

TULS Jewish Review

Sivan/Tamuz 5785
June 2025

Camp
Shalom



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— Asher Patel '24

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TOWN HALL

Rosov Consulting will present its findings from the past year conducting surveys, interviews, and listening sessions with the Tulsa Jewish community. We hope you'll join us for this important conversation about the future of Jewish life in Tulsa!

THURSDAY, JUNE 5, 5:30 PM
Jewish Federation of Tulsa
2021 E. 71st St, 74136

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Please RSVP by
scanning the QR code

Questions?
Ryan Coretz
ryan@amtra.aero



STAFF

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

JOE ROBERTS
joe@jewishtulsa.org

EDITOR

SANDY SLOAN
sandy@jewishtulsa.org

ADVERTISING
MANAGER and COPY
EDITOR

SARAH HOWMAN
showman@jewishtulsa.org

DESIGN

STEPHANIE KRAUTHEIM
skrautheim@jewishtulsa.org

BOARD PRESIDENT,
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TYLER CORETZ

Front Cover



Charles Schusterman JCC Camp Shalom

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 –

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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

JEWISH BELONGING, ONE CAMPER AT A TIME

by Joe Roberts, Executive Director

It's camp season in Tulsa.

Step into the JCC this week and you'll hear it before you see it—laughter in the halls, splashes in the pool, Hebrew songs drifting from classrooms. Camp Shalom is in full swing. And this year, it's bigger and more joyful than ever.

Camp Shalom has grown by 19% this summer.

That's a triumph. At a time when Jewish engagement is under pressure nationwide, our community is leaning in. More kids are experiencing the magic of Jewish camp. More families are choosing this sacred space for their children to grow, connect, and belong.

And they're not alone. Across North America, nearly 189,000 youth and young adults are attending Jewish camp this year—a 5% increase nationwide, exceeding pre-pandemic levels. According to the Foundation for Jewish Camp's 2024 Census, the results are extraordinary:

96% of families said camp made their child proud to be Jewish.

92% said their child's Jewish identity was deeply and positively impacted.

94% said camp helped their child feel connected to the Jewish people.

You don't get numbers like that in most Jewish settings today.

But at camp? Jewish identity is not taught—it's lived. And lived joyfully.

At Camp Shalom, I've seen it myself. I've watched kids walk into the building shy and unsure, and leave singing Hebrew songs, laughing with new friends, asking deep questions about Jewish life and tradition. I've seen them embrace Shabbat, wear their Judaism with pride, and come home changed—in the best way.

For many of our campers, this is their most immersive Jewish experience of the year. For some, it's their first.

And for all of them, it matters.

Because what we know—what the data proves—is that Jewish camp is one of the most effective tools we have for building strong, joyful Jewish identities. And in this moment, that is more urgent than ever.

But here's the other truth: not everyone can afford it.

Camp tuition is rising. Here in Tulsa, we stretch every dollar we can to make sure Camp Shalom is accessible. But the reality is that demand outpaces what we're able to provide.

That's where community comes in.

If you believe in the Jewish future of Tulsa—support camp. Give generously. Help us say yes to every family who wants this for their child. Because

“For many of our campers, this is their most immersive Jewish experience of the year. For some, it's their first.

And for all of them, it matters..”

we aren't just offering a summer experience—we are offering belonging. Identity. Connection. Joy.

And what happens at Camp Shalom doesn't end when the summer ends.

It carries forward. Into how our kids show up at school. Into the values they hold. Into how they see themselves as part of the Jewish people. Years from now, when they're leading communities of their own, they'll trace it back to moments like this—Shabbat songs at lunch, counselors who believed in them, a place where they were safe to be fully Jewish and fully themselves.

This is the work. This is the future.

And right now, it's happening every day at Camp Shalom.

Let's keep building it. Together—As One. ■



UPCOMING EVENTS



PJ Pool Day | Sunday, June 8 | 10 am | Sharna and Irvin Frank Aquatics Center

Join our PJ Library families for some fun in the sun! We will have the Sharna and Irvin Frank Aquatics Center all to ourselves this morning. Brunch foods, sweet treats, free swim, play, and schmooze with other families raising their children Jewishly. \$10/family.

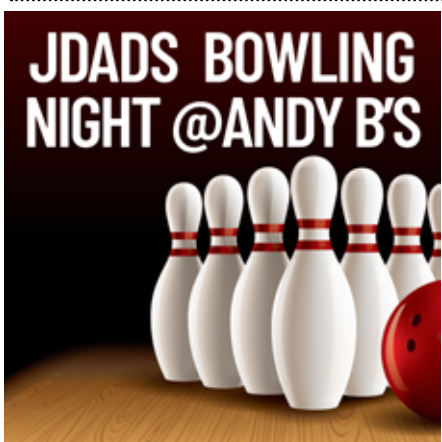
RSVP: [jewishtulsa.org/pj-june8](https://www.jewishtulsa.org/pj-june8)



Lunch Bunch with Leket | Monday, June 9 | 12 pm | Burnstein Auditorium @ ZP

Our next edition of Lunch Bunch is with Leket Israel, the National Food Bank of the State of Israel. Their focus is re-purposing healthy, surplus food and delivering it to those in need through partner nonprofit organizations. In 2024, Leket donated 33,340 tons of 100% healthy and nutritious food! Leket's Regional Director of U.S. Development, Sally Poolat, will be in Tulsa to tell us more about the organization's work. Optional lunch purchase is \$13 for a build-your-own egg and tuna sandwiches, fruit, chips, and a cookie.

RSVP: [JewishTulsa.org/lb-june9](https://www.jewishtulsa.org/lb-june9)



JDads Bowling Night | Thursday, June 12 | 7 pm | Andy B's

Enjoy a night out with your fellow JDads! We are renting out the VIB (very important bowler) lanes for a special bowling experience! Show off your skills while meeting new friends in the same life stage. Cost is \$10 per dad. *JDads is a group of dads with children 18 years old and younger, raising them Jewishly.*

RSVP: [JewishTulsa.org/jdads-june](https://www.jewishtulsa.org/jdads-june)



YJP Pool Day | Sunday, June 22 | 12 pm | Sharna and Irvin Frank Aquatics Center

Join us for a come and go pool day with other young Jewish adults in Tulsa. We'll have an assortment of snacks to nosh on while we network and relax by the pool. Come to meet our ever-growing young adult community in a casual setting.

