing fruit, reaching more teachers and more students with positive messages and useful learning. We're grateful to the Oklahoma legislature for passing this legislation, for the cooperation of officials in the Oklahoma State Department of Education in organizing our conferences, and most of all for the warm welcome we received from Cherokee leadership last month. Now it's time to build that better future together. ■



L to R: Mark Vance, Executive Director of Cherokee Education Services; Representative John Waldron; Charlotte Schuman, Chair, OK Holocaust Legislation Coalition; Nancy Pettus, Professional Development Consultant; Dr. Corey Bunch, Cherokee Nation Chief of Staff



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THE JEWISH DUNKIN DONUT ©

by Phil Goldfarb

William Rosenberg was born in Boston, Massachusetts, on June 10, 1916, one of four children of Nathan Rosenberg (1890-1955) a Jewish immigrant from Lithuania who arrived at Boston Harbor on March 6, 1894 and Phoebe Swart Rosenberg (1891-1992). Nathan started out in America as a junk collector, became a grocery store owner, and bill collector. William Rosenberg grew up in Boston's working-class Dorchester neighborhood and was educated in public schools. Due to financial problems, he was forced to leave school in eighth grade to help support his family, who had lost their store during the Great Depression.

After several jobs, at age fourteen, he went to work for Western Union as a full-time telegram delivery boy. As a teenager during the Great Depression, he once carted a block of ice to a racetrack on a hot summer day and sold ice chips at 10 cents apiece, bringing home \$171. At seventeen, he started working for Simco, a company that distributed ice cream from refrigerated trucks, rising from delivery boy to national sales manager at age twenty-one, supervising the production, shipping, cold storage, and manufacturing and managing 40 to 100 trucks.

At the start of World War II, he joined Bethlehem Steel in Hingham, Massachusetts and later became the first Jewish trade union delegate. After the war, Rosenberg borrowed \$1,000 to add to his \$1,500 in war bonds and used his knowledge of food distribution to open his first company he called "Industrial Luncheon Services," a company that delivered meals and coffee break snacks to factory workers on the outskirts of Boston using military field-kitchen techniques.

Rosenberg began with one truck and then, with difficulty, acquired 10 chassis, thus creating his own catering vehicles with sides that rose with lift up flaps to reveal sandwiches and snacks stocked on stainless steel shelves. An early predecessor to the mobile catering vehicle.

Within a short time, he had 200 catering trucks, 25 in-plant outlets and a vending operation. Wartime investment in, and development of edible oil production from soya beans and cottonseed had dramatically increased the availability and cheapened the cost of deep-fried foodstuffs, transforming them from luxuries to junk foods for the first time. Later, he added heating units for soup, and color-coded bands around the sandwiches to denote the prices.

Noticing that forty percent of his revenues came from coffee and doughnuts, he started a retail shop that specialized in those products, opening his first coffee and doughnut shop, called the "Open Kettle" on Memorial Day in 1948 and sold \$1,200 in the first week, at a nickel a donut and a dime for a premium cup of coffee. House rules stipulated that a donut not sold within five hours had to

be replaced. After brainstorming with some executives, he renamed his restaurant "Dunkin' Donuts" in 1950. Why? Because what do you do with donuts? You dunk them in coffee! Instead of the five different types of doughnuts that doughnut shops traditionally offered, Rosenberg offered 52 different varieties including Boston cream filled. In 1955, upon opening his sixth shop, he decided on the concept of franchising his business as a means of distribution and expansion, starting in Worcester, Massachusetts, even though the technique was still illegal in some US states. In 1959, after the franchise idea had started to catch on, he lobbied at a trade show for the creation of the industry group that became the International Franchise Association in 1960.

In 1962, Rosenberg was offered the co-ownership of Burger King, but he decided that its Miami headquarters was too far from Boston. Shortly after that, Rosenberg founded a fast food chain, called Howdy Beefburgers (later Howdy Beef n' Burger), in Massachusetts, locating many of its restaurants beside Dunkin' Donuts shops so they could share common parking lots to compete with larger chains such as McDonald's for retail space and customer draw. Howdy Beefburgers was inspired by the Howdy Doody Show that had run on television from 1947 to 1960, and even adapted Howdy Doody as its mascot. Serving such products as hamburgers, french fries, fish sandwiches and New England clam chowder, the chain had restaurants in as many as 27 locations throughout New England before dissolving toward the end of the 1970s. In 1968, he wanted to buy Krispy Kreme Doughnut as a small regional chain, but its owner would not sell it.

