

Sadie

Sophie

Fritz

# TULSA Jewish Review

Av/Elul 5785  
August 2025

Kayenta

Leia

Boomer

Ted

Milo

Betty Sue

Watson

Charlie

Tully

Luna

Trixie

Doby & Gus

Chico

Banks

Jonah

Dexter

Ranger

Mayor  
Tom Cat





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— Asher Patel '24

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**AUGUST SHABBAT  
CANDLE LIGHTING TIMES**

August 1 . . . . . 8:11 pm

August 8 . . . . . 8:04 pm

August 15 . . . . . 7:56 pm

August 22 . . . . . 7:47 pm

August 29 . . . . . 7:37 pm



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Front Cover



Paws and Purpose:  
Jewish Tulsa Pet Campaign, page 5

## 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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## PAWS AND PURPOSE: JEWISH TULSA PET CAMPAIGN

by Isabella Silberg, Director of Annual Campaign

This summer, we launched the inaugural Jewish Tulsa Pet Campaign, which reminded us how love for our furry (and feathery!) family members can unite a community. More than just a collection of adorable photos featured on the front cover of the magazine, it was a heartfelt celebration of the love we share with our pets and the power of purposeful giving.

We received some great photos of playful pups and laid-back cats—and every submission told a story. Each \$72 donation honored a beloved pet while supporting the meaningful work of the Federation, and the response was pawsitively purr-fect!

Below are the tributes for our inaugural Pet Campaign. Thank you for reminding us that tzedakah can come in all shapes and sizes, even with tails and whiskers!

- Sue and Rick Arlan: in honor of Sadie
- Shirley and Martin Brody: in memory of Sophie
- Brian E. Brouse: in memory of Ted Brouse
- Chloe Chappell: in memory of Trixie
- Chloe Chappell: in honor of Leia
- Lee Carlson: in honor of Jonah
- Sharon D'Agostino: in memory of Milo, Boomer, Roxie, and Chelsea
- Jared and Kelly Goldfarb: in honor of Doby and Gus
- Sarah and David Howman: in honor of Ranger
- Jackie and Art Lasky: in honor of Luna
- Roy Lifshitz: in memory of Kayenta (4/2004 - 4/2023) and A. Chico (8/2007 - 5/2025)
- Owens Family: in honor of Watson
- Dian Peacock: in honor of Mayor Tom Cat (AKA Tom Cat)
- Sara Rich: in honor of Betty Sue, named after her mother, Betty Sue of Blessed Memory
- Mark, Emmey and Romilly Rothstein: in honor of Fritz
- Erika Silberg: in honor of Banks
- Isabella Silberg: in honor of Tully
- Nancy Wolov: in honor of Charlie
- Rebekah and Travis Wunsch: in honor of Dexter



A HEARTFELT THANK YOU TO HAMMOND ANIMAL HOSPITAL FOR THEIR GENEROUS \$1,000 MATCHING GIFT, WHICH HELPED DOUBLE THE IMPACT OF OUR INAUGURAL PET CAMPAIGN! ■





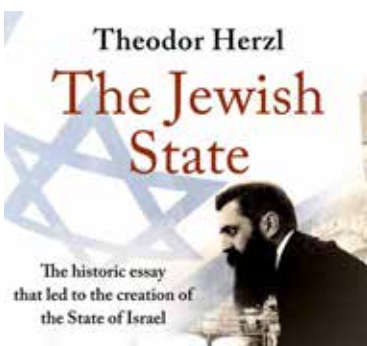
## UPCOMING EVENTS



### YJP Painting Night | Monday, August 4 | 6:30 pm | Purple Glaze

Beat the summer heat with an indoor painting activity and schmoozing with your fellow young adult community. Registration is \$18 per person and includes the studio fee, a challah board/platter to paint, all painting materials, and snacks! YJP (Young Jewish Professionals) is for Jewish adults ages 21-40. This program is in collaboration with Moishe Pod Tulsa.