RSVP: [JewishTulsa.org/yjp-june](https://www.jewishtulsa.org/yjp-june)

UPCOMING EVENTS



The Untold Story of Jewish Federations | Tuesday, June 24 7 pm | Jewish Federation

Join Joe Roberts for a look at one of the greatest accomplishments in modern Jewish life: the Jewish Federation movement. Born in immigrant neighborhoods and fueled by collective responsibility, federations became the central address for Jewish giving, care, and identity. They funded synagogues and schools, helped rescue Jews from Europe and the Middle East, and played a vital role in building and sustaining the State of Israel. This is the story of how a scattered people built the largest philanthropic network in the world—and how that system became a pillar of Jewish sovereignty and solidarity. Roberts will bring this history to life and open a conversation about what it means for our collective future. Whether you're new to the Federation movement or have spent decades in it, this evening offers a deeper understanding of who we are—and what we're capable of, together.

RSVP: [JewishTulsa.org/fed-history](https://www.jewishtulsa.org/fed-history)



JMoms Wine Night | Thursday, June 26 | 7 pm | Vintage Wine Bar

Meet your fellow JMoms for a casual evening of fellowship and fun! Create memories and bond with women in a similar stage of life with children 18 years old and younger, raising them Jewishly. JMoms is a space for mothers to make new friends, connect with Jewish women, share experiences, and grow as parents. We will meet at Vintage Wine Bar for apps and drinks!

RSVP: [JewishTulsa.org/jmoms-june](https://www.jewishtulsa.org/jmoms-june)



Cup of Joe | Friday, June 27 | 10 am | SMMJA Library

All are welcome to our monthly 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.



To RSVP for ALL Events visit: [JewishTulsa.org/event](https://www.jewishtulsa.org/event)



MEET THE NEW ELSON ISRAEL FELLOWS

The Jewish Federation of Tulsa's new initiative, the Elson Israel Fellowship, received an overwhelming 42 applicants earlier this year for four fellowships, running June 2025 – June 2026. Applicants included scholars and thought leaders with backgrounds in Zionism, the diaspora, antisemitism, and modern Israeli history.

"After months of reviewing candidates, the selection committee narrowed it down to four outstanding applicants for our 2025-26 class of Elson Israel Fellows," states Joe Roberts, executive director. The first class of Elson Fellows includes:

Avi Gamulka studies history and geography at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem and serves as an advisor to the president of the World Zionist Organization. He has previously served as a policy advisor for the director-general of the Prime Minister's Office and as spokesperson for the Minister of Tourism. Previously, he was a Foreign Affairs correspondent and senior news anchor for GLZ – Israel's Army Radio. Avi has recently contributed an essay to the anthology *Young Zionist Voices*, published this year by Wicked Son in cooperation with the Z3 Project.



Avi Gamulka

Judah Ari Gross is the managing editor of eJewishPhilanthropy, focusing on Jewish communal organizations and philanthropy in the United States, Israel, and around the world. Judah was born and raised in Philadelphia. He studied journalism at the University of Maryland and made Aliyah shortly after graduating, serving as a military photographer in the Israel Defense Forces. He started working for The Times of Israel in January 2015, serving as its military correspondent for nearly seven years before becoming its religions and diaspora affairs correspondent. In 2021, Judah completed a master's degree at Haifa University through its Ruderman Program for American Jewish studies. Judah lives in the northern Israeli town of Zichron Yaakov with his wife, three children, and their dog.



Judah Gross

Sarah Sassoon is an Australian-born, Iraqi Jewish writer, poet, and educator. She is the author of the award-winning children's books, *Shoham's Bangle* and *This is Not a Cholent*, as well as her prized online poetry micro-chapbook, *This is Why We Don't Look* (Harbor Review). She also co-authored *The In-Between* (Verlagshaus Berlin), a literary dialogue about identity and belonging. Sarah's writing follows explores her

Iraqi Jewish history, the story of refugees and resilience, the rich, layered 2600-year-old culture of Babylonian Jews, with a special interest in Middle Eastern women's experience. She lives in Jerusalem with her husband and four boys. For more about Sarah visit www.sarahsassoon.com.



Sarah Sassoon

Barak Sella is an Israeli-American educator, writer, and community organizer, recognized as a leading voice on US-Israel relations, Jewish peoplehood, and combating antisemitism and extremism. Born in Texas and raised in Israel, Barak's activism was shaped by the legacy of Yitzhak Rabin, youth leadership, and a deep commitment to democracy and peace. He previously served as Executive Director of the Reut Institute and has worked with governments, NGOs, and Jewish communities worldwide. A Harvard Kennedy School graduate and current Fellow at the Belfer Center's Middle East Initiative, Barak continues to lead efforts at the intersection of Jewish identity, policy, and civil society.



Barak Sella

The community can expect numerous programs and discussions, as well as original thought pieces written throughout the year-long fellowship.

"We are excited about this new initiative made possible by William (Bill) Elson's commitment to Israel and our Federation," states Roberts. "We hope to put Tulsa on the map as a global leader in addressing some of the most pressing challenges facing Israel, Zionism, and the Jewish people."

Stay tuned for updates on when our first Elson Israel Fellows arrive in Tulsa! ■



NOT JUST THEIR FIGHT: LIZ HIRSH NAFTALI

by Isabella Silberg, Director of Development

Liz Hirsh Naftali's recent visit to Tulsa was a deeply moving experience, touching hearts and minds across three distinct gatherings. Through her personal story and unwavering advocacy, Liz delivered a powerful and urgent message: we must each use our voice to demand the release of the hostages taken on October 7th, innocent people stolen from their lives simply for being in the wrong place at the wrong time.

The visit began on Sunday afternoon with a gathering of Tulsa's young Jewish adults, including several alumni of the Tulsa Tomorrow program—individuals who have chosen to build a Jewish life and future in Tulsa. What made this event especially meaningful was the presence of two active-duty IDF soldiers visiting Tulsa for Yom HaZikaron and Yom Ha'Atzmaut. The overlap of Liz's message and the soldiers' presence created a powerful and emotional space, reminding all in attendance that the fight for Israel's safety and the return of the hostages is not abstract. These conversations underscored the

stark reality of who is on the front lines every day, physically and emotionally, in the defense of Jewish lives and values.

On Monday at noon, the Jewish Federation of Tulsa hosted a community-wide Lunch Bunch event, drawing Jewish and non-Jewish attendees. Liz shared her story as the aunt of Abigail Mor Idan, a three-year-old who was kidnapped by Hamas on October 7th and later released. She emphasized that this is not just an Israeli crisis but an American one and that our elected officials need to hear from us. She urged everyone in the room to act, to write and call your legislators, and to never let the issue fade into the background. Her clarity, compassion, and call to moral responsibility moved the entire room.

The visit wrapped up on Monday evening at the Tulsa

(Continued on p. 22)



Lynn Schusterman and Liz Hirsh Naftali

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UPCOMING EVENTS

**Over the Moon for June – Goal-Setting Fitness Challenge**

Set a personal fitness or wellness goal this June and watch your progress shine! We'll have a giant moon on the community bulletin board, and each participant will write their goal on a star to add to the sky. Once you reach your goal, you'll add a tail to your star—making it a shooting star! Let's fill the board with motivation, celebration, and a galaxy of accomplishments!

