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Nisan/Iyar 5780
April 2020





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VOLUME 91 • NUMBER 4



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COMMUNITY EVENTS

Due to the cancellations and postponement of multiple events in April, there will not be a Community Calendar but we look forward to bringing it back as soon as we can. ■

Founded in 1930 by Tulsa Section,
National Council of Jewish Women

(ISSN# 2154-0209)

Tulsa Jewish Review

(USPS 016-928) is published monthly by

JEWISH FEDERATION OF TULSA

2021 E. 71st St., Tulsa, OK 74136.

Periodicals postage paid at Tulsa, OK.

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Postmaster: Send address changes to

Tulsa Jewish Review, 2021 E. 71st St., Tulsa, OK 74136

Jewish Federation Closing - COVID-19

by **LARRY FELDMAN**, PRESIDENT, JEWISH FEDERATION OF TULSA &
DREW DIAMOND, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, JEWISH FEDERATION OF TULSA



IN LIGHT OF the expanding coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, and with the national and state of Oklahoma declarations of emergency, as of March 16th, daily operations of the Jewish Federation of Tulsa, the Sherwin Miller Museum of Jewish Art, and the Charles Schusterman Jewish Community Center have been suspended until further notice.

The Federation administrative staff will be available by phone and e-mail to provide assistance. The safety and health of our community and Federation staff are of paramount importance. There are many unknowns about how and where the Coronavirus is spreading, and we will continue monitoring this situation on a daily basis.

Thank you for your understanding. ■

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Comment concerning *The Four Chaplains* article in the March 2020 *Tulsa Jewish Review* by David Hurewitz

Part of our orientation as freshman at Temple University was to visit Grace Baptist Church on the University campus. It was also known as the Chapel of the 4 Chaplains. In it was an emotionally moving huge mural of 4 chaplains standing on the slanted deck of the Dorchester, arm in arm, praying. One could not view that mural without tearing up. The Chapel had a 3-sided altar, accommodating Jewish, Protestant, or Catholic religious services or events. Subsequently, the Chapel was deemed unsafe, and the headquarters of the Foundation of the 4 Chaplains Memorial was moved to Valley Forge outside of Philadelphia.

My father had been in the Coast Guard Reserve during WW2. This was one of his favorite charities. ■

It is All Up to Us

by GILAD KATZ, CONSULATE GENERAL OF ISRAEL TO THE SOUTHWEST UNITED STATES

PASSOVER – **חַסֵּף**, is one of the most sacred holidays for the Jewish people, a holy day where we come together to celebrate our national liberty and freedom. During this time where we celebrate our ancestor's liberation from slavery in Egypt, it is customary for Jewish families to gather around the Seder table, read from the Haggadah, remember our exodus from Egypt, and reflect on the transformation that the Israelites have undergone since our emancipation. What was once a mass group of people that were shackled and enslaved is now a prosperous, free nation.

These momentous events occurred over 3,500 years ago, and although many years have passed, miraculously each of us continues to relive the story of **סִרְצַם הָאֵיִצִי** – leaving Egypt, year after year. Our sages tell us that we must personally feel as though we, ourselves, took part in this epic creation of the Jewish nation.

Many times people, even my own children, ask these basic questions: Why should we care about what happened to our forefathers more than three and a half millennia ago? Why do we celebrate ancient historical events that have no influence on our lives today?

I then reply with the following questions: Why do we celebrate the establishment of the State of Israel? Why do the American people, or any other nation, celebrate their independence that was established centuries ago?

Yigal Allon was the commander of the Palmach, an elite military unit during Israel's War of Independence, a general in the Israel Defense Forces, and a prominent political figure in Israel for over 30 years. Allon once referenced the importance of learning and identifying with our heritage, tradition, and history. Allow me to quote just one sentence that summarizes Allon's approach: **וְיֵאֵשׁ טַעַם לְפָרֵעַב טוֹל וְדִיתְעוּ לָד וְלֹשׁ הוּוּהָ, וְרַבַּע תָּא עֵדוּי**, which means: "People who do not know their past, their present is poor and their future is hazy".

History is not just a story. History is who we are. Events that took place and affected our forefathers shape our own identity. Beliefs that our ancestors passed on from generation to generation were absorbed throughout the years until they became part of who we are today.

As we all know, during the last few years, the Jewish community in the United States has unfortunately experienced a rapid rise in Anti-Semitic attacks. After every one of those attacks, we hear leaders from the local Jewish community, as well as national leadership, condemning these horrific acts and promising: 'NEVER AGAIN'. Where does this promise-slogan come from? Behind these two powerful words hides a living tangible memory of the atrocities that we, the Jewish people, suffered during the Holocaust. History such as this shows us where we came from and teaches us important lessons going forward.

Learning and knowing our history and heritage is vital; however, it is not enough. It is just as important for all of us to take these teachings from the past, and to apply them to the world and our relationships today. It seems that partnering with each other can be extremely challenging for all of us. Partnerships between Israel and the Jewish diaspora, between the different denominations of Judaism, and between people with differing political views is not easy. It may even be extremely difficult. Nevertheless, furthering these relationships, working together, and taking what we have learned from our ancestors and turning it into action is necessary to ensure that the unimaginable atrocities of the past truly do NEVER happen AGAIN.

Just a couple of months ago the great Jewish community in Houston celebrated its 26th Yom Limmud, the Jewish Day of Learning. Members from across the entire Jewish community in the city came together to learn, share ideas, and listen to each other's experiences. I am confident and optimistic that if it could be done in our diverse Jewish community here in Houston, it could be done everywhere and anywhere in the world. It is all up to us.

