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CONTENTS







- 4 Black Lives Matter: Where the Jewish Community Fits In
- 5 Introductions
- 6 A Tribute to Dave Sylvan
- 10 July Community Calendar
- 12 The Birth of the Jewish Brooklyn Egg Cream by Phil Goldfarb
- 15 CRC Scene by Nancy Rosen
- 16 Norman PD Using KKK Imagery by Erika Stone-Burnett
- 17 Challenging Summer for Holocaust Education
 by Bob McCormac
- 18 Zarrow Butterflies
- 19 New Relationships Afford Local, State and Global Perspective by Nancy Pettus
- 20 A Step into Summer by Sara Levitt
- 20 Blatt and Blue by Rabbi Marc Fitzerman
- 21 Songs of Anger and Recrimination by Rabbi Marc Fitzerman
- 21 New Program Made Available by Temple Israel
- 23 Mizel: A Place for Diversity and Equality by Dr. Cathy Kass

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Black Lives Matter: Where the Jewish Community Fits Ins

HE JEWISH FEDERATION of Tulsa has nurtured relationships with many Black people and organizations over the years, but we recognize that we can do better. We are committed to listening, accepting our biases and acknowledging our privilege, and making a commitment to developing effective and accountable action steps to advance social change for the Black community, beginning with bringing people together for conversations focused on equity, justice, and understanding. We honor that commitment and celebrate



Nehemiah Frank

a voice from our own community, Nehemiah Frank, founder/editor in chief of The Black Wall Street Times.

"My biggest goal is to help free people. White people are imprisoned. They don't realize it. Once they free themselves, they can come to racial consciousness."

-Nehemiah Frank

A summary of the JFT program that happened on June 23 with Nehemiah Frank:

What was it like growing up Black in America?

Growing up Black in America was very isolating... I didn't realize I was black until my teacher used the "N" word in my class, and all the kids turned to look at me, and it felt as if a hundred needles were pricking me.

You are the founder and editor and chief of The Black Wall Street Times. Can you please tell us about this platform?

The Black Wall Street Times is a Black news media company created to amplify Black voices. "Access is the new civil right" is our slogan.

I think there is some misconception about the "Black Lives Matter Movement." How would you define it? And what is the end goal?

Black Lives Matter isn't one idea. It is a fight to dismantle White supremacy, and harmful Black polices that are passed. BLM isn't about attacking White people or anyone else, but asking for the acknowledgment of wrongdoing and changing policies to create a more just community for Black people.

Jewish tradition and text inspire justice in the face of oppression. But we should not compare or pretend to understand the Black man/woman/child's plight. How can the Jewish community do better? How can we show support without taking away from Black voices?

How can you support? Just being involved... if you have a skill, and you have time and feel led to do so. Go to a local organizer and ask them what you can do. If you are a professor, teach and educate. If you are a writer, write a letter to the editor. Continue to have these conversations. Everyone has to have a stepping-stone. If you can come into racist consciousness and understanding about what privileges you have and what it takes to be an anti-racist Black advocate, that is how you can support.

What would you say to people who don't want to see change?

I am optimistic; I believe all people can change. John Lewis spoke about a man who was part of the KKK who came up to him forty years later and said, "I was one of the people who was beating you, and I am sorry." At that moment, they came to an understanding through tears. And John forgave him. That is powerful. I would also say, education is key- the best place to teach the next generation to be anti-racist is in schools. Examine the curriculum, hire good teachers, and make sure they are culturally competent. We are fighting 400 years of racism. There will always be racist policy, but if we can continue to fight for justice, then that is progress.



Isabella Silberg

Hello! My name is Isabella Silberg and I am a recent graduate of the University of Oklahoma. I earned a Bachelor of Science in communication sciences and disorders. I grew up in Tulsa heavily involved in BBYO. I am looking forward to moving back to Tulsa and familiarizing myself with the change and growth of the city. I am so excited to take on my new job at the Jewish Federation as a program coordinator. I look forward to getting to know more members of the community. Please feel free to reach out. ■

Chen Shoval

Hello Everyone,

My name is Chen Shoval, and I am the new emissary arriving in Tulsa in August.

My husband Tal and I are very excited to get to know all of you in the Tulsa community. And I'm sure if our two-year-old son, Agam, would understand, he would also be very excited.

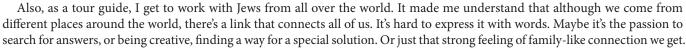
We have heard a lot about your community and the people involved in it. I was fascinated to hear about how special Tulsa is, how welcoming, warm, and proactive. In the last month, we've been meeting on Zoom, and I was so happy to get to know some of my partners and experience that Tulsa vibe first-hand.

As I continue the training with Liat, the amazing current emissary, my desire to get to know the community and work with you is increasing.

Liat is really devoted to fulfilling the task of emissary till the last moment. She's preparing me as much as possible and doing everything in her power to leave the emissary position in good hands. For me, it's a great honor to step into her giant shoes.

In Israel, I work as a tour guide. I guide people from all over the world throughout Israel.

I guide on the historical, religious, and nature sites. I see my work as an emissary with a direct connection to my work as a tour guide in Israel. The great love I have for history and culture is also evident in my desire today to learn and connect with Tulsa and the people living there.



All of that makes me want to come over even more, to take part in your unique Jewish community. The coronavirus brings many uncertainties. In Israel, still under certain restrictions, there is a feeling that it's almost behind us. Hopefully, the pandemic will soon pass, and we can return to the routine of life and, despite social distancing, grow closer and overcome it together.

We are looking forward to seeing all of you in person.

Simon Lowen

Simon Lowen grew up right here in Tulsa. From 2001 till 2010, he spent Sundays at B'nai Emunah's ShulSchool, weekdays at Jenks Public Schools, and Saturdays "working" at a ranch out by Pawnee.

After leaving Tulsa for Nashville, Simon continued engaging in Jewish communities, seeking out knowledge, and having fun outside. He went to Ramah in the Rockies as a camper for the first three summers of its existence (2010-12), culminating in the Jewish Outdoor Leadership Institute, a summer filled with growth, challenge, and, of course, friendships, many of which continue to this day.

He has returned to Ramah in the Rockies each summer since. He has held the roles of office intern, bunk counselor, mountain biking specialist, and most recently Summer Program Director. It is safe to say that Ramah in the Rockies is his home away from home.

At Davidson College, a small liberal-arts school near Charlotte, NC, Simon studied environmental science and computer science. He spent a semester in Ecuador studying comparative ecology and conservation in a Spanish-immersion program. Outside of academics, he served as Co-President of Hillel, co-mentor for Davidson Outdoors' future climbing trip leaders (through his



Professional Climbing Instructor Association certification), Davidson Outdoors trip leader (climbing, mountain biking, canoeing, backpacking, caving), second-chair viola in the college's symphony orchestra, and he enjoyed numerous activities such as reading in hammocks, kayaking, late-night conversations, and ultimate frisbee.

Following graduation, Simon worked as a Teva Educator, practicing experiential Jewish environmental education at Hazon's headquarters in Falls Village, CT. He learned and grew immensely through that experience, and his worldview was shaped by the forces of intentional community, climate grief, earth-based Judaism, and non-academic ways of knowing.