RSVP: [jewishtulsa.org/YJP-Aug2025](https://jewishtulsa.org/YJP-Aug2025)



### Zionist Book Club – Part 1 | Thursday, August 7 | 7 pm | SMMJA

We'll examine the book that started it all: *The Jewish State* by Theodor Herzl. In 1896, Herzl wrote that the Jews must "will" their own future—that only by seizing our own destiny could we survive as a people. He wasn't writing a dream. He was writing a plan. Now, in 2025, we'll read it together—and ask: what do we will now? Whether you're steeped in Zionist history or just beginning to ask big questions about Israel, peoplehood, and Jewish purpose—this is the place to be.

RSVP: [JewishTulsa.org/book-club-1](https://JewishTulsa.org/book-club-1)



### PJ Pool Day | Sunday, August 10 | 10 am | Sharna and Irvin Frank Aquatics Center

Back by popular demand— our monthly PJ Library Pool Party. Join fellow PJ families for some fun in the sun! Brunch foods, post-swim ice cream, and schmooze with other families raising their children Jewishly. \$10/family for a morning of fun!

RSVP: [JewishTulsa.org/pj-august2025](https://JewishTulsa.org/pj-august2025)



### Rewriting the Israel-Diaspora Relationship with Judah Ari Gross Tuesday, August 12 | 7 pm | Jewish Federation

Hear from our first Elson Fellow Judah Ari Gross, who will be revisiting the Blaustein-Ben Gurion agreement and how Jews are rewriting the Israel-Diaspora relationship for the 21st century.

RSVP: [JewishTulsa.org/Judah](https://JewishTulsa.org/Judah)



### Lunch Bunch with Judah Ari Gross | Wednesday, August 13 | 12 pm | Jewish Federation

Join our Elson Fellow in Residence, Judah Ari Gross, for "You're Never Alone When You Are a Jew." Judah was born in the US and made Aliyah shortly after graduating college. He has served as a military photographer for the IDF and worked as a correspondent for The Times of Israel overseeing Diaspora affairs. Judah is the managing editor of eJewishPhilanthropy. \$13 optional lunch

RSVP: [JewishTulsa.org/lb-aug2025](https://JewishTulsa.org/lb-aug2025)



## UPCOMING EVENTS



### JDads: Suite Shots | Thursday, August 21 | 7 pm | Suite Shots, Jenks, OK

Calling all JDads for a night of well-deserved fun and camaraderie! We'll gather at a local driving range for some swinging fun and golf entertainment complete with tasty appetizers and unlimited sodas. JDads is our newest community initiative, bringing together dads raising their children Jewishly. \$10 per person. Location provided upon registration.

RSVP: [JewishTulsa.org/jdads-aug2025](https://JewishTulsa.org/jdads-aug2025)



### Summer Soiree & Havdalah | Saturday, August 23 | 7:30 pm | Sharna & Irvin Frank Aquatics Center

Join us for our first-ever Summer Soiree! We will begin with Havdalah to mark the end of Shabbat. After we enter the new week, enjoy heavy appetizers and drinks (alcohol and mocktails available) from Catering by Orr, live music by The Wonder Twins, and evening swim time! Get ready for an evening with your Tulsa Jewish community as we close out summer and the pool season together! \$18/per person. Babysitting is available for \$15/family.

RSVP: [JewishTulsa.org/soiree2025](https://JewishTulsa.org/soiree2025)



### Mahjong Lesson | Sunday, August 24 | 1 pm | Jewish Federation

Always wanted to learn Mahjong? Join Mahj918 for a one-time, deep dive into all things Mahjong! This four-hour session is perfect for beginners and includes the 2025 card, a handy booklet, and snacks to keep your brain fed during the session. We will take a short break during the lesson for refreshments and to help alleviate learning fatigue. After this lesson, you will be invited to join intermediate players, which will sharpen your skills! This program is a partnership between JFT and CSJCC. Mahj918 is a Tulsa-based organization, founded by two women who love games, friends, and fun. The cost is \$72/per person.

