

TULSA Jewish Review

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April 2025

50TH

ANNIVERSARY



Fifty Golden Years
Mizel Jewish Community Day School
p. 15

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Front Cover



50th Anniversary of
Mizel Jewish Community Day School

JEWISH FEDERATION OF TULSA

MISSION:

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

VALUES:

Kehila – Community

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

Tzedek – Justice

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

L’Dor V’Dor – From Generation to Generation

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



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SUPER SUNDAY 2025: A COMMUNITY EFFORT, A HUGE SUCCESS!

by Isabella Silberg, Director of Development

Thanks to the incredible leadership of our 2025 Super Sunday chairs—Noah Bleicher & Marcela Swenson and Kate & Ethan Basch—along with an amazing team of 55 dedicated volunteers, we had a fantastic and impactful Super Sunday! From making calls and writing thank-you notes to collecting pledge cards and serving ice cream, our volunteers showed up in full force to support the Federation’s annual campaign.

We are especially grateful to Brian Brouse, Carol Brouse Windland, and Harry Windland, whose generosity helped us kick off Super Sunday with a \$10,000 matching gift, setting the tone for an inspiring day of giving. Because of their leadership and the hard work of our volunteers, we raised over \$93,000 in pledges and gifts—a strong step toward our ambitious \$1.5 million campaign goal.

Thank you to everyone who participated, made calls, sent in their pledges early, and supported our efforts. Your generosity fuels our work to strengthen Jewish life in Tulsa and beyond. We couldn’t have done it without you!

THANK YOU SUPER SUNDAY VOLUNTEERS!

Amanda Anderson, Ben Aussenberg, Hillary Aussenberg, Ethan Basch, Kate Basch, Noah Bleicher, Klara Bode, Jeffery Bonem, Brian Brouse, Falisha Brown, Evan Charney, Rande Charney, Kobie Clark, Caitlin Contreras. Tyler Coretz, Adelyn David, Kylie Dudley, Josh Falk, Katie Falk, Madeline Florence, Jared Goldfarb, Mara Goldfarb, Carter Goldman, Karen Grimes, David Howman, Sarah Howman, Holly Hughes, Katherine Jackson, Jennifer Joels, Sam Joels, Martha Kelley, Art Lasky, Debbie Lederman, Itzik Levin, Mark Lobo, Terry Marcum, Russ Newman, Evan Noble, Jacob Parra, Austin Polun, Brae Riley, Joe Roberts, Marielle Roberts, Shane Ross, Robert Saucedo, Noa Schumann, Craig Silberg, Rosalie Silberg, Liz Silberg, Sandy Sloan, Nathan Stolper, Marcela Swenson, Sofia Thornblad, Karen Tilkin, Tracey Herst Woods, Nancy Wolov, Jodi Finer Zalk



UPCOMING EVENTS



Torah on Tap: L'Chaim to the Chagim: Unpacking Jewish Holidays | Tuesday, April 8 | 7 pm | Nothing's Left Brewing Co.

YJPs—join us for another round of Torah on Tap where we meet for casual study, learning, and conversation! For this session, Rabbi Jasper is diving into the foundations of Jewish holiday observance—why we do what we do, how traditions have evolved, and the little quirks that make our celebrations unique. This open discussion is your chance to share favorite customs, swap stories, and maybe even uncover a new tradition to bring home. YJPs are aged 21 – 40.

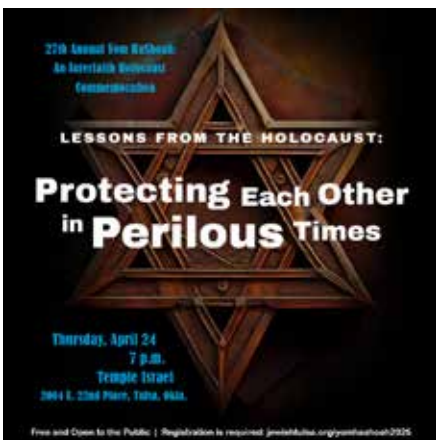
RSVP: jewishtulsa.org/yjp-april



Lunch Bunch | Wednesday, April 23 | 12 pm | Jewish Federation

From April 20 – 24, the Jewish Federation is hosting three esteemed professionals from the Tamar Regional Council, our Israel partner region. This Lunch Bunch is your opportunity to learn about the governing body of one of Israel's most breathtaking and historically rich regions, stretching from the Dead Sea to the Judean Desert. Learn about life in this unique area, the challenges and opportunities facing the community, and how they are building a vibrant future while preserving deep-rooted history.

RSVP: JewishTulsa.org/lb-April23



27th Annual Yom HaShoah: An Interfaith Holocaust Commemoration | Thursday, April 24 | 7 pm | Temple Israel

This year's interfaith Holocaust Commemoration is themed Lessons from the Holocaust: Protecting Each Other in Perilous Times with keynote speaker distinguished Professor Emerita of Holocaust & Genocide Studies at Stockton University, Carol Rittner, RSM, Ph.D. The topic directs our focus to our present responsibilities, urging our community to remember past events so we can be more mindful of how we live and interact with others today. The program also includes artwork from the annual Yom HaShoah student art competition, a candle lighting ceremony, and the mobile library with Holocaust resources available for checkout from Tulsa City-County Library.

RSVP: JewishTulsa.org/yomhashoah2025



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



UPCOMING EVENTS



Yom HaZikaron | Thursday, May 1 | 6 pm | Jewish Federation

Join us in the Barbara and Dave Sylan Auditorium as we come together to honor the memory of IDF soldiers, law enforcement officers, and first responders who gave their lives to defend the State of Israel, as well as the innocent victims of terror. At a time when Israel continues its fight against radical terror organizations to protect its citizens and bring home the hostages, we will gather in unity to remember the sacrifices made to ensure a free and independent Jewish state. The program will include a tribute to those who have served, as well as personal stories of resilience from honored guests. Light hors d'oeuvres will be served.

RSVP: JewishTulsa.org/yomhazikaron25



Yom Ha'AtzmaEAT Brunch | Sunday, May 4 | 10:30 am | Jewish Federation

Yom Ha'Atzma-EAT! Join us as we celebrate Israel's 77th Independence Day with a morning filled with community, festivity, and delicious eats! Enjoy a catered Israeli-inspired brunch, complete with bottomless mimosas, and connect with special honored guests who will make this celebration even more meaningful. Come dressed in your best blue and white and raise a glass to Israel—L'Chaim!

