

# TULSA *Jewish Review*

Sivan/Tamuz 5784  
July 2024





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Israel Emissary Shahaf Feinkuchen with Camp Shalom staff volunteers



Itzik Levin, IDF soldiers Lt. Ofek and Master Sgt. Noam, Cantor Laurie Weinstein

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Master Sgt. Noam and friend



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Front Cover



TPD Lieutenant Kyle Murray with  
Camp Shalom kids

## 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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## THE STAFF SCOOP

### L'Dor V'Dor

by Wendy Thomas, Interim Executive Director

One of the first meetings that I had the opportunity to attend as Interim Executive Director was a meeting of our JFT Foundation. I was immediately struck by the incredible foresight and generosity that went into establishing the numerous donor advised and endowment funds to support our organization, its programs, and other Jewish institutions and causes. The list of names is impressive, now honored in perpetuity, for their generosity and love of our community that transcends life itself.

Planned and legacy giving, the act of leaving a portion of one's estate or assets to charitable causes, holds profound significance in the Jewish tradition. Rooted in the values of *tzedakah* (charitable giving) and *tikkun olam* (repairing the world), these forms of giving transcend mere financial transactions, embodying a spiritual and ethical commitment to future generations.

By designating funds for charitable causes in one's will or through estate planning, individuals can continue to support initiatives that promote social justice, education, and community development long after they are gone. This ongoing support helps create a lasting impact, fostering a world that reflects the values of compassion, equity, and responsibility. Many individuals have retirement funds or life insurance that can also be used as legacy giving vehicles.

Jewish tradition places a strong emphasis on the continuity of values across generations. Planned giving offers a way for individuals to model charitable behavior for their descendants. When parents and grandparents include charitable bequests in their wills, they not only provide financial support to important causes, but also pass down a legacy of philanthropy and ethical living. This multigenerational commitment ensures that the values cherished by the Jewish community are preserved and propagated.

For many, the process of planned giving is deeply personal, offering an opportunity to reflect on one's values and priorities. It allows individuals to make thoughtful decisions about how they wish to be remembered and what causes they want to support. This introspective journey often leads to a profound sense of fulfillment, knowing that their contributions will have a lasting positive impact.

The Jewish Federation of Tulsa is proud to launch a new **Legacy Society, L'Dor V'Dor**, to allow us to identify and recognize these gifts of love during an individual's lifetime.

If you have already included the Jewish Federation of Tulsa Foundation in your estate plans or would like to learn more, please contact Isabella Silberg, isilberg@jewishtulsa.org, 918-495-1100.

*Wendy Thomas*



Wendy Thomas

*"The Jewish Federation of  
Tulsa is proud to launch a new  
Legacy Society, L'Dor V'Dor..."*





# UPCOMING EVENTS



## JMoms Movement | Tuesday, July 9 | 6:30 pm | HOTWORX

Come sweat it out with the JMoms at HOTWORX! You can pick your choice of 45-minute hot ISO, hot yoga, hot pilates, hot stretch, hot core, or 15-minute cardio workouts – hot thunder (rowing), hot cycle (spin bike), or blast (elliptical + spin bike). We will meet at 6:30 and you'll get the supplies you need for your class. Limited space in each sauna so please RSVP with your preferred class ahead of time.

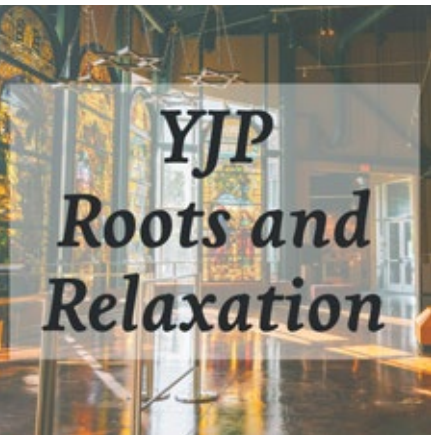
RSVP: [JewishTulsa.org/jmoms-july](https://JewishTulsa.org/jmoms-july)



## PJ Program | Sunday, July 21 | 10:30 am | Sharna and Irvin Frank Aquatics Center

Join our PJ Library families for some fun in the sun! We will have the Sharna and Irvin Frank Aquatics Center to ourselves this morning. Brunch foods, sweet treats, time to free swim, and schmooze with other families raising their children Jewishly.

RSVP: [JewishTulsa.org/pj-july](https://JewishTulsa.org/pj-july)



## YJP Roots and Relaxation: Museum Tour and Pool Day | Sunday, July 21 | 10:30 am | The Sherwin Miller Museum of Jewish Art

Inviting our young Jewish adults to come to The Sherwin Miller Museum of Jewish Art for a special behind the scenes tour with fellow YJP and Chief Curator of the SMMJA, Sofia Thornblad. We will have a brunch spread and time to schmooze before taking a journey through the Museum's current exhibits, Sanditen/Kaiser Holocaust Center, and special collections.

Following the tour, we will have free swim and hangout at the Sharna and Irvin Frank Aquatics Center. It's a morning full of campus involvement! We hope to see you there.

RSVP: [JewishTulsa.org/yjp-july](https://JewishTulsa.org/yjp-july)



# UPCOMING EVENTS



## YJP Pickleball & Popsicles | Monday, July 29 | 5:30 pm | Charles Schusterman Jewish Community Center

Beat the heat of the summer sun with some indoor pickleball and sweet treats with our YJP community! Temple Israel and the Jewish Federation of Tulsa are partnering to bring pickleball and popsicles. We are inviting our community to come learn and play the popular sport of pickleball. All equipment will be provided but you are welcome to bring your own. Please RSVP to let us know you're coming!

RSVP: [JewishTulsa.org/yjp-pickleball](https://JewishTulsa.org/yjp-pickleball)



## SAVE THE DATE~

### YJP Shabbaton | August 16-18 | POSTOAK Lodge & Retreat

Our YJP Shabbaton is for young adults ages 20s - 40s. Our weekend consists of activities and programs of reflection, conversation, and connection amongst our YJP community. The program will take place at a hotel-style lodge with choice of overnight or commuter attendance. Your reservation covers lodging (if selected), meals, and all activities. Overnight: \$180; Commuter: \$72

RSVP: [JewishTulsa.org/yjp-shabbaton](https://JewishTulsa.org/yjp-shabbaton)



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

Please contact Isabella Silberg,  
918.495.1100 or  
[isilberg@jewishtulsa.org](mailto:isilberg@jewishtulsa.org)  
to learn more.



