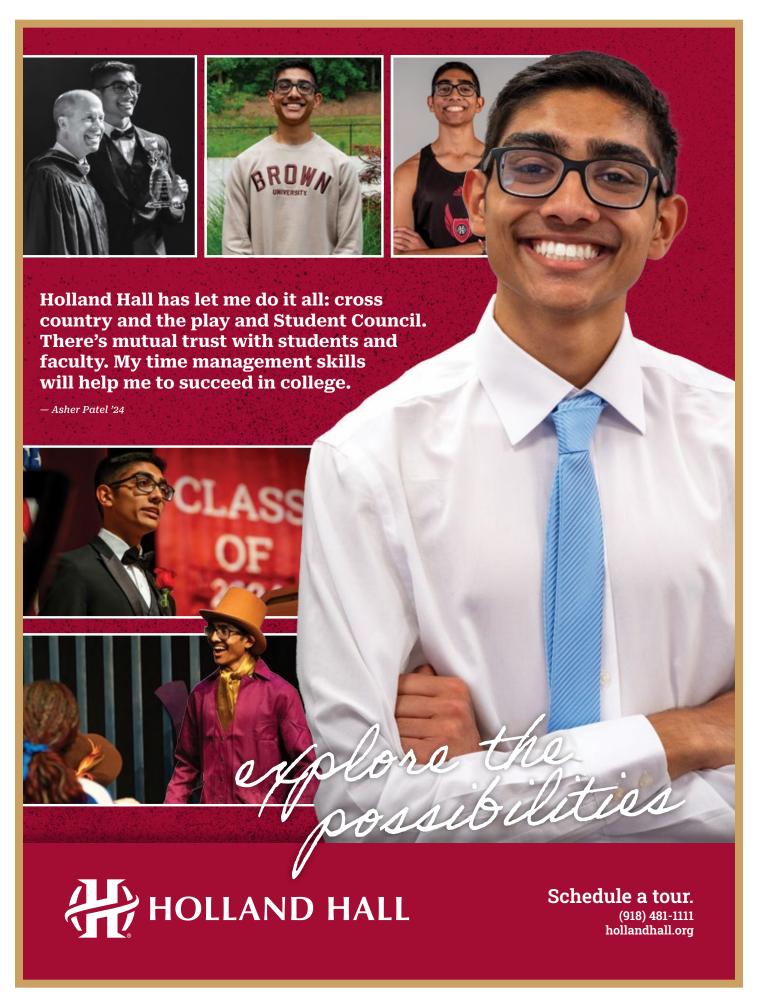
Jewish Review

Adar/Nisan 5785 March 2025





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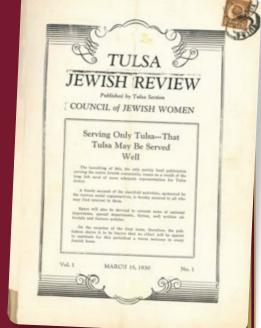
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Front Cover



11th Oklahoma Jewish Film Festival

JEWISH FEDERATION OF TULSA

MISSION:

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

VALUES:

Kehila - Community

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

Tzedek – Justice

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

L'Dor V'Dor -From Generation to Generation

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

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DIRECTOR'S CORNER

by Joe Roberts, Executive Director

The past month has been incredibly difficult. We have watched with a mixture of overwhelming joy and deep sorrow as some hostages were returned to their families, battered but alive. And we have been shattered by the unimaginable pain of those still waiting, by the confirmation of heartbreaking losses, most notably the brutal deaths of the Bibas family—a mother and her two young children, their lives stolen in the most inhumane way. Each name, each face, becomes another wound on our collective soul.

And yet, through the grief, through the uncertainty, we have endured. Here in Tulsa, we have endured together. Because we are a community.

That word—community—gets used so often that we sometimes forget its weight. Community is not just about shared space or common institutions. It is about being there for one another, lifting each other up in moments of despair, celebrating together in moments of joy, and refusing to let go when times are hard. We lean on one another because that is what Jews do. That is what we have always done.

But being a community is not always easy. As individuals, we all have our own perspectives and ways of expressing our Jewishness—through tradition, activism, learning, culture, and connection to Israel. Some find meaning in ritual, others in service. Some find solace in tradition, others in change. And yet, the Jewish people—and I say this intentionally—are one.

We are not disparate parts. We are am echad—one people.

That is not always an easy thing to wrestle with. We live in an era where disagreement is often mistaken for division, where ideological lines have become battle lines. But Jewish history teaches us something profound, we do not have to agree with one another to stand together. The beauty of Jewish life has always been its plurality and its ability to contain multitudes. Our faith, our culture, our peoplehood—these are not weakened by diversity of thought. They are strengthened by it.

The past few months have tested that strength. In the wake of October 7th, the world has felt like it has shifted beneath our feet. The rise in antisemitism has been staggering.

Conversations we once thought impossible—over whether Jews deserve safety, whether Israel has a right to exist—are now mainstream. The moral compass we thought we shared with much of the world seems suddenly broken. And through it all, we are left to grapple with what it means to be Jewish in this moment.

"We are not

Make no mistake; this is a moment of inflection. The Jewish world—not just Israel, but all of us—is undergoing a seismic shift. We are at a crossroads.

disparate parts. We are

But if history has taught us anything, it is that we do not shrink from these moments—we rise to meet them.

am echad—one people."

We rise by strengthening our communities, by doubling down on our connections to one another. We rise by refusing to be defined by what others say about us, instead embracing our own narrative, our own sense of purpose. We rise by investing in Jewish education, by supporting Jewish institutions, by standing proudly in our identity.

We rise by building.

Because that is what the Jewish people do. We build.

The generations before us knew this. They built synagogues and schools, cultural institutions, and humanitarian organizations. They built families and friendships, movements and revolutions. They built a state, a homeland, and a future.

And now, it is our turn.

The work ahead will not be easy. The challenges we face will not simply disappear. But we do not face them alone. We face them as a people, bound by tradition and destiny.

We will rise to meet this moment together. And, we will overcome it together.

Just as we always have. Because there is no other way.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Maimonides Society Brunch | Sunday, March 2 | 11 am | Private Residence: Jill and Peter Wenger's

Join us for a special Maimonides Society social, open to current members and those considering joining! The Maimonides Society brings together healthcare professionals who support the Jewish Federation of Tulsa's Annual Campaign at the Maimonides level. This event features guest speaker Remi Haik, a renowned holistic health author and educator, leading an engaging session exploring wellness from a holistic perspective. This is an opportunity to connect, learn, and explore the benefits of being part of the Maimonides Society community.

RSVP: jewishtulsa.org/Maimonides-march



Challah Bake Competition | Friday, March 7 | 9 am - 12 pm | **Jewish Federation**

Do you make the best challah in town? We are inviting members of the community to participate in our Challah Bake Competition! Bring your challah to the Federation between 9 am and 12 pm on Friday, March 7 and our panel of esteemed judges will convene for the tasting. The winner will be crowned "Braided Boss" on both social media and the JFT email newsletter.