RSVP: jewishtulsa.org/yomhaatzmaut25

Yom Ha'AtzmaEAT Brunch

Here's the Deal ~

2025 L'CHAIM CAMPAIGN DINNER

THURSDAY, MAY 15 5:30 PM HONORING BRINA REINSTEIN

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Chairs: Sandi Tilkin and Debbie Zelkind

RSVP TO JEWISHTULSA.ORG/CAMPAIGNDINNER25



Israel's Yoms: Remembrance and Celebration

Lunch Bunch: Tamar Region

Wed. April 23, 12 pm @ Jewish Federation
Meet our Tamar Regional Council partners
RSVP: JewishTulsa.org/lb-April23

Yom HaShaoh

Thurs. April 24, 7 pm @ Temple Israel
Lessons from the Holocaust: Protecting Each Other in Perilous Times
RSVP: JewishTulsa.org/YomHaShoah2025

Yom HaZikaron

Thurs. May 1, 6 pm appetizers/6:30 pm Program @ Jewish Federation
Remember and honor those who lost their lives
RSVP: JewishTulsa.org/YomHaZikaron25



Yom Ha'AtzmaEAT Brunch

Sun. May 4, 10:30 am @ Jewish Federation
Celebrate Israel's Independence Day
RSVP: JewishTulsa.org/YomHaatzmaut25

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TORAH ON TAP BRINGING JEWISH LEARNING TO UNCONVENTIONAL SPACES

by Isabella Silberg, Director of Development

In the spring of 2024, the Young Jewish Professionals (YJP) programming board gathered to brainstorm new ways to engage our community. We wanted to create a space where YJPs could deepen their connection to Judaism in a setting that felt natural, welcoming, and social. The idea for Torah on Tap was born—a program that brings Jewish learning into unconventional spaces like breweries and bars, allowing for meaningful discussions over an optional drink with friends.

A huge shout out to our incredible YJP programming board members who helped make this program a reality: Hadas Cohen, Morgan Creekmore, Katie Falk, Carter Goldman, Sarah Howman, Tara Levy, Austin Polun, Jillian Roberts, Rosalie Silberg, Sofia Thornblad, and Ben Wagman.

Our first *Torah on Tap* session launched in September 2024 at Heirloom Rustic Ales, where Rabbi Jasper led a thought-provoking discussion on “Jews and Tattoos.” At this session, half of the YJP attendees had one or more tattoos. The conversation was dynamic, engaging, and at times even humorous, as participants explored Jewish perspectives on body art and self-expression. The energy in the room was clear—this program was something special!

In December, we welcomed Rabbi Weg to lead a

session on “What Judaism Says About the Afterlife.” The discussion delved into Jewish teachings on the soul, resurrection, and the many interpretations of the afterlife across different Jewish traditions. Once again, we saw how eager YJPs were to explore these complex topics together.

Last month, Rabbi Kaiman led a session on conversion to Judaism. This completed our inclusion of all Tulsa congregations leading a program. Each session has brought together an average of 25 young professionals who come ready to learn, question, and connect. The enthusiasm for *Torah on Tap* has exceeded our expectations, proving that Jewish learning thrives in a variety of spaces.

A special thank you to Rabbi Jasper, Rabbi Kaiman, and Rabbi Weg for working with our committee representatives to bring this program to life.

We are incredibly proud of this program's growth and the positive impact it has on our YJP community. *Torah on Tap* has shown us that Jewish learning is not confined to synagogues or classrooms—it can happen anywhere, as long as there is curiosity, conversation, and community. We look forward to continuing this journey, exploring new topics, and raising a glass to many more evenings of meaningful engagement. L'chaim! ■

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Rabbi Jasper discussing “Jews and Tattoos”

UPCOMING EVENTS



Fitness Challenge :April Showers

Your overall health is improved by drinking the correct amount of water every day. On average, you should drink 64 oz. of water or more per day. Getting enough water prevents dehydration, regulates your body's temperature, lubricates and cushions your joints, keeps you regular, and helps remove toxins. Start by carrying a reusable water bottle with you—everywhere you go—and join our April Showers Challenge! Grab a tracker from the fitness desk to fill out each week.



Spring Sports Complex Walks | Thursdays April 3, 10, 17, 24 | 10 am | Jeanette Altman Frieden Sports Complex

Join CSJCC staff at the Jeanette Altman Frieden Sports Complex every Thursday at 10 am to enjoy the spring weather and get your steps in! Walking is a great way to improve or maintain your overall health. Just 30 minutes every day can increase cardiovascular fitness, strengthen bones, reduce excess body fat, and boost muscle power and endurance. Meet new people and socialize as we walk our way to good health!

If you aren't sure how to get to the walking track, meet at the fitness desk at 9:45 am and we'll walk over together!



Tzedek Day of Service | Monday, April 7 | 10:30 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-april



Wellness Series | Monday, April 21 | 10:15 am | Dan Room

Join Michelle Fox and Cara Webb from Miller Hospice as they present on end-of-life care. The importance of being prepared, available resources for you and your family, and helping know what is important to you and your loved ones during the last stage of life. Miller Hospice will teach about hospice care and the difference between hospice and palliative care. Miller Hospice is a local, nonprofit located at Zarrow Pointe that serves people of all denominations, nationalities, races, and beliefs.

RSVP: csjcc.org/wellness-april

FEATURED CLASS:

// MUSCULAR ENDURANCE //
MONDAYS AT 9 AM



This class begins with 30 minutes of non-stop light weights. The free weight exercises are designed to work all muscle groups used in day-to-day activities. The second half consists of lower body exercises, standing ab work, and balance work. Hannah's morning classes are always packed with good music and great community!



Now Hiring!
Camp Counselors and Lifeguards!
Apply at CSJCC.Org/Jobs

PESACH (PASSOVER) HOLIDAY HOURS

Sunday, April 13 – 1st Day Passover CLOSED
Monday, April 14 – 2nd Day PassoverOpen 12 – 5 pm
Saturday, April 19 – 7th Day Passover CLOSED
Sunday, April 20 – Last Day PassoverOpen 12 – 5 pm

Host Families ~Wanted~

Camp Shalom is welcoming two female shlichim this summer! We are seeking host families to help make this a reality!

Host family requirements:

- House one (or both) young ladies for one or more weeks between May 19 – August 3
- Provide breakfast and dinner
- Provide transportation to and from camp (arrive 8:30 am; depart 4:30 pm)
- Include the young women in weekend and evening activities with your family and the Jewish community

Contact Shahaf Feinkuchen
at 918-495-1100, emissary@jewishtulsa.org
if you are interested in hosting.

EVENTS

**Bashert: The Art of Jewish Love****Opening Reception: Thursday, April 10, 6 pm**

Love is in the air! Grab your sweetheart and join us for a celebration of love as depicted by works in our permanent collection. This multi-media exhibition includes prints, oil paintings, sculpture, and Judaica. The opening reception includes the sharing of Jewish love stories from local couples.