**Pool Open House | Sunday, June 1, 12-5 pm**

Community Open House Pool Party!
Tell your friends, family, neighbors, and co-workers. Test out the “waters” at the Sharna and Irvin Frank Aquatics Center for free this day only.

**Tzedek: Meals on Wheels | Wednesday, June 4, 10:30 – 12:30 pm**

Join us as we help stuff and seal envelopes for important mailings to go out. Please meet a little before 10:30 at Meals on Wheels and we will volunteer until 12:30 pm. We will be off our feet and seated the majority of the time. 12 spots available.

RSVP at: csjcc.org/tzedek-june4

**Woody Guthrie Center | Friday, June 13 | 10:30 am**

Join your CSJCC community as we explore the influential folk musician's life and legacy, his relevance today, and his important role in American history. Woody Guthrie's songs celebrate the beauty and bounty of America and seek the truth about our country and its people. He turned complex ideas about democracy, human rights, and economic equality into simple songs that all Americans could embrace. A passionate activist for social justice, Woody Guthrie's message remains relevant to this day. We will meet there at 10:30 am. If you wish to carpool, contact Laura Allen, lallen@jewishtula.org, 918-495-1111. We will go to lunch after for those interested. Tickets are \$10 and must be purchased in advance.

RSVP: csjcc.org/social-june13

UPCOMING EVENTS

Family Fun Night | Saturday, June 14 | 6 pm

All CSJCC members and their families are invited to Family Fun Night with a dive-in movie. This annual event at the Sharna and Irvin Frank Aquatics Center includes a picnic dinner, games, temporary tattoos, and a movie at dusk. The featured movie is Moana 2.

Free to CSJCC Members; \$20 per family not-yet-members

RSVP: csjcc.org/june-pool

**Save a Life! Blood Drive | Monday, June 16 | 3:30 – 5:30 pm**

Did you know that every two seconds someone in the U.S. needs blood? When you give blood, others live! Our Blood Institute's mobile blood bank will set up in the JCC parking lot from 3:30 – 5:30 pm. No appointments necessary! Our Blood Institute is the 6th largest independent blood center in the nation, providing for patients at more than 240 hospitals, medical facilities, and air ambulances across Oklahoma, Texas, and Arkansas. Save a life – donate today!

**Israeli Scout Caravan | Friday, June 20 | 3:30 pm**

The Israeli Scout Caravan is returning to the CSJCC! This all-ages, family fun event includes singing, dancing, and high-energy performances by the Tzofim (Israeli Scouts) Friendship Caravan. The Israeli Scouts consist of teenage boys and girls supported by two leaders, spreading the joyous side of Israel, peace, and brotherhood through their live performance and audience interaction. Israeli Scouts are chosen from thousands of applicants based on their maturity, leadership, English fluency, and, of course, talent in the performing arts. The event is free, but please register in advance.

RSVP: csjcc.org/scouts

CONGRATULATIONS CSJCC!

In recognition of their outstanding commitment to Meals on Wheels of Metro Tulsa, the Charles Schusterman Jewish Community Center (JCC) received its 2024 Community Impact Award. As part of the JCC Association of North America's *Repair the World* project, the JCC team exemplifies inclusive service, with volunteers ranging from teens to individuals in their 90s. “Meals on Wheels is a great resource for social wellness and connection,” said JCC team member Martha Kelley during a recent visit. “It's one of the few opportunities where people of all ages and abilities can serve together—and make a real impact.” Since July 2024, a group from the JCC has also volunteered monthly, supporting administrative needs like envelope stuffing. Typically, 10–15 volunteers from the center join us each month, bringing energy, compassion, and connection to everything they do.

THE JCC GEARS UP FOR A SUMMER OF FUN!

by Martha Kelley, CSJCC Deputy Director

Camp Shalom is underway and this year the undertaking is bigger than ever! As of this writing, we have 2662 campers signed up for our 10-week day camp (an increase from 2024), and we have added one additional pre-K classroom to meet the demand for this age group.

I am happy to announce Jewish community member, Jacob Parra, as my Camp and Aquatics Assistant. Jacob will be supporting the training and supervision of over 100 camp counselors and lifeguards, and act as the primary contact for over 400 families.

Unfortunately, the financial need for families is greater than ever. Thanks to the Dave Sylvan Scholarship Fund, we have provided over \$20,000 in financial assistance to subsidize the cost so families can send their child/children to Camp Shalom.

After several years of non-participation, we are bringing back the Summer Shlichut Program. This unique program, founded by the Jewish Agency for Israel, recruits charismatic and energetic young Israelis to travel to North America each summer, where they work in Jewish summer camps as counselors, specialists, and educators. We are thrilled to welcome two young ladies this summer, Adi Fischer and Roni Sherman. Adi, age 21, loves baking, listening to music, and traveling around the world. Roni turns 21 in June, loves drawing, music, and traveling. Both girls come from dog-friendly homes. We are still seeking host families for the young ladies. If you wish to become a host family, please contact Shahaf Feinkuchen, 918-495-1100, emissary@jewishtulsa.org.

I am also excited to bring the Israeli Scout Caravan back to Camp Shalom and our community on Friday, June 20th at 3:30 pm. The entire community is invited to Camp for this all-ages, family fun event with singing, dancing, and high-energy performances by the Tzofim (Israeli Scouts) Friendship Caravan. This event is always a favorite with our campers! The event is free, but please sign up in advance at: csjcc.org/scouts.

We are partnering with both Temple Israel and Congregation B'nai Emunah to host their back-to-school parties at the pool. Speaking of the pool, the Sharna and Irvin Aquatics Center is open and ready for the entire family to enjoy all summer. We have installed new vending machines (accepts all major credit cards) with not only snacks, drinks, popsicles, and ice cream, but with essential pool-time items including sunscreen and swim goggles.

Summertime is the best time at the Charles Schusterman Jewish Community Center! The place is alive with activity, laughter, friendship, and fun. I hope to see you here this summer...either lounging by the pool or attending one of our many family-fun events. ■



CONNECTING WITH THE LOWEST POINT ON EARTH TAMAR REGIONAL COUNCIL VISITS TULSA

by Shahaf Feinkuchen, Israeli Emissary

Connections between people can be difficult to build—and even harder to maintain and adapt for the long term. When it comes to building bridges between entire communities, the challenge is even greater, due to the many individuals, cultures, and contexts involved. But once such a bond is established, it can become deeply meaningful and far-reaching in its impact.