# BE A GEM (GIVING EVERY MONTH)

by Isabella Silberg, Director of Development and Programming

A special acknowledgment goes to our GEMs (Giving Every Month) donors, whose consistent contributions have been the cornerstone of our sustained success. These dedicated individuals not only contribute financially but also show their investment in the work of the Jewish Federation of Tulsa. Giving every month is a commitment that goes beyond a one-time donation; it is a pledge to support us consistently, enabling us to plan and implement impactful initiatives throughout the year.

We recognize that giving every month is a practical and manageable way to support causes that matter to you. Just like the various subscriptions that fill your daily lives, being a GEM donor is a simple and effective way to contribute to the betterment of our community. Your sustained support allows us to focus on our mission without the burden of financial uncertainty, ensuring that our programs and resources continue to thrive. An annual campaign gift of at least \$18 shows your commitment to the Jewish community, a gift of \$18/month is even better.

Join me and become a GEM today! Visit: [JewishTulsa.org/](http://JewishTulsa.org/) donate and click on the Monthly tab to join our GEMs or give me a call at 918.495.1100. ■



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# SOLDIERS IN UNIFORM

by Shahaf Feinkuchen, Israel Emissary



If you attended our Israeli Yoms events in May, I am sure you noticed our two Israeli guests in IDF Uniforms, Master Sgt. Noam and Lt. Ofek. They were hard to miss as they moved around from one event to the other, sharing their stories on-stage, and talking individually with guests. We arranged a busy week for them and they did a great job bringing Israel to Tulsa through their personal experience and lives.

Noam and Ofek were able to join us as part of The Jewish Agency's program, Soldiers in Uniform. In an announcement about the project, The Jewish Agency noted: "In a special initiative as part of its mission to deepen the increasingly crucial partnership between Israel and world Jewry, The Jewish Agency for Israel organized a group of 90 IDF soldiers who have fought on the southern and northern fronts to participate in Israeli Memorial Day (Yom HaZikaron) and Independence Day (Yom HaAtzmaut) ceremonies across the globe. "Especially now, with the rising tide of antisemitism worldwide and the wave of hatred on college campuses, it is important to share the story of young Israelis who have been at the forefront of defending the world's only Jewish state since Oct. 7," Jewish Agency chairman Maj. Gen. (res.) Doron Almog said. "We sent these brave women and men off to embrace our brothers and sisters overseas, and to bring the story of Israel's heroism to their communities."

Like many other exchange opportunities, the impact and importance of this program go both ways. Not only did the Tulsa Jewish community learn and hear about the soldiers' lives, but our guests had an opportunity to learn and feel the strength, support, and special character of the Tulsa community. "It was a life-changing experience for me," said Noam. "At first when my commanders told me I was going on this mission I didn't want to go. I thought I should stay with my unit and not miss even a week. Now that this experience is over I can say that I saw and felt the importance of coming here and sharing my story. The amount of support was surprising, I didn't expect to meet a vibrant Jewish community so involved with Israel abroad. I learned a lot about Jewish life outside of Israel, and I'm very thankful for the opportunity."

The soldiers' presence added a special depth to the Israel Yoms events, and it was very appropriate to the atmosphere that the IEC wished to create this year. The Israel Engagement Committee (IEC) works year-round to ensure the special bond between the Tulsa Jewish community and Israel stays strong and lively. I would like to say thank you one more time for all the volunteers and community partners, it wouldn't be the same without you. Stay tuned for our next Israeli programs and of course, I look forward to seeing you at the Yoms next year!

IDF guest soldiers, Lt. Ofek and Master Sgt. Noam





## UPCOMING EVENTS

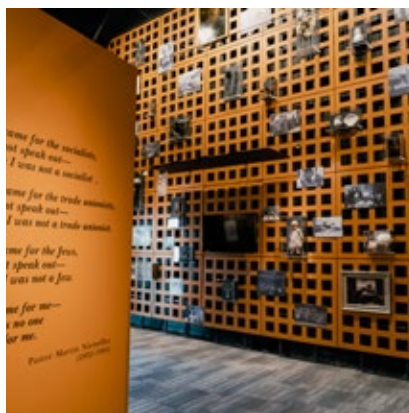
**Fitness Challenge: Consistency is Key**

Consistency is key to creating a habit. This July, start being consistent with your health and wellness. When we discover consistency, we discover momentum. Momentum builds and keeps us on track for our goals. Pick up a Consistency Calendar from the fitness desk and keep yourself accountable all month by creating your own goals. Stay consistent, build momentum, and create good habits that keep you strong, healthy, and feeling happy!

**Tzedek Day of Service | Meals on Wheels Volunteer | Wednesday, July 10 | 10:30 am- 12:30 pm**

Let's go check out the new location of Meals on Wheels! We will start out with a building tour that will give us a glimpse into their meal delivery system then we will get to work. We will volunteer until 12:30 pm. We will be stuffing envelopes and assisting with clerical work in their office.

RSVP: [csjcc.org/tzedek](https://csjcc.org/tzedek)

**Social: SMMJA Tour | Tuesday, July 16 | 10:15 am**

Do you drive by our beautiful Sherwin Miller Museum of Jewish Art every time you come to workout, and think to yourself I really should visit the museum? We have planned a docent-led tour with your fellow CSJCC members for this month. Please RSVP as we only have 20 spots available. Feel free to invite a friend that is not a CSJCC member, all are welcome.

RSVP: [csjcc.org/smmja-tour](https://csjcc.org/smmja-tour)

**Dive In Movie: Trolls Band Together | Saturday, July 20 | 7:00 pm | Sharna & Irvin Frank Aquatics Center**

Join us for our family-fun, monthly Dive In Movie Night! The movie and glow party begin at dusk. Our featured film is the animated adventure/comedy *Trolls Band Together*. The Nosh Nook will be open for drinks and snacks. Free snow cones provided! FREE for JCC members; \$10/family non-members

RSVP: [csjcc.org/july-pool](https://csjcc.org/july-pool)



## UPCOMING EVENTS

**Wellness Series: Financial Scams presented by ArchWell Health | Thursday, July 25 | 10:15 am | Dan Room**

ArchWell Health is a new neighbor to our community and we have invited them out to tell us more about themselves. ArchWell Health is located on the corner of 61st and Lewis. This is a one stop healthcare provider for older adults and we are excited to partner with them on important health topics. Please join us as the ArchWell Social Worker presents on the do's and don'ts of financial scams and how to spot a scam before you get caught in one. Light refreshment provided.