RSVP: JewishTulsa.org/challah



YJP Purim Party | Friday, March 14 | 6:30 pm Schmooze | 7 pm Program | Jewish Federation

Inviting our young Jewish professionals' community (21-40) for a fun and flavorful celebration with *Purim Pairings*. We'll begin the evening with a Shabbat experience followed by learning and celebrating the joy of the holiday through a five-course culinary journey featuring fun twists on traditional Purim food and drink pairings. Tickets are \$36/person.

RSVP: JewishTulsa.org/yjp-purim25



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



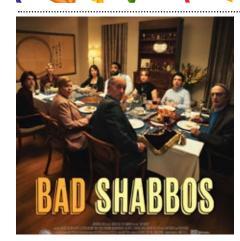
UPCOMING EVENTS



PJ Library Purim | Sunday, March 16 | 10 am | Private **Residence: Jenny and Tyler Abrams**

Join us for a Sunday schmooze with our PJ Library community! We will enjoy a morning of fun with PJ Library parent and local drag persona, Queen Alistair, who has performed at past Synagogue and Federation events. Queen Alistair and King Ahasuerus are leading a group song, story time, and activities for all. Costumes are encouraged! \$10 per family with bagels, fruit, and snacks provided.

RSVP: JewishTulsa.org/pj-purim

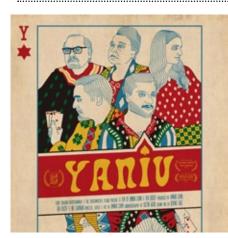


YJP Sunday Schmooze & Cinema | Sunday, March 23 | 3 pm | Circle Cinema

Young Jewish Professionals are invited to a pre-film gathering and schmooze prior to the screening of *Bad Shabbos* as part of the Oklahoma Jewish Film Festival. Bad Shabbos is a hilarious and fast-paced, dark comedy that won the 2024 Tribeca Audience Award. This film delivers unexpected twists and nonstop laughs. Snacks are on us—just grab your ticket.

RSVP: jewishtulsa.org/yjp-march





Brotherhood Night at OKJFF | Tuesday, March 25 | 5:45 pm | **Circle Cinema**

Calling all men in the community! Join us for our 1st Brotherhood Night at the Oklahoma Jewish Film Festival. We will meet at the Circle Cinema at 5:45 pm for some schmoozing and a box dinner from Lambruzo's before the film Yaniv, a madcap comedy that unpacks Jewish identity, male friendship, gambling, and public education...all in one lighthearted package. Beer and wine available for purchase.

\$25 Dinner + a Movie – must be purchased in advance (for tickets to just the film, visit CircleCinema.org or the box office. Film begins at 7 pm).

RSVP: JewishTulsa.org/okjff-brother





Lunch Bunch | Wednesday, March 26th | 12 pm | Calavera's & Circle Cinema

This month's Lunch Bunch brings us to the historic Circle Cinema for the Oklahoma Jewish Film Festival's heartwarming screening of Shari and Lamb *Chop*, about a young Jewish girl from the Bronx, Shari Lewis, who became the country's most famous ventriloquist. We will meet at Calavera's Mexican Restaurant, next door to the theatre, for a vegetarian buffet: chips, queso, guac, fajitas, and quesadillas.

\$25 Lunch + a Movie – must be purchased in advance (for tickets to just the film, visit CircleCinema.org or the box office Film begins at 1 pm).

RSVP: jewishtulsa.org/lb-march26



BLOND BOY FROM THE CASBAH

UPCOMING EVENTS

Sisterhood Night at OKJFF | Thursday, March 27 | 5:30 pm

The Sisterhoods of Congregation B'nai Emunah, Temple Israel, and the Jewish Federation are gathering in community as part of the Oklahoma Jewish Film Festival. Burning Cedar Sovereign Wellness, a 100% Native women-led, community-driven nonprofit dedicated to addressing socioeconomic disparities, health crises, and cultural disconnection in Indigenous communities will join us for a presentation and authentic meal. Learn about this organization's impactful work and enjoy a special meal prior to the screening of The Blond Boy from the Casbah.

\$36 Dinner + a Movie – must be purchased in advance (for tickets to just the film, visit CircleCinema.org or the box office. Film begins at 7 pm).

RSVP: JewishTulsa.org/okjff-sister





Closing Reception at OKJFF | Thursday, March 27 | 5:45 pm

Join us for closing night of the Oklahoma Jewish Film Festival with an African Inspired meal by Afrikan Delights. The food pairs well with the closing film, Running on Sand, about an Eritrean refugee living in Israel and his plight as he is about to be deported back to his home country. Afrikan Delights is a local catering company, owned by a female African emigrant, serving traditional and contemporary flavors. Following the film, we will hear from Rabbi Dan Kaiman and Genevieve Rahim speaking about Tulsa's Refugee Resettlement program run by Congregation B'nai Emunah.

\$30 Dinner + a Movie - must be purchased in advance (for tickets to just the film, visit CircleCinema.org or the box office. Film begins at 7 pm).

RSVP: JewishTulsa.org/okjff-closing



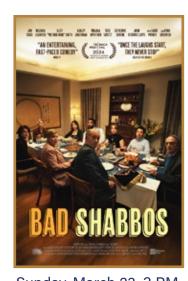


Cup of Joe | Friday, March 28 | 10 am | SMMJA Library

Presenting our new series Cup of Joe, a coffee meetup with Executive Director, Joe Roberts. It's a time to get to know him, ask questions, pick his brain, or just chit-chat. Coffee provided or bring your own if you prefer. Mark your calendars for the last Friday of the month at 10 am in The Sherwin Miller Museum of Jewish Art's Library.



March 23-27, 2025 • 5 Days | 7 Films



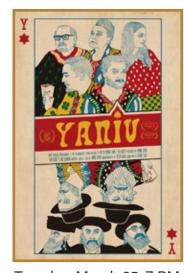
Sunday, March 23, 3 PM **Bad Shabbos**



Sunday, March 23, 7 PM Sabbath Queen



Monday, March 24, 7 PM Soda



Tuesday, March 25, 7 PM **Yaniv**

CHARLES AND LYNN

Schusterman



Shari and Lamb Chop



The Blond Boy

from the Casbah

Wednesday, March 26, 1 PM Wednesday, March 26, 7 PM Thursday, March 27, 7 PM







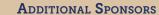
Running on Sand

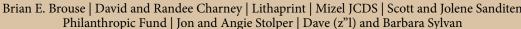


Tickets at: CircleCinema.org/OKJFF | \$12 each film | All Festival Pass \$70 More info and view trailers at: JewishTulsa.org/OKJFF













The Power of Film

by Sandy Sloan, Editor Tulsa Jewish Review

FILMS ARE ABOUT CONNECTION. FILMS OFFER A WINDOW INTO DIFFERENT CULTURES, IDEAS, AND EXPERIENCES. THEY ARE A POWERFUL MEDIUM FOR STORYTELLING, EDUCATION, AND ENTERTAINMENT. THESE ARE JUST A FEW OF THE REASONS THE OKLAHOMA JEWISH FILM FESTIVAL (OKJFF) WAS ESTABLISHED OVER A DECADE AGO.

