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Sivan/Tamuz 5780
June 2020



Navigating the New Normal



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Navigating the New Normal

by ALIX LIIV CAPLAN, DEPUTY DIRECTOR, JEWISH FEDERATION OF TULSA

Boom, the virus erupts
Spreading from your neighbor to the stranger not in favor
Denial, avoidance... uh, oh!
Markets crash, there goes our cash
Fear, confusion, or maybe an illusion
Unemployment rockets and the government fills our pockets
Blame's the game - is it you, or is it me?
"Shelter in Place" - oh, I miss your face
A mental health confession, or is it depression?
Cities shut down, economies frown
Tears run free... and Zoom, there's me
Faith and fitness, who will be my witness?
Navigating a 'new normal,' does it have to be so formal?
Integrate and accommodate
We work from home, feeling alone
Despite the horrid weather, we're all in this together
One foot in front of the other, look out for one another
This too shall pass, Fauci said it won't last
PPE for a fee and testing it will be - corona, won't you set us free!? ■

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Fight COVID-19 and Injustice

by **DREW DIAMOND**, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, JEWISH FEDERATION OF TULSA

“Thou shalt not be a victim, thou shalt not be a perpetrator, but, above all, thou shalt not be a bystander.”

—Yehuda Bauer, Israeli historian and scholar of the Holocaust

IN OUR WORLD challenged by the COVID-19 pandemic, there exists a need for heightened community activism in ways that meet our safety needs.

As I continue to engage in areas of community concern, people often respond by accusing me of being a liberal activist. I am fairly positive that being a liberal or an activist is not yet a crime in Oklahoma, so I confess up to my liberal leanings. While my conservative friends believe in the value of established practices in politics and society, I work to make positive changes within the social and political structure.

However, if we place the conservative principles alongside the progressive change tenants of liberalism, the differences between the two appear to be small. Seemingly the disparity arises in the interpretation of core principles shared by liberals and conservatives, subsequently leading to disagreement and conflict. Consequently, we end up in a world torn apart by politics, economics, race and religion.

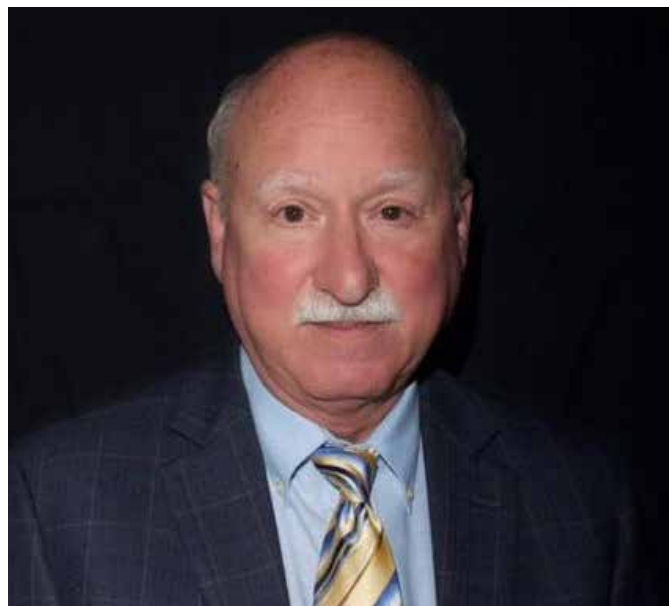
We have been here before. In 1968, I was a federal agent on assignment in Washington, D.C., at a time when it appeared the fabric of our nation was being shredded. Our nation's capital, along with the rest of the nation, was enmeshed in Vietnam war protests, the anguish and violence following the murder of Dr. Martin Luther King, the Poor People's March, the murder of Bobby Kennedy along with economic and social upheaval. Here I experienced firsthand the nature and significance of activism in a democratic society.

More than half a century later we have seen some progress even though, in the clutches of a deadly virus, we are still struggling with the same issues of economic, social and racial injustice.

In our current divided situation, words matter. Freedom, justice, love, peace, peaceful coexistence are words of substance and meaning. These words feel good. They are calming, healing, dignified and, most important, they are words to live by and to provoke action.

Acting in pursuit of freedom, justice and peace is vital if these words are to have meaning. However, actions require us to choose a side and take a stand. The tension between progressive and conservative ideology should become irrelevant when people's lives are at risk. So, how do we choose sides, survive a pandemic and keep the peace at the same time?

To be an activist and meet this challenge requires you to be informed and to understand the cause you support. In this age of intense social and commercial media, one must exert extra effort to separate truth from fiction and facts from propaganda. The success of activism in any arena depends on a combination of informing oneself, speaking out, educating the public and taking direct action.



Drew Diamond

Many Tulsans are deeply immersed in the practical challenges of responding to the COVID-19 pandemic while, at the same time, ensuring peace and justice for all.