**Tuesday, April 29, 6 pm | First Edition: Suddenly Jewish with Joan Moran | SMMJA Lobby**

The SMMJA proudly presents the first in its Library book series: First Edition with Joan Moran author of *Suddenly Jewish: The Life and Times of My Jewish Mother*. In this compelling historical memoir, Joan tells the story of three generations of Jewish women, with the author suddenly discovering that she, after attending Catholic schools and weekly mass, has been Jewish since birth. Filled with laughter, love, fear, courage, revelations, and the realization that being Jewish transcends observing traditional prayer and practices. A limited number of books are available for purchase at our SMMJA office, at the program, or on Amazon.com.

- ▶ Purchase book: **email** twoods@jewishmuseum.net or **call** 918-492-1818.
- ▶ Capacity is limited. Please **RSVP: JewishTulsa.org/first-edition-april**

~ ON VIEW NOW ~

**Invited to Life | Through June 9**

Award-winning author and photographer B.A. Van Sise explores the often-complicated lives of Holocaust survivors in the United States, including three living in Tulsa. *Invited to Life* is an exploration of strength, endurance overcoming and, in particular, the mosaic of American experience, told in elegant photographs and stunning prose.

**Theodore Fried: Art in Hiding**

This exhibition is a celebration of the survival of art in dark times with Theodore Fried's work that was hidden in Europe during the Holocaust. We are honored and privileged to hold the largest collection of Fried's work.

**Temple Israel Songbook Illustrations**

Ready for a trip down memory lane? Revisit the charm of Sunday school at Temple Israel with these delightful, vibrant illustrations by Tulsa native Carmelita Avery. Created in 1945, these pieces capture the playful spirit of the era. Donated to the Museum in 2002 by the artist's daughter, Sharon Avery, these works are proudly on display for the first time.

~ CONGRATULATIONS! ~

18th Annual PURIM MASK INVITATIONAL

BEST IN SHOW

Corinne Kabel
Edison High School
11th Grade

**PESACH (PASSOVER)
HOLIDAY HOURS**

Saturday, April 12 – Monday, April 14
CLOSED
Saturday, April 19 – Sunday, April 20
CLOSED

SUDDENLY JEWISH: MY FRIEND JOAN MORAN

by Tracey Herst-Woods, Chief Museum Officer at the SMMJA

As a child, I idolized Joan Frances Moran. Our families spent many weekends and evenings together and it was at her house that I had my first almost overnight stay. During that night when trying to sleep, I saw a mask on the hallway wall with the light bouncing off of it that terrified me and I let out a screeching sound that could wake the dead. She immediately came to me and through my tears and comforted me but in the end, I had her call my mom to come and pick me up (it was just past 1:00 in the morning). She was always the perfect person to me, and as I grew into adulthood, she continued to embody that ideal.

Joan has many accomplishments. She attended the American Film Institute as a producing fellow. She has two master's degrees: Theater and Education. Prior to AFI, Joan taught acting and theater history at the University of Nevada Las Vegas. Later, she founded a professional year-round theater in Las Vegas. Joan was the artistic director for five years. Later, she transitioned to film. After graduating from AFI as a producing fellow, Joan worked in Hollywood for 15 years as a screenwriter and producer. She wrote several non-fiction books, including *Women Obsessed*, her memoir, *60, Sex & Tango, Confession of a Beatnik Boomer, I'm the Boss of Me: Stay Sexy, Smart & Strong at Any Age*, and *An Accidental Cuban*, which is presently being developed for a streaming platform.

In February of 2024, Joan's novel, *Once A Homecoming Queen*, was published with stellar reviews for the book and the screenplay adaptation. Her latest book is a historical memoir of her mother, *Suddenly Jewish: The Life and Times of My Jewish Mother*. *Suddenly Jewish* is not just one woman's story — it's also the story of a family torn between tradition and rebellion, and the secrets that shape their lives: Rose, the matriarch, Esther, her rebellious daughter, and Joan, Esther's daughter who learns the secrets of her family on the eve of her wedding. She is presently writing *Up From Hell*, a crime novel set in central Texas. Along with these accomplishments, Joan has two wonderful sons and five grandchildren. She is a world traveler and showcases

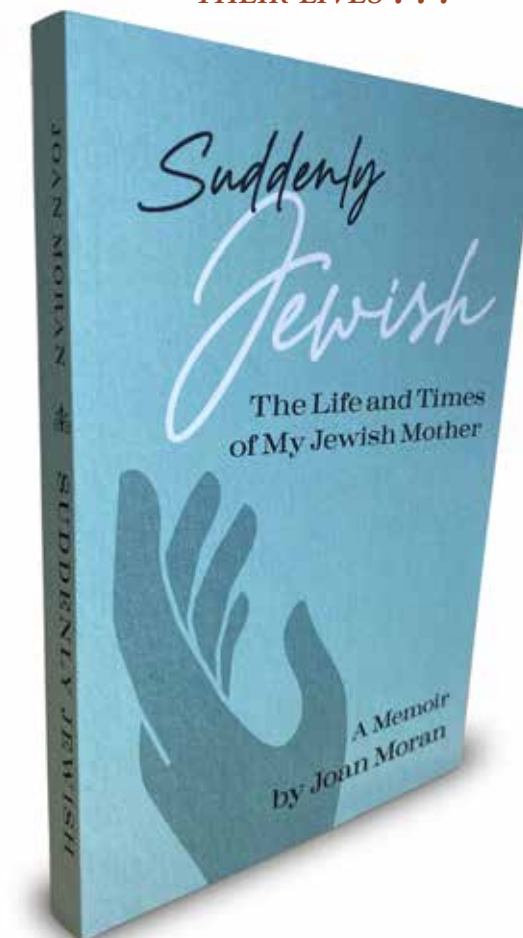
grace wherever she lands.

I am thrilled that Joan is coming to Tulsa on **Tuesday, April 29 at 6 pm** as part of our inaugural Library Series: *First Edition*. Please join me as we welcome Joan and learn about her mother's story of denying her Jewish identity, how Joan learned about her own Jewish identity after being raised a Catholic, and how that revelation affected the development of her life. ■



Joan Moran

“...NOT JUST
ONE WOMAN'S STORY
— IT'S ALSO THE STORY OF
A FAMILY TORN BETWEEN
TRADITION AND REBELLION,
AND
THE SECRETS THAT SHAPE
THEIR LIVES...”