Chag Sameach – **חַמֵּשׁ גַּח**



JFT Happenings

by ALIX LIIV CAPLAN, DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF OPERATIONS

TRIVIA NIGHT

Trivia Night:

Trivia Night is always an informal, fun competition where teams battle to see who has the highest knowledge of trivia!

This year, Table One took the win, but we all came out as winners because we raised over \$4,000 for the Dave R. Sylvan Camp Scholarship Fund and PJ Library Programming.

Let's try and beat that record next year for 2021!!!



Pearl Society:

On Wednesday, February 19, Women's philanthropy was brought back to the Federation in an official capacity. Forty women from different generations attended the first Pearl Society event, "Women Who Lead," which was comprised of a panel of inspirational women who rose to the top and are continuing to make an impact in Tulsa: Ashley Higgins, CEO of Tulsa Airport; Meredith Peebles, COO of Lobeck Taylor Foundation; Betsy Jackson, Shareholder at Hall Estill; and Blanca Zalava, President of the Coalition for the American Dream.

Federations across the country are harnessing the talent and skills of Jewish women all over to cultivate their collective power and form a bond by nurturing a strong sense of sisterhood. That is what the Pearl Society is all about! Embracing women at all stages in their lives and fostering an understanding of giving back and leadership.

Join the Pearl Society with your 2020 pledge to JFT of \$180 or more. For more information, please contact Alix Liiv at alix@jewishtulsa.org or 918-935-3636.

Feeding the Soul:

This month's "Feeding the Soul" was at Oren Restaurant. Chef and owner, Matt Amberg and Yara Amberg, outdid themselves with a four-course Israeli-inspired dinner and optional Israeli wine pairing.

Participants dined on Jerusalem bagels, labne and fried olives, cucumber salad, falafel, latkes with ras el hanout, roasted salmon, and homemade babk.



Rosh Chodesh:

On Tuesday, February 25, the women warriors of Rosh Chodesh came out to celebrate the month of Adar by exploring their creative and artistic side by painting their version of a Hamsa.



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Support from Americans like you has helped MDA shield almost all of Israel's 9 million people from this disease. But this fight has depleted the tools and supplies MDA needs to ensure the infection rates don't rise. Help Magen David Adom continue to protect Israelis and save lives. **Make a gift today.** *Chag Pesach sameach.*





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Welcome to the **ESTHER & PURIM** Chosen People!

Even though G-d is never mentioned in the book of Esther, His presence, timing and protection of the Jewish People are evident throughout. First Esther, a nice Jewish girl, wins a sort of beauty contest. The Persian king chooses her to be his queen. At the same time, the evil counselor Haman tries to carry out a plan to destroy all of the Jews. Esther's cousin, Mordechai tells Esther, and the plot is foiled. The Jewish People throughout the kingdom rejoiced. ...And so do we!
— Happy Purim!

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Martha Kelley

Deputy Director of The Charles Schusterman Jewish Community Center

Q: How long have you been working at the JCC?

A: I have been at JCC for over 20 years! I actually started here in high school when I worked a two-week "Soccer Magic" camp with Jason Neidell. After graduating, I went to ORU on a soccer scholarship and graduated in 2005. Then I was hired as the Youth Program/Camp Shalom Director. I currently serve as Deputy Director of the Charles Schusterman Jewish Community Center and Marketing.

Q: Do you have to be Jewish to attend Camp Shalom?

A: Not at all! We welcome everyone at our camps and enjoy diversity. We have campers from all sorts of different backgrounds, religions, schools, etc.

Q: What makes Camp Shalom so unique?

A: I personally love how our camps are structured. We offer experiences for campers ranging from 3 years old to 10th grade. Our 3-K kiddos have fun themed weeks, 1st-6th graders have specialty camps to choose from and 7th-10th graders get to be CITs (Counselors In Training). We offer 10 weeks of summer camp; Campers can enroll for all 10 weeks or for just the weeks that work for their family. I also love that campers get to swim every day and that all activities are on campus in the Charles Schusterman Jewish Community Center.

Preschool-Kindergarten Theme Weeks: Each week includes activities based on the weekly theme. Campers have group swim lessons on M/W/F and free swim T/TH.

1st-6th Grade: Campers have several options to pick from each week. New camps we are offering this year include: American Doll, Aqua Adventures, Bakery, Be the Change, Bricks 4 Kids, Canvas Creations Art Camp, Creepy Crawlers, Culinary Video

Cooking Camp, Jewelry Creations, Jr. Astronauts, Mermaids and Unicorns, Music Theater: Peter Pan and Willy Wonka, Nailed It Baking, Superhero, Tinker Workshop, and Wonka Workshop.

7th-10th Grade: CIT Camp (Counselor in Training) Campers will have the option to volunteer with younger camper groups or engage in activities with CITs.

Q: Where is Camp Shalom located and what facilities do you use?

A: All Camp Shalom activities are located on the Zarrow Campus, this includes:

- Sharna & Irvin Frank Aquatic Center
- Jeanette Altman Frieden Sports Complex: a 5-acre space with tennis courts, soccer field, basketball court, covered playground, restroom facilities, water fountain, walking track and backstop
- Gym: features six baskets, two pickleball nets and squash/racquetball courts
- Liberators' Memorial Park: Jewish Federation of Tulsa Community Garden; a playground; Barbara and Dave Sylvan Auditorium; and multiple classrooms.

Q: What do you love about Camp Shalom?

A: Camp time really is my FAVORITE time of year! Ask anyone at the JCC. I get to spend time with amazing kids during the summer! I love watching them try new things, pass the swim test, jump off the diving board, make memories, and just be kids! I have three kids of my own and they all have been attending camp since they were three years old. They learned to swim at Camp Shalom, they broke their first karate boards at Camp Shalom, they made their first Challah at Camp Shalom, and they spend their summers each year making best friends at Camp Shalom! By signing your child up for camp you are giving them a summer of fun and a lifetime of memories.