HERE'S WHAT YOU CAN EXPECT AT THIS YEAR'S OKLAHOMA JEWISH FILM FESTIVAL:

Bad Shabbos | Sunday, March 23, 3 pm

Set in the well-heeled part of New York's Upper West Side Jewish community **Bad Shabbos** is an entertaining, somewhat dark, fast-paced comedy about a Sabbath dinner gone terribly awry. On this particular Shabbat dinner, David and Meg, an interfaith couple living in New York are about to bring together Meg's Midwestern, Christian parents to meet their future in-laws. A prank by David's younger brother causes an accidental death, which sets off the frantic antics for the evening. The entire family, and some unwitting accomplices, are suddenly thrown into a tailspin, formulate a plan, and desperately try to get rid of Meg's folks before it all unravels.

Backed by a strong cast including **Kyra Sedgwick** as Ellen, David's mother, who is a micromanaging, passive-aggressive control freak. **David Paymer** (The American President) as Richard, David's father, is a charming if soppy patriarch, with Woody Allen character vibes. American rapper (Wu-Tang Clan) and actor **Method Man** plays the intrepid doorman who ends up stealing quite a few scenes.

Many Jews will identify with the familiar tone of the traditional Friday night meal and how the



members of the family interact with one another. Others, with a different sensibility, might look at the movie as a family treating their guests poorly while trying to cover up a crime. "It is perfectly fine to laugh at ourselves," stated director Daniel Robbins. "In the end, the film will more than likely invoke an emotional response from the viewers, and this is exactly the reaction I am hoping for."

Sabbath Queen | Sunday, March 23, 7 pm

Sabbath Queen tells the remarkable story of rabbi and drag queen **Amichai Lau-Lavie**. The story is neither black or white, but rather laughter on one side and tears on the other. Jewish on one side and queer on the other. Grounded in tradition on one side, and profoundly innovative on the other.

Amichai was born into an Orthodox family in Israel in 1969 and has been living in New York since 1998. A descendant of Holocaust survivors and the heir to 38 generations of Orthodox rabbis, Amichai chose a different path. In 2016, he was ordained as a rabbi by the Conservative movement's Jewish Theological Seminary in New York. He's the founder and leader

of Lab/Shul, an innovative Jewish spiritual community in Manhattan, and also the founder of Storahtelling, which uses theater and storytelling to expand our understanding



of the Torah, all of which is in the film. On top of that, Amichai has a drag alter ego, Rebbetzin Hadassah Gross!

Filmmaker Sandi DuBowski followed Amichai for 21 years compiling his story. DuBowski is best known for directing *Trembling Before G-d*, which explores the lives of Orthodox Jews working to integrate queerness with their Jewishness.

Amichai's wisdom and capacity for connection are deep. Again and again he invites us to reach across boundaries—queer and not, Jewish and not, Jews/ Israelis and Palestinians. This enthralling documentary continues to win awards at film festivals worldwide.

Soda | Monday, March 24, 7 pm

Nominated for 3 Israeli Academy Awards, this compelling historical drama follows a group of former Resistance fighters and young Holocaust survivors who



settle as a community in 1950s Israel. The group works at the local soda bottling plant. Former partisan leader and factory foreman, Shalom, played by the enigmatic Lior Raz (Fauda), is a married man who is intrigued by the beautiful new neighbor Eva (Rotem Sela, Beauty and the Baker) who moves

in next door—a woman rumored to have been a Kapo during the Holocaust. Shalom's desire to be with Eva betrays both his family and the fellow survivors living in the neighborhood. Amidst these swirling suspicions, he is determined to discover the truth.

Yaniv | Tuesday, March 25, 7 pm

Two desperate high-school teachers from the Bronx become embroiled in a high-stakes caper that is way over their heads. Their misadventure begins with noble intentions, as they try, albeit unsuccessfully, to secure funding for a spring musical production for their students. Their unconventional solution? Infiltrating an underground card game called "Yaniv" run by an ultra-

Orthodox
Jewish
group, all
in pursuit
of claiming
the coveted
prize
money.
However,
despite



their best-laid plans, chaos ensues, resulting in a riotous, comedic unraveling with moments of profound depth and heartwarming warmth. *Yaniv* unpacks Jewish identity, male friendship, and public education, in a lighthearted package.

Shari and Lamb Chop | Wednesday, March 26, 1 pm

A pioneer of children's television, Shari Lewis was the perky powerhouse behind NBC's wildly popular family variety shows in the 50s and 60s. A multi-talented singer, dancer, and magician, Lewis is best known for her skillful ventriloquism as the human counterpart to the beloved sock puppet Lamb Chop. Primed for

the spotlight with her unconventional upbringing in the Bronx: Lewis's mother was a pianist and proud feminist, her father a Yeshiva University professor who



moonlighted as Peter Pan the Magic Man. When an injury sidelined Lewis's dance aspiration, the misfortune led her to discover her passion for ventriloquism. Through the highs of those early years at NBC to her crushing cancellation when animation began to edge out live children's television, Lewis's talent and perseverance served as the cornerstone on which she waged her incredible comeback. The film features home movies, archival footage, and candid interviews with family and colleagues, cementing Lewis's status as an original television icon.

The Blond Boy from the Casbah | Wednesday, March 26, 7 pm

A celebrated filmmaker returns to Algiers with his young son in a bittersweet semi-autobiographical dramedy, reflecting on the loss of his multicultural community during the Algerian War of Independence



in the 1960s. Having emigrated to France with his

Second Survey Survey Survey Survey Survey Survey Survey Survey

UPCOMING EVENTS

Fitness Challenge - March Madness Workout Bracket

Inspired by the excitement of the NCAA tournament, this challenge follows a workout bracket format, where participants advance through different exercises based on matchups. The goal is to stay consistent, push limits, and have fun with a competitive twist! Pick up your March Madness Workout Sheet from the fitness desk.