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Love in the Mail

IN HONOR OF THE NEW EXHIBITION BASHERT: THE ART OF JEWISH LOVE

by Debbie Lederman

"LOVE — A FEELING SO SPECIAL IT CONTINUES THROUGH EVEN THE MOST DIFFICULT OF CIRCUMSTANCES. THAT WAS CERTAINLY THE CASE FOR DEBBIE LEDERMAN'S PARENTS HELEN STERN AND SAM KASSEL. BOTH SERVING IN WW2, THEY GOT TO KNOW EACH OTHER AND EVENTUALLY FELL IN LOVE THROUGH A SERIES OF LETTERS BACK AND FORTH IN 1943 AND 1944. WHEN DEBBIE HEARD ABOUT OUR UPCOMING BASHERT EXHIBIT, SHE CONTACTED ME TO SEE ABOUT INCLUDING THEM IN OUR EXHIBIT DEDICATED TO JEWISH LOVE. THOUGH THE LETTERS THEMSELVES WILL NOT BE ON DISPLAY, WE DID TAKE QUOTES FROM THEM THAT WILL ADORN THE WALLS OF OUR MEZZANINE GALLERY.

DEBBIE WROTE THE FOLLOWING PIECE TO SHARE HELEN AND SAM'S TRULY BASHERT STORY."

—SOFIA THORNBLAD, CHIEF CURATOR, SMMJA

Every couple has their own love story. My parent's love story took place as a wartime romance through letters. Both of my parents have passed away so the following is my best recollection of the facts.

My sister, my brother, and I agree on how our parents met. It was summertime, perhaps 1941, at Orchard Beach in the Bronx. Mom was there with her cousin Alma. Dad was there with a friend. According to mom, dad was using a comb and she wanted to use the comb. When dad walked past her blanket she tripped him. Mom was always dramatic.

They appeared to have a friendship for about a year before dad enlisted. His Army start date was September, 1942. In his first letter, dated May 22, 1943, he writes that since being inducted he has been at camps in Virginia, Texas, Louisiana, and California before being stationed in Hawaii. He wrote he had been, "Pretty punk about writing, but I am awfully lonesome and I'm hoping you'll come thru - huh?" The salutation begins Dear Helen and is signed, as ever, Sam. One of the last letters from dad to my mom was dated February 12, 1944. The salutation reads, "My dearest darling sweetheart (that's you Helen, baby)" and is signed, always yours, Sam.

The letters are all from dad. Clearly mom was writing too but dad did not keep her letters. He referenced her letters to him constantly. These letters read like a prequel to the lives my siblings and I experienced with my parents. Mom enlisted in the army as a WAC at the end of October, 1944. There are clearly gaps regarding when the letters begin and why they end on February 26, 1944. It can seem a bit icky to read the words your father used to fall in love with your mother, but truly, very sweet too. Every subsequent letter highlighted dad's devotion and growing love for mom.

Dad was discharged on December 12, 1945, and married mom on the day he was discharged at Camp Chaffee in Arkansas in a civil ceremony. Mom was stationed at Camp Chaffee and typed up dad's discharge papers. Mom was discharged December 25, 1945. At the time, females were not allowed to be in the army if they were married. They had a second wedding on February 2, 1946 at Temple Adeth Israel in the Bronx.

Together they strove, successfully, to create lives and a

family which was better than what they experienced as children. Dad's parents divorced when he was 4. Dad was raised in Jewish foster homes until he was 15 when his parents remarried. Mom lost her father when she was 4 years old. She lived at varying relatives homes and an orphanage until her mother remarried when mom was around 12 years old.

To me, these letters formed the backbone, the foundation of their union. Every now and then mom would take the letters out and we would look at them together. My parents possessed a passionate flame that lasted throughout their 58 years of marriage. They now lie, side by side, at Rose Hill Cemetery here in Tulsa.

Author's note: In looking through these letters and examining my parent's discharge papers, I have come to the realization of how untraditional my parent's courtship was. There were no weekends together, meals shared and movies watched, just a lot of writing. For dad to marry mom on the day he was discharged from the army was truly a leap of faith. I am grateful to have these letters. It makes me truly appreciate the love they shared. ■



Helen Stern and Sam Kassel

FIFTY GOLDEN YEARS MIZEL JEWISH COMMUNITY DAY SCHOOL

by Dr. Sandi Tilkin Ed D and Janet Dundee



THE STORY OF MIZEL JEWISH COMMUNITY DAY SCHOOL BEGINS

WITH A GROUP OF TULSA PARENTS, ARLENE AND DAVID ROSE, JULIE AND ARTHUR COHEN, AND DR. AND MRS. MARTIN GREENBERG, WHO MET WITH OTHER PARENTS INTERESTED IN ORGANIZING A NEW EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM FOR THEIR CHILDREN.

In April 1975, articles of incorporation were signed and filed for a Tulsa Hebrew Day School. Dr. Martin Greenberg, chairman of the Board of Trustees, met with parents and community leaders to discuss a Jewish day school providing high-quality secular education, instilled with academic excellence and founded on Jewish values.

Tulsa philanthropists Joe Borg, Charles Goodall, and Louis Kahan stepped up to provide funding for what became known as Heritage Academy. Rabbi Arthur Kahn opened B'nai Emunah's doors to 18 students and their parents to use the Sanditen Hall and the adjoining small kitchen for the new day school.

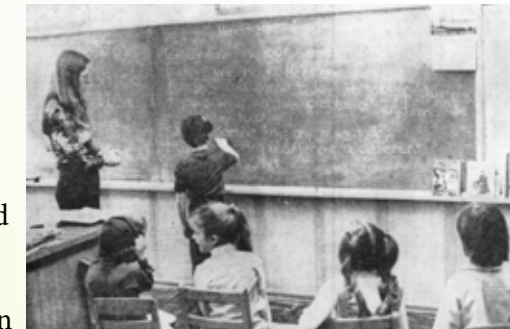
Heritage Academy opened on September 1, 1975 with a mission statement that the school "should be communal, community and non-judgmental". In 1983, as the enrollment grew, the Jewish Federation of Tulsa and the Jewish Community Center welcomed the school on the Zarrow Campus. The larger facility allowed the school to build its resources, adding a library, science lab, art and music rooms, and a gymnasium to attract and retain students.

By 1985, with a strong parent organization and a new director, Jay Weiner, the school had grown to 32 students with a full curriculum in a wing of the JCC building and a graduating class of 5th graders.

In 1992, Irv Frank, a visionary dedicated to building community, suggested the formation of the Heritage Academy Foundation, to ensure the financial



First day of school Sept. 1, 1975



Academy News photo July 1976

HERITAGE ACADEMY OF TULSA, Jewish day school, will expand its educational facilities to include the fifth grade, has tripled its enrollment over the 1975-76 year and has a new principal, Yona Lahav.
Mrs. Lahav will teach Hebrew and Mrs. Anna C. Silverstein is the new head of general studies.