Take, for example, the relationship between American and Israeli Jews. It's multifaceted and sometimes difficult to sustain, yet it remains arguably the most significant and extensive connection between two Jewish communities in the world today.

Here in Tulsa, our Jewish community continually seeks to strengthen that bridge with Israel. Recently, we took a meaningful step in that direction; after Passover and days before the Israeli national holidays, we were honored to host the first formal visit from the Tamar Regional Council.

The Tamar Regional Council is located along the shores of the Dead Sea—the lowest point on earth. This unique region boasts diverse natural landscapes, rich historical sites, specialized industries, innovative agriculture, and a deep commitment to educational excellence.

The region's biodiversity is preserved in protected nature reserves and botanical gardens, and its terrain features mountain trails that attract researchers and adventurers alike. Masada, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, stands as a powerful symbol of Jewish resilience and history, offering insight into Roman-era architecture and pivotal moments in Jewish identity.

During the week-long visit, we welcomed three guests from Tamar: Mayor Nir Wanger, Revital Maimon (Director of the Education Department), and Ofra Gazit (Spokesperson and Director of Foreign Relations). One of the main goals of their visit was to explore Jewish Tulsa's community life, institutions, and potential partnership opportunities.

Their itinerary included a tour of the Zarrow Campus and the Sherwin Miller Museum of Jewish Art, as well as meetings with leadership at Temple Israel and Congregation B'nai Emunah. They also met with Tulsa Mayor Monroe Nichols IV and the Tulsa Global Alliance to better understand the city's international connections and multicultural landscape.

Another major focus was identifying paths for future collaboration, particularly in the realm of education. Together with local stakeholders, we held brainstorming sessions that produced exciting new directions for joint projects. These ideas will be further explored in coordination with our Federation's leadership and the Israel Engagement Committee.

Our guests had two opportunities to engage directly with the Tulsa Jewish community. They shared insights about the Tamar region, the Council's ongoing relief efforts for evacuees after October 7, 2023, and their current flagship project: the Ein Gedi Educational Village.

Founded in 1977, the village currently serves 300 local students and 100 boarders, but has reached capacity. Plans are underway to expand the campus to meet increasing demand. Its curriculum goes beyond national requirements, offering specialized programming in arts, music, theatre, and, most recently, emergency response training.

"This innovative project represents our commitment to creating a dynamic educational hub that will serve as a bridge between local and international communities, fostering collaboration and mutual growth," said Revital Maimon during her presentation.

The visit left both sides energized and inspired to continue nurturing the relationship. "We are excited to be here in Tulsa, following the four delegations from Tulsa that have already visited us at the Dead Sea," said Mayor Nir Wanger. "During these challenging times for Israel and Jewish communities worldwide, it is crucial to strengthen the bonds between all Jews and between Israel and its friends in the United States. This strengthening is particularly important in education, as it will shape our people's future."

Interested in visiting the Dead Sea? We are working with our partners in the region to bring a group of Tulsa area runners to the internationally known *Dead Sea Marathon* in February 2026. Stay tuned for more details coming soon! ■



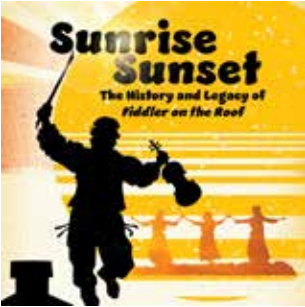
L to Rt: Revital Maimon, Shahaf Feinkuchen, Itzik Levin, Nir Vanger, and Ofra Gazit

EVENTS



The Jewish Genealogy Society of Tulsa & The Sherwin Miller Museum of Jewish Art First Edition Library Series present: *The History of Jews and Judaism* with Dr. Alan Levenson
 Sunday, June 8, 2 pm | Jewish Federation

Dr. Levenson will discuss his new book, *The History of Jews and Judaism: Facts and Fiction*, addressing false beliefs including that Jews in ancient Israel practiced Judaism, that Judaism opposes Christianity, that Jews are a race, and that Judaism thrived under Islam. Attendees will learn why particular misconceptions arose, how they spread, and the influence of the political, social, and economic contexts of the time. Examining many of the most widely held forms of antisemitic thinking, attendees will leave with an informed understanding of historical facts. Dr. Levenson is the Schusterman/Josey Chair in Judaic History at the University of Oklahoma and has written extensively on the Jewish experience for both scholarly and popular audiences.



Sunrise Sunset: The History and Legacy of Fiddler on the Roof
OPENING RECEPTION: WEDNESDAY, JUNE 18, 4:30 PM

Tradition! *Fiddler on the Roof* is an international classic that has made its way into the hearts and homes of generations of people—and not just theater kids! This exhibition has a little bit of everything—history, Judaica, art, and even set pieces and costumes from the Tulsa Performing Arts Center’s most recent production of Fiddler. Join us for a celebration of this much-loved story and be prepared to learn a thing or two about this timeless classic.

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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.



Bashert: The Art of Jewish Love

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



Theodore Fried: Art in Hiding

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



Temple Israel Songbook Illustrations

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

HOLIDAY HOURS

Sunday, June 1 – Tuesday, June 3 | Shavuot CLOSED
 Thursday, June 19 | Juneteenth. CLOSED

BUILDING BRIDGES THROUGH THE TULSA GLOBAL ALLIANCE

by Sarah Howman, Director of Community Engagement

Tulsa's sister city, Tiberias, is located on the western shore of the Sea of Galilee in northern Israel. Those who visit this beautiful place experience the fresh air, delicious food, archaeological sites, and a multicultural experience. The Old City of Tiberias is important in both Judaism and Christianity, with biblical holy sites from each religion.

The mission of the Tulsa Global Alliance (TGA) is to build a global community and ensure that Tulsa is a vibrant community that thinks globally, acts globally, and connects globally. TGA hosts international professionals and students, facilitates Tulsa's nine sister city partnerships, supports global education and exchanges, and promotes international business development. The Jewish Federation of Tulsa has been a proud partner of the Tulsa Global Alliance for many years. We have supported them through a student exchange program where local Tulsa students visited Tiberias, and students from Tiberias came to explore Tulsa. Chloe Chappell, Director of Community Relations and Outreach, serves as the Tiberias City Sister Chair, and the Israel Engagement Committee is a very active volunteer and participant at TGA programs.

Each year, TGA hosts the Global Vision Awards gala—a signature celebration of international friendship, cultural exchange, and community impact. I was grateful to be able to attend this special evening in early April on behalf of the Jewish Federation of Tulsa. As someone who has been told from a young age that the way to world peace and acceptance is to travel the globe, TGA's mission hits home for me.