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

**FEATURED CLASSES:****– Open Basketball –**

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

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



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



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

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



**Thursday, July 4 – Independence Day**

**CSJCC**

Fitness Center OPEN 12 pm — 5 pm

Pool OPEN 12 — 8 pm

**JFT AND SMMJA**

CLOSED



## WHAT MAKES CAMP SHALOM A SAFE PLACE?

by Sandy Sloan, Editor, Tulsa Jewish Review

Parents turn to summer camps to keep their kids busy and engaged from June to August. How can parents ensure summer camp safety, especially for young children attending camp for the first time? Summer safety at camp is more than proper pool use and applying sunscreen. Safety includes proper staff training and a secure environment. The latter being more of a concern post-October 7 and the alarming rise of antisemitism.

Jewish community member and former JFT Board President, Lori Frank, has been leading the safety and security on campus for the past 15 years. Her role as chair of the Safe and Secure Committee allows her to volunteer her expertise to ensure our facility meets safety guidelines by establishing organizational safety manuals, safety protocols, drills for all staff (including summer seasonal staff), and overseeing the overall safety of the campus. Lori works closely with Lieutenant Kyle Murray and all the TPD officers on-site ensuring campers, staff, and all visitors

can enter the facility with the confidence that their safety is our top priority.

Martha Kelley, Camp Shalom Director for the past 20 years states, "Nothing is more critical than the safety and well-being of our campers and staff. We ensure our staff are properly trained in safety regulations, emergency procedures and communication, first-aid and CPR, behavior management techniques, child abuse prevention, appropriate staff and camper behavior, and specific procedures for supervision."

Parents can find an additional sense of relief when they arrive on the first day of camp and see a uniformed Tulsa Police Department (TPD) officer and marked car visibly displayed. Lieutenant Kyle Murray has been a part of our security team on the CSJCC campus for nearly two decades. Beginning last summer, one full-time officer was hired every day at Camp Shalom. "You can't believe the positive feedback we receive

from parents when they pull up at camp and see a uniformed officer," says Murray. "In addition, taking extra precautions with an officer on-site, parents have the extra peace of mind that an officer is here to assist in all types of emergencies."

Lieutenant Murray works closely with camp staff on emergency drills including fire, tornado, and lockdown. Drills

*"I GREATLY appreciated that you started each and every email addressing the safety and security of our kids and that you have TPD present during all camp hours. I literally cannot express how much this meant to me. My child's own school system does not communicate that well, and that frankly/openly.*

*THANK YOU!!!"*

*—Camp Shalom parent, 2023*



Campers learning about fire safety



Officer Lauren greeting campers

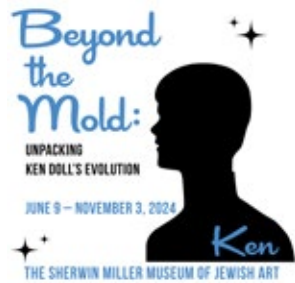
are also taught to the campers when they arrive. "I love interacting with the campers," Murray grins, "myself and my officers are building relationships with the campers. This type of early interaction builds trust with law enforcement, teaching kids that we are here to help."

"Over the years, I've built relationships with families, individuals, staff, and campers. It's such a joy to know I am helping the community enjoy this great facility without having to worry about their, or their children's safety," comments Murray.

Safety is the freedom parents and kids enjoy at Camp Shalom. Sometimes it is a child learning they can try something new without the fear of being judged, sometimes it's having a new friend to talk to, and sometimes it's learning their counselors—mentors—want the best for them. However, safety is defined, rest assured, your child is learning new skills, gaining independence and confidence, nurturing new and old friendships, and screen-free—all in a safe and secure environment at Camp Shalom. ■



## CURRENT EXHIBITIONS

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

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

*Partners include: The Vintage Barbie Museum, the Center for Queer Prairie Studies, and Tulsa Artist Fellowship. Curators: James Houchens, Karl Jones, and The SMMJA Chief Curator, Sofia Thornblad. The organizations collaborated with The SMMJA for the successful *Is Barbie Jewish?* exhibit the summer of 2023.*

**Sidney Sheldon: Master Storyteller  
June 27 - August 23**

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

**Spartan Boys: A Tulsa Jewish Story | Through September 9**

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

HISTORY OF THE SPARTAN BOYS:  
A TULSA JEWISH STORY

by Sofia Thornblad, Chief Curator, Director of Collections and Holocaust Education

This story begins in 1928, the year Oilman William G. Skelly purchased the Spartan Aircraft Company. Spartan had already been around for some time, but it really "took off" under Skelly's leadership. It was also under Skelly's leadership that the Spartan School of Aeronautics was formed.

At this time, Tulsa was considered the oil capital of the world, and the roaring 20s were roaring. Aviation was becoming more popular. It was only natural that within the first year of Skelly owning the Spartan Aircraft Company half a million dollars was spent to create a new plant for building airplanes.

Business expanded as Spartan produced biplanes and monoplanes, and by the late 1930s, their high-end "executive" model could be seen in the skies. Executive Planes came with a new type of engine and custom luxury fabric lining the seats. Their design was inspired by the needs of the Tulsa elite. Although they were much talked about, only 34 planes of the model were ever sold.

Executive Planes were eventually modified to become the Spartan warplanes in WWII. They were first sold to the Navy in 1939 before the US became directly involved in the war. When the United States entered the war after Pearl Harbor in 1941, Spartan went into overdrive, including both the factory and the school. In tandem with the Spartan School of Aeronautics, Spartan continues to produce airplanes before switching their focus to trailers in the 1950s and 60s.

**THE SPARTAN SCHOOL OF AERONAUTICS**

The Spartan School of Aeronautics opened in 1928 with the goal of training pilots and aircraft mechanics. The school offered both flight and mechanical training. By 1929, school buildings were officially up and running, including dormitories. Room rent was \$3.00 a week!

A decade later in 1939, the Spartan School of Aeronautics began training the US Army Air Corps. The school was expanded and upgraded to accommodate the influx of students. This partnership with the US Army continued to bolster Spartan School of Aeronautics' presence as a pilot training center.

After WWII began, the Spartan School of Aeronautics expanded its reach by training British airmen. Training in the United States had its appeal; this would keep the

young men out of danger in Europe, and the weather conditions were better. This training program was so important that new facilities were opened in Miami, Oklahoma to accommodate the British trainees.

In 1942, J. Paul Getty acquired the Spartan School of Aeronautics. At this time, Spartan became internationally known.

Once the United States officially entered WWII, the Spartan School of Aeronautics accelerated their pace; mechanics courses could be completed in 9 months and the two-year engineer course could be completed in 15 months. Most excitingly, all courses were officially open to women in anticipation of the war.



Warbirds in the factory. Courtesy of Spartan School of Aeronautics

In the post-war era, the Spartan School of Aeronautics enrolled more than 10,000 GI Bill students from 1945 to 1950. There were also many international students at this time; including large cohorts from South American countries...and Israel.