Oct. 1976 new Principal tripled enrollment

with math, science, language arts, history, Hebrew, and Judaic studies encouraged students to explore their talents while maintaining a strong connection to their Jewish roots. Community



Feb. 1979 making Challah, Tulsa World

sustainability of the school. The foundation received an initial gift from Mrs. Sarah Kahan, as well as a large gift from Alex and Marge Singer. Other donors added named gifts to the Heritage Academy Foundation, building a financial safety net for the school.

In 2007, former Tulsa brothers Larry and Steve Mizel honored their parents, Flo and Morris Mizel, by endowing the school with a substantial gift, and the school was renamed the Flo and Morris Mizel Jewish Community Day School.

Mizel JCDS developed a reputation for academic rigor, preparing students for success in high school and beyond.

The well-rounded curriculum

involvement grew as families were encouraged to play an active role at the school, from designing fundraisers to developing new programs.

Over the past 25 years, Mizel JCDS embraced opportunities

brought about by technology. Digital tools were integrated into the classrooms, allowing students to begin learning in new and exciting ways. Interactive Boards, computers, and online resources are now



2017



One Room Schoolhouse field trip, 2025

integral to the curriculum.

The school placed a renewed emphasis on diversity and inclusion. Fostering an enrollment of students from various Jewish backgrounds, as well as students from other faiths, has built strong ties with the broader Tulsa community. Jewish and other faith students, sharing a classroom, allowed creative learning, mutual respect, and collaborative exchange of ideas. Leadership working closely with other Jewish organizations and local leaders allowed students to be further connected with Jewish culture and religious heritage.

Mizel's current Director, Amanda Anderson says, "Becoming director gave me an incredible opportunity to nurture and grow a school that plays a pivotal role in our Jewish community. Mizel's mission to inspire a love for Jewish values and education resonated deeply with me. I have been able to accomplish student growth, school accreditation, updating classroom technology tools, and more."

Anderson added, "Curriculum development has included programs such as STEAM, yoga, culinary arts, and project-based learning. The newest addition is our childcare program for children ages 18 months and older. We are collaborating with the Charles Schusterman Jewish Community Center on this childcare program. Participants then have the opportunity to enroll in our highly sought after pre-K program beginning at age three."

Sabrina Darby, a Heritage Academy graduate (1985-1991) offered, "The teachers were attentive and kind.

The environment encouraged learning and made me feel safe. When I graduated and attended middle school, my time at Heritage had given me, as a Jewish child, the tools to deal with friends who celebrated other religions. As for principles of social justice, the Heritage curriculum, rooted in Jewish values, instilled in me a desire to make the world a better place. As an adult, I have found that meeting others where they are and understanding how they wish to be treated is rooted in the lessons I learned at Heritage Academy."

Sarah Rothman, a former Heritage student and parent of two current Mizel students stated, "My children have the freedom to explore their interests and enjoy being able to get important questions answered at school."

As a non-Jewish parent of two Mizel students, Rachel Budavich accepted the opportunity to serve as Mizel JCDS Board President. "My daughters have attended Mizel for the last three years. The school welcomed us with open arms and the community has become like family. Through learning the beautiful traditions and teachings of Judaism, my girls developed a strong sense of gratitude, respect for their classmates, caring for the earth, and a growth mindset that helps them face challenges with resilience."

Richard Borg, long-time Mizel supporter and President of Heritage Academy Foundation, shared, "Continuing the tradition of my uncle Joe Borg, one of the three philanthropists who helped found the school, I have been a strong supporter for over 30 years, including president of the school board. I proudly support Mizel

JCDS because the young people we educate today are our future leaders. I want to do everything I can to ensure that the future of Judaism remains bright. I encourage everyone who cares about our future to support Mizel JCDS."

Mizel JCDS continues to partner with other organizations on the Zarrow Campus. Monday mornings the students use the sanctuary exhibit in the Sherwin Miller Museum of Jewish Art for Tefillah services. In addition, the exhibit of student artwork has become an annual project showcased at the Sharna Newman Frank Education Gallery.

Partnering with Zarrow Pointe has been a long-standing tradition at Mizel JCDS. Not only do the students have the opportunity to join residents in a weekly reading program that builds upon their reading skills, the students also become friends with senior residents, learning about aging in a supportive environment as they celebrate a monthly Shabbat service.

Among other school activities have been the family-friendly events like Mitzvah Day, Science Fairs, Holiday celebrations, student-led bake sales, and PTO fundraisers like Trivia Night and Bingo. These events allow for meaningful conversations between parents, school leadership, and teachers.

Throughout the school's history, financial support from such donors as Larry Mizel, Steve Mizel, the Anne and Henry Zarrow Foundation, the Sharna and Irvin Frank Foundation, the Jewish Federation of Tulsa, the Kirschner Family Trust, and many individual donors have provided funds to ensure 50 years of growth and stability of the only Jewish Day School in Oklahoma.

"As a former Heritage Academy teacher and director of the school for eight years, I was proud to initiate new programs, including after-school Spanish lessons, reading buddies between grades, visiting authors, and weekly computer-lab instruction," states Dr. Sandi Tilkin.

(Continued on page 22)

"As an adult, I have found that meeting others where they are and understanding how they wish to be treated is rooted in the lessons I learned at Heritage Academy."

Sabrina Darby, a Heritage Academy graduate



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27th Annual Yom HaShoah:
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LESSONS FROM THE HOLOCAUST:

Protecting Each Other in Perilous Times

Thursday, April 24
7 p.m.
Temple Israel
2004 E. 22nd Place, Tulsa, Okla.



KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Dr. Carol Rittner, RSM

Distinguished Professor of Holocaust & Genocide Studies Emerita and
Dr. Marsha Raticoff Grossman Professor of Holocaust Studies Emerita, Stockton University of New Jersey

ALSO FEATURING

- Yom HaShoah Student Art Contest display
- Candle lighting ceremony
- Mobile library with Holocaust resources available for checkout from Tulsa City-County Library

The commemoration is free and open to the public. Registration is required.
Visit jewishtulsa.org/yomhashoah2025 to register or for more details. ▼



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THE WISDOM OF WE A BRIEF MEDITATION

by Dr. Henry F. Knight

EACH YEAR THE COUNCIL FOR HOLOCAUST EDUCATION SELECTS A GUIDING THEME FOR HOW WE FRAME OUR REMEMBRANCE OF YOM HASHOAH, HOLOCAUST REMEMBRANCE DAY. THE THEME GUIDES EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES THAT THE COUNCIL COORDINATES WITH AREA SCHOOLS AND CIVIC GROUPS. AND IT PROVIDES FOCUS FOR OUR COMMUNITY GATHERING AS WE REMEMBER WHAT HAPPENED UNDER HITLER'S HAND AND TO FOCUS OUR SHARED RESPONSIBILITIES IN THE TIME AT HAND. THIS YEAR'S THEME, *LESSONS FROM THE HOLOCAUST: PROTECTING EACH OTHER IN PERILOUS TIME*, FOCUSES OUR ATTENTION ON OUR RESPONSIBILITIES IN THE PRESENT, ASKING OUR COMMUNITY OF FRIENDS AND NEIGHBORS TO REMEMBER WHAT HAPPENED THEN SO THAT WE CAN BE ATTENTIVE TO HOW WE LIVE AND RELATE TO OTHERS NOW.