This year's honorees included:

- **Circle Cinema**, recognized as an Outstanding Organization for its commitment to cultural storytelling and its mission to elevate community consciousness through film. Co-founder Clark Wiens reflected on the power of a global perspective, sharing, "We want this world—our Tulsa world—to know about the rest of the world." Through thoughtful programming and inclusive dialogue, the Circle continues to be a cultural gateway connecting Tulsa to stories from around the globe.
- **Eva Unterman**, Holocaust survivor and educator, received the *Raymond and Nancy Feldman Lifetime Achievement Award* for her unwavering dedication to remembrance and education. Encouraged by a local teacher who discovered a Holocaust survivor was living in the Tulsa community, Eva began speaking to students across Oklahoma, using her story to illuminate one of history's darkest chapters. She considers teachers the stewards of history, playing an essential role in ensuring that future generations never forget.

It was humbling and inspiring to be in the room as the honorees' videos played. Circle Cinema, a proud and long-time partner of the Jewish Federation of Tulsa, publicly shared the recent successes of the 11th edition Oklahoma Jewish Film Festival. Eva Unterman's tear-jerking video was filmed in the lobby of the Sherwin Miller Museum of Jewish Art. I saw our campus, our mission, our community members, our outreach and hard work throughout the night. It was special to be a part of this awards ceremony, and I want to share one more congratulations to the 2025 honorees: Circle Cinema and Eva Unterman. Your hard work and dedication to educating and bettering Tulsa does not go unnoticed. You should be celebrated time and time again, Mazel Tov! ■



Circle Cinema Executive Director, Brent Ortolani, Clark and Michelle Wiens, TGA Executive Director Micah Keyan



Eva Unterman and TGA staff

COMMUNITY GATHERS FOR POWERFUL YOM HASHOAH

by Alice Blue, Chair, Council for Holocaust Education

This year's Yom HaShoah commemoration proved to be one of the most meaningful and well-attended events in recent memory, even amid unexpected changes to the program. Over 300 attendees gathered to honor the six million Jews and others murdered in the Holocaust, demonstrating a deep and continuing communal commitment to remembrance and education.

Originally scheduled to deliver the keynote address in person, Sister Carol Ritter was unable to attend due to unforeseen circumstances. Her message, however, was shared through a pre-recorded video that preserved the impact and solemnity of her intended words. The program continued seamlessly, a testament to the dedication and preparation of the event's organizers.

The success of the evening was largely due to the efforts of the planning committee, led by Program Chair Susannah Ginsburg. The team—including Joli Jensen, Mieke Epps, Betty Lehman, Jackie Hill, Mark Lobo, Itzik Levin, Christina Henson, Klara Bode, Hank Knight, and Brian Brouse—worked with care and precision to maintain the integrity and purpose of the event despite the last-minute adjustment. Sofia Thornblad, Chief Curator and Director of Collections and Holocaust Education, served as the staff director as well as coordinating the Tulsa area school art contest submissions.

One of the evening's most profound moments came

during the candle lighting ceremony, authored by Joli Jensen. Moving beyond remembrance, the ceremony emphasized the theme of rescue and moral responsibility. Candles were lit to honor individuals and groups who risked their lives to oppose hatred during the Holocaust. Among those recognized were organizations such as HIAS and the International Rescue Committee; nations including Albania and Denmark, which offered sanctuary; and religious communities like the Quakers and members of the Catholic non-hierarchy, who provided shelter and aid. The final candle, lit in silence, honored the millions who perished, offering a moment of collective reflection and grief.

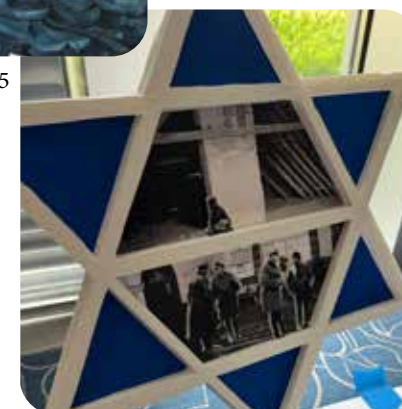
The ceremony was accompanied by a musical performance featuring selections from *The Pianist*, performed by Lyndon Meyer, Principal Pianist and Vocal Coach of the Tulsa Opera. The music provided a powerful emotional backdrop that underscored the solemnity of the evening.

The high turnout and meaningful engagement throughout the event reflected the community's enduring commitment to Holocaust remembrance. In the face of rising antisemitism and the erosion of historical awareness, this year's commemoration served as a reaffirmation of the responsibility to remember, educate, and uphold moral clarity. ■

YOM HASHOAH ART CONTEST



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SOLID GOLD: HONORING 50 YEARS OF TRADITION AND LOOKING TOWARD THE FUTURE AT MIZEL JCDS

by Amanda Anderson, Executive Director, Flo & Morris Mizel Jewish Community Day School

On May 4, we celebrated something truly extraordinary: the 50th anniversary of the Flo & Morris Mizel Jewish Community Day School. Our Solid Gold Gala, held at the Marriott Southern Hills, was more than an event—it was a heartfelt tribute to our school's legacy, our vibrant community, and the bright future we're building together.

The evening opened with a moving speech from Richard Borg, President of the Heritage Academy Foundation and one of Mizel's most passionate advocates for over three decades. Richard shared stories that reminded us how far we've come—from living room conversations with early donors to renaming the school in honor of the Mizel family's transformative gift.

"I've also been privy to conversations when we discussed if we could even keep the school doors open," Richard said. "And now, today, we have 71 kiddos under Amanda's leadership, and we continue to grow."

Hearing him say that was humbling. When I joined Mizel just four years ago, we had 24 students. Today, thanks to the dedication of our educators, the unwavering support of families and community partners, and the incredible strength of our students, we are thriving, with 71 students, including our brand-new 18-month-old program created in collaboration with the Jewish Federation of Tulsa.

Since our founding in 1975, Mizel JCDS has been a place where tradition is not just remembered, it is lived. I shared with our guests that our students don't simply memorize prayers or study holidays; they form meaningful connections to Jewish values and history. They ask big, beautiful questions about identity and purpose.

And Mizel isn't only for Jewish families. One of the things I'm most proud of is that every child, regardless of background, finds a home here. Our non-Jewish students are welcomed with open arms and fully participate in school life. They are seen, heard, and valued.

That's what makes Mizel a true community day school.

At the Gala, we also celebrated some of the cherished traditions that have become the heartbeat of our school. From the engineering excitement of the annual egg drop to the whimsical bear hunt that turns our hallways into an adventure, from the reflective ritual of Tashlich at the Gathering Place to our beloved Thanksgiving meal (with Alin Avitan's famous cooking), these moments connect generations and create memories that last a lifetime.