75 – 30 – 15: Liberation – Liberators’ Memorial Park – Opened Gate

by **MARK LOBO**

“I told these guys that the next time they get into a concentration camp, I’m not getting them out” said Bert Goodman, a member of the 45th Infantry Division and a liberator of Dachau. He was speaking at the 1991 Yom Hashoah commemoration in Liberators’ Memorial Park, referring with a hint of dry humor to Harry Guterman, a Dachau prisoner. The event was the one-year anniversary of the park made possible by Harry to honor the allied forces that stopped the Holocaust in 1945.

Seventy-five years after the liberation, the record and lessons of history are being strengthened by the work of the Council for Holocaust Education and the Kaiser/Sanditen Holocaust Exhibit at The Sherwin Miller Museum of Jewish Art scheduled to open this fall.

The dedication of Liberators’ Memorial Park on April 22, 1990, was, according to Harry, “a living memorial to the memory of those who died liberating Europe from Nazism in World War II.” He said at the time, “You don’t have to have a wall or a statue to put up a memorial. Sometimes the beauty of a park can do the same thing . . . it gives one hope when he sees all these nice flowers.” Designed by noted landscape architect Donald Kauffman, the park was brimming with color and featured several areas of blooming perennial and annual flowers highlighted by a large fountain.



Harry Guterman, left, the Tulsa Community leader and Holocaust Survivor who conceived the idea of the Liberators’ Memorial Park, and Brigadier Gen. Felix Sparks, right. April 22, 1990. Photo by Steve Crane



The gardens of Liberators’ Memorial Park declined in the following years, with only the evergreens, natural stone steps, walking path, and monument remaining. A typical response when asked about the importance of the park was, “Oh, nobody goes there, nothing to see.” However, the work of the Council and Museum was expanding during that period and interest in reviving and re-imagining the park began to grow.

The park needed an attraction, and in the spring of 2005 the monumental sculpture Opened Gate was installed at the entrance. Designed by Israeli artist Meirav Cohen, the sculpture contrasts imprisonment with the freedom enabled by liberators who opened the gates of the camps from the outside, saving the lives of those powerless to free themselves.

The public will soon be invited to an event in the park to commemorate 75 years after the Liberation, 30 years after Liberators’ Memorial Park, and 15 years after Opened Gate. Looking to the future, the park has been enhanced with a stage, Kinderstone sculptures developed by The Sherwin Miller Museum of Jewish Art and funded by donors to recall the 1.5 million child victims, and memorial markers identifying the liberated camps. These will help us maintain the truth and achieve what Harry Guterman envisioned. As Brigadier General Felix Sparks made clear at the 1990 dedication, “Don’t tell the men of the 45th Infantry Division that the Holocaust was a hoax . . . we were there! ■

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The Word is Out; Mizel is the Place!

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

WHAT SCHOOL IN Tulsa is on the same campus as an outstanding museum, retirement center, and fully-equipped gym? Only one—Mizel Jewish Community Day School. Mizel is next to The Sherwin Miller Museum of Jewish Art, the Charles Schusterman Jewish Community Center, and the Zarrow Pointe retirement community. Our program and curriculum stand solidly on the strengths of our campus.

Our students know what a museum is very early, and they visit the Sherwin Miller Museum twice a week to hold our Tefillah (prayer) service in their model sanctuary. Often, we stop to see things that relate to our Torah lesson, like the biblical stories in the stained glass windows. Recently, the special Romania exhibit taught our older students visually what life was like at the turn of the century. As they are reading Hannah the Immigrant, she leaves Russia for America in the early 1900s.

Intergenerational education between Mizel JCDS and Zarrow Pointe has students and residents going both ways. Some residents come to volunteer and give special attention to our students, and many times we go to the Health Care Center. We celebrate Shabbat once a month with the residents, saying our blessings, singing songs, and telling stories. Our students take turns going to read and do crafts. Recently, our students had a special audience of residents to see their wonderful Purim Costume Parade.

Our school benefits, too, from having the gym. This reinforces positive physical health. Students have physical education twice a week. For students who are in aftercare, they go to the JCC gym for dance, yoga, games, and sports.

Mizel is looking forward to a strong future. We are excited about rejuvenating and updating our curriculum as new information, teaching strategies, and trends are fully utilized. For next year, we are looking at interdisciplinary/theme-based units and project-based learning for all grades. We are confident about our plans to have enough kindergarten children to have a separate teacher just for that age group.

Security has always been a priority, and it continues to be. We have been working diligently with Drew Diamond and others at the entrance to our facility to be our first line of safety. You can help! Remember that an unattended vehicle is always a possible target. Let's all do our part to keep our community safe.



Paxton and Baron Von Ostendorf presented the Federation with a donation collected by the students.

And our most important neighbor on this campus is the Jewish Federation of Tulsa, who supports us financially, socially, and gives us space to have a school. On Super Sunday, two of our students, Paxton and Baron Von Ostendorf, presented the Federation with a donation of \$159.68, collected by the students. Paxton said, “Tzedakah, the Hebrew word for justice, is important to all the students at Mizel. We collect each Friday for Shabbat. This is also a symbol of our appreciation for the Federation’s support of Mizel.” Baron followed with, “We have donated to charities around Tulsa. Some money goes straight to the Federation. As a student who has attended Mizel since Pre-K, I am truly grateful to have had the opportunity to grow up under this roof and donate to great causes. This year, as I graduate to middle school, I will take the lessons and values I have learned here with me for the rest of my life.”