We live in contentious times with often perilous consequences for our actions. How can we best prepare? While we cannot know the future—personal, political, or otherwise—we can know the present, most particularly how we are present to ourselves and to others. In this regard, Elie Wiesel, of blessed memory, emphasized the art of asking, *Where are you?* with the wisdom of knowing that the best responses were probing articulations of what it means to declare *Here I am*, and equally important, declaring our presence with others, in community. Why might this be important to remember, especially now?

We must learn to recognize scapegoating when and as it happens. At its simplest, scapegoating is the personal deflection of responsibility by pointing a finger at others. Many of us will recognize this dynamic from childhood when we blamed someone else—a brother, a sister, a friend, or some *other* in our lives—for something we did or did not do. If we were fortunate, we had understanding parents, teachers, coaches, or friends who helped us learn to how to accept responsibility for our missteps in our journeys toward maturity. Even so, most of us will have painful memories of being blamed or of blaming someone else, memories that feed our replication of this dynamic.

We can tap these memories for wisdom, at least a small dose of it, as we recognize ways in which the blame game of scapegoating unfolds in our social discourse and in our popular media. The discomfort of self-examination that acknowledges shared responsibility is displaced by pointing a finger at someone else. We know how this works.

These dynamics are present in our simplest relationships.

They are also present in the larger social networks in which we live, complicating, even infecting, the social ethos we inhabit with others. As uncomfortable as it may be, we need to recognize this dynamic when and as it happens. And we can do so best when we approach our own worlds welcoming others and building a sense of *we* as we do. Even better, when we are welcomed by others, we can build together.

In this way our formation of community can be intimately encountered and claimed without placing us in negative competition with one another. However, when we shape our lives with a dichotomous *us* versus *them* way of seeing others, the resulting world is often defensive and restrictive, even divisive.

These dynamics are important aspects of how we *see* the world, how we *see* ourselves and others. They can place us against others, us versus them, or in relation with others as we. In many ways the way forward is shaped by the language we use to frame how we see ourselves and the situations we face. And *we* can all do our part in this regard.

We can refuse to point fingers by accepting responsibility for our part of the problem using the language of *we* and *I* to articulate our place in the landscape, our role, and contributions to the problems. This may sound simplistic. But perhaps not. The paths of *we* and *I* can be paths of responsible solidarity as much as a way of confessional responsibility. It is a way of listening and reading the world as shared. When we begin with *we*, we can change the world we inhabit with others by interrupting the dynamics that isolate and blame. But only if and when we build our sense of *we* knowing what's at stake. ■

SMILE AND SAY CHEESE®

by Phil Goldfarb

Edwin Herbert Land was born on May 7, 1909, to Jewish parents in Bridgeport, Connecticut, Matie (née Goldfaden) (1883-1949) and Harry Manuel Land, (1879-1965) a scrap metal dealer. The family's original name was Salomonovitch. Land's grandparents Avraham and Ella Solomonovich lived in a village near Kiev, Ukraine before escaping pogroms in 1883, their flight aided by Jewish philanthropist Baron Maurice de Hirsch. Growing up, Land was known to take apart household appliances, such as a mantel clock and the family's gramophone, as well as blowing all the house's fuses when he was six years old.

Land attended the Norwich Free Academy at Norwich, Connecticut, and graduated in 1927 with honors. The library there was posthumously named for him, having been funded by grants from his family.

He studied physics at Harvard College, more specifically, optics, but left after his freshman year, moving to New York City. There he invented the first inexpensive filters capable of polarizing light, which he called Polaroid film. He was not associated with an educational institution so he would sneak into a laboratory at Columbia University late at night to use their equipment. He also used the New York Public Library to search the scientific literature for prior work on polarizing substances.

He had his "eureka" moment when he realized that instead of working to grow a large-scale crystal made of a polarizing substance, it was easier to make a film that contained millions of micron-sized crystals instead. These crystals could then be coaxed to align with each other.

In 1929 he married Helen Maislen (1906-2004), the daughter of Jewish immigrants and they had two daughters, Jennifer (b.1940) and Valerie (b.1943).

After he developed polarizing film, he returned to Harvard but didn't quite finish his studies or get his degree. The issue was that as soon as he found a certain solution to a problem, he lost all interest in writing down his findings or finding a way to prove his vision to other parties concerned. His instructor resorted to asking his wife to retrieve her husband's answers for his homework problems. She would then take it upon herself to write the answers down so he could submit it and receive credit.

In 1932, he established the Land-Wheelwright Laboratories together with his Harvard physics professor, George Wheelwright III who agreed to provide the funds for Land's work to commercialize his polarizing technology. The company was renamed the Polaroid Corporation in 1937.



Edwin Land with camera

Land further developed and produced the sheet polarizers. Although the initial major application was for polarized sunglasses and scientific work, it quickly found many additional applications: for color animation in the Wurlitzer jukebox of 1942, for glasses in full-color stereoscopic (3-D) movies, to control the brightness of light through a window, a necessary component of all LCDs, and more.

During World War II, Land focused his attention on military technology. This included developing night vision goggles, target finders, the first passively guided smart bombs, and a special stereoscopic viewing system called the Vectograph, which revealed camouflaged enemy positions in aerial photography.

While on vacation in Santa Fe, N.M. with his three-year-old daughter, Jennifer, he took a picture of her. After she asked why she could not see the picture her father took, within an hour he already had the idea for an instant film camera. Research for this idea began immediately.

A little more than three years later, on February 21, 1947, Land demonstrated an instant camera and associated film to the Optical Society of America. The Polaroid Automatic Land Camera Model 100 was the first in a series of folding rangefinder cameras that also introduced the new 100-series instant pack film. Polaroid originally manufactured 60 units of this first camera and 57 were put up for sale at the Jordan Marsh department store in Boston before the 1948 Christmas holiday. All 57 cameras and the film were sold out on the first day. Polaroid produced the camera for over 40 years and a color version of the instant Polaroid film was made in 1963.

During his time at Polaroid, Land was notorious for his marathon research sessions. When Land conceived

(Continued from p. 21)

of an idea, he would experiment and brainstorm until the problem was solved with no breaks of any kind. He needed to have food brought to him along with a reminder to eat. He once wore the same clothes for 18 straight days while solving problems with the commercial production of polarizing film. As the Polaroid company grew, Land had teams of assistants working in shifts at his side. As one team wore out, the next team was brought in to continue the work.