And what a proud moment it was to honor our 5th-grade graduating class, the first in many years! These students have grown up at Mizel. They've been shaped by its values, challenged by its academics, and lifted by the love and

support of our teachers, staff, and families. They are not just ready for middle school, they are ready to lead with their hearts.

Richard's message was a powerful call to action. He reminded us that supporting Mizel means more than writing a check. "Volunteer at the school. Be a substitute teacher. Be a Mizel ambassador," he said. "Introduce your friends and family to the great things happening here."

He ended his remarks with a sentiment that struck a chord in all of us, "People often ask me why I've had such a passion for Mizel all these years, and why, at my age, my passion hasn't dimmed. The answer is simple, I truly believe the young people we educate today are our future leaders, and I want to do everything I can to ensure our future is bright."

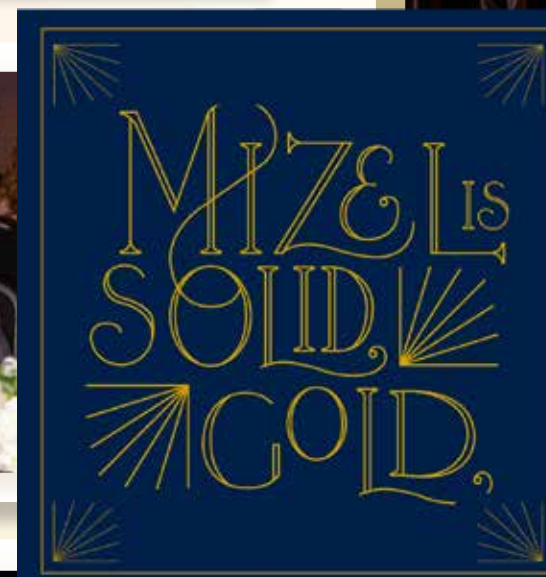
That future is already shining. I'm deeply grateful to Janet Dundee, who chaired the Solid Gold Gala and poured her heart into making it a success, along with her husband Jeff, their daughter Sabrina, and the entire Gala Committee. Our teachers—the soul of our school—were wearing red flowers that night, and I hope everyone took a moment to thank them.

As we raised our glasses and toasted to the next 50 years, I reflected on what makes Mizel so special. Our traditions are not relics of the past—they are living roots. They anchor our children, ground our values, and give us all room to grow.

At Flo & Morris Mizel Jewish Community Day School, tradition is our foundation, and the future is, truly, Solid Gold. ■



Amanda Anderson, Betty Lehman, Alin Avitan, and Valerie Otero



Proud parents, **Hillary and Ben Aussenberg**, announce the arrival of their daughter **Olivia Louise Aussenberg** on April 30, 2025, weighing 7 lbs 4 oz and measuring 19.5 inches. Adoring grandparents are Lorri Krisman, Jeff Krisman, Liz and Neil Aussenberg. The family is enjoying this special bonding time at home. Mazel Tov!



Courtney and Ryan Coretz joyfully announce the birth of their son, **Jonah Irving Coretz**, born on April 17, 2025, weighing 6 lbs 5 oz and measuring 19.5 inches. Jonah is already adored by his large, loving family, including proud grandparents Chrisie and Jeff King and Kim and Rob Coretz.



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Mazel Tov to Dr. **Danielle Gurevitch** for her achievement and recognition of her work in establishing Asian Studies at Bar-Ilan University, a public university in Ramat Gan, Israel.

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



COMMUNITY NEWS

Dr. Andrea Schwartz was recently certified as a Mohelet through HUC and NOAM. Dr. Schwartz is a Pediatrician and Neonatal Hospitalist originally from Overland Park, KS, and has lived in Tulsa for 15 years. She is married to a fellow physician, and the couple has three children ages 10, 7, and 1.

"Judaism has played a major role throughout my life, from Jewish summer camp, BBYO, Jewish Studies major at Tulane, serving on the board at Congregation B'nai Emunah, and now raising my children Jewish," says Dr. Schwartz. "As I begin this meaningful work, I am eager to connect with and offer a new service to our local Jewish community, supporting families through this important moment in Jewish life."



To inquire about her Mohelet services, contact Dr. Schwartz at 913-205-6100 or email: TulsaMohelet@gmail.com.

THE JEWISHNESS OF SNAPPLE ©

by Phil Goldfarb

Jews' love affair with seltzer is well-documented, as are their contributions to the soda industry, but their roles as titans of tea is less well-known.

In 1972, three Jewish businessmen who grew up together in Brooklyn, N.Y. banded together to form Unadulterated Food Products in Valley Stream, New York designed to supply fruit juices to local health food stores. Snapple, a brand of tea and juice drinks was founded by Leonard Marsh (1933-2013), his brother-in-law Hyman (Hymie) Golden (1923-2008), and Arnold Greenberg (1932-2012) all children of Jewish immigrants. They each contributed \$6,000 to start the venture. Unsure if the business would succeed, Greenberg continued to run his health food store in Manhattan's East Village, while Leonard Marsh and his brother-in-law, Hyman Golden, operated a window washing business. In a 1989 interview, Marsh admitted that when they launched the small business he knew "as much about juice as about making an atom bomb."

Among their first products was a fermented apple juice whose carbonation gave it a "snap" that inspired the blended "Snapple" (snappy + apple) as one of the batches of apple juice fermented in the bottle, causing the bottle caps to fly off. The catchy name soon supplanted the company name and the Snapple Beverage Corporation was born as Snapple expanded its line of products in the 1980s to include sodas (cream and root beer remain nostalgic favorites) and fruit drinks, as well as all-natural juices. Until the late 1980s, Snapple remained a relatively small company that focused primarily on juice drinks.

Then in 1987, Snapple introduced their first iced tea. While some like it hot, the Jewish owners did not, and their decision to chill their debut brew was the right one. Snapple's Lemon Iced Tea became a great commercial success and an industry game-changer with regards to its lack of preservatives made possible by a unique bottling process.

The new introduction helped turn Snapple into a cool, quirky brand popular with young people and sales took off. Sales rose by 60% in just one year and the Snapple family of flavors increased more than five-fold, enabling them to literally edge out the competition by dominating valuable shelf space in stores and its popularity quickly soared as consumers clamored for healthier beverage options. Notably, the company went from making \$3 million in sales in 1986 to a whopping \$700 million in 1994.