As a life-long educator in different types of institutions, I know that it is outstanding learning experiences that enable a third grader and a fifth grader to be able to articulate, write, and deliver a speech to many adults. We are proud of our students for what they accomplish every day and are pleased to say we are enrolling new students for next year. Our future looks positive, and there is excitement brewing both as we prepare to graduate three students in May and to create plans for next year. That’s right—the word is out: Mizel is the place to be!

To schedule a tour, call or email Dr. Cathy Kass at director@mizelschool.org or 918-494-0953. ■

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When You Become a Caregiver

by RANDY COGBURN, WELLNESS DIRECTOR

TO SAY THE least, many things change as we age. A good number of things are actually quite nice, while others are not. Our world around us changes, including those we care about the most. That may mean we take on the role of a caregiver. Sometimes it is brief, helping someone recover from an injury or a short spell of illness, but it can also turn into a much bigger responsibility as a result of an extended illness.

No one can really understand how you feel or how your life can be changed by taking on this role unless they have experienced it. I am old enough now to understand what it means. It is more than a responsibility, it is an honor, and it is one that I look back on with no regret. I know that many of you feel the same way.

Nevertheless, the challenge of becoming a caregiver can be overwhelming at times. It can take its toll on you physically and emotionally. I think the biggest frustration is when you reach that point where you just can't 'fix it' anymore. That heavy feeling when you feel pushed into a corner, and no matter how hard you try, you can't change the outcome. You really could just scream. Sound familiar?

A really good caregiver is unselfish and takes very little time to think of themself. How you are 'holding up' is the last thing on your mind at the time, right? However, it isn't a selfish thing to realize that if you don't take care of yourself, you can't take care of anyone else. Oh, I know, during that period you will say, "Who has time for that?" Believe me, I understand.

I would like to share with you some of the things that I have learned personally and by observing so many others that I have known who have become caregivers.

- Keep in mind: you can't help them if you don't help yourself!
- Talk about your feelings with others who understand. Look for support groups.
- Don't try to do it alone! Sometimes we feel like we are the only ones that can do things the way they should be done. Get help from family and friends and let them do the things they do well.
- When others offer to help, don't say, "Oh, I appreciate that, but I'm okay." You are not always going to be 'okay.' Not to mention, it really isn't fair to prevent someone else from doing something nice to help the person they too care about.
- Eat a good diet. At times when we are most overwhelmed, we don't take time to eat. You can't keep running without fuel in the tank!
- Exercise. Wait a second – I don't mean going to the health club three times a week. Even a very short walk many times a day is helpful.
- Find time to 'shut down.' Getting away from the situation even for a day is absolutely necessary. This is where you recruit the help of others. They offered, and they mean it.
- Know your limits and prioritize your activities. Small things can wait. The clothes may be clean, but it doesn't mean you can't fold them tomorrow if you are tired.

The list could go on and on. I know that many of you, based on your own experience, could offer up many more suggestions. No one will ever tell you it's easy. What I can tell you is it can be done a lot easier if you also care for yourself. While it is extremely stressful at the time, the reward of being a good caregiver is great. As with most things we do in life, when we think and act outwardly to the benefit of others, we will always feel better about ourselves. That is a priceless gift! ■



Moving from Home to Healthcare: Creating a Smooth Transition for Your Loved One

by **MATHEW SNYDER**, HEALTHCARE ADMINISTRATOR

ONE OF THE hardest decisions you will ever make will be the decision to place a loved one in a healthcare facility. This can be especially difficult if, in the past, you “promised” never to put them in a healthcare facility. When the time comes to have that conversation, usually an adverse event or a series of negative events have occurred – such as a serious fall, forgetting to take meds or not taking them correctly, declining mental function, deteriorating health, or the inability to take care of one’s self on a daily basis.

One thing to complete before your loved one needs placement in a healthcare facility is to have them sign a Durable Healthcare Power of Attorney. This important legal document gives the appointed person the ability to make medical decisions if and when your loved one becomes incapacitated and will make placement decisions much easier as the legal authority.

One of the biggest fears and frustrations that I often hear is usually related to the sudden loss of independence and control. It can be scary to go from living independently to all of a sudden being dependent on others for your care. One thing I would recommend is if the loved one needing healthcare facility placement is mentally/physically able to participate in the placement process, then allow them to do so! Let them tour the facilities, meet the staff, be active in expressing their input and feedback. The more active and involved you can make someone, the better the chances they will feel in control of the process and will likely do better at their new facility.

Once you choose the facility that is the best fit, I would suggest you make their room look as home-like as possible; decorate the room with familiar pictures, bring some personal decorations, paint a wall their favorite color (if allowed), bring their favorite blanket or pillow or whatever you feel could help ease the transition. A little bit of pre-planning can make a huge difference in their comfort level!

Once situated in their new environment, the work is not over for the family; maintaining ongoing family relationships is now more important than ever. Visit your loved one in the facility as often as possible and encourage other family members to routinely visit, not just on major holidays. Having frequent and regular visitors goes a long way in helping someone adjust to their new surroundings and know they have not been “forgotten.”

Moving a loved one into a healthcare facility can be both emotionally and mentally exhausting, but it doesn’t need to be – as a little pre-planning can go a long way!

If you or your loved one would like more information about moving to our wonderful community at Zarrow Pointe, please call 918-496-8333 and ask for the Admissions Department or stop by for a brief tour! ■



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**Norma Eagleton
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IN MEMORY OF

**Howard Alexander
Ray Still**

BIRTHDAY

Shirley Levin



April is Diamond Month

What You Need to Know About Choosing the Right Diamond

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DIAMONDS CARRY WITH them rich history and lore that captures our imagination. Their rarity and beauty place them in high regard within nearly every community and culture around the world.