In the early years of the Cold War, Land played a major role in the development of photographic reconnaissance and intelligence gathering efforts. Projects included balloon borne cameras, the Lockheed U-2 spy plane program, Corona and Samos photographic satellites, and the Manned Orbiting Laboratory.

In 1957, Harvard University awarded him an honorary doctorate degree, and Edwin H. Land Blvd., a street in Cambridge, Massachusetts, was later named in his memory. Despite holding no formal degree, employees, friends, and the press respected his scientific accomplishments by calling him Dr. Land.

In the early 1970s, starting with the previously known phenomenon of color constancy, Land developed a new Retinex Theory of color vision. He considered his leadership towards the development of integral instant color photography, the SX-70 film and camera, to be his crowning achievement.

Land often made technical and management decisions based on what he felt was right as both a scientist, a humanist, and a proponent of social justice. From the beginning of his professional career, he gave priority to hiring women and African Americans in his labs, at a time when it was highly unpopular.

Despite the tremendous success of his instant cameras, Land's Polavision instant movie system was a financial disaster and he resigned as chairman of Polaroid on July 27, 1982. When he retired, he had 535 patents to his name, surpassed only by Thomas Edison and Elihu Thomson. He won a long list of awards including the Medal of Freedom and was inducted into the National Inventors Hall of Fame.

Land died on March 1, 1991, in Cambridge, Massachusetts, and is buried in Mount Auburn Cemetery in Cambridge. ■

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



(Continued from p. 17)

“The curriculum and practices have grown stronger and more innovative. I am proud of how Mizel has become a forward-thinking educational institution for children in their early years, ensuring they enter middle school with confidence and self-awareness, allowing them to achieve their greatest potential,” continues Dr. Tilkin.

As the only Jewish Day School in Oklahoma, Tulsa can be very proud of the efforts shown by the school's founders and the current staff, teachers, and board

“... Mizel has become a forward-thinking educational institution for children in their early years, ensuring they enter middle school with confidence and self-awareness, allowing them to achieve their greatest potential.”

members, ensuring students grow up confident in their identity and knowing Jewish history while preparing them to be global citizens.

2025 Mizel JCDS celebrates 50 years of educational excellence! The Tulsa community is invited to celebrate this golden milestone on **Sunday, May 4**, at the Marriott Hotel Southern Hills with a Gala event: **Mizel Solid Gold**. Watch for your invitation in the mail or contact www.MizelSchool.org for more information.

The future looks bright as the enrollment of 61 students + 10 of our newest students in our early childhood program, continues to increase. Students, both Jewish and non-Jewish, learn about Jewish life, religion, and culture, and they can proudly share what they know with family and friends. Jewish literacy is ingrained in tomorrow's leaders. Mazel Tov Mizel Jewish Community Day School on 50 years of academic excellence! ■



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CONFERENCE LOCATIONS

LAWTON

Monday, June 9, 2025
Cameron University
2800 W. Gore Boulevard Lawton, OK
9:00 am to 4:00 pm

TULSA

Monday, June 16, 2025
Wilson Teaching and Learning Academy
2710 E. 11th St. Tulsa, OK
9:00 am to 4:00 pm

NORMAN

Monday, July 21, 2025
Thurman J. White Forum
1704 Asp Avenue Norman, Ok
9:00 am to 4:00 pm

ENID

Monday, July 28, 2025
Autry Technology Center
1201 W. Willow, Enid, OK
9:00 am to 4:00 pm



**Passover Makers Workshop
Tuesday, April 1 | 7:00 p.m.**

Join us for this quarterly workshop to create your own ritual object related to Passover. Secure your spot today by registering at tulsagogue.com/events and let the magic of our holiday traditions come to life in your own hands!

**Lifelong Learners at Zarrow Pointe
Wednesday, April 2 | 11:30 a.m.**

Seniors from all over the community are invited to join Rabbi Kaiman for a learning session and lunch provided by Zarrow Pointe, starting at 11:30 a.m. Reserve your spot by contacting the Synagogue at 918-583-7121 or registering at www.tulsagogue.com/events. Please check-in at Zarrow Pointe Town Center and you will be directed to the Dining Hall for the learning seminar.

**Shabbat Shalom: Musical Circle, Dinner and Shabbat Talks
Friday, April 4 | 5:30 p.m.**

Experience a musical Shabbat evening with songs and storytelling starting at 5:30 p.m. This inclusive and accessible event is an ideal introduction to Shabbat traditions, welcoming participants of all ages and backgrounds. Following services, we'll enjoy a beautiful Shabbat dinner together starting at 6:15 p.m. The evening will conclude with a special Shabbat Talks speaker

at 7:00 p.m. to discuss a relevant topic of interest to our community. Reserve your spot at the Shabbat table by registering at tulsagogue.com/events.

**Booksmart: Secrets of Adulthood, Simple Truths for Our Complex Lives with Gretchen Rubin
Sunday, April 6 | 7:00 p.m.**

Gretchen Rubin is one of today's most influential observers of happiness and human nature. She's the author of many books, including the blockbuster New York Times bestsellers *The Happiness Project*, *The Four Tendencies*, *Better Than Before*, and *Life in Five Senses*. Her books have sold more than 3.5 million copies worldwide, in more than thirty languages. She hosts the top-ranking, award-winning podcast *Happier with Gretchen Rubin*, where she explores practical solutions for living a happier life. *Secrets of Adulthood* distills Gretchen Rubin's key insights into simple truths for living with greater satisfaction, clarity, and happiness. For more information and to purchase tickets, please visit magiccitybooks.com/events.

**Blatt + Blue
Thursday, April 10 | 7:00 p.m.**

Visit 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.

**Passover Yom Tov Morning Services
April 13, 14, 19 and 20 | 9:30 a.m.**

Our tradition speaks of the extraordinary power that exists when a group of people gathers for prayer. On holidays we gather in a traditional form that mirrors our Shabbat observances. These services will include Torah readings tied to the season, messages associated with the Holiday and Passover friendly sweet-treats at the conclusion. A Yizkor

(Memorial) service will be added to our observance at 11:00 a.m. on April 20. As always, all services are available for hybrid participation on Zoom.

**Passover Second Seder
Sunday, April 13 | 6:00 p.m.**

Join Synagogue members, friends, and newcomers to Tulsa for a joyful celebration of the most important event in Jewish history. The seder will feature singing, storytelling, and moving music from the Synagogue's Klay Kodesh musical ensemble. In-person reservations are limited. To register, please call the Synagogue at (918) 583-7121, or register on our website at www.tulsagogue.com. The Passover Sedar will begin at 6:00 conclude at 9:00 p.m.