He now lives and works in Tulsa as the Program Director of Congregation B'nai Emunah. Since arriving, he's loved meeting people from Temple Israel, the Federation, Tulsa Tomorrow, OCCJ, and



A Tribute to Dave Sylvan

The Greatest Generation...born September 20, 1924, Dave Sylvan epitomized an era when sacrifice, service, and hard work fortified our country, always walking the high ground and unruffled by hardship.

Dave was born in Chicago to Edith and Morris Sylvan. The family moved to Tulsa in 1931. A graduate of Central High School and the University of Oklahoma, Dave entered the army as a commissioned officer where he served in the South Pacific until 1944. After the war, Dave returned to Tulsa and worked with his father in their family printing business. He later joined his brother-in-law where they operated the Altman Sylvan Oil Company. Dave would go on to chart his own course with the formation of the Sylvan Oil Operating Company. It was at this juncture that he made one of his most significant acquisitions of the Farmers Energy properties.

Dave's success as an entrepreneur paralleled a life of service and philanthropy, from his charitable foundation to his deep involvement with the Jewish Federation of Tulsa where he served on various boards and committees. He was a member of Shriner's, the Wildcatter's Club of Oklahoma, the International Petroleum Association, a Tulsa Opera board member, and a supporter of Tulsa Tomorrow.

It was another unremarkably hot afternoon in Phoenix when I met Dave in April 2018. My wife and I arrived at the Royal Palms Hotel ahead of schedule for what was to be our final vetting as perspective Tulsans. From the window of the restaurant, I watched a couple emerge from an archway opposite the well-appointed Mediterranean scape separating us. As I vividly recount, Dave walked in tow as if escorting his bride for the



first time; down the narrow corridor, I saw a joy and smile which I would come to know as the essence of his being.

I arrived later in Dave's life. Separated by nearly 60 years. We became immediate friends, a kinship blind to age or the 93 years that preceded us. I would ask Dave often about business. With his distinctive Oklahoma draw, he would share stories...like the time he happened on a plot of land and, without research, made the purchase on the same day. Or the time a neighboring landowner claimed Dave's oil exploration impaired his cows. It was the wild west.

Dave had an infectious personality. He was a wordsmith with a wit and humor unmatched. Like a champion boxer dizzying his opponent, Dave's sense of humor danced like a jab hand as his spirit followed like a power punch. As David Finer eulogized, "Dave loved to kibitz...always...he jokingly prodded me that the textile business was so much more lucrative than the oil business. He always wanted to make sure that my pledge cards were to their max and in on time," and Dave had a "love of family, love of people, love of Jewish tradition, love of his American heritage, and love of hard work." Indeed, Dave's love was special, but nothing came close to the love he felt for his wife, Barbara. Their hearts were tethered and marched in step. Near or far, Barbara completed Dave.

An exemplar of his great generation, Dave was one of a kind. I marveled and adored him. His warmth was palpable and his character bulletproof. If you did not get the honor of meeting him, Dave represented all that is good. A mensch and a nobleman. As you enter the Jewish Federation doors and pass the auditorium carrying his namesake, take a moment to pause. Dave set the bar as a Tulsan, an American and for humanity. His presence will be forever missed, but his love and character remain. Let his legacy walk with each of us...live with greater passion, find deeper purpose and give of yourself in all you do. And as others have said, live like Dave.

- Monte Caplan



1982, Dave Sylvan and Gerald Richards



1986, Left to right: Louis Fenster, Milt Oberstein, Dave Sylvan and Mel Klar

Dave was one of mine and Jack's favorite cousins. Believe me when I say that when Dave walked into a room, it was like sunshine coming in because he was always jolly and upbeat and full of jokes.

He will certainly be missed by everyone that had the pleasure of knowing him.

- Maxine Zarrow

Dave Sylvan was a true pillar of the Tulsa Jewish Community, and one of the last of his era. He was always willing to "answer the call" when worthy causes and organizations needed help. Dave served his family, his community, and his country with great honor. Competitive by nature, and with great intelligence and business acumen, Dave demanded excellence of himself and of those on whom he depended. He loved life and lived it with zest, true to his values and in an exemplary fashion. Dave's legacy is one of great contribution in every sense of the word, and he will be missed and remembered for his quick wit, infectious laugh, and his humble and caring attitude.

- Jon Stolper

I have known Dave for longer than I can remember. He was a friend and a very smart man. But more than that, he was fun, always smiling, laughing, and having a good time. His crazy off-beat jokes would make anyone wonder - - sometimes even laugh.

I would always love being with Dave, but the best times were when my wife, Jean, and I were with Barbara and Dave in the islands. Each summer a group of our friends would rent a place and spend a couple of weeks together. We went to the best restaurants, we lost in the casinos, saw the sites, went island-hopping, and did anything else that seemed like doing. We were informed that on that island an elderly Jewish playboy was living with a young woman. Dave knew the man and ran into him on the beach. As a result, our group was invited to a party that night at the man's home. When we arrived, there was a large group of single men and women, including 8 or 10 very attractive and very friendly girls (18 to 25). We tried to fit in, but it didn't go well with the "competition." Thirty minutes later our wives decided we needed to leave.

They were wonderful fun vacations. Our vacation crowd teased Dave incessantly that he only got there because Barbara packed for him, bought the tickets, and made all the arrangements.

I truly loved Dave and will sincerely miss him.

- Will Sanditen



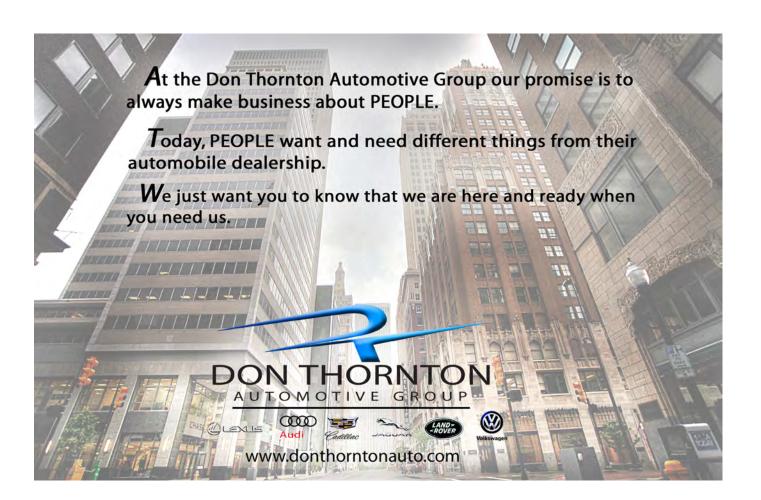
2005, Irene Fenster, Dave Sylvan and Laurie Berman

I was intimidated the first few times I met Dave. But his characteristic laugh made me, and I am sure many others, more at ease. I was most honored to know Dave when he and Barbara attended my Bar Mitzvah anniversary celebration in November 2019. Dave accepted graciously an Aliyah and did a wonderful job. Dave and Barbara were so gracious by staying for lunch and meeting my family.