Snapple was also known for a popular series of TV advertisements in the early 1990s featuring Wendy

Kaufman (the "Snapple Lady" b.9/6/1958) who actually worked for the company (interestingly, she was already responding to all of Snapple's fan mail as a personal mission before being cast) and became a friendly figure with a distinctive Long Island drawl, who quickly endeared herself to viewers with her no-nonsense, humorous responses to reading fan letters on camera. In an effort to counteract the Coke and Pepsi challenge commercials, Snapple began running a new line of advertisements in May 1992, which featured its trademark and brand slogan: "Made from the best stuff on Earth" in ads that spoofed earlier beer and sports drinks promotions. In addition, the company used its \$15-million-a-year advertising budget to pay for a long-lived series of live radio commercials featuring controversial radio hosts Howard Stern and Rush Limbaugh. By August 1992, Snapple had expanded its distribution to every major city in the United States and it signed new contracts with beverage distributors. The company owned no manufacturing



facilities but instead made agreements with more than 30 bottlers across the country. In this way, Snapple was able to keep its overhead low and its payroll short. The company administration consisted of just 80 employees, 50 of whom worked out of a modest office building on Long Island.

Thomas H. Lee, an American businessperson, financier, and investor acquired Snapple Beverages in 1992. The three founders of Snapple said they would own about one-third of the new company and be involved in its management. It was estimated that Snapple, with \$100 million in sales in 1991, sold for \$140 million. Only eight months after buying the company, Lee took Snapple Beverages public and in 1994, only two years after the original acquisition, he sold the company to the Quaker Oats Company

(Continued)

(Continued from p. 21)

for \$1.7 billion. It is currently owned by Keurig Dr Pepper.

In the early 1990s, the original label graphic on the Iced Tea flavor, a depiction of the United States historical event the Boston Tea Party, was replaced due to misinformation espoused by protest groups claiming the ships on the packaging were slave trading vessels in New York Harbor. Snapple also fell victim to a rumor that the small K was either a representation of the Klan, or of an imagined Jewish Tax (augmented by the fact that all three founders were Jewish). The K on the products actually meant that they were certified kosher.

Snapple is also well known for printing an interesting, numbered list of Snapple “Real Fact” facts on the inside of their bottle caps since 2002. The idea came about in a meeting wherein the marketing team was trying to find a way to “amaze and amuse” Snapple customers and decided to make use of the “unused real estate” under bottle caps to provide fun facts. The very first fact was, “A goldfish’s attention span is 3 seconds.” A list of these “Real Facts” is available on the company website: The “Real Facts” and currently go from #1 to at least #1926, although many numbers in this range have never had facts written for them and have never been put into circulation. While Snapple claims that their facts are all completely true, news publications have fact-checked Snapple and found that some of these famous facts are actually inaccurate.

Snapple was considered a leader in the “New Age” beverage movement at the time. Its combination of unusual flavor combinations of tea and juice, along with quirky advertising, was a hit with consumers and inspired a number of competitors; particularly as soft drink companies took notice of the demand for drinks with natural ingredients. Today, there are many different types of Snapple: tea (multiple flavors, such as lemon, raspberry, peach, all of which come in original and diet), juice drinks, lemonade, and even bottled water. ■

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

(Continued from p. 9)

Historical Society, where Liz addressed an audience of women leaders from across the city. In a space dedicated to remembering Tulsa’s past, Liz issued a powerful reminder about shaping the future. She spoke of courage, not just on the battlefield, but in boardrooms, classrooms, and living rooms, and challenged those in attendance to use their influence and networks to elevate the stories of the hostages and pressure lawmakers to act. Her call to action was clear: use your voice, demand justice, and do not remain silent.

Throughout her time in Tulsa, Liz Hirsh Naftali brought a message that was both personal and universal. Her strength and compassion served as a beacon to all of us—Jews and non-Jews alike—who believe in justice and humanity. Her words continue to echo in our hearts and compel us toward action.

This meaningful visit would not have been possible without the vision and support of many. Deep thanks to Nancy Wolov, Lynn Schusterman, Jamie and Sharon Cash, Tulsa Tomorrow, Tuck Curren, the Tulsa Historical Society, David Goldenberg, and Rodger Randle for their partnership in making this visit possible. Their commitment to community, remembrance, and justice helped bring Liz’s vital message to Tulsa—and ensured it was heard.

To continue supporting the cause and learning more, Liz’s book, *Saving Abigail*, is available for purchase at the Jewish Federation of Tulsa. Books are \$20, with all proceeds going directly to Abigail’s family and to fund hostage release efforts. ■

David Dopp

Levi Olsen

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A Slice of Shavuot Sunday, June 1 | 5:30 p.m.

Join us for a joyful and enriching slice of learning, pizza and cheesecake geared towards adults and children of all ages in celebration of Shavuot! Together we'll explore the deeper meanings of the holiday that marks the giving of the Torah. Through engaging discussions, interactive learning activities, and inspiring storytelling, participants of all ages will connect with the spirit of Shavuot in a warm, festive atmosphere. Come be inspired, uplifted, and united as we celebrate this sacred moment together! We'll begin this harvest festival with a celebratory dairy dinner of individually curated slices of pizza and cheesecake, before separating adults and children for meaningful Torah study. Visit tulsagogue.com/events to reserve your place at the dinner table.

Blatt + Blue – Kidnapped: The Abduction of Edgardo Mortara Thursday, June 12 | 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.

Bibi-Dibi: Shabbat for Little Ones Friday, June 13 | 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 registering at tulsagogue.com/events.

Father's Day Co-Ed Sandlot Softball and Picnic Sunday, June 15 | 10:00 a.m.

Grab your glove and bat and join us for a fun-filled game of softball at Whiteside Park, 4009 S Pittsburg, Tulsa. Don't feel like playing, but like watching an entertaining game while eating peanuts and Cracker Jacks? Bring the whole family to enjoy a day in the park with an impressive water play area and stay to join us for a picnic lunch following the game. Be sure to grab those swimsuits for the kids. There is limited seating, so please bring a folding chair or picnic blanket.

Booksmart: The Extinction of Irena Rey with Jennifer Croft Tuesday, June 17 | 5:30 p.m.

From the International Booker Prize-winning translator and Women's Prize finalist, The Extinction of Irena Rey is an utterly beguiling novel about eight translators and their search for a world-renowned author who goes missing in a primeval Polish forest. Jennifer Croft won a Guggenheim Fellowship for this novel, the William Saroyan International Prize for Writing for her memoir Homesick, and the International Booker Prize for her translation of Nobel laureate Olga Tokarczuk's Flights. She has also received the American Academy of Arts and Letters Award in Literature. In addition to being a talented and accomplished writer, she is also a member of The Synagogue community. For more information regarding this free to attend

book release event, please visit magiccycitybooks.com/events.

Seventeenth Street Deli Sunday, June 22 | 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 dine-in and take-out dinner services. Ensure your place in this culinary experience by pre-registering at tulsadeli.org and choose from our delightful pastrami, corned beef, or deli egg salad options.

Shabbat Shalom: Musical Circle, Dinner and Shabbat Talks Friday, June 27 | 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. After services, we'll enjoy a beautiful Shabbat dinner together 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.