In 1968, Rosenberg bought Wilrose Farm in rural East Kingston, New Hampshire. He began devoting most of his time to the farm, becoming the largest breeder of standardbred horses in New England and was inducted into the New England Hall of Fame of the Standardbred Industry. After being diagnosed with lung cancer in 1971, he was luckily able to catch the disease in time. In 1980, he donated Wilrose Farm to the University of New Hampshire, and later became involved in philanthropy, primarily benefiting hospitals.

Rosenberg handed the Company over to his son Robert who kept the business growing and engineered the acquisition of Baskin-Robbins and Togo's, a sandwich chain. The number of restaurants continued to climb, from 100 in 1963 to 10,000 by 2011 with the menu expanding.

Dunkin' Donuts was acquired in 1990 by the British food and spirits conglomerate Allied Domecq. In 1996, bagels were added to the menu, with Coolatta® frozen beverages and breakfast sandwiches introduced the following year. In 2018 they changed their name to just "Dunkin." Today,

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there are more than 12,000 Dunkin' restaurants in 45 countries with several locations in major cities offering fully kosher stores.

Rosenberg was married twice. On April 29, 1937, he married Bertha "Bookie" Greenberg (1914-2008) and they had three children: Robert "Bob" Rosenberg, Carol Rosenberg Silverstein, and Donald "Don" Rosenberg, who in the Jewish tradition was named after William's brother 2nd LT Donald Norman Rosenberg who was KIA on April 16, 1945 during WWII. William and Bookie later divorced and on June 24, 1978, he married Ann Aluisy of Farmington, New Hampshire.

In 2001, he published his autobiography, *"Time to Make the Donuts: The Founder of Dunkin Donuts Shares an American Journey."*

On September 22, 2002, Rosenberg died of bladder cancer at the age of 86 in his home in Mashpee, Massachusetts and is buried at Sharon Memorial Park, Sharon, Massachusetts. ■

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



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HOPE IS MANDATORY

by Kasi Shelton, Executive Director, Oklahoma Hillels

Like so many of us, I am still struggling with processing the atrocities committed by Hamas on October 7th, 2023. “Never Again,” a mantra that we believed with every fiber of our being, is now a fleeting memory. We are reminded in Ecclesiastes that what happens once upon a time happens all the time. But how could this happen in the one place given to the Jewish people to ensure their survival?

I visited Israel in July with 35 Hillel colleagues from around the country as part of Hillel International’s Summer Sipurim, a group traveling to witness the devastation and loss that started on that fateful Shabbat. We were prepped for the emotional trauma that could come from what we would see and hear, knowing that our visit served a purpose: to become story bearers for those whose voices have been silenced or whose stories might not be heard. I was prepared to meet with the hostages’ families and the parents of fallen soldiers, whose last act was proudly protecting their homeland and the Jewish people. I was prepared to hear the horrors of the Nova festival and many of the kibbutzim lining the Otef Aza (Gaza Envelope).

What I wasn’t prepared for was experiencing the resiliency, strength, and unbreakable spirit of the Israeli people; despite the ongoing fighting, the rising death toll, and hundreds of thousands of displaced citizens, they still hold hope for a better tomorrow. Over and over, we heard people saying, “We’re all in this together,” reminding us just how interconnected we, the Jewish people, are. While our relationships with Israel can be complicated and changing, for millions of people, Israel isn’t about policies or ideas; it is home, and they have no other.

We spent July 4th in the Otef Aza, a stark contrast from the celebrations in our home country. At Kfar Aza, Shar Shnurman, the first survivor to return to the kibbutz, recounted the harrowing 24 hours he and his wife hid in their safe room. They were without electricity or water and could hear the terrorists talking outside their windows and even smell the smoke from their cigarettes. He walked us around the kibbutz, taking us through the nightmare these residents endured, wondering why the army or police weren’t coming to help.

Shar took us to the smaller homes for young residents, those just starting to build their lives, which he described as the terrorists’ playground. Houses were burned, grenades thrown inside some, and others we could walk through. Shar remained outside. Front doors were hanging and riddled with bullet holes, as was every inch of the homes. The juxtaposition between shoes left at the front door and furniture shredded from gunfire was a reminder of the unimaginable fear felt in people’s last moments. Leaving the kibbutz, Shar pointed out an olive tree; half was unharmed, and the other half scorched. To him, that tree represented Kfar Aza; it would grow back without visible traces of what it endured, but it would never again be whole.