- Sheldon Berger









When I think of Dave Sylvan, I pause and expect to hear his voice sending his special and wonderful laughter booming through the room... it's saying, "I'm here, all is well," and you smile, everyone smiles, you just had to smile in response.

Dave always had a hug and a kiss for you; holding your hand, he told one of his jokes, and there's that laugh again...no matter how corny the joke, you have to smile.

I also have memories... I recall those Sunday mornings back in the forties when Norm and I would bike to meet Dave and his brother, Jay, and the four of us would ride our bicycles across Tulsa to Mohawk Park and have a picnic. Knowing how careful Dave was about what he would or would not eat in later years, back then he ate everything and anything I brought. Well-fed and rested, we biked home.

- Shirley Levin

In loving memory of my dear friend, Dave Sylvan, who never knew a stranger, was always impeccably dressed, was genuinely interested in everyone he met, and was a mensch and a gentleman in every way. May his memory be for a blessing.

- Julie Frank

What's In A Name

I was saddened to learn of Dave Sylvan's death. He was a sweet guy to me. When we would meet in shule or elsewhere, he would wink at me knowingly (related to the story I am about to share), shmooze a little, and then we would shake hands. Although he was not responsible for my choosing Tulsa as the town where I would settle after discharge from the Navy, and where I would begin medical practice with my associate, Dr. Leon Horowitz, there might have been an unconscious "beshert" component, I think, to the decision.

I have a wonderful brother named Sylvan Jay (Hurewitz), four years younger than me, and now a retired Internist. When I first came to Tulsa, I met Dave and learned he had a brother, Jay Sylvan! I was hysterical with laughter and couldn't wait to call my brother in Havertown, PA, to tell him about this "coincidence." Now, what do you think the odds were of that occurring by chance?! Who knows! With those odds, I figured I should do well here. (Of course, I worked hard to achieve that success.)

[Oh, yes. Several more unanticipated "coincidences:" I am called Dave or Dr. Dave more often than David. But get this: My fathers name was Leo; my associate's name was Leon. My father had a son (me!) David, and so did Leon. AND his youngest daughter Judy's birthday is the same as my son's, Michael (June 21)!]

So, named forward or backward, this has always tickled me. It will be one of those special memories I will have of Dave Sylvan.

- David Hurewitz, MD

I was privileged to call Dave Sylvan my friend. Dave was and Barbara is active in our community. Dave regularly came to services at Congregation B'nai Emunah. He served on the investment committee and the foundation committee of the Jewish Federation of Tulsa. He actively supported our community not only financially but with his time as well. Dave always had a smile; he always warmly greeted people. He cared about people. He was happiest when his family was by his side.

- Brian Brouse

Dave was the embodiment of the best of human traits. He was intelligent, thoughtful, kind, and generous. He used the outcome of his success and achievements to help others. Dave had an abundance of energy and love for people that can't be replaced but will hopefully be remembered and emulated as an example of how we should live our lives in the model he set.

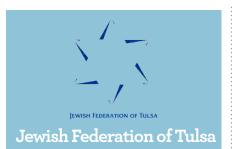
John Clayman.



Dave and Barbara Sylvan



Jolene Sanditen and Dave Sylvan (Photos courtesy of The Sherwin Miller Museum of Jewish Art)





Virtual Men's Club

Wed., Jul. 8 • Noon • Zoom

Our speaker today will be Randy Cogburn, Wellness Director, Zarrow Pointe whose topic will be "Getting Back to the New Normal." The Zoom link will be emailed. RSVP to Mindy at mprescott@jewishtulsa.org.



Virtual Ladies Who Lunch

Mon., Jul. 20 • Noon • Zoom

Come join us where the topic of the month will be "Friendships." Maybe it's a friend from childhood or someone you've just met; it will be interesting to hear your stories. If you choose only to join us and listen, that's fine too! All are welcome. The Zoom link will be emailed. RSVP to Mindy at mprescott@jewishtulsa.org.



Virtual Men's Club

Wed., Jul. 22 • Noon • Zoom

Our speaker today will be Cathy Kass, who will do a book review. Please check your upcoming eblasts for the title of the book. The Zoom link will be emailed. RSVP to Mindy at mprescott@ jewishtulsa.org!



The Sherwin Miller Museum of Jewish Art

Sacal: A Universal Mexican, Sculptures by the late José Saca

Now-Jul.

José Sacal is undoubtedly one of the most prominent representatives of contemporary sculptural art. Known for his experimentation and freedom, Sacal recognized no boundaries in his sources of inspiration and was not afraid to find



new meaning in old forms. Sacal's work has been showcased in more than 40 individual exhibitions and dozens of collaborations in Mexico and around the world. In 2006, he became the first Mexican to have his sculptures permanently displayed in the country of China. Today, more than 20 Sacal sculptures can be found in public spaces across Mexico, Israel, and the United States, including Los Angeles and Washington, D.C. The sculptures featured at the Sherwin Miller Museum comprise two series: The Paraphrase, inspired by distinguished artists like Michelangelo, Frida Kahlo and Picasso, and Characters of Impact, in which Sacal recreates unmistakable historical figures like Einstein and Churchill.



Going Home, Jewish Romania in the early 21st Century

Extended Now-Aug.

Photographs and cultural objects collected by Louis and Ronnie Davidson in 2004. A visit to Romania is like a visit to an earlier time, an era before the electrical and industrial revolutions. Authentic clothing, rugs, dolls, and masks from the Davidson's trips to Romania from 2003-2010 are on display.



View from the Collection Room

Now-Dec.

Take a glimpse into the 3-D world of artifacts from The Sherwin Miller Museum of Jewish Art's permanent sculpture collection.



Arthur Szyk Illuminations

Now-Dec.

Arthur Szyk (pronounced "Shick") is considered by scholars to have been the greatest 20thcentury illuminator working in the style of the 16th-century miniaturists. Szyk was the leading political caricaturist in America during World War II. Come see select lithographs from his "Visual History of Nations" series dated 1945 to



Congregation B'nai Emunah

Workshop

Wednesdays • 7:30 p.m.

Synagogue 8th through 12th graders are invited weekly to hang, learn, play, cook, listen, and move during Workshop, our weekly gathering. The program continues in July with Workshop: The Microphone, Workshop: I heart Israel, Workshop: Your Workshop (led by teens), and Workshop: Community Campfire. Please be in touch with Morah Sara for questions and for Zoom link information.

Two Rabbis and ...

Every Fri. • 11 a.m.

Every Friday, Rabbis Fitzerman and Kaiman convene a weekly conversation to reflect on pertinent topics of the day, interview special guests and talk about ideas relevant to Synagogue life. This month the sessions will take place on July 3, 10, 17, 24 and 31. Zoom meeting ID: 918-583-7121.

Panim el Panim Shabbat Morning Service

Every Sat. • 10 a.m.

Our tradition speaks of a special power that exists when a group of people gathers together for prayer. "Panim el Panim" is a live broadcast service led by Rabbis Kaiman and Fitzerman. Rooted in our in-person Shabbat morning service, we spend time singing, reflecting, studying Torah, and connecting. This month the dates are July 4, 11, 18 and 25. Zoom meeting ID: 918-583-7121.