RSVP: [JewishTulsa.org/mahj918](https://JewishTulsa.org/mahj918)



### Israel Experiences with Ryan Goodnight | Thursday, August 28 | 6:30 pm | Jewish Federation

Senior Pastor Ryan Goodnight was in Israel on a pastoral training and education trip when the Israel-Iran war broke out in June. Stuck there for much longer than originally planned, he was embraced by the local Israelis. He experienced the highest highs and the lowest lows in just a few weeks. You've heard the headlines and the Jewish perspective—now, gain powerful insight through the eyes of a Christian pastor who lived it. Join us for a compelling, behind-the-scenes account that mainstream media missed—a firsthand journey of faith, fear, and unexpected connection in the heart of Israel during wartime.

RSVP: [JewishTulsa.org/goodnight](https://JewishTulsa.org/goodnight)



# APPRECIATING LEADERSHIP AND ADVANCING JUSTICE: LUNCHEON FOR LEGISLATORS CHAMPIONING JEWISH FEDERATION OF TULSA'S BILL EFFORTS

by Chloe Chappell, Director of Youth and Family Engagement(formerly Director of Community Relations)

In a celebration of public service and community partnership, the Jewish Federation of Tulsa will host a special Legislator Recognition Luncheon honoring Senator Kristen Thompson and Representative Emily Gise for their pivotal roles in passing Senate Bills 991 and 942—two critical pieces of legislation that represent a profound step forward for the protection of Jews in Oklahoma.

The event, scheduled for **Tuesday, September 30**, will bring together civic leaders, community members, and state officials to recognize the exceptional contributions of these two lawmakers. Both Senator Thompson and Representative Gise will be presented with the inaugural *Yolanda Charney Award for Public Leadership*, named in honor of Yolanda Charney—a beloved Tulsa community leader, advocate, and lifelong promoter of justice, whose legacy continues to inspire new generations of public servants.

SB 991 and SB 942 reflect advocacy and dialogue between state legislators and the Jewish Federation of Tulsa. SB 991 codifies the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA) definition of antisemitism into law and identifies eleven contemporary examples of Jew hatred, helping organizations recognize instances of antisemitism. SB 942 requires every institution of public education to incorporate the IHRA definition of antisemitism into their code of conduct, treating antisemitic incidents with the same gravity as racial discrimination, and including Jewish students under the protections of Title VI, Civil Rights Act of 1964.

Senator Kristen Thompson, a Republican representing Edmond, worked closely with the Federation to fine-tune the language in SB 991, collaborating across the aisle to secure bipartisan support. “Oklahoma will not tolerate antisemitism,” Thompson said. “I’m grateful to the members who had the moral clarity to support these bills.”

Representative Emily Gise, a Republican and native Tulsan representing the Oklahoma City area, became an

instrumental voice in shepherding SB 942 through the House, leveraging her background in public education to articulate the bill’s importance. “These measures bring clarity, accountability, and protection, ensuring that antisemitism is no longer ignored but addressed with the seriousness it deserves,” Gise remarked. “I’m proud to stand with our Jewish neighbors and to help build a future where every student can feel safe, seen, and supported.”

The *Yolanda Charney Award for Public Leadership* is being introduced this year as a tribute to one of Tulsa’s most respected civic figures. Yolanda Charney has been a passionate advocate for education, human rights, and interfaith cooperation. Yolanda has served the Tulsa community in various capacities. She was the Director of the Community Relations Committee at the Jewish Federation of Tulsa, President of the Tulsa Section of the National Council of Jewish Women, and Executive Director of the Hispanic American Foundation of Tulsa, to name a few.