**Bibi Dibi
Friday, April 18 | 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 tulsagogue.com/events.

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. ■

**SADDLE UP FOR A NIGHT OF FUN
AT THE SYNAGOGUE'S ANNUAL HOLY HOEDOWN FUNDRAISER!**

by Rabbi Dan Kaiman

Dust off your cowboy boots and grab your Stetsons! The Synagogue is thrilled to announce the return of its annual fundraiser, **Holy Hoedown**, set for Thursday, May 22. This high-energy evening will bring together community from all walks of life—our preschool families, supporters of our refugee resettlement work, and participants in our many programs—to celebrate and support the vital work of The Synagogue.

This **boot-scootin' event** will feature live music by **Jacob Tovar and his All-Star Band**, lively **two-step dance lessons**, and a **delicious fried chicken feast**. Families and friends will enjoy an evening filled with entertainment, kids programming, and a silent auction, all while honoring the incredible lay leadership that keeps our community thriving.

Co-chaired by **Carly Finer and Brae Riley**, Holy Hoedown is The Synagogue's **only annual fundraising event**, making its success essential to our mission. **Sponsorships start at \$250**, which includes admission for **two adults and two children (under 13)**. Your generosity directly supports **every aspect of our work**, from education to social action initiatives and beyond.

So grab your **Western chic** and get ready for an **unforgettable night of music, dancing, and giving back**. **Tickets and sponsorship details** are available at tulsagogue.com/hoedown.

Let's make this year's Holy Hoedown a night to remember—see y'all there! ■



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Donate today at MagenDavidAdom.org or call 866.632.2763.



Israel's Emergency Services System



Visit our Temple Israel website www.templetulsa.com and our events page for details about all we offer!

Repairing Our People: Israel and the Crisis of Liberal Judaism on Zoom • Thurs., Apr. 3, 10, & 17 • 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.

Shabbat Service with Torah in person, on Zoom & Facebook Live • Fri., Apr. 4 • 6:00 p.m.

Join us as we welcome in Shabbat with the chanting of Torah. Come at 5:30 p.m. for our joyous pre-oney.

Brotherhood Shabbat • Fri., Apr. 11 • 7:30 p.m.

Join Temple Israel Brotherhood for their annual Brotherhood Shabbat service where they will honor David Gantner as the 2025 Isaiah Award Recipient.

Second Night Congregational Passover Seder • Sun., Apr. 13 • 6:00 p.m.

Temple Israel celebrates Passover with a second night seder. Join us as we tell the story of our Exodus out of Egypt. Our meal will be catered this year by Fountains.

Please stay tuned for more information about this event.

Social Justice Shared Legacies • Thurs., Apr. 17 • 6:00 p.m.

TI's Social Justice Committee will be screening the film *Shared Legacies* during Pesach, followed by a discussion. The film explores the cooperation between the Black community and Jews during the civil rights movement, a theme that aligns with the liberation story of Pesach. This will be an interfaith event.

Passover Yizkor Service & Luncheon • Sat., Apr. 19 • 10:30 a.m.

Join the Temple Israel clergy as we honor our loved ones during Yizkor. Stay for a complimentary luncheon.

27th Annual Yom HaShoah Community Event at TI • Thurs., Apr. 24 • 7:00 p.m.

Lessons from the Holocaust: Protecting Each Other in Perilous Times.

Anniversary Shabbat Service with Torah in person, on Zoom & Facebook Live • Fri., Apr. 25 • 6:00 p.m.

Join us as we welcome in Shabbat with the chanting of Torah. We will also celebrate significant April anniversaries. Come at 5:30 p.m. for our joyous pre-oney.

Zarrow Pointe Shabbat Service • Fri., Apr. 25 • 6:30 p.m.

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

Brotherhood ARZA Breakfast • Sun., Apr. 27 • 9:30 a.m.

Brotherhood Breakfast begins at 9:30 a.m. with the presentation starting at 10:00 a.m. Our ARZA guest speaker will describe how the World Zionist Congress influences life in Israel. ■

לְמַנּוֹת יְמֵינוּ, כִּן הַיּוֹדֵעַ; וְנִבְא, לְבַב חָכְמָה.

TEACH US TO COUNT OUR DAYS THAT WE MAY OBTAIN A WISE HEART.

PSALM 20:12

by Rabbi Michael Weinstein

The cycle of the calendar takes us on a spiritual journey. One which causes us to repeatedly challenge our intention, reflect in our souls, and grow in our integrity. The first half of the year is filled with repentance, remorse, self-reflection, and introspection. With the winter months, we seek light and renewal. Spring brings a sense of yearning, healing, and growth, as we celebrate our redemption from slavery with Pesach. Freedom renewed, we count the 49 days of the Omer; we recount the journey in the Wilderness to our Revelation at Sinai.

This is where we find ourselves in this April of 2025. This month we celebrate our Redemption. How are you redeemed in your own life? What might you be thankful for? How are you effectively changing your life to reflect the freedoms we each take for granted? Soon, we will begin the celebration of Passover. As you turn your kitchens over, and sweep out the *Chametz*, may you find comfort in slowing your world down, looking for that which brings you joy in your life.

Similarly, here at Temple Israel, we are filled with gratitude. As we prepare for our own spiritual redemption, we are sweeping out our home after 70 years. We will soon move to a very exciting time of transition, as we move from our home to our temporary spaces in the Wilderness, growing and learning what our future will bring.

During this time, as we prepare for the Promised Land

of our new building, our “portable *Tent of Meeting*” will find its home on the Zarrow Campus. We are eternally grateful for the hospitality and support that Jewish Tulsa and Executive Director Joe Roberts has extended our Temple Family. Much of our worship and programs will be housed in the walls of the Federation. Thank you to Mizel Day School Director Amanda Anderson for welcoming our Shorashim students to use the Day School classrooms for our religious school classes. Furthermore, thank you to Jim Jakobovitz and Zarrow Pointe for providing temporary office space for us adjacent to the Campus. It really is very heartwarming to know that Temple Israel is so deeply valued by our Tulsa Jewish community.

We invite you to join us in our building at Temple Israel on Sunday, April 13th, as we welcome the Pesach and celebrate our *Maggid*, story, once again as a congregational family with our Second Night Seder. We begin to count the Omer, as we *count our days, and make our days count*. Be certain to make your reservations early, as we have limited seating!

As we celebrate the Pesach, we recall those who are no longer with us. We remember in memoriam as we honor our *Yizkor*. Join us on Saturday morning April 19th, the seventh day of Passover, at 10:30a.

So much for which to be thankful, so many ways to remember. As we make our days count, may this season bring us a heart of wisdom. ■

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חג פסח שמח

Happy Passover

from our family to yours.

Chag Sameach!

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Board of Directors and Staff