YOGA SERIES

Yoga Series with Sarah-Anne Schuman | Fridays, 10:15 am | Dance Studio

► March 7 Gentle Therapeutic Yoga

► March 14 Chair Yoga

► March 21 Restorative Yoga

RSVP required - Sign up at the Fitness Desk or call 918-935-3681

Evening Hatha Yoga with Holly Hughes

Tuesdays and Thursdays at 6 pm



Wellness Series | Wednesday, March 12 | 10:15 am | Dan Room

Join us as we learn about Oklahoma Healthy Aging Initiative (OHAI), a statewide network through the University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center, designed for seniors and their loved ones. OHAI offers a wide range of healthy aging educational programs and resources for anyone living in the state. Programs teach about healthy brain function, living with chronic conditions, tai chi for balance, older adult driving safety, and more. Come learn about the opportunities in our area to arm yourself and your loved ones with the knowledge and resources to age gracefully

RSVP: csjcc.org/wellness-march12



Social: Mad Hatter Tea Party | Wednesday, March 19 | 10:15 am

Throw on your favorite hat and join us for the 3rd Annual CSJCC Tea Party! This fun social is a great way to meet your fellow JCC community, chit-chat, and enjoy delicious finger foods and drinks. Prize awarded for best hat! All attendees will vote on the winner during the Tea Party! Don't miss this fun day of fellowship.

RSVP: csjcc.org/social-march

MAKE YOUR VOICE COUNT

by Shahaf Feinkuchen, Israeli Emissary

2025 U.S. ELECTION FOR THE 39TH WORLD ZIONIST CONGRESS

ZI-ON-ISM — ESTABLISHED IN 1897 BY THEODOR HERZL, THE AIM OF ZIONISM WAS TO ESTABLISH A NATIONAL HOME FOR THE JEWISH PEOPLE SECURED BY PUBLIC LAW. TODAY THE TERM REFERS TO THE MOVEMENT FOR THE SELF-DETERMINATION AND STATEHOOD FOR THE JEWISH PEOPLE IN THEIR ANCESTRAL HOMELAND, THE LAND OF ISRAEL.

etween March 10 and May 4, 2025, American Jews will vote for their delegates to the 39th World Zionist Congress (WZC), often referred to as the "parliament of the Jewish people." This Congress, which will convene in Jerusalem in October 2025, serves as a crucial forum for shaping the future of Israel and Jewish communities worldwide. Voting in this election is one of the most powerful ways to make your voice heard, influence decisions that impact Jewish life globally, and stand up for Zionism.

The representatives elected—one-third of whom come from the United States—will determine how over \$1 billion in annual funding is allocated to address the most pressing needs in Israeli society and the Diaspora. A higher voter turnout means a stronger voice for American Jewry in these vital decisions.

Why This Election Matters

We recently hosted Herbert Block, Executive Director of the American Zionist Movement (AZM), here in Tulsa (and on our podcast *For the Love of Zion*) to discuss the significance of these elections and the role of Zionism in America. The AZM administers the election and works to promote and defend Zionism in the United States. According to their mission statement, the AZM aims to deepen and expand the active relationship of the American Jewish community to Zionism in a contemporary context, facilitate dialogue and collaboration among Zionist organizations, and serve as a central hub for Zionist resources in America.

"This is a concrete moment for American Jews to affirm their Zionism, to declare their support for Israel and connection to the Jewish community, and also to help make a difference on how decisions are made, stated Block. Unfortunately, the word Zionism has gotten a bad name over the decades. We as the Jewish people need to reclaim that term and make people understand that Zionism is not about the support for any particular policy of the current government sitting in Israel or not Zionism at its core is supporting the existence of the Jewish national homeland in Israel and in our ancestral homeland of Israel."

Many people ask me as the shaliach: "What can I do to help Israel? How can I contribute to rebuilding?" I believe that voting in the WZC election is a simple

etween March 10 and May 4, 2025, American Jews will vote for their delegates to the 39th World Zionist Congress (WZC), often referred to as the ament of the Jewish people." This Congress, which onvene in Jerusalem in October 2025, serves as a yet impactful way for Jewish Americans to participate. Every vote supports Zionism and Israel—there are no "losers" in this election. Your ballot helps shape the Zionist and Jewish values you stand for and influences Israel's future as the homeland of the Jewish people.

How the Election Works

Voters cast ballots for one of 21 slates of candidates submitted by various Zionist organizations. This record-high number of slates represents a wide range of political beliefs, religious denominations, and cultural traditions—an over 50% increase from the 13 slates that won seats in the 2020 Congress. Voting is conducted primarily online and via mobile devices, though paper ballots are available upon request.

Who Is Eligible to Vote?

To participate in the election, you must:

- Be Jewish (and not subscribe to another religion)
- Be at least 18 years old by June 30, 2025
- Be a U.S. citizen or a legal permanent resident in the U.S.
- Maintain your primary residence in the U.S.
- Accept the Jerusalem Program (the Zionist movement's platform)
- Not have voted in the November 2022 Knesset election (and not plan to vote in any Knesset election before July 28, 2025)

How to Vote

You can find detailed information about all the slates, candidate lists, and the voting process at www. zionistelection.org.

Registration and voting open on March 10, 2025. Voting will be conducted online, with paper ballots available upon request. The registration and voting fee is \$5, which covers the operating costs of the election.

Make your voice count!
Participate in shaping the future of Zionism and Jewish life worldwide by casting your vote in the 2025 World Zionist Congress election!



JEWISH FEDERATION EXPANDS GIVING SOCIETIES

by Isabella Silberg, Director of Development

I AM EXCITED TO ANNOUNCE THE ADDITION OF SEVERAL NEW GIVING SOCIETIES AT THE JEWISH FEDERATION OF TULSA. HONORING OUR MOST LOYAL DONORS THROUGH GIVING SOCIETIES IS ANOTHER WAY TO SAY THANK YOU FOR ENSURING TULSA'S VIBRANT JEWISH FUTURE. THROUGH GIVING SOCIETIES, YOU JOIN OTHER LIKE-MINDED DONORS FOR CELEBRATION, SOCIAL EVENTS, AND GUEST SPEAKERS. BY JOINING THESE SOCIETIES MEMBERS MEET, LEARN, AND GROW IN THEIR PHILANTHROPY WHILE BUILDING A STRONG FOUNDATION FOR OUR COMMUNITY TO THRIVE!

Women's Philanthropy

Women philanthropists are change-makers and community-shapers, enriching their own lives while improving the lives of others. At every stage of life, we are sisters, daughters, mothers, and friends, united by compassion and commitment. The Jewish Federation of Tulsa's Women's Philanthropy empowers Jewish women to engage in *tikkun olam* through the Pearl Society, Pomegranate Society, and Lion of Judah. Women's philanthropy provides a vehicle for women to participate throughout the year through engaging events with a thought-provoking speaker, a local entrepreneur or activist, or an opportunity to get together socially or volunteer.

Pearl Society \$180-999: The Pearl Society unites women of all ages and backgrounds in Tulsa to strengthen Jewish life through meaningful philanthropy and events.