There's no doubt that diamonds are beautiful, but there is so much more worth knowing about diamonds than the simple fact that they are fascinating - such as their history, creation, and ultimate value.

First, let's take a quick look at the history of this amazing stone. Diamonds were first found in India and were used for trade as early as 400 B.C. They eventually made their way to Europe by caravan, and by the 1400's they were a fashionable accessory for Europe's elite. By the 1700's, the old ruling classes—diamonds' biggest consumers—were in decline. Although the diamond's current largest consumer was on the fall, the increasing affluence of Western Europe, as well as the United States, would quickly replace and surpass the current demand.

Now, let's take a look at the creation and uniqueness of a diamond. Diamonds, before making their way to the surface of the earth, are formed under high temperature and pressure conditions about 100 miles beneath the earth's surface. The diamond is the only gem that is made up of only one element: carbon. The single element of carbon in those extreme conditions produce the hardest material on earth. In fact, diamonds are 58 times harder than anything else in nature. If what it takes to create a diamond wasn't enough, they're just as equally hard to find. When mining for diamonds, the average yield in most mines is 1 part diamond to 1,000,000 parts host rock. That is a lot of rock to move for just one diamond.

Once a diamond is mined, the rough stone makes its way to the diamond cutters to be cut and polished in order to be used for jewelry. Diamond cutters are highly skilled individuals that identify the best possible way to cut each stone to take full advantage of the stone's features. The vast majority of every diamond mined will go to Antwerp, Belgium, known as "The Diamond Capital of the World."

While in Antwerp, the diamonds are graded by a gemologist. A gemologist is simply someone who analyzes and describes the quality and characteristics of gemstones - in this instance, using "The 4 C's" for diamonds. "The 4 C's:" Cut, Color, Clarity, Carat are the global standard used to describe diamonds. These four factors are what determine the rarity, value, and, ultimately, the price of the diamond.

Cut is the way a diamond is cut and directly impacts a diamond's ability to sparkle, along with its overall aesthetic appeal. Color refers to the color of the diamond, how white or colorless a diamond is; the whiter a diamond, the more valuable. Clarity is how clean a diamond is from both inclusions and blemishes. Carat is the overall weight of the diamond after being cut and polished.

After being graded using "The 4 C's," the diamonds begin making their way into jewelry and to companies that sell to retailers across the world - sometimes changing hands several times before finally making it's way to the end consumer.

This is where we, J. David Jewelry, differs from your average jewelry store. Instead of purchasing diamonds second or third hand, we go directly to the source to handpick and buy our diamonds. Our 25+ years in the industry has allowed us to form relationships with diamond cutters in Antwerp, Belgium. This allows us to do a couple of things.

First, we can cut out any unnecessary middle-men because we are going directly to the sources.

Second, as mentioned before, no two diamonds are the same. Every diamond is unique. Most jewelry stores use "The 4 C's" to sell diamonds, but at J. David Jewelry, that's not our method. "The 4 C's" are a great place to start, but ultimately those 4 C's fall short in describing what visually looks the best. When someone grades a diamond, they are using extensive knowledge to do so, but they are also still humans. This means that you could give a trained professional the same diamond twice, unbeknownst to them, and they could give you two entirely different reports. The difference in those reports can drastically change the value of that particular diamond by thousands of dollars.

When we travel to Antwerp, we have the opportunity to look at hundreds of the "same" diamond at the same time, that all have the same price tag due to the Cut, Color, Clarity, and Carat assigned to them. Every time, without fail, at least one diamond stands out from the rest in beauty. That one diamond we pick is the same price as the hundreds of other diamonds that we didn't select, meaning we get a more beautiful diamond for less, and we ultimately get to pass those savings on to you.

The history, creation, and beauty of diamonds is just the beginning of diamonds. Diamonds speak to things in this life that there are no words to describe. When words aren't enough, diamonds fill the gap and stand the test of time. ■

For more information, contact J. David Jewelry

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“All People Have Value”

by **NANCY PETTUS**, DIRECTOR OF HOLOCAUST EDUCATION

APRIL'S FEATURED HOLOCAUST educator is Debbie Givens. A teacher at Carver Middle School near the historic Greenwood District for 32 years, she realized early on in her career that making her students aware of how racism, prejudice, and bigotry infiltrate our daily lives was a major goal. In 1999, Sara Sanditen invited her to create a sister school partnership between Carver and a school in Tiberias, Israel. She also serves on the board of Tulsa Global Alliance.

Why teach about the Holocaust? In the late '70s, I went shopping with a black friend, and a security guard followed us all over the store. This opened my eyes to what prejudice and bigotry really are. After learning about the Tulsa Race Massacre, I included it in my unit during Black History Month. This knowledge inspired me to learn more about the Holocaust, and it quickly became an essential part of my curriculum. Similar lessons about where hatred and bigotry could lead can be learned in the flames of the Greenwood District as in the flames of the burning synagogues during Kristallnacht. I wanted my students to leave my classroom aware of racism and wanting to change the world.

What inspired you to become involved with Holocaust Education? Ruth Ann Cooper was a wonderful mentor who included me in her Holocaust unit and exposed me to my first Holocaust survivor: Eva Unterman. She and Sara Sanditen invited me to events at the Jewish Federation, which broadened my perspective of Jewish faith and culture. Along with this came the message that the Holocaust should never be forgotten.

How has your experience with Holocaust Education affected your worldview? The sister city relationship between Tulsa and Tiberias began in 1989. This important partnership led to video conferences with students in Tiberias, where we shared the lessons of the Holocaust through art, dance, poetry, and music. The relationship eventually led to trips to Israel and student exchanges that remain active to this day. Our most important lesson learned is that all people everywhere have value; all want the same things: to be loved, to have a family, and to have the chance to live our lives.