During her time at the Federation, she played a key role in addressing anti-Israel sentiment and strengthening ties with Black and Latino communities. She was instrumental in forming coalitions with organizations such as the Tulsa Urban League and the Tulsa Equality Center, contributing to the successful “Say No to Hate” campaign. Yolanda collaborated with local institutions such as Oral Roberts University (ORU) and the University of Tulsa for interfaith events, including ORU’s annual “Night to Honor Israel”. Throughout her career, she was deeply committed to dialogue, education, and building bridges between diverse groups, leaving a lasting legacy in Tulsa’s community relations efforts. Her work exemplifies the spirit of leadership and public service that the new *Yolanda Charney Award for Public Leadership* aims to honor.

Yolanda believed in the power of local leadership; therefore, it is only fitting that this award be given to two individuals who embody her spirit—leaders who, like

her, didn’t just talk about change but made it happen. The award will be presented during a formal ceremony as part of the luncheon. The successful passage of SB 991 and SB 942 is a testament to what can be achieved when community organizations and legislators work hand in hand.

Meaningful progress requires not just advocacy, but allies. Senator

(Continued on page 14)



Yolanda Charney



Senator Kristen Thompson



Representative Emily Gise

# THE PEOPLE WHO POWER US: MARIEL FERREIRA

by Isabella Silberg, Director of Annual Campaign



Mariel Ferreira

**Q What inspired your initial involvement with the Jewish Federation of Tulsa, and how has that connection grown over time?**

**A** I wanted to start giving to charity and thought that the Jewish Federation of Tulsa would be a great place to start. I learned that if I gave over \$180, I would become a member of the JFT Sisterhood (Pearl Society). The more I participate with Sisterhood, it inspires me to do more and donate more.

**Q You’ve increased your support in recent years; what motivated that decision, and what does it mean to you personally?**

**A** Tikkun Olam is a strong part of my Jewish identity, and I believe Tzedakah goes hand in hand with Tikkun Olam. I give because my contributions help repair the world in many ways.

**Q How has Women’s Philanthropy shaped your experience and connection to the Jewish community in Tulsa?**

**A** Women’s Philanthropy shaped my experience and connection to the Jewish community in Tulsa because even though we are small, we are mighty. I believe there are only about 2,000 Jewish members in Tulsa, but you see the Jewish names that have donated to so many organizations and charities all around Tulsa. It gives me a sense of pride that we play such a major part. Also, since we are a small group, I do appreciate how all the Jewish organizations here work in tandem. I saw this when we had the Period Poverty program presented by the JFT Pearl Society. All the sisterhoods held a combined drive for menstrual products. Sometimes philanthropy does not have to be monetary, but can be the donation of one’s time. In this case, we learned about the need in our community and across the nation, and how to call our Oklahoma Senators asking them to support bills that would benefit this cause.

**Q Why is it important to you to give through a Jewish lens and specifically through Federation?**

**A** The Jewish Federation of Tulsa has helped me greatly in my personal life. We were new to Tulsa in 2021. People reached out and wanted my children to join BBYO. BBYO has been an amazing program to help strengthen my children’s Jewish identity. Through the support of the Jewish Federation of Tulsa and JFT’s Foundation, housing BBYO Funds, one of my children attended various BBYO summer programs, something I could not have afforded on my own. BBYO summer programs offered my son many wonderful leadership opportunities, which helped him grow and strengthen his Jewish identity. Our family has benefited so much from Federation, it is now my turn to give back to our Jewish community.

**Q Can you share a moment or memory that affirmed your commitment to supporting this work?**

**A** There are too many to begin to name. Every time I go to an event or program put on by the JFT Pearl Society, I am reminded of why I donate to this community. I love going to the sisterhood social action programs where I have volunteered for DVIS and Women in Recovery. One of the most impactful programs I attended was The Center for Individuals with Physical Challenges. I learned how this incredible organization was founded by a couple of Jewish women in the 1970s. The program included amazing photographs that documented the organization’s rich history. What moved me most was seeing how many women in attendance personally knew or remembered the founders of The Center. The impact Tulsa Jewish women have on this community inspires me to get more involved and do my part.