**SPARTAN BOYS**

In 1950, a cohort of 40 members of the newly developing Israeli Airforce arrived in Tulsa to attend the Spartan School of Aeronautics. While at Spartan, they would complete a yearlong mechanic program. Eight more eventually joined in a second cohort some months later.

Most selected for this program had very little education, and were chosen based on their scores on exams given by the Israeli government. About half of the original cohort of 40 had been born in Israel, and the other half had survived the Holocaust and ended

(Continued on page 24)



## BRINGING MICKEY MOUSE AND HOLOCAUST MEMORY TO TULSA

by Danny M. Cohen

*On his visit to Tulsa last month, Danny M. Cohen – Holocaust scholar, professor at Northwestern University, and author of the novel TRAIN – delivered the keynote at Tulsa's annual Yom HaShoah commemoration and ran teacher trainings on Holocaust education. He also ran several youth workshops on Holocaust memory.*

From comfy couches in the lounge area of the youth drop-in center, the 15 or so teens are looking at me, somewhat suspiciously, it seems. I'm out of place in my vintage Mickey Mouse t-shirt, blazer, and salt'n'pepper beard.

I introduce myself and my British accent falls out. "I'm from Chicago," I say. "But can you guess my accent?"

"London," one of the teens responds.

"That's right. And I'm excited to share my work with you. Does anyone know what The Holocaust was?"

Six or seven teens answer at once. "Nazis." "Gas chambers, right?" "Concentration camps." "Six million Jews." "It happened, like, 100 years ago." I nod along, impressed with their historical knowledge.

This is a drop-in center in the heart of Tulsa that provides services and a place of sanctuary to young people facing homelessness and housing instability. Sometimes, community leaders share their concerns that young people who are struggling to find housing and hot meals won't be interested in my workshops on what I call hidden Holocaust histories.

I pass out printed handouts of black-and-white photographs. No text. Only images. Of people. Headshots. Family portraits. "What do you notice?" I ask. "What jumps out at you?"

"What's Mickey Mouse doing here?" one of the teens asks.

"And that's a Nazi officer," another teen says. "Look at his uniform."

I explain that we're looking at photographs from the Nazi era. And each photograph reveals a hidden narrative about the Holocaust, especially parts of Holocaust history that we don't usually talk about.

We start to explore each image. Someone points to a studio portrait of a young woman, and the teens start to guess who she was. "A Hollywood actress? A model?" The teens gasp when I reveal that this is Irma Grese, a female Nazi guard known for her brutality who was executed after liberation at age 22. The plot twist of the workshop is now clear. "Nothing is what it seems," one of the teens says.

We talk about a black-and-white photograph of a family – mother, father, two toddlers – building sandcastles

at a beach. When I reveal the father to be Reinhard Heydrich, a high-ranking Nazi officer who oversaw the murder of Jews and Roma across Europe, we talk about the misframing of perpetrators as "monsters" and why we can be so reluctant, perhaps afraid, to see the architects of genocide as complex humans.

Another photograph is the portrait of Richard Grune, a young man who was imprisoned under the Nazis' anti-homosexuality laws. When we talk about Richard's successful escape from a Nazi camp, the teens draw connections between the history of homophobia and the fight for LGBTQ+ rights today.

The photograph of Theresia Siebel, a Sinti woman whom the Nazis forcibly sterilized, leads us to a discussion about eugenics beyond Nazi Germany and the forcible sterilizations throughout the 20th Century of Black, Latina, Indigenous, and disabled people in the United States. And when another photograph of a man in a Nazi uniform is revealed to have been taken at a Nazi rally of some 20,000 Americans at Madison Square Garden in New York City in 1939, the teens' initial surprise and confusion turn into a perceptive acknowledgment that Nazism cannot be separated from the history of White Supremacy.

We reach the black-and-white photograph of Mickey Mouse. Someone dressed as the Disney character is on bended knee, on a pathway of a public park, handing a bouquet of flowers to a woman who smiles shyly at the camera. "Who was this woman?"

The teens take a guess. "Is this a Holocaust survivor?" "After the war, is she visiting Disneyland?"

I share the story behind the photograph. This is Esther Lapp. The photograph was taken around 1935, some six years before the Nazis murdered Esther and her Jewish family and the entire Jewish community of her Lithuanian town. "What does this photograph tell us?" I ask.

"She knew Mickey Mouse," one of the teens says.



Writer and educator Danny M. Cohen

## FIGHTING ANTISEMITISM: ONE CLASSROOM AT A TIME

by Bella Levine

My decision to join the *Student to Student* program was driven by a combination of my personal experiences as a Jewish teen, experiences that other Jewish teens have faced, and my commitment to social justice and standing up for the Jewish community. Growing up in a Jewish family, I have experienced instances of antisemitism and ignorance about Judaism firsthand. These experiences made me want to show everyone how amazing Judaism is by educating others to foster a more inclusive and educated society in Tulsa.

The *Student to Student* program was a unique opportunity to address issues regarding antisemitism by directly engaging with students at other schools, and to create an environment where open, respectful, and constructive conversations can happen. This year in *Student to Student*, I had the opportunity to travel to Jenks High School with two other Jewish teens to give an educational presentation about antisemitism to a diverse group of students. Our *Student to Student* team delivered presentations that covered the fundamentals of Judaism, Jewish culture, Jewish history, and the issues faced by Jewish communities globally.

We set up our talks to be both informative and interactive, encouraging questions and discussions. By sharing personal stories and cultural traditions, we aimed to humanize the Jewish people and eliminate frequently held stereotypes. My favorite part of *Student to Student* was the Q&A sessions after our presentations. The students were genuinely curious and after giving us their attention during our presentation, we gave them a platform to ask any questions they had. The students interacted with us by voicing their thoughts and bravely asking questions that we received without judgment.

It was rewarding to see their perspectives shift as they gained a deeper understanding of Judaism and the realities of antisemitism. One particularly memorable moment was when a student who I used to go to school with approached me after a presentation to thank us for sharing our experiences and said that they felt more connected and empathetic toward the Jewish community as a result. Participating in the *Student to Student* program taught me several valuable lessons. First, I learned the importance of dialogue in breaking down biases. Biases often stem from a lack of knowledge, and by educating others, we can pave the way for inclusivity and unity. Additionally, I developed public speaking and leadership skills, which will be beneficial in many aspects of my future aspirations.

I would recommend the *Student to Student* program to other high school students. It is an incredible opportunity to make an important impact in your community while developing valuable life skills. My advice to prospective participants is to approach the experience with an open mind and a willingness to share your own story. It is important to be authentic and passionate when educating others and creating meaningful connections. Our presentations played a significant role in helping combat antisemitism by providing accurate information and personal experiences that challenge negative stereotypes. By addressing misunderstandings directly and promoting empathy, we helped students see beyond the biases they may have heard or seen elsewhere. This approach promoted a mindset of acceptance and respect for all cultures and religions.