With a gift of \$180 or more, each woman takes personal responsibility for the welfare and continuity of the Jewish people. Together, we ensure a vibrant Jewish community in Tulsa for generations to come. Chairs:

Jackie Lasky and Jennifer Joels

Pomegranate Society \$1,000-4,999: The Pomegranate Society celebrates women's commitment to the mitzvot of *tzedakah*. Rooted in Jewish tradition, the pomegranate symbolizes the 613 mitzvot and is one of the oldest symbols in Jewish art and ritual. The Pomegranate pendant represents each woman's dedication to sustaining and strengthening Jewish life in our

community. Chair: Nancy Wolov

Lion of Judah \$5,000+: The Lion of Judah, introduced in 1972, symbolizes a woman's

commitment to supporting Jewish communities worldwide, including here in Tulsa. What began with 16 Lions has grown to nearly 17,500 today, united by a shared dedication to *tzedakah* and *tikkun olam*. Each Lion is part of a powerful sisterhood,

transforming the dream of repairing the world into a reality. Women who wear the Lion of Judah pin embody strength, compassion, and the enduring values of Jewish life. *Chair: Barbara Sylvan*



By joining our Young Adult Giving Societies, Jewish adults ages 21 – 40 are part of a vibrant and inclusive community of like-minded individuals. Through social, educational, cultural, and philanthropic programming, our Young Adult Societies enrich lives by connecting young adults to their Jewish roots and strengthening our community. Members have access to exclusive networking and private events throughout the year.

Chai Society \$180: The Chai Society in Tulsa connects young Jewish adults through philanthropy,

community, and shared values. With an annual gift of \$180 or more, members support vital programs that strengthen Jewish life locally and globally. Chai Society members enjoy exclusive events, networking opportunities, and the chance to

exclusive events, networking opportunities, and the chance to make a meaningful impact. Together, we are building a vibrant and thriving future for the Tulsa Jewish community. Chairs: Rosalie Silberg and Austin Polun



Ben Gurion \$1,000: The Ben Gurion Society (BGS) in Tulsa brings together young Jewish adults who are dedicated to making a lasting impact through philanthropy. With a commitment of \$1,000 or more annually, members play a crucial role in supporting

the Jewish Federation's mission and programs. BGS members gain access to exclusive events, networking opportunities, and a community of like-minded leaders. By joining, you help ensure the continued strength and vitality of Jewish life in Tulsa and beyond. Chairs: Hillary and Ben Aussenberg

Maimonides Society

The Maimonides Society connects healthcare and medical professionals to causes they care about while fostering meaningful connections through guest lectures, social gatherings, and volunteer opportunities. Members are invited to exclusive events featuring local and national experts in healthcare disciplines. The society

sponsors events that benefit the greater good of the community, supporting the Jewish Federation's mission. Membership requires an annual contribution of \$1,000 to the Jewish Federation's Annual Campaign. *Chair: Dr. Jill Wenger*

Legacy Society

The Jewish Federation of Tulsa Legacy Society ensures the lasting impact of our mission through

transformative planned giving. Members are recognized for their commitment to the growth and sustainability of the Federation. By joining, you are creating a legacy that shapes and



strengthens Jewish life for generations to come.

Joining our Giving Societies requires an annual contribution to the Jewish Federation of Tulsa's Annual Campaign. For more information visit: JewishTulsa.org/ways-to-give/#givingsocieties or contact me at isilberg@jewishtulsa.org, 918-495-1100. ■

CURRENT EXHIBITIONS



18th Annual Purim Mask Invitational Awards Reception: Thursday, March 6, 6 pm

Featuring wearable art from Tulsa area students competing in elementary, middle school, and high school categories. The annual competition promotes understanding of Jewish life and culture through educating students about the Jewish holiday of Purim.

On view through March 30th.



Coming Soon!

Bashert: The Art of Jewish Love

Opening Reception: Thursday, April 10, 6 pm

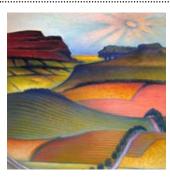
Love is in the air! Grab your sweetheart and join us for a celebration of love as depicted by works in our permanent collection. Explore the Mezzanine Gallery turned into a springtime Valentine.



On View Now!

Invited to Life | Through June 9

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



Theodore Fried: Art in Hiding | On View Now

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



Temple Israel Songbook Illustrations | On View Now

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





FROM:

Myrna Lubin

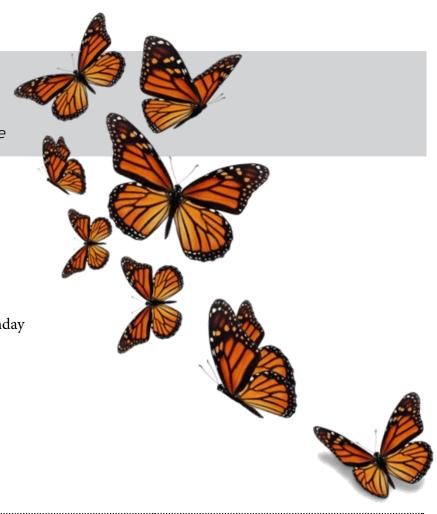
In memory of E. N. Lubin

Gale Mason

In memory of Marilyn Diamond

Malcolm and Paula Milsten

In honor of Dale Davidson's Birthday



RROW





Mazel Tov to Amanda and Jess Willworth. They welcomed their second child, daughter Waverly Anna-Joan, to the



family on February 4, 2025. She was born weighing 6 lbs 11 oz and measuring 20 inches long. Big brother Levi and grandmother Jill Williams are enjoying snuggles with the new arrival and the whole family is happy, healthy, and filled with gratitude.

Mazel Tov to Shahaf Feinkuchen, our Isaeli Shlichim, and Hadas Cohen-Naznin! They welcomed their first child, a daughter Idan Miriam, to the family on February 8, 2025. She was born weighing 6 lbs 12 oz. Idan means 'Era' or 'Time Period' in Hebrew. The whole



family is happy, healthy, and filled with gratitude.

• • CELEBRATE SIMCHAS! • • •

Share your simchas with the entire community!
Send us your b'nai mitzvah, wedding announcement, birth of a child, graduation, or other milestone for our "simchas" section each month.