When engaged in these issues, we are faced with questions regarding the scope and direction of any actions we choose to take or support. While the ends we pursue must be just, so too must the means we employ to achieve those ends. Each of us is responsible to actively pursue justice, equality and freedom for all, regardless of how others choose to behave.

We all have within us the capacity to be an upstander. As an upstander, our actions must be anchored in respect for the dignity and rights of every individual and applied with wisdom and fairness. The time is now. Your voice is important, make it heard. Facts are important, defend them. Above all, share your strength.

Drew Diamond is a member of the Tulsa World Community Advisory Board. This piece originally appeared on the Tulsa World Editorial page on Sunday, May 10, 2020. ■

An advertisement for Charles Pest Control. At the top, it says "Call Charles Call Charles Call Charles" in red. Below that, it says "Don't wait! Protect your home or business now before it's too late. Call Charles Pest Control at 918-584-3323." In the center, there is a large image of an ant. To the right of the ant is a red circular logo with "PEST CONTROL CHARLES TERMITE CONTROL" written around the edge. Below the ant and logo, it says "Free Estimates" and "charlespestcontrol.com".

A Bittersweet Time at Mizel!

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

THE END OF the year celebrations, the whole school coming out to honor graduates, a graduation ceremony with children, teachers and families, a talent show, a field day, and so much more to honor the school year ending. We are still celebrating virtually as our creative teachers plan the end-of-year Zoom celebrations and graduation of three students. The wonderful accomplishments of the children, the classes, and the faculty, are certainly being honored, but the excitement is not the same virtually.

This year in place of the talent show, we had a family project called MY MIZEL. Each family was assigned to do a project answering what makes “MY MIZEL” using the media of their choice. It was exciting to receive the pictures of the projects, and you may see them posted on our Facebook page!

By the time you read this, our three graduates will have “Zoomed” across the stage and received their certificates of achievement. Our graduates have been here since pre-school and are ready to move on to middle school. They have been true leaders at the school. They are Joe Goldzweig, son of Monica and Esteban Goldzweig; Bryce Kraft, daughter of Brian Kraft; and Baron Von Ostendorf, son of Jennifer Paxton and Anton Von Ostendorf. Their families and their Mizel family are so proud of their accomplishments.

We could not discuss students’ accomplishments without saluting the faculty and staff of our school. The teachers are the backbone of the school, and our graduates are sparkling with success because of the strong impact their teachers have had on their development and learning. On behalf of the whole community, we thank the teachers and staff who continue to teach with commitment, warmth, and enthusiasm, whether in the classroom, on FaceTime, or Zoom.



As this is being written and probably still when you are reading this, the Mizel Board and the Faculty are trying to work on contingencies for the coming school year. The unknowns and possibilities are not easy, and our whole community is struggling through this health crisis. However, we are in this together, and nothing can take away from the Kehillah Kadasha, the holy community, created as the Mizel Jewish Community Day School. ■



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Museum Tour of Israel Part 2, Tel Aviv

by **MICKEL YANTZ**, DIRECTOR OF COLLECTIONS & EXHIBITIONS

IN **DECEMBER OF** 2019, Charles Taylor, Director of Exhibit Services, and myself, had the unique experience of traveling to Israel for seven days. After walking through Jerusalem's 5,000 years of history in just three short days, we still hadn't had enough. So, we grabbed our suitcases and drove to the ever-growing city of Tel Aviv. Below is a brief guide to those museums we visited, but please keep in mind there are plenty more museums in Israel we simply didn't have time to see.

Our first stop in Tel Aviv, after another amazing cup of coffee, was Beit Hatfutsot - The Museum of the Jewish People located on the campus of Tel Aviv University. We were honored to get a tour with Director of Operations Mr. Eli Cohen and meet with Chief Curator Dr. Orit Gover. The SMMJA has a unique connection with Beit Hatfutsot. Tulsa photographer Louis Davidson and his wife Ronnie's Synagogue 360 interactive exhibit that just opened at the SMMJA in 2019 was made possible by the collection of over five million photographs the couple took of synagogues around the world. That permanent collection is located at Beit Hatfutsot and is used in their Synagogues exhibition. Their museum is currently in a major remodel scheduled to open in the fall of 2020; but look for future partnerships with our two museums in the future in Tulsa.



From left to right:
Mickel Yantz, Charles Taylor and Dr. Orit Gover

The Tel Aviv University campus also hosts The Steinhardt Museum of Natural History which includes a unique learning strategy about nature. Rather than herds of animals grouped according to continents, a thematic approach is utilized. The food chain, movement, and climate impact are showcased, while one exhibit staged as an older cabinet of curiosities looks back at outdated teaching strategies. It is a state-of-the-art museum with much interactivity featuring brilliant programs on tablets.