What did you find to be the most challenging aspect of teaching about the Holocaust? There was never enough time to satisfy the students' interest. Even after our nine-week unit, the kids always wanted more. In an effort to help students see those affected by the Holocaust as more than just victims, I always started my unit with pictures of children and families' lives before the Holocaust. It was important to know that these were real people with hopes, dreams, and aspirations no different than their own.

What has been the most rewarding aspect of this endeavor? The opportunity to create interdisciplinary collaboration about the Holocaust among language arts, social studies, art, band, science, and math teachers was rewarding, to say the least. All pitched in with rehearsing skits, singing songs, playing the piano, and supporting the relationship we all held dear. The Tiberias/Carver relationship is celebrating its 21st birthday, and I am proud to say that after ten years of being out of the classroom, the partnership is still thriving. ■



Debbie Givens, Drew Diamond and Liat Gal

Let's gather to discuss the life of one courageous Jewish woman who dared to resist!

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Faye Schulman tells an extraordinary story of escaping from the Nazis, finding a partisan unit, and proving her worth. The photographs she took speak eloquently of her experience of surviving for years in the woods with the partisans.

Books may be purchased at the Jewish Federation reception desk for \$13.00

The Jewish Woman Who Carried Hitler's Teeth on VE-Day

by PHIL GOLDFARB

IN THE DAYS following the end of WWII, Jewish translator Elena Rzhetskaya was tasked with a bizarre job... protecting a jewelry box containing the only irrefutable proof of Hitler's death.

When we hear the name Hitler, we don't often think about his cavities. Given the towering history of World War II, it's odd to consider its architects as real human beings, with bad breath, stomach trouble, and... artificial teeth. When Hitler died, proof of his death was carried through the ruins of Berlin by a young Jewish woman who found herself thrust into some of the strangest, and most strangely human, moments of the end of the war.

During the spring of 1945, Elena Kagan was a 25-year-old war widow working as a German translator with the Soviet Red Army. Born to a well-off family of Moscow Jews, she had been a literature student and young mother when the war broke out. Her husband, a writer, was killed early in the conflict. Kagan enlisted with the army as a way to feed her daughter. Her knowledge of German proved essential for interrogating prisoners. Still, her most memorable task began on April 29, 1945, when she was assigned to a team of three charged with finding Hitler, dead or alive.

Kagan, who later changed her name to Rzhetskaya in honor of the city of Rzhew, where she first experienced the full extent of the war, describes her compassion for the captured German soldiers, many barely adults, their bloodshot eyes wild with terror, and for the German women who were treated as war booty. She writes of orphans and cows wandering the bombed-out streets, soldiers getting drunk on the fine wines left by the fleeing Nazis, a Russian telegraphist trying on Eva Braun's long white evening dress, and, finally, what it was like to walk around carrying Hitler's teeth.

She was given the teeth on May 8, the day Germany signed an act of surrender and eight days after Hitler's death when they were placed in a red jewelry box for her safekeeping. "I don't know where they found the box," she writes in the English version of her recollections, *Memoirs of a Wartime Interpreter*. "It was old,

dark claret in color, with a soft satin lining inside, the kind of box made for perfumes or cheap jewelry. That entire day was infused with the sense of approaching victory, and it was a great burden to carry this box around the whole time, feeling a rush of cold inside at the thought that I might accidentally forget it somewhere." It was also the day of Hitler's autopsy at a makeshift morgue in a clinic in Buch, on the outskirts of Berlin.

Hitler had committed suicide in his bunker beneath the chancellery on April 30, 1945, and asked his aides to burn his body until nothing remained, as he didn't want his body to be displayed in a "spectacle arranged by Jews." The Soviets remained unaware of his fate until the next day when German General Hans Krebs exited the bunker and, as part of a failed attempt to negotiate an armistice, informed a Soviet commander that Hitler was dead.

Several days later, a Soviet soldier found the half-charred bodies of a man and a woman buried inside a shell crater near the bunker's emergency exit. He'd noticed the tip of a gray blanket peeking out from the crater which matched descriptions produced by interrogating the few aides who remained in the bunker of the blanket in which Hitler and Eva Braun's corpses had been wrapped.

Soldiers packed the remains into wooden ammunition crates, while Rzhetskaya and her team accompanied them to the morgue in Buch. The corpse was severely carbonized, giving off the "odor of burned meat," and only the jaws remained relatively unscathed. The doctors pried the bones loose, and then Rzhetskaya was given the claret-colored box.

Teeth are like signatures as no two people have the same set. They've been used to identify bodies in criminal trials since the mid-19th century, and the Soviet doctors knew that Hitler's jaws would be vital to proving his death to the world.

After the autopsies, around midnight, Rzhetskaya's team heard the news of Germany's surrender on the radio. At the hour of Germany's surrender, she was clutching a box containing the last remaining irrefutable proof about Hitler.



Dental crowns, bridges, and teeth purportedly of Adolf Hitler.

P. CHARLIER ET AL., FIGURE 1, EUROPEAN JOURNAL OF INTERNAL MEDICINE

When dawn broke the next morning, Rzhnevskaya and her team set off to search for anyone with information about Hitler's mouth. While Hitler's dentist had fled, his dental assistant, Käthe Hausermann, was still in Berlin. She was asked to describe her memory of Hitler's teeth. The location of his crowns and a saw-through upper left bridge matched the teeth in the jewelry box, but Rzhnevskaya's team needed further proof. Hausermann led them to a tiny, mildewed dental office in Hitler's bunker, where she produced Hitler's dental x-rays. The images--the placement of root canal fillings, sites of bone breakdown, and unusual bridges, confirmed that the body found in the rubble outside the chancellery had belonged to Hitler. A dental technician named Fritz Echtmann, who had worked in the same laboratory as Hausermann and created crowns and bridges for both Hitler and Eva Braun, verified the findings.