As I prepare to start my next chapter at Tulane University, I will take the lessons and experiences from the *Student to Student* program with me, as they will help me find my voice, and provide a voice for others on my college campus. It's extremely important to stand up for yourself and others for the greater good, even when it is uncomfortable. I know I will continue to get asked questions about my Jewish identity in college and beyond. The skills I developed in public speaking, leadership, and advocacy will undoubtedly be useful in both my academic and extracurricular interests. More importantly, the program has reinforced my commitment to social justice, the importance of education, and standing up for myself and my community which will motivate me to continue working towards a more inclusive and understanding society. ■



Tulsa area teens Xander Loosvelt, Bella Levine, and Conley Bolusky presenting at Jenks High School

*Student to Student* is a program coordinated by Director of Community Relations and Outreach, Chloe Chappell.



# MIZEL JCDS CONTINUES TO GROW— AND MAKE A DIFFERENCE!

by Amanda Anderson, Executive Director, Mizel JCDS

In recent years, Oklahoma has faced a significant crisis in its education system as an increasing number of teachers are leaving the profession. This is largely attributed to low salaries, insufficient funding for schools, and challenging working conditions, which have created an environment of frustration and burnout. This situation has prompted widespread concern among parents, as many schools face instability, a crisis in funding, and an inability to recruit and retain experienced, creative, and committed teachers.

In contrast, Jewish day schools like Mizel Jewish Community Day School are thriving and continuing to grow in student enrollment. We are projecting an increased enrollment for the 2024-2025 academic year. Recognizing the importance of play in providing a holistic environment, Mizel JCDS recently added a professionally designed new playground on our campus.

Mizel JCDS is also a member of Prizmah (Center for Jewish Day Schools) and is accredited by Cognia. While the need for talented educators is not new, today's post-pandemic and post-October 7 climate has made the challenge even more urgent. Veterans of the day school community have observed the professionalization of the field over the last 20+ years, resulting in a growing recognition of the quality that a day school education provides.



Mizel students learning through play



Learning shapes through hands-on activities

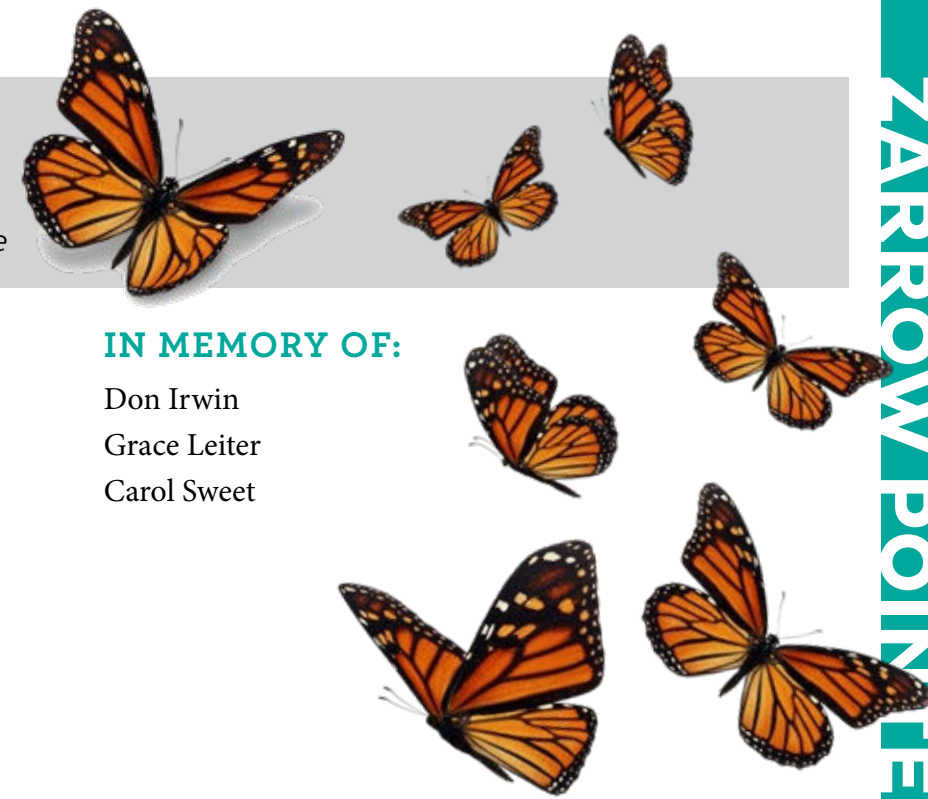
What sets Jewish day schools apart are the role models—teachers and older students—who demonstrate how to be good people, able leaders, ambitious students, and strongly identified Jews. Students learn how Judaism can be a thread that weaves meaning and joy into the tapestry of their lives. At Mizel JCDS, we not only educate the whole child but also collaborate with various institutions.

One of our students' favorite programs is Better Together with Zarrow Pointe residents. Through this program, our students gain knowledge from interacting with a generation they may not often encounter. For children, engaging with older adults can help develop communication skills, empathy, respect, and patience. Older adults, on the other hand, benefit from mental stimulation and the opportunity to stay connected with societal changes and trends through interactions with younger generations. All parties benefit from such a social program.

At Mizel JCDS, we provide all students with a safe place, both physically and emotionally. We are committed to meeting the social and emotional needs of our students and to teaching and modeling Jewish values and ethics. Our school is part of a strong, supportive Jewish community that stands together, learning to be upstanders and having the courage to be proud Jews! ■



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# THE HISTORY OF THE WIMPEL®

by Phil Goldfarb

A wimpel (Yiddish: **וימפל** from German, "cloth," derived from the Old German, bewimfen, meaning "to cover up" or "conceal" is a long strip of fabric used as a binding for the Sefer Torah by Jews of Germanic origin. It is made from the cloth used to swaddle a baby boy at his brit uniting the communal world of the synagogue with the individual's own life cycle. Most know it as the binder which is wrapped around the Torah scroll and holds the scroll together when it is not being used.

the hem of the dress the mother wore at her son's brit milah. Some mothers or grandmothers do the artwork themselves while others retain the services of "wimpel professionals."

This custom is still observed today by most members of the German Jewish community. It is an extremely joyous occasion, and its main purpose is to instill a love and enthusiasm for shul and Judaism within the child.