The Steinhardt Museum of Natural History

We went from taxidermy to fine art at the Tel Aviv Museum of Art. This gallery showcases Israel's largest collection of art, including European works from the 16th to 19th centuries, Impressionism, Post-Impressionism and 20th-century Modernism. Set in two linked buildings, the museum has plenty of art to see. Classical and modern art sit alongside installations and some excellent temporary exhibitions. The new building is a very quirky architectural marvel with aspects that change as one walks around. There was so much art that I burned through the battery on my camera and my phone with two more galleries to explore. It takes a full day if you have it.



Tel Aviv Museum of Art

The next day we made our way to the historic archeological site of Caesarea National Park. Caesarea is originally an ancient Herodian port city built by King Herod in 22-10 BCE. It is an engineering masterpiece located on Israel's Mediterranean coast about halfway between Tel Aviv and Haifa. The site has recently been restored to create one of Israel's most attractive and fascinating archaeological sites, including the restored amphitheater that hosts concerts and still has perfect acoustics. To learn more about this architectural wonder, we made our way across the ancient coliseum to see the new visitor center that includes an impressive multimedia explanation of the port's history with maps showing the rise and fall through animated maps and over-the-top artifact displays.



Caesarea National Park

We concluded our week-long journey not as an end but as a look into the future of Israel at the Peres Center for Peace and Innovation. The Peres Center focuses on the innovation and creative spirit of entrepreneurs in Israel. The guided tour starts in a room of holograms where innovators “speak” to you about their motivations, challenges, and achievements. Other rooms with virtual experiences exhibit innovative ideas coming from all different sectors of Israel. They honor the products and advances and include the twelve Israeli Nobel Prize winners. At the final exhibit, visitors can look through several new innovations currently being worked on and see what’s coming to the globe from Israel companies. As we walked out of the center the sun was setting on the Mediterranean. Greeting us was a steel sculpture that perfectly conveyed the message we needed to carry back to Tulsa: “Dream Big.”

We sought out as many museums as we could to witness the first-hand culture, history, and art of Israel and the Jewish people. This trip could not have happened without the generosity and guidance of Israeli Emissary Liat Gal, who scheduled a packed itinerary that we only added to. More importantly, Liat found

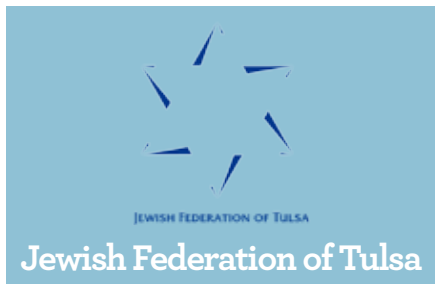


us the perfect Israeli tour guide, Ofir Lefler, who answered all our questions, met our many requests, and luckily took care of the driving. ■

Part one was published in the March 2020 issue.



Peres Center for Peace and Innovation



Virtual Men's Club

Wed., Jun. 10 • Noon • Zoom

Our speaker today will be Liat Gal, Shlichah (Israeli Emissary) for the Jewish Federation of Tulsa. Liat will be returning to Israel later this summer with her husband, Ophir, and beautiful baby daughter, Noga. The Zoom link will be emailed. RSVP to Mindy at mprescott@jewishtulsa.org. We look forward to seeing you there!



Virtual Men's Club

Wed., Jun. 24 • Noon

Our speaker today will be Jake Lerner, who will speak about Tulsa Changemakers, a company he co-founded. Tulsa Changemakers was recently named a semifinalist for the Arthur and Toni Rembe Rock Social Innovation award. The Zoom link will be emailed. RSVP to Mindy at mprescott@jewishtulsa.org. We look forward to seeing you there!



Online Exhibits

JewishMuseumTulsa.org

Explore current and past exhibits online including, Sacal: A Universal Mexican; the 14th Annual Purim Mask Invitational; Going Home, Jewish Romania in the early 21st Century; View from the Collection Room; Chasing Dreams; Jews in Space, and many more.



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

Now-Jul.

José Sacal is undoubtedly one of the most prominent representatives of contemporary sculptural art. Known for his experimentation and freedom, Sacal recognized no boundaries in his sources of inspiration and was not afraid to find new meaning in old forms. Sacal's work has been showcased in more than 40 individual exhibitions and dozens of collaborations in Mexico and around the world. In 2006, he became the first Mexican to have his sculptures permanently displayed in the country of China. Today, more than 20 Sacal sculptures can be found in public spaces across Mexico, Israel, and the United States, including Los Angeles and Washington, D.C. The sculptures featured at the Sherwin Miller Museum comprise two series: The Paraphrase, inspired by distinguished artists like Michelangelo, Frida Kahlo and Picasso, and Characters of Impact, in which Sacal recreates unmistakable historical figures like Einstein and Churchill.



Going Home, Jewish Romania in the early 21st Century

Extended Now-Aug.

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



View from the Collection Room

Now-Dec.

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

Arthur Szyk Illuminations

Now-Dec.

Arthur Szyk (pronounced "Shick") is considered by scholars to have been the greatest 20th-century illuminator working in the style of the 16th-century miniaturists. Szyk was the leading political caricaturist in America during World War II. Come see select lithographs from his "Visual History of Nations" series dated 1945 to 1949.