Bibi-Dibi Online

Fri., Jun. 5 • 5:30 p.m.

Our monthly Shabbat experience for babies, toddlers, and their families moves online! Using commonly found household objects, we'll navigate our way through a short set of rituals and prompts. This service will be held on Zoom (see the link on the Synagogue website) and streamed to Facebook Live. It all gets started at 6:00 p.m.



My|Story - Baby Boomer edition

Mon., Jul. 6 • 7 p.m.

This is an opportunity to listen to enthralling stories told by our friends and friends-to-be. If you're a Baby Boomer (or close by), we'd love to hear a five-minute story from your life that contains one of the following words: Boat, Mountain or Roar. All are welcome to come and listen - we can't wait to see you soon! Zoom meeting ID: 918-583-7121.

Shabbat Together

Fridays: Jul. 10, 24 and 31 • 6 p.m.

As days and weeks go by, our tradition asks that we take time to pause, reflect, and enjoy time together. Shabbat Together is a short, digital gathering where we take a few moments to pause with community as we enter Shabbat. The content is songs for the Shabbat table, and we'll conclude in time for you to enjoy a Shabbat meal at home. Zoom meeting ID: 918-583-7121.



Blatt and Blue: "The Meverowitz Stories" Thurs., Jul. 16 • 7 p.m.

Think of this as a kind of Jewish book club, except instead of books, we'll talk about movies and television. The "we" in this case is David Blatt and Alice Blue, the "Blatt & Blue" of the series title. This month, the discussion will focus on the film "The Meyerowitz Stories." Join us on Zoom for rousing conversation on the movie! Zoom meeting ID: 918-583-7121.

Shabbat for Everyone

Fri., Jul. 17 • 6 p.m.

This is an expanded version of Shabbat Together, with more opportunities for song and storytelling. Zoom meeting ID: 918-583-7121.

To Gather

Sun., Jul. 19 • 10:30 a.m.

Families with children four and under are invited to join us for this second summer installment of To Gather. This month's theme is Kindness Rocks! We will read a story, sing and create a craft, and learn about our responsibility as Jews to be kind. Questions? Connect with Morah Sara at slevitt@ bnaiemunah.com.



Candle Crafting

Tues., Jul. 21 • 7 p.m.

Fill your home with the cozy scent of beeswax candles and connect with the therapeutic practice of candle-making. After receiving the necessary ingredients at our homes, we'll join together in the Synagogue's Zoom room to make taper candles, container candles, and lasting memories. Register for the event by emailing Simon Lowen at slowen@bnaiemunah.com - the cost is \$10 to help cover the organic, non-toxic materials. Zoom meeting ID: 918-583-7121

Songs of Anger and Recrimination Thurs., Jul. 30 • 7 p.m.

The Synagogue will use its Tisha B'av experience this year to look at especially difficult literature produced by our greatest poets and storytellers. Accompanied by music, photography, and painting, the material will be read by members of the Synagogue community. The overall tone is harsh and unforgiving and challenges us to reconsider the happy-ending Holocaust stories that have proliferated in recent years. The whole community is invited to this digital event. Zoom meeting ID: 918-583-7121.

Shpilkes!

Fridays: Jul. 10, 24 and 31 • 6 p.m.

This is the Yiddish phrase for "ants in your pants," that energy we all have when we have been sitting too long and feel a longing to get moving. Older elementary and middle school students are invited to join us for the second half of this program in July. Students will meet early in the week on Zoom to explore a variety of topics. Just before Shabbat, students will reconvene to present their findings, projects, or dishes that they worked on throughout the week. July's themes include: A Week on the Kibbutz with Liat Gal, J-STEM; Deep in our Minds with Elie Portnoy; Garden Gurus with Colby Craige; and finally, Stop Motion Animation Film Making with local artist Justice David Gutierez Israel. For more information and to register your child, please be in touch with Sara Levitt at slevitt@bnaiemunah.com.



Coffee Talk with The Clergy Team on Z_{oom}

Wed., Thurs., Fri., in Jul. • 10:30 a.m. Join us for a cuppa joe... you bring the coffee; we'll bring the conversation. The coffee is optional; the community is yours.

Pirke Avot with Rabbi Weinstein on Zoom.

Thurs., Jul. 2, 9, 16, 23 & 30 • 2 p.m. Pirke Avot, The Ethics of our Ancestors, provides words of wisdom and an approach to living a good life. Our study in Pirke Avot will bring us together as one sacred community. Join Rabbi Weinstein for this weekly class as we learn together and grow together.

Shabbat Service on Zoom & Facebook Live

Fri., Jul. 3, 10 & 24 • 6 p.m.

Join your Temple Israel Clergy Team as we welcome in Shabbat together through spiritual song, joyful prayer, and reflective learning. May our souls be lifted!



Scholars In Their Residence

Sun., Jul. 5 • 7 p.m.

As part of this special summer program brought to the Tulsa Jewish Community, Rabbi Amy Scheinerman will present 'The Magic of Shabbat.' Rabbi Sheinerman is a hospice rabbi in Maryland and the author of 'The Talmud of Relationships.'

Tot Shabbat Service on Zoom

Fri., Jul. 10 • 6 p.m.

Let's come together for an evening of family fun, worship, and learning, the way we do with Tot Shabbat. Families are encouraged to bring their own candles, challah, and grape juice. Rabbi and Cantor will bring the charm!

Temple Israel's Havdalah with Cantor Laurie Weinstein & Cantorial Soloist Jenny Labow on Facebook Live

Sat., Jul. 11, 18 & 25 • 7:30 p.m. Join your Temple Israel Music Team as we separate the sacred from the sublime and begin the week anew; they will offer the prayerful songs of Havdalah and their soulful music of the new

Zamru L'Shabbat Service on Zoom & Facebook Live

Fri., Jul. 17 • 6 p.m.

Join Cantor Weinstein and Elijah and the Minor Prophets as we welcome Shabbat with a joyous and musical celebration.



Scholars in their Residence

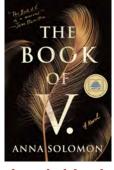
Sun., Jul. 19 • 7 p.m.

Join the Tulsa Jewish community as we hear from Dr. Steven Windmueller speak on 'What Can We Expect? Jews and the 2020 Election.' This timely discussion is open to all. Check the flyer in the Review for the Zoom meeting ID and password.

Jason Mesches Family Havdalah Concert on Zoom

Sat., Jul. 25, 6:45 p.m.

Our musical friend and teacher will be providing an interactive evening of fun for the family. Join us as we end Shabbat with Havdalah and begin the new week with great community fun! Check your Temple Israel eblast for Zoom information.



The Book of V Book Club and Review Mon., Jul. 27 • 7 p.m.

The Book of V is the newest publication by Anna Solomon, which lends itself to biblical fiction. Rabbi Kowalski is looking forward to hosting an evening of discussion, review, and critique. Get your copy, and get to reading now! Look for your Temple Israel eblast with the Zoom link.