Send submissions for the Tulsa Jewish Review to Sandy Sloan, sandy@jewishtulsa.org

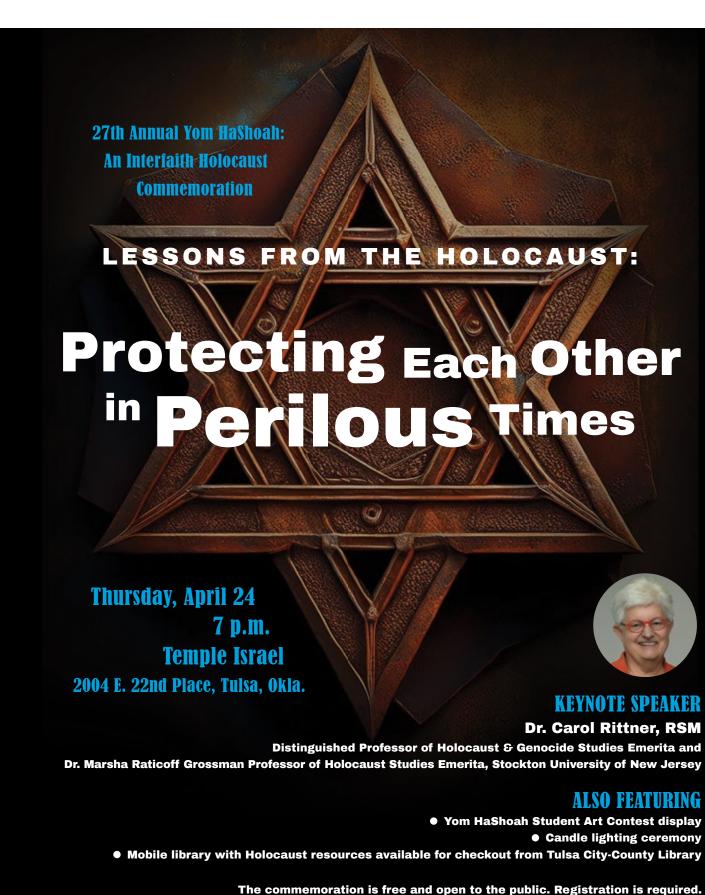


B'NAI MITZVAH OF NOAH AND ABIGAIL SCHREIER

Noah and Abigail Schreier, children of Larry and Jennifer Schreier, will be called to the Torah as B'nai Mitzvah on Saturday, March 29th, 2025, at the Congregation B'nai Emunah. Noah and Abby are seventh grade students at Holland Hall. Both Noah and Abby are avid animal lovers. This is exemplified by their mitzvah project which raised \$1100.00 for the Tulsa Zoo. They love sports, reading, art, and eating Chinese food. They are fun outgoing kids. Both kids have been preparing for their B'nai Mitzvah under the tutoring and guidance of Morah Kathy Sandler and Morah Sara Levitt. Both of these ladies are amazing and the family is very grateful for all of their help, love, and support. As both Noah and Abby lead the service they will be surrounded by family and friends

from all over who are so excited to be there to celebrate with them.













Visit jewishtulsa.org/yomhashoah2025 to register or for more details. ▼



ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE (AI) AND GENEALOGY®

by Phil Goldfarb

or genealogists and family historians, the advancement of artificial intelligence (AI) has been applied to family history to create AI genealogy. AI represents computer-based systems that can "mimic" human intelligence. The goal is to have these systems perform human tasks.

AI is a topic that brings both excitement and concern. When used responsibly, AI can have a great impact... making records, family information and even pictures more accessible to people all over the world. AI can do things like recognize images, create something new using patterns learned from something old, and change information it gives based on what it receives, as if it were deciding. AI technology can be used to do lots of assignments quickly, see patterns that not all people would spot easily, and do tasks that are too boring for humans to want to do them.

While AI might be the current "hot" buzz word, the fact is that many genealogy vendors and even genealogists have already been using this technology for years and eventually it will infiltrate almost every aspect of business and society.

The most discussed features of artificial intelligence are "deep learning" and "generative AI." Deep learning mimics the human brain in that it looks for patterns using vast amounts of information to interpret photos, audio, and text. Generative AI actually "generates" new photos, audio, and text, based on information provided by the user, and uses its own database of "training data" to understand patterns and generate output that matches the user's request.

While the science behind artificial intelligence might seem complicated, understanding how AI can help in genealogy is not. This technological innovation can be helpful in your family history search and also in learning about your family. AI can be used in genealogy work for:

- 1. Transcribing records: Records are difficult to search manually, and many are old and difficult to read. AI can help transcribe record images—including those that are handwritten—so you can more easily search and read them.
- 2. Analyzing images: Identifying faces in old photos has never been easier, thanks to artificial intelligence. AI is also used to organize, colorize, repair, and label photos.
- 3. Matching data: If you're looking for a specific person over multiple documents or databases, AI can help combine and search across datasets. This



type of AI also helps provide record suggestions that may result in additional details about an ancestor.

- 4. Constructing family trees: AI can suggest relatives to add to a family tree, by identifying similar information and relationships.
- 5. Telling stories: Stories help you know your family's past, and with AI, you can breathe life into the past. AI can help transcribe recorded stories, transform dry details into a story or biographical format, and help suggest historical context for an ancestor's life events. It can even generate video or audio avatars of your ancestors.
- 6. Translation: If your ancestors' records or journals are in a different language than you speak, AI translation can help you get a first glimpse at the information they hold.

Within the bounds of genealogy, people can use generative AI systems such as ChatGPT, Microsoft Copilot, Google Gemini, Bard, and Perplexity to assist in writing family stories, generate illustrations, and ask general questions about the life of your ancestors.

Other uses of AI for genealogy research:

Transcription: The National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) utilized artificial intelligence to index the 1950 U.S. Census population schedules released in April 2022. Entries made by enumerators were scanned and transcribed, then released for use at a much faster rate than what was accomplished with manual indexing performed for the 1940 U.S. Census release in 2012.

DNA matches: With millions of people having used personal DNA testing kits, we are able to leverage AI

to find connections between testers based on shared DNA data. Given the sheer amount of information involved, these match results are only possible with artificial intelligence.

Source citations: Those new to genealogy and family history soon learn the importance of source citations in proving relationships as well as facts about an ancestor. Usually source citations document how we find and use records such as census population schedules, death certificates, and even letters or diaries.

In addition there are fun tools that can "animate" an ancestor based on a photo and even help determine the date of an image based on characteristics such as fashion styles, hair styles, and more. The new Reimagine app offers all these tools in one convenient platform.

Currently in genealogy, MyHeritage is clearly the leader with new and innovative features using their Reimagine app with AI. Some examples that you can do with MyHeritage include:

- 1. Create a Wikipedia-style biography of an ancestor with AI Biographer™: AI Biographer™ uses generative AI to create a detailed article on an ancestor of your choice drawing upon information from the family tree and incorporating additional information from historical records and other family trees as well as historical context from the web. Each AI Biography™ includes source citations and photographs.
- 2. Colorize, enhance, repair, and animate photos with the MyHeritage photo features: MyHeritage's smart photo features are based on deep learning AI. They include:
 - a. Photo Repair: a feature that automatically fixes scratches, tears, holes, stains and other damage on historical photos. With Photo Repair's one button fix, you can improve the quality of your photos quickly and with amazing results.
 - b. Photo Enhancer: a feature that improves the quality of photos and brings blurry faces

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- into sharp focus. Photo Enhancer produces amazing results with just one click. The clarity is outstanding and it can help you see new details in a photo that you may have missed.
- c. MyHeritage In Color™: an automatic photo colorization and color restoration tool that breathes life and color into old family photos. Ever wonder the exact color of that dress your grandmother wore to a party? MyHeritage In Color™ can help you visualize the original colors of a family photo, again with just one click.
- d. Deep Nostalgia™: a one-of-a-kind feature that allows you to animate the faces in your old family photos. We all have relatives and ancestors we've never met. Animating their faces using Deep Nostalgia™ is a great way to see how ancestors may have moved and reacted.