While awaiting word from Stalin about what to do next, Rzhnevskaya's team moved to the small town of Finow, where they had the remains in the wooden boxes secretly sent to them. Late one night, they buried the boxes in the forest. Meanwhile, Hitler's remains were moved to a military base in Magdeburg in 1946, and, in 1970, before the base was returned to German control, they were exhumed, burned again, ground into dust, and thrown into a tributary of the Elbe river. Hitler had finally achieved the task he commanded his aides to carry out after death...no trace of him remained on this earth. Well, except for those jaws!

The teeth were put on display in Moscow in 2000 as part of an exhibition to mark the 55th anniversary of the end of the



Elena Kagan

war. In March and July 2017, Russia's FSB secret service and the Russian state archives authorized a team of French pathologists to examine Hitler's teeth for the first time since 1946. The research was published in the European Journal of Internal Medicine in May 2018.

Gruesome pictures of the teeth published in the study show a jaw made mostly of metal. "At the moment of his death," they wrote, "Hitler had only four remaining teeth." The few left were misshapen, brown at the base, and flecked with white tartar deposits.

If Hitler would have had a grave, he would have been rolling in it knowing that a Russian Jewish female had the mission of guarding his rotten teeth, and they were finally exposed for the world to see!

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



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Update from the Community Shlichah

by LIAT GAL, ISRAEL EMISSARY

“Togetherness” is a strong feeling. I wondered a lot about how it would feel to give birth so far away from home; I had some concerns. Well, a lot of them actually, and every day I keep on proving to myself that I’m a typical Jewish mom. But our beautiful community keeps on surprising Ophir and me.

We never felt alone for one moment! People sent us food and checked on us regularly.

The Jewish people are small but mighty; we are a resilient people, survivors. Many have tried to explore how the Jewish people survived throughout history: Am Kshe Oref (stubborn people) and Arvot Hadadit (being supportive of each other) might be the key for a better understanding. We keep each other safe; we take care of each other. With the Coronavirus upon us, we feel it more than ever.

I’m so proud to be a part of the Jewish Federation of Tulsa and to work with such inspiring people. We gathered to think about how we can help. Each of us is going to give their best, and, when it comes to our Israel department, we will be offering free classes: lectures for adults and young adults, Hebrew classes for kids, and Israeli cooking classes, and more. All of it will be online, and anyone can participate without leaving home! We will keep you updated on the Federation website and my Facebook account. If you have more suggestions, please feel free to share them with me. ■



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14th Annual Purim Mask Invitational

by MICKEL YANTZ, DIRECTOR OF COLLECTIONS & EXHIBITIONS, SMMJA

ON MARCH 12TH we had over 50 students and parents meet to enjoy the creative and colorful experience of the 14th Annual Purim Mask Invitational at The Sherwin Miller Museum of Jewish Art. This year we had 79 masks from four local schools, including Mizel Jewish Community Day School, Union 8th Grade Center, All Saints Catholic School, and Jenks Public Schools. We had work in paper, ceramic, foam, cardboard, plastic, metal, and some unidentified materials.

This year's judge was Stephanie Bayles. Stephanie is an active fine arts professional living in Tulsa. She has gained notoriety through her amazing little creatures while being a cover artist for *Tulsa People* and being featured at Tulsa art events.

After everyone enjoyed the candy bar featuring sugary sweets for young and old, the awards were presented from the honorable



mentions through first place. Traditionally, our Best in Show winner is a purchase award that becomes a permanent piece of artwork in our collection. We are excited to include in our collection the 2020 Purim Mask Invitational Best in Show from All Saints Catholic School by Issie Hayes.

The awards continue with you in judging our People's Choice Award. Every mask on display will be on the museum's Facebook page and every

like, love, laugh or wow counts as one vote. We will total them on May 10th to see who the winner is. Vote as much as you would like. Thanks to everyone who came out and participated in the show. In addition to the artists, we would also like to thank all the teachers who organized their masks for the show and the parents who feed, drive, and support these artists. ■



Issie Hayes



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European Diary

by BARRY FRIEDMAN

A comedian, born in New York, Barry started performing comedy in Tulsa, concluding that while Manhattan was the place to be discovered, Oklahoma had more parking. Barry is a columnist, a political blogger, and the author of three books: *Road Comic*; *Funny You Should Mention It*; and the just-released *Four Days and a Year Later*. What follows is a recent trip he took to Germany and Poland with his daughter, Nina, in a search for Jews, family history, and meaning.

February 15-

On the way to the airport to meet my daughter, Nina, I get into a Lyft with Zara, who's driving and who's dressed like a gypsy. More on her in a moment. Nina is in Europe, having arrived from Israel, where she did a birthright trip, a two-week sojourn sponsored by American and Jewish organizations that wish to re-connect American Jews with Judaism and/or Israel. Nina is half-Jewish, but it's the half that's been restless lately. The trip to Europe, and we're meeting in Berlin, is to immerse herself in what it meant to be Jewish in the 30s and 40s—and, to be entirely accurate, to experience the vegan restaurants in Berlin, Warsaw, Łódź, and Krakow. I can't really afford to make the trip, but my 30-year-old daughter wants me to accompany her to Europe. I'm \$21,000 in debt. After the trip, I'll be about \$23,500 in debt. I mean, what are we talking about? Anyway, back to Zara, who tells me, among other things, that her daughter died 14 years ago. Further, she tells me, God told her, Zara, to "knock it off" with the grieving and that he, God, is with the daughter and that the daughter is happy. As Big Daddy said in *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof*, "Wouldn't that be something if that were true." I wouldn't bring any of this up, but my son, Nina's brother, Paul, died 12 years ago today.