We also visited Ofakim, which was under siege for two days and was the farthest destination reached by Hamas. Over a Moroccan-style meal by our host Ossi Lankri, we were reminded of the importance of coming together in good times and bad over food. Ossi believes food tells stories of love, linking us to our past, embracing our present, and filling us with

(Continued on p 23)



Kfar Aza



Site of the Nova Music Festival



Jeremy Connor Savitz will become a bar mitzvah on September 7, 2024 at 10:30 am at Temple Israel. Jeremy is the son of Jonathan and Gwendolyn Savitz, the brother of Gabriella Savitz, and the grandson of Stanley and Selma Savitz, and Wendy and Art McKee. Jeremy is in eighth grade at Carver Middle School where he participates in the academic bowl and chess club. Most of his free time is spent hanging out with his friends, with or without video games. Jeremy’s bar mitzvah project is cleaning up a local lake.

(Continued)

joy for the future. After our meal, she asked us to dance. Holding hands and singing together, we left filled with hope and knowing we would dance again.

Since returning from Israel, I have suffered recurring nightmares and find myself starting to cry from no apparent triggers. I cannot unsee the devastation, brutality, and cruelty that was inflicted on thousands of Israelis and non-Israelis. The story I bear is one we heard and repeatedly saw: Israelis live and will continue to thrive by finding joy in the every day, cherishing the beautiful moments life provides, and celebrating those who lost their lives.

I find it inspiring that the message so many wanted us to bring back was one of hope and resilience. As Rachel Goldberg, mother of Hersch Goldberg-Polin, who is still being held in Gaza, repeats: “Hope is mandatory.” As we draw closer to the first anniversary of a day forever etched in our hearts and minds, we owe it to ourselves, the survivors, and those who lost their lives on or after that day to have faith, hope, and to live! ■



CELEBRATE SIMCHAS!

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



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Bibi Dibi
Friday, September 6 | 5:30 p.m.
 Join us for a Shabbat gathering crafted for babies and their families. Revel in the joy of singing songs, playing games, and savoring a delightful Shabbat dinner. It's an excellent opportunity to establish and embrace your own family traditions. While no reservation is required for the celebration, we ask you to secure your spot for the meal by calling or visiting www.tulsagogue.com/events.

Entering the High Holidays:
Selichot Service and Dinner
Saturday, September 7
6:00 p.m.

A traditional prelude to the Jewish New Year, we gather this night to sing a service that highlights the themes and ideas of the holiday season. Following the Sephardic calendaring tradition, we inaugurate this service at the beginning of the month of Elul. The evening begins with a dinner where we'll introduce and honor new members of the B'nai Emunah family. Dinner begins at 6:00 p.m., prior to a musical Selichot service starting at 7:00 p.m. The evening culminates with blasts from the shofar as we begin our preparations for Rosh Ha-Shanah and Yom Kippur.

INTRO to Judaism Begins
Sunday, September 8
10:00 a.m.

Looking into Judaism? Born Jewish and want to know more?

Sharing your life with a Jew and want to crack the code? INTRO explores Jewish culture, history, and wisdom in a setting where questions are more important than answers. Classes are joined with beautiful Shabbat celebrations, supportive discussion groups, and many opportunities for interactive, experiential learning. This is an 18-session Introduction to Judaism Course, which is affiliated with the Miller Intro Program at American Jewish University and taught by Rabbi Kaiman. Sessions this year will meet in-person on Sunday mornings. Visit tulsagogue.com/intro for a complete schedule and to register.

Bad Faith: Christian Nationalism's Unholy War on Democracy
Monday, September 9
6:30 p.m.

Join us in a partnership program with Americans United for Separation of Church and State (AU) for a free screening and conversation of the documentary *Bad Faith* – a searing new film that highlights the history behind the rise of Christian Nationalism in the U.S. and the threat it poses to our democracy. Organizers from Americans United will join us for a conversation about the film and an opportunity to learn about the organization's work in Oklahoma. Register on the Synagogue website.

Blatt + Blue
Thursday, September 12
7:00 p.m.

Visit www.tulsagogue.com/events 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.

Family Jewish Cooking Club
Sunday, September 15
12:00 p.m.

Join the club and embark on a flavorful, family adventure in our four-part cooking series, the Family Jewish Cooking Club. Participants

will meet after ShulSchool for lunch, schmoozing, and a hands-on kitchen session. Throughout the experience, we'll learn about the history and meaning of a dish and get to work making it ourselves. Each family will leave with their dish in hand, along with a recipe and instructions to recreate the experience at home.