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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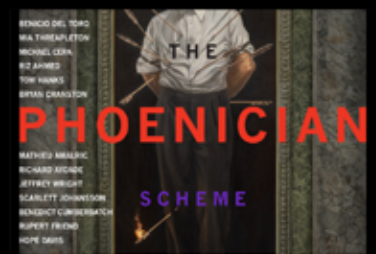
The Life of Chuck
EVERY LIFE IS A WONDER ALL ITS OWN

**"The Life of Chuck"
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A life-affirming, genre-bending story based on Stephen King's novella about three chapters in the life of an ordinary man named Charles Krantz.




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Wes Anderson is back with the story of a family and a family business as only he can tell!



CIRCLECINEMA.

Support Tulsa's only nonprofit arthouse cinema! Don't miss all the great **Circle Cinema** films and events this month, scan the code for up-to-date listings and showtimes.

This Shavuot, turn harvest into hope

Leket Israel the National Food Bank rescues fresh nutritious food from farms, hotels, corporate cafeterias and IDF army bases and distributes it through a network of 300 nonprofits feeding 415,000 Israelis in need each week.



A box of Israeli grown fruit and vegetables for 44 vulnerable families.

shavuot.leket.org/en

Help Leket Israel rescue and distribute fresh fruit and vegetables to Israelis in need throughout the country.



Donate Now





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

Tikkun Leil Shavuot • Sun., June 1 • 6:30 p.m.

Join us for cheesecake and study as we observe this “night of Shavuot”.

Shabbat Service • Fri., June 6 • 6:00 p.m.

Join us as we welcome in Shabbat. Come at 5:30 p.m. for our joyous pre-oneg.

Brotherhood Night at the Drillers • Sat., June 7 • 7:00 p.m.

June means baseball and the annual Driller baseball outing is Saturday, June 7. The game starts at 7:00PM at ONEOK field and there will be fireworks after the game. The Drillers will be playing the world-famous Amarillo Sod Poodles. Tickets are \$20.00 each and include a \$5.00 food voucher. The seats will be along the first base line which is shaded at that time of day.

TEMPLE ISRAEL GARAGE SALE



We will have many items, including educational supplies, furniture, Judaica, kitchen items, and more!

Zamru L'Shabbat & Birthday Shabbat in person, on Zoom & Facebook Live • Fri., Jun 13 • 6:00 p.m.

Join us as we celebrate Shabbat with *Elijah's Minor Prophets*. Come at 5:30 p.m. for our joyous pre-oneg. We will also celebrate June birthdays.

Shabbat Service • Fri., June 20 • 6:00 p.m.

Join us as we welcome in Shabbat. Come at 5:30 p.m. for our joyous pre-oneg.

Temple Israel “Garage Sale” • Sun., June 22 • 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Come to our huge garage sale which will have something for everyone: kitchen items, furniture, art, Judaica, children's toys and more! Come and bring your friends.

Anniversary Shabbat Service in person, on Zoom & Facebook Live • Fri., June 27 • 6:00 p.m.

Join us as we welcome in Shabbat. There will be no pre-oneg. Stay afterwards for a special oneg honoring Rabbi Weinstein and his seven years of service to Temple Israel. ■

TODAH RABAH!

by Lesley Bumgarner, Director of Congregational Life

At Temple Israel we are about to enter an exciting time of transition as we will soon begin the construction of a new building to house our congregation. During the process of making plans for this transitional time, we have come to realize how lucky we are to be part of such a supportive Jewish community. We have so many people to thank.

First, thank you to Joe Roberts and the staff at the Jewish Federation of Tulsa and the Charles Schusterman Jewish Community Center. During the time we are working to construct our new building, we will hold Shabbat services in the Sylvan Auditorium. What a gift! We appreciate the kindness and welcoming attitude of everyone involved. Thanks, too, to Jim Jakubovitz and Zarrow Pointe. Jim has generously offered us space for our Temple office in Zarrow Pointe's new building directly adjacent to the Zarrow Ponte campus. What a blessing it will be to have our office so close to the location where services will take place. We also wish to thank Amanda Anderson and Mizel Jewish Community Day School for kindly offering the use of their

classrooms for Sunday School and Midrasha. Thank you to Tracey Hearst-Woods and the Sherwin Miller Museum of Jewish Art for providing us with storage space for our Torahs and important artifacts. You have truly set our minds at ease.

We are very fortunate to be part of such a kind and caring community, and we look forward to partnering with each of the organizations mentioned. The possibilities for potential joint programming are exciting! Who knows what we might create together?

Before we move to our temporary offices in early July, we will be having a HUGE garage sale at Temple Israel's current location. We have collected many things during the seventy years that we have been in our building, and we will have a variety of items for sale. From books to Judaica, art to kitchenware, furniture, rugs, and children's toys, there will be something for everyone. All are invited! Please join us for the Temple Israel Garage Sale on **Sunday, June 22nd from 10:00 AM-2:00 PM**, and take home a memory. ■

Happy Retirement

A fond farewell and heartfelt thanks to **Shelly Callahan**. After 31 wonderful years of dedication and service, our beloved CSJCC Membership and Accounting Associate has retired.

Shelly first joined the JCC in 1994 in the accounting department. Her work ethic was outstanding, always willing to assist in any way to get the job done. She carried her heavy workload with a smile and an upbeat attitude. She was officially responsible for payroll, accounts payable, JCC membership, and camp accounting for the Jewish Federation of Tulsa, the Charles Schusterman Jewish Community Center, and the JFT Foundation. Later, she would take on the accounting functions for The Sherwin Miller Museum and Mizel Jewish Community Day School. Somehow, she squeezed everything into her day. Before hiring additional staff, Shelly was the go-to person when prospective members came to look the place over. She would always give prospective members the royal tour, presenting the Community Center for the gem it is. When summer came around, Shelly was up front, welcoming the kids and checking everyone in. Her priorities were to meet the needs of the organization, its membership, board members, and employees.

Tom Gill, who worked with Shelly for nearly 18 years said, “Shelly never did just the minimum, as required on her ‘job description.’ I could count on her to be a person who thought the processes through, anticipating issues and their resolutions. When we took on the implementation of new accounting systems, she managed the additional workload alongside her regular duties without complaint.”

CSJCC Deputy Director recalled, “Shelly and I worked together for over 20 years. She was a colleague and a friend, and I will never forget the advice she gave me to not wish away my days, weeks, months, and years, but to truly savor each day, as they can never be reclaimed.

Shelly always showed up with a smile, was hardworking, cooperative, and dependable. She will be sorely missed by staff and members alike, and we wish her the best in her retirement! ■



Jewish Federation of Tulsa
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