The wimpel is important from an historical and genealogical

The wimpel has now become a tool to teach children about Jewish lifecycle ceremonies and their families' histories while strengthening intergenerational bonds. The wimpel today wraps the Torah on the occasion of significant Jewish lifecycle events celebrated by females and males alike, including upsherin (a boy's first haircut), consecration or the beginning of a child's formal Jewish education, the bar and bat mitzvah, and the aufruf (prior to a wedding, couples are called to the Torah for an Aliyah) and other important

assimilation of Jews in the Americas and elsewhere in the world, many traditions are disappearing. The custom-made personalized wimpel is one of them. While the customs surrounding the wimpel may still be used in relatively few communities, the 500 year old practice seems to be resurfacing in many others.

Pictured here is the wimpel of Herman George Kaiser (1904-1992) which is on display at the Sherwin Miller



Herman Kaiser's Wimpel: The wimpel was made in 1904 and donated to The Sherwin Miller Museum of Jewish Art in 1971

The wimple is a centuries-old minhag (custom) that began in Bavaria and then spread to other parts of Germany and German-speaking communities. German Jewish immigrants brought the custom to the U.S. and Israel. After the boy's brit milah, a female relative would decorate this cloth with the child's Hebrew name, Hebrew birth date, and Jewish symbols. Initially, the wimpel was brought to the synagogue to bind the Torah on the child's first visit, symbolizing his binding to the Torah as a second covenant after his circumcision.

The first mention of the wimpel custom is in the 1530 book *Der gantze Jüdisch Glaub* (The Whole of Jewish Belief), by the German Hebraist Antonius Margaritha, a son of a German rabbi. The wimpel is an offshoot of a common Jewish practice. In the times of the Tannaim, all Torah scrolls were wrapped only with a cloth, known in Hebrew as a "mappah," or in German, a "wimpel." As with other holy Judaic objects, donating a mappah was considered to be a great mitzvah and honor, and very often a groom would donate one on the eve of his wedding.

At a baby's circumcision, the mohel places a long swatch of white cloth under the pillow and the wimpel is created shortly after the brit milah using the swaddling cloth that was used at that ceremony. The cloth is cleaned, cut into strips, and sewn into a sash measuring six or seven inches wide and ten or twelve feet long. Afterwards, the wimpel is beautifully decorated – it can be either painted or embroidered – with the child's name, date of birth, and the Hebrew phrase which states "Just like he entered the covenant of circumcision, so too he should (the covenant of) Torah, marriage, and good deeds." Wimpels, however, are not always made from swaddling clothes from the brit milah. Some are made from pieces of cloth from family members such as a deceased grandparent. Some are made from

perspective because it includes the Hebrew date of birth, in some cases the place of birth, and serves as a Jewish birth certificate. In the past, most Jewish communities did not record a child's exact birth date, although the mohel and the boy's father would write the circumcision date in their prayer books. After the wimpel was made, it was put away for safekeeping. One custom was that on the first Shabbat after the child's third birthday (after he was toilet trained!), the child would be carried to the synagogue. This was referred to as shulentragen. With the father's help, the child would wrap the Torah in his wimpel.

When the child comes of age to begin learning Torah, he and his family brings the wimpel to the synagogue for Shabbat morning services. After the Torah reading, the child performs the ritual of gelila, perhaps with the help of his father, by wrapping the wimpel many times around the Torah scroll and tucking the end of the cloth into the folds. In this way, the child's individual responsibilities to God and His commandments are literally wrapped around his communal responsibilities, a figurative lesson for the child and his family. Afterwards, the family invites the community to join them for a kiddush.

The earliest surviving wimpels are simple embroidered pieces. By the mid-18th century, they became more elaborate, were sometimes painted, and included symbols such as the boy's zodiac sign or illustrations of a wedding canopy with the phrase from the brit milah liturgy. During the 19th-century Emancipation period in Europe, some wimpels included the child's nickname or secular first name in addition to his Hebrew name. By the 20th century, some wimpels featured children's motifs alongside traditional Jewish objects and were even used as a decorative banner on the chuppah itself.

family events. The wimpels they use do not always look like the ones in the museums and they are created from brand-new fabric rather than circumcision cloth. Today's 21st-century wimpels are as likely to include images of Harry Potter and soccer balls along with Jewish symbols such as the Etz Chayim (Tree of Life) and Star of David.

The synagogue typically receives many more wimpels than Torah scrolls so the wimpels are often stored in a drawer in the Ark. Many wimpels were decorated with a drawing of a chupah in the hope that the child would grow up to be brought under the chupah to be married. The wimpel was also frequently decorated with a binding around the edge.

With so many Jews of Central and Eastern Europe having been wiped out in the Holocaust, and the subsequent

Museum of Jewish Art, made in Germany in 1904 and includes his place of birth of Mardorf after his name. ■

The Jewish Genealogical Society is housed under The Sherwin Miller Museum of Jewish Art. To learn about the benefits of joining the JGS visit: [JewishMuseumTulsa.org](http://JewishMuseumTulsa.org)

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



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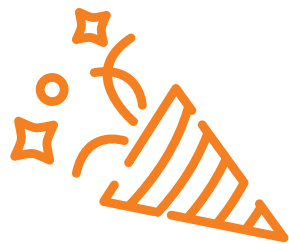


**Micah Cash**, son of Sharon and Dr. Jamie Cash, recently moved back to Tulsa to take over the Speech and Debate program at Booker T. Washington High School in Tulsa. **Mazel Tov!**



CELEBRATE SIMCHAS!

Share your simchas with the entire community! Send us your b'nai mitzvah, wedding announcement, birth of a child, graduation, or other milestone for our "simchas" section each month. Send submissions for the Tulsa Jewish Review to Sandy Sloan, [sandy@jewishtulsa.org](mailto:sandy@jewishtulsa.org)



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ON TEMPLE ISRAEL'S NEW BUILDING

By Rabbi Daniel S. Kaiman

I bet some of you have noticed the leak that keeps popping up just outside the courtyard in the middle of the Synagogue building. Plumber after plumber swears the problem is resolved, and then, a few months later, we're greeted by the return of a persistent drip. Such is the blessing and burden of a Synagogue building.

I say burden because we all know that beautiful spaces take both effort and resources to maintain. As soon as an issue is resolved, a new matter must be addressed. At times, we might desire respite or relief from the constant need, but we know this is mostly a fantasy. There is no parking lot that will never need repair; there is no carpet that will never be stained, and there is no plumbing that will never leak. We must learn to live with these imperfections and see them as a reflection of the blessings in our lives. Our parking lot needed renewal because of its near-constant use by congregants, employees, students, and clients. Our carpets sometimes need cleaning because we accidentally drop sweet treats after Shabbat morning or holiday celebrations. Our plumbing sometimes leaks because that's what happens in a big facility. The attention we need to give our physical space is the result of the many blessings in our lives. A full and active Synagogue will always need this sort of attention. What matters is that we invest ourselves

fully in doing our very best at every step of the way.