Have fun and embrace your use of AI in genealogy! ■

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





HUG FOR HOPE

by Joe Roberts, Executive Director

e are honored to partner with the Hug for Hope initiative, a grassroots program from Israel designed to connect Israeli evacuees with host families across North America. This incredible program offers families deeply affected by the trauma of October 7 a chance to find respite and healing in the comfort of a loving home. Over ten days, evacuees can relax, reflect, and share their stories, while our local host families experience a life-changing opportunity to build emotional connections that bridge communities across the globe.

The Jewish value of Kol Yisrael arevim zeh bazeh—all of Israel is responsible for one another—comes to life through this program, and this powerful initiative is a reminder of why our work matters on a person-to-person level. We will be bringing families affected by the events of family connection for life." — October 7 to Tulsa, where we will offer them the warmth, love, and support of our community. We could not do this without the help of our generous community.

"We laughed, had fun, were active, and had many emotional conversations. We fell in love with the children and bonded with the Morag and Avital families. So, this Hug for Hope emotional initiative and connection is about giving, but just know...our whole family got back more than we ever imagined. And we have a bond and



The Kaplan Family

If you are interested in hosting a family, and/or contributing to bringing families to Tulsa, please visit: JewishTulsa.org/ hugforhope.



(Continued from p. 11)

family years earlier, Antoine reconnects with his roots in a neighborhood of Jews, Muslims, and Christians. Nostalgic memories flood back—school, friends, his Sephardic upbringing, and his early fascination with cinema—as he presents his newest film, an account of his childhood shaped by the unrest that ultimately forced them to flee. As father and son bond over shared history, this sentimental sojourn, adapted to Alexandre Arcady's memoir, is brought to life on the vibrant streets of Algiers, evoking a bygone time.

Running on Sand | Thursday, March 27, 7 pm

Nominated for the Israeli Academy Award for Best Film, Running on Sand is a feel-good tale of mistaken identity. Aumari, a young Eritrean refugee in the process of being deported, is mistaken for a professional soccer player being brought to Israel to help save the struggling Maccabi Netanya team. Despite having no soccer experience, he plays along and somehow manages to reinvigorate the floundering squad. Amid their quest for victory, he finds himself falling for the team owner's daughter and worrying if his true identity will be



uncovered. Starring the charismatic Congo-born actor Chancela Mongoza and a group of other African migrant actors, Running on Sand has both humor and heart and sheds light on the challenges faced by refugees.





FIGHT HATE. **RESPECT DIVERSITY.** PROTECT DEMOCRACY.

TEACH these values to future generations through study of the Holocaust at the

2025 Eva K. Unterman Conferences for Holocaust Educators



CONFERENCE THEME

UNBROKEN SPIRIT: HOLOCAUST RESISTANCE, RESCUE, RESILIENCE Hosted by the SB1671 Oklahoma Holocaust Legislation Coalition. Earn (7) PD credits for attending.

FREE FOR ALL TEACHERS

In accordance with Senate Bill 1671, these conferences prepare Oklahoma Teachers to provide Holocaust education to all Oklahoma public school students grades 6-12. State Holocaust educators will present class



SCAN QR CODE TO REGISTER

CONFERENCE LOCATIONS

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

TULSA

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

NORMAN

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

ENID

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



Family Jewish Cooking Club Sunday, March 2 | 12:00 p.m.

Join the club and embark on a flavorful, family adventure. The club will meet for lunch, schmoozing and a hands-on kitchen session as we explore the traditional Purim treat, bourekas. Each family will leave with their prepared dish in hand, along with a recipe and instructions to recreate the experience at home. For more information and to register, please visit tulsagogue.com/events.

Blatt + Blue Thursday, March 6 | 7:00 p.m.

Visit tulsagogue.com/events for more information regarding the movie selection and viewing options. Join us for our conversation at 7:00 p.m. on Zoom (918 583 7121). Newcomers are welcome to join the dialogue.

Shabbat Shalom: Musical Circle. Dinner and Shabbat Talks Friday, March 7 | 5:30 p.m.

Experience a musical Shabbat evening with songs and storytelling starting at 5:30 p.m. This inclusive and accessible event is an ideal introduction to Shabbat traditions, welcoming participants of all ages and backgrounds. Following services, we'll enjoy a beautiful Shabbat dinner together starting at 6:15 p.m. The evening will conclude with a special Shabbat Talks speaker at 7:00 p.m. to discuss a relevant

topic of interest to our community. Reserve your spot at the Shabbat table by registering at tulsagogue. com/events.

Purim – Shushan State Fair Sunday, March 9 | 9:00 a.m.

The fair is coming to town and landing in the Synagogue parking lot. Following a lively reading of the Megillah, the Synagogue parking lot midway will be open to enjoy a Persian petting zoo, main stage concert, deep-fried sweet and savory hamantaschen on a stick, hamantaschen eating contests, giant butter sculptures, carnival rides, games and prizes. This celebration is open to the entire community, however, please indicate your attendance at tulsagogue.com/ events.

Lifelong Learners at Zarrow Pointe Wednesday, March 12 | 11:30 a.m. Seniors from all over the community are invited to join Rabbi Kaiman for a learning session and lunch provided by Zarrow Pointe, starting at 11:30 a.m. Reserve your spot by contacting the Synagogue at 918-583-7121 or registering at www. tulsagogue.com/events. check-in at Zarrow Pointe Town Center and you will be directed to the Dining Hall for the learning seminar.

Purim in the Streets Thursday, March 13 | 6:30 p.m.

In partnership with City Lights OK, we're taking Purim to the streets of Downtown Tulsa, combining the traditions of the holiday with a focus on matanot la'evyonim, the Purim custom of providing gifts of food to the hungry. The evening will conclude with a downtown megillah reading, food, drinks and celebration. For more information and meeting location, please visit tulsagogue.com/events.

Bibi Dibi Friday, March 21 | 5:30 p.m.

Join us for a Shabbat gathering crafted for babies and their families. Revel in the joy of singing songs, playing games, and savoring a

delightful Shabbat dinner. It's an excellent opportunity to establish and embrace your own family traditions. While no reservation is required for the celebration, we ask you to secure your spot for the meal by calling or visiting tulsagogue. com/events.

Booksmart: Reinventing the Heartland with Nicholas Lalla Wednesday, March 26 | 7:00 p.m.