Brotherhood Shabbat Service on Zoom

Fri., Jul. 31 • 6 p.m.

Be part of Temple Israel Brotherhood's Shabbat service where the Isaiah Award will be presented to a deserving recipient.

The Birth of the Jewish Brooklyn Egg Cream

by Phil Goldfarb

AVE YOU EVER tasted an egg cream? At Second Avenue and Seventh Street in Brooklyn, New York, popular candy shop owner Louis Auster in 1894 created the egg cream, a fountain drink concoction that actually contained neither eggs nor cream! This was a time when neighborhood soda fountains were more common than today's Starbucks and functioned as local gathering places, each serving old-fashioned drinks like flavored phosphates, cherry colas, and fresh seltzer, often using homemade syrups.

Louis Auster, a Jewish immigrant, was born in Austria in 1862, arrived in the United States in 1892, and was naturalized as a U.S. Citizen in 1907. He had two wives- Rose Auster from Dorogma, Hungary (1878-1905) and his second wife- Regina (Herskowitz) Auster (1885-1967), an immigrant from Austria who arrived in 1898. Louis had nine children with both wives.

This old-time New York thirst-quencher is sweet and full of fizz. The basic ingredients are 3 oz of milk, 5 oz of seltzer, and two tablespoons of chocolate syrup and is traditionally made in a small Coke-style glass. While Auster used his own secret chocolate syrup, other soda fountains relied on a Brooklyn original: Fox's U-Bet Chocolate Syrup containing water, sugar, corn sweeteners, cocoa, and some "secret things." According to Lionel Levy—grandson of Harry Harmatz, who was the founder of Ratner's Dairy Restaurant and rented the space to Auster—Louis never allowed anyone to see him prepare the formula, and the Auster family, whose shop closed in the mid1970s, has never revealed the recipe.

Several beverage companies approached Auster to purchase the rights to the drink and bottle it for mass distribution, but trying to bottle a version of an egg cream and ship it for mass delivery at the time was impossible. The milk spoiled quickly, the chocolate and soda tended to separate, and preservatives ruined the taste as did efforts to pasteurize the product. Thus, the egg cream remained a New York soda fountain exclusive for decades. It is perfectly proper to gulp down an egg cream. In fact, an egg cream will lose its head and become flat if it is not enjoyed immediately.

Years later, when Auster refused to sell the rights to the drink to an ice cream chain, a company executive called him an anti-Semitic slur, and Auster vowed to take the formula to his grave, which he did! Louis Auster died on March 17, 1959.

The foam that rises to the top of the glass appears similar to egg whites, which may be how the drink got its name. Some say that Auster's original chocolate syrup contained eggs and cream while others say "egg cream" comes from the Yiddish phrase "ekt keem" meaning "pure sweetness."



Whatever the etymology, the drink is legendary among soda fountain aficionados. Auster claimed that he often sold more than 3,000 egg creams a day. With limited seating, this meant that most customers had to stand to drink them, prompting the traditional belief that if you really want to enjoy an egg cream you have to do so standing. Typical soda fountains featured long countertops, swivel stools, goose-neck spigots, and a mirrored back bar, all of which helped attract the attention of young and old alike. Besides drug stores, soda fountains were also installed in candy shops and ice cream parlors. Since soda fountain drinks had to be made to order, this was typically done by male clerks in crisp white coats. Affectionally referred to as "soda jerks" (for the jerking motion required to draw soda from the spigots), these popular, entertaining mixologists were the rock stars of the early 1900s. Think of a modern-day bartender juggling bottles of liquor to make a drink. Soda jerks performed roughly the same feats, except they used ice cream and soda.

Prohibition gave soda fountains a boost of popularity in the 1920s, serving as a stand-in for the bar. Alcohol became legal again in 1933, but by that time, fountains had become such a part of Americana that few closed shops. During the 1950s, soda fountains became the hangout of choice for teenagers everywhere. It wasn't until the 1960s that soda fountains' popularity began to wane. People were more interested in war protests, Elvis, the Beatles, and hula hoops. As more beverages were available in cans and bottles and life became increasingly fast-paced, people no longer had time for the leisurely pace of the soda shop.

What lies ahead for the egg cream? Enter ex-Brooklynite Adam Kurlander. Today, Egg Cream drinks are being bottled by a few small companies. In trying to make the milk-based egg cream shelf-stable, his company's R&D department invented the carbonated dairy beverage category. Founded in 1989, Egg Cream America Inc. ships about a million cases annually, including plenty of its bestseller, a no-fat, no-carb diet chocolate. The bottled egg creams are available in about 20 states, but they sell best in the greater New York area, particularly in Long Island, which, Kurlander notes, is home to many people who grew up in Brooklyn. "The drink is rooted in the ethnic Jewish community."

Phil Goldfarb is President of the Jewish Genealogical Society of Tulsa and can be e-mailed at phil.goldfarb@cox.net. Have YOU joined the JGS of Tulsa as yet? ■



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CRC Scene

by nancy rosen, crc member

HE TULSA JEWISH Community Relations Committee or CRC (formerly the Public Relations Committee of the Tulsa Jewish Community Council, now the Jewish Federation of Tulsa) has been continuously fulfilling its important role in Tulsa's Jewish and non-Jewish community since 1938, but according to a recent survey, many people in our community are not familiar with CRC. So we would like to start with a refresher.

I like Wikipedia's definition: a Jewish Community Relations Council (JCRC) "aims to represent the consensus of the organized Jewish community in the cities [in which the JCPA operates] and then assist in consulting other local stakeholders on matters of importance to Jewish community values." So what is the JCPA?

The Jewish Council for Public Affairs was the new name given in 1997 to the National Community Relations Advisory Council that was created in 1944 by Jewish leaders in response to the Holocaust. The purpose was at that time--and continues to be--"to secure American Jews' future by actively engaging in American public life, working in common cause with other communities, and giving voice to Jewish values of fairness and justice" (JCPA.org). Today JCPA's umbrella covers 125 Jewish community relations councils and 17 national Jewish agencies belonging to the four main branches of religious Judaism.

In 1975, the Tulsa Jewish Community Council hired their first professional, CRC Director Yolanda Charney (1975-1995). The first lay leader of CRC was Samuel Boorstin (1938-1946) who went on to be the 12th Librarian of Congress from 1975-1987.

For the last four years, Michael Mudd has chaired the committee. Michael's mother, Shiela, has been an active member of CRC for many years and spearheaded the Speakers Bureau program in Tulsa. Andrew Spector has recently taken on the role of the committee chair. Ex-officio members include Jewish Federation Executive Director Drew Diamond.

Some of my personal memories of CRC in the '80s include Yolanda Charney's inimitable style and diplomacy. When it was announced in the local papers that the national head of WAR (White Aryan Resistance) was "coming to Tulsa and Northeastern Oklahoma to recruit," the CRC reached out to its friends in the Black community, Tulsa City Councilor Joe Williams, Rev. Lawrence Lakey of the Tulsa Urban League, and other pastors and leaders. Councilman Williams was successful in having the Tulsa City Council unanimously pass a non-binding resolution touting Tulsa's excellent interfaith cooperation and history. The alliance forged in this effort included the Jewish Federation of Tulsa, the Tulsa Urban League, Tulsa Metropolitan Ministry, and the National Conference of Christians and Jews (now OCCJ). Eventually, it became the foundation of the "Say No To Hate" coalition and campaign. I remember, and still see, the "Say No to Hate" bumper stickers and will never forget Chair Maynard Ungerman, dressed to the nines, leading a discussion on how to address current situations.