Open Forum with Rabbis

Every Fri. • 11 a.m.

One of the great missing pieces of our new digital world is the happenstance time to check in with one another and simply shmooze because we find ourselves in the same place. Every Friday at 11:00 a.m., Rabbis Fitzerman and Kaiman are available on Zoom to catch up, connect, and make sense of our shared new realities. Visit www.tulsagogue.com/digital-synagogue to find the link to the Zoom experience.

Panim el Panim Shabbat Morning Service

Every Sat. • 10 a.m.

Our tradition speaks of a special power that exists when a group of people gathers together for prayer. "Panim el Panim" is a live broadcast service led by Rabbis Kaiman and Fitzerman. Rooted in our in-person Shabbat morning service, we spend time singing, reflecting, studying Torah, and connecting. To take part in this experience, head over to www.tulsagogue.com/digital-synagogue, where you'll find the link under "Prayer" or check our program calendar.



Challah Baking

Wed., Jun. 3 • 6 p.m.

It's the greatest bread ever. On the first Wednesday of every month we gather to prepare our dough and explore the nuance of challah baking. With physical distancing in mind, we're excited to transition this experience to Facebook for an online cooking class. Tune in with Rabbi Kaiman to explore the beauty of baking for Shabbat. The class begins at 6:00 p.m. on the Synagogue Facebook page.

Bibi-Dibi Online

Fri., Jun. 5 • 5:30 p.m.

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



Puzzle Party

Wed., Jun. 10 • 7 p.m.

Join us online as we put together a puzzle of our own making. Each of us will be able to participate simultaneously, as we chat and laugh our way through the construction of the Synagogue itself! We're scheduled for an hour, and any serious puzzlers are welcome to stay longer if there's more puzzling to do. We'll meet on Zoom – check the Synagogue's website for the link.

Shabbat Together

Fri., Jun. 12 and 26 • 6 p.m.

As days and weeks go by, our tradition asks that we take time to pause, reflect, and enjoy time together. Shabbat Together is a short, digital gathering where we take a few moments to pause with community as we enter Shabbat. That means songs for the Shabbat table, Rabbi Kaiman and Sara Levitt on guitar, and Rabbi Fitzerman on... autoharp! It always starts at 6:00 p.m. and concludes at 6:15 p.m., in time for you to enjoy a Shabbat meal at home. To join us, visit www.tulsagogue.com to be directed to our Zoom experience.

My Poem

Wed., Jun. 17 • 7 p.m.

Whether poetry scares or excites you, you'll find this virtual workshop a welcome release from the bonds of logical thought. We'll gather for an hour of free-flowing ideas, open communication, and poetry tips and tricks. Join us in the virtual Synagogue – we'll be in our favorite Zoom room.

Shabbat for Everyone

Fri., Jun. 19 • 6 p.m.

We'll meet again in The Digital Synagogue for storytelling, song, and blessings. All of us are challenged to do our best in difficult times. The key thing is never to overlook an opportunity for joy. We'll start at 6:00 p.m. and raise a glass of wine to close out the evening. Please click the link on the Synagogue website to connect with us by Zoom link just before the starting time.



What's My Codename?

Wed., Jun. 24 • 7 p.m.

Whether you're already a Codenames Queen/King/Quince or if you've never played before, join us for a riotously good time. We'll be playing a classic party game, rich with opportunities for silliness and intensity. It'll be a fun hour – catch the Zoom link on our website.



Temple Israel

Prke Avot with Rabbi Weinstein on Zoom

Thurs., Jun. 4, 11, 18, & 25 • 2 p.m.

Prke Avot, The Ethics of our Ancestors, provides words of wisdom and an approach to living a good life. Our study in Prke Avot will bring us together as one sacred community. Join Rabbi Weinstein for this weekly class, as we learn and grow together.

Shabbat Service on Zoom & Facebook Live

Fri., Jun. 5, 12, 19, & 26 • 6 p.m.

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

Shabbat Morning Learning on Zoom

Sat., Jun. 6 • 10:30 a.m.

You are invited to join in this opportunity for study with friends during our monthly Shabbat morning learning with Rabbi Weinstein.

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

Sat., Jun. 6, 13, 20, & 27 • 7:30 p.m.

Join your Temple Israel Music Team as we separate the sacred from the sublime and begin the week anew; they will offer the prayerful songs of Havdalah and their soulful music of the new wee.

Temple Israel Annual Meeting on Zoom

Sun., Jun. 7 • 11 a.m.

Due to health concerns, this year's annual meeting will be a Zoom meeting. More information will be in the June Temple bulletin.



Coffee Talk with The Clergy Team on Zoom

Wed., Thurs., Fri., in Jun. • 10:30 a.m.

Log on to this successful, engaging program with friends and clergy. Links provided in the weekly eblasts.