February 16-

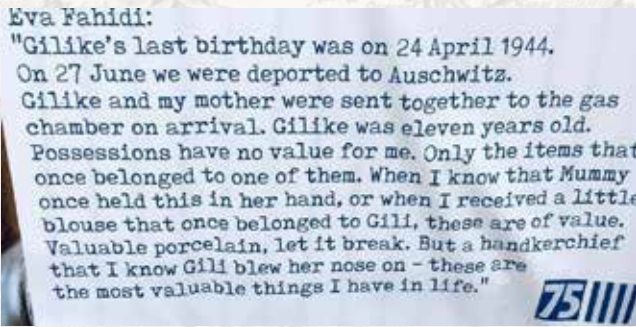
They should really just tear down Heathrow and start again. On the flight to Germany, I overheard a man behind me say into his phone, "I never met a girl online, so I went to a site called plentyoffish.com. Have you heard of it? I just had an uncle who was brutally killed in Vegas, so I have no desire to go. But my uncle spoke real good English." Maybe it's jet lag, but I swear that's what he said. On our first night in Berlin, Nina and I found a vegan restaurant called Peter Pane right outside the hotel "Excuse me," I said to the waiter, a dead ringer for Edward Snowden (actually every male in Berlin is), "do you do free refills here?" "No, impossible," he said. "How would we make money?"

February 17-

The Memorial to the Murdered Jews of Europe in Berlin is a row of concrete slabs in a grid on a city block. They look like headstones. I assume that's the point. Underground, there is an information center that holds the names of 3,000,000—Million—Holocaust victims. The museum is closed on Mondays. Better, I think, if they closed on Shabbat. We find a vegan donut place.

February 18-

We go back. It is 9:30, Tuesday morning in Berlin; it's raining, and there's a crowd to honor murdered Jews. In Berlin. Germany. Across the street from the museum, there is a construction fence in front of buildings and apartments with facsimiles of notes and placards depicting the words and wails of the families of those murdered Jews. This is the 75th anniversary of Normandy, the start of the end of the war. When it comes to the murdered Jews, every day is an anniversary of sorts. One of placards is from Eva Fahidi ...



The sun, which had no reason to, just came out.

February 19-

There used to be an ad for Keds' sneakers that asked the question: when does a daughter grow old enough to hold her father's hand again? Nina held my hand today on a walk.

February 20-

We're taking a 12-hour bus to Warsaw, Poland, as the train was sold out. We're nice and warm, though, thanks to Putin and Russian natural gas, even though the rain and wind continue to spank this green Flixbus like a misbehaving child in a cult. At a rest stop, 350 km from Warsaw, a woman, the bathroom attendant, followed Nina on to the bus, screaming in Polish—*toaleta, toaleta* ("toilet, toilet")—demanding money because Nina used the restroom. You have to pay to pee in much of Europe. The woman was not getting off the bus and the driver was siding with her, screaming in Polish to pay her. Nina gave her 2 euro because she had no Polish *Zeloty*. A two dollar pee. My daughter was pissed. "I already hate Poland," Nina said, as the bus pulled out.

February 21-

We spent four hours today in the Polin Museum of the History of Polish Jews. In Hebrew, the word "Polin" means either "Poland" or "rest here" and relates to a legend about the arrival of the first Jews in the country. Story has it that a call was heard in a forest by Jews who were forced to flee persecution in Western Europe. God either spoke the word "Polin" to these Jews or sent it as a message on a leaf. Considering this country's relationship with Jews the previous century, could this be any more ironic and cruel? Nina lost her gloves at the museum. After it closed, we walked through Warsaw and found a vegan restaurant, where she serendipitously saw a pair of gloves on the floor. She kept them.

February 22-

Arrived in Łódź and were headed to the Jewish cemetery to pay our respects, but it's closed on Saturdays. Of course it's closed on Saturdays. It's ... Saturday. It's Shabbat. We came on a train from Warsaw to see the part of the country from which

my grandfather couldn't wait to flee. Instead, we walk around the city, deciding to not do anything "Jewish" today. Łódź has a restaurant called "Tel Aviv," which is vegan. There's a restaurant called "Beirut," which is not. Make of that what you will. We ate at Tel Aviv. Later, at midnight, we go to a mall, a converted warehouse across from the hotel, watch a midnight showing of *Jo Jo Rabbit* with Polish subtitles. This is as absurd as it is perfect.

February 23-

My grandfather Nathan Ulrich, born in Łódź, this city, came to America when he was five or six, in 1910, I think. He drove a taxi in NYC for 40 Years-40 years in a car with standard transmission and no air conditioning—breathing in the belch of NYC. He died of stomach cancer at 65. Of course he died of stomach cancer. That's what waiting in a line of taxis for a fare at LaGuardia does to a man. He loved America, though, how it protected Jews, even poor ones like himself. He retired shortly before his death and received one social security check—just one. It was okay, though, in an odd way because the country gave him, albeit briefly, a hat/tip for being here. "Thanks, Nat," it seemed to be saying. By that time, he had saved enough to buy himself a blue Volkswagen Beetle convertible. Yes, made in Germany. Forgiveness? Probably not. I think he just liked the car. I bring this up because in Łódź, as in Warsaw, Nina and I have been avoiding taxis and relying on busses and trains, but this morning we took a cab to the train station on our way to Krakow. The driver, bald, glasses, 60-ish, drove us to one of the three stations in town, listening to American music. And there it was. The moment. The connection. The reason we came. Thanks, Nat.

To be continued in the May 2020 issue.

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