Shabbat Evening at the Synagogue: Musical Circle, Dinner, Conversation
Friday, September 20 | 5:30 p.m.
Music, 6:15 p.m. Dinner, 7:00 p.m. Program

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. Following the service, join us for a catered dinner filled with community. We'll do the cooking and cleaning so you can relax and enjoy. The evening will culminate with a public conversation on pressing issues of our day. Learn more and register by visiting tulsagogue.com

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. ■

'BAD FAITH' FILM SCREENING AND AMERICANS UNITED FOR THE SEPARATION OF CHURCH AND STATE

Special to the Review

The recently released documentary "Bad Faith" is set to screen in a special event at the Synagogue on Monday, September 9 at 6:30 p.m. Hosted in partnership with Americans United for the Separation of Church and State, this thought-provoking film delves into the complex and often controversial intersection of religion and politics in America. By exploring real-life cases and expert analyses, "Bad Faith" shines a light on the profound implications of blurring the lines between church and state. Attendees will gain a deeper understanding of the importance of maintaining this foundational principle to protect both religious freedom and democratic governance.

"Bad Faith" provides a compelling narrative that underscores the significance of Americans United for the Separation of Church and State's mission. Founded in 1947, Americans United has been at the forefront of advocating for the separation of church and state, ensuring that government actions remain neutral toward religion and that individuals retain the right to practice their faith freely. The documentary aligns with these values, offering a critical examination of instances where these boundaries have been tested and the subsequent impact on communities and individual rights.

The screening event promises to be more than just a viewing experience. It will serve as a platform for dialogue and engagement, featuring a discussion with legal experts and representatives from Americans United. This interactive session will allow attendees to ask questions, share their perspectives, and explore actionable steps to support the cause of church-state separation. For more information, visit tulsagogue.com or www.au.org. ■



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Repairing Our People: Israel and the Crisis of Liberal Judaism with Rabbi Weinstein on Zoom • Thurs., Sept. 5, 12, 19 & 26 • 2:00 p.m.

Contemporary Judaism is facing unprecedented challenges. Today's Jews have the opportunity—and the obligation—to reclaim a Jewish vocabulary of sanctity, activism, and the desire to stand apart from today's world. This course explores the ever-changing landscape of modern Jewish life through the lens of one of American Judaism's most prolific voices. The message: the role of faith is to challenge us as individuals and to challenge society.

Bar Mitzvah Service of Jeremy Savitz • Sat., Sept 7 • 10:30 a.m.

Join Temple Israel friends and family as Jeremy Savitz is called to the Torah as a Bar Mitzvah!

Family Shabbat in person • Fri., Sept. 13 • 6:00 p.m.

During Family Shabbat Rabbi Jasper creates a sacred space for our young families with songs and prayers. Stay for the complimentary dinner. RSVP by Thurs., Sept. 11. Contact Rabbi Jasper at rabbitzvia@templetulsa.com for more information.

Birthday Shabbat Service w/ Torah in person, on Zoom & Facebook Live • Fri., Sept. 13 • 7:30 p.m.

Join us as we welcome in Shabbat with the chanting of Torah and celebrate September birthdays. Join us after the service for an Oneg Shabbat.

Shabbat Morning Elul Learning Through the Ages • Sat., Sept. 14 • 10:30 a.m.

Join us on Shabbat morning for a special Elul teaching. RSVP to rsvp@templetulsa.com.

The Brat Pack: 80's Skate Party • Sat., Sept. 14 • 6:30 p.m.

Join TI's new group "The Brat Pack" (ages 40's and 50's), for a real 80's skate party! For more information and to RSVP, visit TempleTulsa.com.

Sisterhood: What is Jewish about Bundt Cakes? • Sun., Sept. 15 • 1:00 p.m.

Sisterhood welcomes Phil Goldfarb from the Jewish Genealogy Society as our guest speaker. All are welcome to enjoy lunch from Jason's Deli and delicious bundt cakes. The cost is \$20 per person for current Sisterhood members and \$25 per person for non-members.

Torah On Tap: Spicy Torah Takes, in Partnership with Jewish Federation • Thurs., Sept. 19 • 6:30 p.m.

Join Rabbi Jasper, in partnership with the Jewish Federation of Tulsa, as we explore modern-day divisive topics through a Jewish lens. This Torah study is open to young Jewish professionals in their 20s and 30s. Watch the Federation email blasts for more information and ways to RSVP.