Neshama Reboot on Facebook Live

Thurs. in Jun. • 1 p.m.

Join your Temple Israel Music Team as we raise our spirits together through song, both Jewish and secular.

Zman Kehilah with Cantor Weinstein & Rabbi Kowalski on Facebook Live

Mon. in Jun. • 1 p.m.

Stay in touch with your religious school family friends over the summer. Join Rabbi Kowalski and Cantor Weinstein as we continue to gather together in community and song.

The Jewish Inventors of the Teddy Bear

by PHIL GOLDFARB

ON NOVEMBER 14, 1902, President Theodore Roosevelt was on a four-day bear hunting trip near Onward, Mississippi, along with Mississippi's Governor Andrew H. Longino, who had invited him. Unlike the other hunters in the group, Roosevelt had not located a single bear. To save his reputation in the eyes of the press, Roosevelt's assistants, led by Holt Collier, a born slave and former Confederate cavalryman, cornered, clubbed, and tied an American black bear to a willow tree after a long exhausting chase with their hounds. They then summoned Roosevelt and suggested he shoot it. Viewing this as exceptionally unsportsmanlike and upon seeing the bear, Roosevelt refused to shoot him, claiming he only hunted prey that had a fair chance to defend itself.

The incident was reported in the press, and Clifford Berryman one of the nation's leading political cartoonists, read the article and decided to lightheartedly satirize the president's refusal to shoot the bear. Berryman's cartoon appeared in the *Washington Post* on November 16, 1902, showing Roosevelt turning his back on the tied-up bear. The American nation was in an uproar, with everyone supporting the president and commenting on his self-restraint and compassion. This was not just any President; it was Theodore Roosevelt, the big game hunter!

Enter Jewish immigrants Morris and Rose (Katz) Michtom. Morris had arrived penniless in New York in 1887, a refugee in his late teens from the Russian pogroms. He married Rose, who had arrived in the United States in 1889 and opened a small store at 404 Tompkins Avenue in Bedford-Stuyvesant Brooklyn that sold notions, candy, newspapers, and other penny items. In the evenings, to help make ends meet, Rose sewed toys and stuffed animals that they sold in the shop. Like millions of other Americans, the Michtoms avidly followed the press accounts of Roosevelt's bear hunting journey and his refusal to shoot the defenseless bear. This act touched the Michtoms. Morris suggested to Rose that she create a stuffed bear toy representing the one in Berryman's cartoons. That night, Rose cut and stuffed a piece of plush velvet into the shape of a bear, sewed on shoe button eyes, and handed it to Morris to display in the shop window.

They displayed it in their store the next day with a note saying simply: "Teddy's Bear." To their surprise, not only did someone enter the store asking to buy the bear, but twelve other potential customers also asked to purchase it that same day! Before they knew it, the bear became a big success, with requests from customers to get one for themselves flooding the store.

Aware that he might offend the president by using his name without permission (in reality Roosevelt did not like the name "Teddy" for himself), the Michtoms mailed the original bear to the White House, offering it as a gift to the president's children and asking Roosevelt for the use of the name "Teddy" to sell the bear. Roosevelt replied to the Michtoms he doubted his name would help its sales, but they were free to use it if they wanted.

With approval granted from the White House, the Michtoms went on to create and sell many more bears, soon realizing that there was more chance for profits in selling teddy bears than in keeping up their shop. To do so, Michtom founded the Ideal Novelty and Toy Co in 1907 that eventually became the Ideal Toy Company in 1936. Ever mindful of their humble origins, the Michtom's supported the Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society, the Jewish National Fund, the National Labor Campaign for Palestine, and numerous other Jewish causes.

The toy became so popular that Roosevelt and his party adopted it as a campaign symbol, and a teddy bear graced every public White House function before the election of 1904. The Michtoms were never able to get a patent granted to their toy invention, but their original Teddy Bear, the one that they sent to the White House which was treasured and saved by Teddy Roosevelt's grandchildren, is still displayed in the Smithsonian Museum to this day.

The Teddy Bear also had some other "functions." A later manufacturer of the Teddy Bear was the Steiff Toy Company of Germany. On March 13, 1938, Austria was annexed by Nazi Germany. In 1940, a golden brown Steiff Teddy Bear owned by Hans Butzke was ironically used by his Jewish parents, Julius and Netty, to smuggle family valuables out of Vienna, Austria when they left for