Watch this column for news of CRC's activities. If you want to participate, call the Federation and we will get in touch with you. ■

L'dor V'dor From Generation to Generation Documentary in Emmy Finals!

At noon, Friday, June 5th, the announcement was made that our documentary about Jews in Tulsa is one of five finalists for an Emmy Award in the Documentary-Historical category in the Heartland Division. Winners will be announced on Saturday, July 25th. Thank you all who participated, and at a minimum, we can say our documentary was Emmy-nominated. Keep your



KAREN HEARNE HUGHES



Karen Denise Hearne Hughes passed away at the age of 60 on May 25th, 2020, in Tulsa, Oklahoma, surrounded by her family and loved ones. She lived in Tyler, Texas with her husband of 11 years, Richard Allen Hughes.

Karen is preceded in death by her father, Thomas Patrick McKenna. She is survived by her husband Rick Hughes, mother Rexiene Leedy, brothers Thomas and Terry, sister Julie McKenna, son Travis Hearne (Traci), daughter Sarah Naftis (Matt), and her five grandchildren.

Karen grew up in Tulsa and attended OSU where she studied Recreational Planning and Physical Training. She worked at the Charles Schusterman Jewish Community Center from Oct 2002 – Dec 2015 as a personal trainer and fitness instructor.

Karen will always be remembered for her amazing spirit and her strength. She loved fiercely and compassionately and would do anything for anyone she knew. Karen will be celebrated this summer or fall in one of her favorite places, Taos, NM. ■

Norman PD Using KKK Imagery

by erika stone-burnett, msw/mph student at ou

RIOR TO THE pandemic, I attended a meeting about confronting antisemitism at the Jewish Federation. The meeting was sponsored by the Anti-Defamation League who noted that antisemitism and hate crimes have risen since 2016. I brought two of my five Jewish children. The 12-year-old didn't quite know the word "antisemitism," but once she understood its meaning, she raised her hand to indicate she had experienced it personally. We delved into antisemitism that evening, and I keep the infographics in plastic sleeves pinned to various areas in my home so the kids and I can recognize the signs. The most salient point: Genocide does not start as genocide. It starts with little comments, microaggressions, and "othering." It starts with exclusive language and insensitive remarks and is often dismissed as a "joke" to those who would reproach hate.

This isn't the first time people who are Jewish have been denigrated since the coronavirus arrived in the United States. A quick news search will show anti-lockdown protestors in several Midwest states holding signs proudly blaming Jews for the pandemic and subsequent requirements. These protestors knew they would be seen and photographed. They did not hide. I am pursuing a double master's degree at the University of Oklahoma. I am a research assistant in the School of Social Work. I still cannot understand what being Jewish has to do with the pandemic, quarantine, mask requirements, school closings or being forced to order curbside food service rather than enter a restaurant. I read the news obsessively as I'm still sheltering in place; nothing has indicated a person of Jewish descent has anything to do with COVID-19. Jews are simply being blamed and "othered."

Of course, this is nothing compared to what people of color experience daily, pandemic or not. I recognize that. When I cried watching the news about Charlottesville, where protestors screamed, "Jews will not replace us," when I see an antisemitic COVID-19 story and immediately text a friend, Did you see this in the news?, I know it's only my unearned white privilege that has protected me from seeing antisemitism regularly.

While I feel grateful that my children don't "look" Jewish, I too "pass." It is not only because of my countenance, but also because of the underlying assumption by Oklahoma citizens that everyone here is either Protestant or Catholic. I feel both guilty and relieved that I can walk around safely. People of color in Oklahoma do not have that privilege.

That said, this is not the first time Oklahoma has proudly displayed antisemitic imagery. One local Tulsa newspaper published a cartoon of George Kaiser with a large crooked nose and a hunger in his eyes and declared that he sees North Tulsa as a "cash cow." The mural of Dennis R. Neil at the Oklahoma Equality Center has been defaced with a swastika, as has the sidewalk in front of Phantasmagoria books. Brochures anonymously placed in local coffee houses before the pandemic warned about the insidious nature of Jews. Norman and other areas of Oklahoma, including Tulsa, have a long history of supporting the KKK.

The KKK lynched and killed people they considered "others," people they considered "less than" themselves, people they blamed for their troubles. Wearing hoods to hide their faces from authorities, they torched houses and destroyed buildings. Their crimes were motivated by bias and discrimination. They continue to desecrate and vandalize today, drawing attention to their cause with a symbol. Their crimes are not a joke, and never will be.

And yet, an authority in Norman has used KKK imagery to describe masking requirements in an email shared with the entire Norman Police Department. I can only imagine his brazen actions were due to expecting support from his fellow law enforcement. He received tacit recognition for his efforts — only one officer spoke up to suggest ending the email chain, possibly to stop the spread of antisemitic pictures that were bound to appear in response. After all, Oklahoma is not short on antisemitism. The officer was later told that all emails are public record — again, not a reprimand, but rather a reminder that he will get caught showing his bias.

This is not comforting to citizens, as law enforcement strives for their initiatives such as citizen crime watchers, officers visiting schools and reading to children, and attending public meetings. An email chain from a police officer who thinks the KKK is a joke does not engender trust in those who would protect us from crime, hate, and evil.

Genocide does not start with gas chambers or lynchings. It begins with biased attitudes, insensitive remarks, seeking out likeminded people, and making jokes.

We must all fight our continued bias to "other" groups of people. We are all fighting COVID-19 together. ■





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Challenging Summer for Holocaust Education

by BOB MCCORMAC, HOLOCAUST EDUCATION COORDINATOR

HE COVID-19 PANDEMIC created a dilemma for the education field. How will teachers handle lessons when children are not in the classroom? What if the students lack computer access at home? How do you keep the student's attention when they are surrounded by distractions at home? Will there be discipline problems? How will they be handled?

The pandemic also created questions about handling training for teachers themselves. How does the Council for Holocaust Education continue the traditional summer institute and still maintain the Jewish Federation's guidelines for using the facility and complying with best practices from the CDC? How do we maintain social distancing for seventy participants for two days? In the past, the Council offered expert speakers and educators from institutions like Yad Vashem, the Anti-Defamation League, and the Shoah Foundation to Tulsa area teachers. How can we continue to provide this level of education in the current challenging environment?

The answer is partnering with our friends at Yad Vashem and the Anti-Defamation League and making the most of the Echoes and Reflections Holocaust Curriculum. Both organizations have become experts at organizing and presenting meetings and webinars via Zoom, the new standard for meetings in the age of COVID-19. With their help, the Council for Holocaust Education Summer Seminar will take place on Thursday, July 23, from 9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

The morning sessions will feature Sheryl Ochayon, who will be Zooming from Yad Vashem in Jerusalem. She will be presenting "Principles for Planning and Implementing a Comprehensive Holocaust Education Program" in the first of the morning sessions. Following a break, she will discuss "Fierce Females," Jewish Women's Resistance during the Holocaust.