Brotherhood Breakfast • Sun., Sept. 22 • 9:30 p.m.

Brotherhood Breakfast begins at 9:30 a.m. with the presentation starting at 10:00 a.m. The speakers will be Connie Vickers and Nancy Presnall of Enid, Oklahoma. Earlier this year, Connie and Nancy launched a recall effort to remove Enid city Councilor Judd Blevins from office after it was discovered that he attended the Unite the Right rally in Charlottesville, Virginia in 2017. They helped spearhead a signature drive to qualify Blevins' recall for the ballot. Please join us as they detail the process leading to the successful recall of Blevins.

The cost for breakfast is \$8 with advanced RSVP and \$10 at the door. There is no charge to come and hear the speaker without breakfast. RSVP at www.templetulsa.com/upcoming-events.

Introspective Elul: Art in the Park • Wed., Sept. 26 • 6:00 p.m.

The month Elul is a time to look inward, reflect on the past year, and meditate on our aspirations for the year to come. Join Rabbi Jasper at the Gathering Place on Thursday, September 26th at 6:00 pm for an hour of crafting and creating art. Bring whatever project you are currently working on—that crocheted scarf you have been putting off, or a book to read. This will be a quiet space for us to reflect through our creative outlets. Temple Israel will not be providing any materials, but we will have light snacks. We will meet on the hill by the boat house. RSVP at admin@templetulsa.com.

Zarrow Pointe Shabbat Service • Fri., Sept. 27 • 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 all friends in our community who would appreciate being together on Shabbat, in addition to Temple members and Zarrow Pointe residents.

Anniversary Shabbat Service w/Torah in person at Temple Israel, on Zoom & Facebook Live • Fri., Sept. 27 • 6:00 p.m.

Join us as we welcome in Shabbat with the chanting of Torah and celebrate significant September anniversaries. Come at 5:30 p.m. for a pre-oneg.

Tikkun Leil Selichot • Sat., Sept. 28 • 7:30 p.m.

Join us during the month of Elul for our Selichot service, as we prepare ourselves for the magnitude of the Days of Awe. ■

BEHIND THE SCENES OF TPAC

by Rabbi Tzvia Jasper

Just the other day I overheard the following exchange: "Rabbi, Rabbi, is there a blessing for the Czar?" The Rabbi replied, "A blessing for the Czar? Of course! May God bless and keep the Czar... far away from us!" This question was not posed directly to me, per se. Instead, it is famously a part of the theatrical production of *Fiddler on the Roof* which was recently performed at the Tulsa Performing Arts Center (TPAC). In the lead up to the show, I was asked, and readily accepted, the role of being their Cultural Expert and Rabbinic Advisor.

In my capacity as Rabbinic Advisor, I have been privy to the behind-the-scenes magic that goes into theatrical productions. I watched musical numbers that have heavily influenced me come 'To Life' before my eyes. It is not until you are in a role such as this, that you realize the extent of Jewish 'insider knowledge,' that many of us take for granted. For instance, think back to that moment, at your Bnai Mitzvah party, when the inevitable chair was presented for you to sit in during the Hora. Now we have been trained from a young age by watching our families participate in this tradition to hold on to the arm rests for dear life, lean back in the chair, and if you are wearing a dress, cross those legs! Now imagine, never having seen that done before, and you are being put in the chair for the first time.

That was where I came in. I was there to explain the whos, the whats, and the whys of Jewish traditions, pronunciations, and history.

The director, Sara Phoenix, was dedicated to ensuring that the show was an accurate and positive reflection of Judaism. So much so, that on the first day, she invited me to give them a lesson on how to properly say "L'chaim!" As Rabbinic Advisor, I called upon the wisdom of my ancestors and impart these Jewish-isms unto the eager cast.

I am grateful that I was able to bring nearly 70 members of Jewish Tulsa on August 18th to the TPAC. Our Sociable Seniors began with lunch, and then we all convened at the theater for the matinee. In the end, we noshed and kvelled, schmoozed and bought tchotchkes. It was a wonderful and memorable afternoon. If you missed the stage production, I highly recommend renting the 1971 movie featuring the incomparable Chaim Topol. After all, *Fiddler on the Roof* is a timeless story, speaking to themes such as 'Tradition,' honoring elders, and struggling with an ever-changing world. That is why, Jewish or otherwise, this story is so relatable and impactful, even 130 years after the book was first published. Thank you TPAC for allowing me to have even a small part of this fantastic show. ■

Jewish New Year Calendars are in!

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