The Synagogue welcomes Nicolas Lalla, founder of Tulsa Innovation Labs, for a special and free event to celebrate his new book, Reinventing the Heartland: How One City's Inclusive Approach to Innovation and Growth Can Revive the American Dream. Drawing upon his experience in Tulsa, Lalla's book lays out a bold and pragmatic plan for urban reinvention, showing cities how to reorient their entire civic ecosystems toward inclusive tech-led growth. Lalla provides a path forward, not just for Tulsa, but for any city ready to embrace the future. For more information, please visit magiccitybooks.com/

Shema: Iewish Music Class for Babies Sunday, March 30 | 10:30 a.m.

Join us for the next gathering in a series of Jewish music classes for babies and their adults! We'll blend the best of what we know about early childhood education and the joy of Jewish music for this class geared towards kiddos 2 and under with their adults. We'll sing, dance, move, and explore together at the Synagogue. Please register at tulsagogue.com/events.

Seventeenth Street Deli Sunday, March 30 | 5:30 p.m.

Indulge in the delectable offerings of the Seventeenth Street Deli, where our kitchen crafts dishes with a perfect blend of slow cures, a touch of pepper, and heaps of love. Our much-loved pop-up restaurant invites you to enjoy both dinein and take-out dinner services. Ensure your place in this culinary experience by pre-registering at

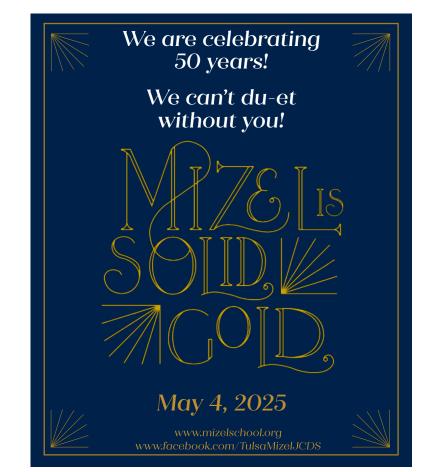
www.tulsadeli.org and choose from our delightful pastrami, corned beef, or deli egg salad options.

Afternoon/Evening Services

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

Shabbat Morning Services

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







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(Continued

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Visit our Temple Israel website www. templetulsa.com and our events page

for details about all we offer!

Repairing Our People: Israel and the Crisis of Liberal Judaism on Zoom • Thurs., Mar. 6, 13, 20 & 27 • 2:00 p.m.

Contemporary Judaism is facing unprecedented challenges. Today's Jews have the opportunity— and the obligation—to reclaim a Jewish vocabulary of sanctity, activism, and the desire to stand apart from today's world. This course explores the everchanging landscape of modern Jewish life through the lens of one of American Judaism's most prolific voices. The message: the role of faith is to challenge us as individuals and to challenge society.

Shabbat Service with Torah in person, on Zoom & Facebook Live • Fri., Mar 7 • 6:00 p.m.

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

Purim Celebration • Sun., Mar. 9 • 9:30 a.m.

Join our Purim celebration, open to everyone! Come to our fabulous carnival, enjoy Hamentaschen making, a Tikkun Olam project and our spiel to the theme of Wicked. The Brotherhood Shushan Grill will be open and serving lunch. Cost is \$36 per family, which includes all activities and food.

Sisterhood Shabbat • Fri., Mar. 14 • 7:30 p.m.

Join Temple Israel Sisterhood for their annual Sisterhood Shabbat service where they will honor Donna Gantner as the 2025 Queen Esther.

Sociable Seniors Lunch and Bingo • Sun., Mar. 16 • 12:30 p.m.

Sociable Seniors gets together for a delicious lunch, catered by 'Phenomenal Flavors'. Visit and talk over lunch before the games begin! There will be cash prizes, with at least two 'grand' prizes! Zamru L'Shabbat in person, on Zoom & Facebook Live • Fri., Mar. 21 • 6:00 p.m. • Join us as we celebrate Shabbat with Elijah's Minor Prophets. Join us at 5:30 p.m. for our joyous pre-oneg.

Brotherhood After Hours • Mon., Mar. 24 • 6:00 p.m.

Everyone is invited to join TI Brotherhood at Chimi's 1304 E. 15th St. Get ready for good company, and good conversation!

Scholar in Residence Weekend with Rabbi Jeffrey Salkin • Mar. 28-30

Scholar in Residence Shabbat • Fri., Mar. 28 • 6:00 p.m. Scholar in Residence Shabbat

Morning • Sat., Mar. 29 • 10:30 a.m.

Scholar in Residence Havdalah Event • Sat., Mar. 29 • 5:30 p.m.

Scholar in Residence Brotherhood Breakfast • Sun., Mar. 30• 9:30 a.m.

There is no charge for any of the events. We ask that you rsvp on our website and specify what events you will attend so we may prepare for your participation.

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LESSONS OF PURIM STILL RING TRUE TODAY

by Rabbi Tzvia Jasper

urim must be one of the best holidays on the calendar. We dress up, eat way too much hamantaschen, and act goofy. What kid or adult wouldn't enjoy that? And yet, the themes of the holiday have transcended time and space. Megillat Esther, the story that we read on Purim, speaks to bravery and courage in the face of destruction and despair. The heroine, Esther, goes to the King of Shushan and demands safety for the marginalized Jews. In the presence of the evil Haman, Esther fights for the future of the Jewish people.

This year, this story feels relevant and personal. It may be because it shares a plotline similar to our Spiel theme, Wicked. In the plot of Wicked, Glinda and Elphaba revolt against a cruel regime that is trying to destroy the marginalized speaking animals – by quite literally keeping them in cages. Through their strength of character, much like Esther, they stand up to those in charge and make their voices known.

Purim is a silly holiday with a magical quality to it. And yet, it is also a reminder that we have a responsibility to use our voices in the face of injustice. This holiday is an excellent excuse to gather and actively decide to make a difference within our community. During Temple Israel's Wickedly 'Popular' Purim Palooza this year, we will have many opportunities to give back.

We will have a Tikkun Olam service project. We are collecting non-perishable foods, hygiene products, and pet food, which we will separate into care packages for the unhoused. We will also have several raffle opportunities, where the money goes to our Tzedakah efforts. Some of these include winning the chance to pie Rabbi Weinstein in the face or help decide if Rabbi Jasper will shave her whole head, and if she does, getting the first pass with the razor. On the fun side, we will have a Wickedly clever spiel, hamantaschen making, a HUGE carnival, and even a face painter! The fun is open to everyone!



Purim is a time of joy, but it reminds us that we can make a difference in the world. It just takes one brave person to stand up to hate and insist on equality, equity, and justice. May we go into this festive season with the courage of Esther, the insight of Mordechai, the convictions of Elphaba, and the fashion of Glinda.

Chag Purim Sameach!



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