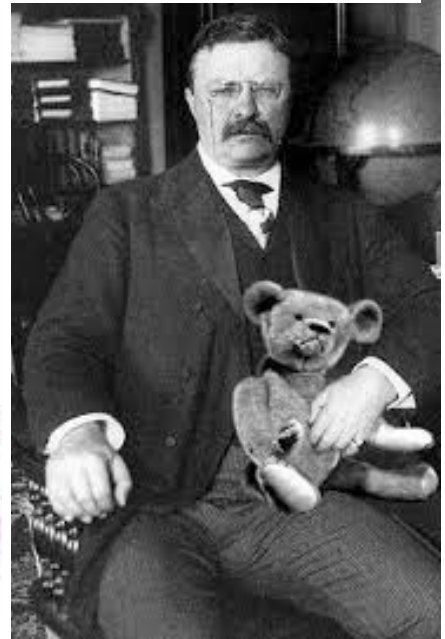


Panama. Jews were not permitted to take valuables from Germany, so Netty sewed the items, including a ring and pearls, inside the bear. She told Hans not to let anyone take it from him but did not tell him about the jewels hidden inside. The bear wore Hans' baby clothes. In early 1940, the family left by train for Amsterdam. German soldiers on the train took the bear away from Hans, age 10. He started screaming, and the men threw the bear back at him while calling him names. The family sailed to Panama. A few months later, they reached the United States and settled in Brooklyn.

The Ideal Toy Company, however, became the largest doll-making company in the United States, which remained in family hands until the 1970s. They sold millions of not only Teddy Bears but eventually other products after the post-World War II baby boom era. Their most popular dolls included Betsy Wetsy, Toni, Saucy Walker, Shirley Temple, Miss Revlon, Patti Playpal, Tammy, Thumbelina, Tiny Thumbelina, and Crissy. Their last big hit was the Rubik's Cube.

Morris Michtom died on July 21, 1938, at the age of sixty-eight. He was predeceased by his wife Rose on August 29, 1937. They are buried at the Montefiore Cemetery in Queens, NY. The Michtoms had three children: Joseph (1890-1951), Angela (1893-1956), and Benjamin Franklin (1901-1980)

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



Theodore Roosevelt and the original Teddy Bear



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COMMUNITY ACTION RESPONSE: COVID-19

5 things you can do to make a positive difference in your community



Think of others, consider your actions & be kind

People in every community will face the challenges of Covid-19 in some way - from needing basic provisions to help while they are unwell.



Connect and reach out to your neighbours

As self-isolation increases, we need to find new ways to stay connected and check in on one another for our physical and mental wellbeing. Share phone numbers and stay in touch.



Make the most of local online groups

Keep up to date, share information and be a positive part of your local community conversations.



Support vulnerable or isolated people

Different groups in our communities are at increased risk and social isolation and loneliness are key concerns for all ages. There are things you can do like volunteering for local support services or donating to food banks to help.



Share accurate information and advice

Support anyone who may be anxious about Covid-19. Sign post them to the correct advice from Public Health England and encourage people to follow the correct hygiene practices.

Tulsa is Not Just Part of Oklahoma; It's Part of Israel as Well

by LIAT GAL, ISRAEL EMISSARY

"I need you to get to Tulsa as soon as possible. Get here on June 8th."

"I can't! I'm getting married!"

"When is the earliest you can make it?"

"As far as I'm concerned, a day after the wedding."

With my wedding dress still lying on the dresser at home, not yet dry cleaned, the shoes I wore with it still by the front door, with the wedding gifts remaining unopened, we found ourselves sitting on a plane on the oh-so-long way to Tulsa, Oklahoma. I still remember the excitement, the concerns, the sense of mission.

We knew a meaningful journey was ahead of us; only we didn't realize just how meaningful it was going to be. We promised ourselves one thing, to come with an open heart – open for learning, for new experiences, for an introduction to a new Jewish world. The Jewish community in Tulsa is small, yet mighty. A community where the values of fellowship are above all else. From the first moment, we never felt alone, not even for a second. The community embraced us with a huge hug.

Tulsa became our home away from home. This page is far too small to contain the amount of love in our hearts for the people of Tulsa, the number of lessons we learned. I will only say in a few sentences - although we are leaving Tulsa soon, Tulsa will always be with us. It will forever be a part of who we are. We made amazing friends here. Friends who are like family. We enjoyed making projects. We enjoyed learning about our own Judaism from new perspectives. Our sense of Judaism grew so much stronger here. We started a family here, brought to the world our wonderful Noga. We are going back because of a rare opportunity waiting for us in Israel, but leaving with very heavy hearts.

And to you, the people of Tulsa - a part of Tulsa will always remain in Israel. After all, with every Schaliach/Shlichah arriving here and returning to Israel, some sparks of Tulsa reach Israel - memories, and a sense of belonging.

Am Yisrael Chai - The People of Israel Live.