The afternoon sessions will be led by Jen Goss from Echoes and Reflections. Her first topic will be "Media Literacy." She will present tools for classroom discussion on the role and impact of Nazi propaganda during the Holocaust to support students' critical analysis of media in today's world. Jen's second topic is "Contemporary Antisemitism." To facilitate teachers' and students' commitment and ability to address and prevent antisemitism and prejudice in their communities, Jen will examine antisemitism's global reach, including expression in the form of hate speech, violence, denial, and distortion of the Holocaust. Those interested in participating in the seminar contact Bob McCormac at bmccormac@jewishtulsa.org for the registration link.

*NOTE: Holocaust Educators who sign up for and attend both seminar sessions will receive six hours of professional development credit in addition to their choice of one of the following books:

Through Eva's Eyes by Phoebe Eloise Unterman or The World Must Know by Michael Berenbaum

(Books may be picked up at the Jewish Federation of Tulsa, 2021 E. 71st St., Tulsa, OK between July 24 to August 7, 2020.) ■



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Community High Holiday Greetings

Send a personal New Year's greeting to your friends and relatives in the September edition of the Tulsa Jewish Review. This is an excellent way to show your support for the entire Jewish community and a most effective way of expressing your good wishes for the upcoming year.

Ad prices begin at \$25.
Deadline for ad submission is Aug. 5th.

Please contact
Mindy Prescott at 918.935.3662
for additional information.

New Relationships Afford Local, State, and Global Perspectives

by nancy pettus, director of holocaust education

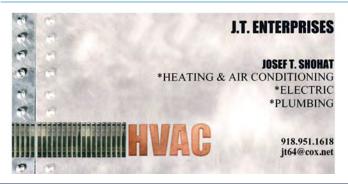
VER THE PAST four months while still within the grip of the pandemic, the Jewish Federation, The Sherwin Miller Museum of Jewish Art and the Council for Holocaust Education have been busy forging new relationships. With Charlotte Schuman's assistance, we have been privileged to establish a working partnership with the Ackerman Center for Holocaust Studies located on the UT Dallas campus. The Ackerman Center distinguishes itself as a distinctive academic center that provides an in-depth view of the Holocaust within a dedicated facility. Just last week we received exciting news that their two fulltime endowed professors would be added to the three already on staff. The faculty also includes one full-time research assistant professor and two visiting assistant professors. The Ackerman Center's one-of-a-kind learning environment focuses on the study of the Holocaust and is the only university in the country to offer both a Masters and a Ph.D. in Holocaust Studies on campus. In 2016 the Center celebrated its 30th anniversary of the Holocaust Studies program founded by Dr. Zsuzsanna Ozsvath, a Hungarian-Jewish Holocaust Survivor. We feel incredibly honored to have been invited to enter into a mutually beneficial Memorandum of Understanding which will allow us to collaborate on programs and/or internship(s) utilizing the speakers/lecturers/ experts from UT Dallas for the Jewish Federation. Our first collaborative effort will take place in the fall when scholars from the Ackerman Center and the American Jewish Committee (AJC) offer their expertise in four separate lectures on the topic of antisemitism. More information on these lectures will be provided in the near future.

Our next significant relationship, also facilitated by Charlotte Schuman, is with the American Jewish Committee (AJC). AJC distinguishes itself as the principal global Jewish advocacy organization. With 22 regional offices, 12 overseas offices, and 37 international partnerships, AJC has been referred to as the state department of the Jewish people. Each year AJC members and staff meet with senior government officials of more than 110 of the 193 UN member states. These affiliations, in addition to their international presence, offer AJC the power to impact opinion and policies on combatting antisemitism and extremism, protecting Israel's place in the world, and safeguarding the rights and freedoms of all people.

We look forward to working with these two prestigious organizations to bring an elevated level of Holocaust-related scholarship and global awareness to our Jewish, Tulsa, and educational communities.









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A Step Into Summer

by sara levitt, director of jewish life and learning at congregation b'nai emunah

At the end of every school year, you will always hear our students chatting around the snack table at Hebrew Language Lab and ShulSchool about one crucial topic; summer. From Camp Ramah in the Rockies to BBYO programs, to Camp Shalom, family vacations, art camps, and the like, our youth are usually having the time of their lives over the summer. The conversation this year sounded quite different. The questions that floated through our virtual school space were on cancellations, instead of swapping excitement over new camp traditions or family experiences. Like so many things in our children's current lives, this summer would bring disappointment and sadness. With our kids' calendars quickly cleared, we knew we had an opportunity to continue our relationship with our students at the Synagogue through engaging and fun Jewish programming over the summer. While summers are usually quiet and preparatory, we had to pivot to help serve our families. We started with what we already knew about our kids; a weekly touchpoint to see each other's faces was crucial. They could not and should not sit in front of their screens all summer; they are independent, smart, and motivated young people. We needed a model to inspire them, teach them new skills, and encourage them to be creators and explorers of Jewish wisdom. And thus, Shpilkes was born! Shpilkes offers our students a weekly, themed opportunity to try something new in the comfort of their Synagogue community and the safety of their homes. Mondays bring sessions with guides who share inspiration and their wisdom on the week's topic and set the project framework for students to work on throughout the week. Using Wednesday as a touchpoint, students meet back on Friday afternoon ahead of Shabbat to share their projects and reflect on the week.

Unlike so many of our regular models of teaching and learning, this new experience is asynchronous, allowing students to work at their own pace and inviting them to bring their own wisdom, passion, and experience to their project. Shpilkes has helped ensure we are serving the needs of families by keeping their children in touch with community, with learning, with the life of the Synagogue, and - perhaps most importantly - with their Jewish friends. While I continue to crave in-person learning more than ever, my gleanings from this summer experiment will undoubtedly impact our future ShulSchool and Hebrew Language Lab programs.

There is still time to join us in July for Shpilkes! This month, we'll explore the experiment of the Kibbutz with Liat Gal, look deep into our minds with brain mapping, get our hands dirty in the garden, and create our very own Stop Motion Animation films. Each week, of course, comes with Jewish content, moments of connection, and fun! Visit us at www.tulsagogue.com/shpilkes to learn more and to register. ■



Blatt and Blue

by rabbi marc fitzerman

This is a golden moment for Jewish film and television. Compelling content is now ubiquitous, the product of creative people in America and Israel, along with Jewish filmmakers all over the world. It's fair to call this an outpouring of culture in a form beautifully suited to capture our attention.

The Synagogue is eager to address this material in a new series of monthly at-home screenings. Think of this as a kind of Jewish book club, except instead of books, we'll talk about movies and television. The "we" in this case is David Blatt and Alice Blue, the "Blatt & Blue" of the series title. Each month, they'll announce a movie or television episode, easily available on one of the streaming services. All you have to do is to screen it by the stipulated time, and then tune in to a rousing discussion on Zoom. The second monthly session will concentrate on "The Meyerowitz Stories," the comedy-drama directed and written by Noah Baumbach, and starring Adam Sandler, Ben Stiller, Dustin Hoffman, Elizabeth Marvel, and Emma Thompson. The plot revolves around adult children trying to work out the kinks of a complicated relationship with their college professor/artist father. The film garnered a critics' consensus of 92% on Rotten Tomatoes.