By now, many of you have heard the news that Temple Israel, our sister congregation in Jewish Tulsa, has made the institutional decision to construct a new facility on property adjacent to their current building. This means the landscape of Jewish life in Tulsa will continue to embrace diversity in practice and institutional style and offer multiple locations of connection, meaning, and programming across the community. Healthy congregations mean opportunities for real leadership and tone-setting. That means more people thinking about the future of our community.

I know that our members are enthusiastic about this good news. At the Temple, lay and professional leadership have shared their excitement about this next chapter and the potential it brings for a new surge of creativity in congregational life. While I know firsthand the challenges of construction (remember that parking lot?!), I am confident the effort will be worth the investment.

In the meantime, I want to wish my colleague, Rabbi Weinstein, President Jon Stolper, and the entire Temple Israel family blessings and strength on their exciting decision. May this new building be a blessing to us all. ■

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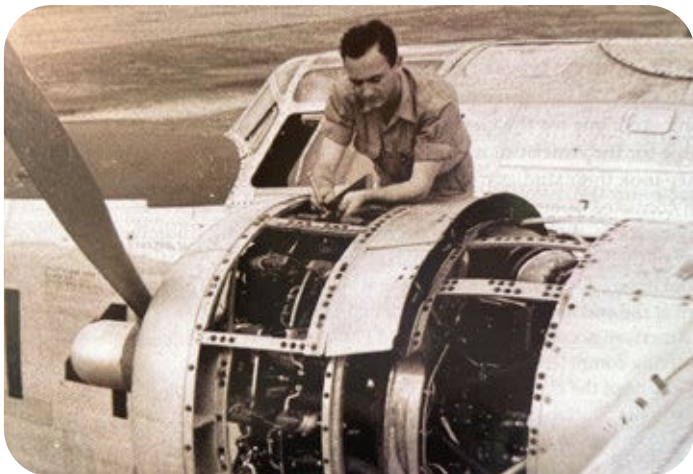


(Continued from page 15)

up in Israel after WWII. Some had even been resistance members in occupied Europe. All were Veterans of Israel's Independence War.

These young men (ages 18-26) were embraced by the Tulsa community. Many became regulars at family dinners with Tulsa locals and thought of Tulsa as their second home.

After their training period, the majority of Spartan Boys returned to Israel, however, some stayed on and continued their training. Some even fell in love and married local women. This was the case of Avshalom Goldsmith and Elaine Ruth Fedman.



Bob Golan, 1949

Elaine's friend Shirley Skalovsky (Weise) remembers the Spartan Boys fondly. She was 20 when they came to Tulsa and said they were all very handsome and wonderful dancers. Most of them found a Tulsa girlfriend, including Abe Nussbaum, who dated Shirley during his time here.

One of the Spartan Boys was a young man named Bob Golan. Bob had been born in Chelm, Poland, and had survived the Holocaust by way of Ukraine, Siberia, Uzbekistan, and Persia. He eventually wound up in Mandatory Palestine and became an original member of the Israeli Defense Force (IDF).

(Continued from page 16)

"Exactly," I say. We discuss how we share the same cultural touchpoints with those who lived through and died in the Holocaust. Mickey Mouse. Pluto the dog. Dorothy, the Scarecrow, the Tin Man, and the Lion. "Esther lived in our world."

Through black-and-white photographs and the specific stories of individuals from history – of victims and survivors, perpetrators and collaborators – I listen to these inspiring teenagers identify urgent lessons for

Bob had grown up loving airplanes and with a deep interest in mechanics. As a young boy, he chose to forgo school in Uzbekistan and instead train as a mechanic in a sugar factory. His work at the factory also allowed him to provide for his family.

During Israel's War of Independence, Bob helped build the Israeli Air Force from scratch. The airplanes were second-hand and came from all over the world. With a variety of mechanical issues and differences in the planes depending on where they came from, Bob and crew were quite literally flying by the seats of their pants.

Training was much needed, so when the Spartan Boys landed in Tulsa in December of 1949, they were eager to begin.

In a 2010 Tulsa Jewish Review article, Bob recalled his coursework as being intense. There were classes as well as mechanical training on actual airplanes. There were also dates with a local girl named Shirley Cohen, who eventually became his wife. Shirley and the rest of Tulsa's Jewish young ladies welcomed the Spartan Boys with open arms; as did their families who often included them in Shabbat dinners.

After his year of training, Bob returned to Israel to continue his work for the Air Force. It wasn't long, however, before he came back to Tulsa, and his love Shirley. They went back and forth between Israel and Tulsa for a while before settling in Tulsa permanently in 1955. Bob had a long career in Tulsa working for Oklahoma Tire Supply and Co. They had two sons, Michael and Gary.

Later in life, Golan became a docent here at The Sherwin Miller Museum of Jewish Art. He told his remarkable story to hundreds of students and was a cherished member of the Tulsa community. Bob passed away in 2016, but his memory is forever a blessing.

To learn more about the Spartan Boys and the Spartan School of Aeronautics visit The Sherwin Miller Museum of Jewish Art's exhibition, Spartan Boys: A Tulsa Story through September 9th. ■

their future. By the end of the workshop, I watch them explain to each other how the prejudices that fueled Nazism are still with us. Our fight against hatred in our past is directly connected to our fight against hatred in our world today. ■



**Learning over Lunch:  
Unpacking Zionism  
Wednesdays, July 10, 17 and 24 |  
12:00 p.m.**

Curious about Zionism? Morah Sara is leading a three-week series that invites you to actively explore the evolution of Zionism. Together, we'll delve into Jewish history, tracing how this concept weaves into the narrative of the Jewish People and shapes our world today. Through a multidimensional exploration of its historical, cultural, religious, and political aspects, you'll gain a deeper understanding of Zionism. We hope this series will shed light on the complexities of contemporary discussions about Israel, Zionism, Anti-Zionism, and Anti-Semitism. Bring your (dairy-vegetarian) lunch, and we'll provide drinks and treats. To join, visit [tulsasynagogue.com/events](https://tulsasynagogue.com/events) or call 918-583-7121.

**Julius and Ethel Rosenberg:  
What We Know Now (That We  
Didn't Know Then)  
Thursday, July 11 | 7:00 p.m.**

Dr. David H. Goldenberg, the newly appointed Executive Director and CEO of Tulsa Historical Society & Museum, visits The Synagogue to share insights from a chapter of his book, *Trials That Shaped America*. With a personal relationship with the Rosenberg family, Dr. Goldenberg offers new ideas about

how we should understand one of the most newsworthy stories of the 1950s. The story of Julius and Ethel Rosenberg, executed for conspiracy to commit espionage, is not just a historical event, but a useful frame for understanding our present day, with elements of US-Russian relations, antisemitism, and divided domestic politics animating this event. For more information and to register in advance, visit [tulsasynagogue.com/events](https://tulsasynagogue.com/events).