We love you, truly, truly love you. ■

MAZELS

HILLARY KRISMAN

Hillary graduated with a doctorate of physical therapy on May 2, 2020, from Regis University in Denver, CO. During her time at Regis, she participated in many service learning opportunities such as the Denver MEND project, 9Health Fair, Father Woody's Homeless Fair, and Easter Seals Discovery Day. Hillary is an active member of the American Physical Therapy Association and belongs to both the acute care and neurologic sections. As an advocate of the profession, she is also part of the PTeam, a grassroots advocacy group of the APTA. She completed four clinical rotations in Colorado and Oklahoma and completed a research narrative review on the effects of early mobilization in the ICU following subarachnoid hemorrhage. She will begin her career in Tulsa as an acute care physical therapist at Ascension Saint John. Hillary and her fiancé were recruited through Tulsa Tomorrow. ■



HARLAN BEA

CAPLAN

Pushing through the times of COVID-19, Harlan Bea Caplan was born on April 1, 2020, weighing in at 6 lbs and 19 inches. She arrived two weeks early, which means she can join the workforce ahead of schedule. Both mom, Alix Liiv Caplan, and father, Montgomery Caplan, are over the moon in love and sleep-deprived. ■

A Reflection on Mother's Day 2020

by **MATHEW SNYDER**, HEALTHCARE ADMINISTRATOR

Reflecting on last month's Mother's Day has allowed me to put many things in perspective. Due to the ongoing COVID 19 pandemic, our family had to change Mother's Day plans. Each year I really get into Mother's Day, as I want to make sure mom knows my siblings and I appreciate all the sacrifices she made for us growing up to put us in the best position for a successful life.

I normally plan an extravagant celebration for my mom with the whole family. However, knowing the social gathering restrictions that would be in place, I was stressing about what to do and how to make my mom feel special without planning a big get-together.

After several weeks of thought on this, I basically came to the conclusion that, while I know my mom does appreciate the large family events we normally do for Mother's Day, I know she will be fine with whatever I plan, and I shouldn't worry about things I have no control over. I then called my mom and told her there will be no big plans this year and asked, "Will you just have lunch with me and your grandbabies?" She said she would love to and that would be a great Mother's Day gift for her.

We had a small lunch with just my family, and for the first time in years, it was a quiet lunch without having to talk over 20 other people. We were actually able to sit and have a wonderful conversation, and she was able to enjoy her grandkids and give them some one-on-one time, instead of having to divide her attention amongst all of them like she normally does.

While I was initially worried she would be let down with such a simple plan, I came to realize that it truly is the quality of the time and interaction that matters, and not how many people can show up to an event.

In addition to my own plans for Mother's Day, I was worried that our residents would feel left out or forgotten. Many families called, video chatted, and some even came to the window to see their mothers. Everything went as well as I could have hoped. While I still feel that not being able to physically be with loved ones is obviously hard, just the thought and effort that families made to make Mother's Day special with the current limitations were appreciated, and that alone let them know they are loved.

I truly hope by this time next year we can have things somewhat back to normal so families can again celebrate together and hug and touch each other. If nothing else, this pandemic has taught us about the value of relationships. Hopefully, in the long run, we will appreciate each other and not take things for granted. We know what it is like when things are taken away. Tomorrow is not promised, so we must be thankful for today. ■

Zarrow Pointe is adjusting to the new "normal" and finding creative ways to operate during this COVID-19 crisis



Phil Allen standing, Dr. Paul Waruszewski sitting



Rita Allen, Mask Project Coordinator



Mary Sanders



Mask Project sewing room



Frieda Grossbard



Several patio decorating contest pics



Butterflies

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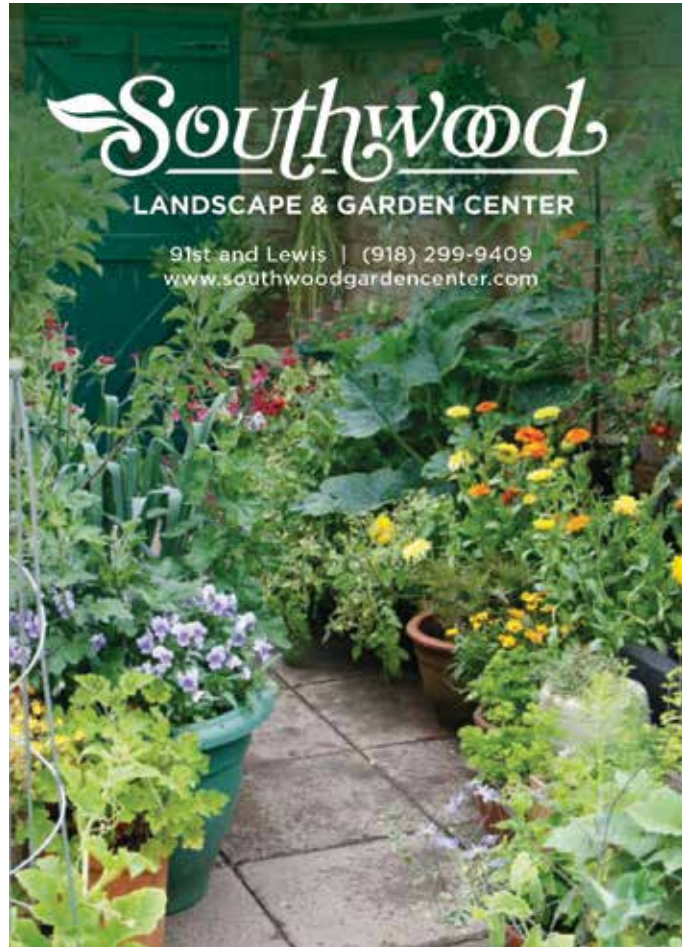
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When Boomers Become Zoomers

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

I AM AN ADMITTED immigrant to all things technology. Ask me to learn Chinese and the results would be less embarrassing. Having retired from teaching in 2016, I left in the nick of time. Canvas was not yet a requirement punishable by firing squad. Dodged that bullet. Facetime, to my knowledge, only worked on teenagers' phones. My job as a teacher never required me to learn Excel or Microsoft Publisher or any of the other icons I had never opened.