How to view "The Meyerowitz Stories"? The film is easily available on Netflix for those who have already chosen that platform as their primary streaming service. If you haven't done so already, there is an option for a 30-day trial subscription at www.netflix. com. That may bring you lots of pleasure during these lockdown days. Access "The Meyerowitz Stories" the way you would any other program on Netflix.

The Zoom session will take place on Thursday, July 16, at 7:00 p.m. By this point, Zoom is on nearly everyone's screen, and the access code is the phone number of the Synagogue: 918 583 7121. If you have any trouble with the technology involved, please call Program Director Simon Lowen at (918) 583-7121 x206. ■

Songs of Anger and Recrimination

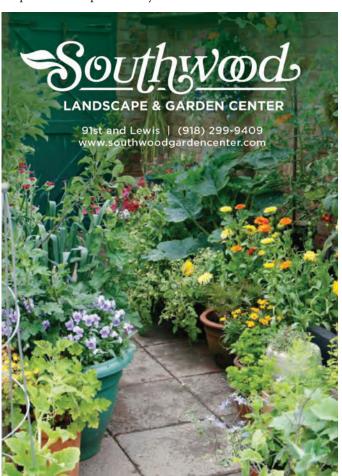
by rabbi marc fitzerman

Every generation in Jewish history uses the fast of the Ninth of Av for its own purposes. Centuries ago, it was the primary locus of mourning for the destroyed Temples of Jerusalem. Because we continue to read Jeremiah's Book of Lamentations to this day, it remains so on the liturgical calendar.

But the observance also serves other purposes, including a moment on the calendar of the Sho'ah. We continue to prospect for ways to remember and commemorate an event that seems to explode through any constraint we impose. No single date is somehow sufficient for the purpose, even as opportunities multiply on the Jewish calendar.

Recognizing this pressure, the Synagogue will use its Tisha B'av experience this year to look at especially difficult literature produced by our greatest poets and storytellers. Accompanied by music, photography, and painting, the material will be read by members of the Synagogue community. The overall tone is harsh and unforgiving, and it challenges us to reconsider the happyending Holocaust stories that have proliferated in recent years.

The whole community is invited to this digital event. The date is Thursday, July 30, at 7:00 p.m., and the platform is the Synagogue's public Zoom page. You may reach this site by using the Zoom ID: 918 583 7121. Please note that this event will, as always, be closely monitored using the available controls in order to prevent disruption of any kind.



New Program Made Available by Temple Israel

VER THE COURSE of the past decade, Rabbi Michael Weinstein has developed a deep and meaningful relationship with a group of fifteen rabbinic colleagues; this group has become his chevre, a sacred, covenantal relationship, based upon trust and respect. Living and serving in communities from across the United States, they get together once or twice a year for learning, prayer and, most importantly, community.

Most recently, as much of the world has quickly transitioned to an online format, this group got together to catch up one evening over Zoom. Sharing of their communities and bouncing ideas, the group realized the need and the opportunity for a summer scholar-in-residence program. By combining resources in a collaborative way, the Scholars In Their Residence program was created.

Throughout the summer months, Temple Israel will be learning from some of the brightest scholars in the Reform Jewish movement teaching their passions from their living rooms. For two Sunday evenings over June, July, and August respectively, the ten participating congregations will come together over Zoom at 7:00 p.m.

The Scholars In Their Residence program is being offered at no charge to the greater Tulsa Jewish Community by Temple Israel. The scholars we are privileged to learn with are:

June 07 - Rabbi Dr. Andrea Weiss

June 14 – Rabbi Karyn Kedar

July 05 – Rabbi Amy Scheinerman

July 19 - Dr. Steven Windmuller

August 02 - Rabbi Jeff Salkin

August 16 - Rabbi Dr. Rachel Sabath Beit Halachmi

Temple Israel is very excited for this opportunity and looks forward to bringing it to you. ■



Rabbi Scheinerman is a hospice rabbi in Maryland, serves on the Responsa Committee of the CCAR, and the author of The Talmud of Relationships, volumes 1 & 2.











Mizel: A Place of Diversity and Equality?

by DR. CATHY KASS, INTERIM DIRECTOR, MIZEL JEWISH COMMUNITY DAY SCHOOL





Y, MY, MIZEL, is a part of a song that our children from Pre-kindergarten to fifth grade sing with enthusiasm. Named "Kehillah Kedosha" or Holy Community, it describes so well Mizel's philosophy of inclusion and our positive value of diversity. In the song it talks in Hebrew about us being one as a community and valuing each individual. We do not just sing it at Mizel; we live it. Parents and teachers have been supporting organizations, protesting and speaking out for equality in many ways, not just during the recent events.

While our school may be called a Jewish Community Day School, we have a diverse, multi-faith student body. With almost two/thirds Jewish, we also have Latino, Black, and Native included among our families, and are still welcoming all faiths. Our curriculum and instruction include discussions about acceptance of all, beginning with teaching during Passover and the reading of Exodus. We discuss being strangers in Egypt and what it means to be a slave and treated unfairly. The joy of teaching Torah and holidays is making it relevant to our times. Racism, inequality, slavery, and diversity come up often. From role-playing slavery and freedom for everybody in the study of Passover with the little ones, to reading stories on Shabbat about the uniqueness of each person no matter their color, shape of their eyes, their hair, their speech or their abilities, we teach fairness for all. Often these discussions of hate or unfairness to someone come from the actual experiences and comments of the children. At Mizel, we try to take advantage of each teachable moment to continue building a holy community that is all-inclusive.

Congratulations to our graduates! Mizel faculty and board were proud to honor three students who have attended Mizel since pre-school. During these times we did graduation via Zoom with caps and gowns as well as a backdrop so each graduate would be in the spotlight! Special thanks to everyone who attended and participated. We especially appreciated the beautiful opening prayer from Rabbi Weg, the wonderful music from Morah Rebecca Ungerman, the opening words of welcome from Acting Board President Erin Stackenwalt and the wonderful memories and challenges given to our graduates by their longtime teachers. This director missed the opportunity to hand out their certificates, but there were three emotional moments when the parents presented the certificates to their own children. Instead of a virtual reception, personalized cookie cakes were sent to each graduates' family. Congratulations to Joe Goldzweig, Bryce Kraft, and Baron Von Ostendorf!

We are getting ready for an early August opening of Mizel with social distancing, teacher masks, extra sanitary precautions, and our special small classes, ensuring the health and safety of our staff and children. The calendar includes extra days for snow or temporary closures. We look forward to celebrating another productive year of learning and growth.■









Sharna and Irvin Frank Aquatics Center

JULY SCHEDULE

Monday to Thursday: Noon-7:00 PM

Saturday & Sunday: Noon-8:00 PM