**Bibi-Dibi  
Friday, July 12 | 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 [tulsasynagogue.com](https://tulsasynagogue.com).

**Family Fun Day  
Sunday, July 14 | 10:00 a.m. at  
the Herman and Kate Kaiser  
YMCA**

Missing your ShulSchool and Synagogue friends? We're excited to head back to the Herman and Kate Kaiser YMCA for a morning of connection, food, and fun with Family Fun Day. We'll meet by the pool at 10:00 a.m. and wrap up the day with lunch together. The cost is \$36 per family. You can hold your spot by visiting the Synagogue website or by being in touch with Morah Sara.

**Blatt + Blue: March '68  
Thursday, July 18 | 7:00 p.m.**

March '68, a 2022 Polish film delving into politics, antisemitism, and intercultural relationships, is being exclusively screened at The Synagogue. This special viewing is available from July 11 to July 18. To secure your access, please contact

the Synagogue at (918) 583-7121 or email [RichieBolusky for the link and password](mailto:RichieBolusky@tulsasynagogue.com). If you encounter any issues, we're here to assist. Join us for a moderated discussion in the Synagogue Zoom Room, with the session concluding at 8:00 p.m. The Zoom meeting ID is 918 583 7121.

**Author Deborah Harkness: The  
Black Bird Oracle  
Monday, July 22 | 7:00 p.m.**

The bestselling author of *The All Souls Trilogy* series, Deborah Harkness, uses her scholarship as a historian of science to create captivating novels in the genre of fantasy and historical fiction. Her highly anticipated fifth book, *The Black Bird Oracle*, is set to be released on July 16, and she will visit the Synagogue as one of a select few stops on her US tour. This ticketed event is in partnership with Magic City Books and will feature the author's reflections and an opportunity for book signing. As always, should tickets be an obstacle to your participation, please contact us at [info@bnaiemunah.com](mailto:info@bnaiemunah.com). Tickets are on sale at [magiccitybooks.com](https://magiccitybooks.com)

**Afternoon/Evening Services**

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

**Shabbat Morning Services**

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





Visit our Temple Israel website [www.templetulsa.com](http://www.templetulsa.com) and our events page for details about all we offer!

**Repairing Our People: Israel and the Crisis of Liberal Judaism with Rabbi Weinstein on Zoom • Thurs., July 4, 11, 18 & 25 • 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 aims to explore 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.

**Birthday Shabbat Service in person, on Zoom & Facebook Live • Fri., July 12 • 6:00 p.m.**  
Join us as we welcome in Shabbat with the chanting of Torah and celebrate significant July birthdays. Come at 5:30 p.m. for a pre-oneg.

**Shabbat Morning Service in the Round • Sat., July 13 • 10:30 a.m.**  
Join us for an intimate, casual Saturday morning service.

**Zarrow Pointe Shabbat Service • Fri., July 26 • 6:30 p.m.**  
We cordially invite all those who wish to join us for this meaningful Friday evening

service with music, held in the Burnstein Auditorium at Zarrow Pointe. We welcome not only Temple members and Zarrow Pointe residents, but all other friends in our community who would appreciate being together on Shabbat.

**Anniversary Shabbat Service w/Torah in person at Temple Israel, on Zoom & Facebook Live • Fri., July 26 • 6:00 p.m.**  
Join us as we welcome in Shabbat with the chanting of Torah and celebrate significant July anniversaries. Come at 5:30 p.m. for a pre-oneg. ■

**BRINA REINSTEIN INSTALLED AS PRESIDENT OF TEMPLE ISRAEL**

By Lesley Bumgarner, Director of Congregational Life

**W**e at Temple Israel are profoundly grateful for the strength and dedication of our lay leadership. Recently Jon Stolper completed his two-year term as a most kind, conscientious, and tireless President. With his leadership, in partnership with our clergy, we have arrived at an exciting time in our congregation's history. At our June 2nd Annual Meeting, Jon passed the gavel to Brina Reinstein.

It turns out that June 2024 was an auspicious month for the election of Jewish women Presidents. In Mexico, Claudia Sheinbaum was elected as that country's first woman and first Jewish President. At Temple Israel, Brina became only the seventh woman president in our 110-year history. In 2026, Mindy Galoob, our current President-Elect, will follow in Brina's footsteps as our eighth woman president. Girl Power, indeed!

Almost everyone in our Tulsa Jewish community knows Brina. Her work over the decades in many facets of Jewish life has earned her a great deal of respect. Some of her past work includes her time as Campaign Director of the Jewish Federation from 1985-2008, as well as many volunteer commitments including serving on the boards of Planned Parenthood, Ronald McDonald House, Tulsa Zoo Friends, The Tulsa Jewish Community Center, The Jewish Federation of Tulsa, and Zarrow Pointe. Brina has also chaired fundraising efforts for Zarrow Pointe and the Sherwin Miller Museum and was a founding member of the United Jewish Appeal's Women's Young Leadership Cabinet. She is an Amudim Award recipient at Temple Israel.

Many of you may know and love Brina for her work organizing dozens of weddings and Bar/Bat Mitzvahs in our community and have fond memories of her part in ensuring these celebrations proceeded with class

and creativity. Many in our community are thankful for all that Brina has contributed! Brina remains energetic, and her work is far from complete.

As she began her term as President of Temple Israel, I asked her several questions. These questions and answers are shared below:

**Q: How long have you been a member of Temple Israel?**

A: I moved to Tulsa in 1973. One of the first things I did was to join the Temple and enroll my children in religious school. That was 51 years ago!

**Q: What word or phrase would you use to describe Temple Israel?**

A: It is my home.

**Q: What are your goals for your Presidency?**

A: I want to continue our Next D'Or Campaign to completion and watch as our new home is built from the ground up. I hope that this new building will provide a home for Reform Judaism in Tulsa for generations to come.

**Q: Do you have a favorite memory at Temple Israel?**

A: I have three favorite memories, which are watching each of my three children be married at Temple Israel. I was very proud.

**Q: How are you feeling as you begin your presidency?**

A: Excited!!

We are very fortunate to have someone with Brina's skill, experience, creativity, and drive leading our Temple Israel community. She and the rest of our Board of Trustees and clergy are poised to take us into a bright future. May we continue to go from strength to strength, taking the lead from our President. ■



Brina Reinstein







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

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