Yes, I could manage PowerPoint, Word documents, copy/paste, email, entering my grades, but the list does not go on and on. So, since my tech skills were sufficient to perform most of my teacher duties, I joined the Jewish Federation staff 1 ½ years ago, foolishly confident that I could handle the basic computer tasks my job required.

Ask Debbie O'Hearn how that worked out. Debbie, bless her heart, was the most patient teacher anyone could have wished for. However, after three months of working with one whose left brain seemed incapable of learning the bare basics of technology but would rather let the right brain dominate the conversation---how much can one human tolerate? Oh, the relief she must have felt when I moved out of the production room into my own office far, far away.

We are still friends, I hope, and I thank her for teaching me all my brain could hold!

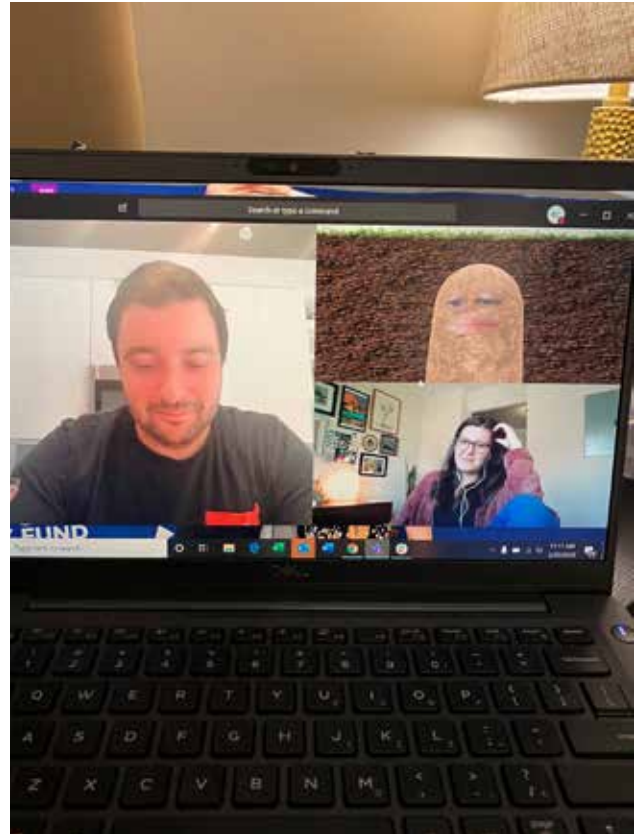
Limping forward to another scary first: The Zoom Meeting. My encounter with this new technology occurred about a week into our sheltering-in-place. I awakened two hours early to do my hair, makeup, and to choose the perfect outfit. Connecting was not as difficult as I had imagined; however, my efforts to "look my best" were futile. Locating myself in a little box on my computer screen, I stared in shock at what I saw. Jace, my eight-year-old grandson, was right; my face does look like an "old potato," even without an Instagram filter, which I don't know how to use either.

Six weeks later, with three Zoom meetings under my belt, I entered our most recent staff meeting with a couple ounces of confidence. Still typing the meeting ID in with my pointer finger, I confess to making three attempts before being able to move on to the password. So many numbers!!

Immediately I was greeted with, "We can hear you, but we can't see you."

Me, thinking: what's wrong with that? (I have yet to locate the button that makes one invisible). I try to stay fairly quiet during these meetings so as not to embarrass myself and those who advocated for my hiring.

All was going well until....my stupid computer chose for us to leave the meeting without warning me. Well, at least I thought I had left. After finally reconnecting, I was greeted by my fellow Zoomers' faces contorted in laughter. Apparently I was not aware of how sensitive my microphone is. I promise, it was not the worst obscenity I could have uttered—but I had been caught, and I'm quite certain I will be reminded of this faux pas from here to eternity. ■



Fellow Zoomer commented: "My boss [Lizet Ocampo] turned herself into a potato ...and can't figure out how to turn the setting off, so she was just stuck like this the entire meeting."





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During this time of COVID-19, the JFT Community Garden is continuing to help increase access to highly nutritious, fresh, and organic food in a way that maintains dignity, builds community, and celebrates diversity.

For more information, contact Debbie O'Hearn at 918.935.3665 or federation@jewishtulsa.org.