**Q What do you hope your support helps accomplish, both locally and globally?**

**A** I hope it bridges an understanding between the Jewish community of Tulsa and the members of the Tulsa community. Our works show how invested we are in our community, and it does not matter whether a person is Jewish or not. I do believe the Tulsa Jews have the backing of the local community because of our support for the whole community.

**Q As a woman philanthropist, what message would you share with others considering getting more involved?**

**A** To be a woman philanthropist is not only about donating money. Time and service are just as important in many ways. For example, I shovel my elderly neighbor’s sidewalk when it snows. Also, I have created a tzedakah bank account, and every paycheck I try to set money aside. This way, when something comes up that I want to donate to, I already have the money. A woman philanthropist needs to have goals. I know I am a couple of years away from meeting my goal, but my vision is to be a Lion of Judah.

**Q Finish this sentence: “I give because…”**

**A** I give because I want to make this world a better place. I feel that the small amounts I give make small changes that can lead to bigger and greater impacts. The world cannot be healed all at once, but small impacts do make changes. ■



## UPCOMING EVENTS

**Fitness Challenge: Abs-olutely August Challenge**

Let's make this month abs-olutely amazing! Each day in August, focus on one core-focused move (like planks, bird dogs, or seated twists) and pair it with a healthy habit, such as drinking enough water, stretching, or getting enough sleep. You'll strengthen your center and support your whole wellness routine. Participants track both their "abs" and "habits" each day. Fill in a sunshine ray every time you complete both to light up your August sun!

**End of Summer Bash | Saturday, August 2 | 7 pm | Sharna and Irvin Frank Aquatics Center**

Wrap up summer with a splash at our annual End of Summer Bash! All are invited for an evening of fun in the pool, a build-your-own ice cream sundae bar, and quality family time as we say farewell to our summer shlichot Roni and Adi. At dusk, we will settle in for a dive-in movie screening of Kung Fu Panda 2. This celebration is free for CSJCC members, Swim for All 2025 families, and Camp Shalom 2025 families. The cost is \$20/family for all other attendees.

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

**Wellness Series: Move Like an Animal – Somatic Exercises | Wednesday, August 6 | 10:15 am | Dan Room**

Discover how to relieve pain and stiffness with the un-exercise approach. Motor control exercises, progressive relaxation, and mindfulness-based stress reduction are the first things to do to relieve pain (according to the ACP - American College of Physicians). The good news is that Somatics Exercises encompasses all three categories, which is how vertebrate animals stay healthy. They never, ever... stretch! That's right. They do something completely different, using the brain's sensory-motor cortex to keep moving well. Edward Barrera is a 25-year Hanna Somatic Educator (Somatics Exercises®) and author of two books. He is also a former chronic pain (fibromyalgia) sufferer and US Senior Soccer National Champion.

RSVP at: [csjcc.org/wellness-Aug2025](https://csjcc.org/wellness-Aug2025)

**Tzedek: Meals on Wheels | Friday, August 8 | 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-aug2025](https://csjcc.org/tzedek-aug2025)

# 20 YEARS OF SMILES, SUNSHINE, & SHALOM: HONORING MARTHA KELLEY!

On June 6th, Camp Shalom was bursting with extra ruach (spirit) as campers, counselors, staff, and community members gathered for a very special Camp Shabbat—honoring Deputy Director Martha Kelley's 20 amazing years with the Charles Schusterman Jewish Community Center!

Amid the joyful singing and challah crumbs, Martha was surprised with cheers, hugs, and a beautiful bouquet of flowers in recognition of her two decades of love, laughter, and leadership.

"This is a special day for me," Martha shared. "As I celebrate two incredible decades with the JCC and Camp Shalom, my heartfelt gratitude goes to Jason Neidell from Soccer Magic for getting me started at soccer camp in the summer of '99. Those first five summers were just the beginning—and they led me to my dream job full-time in June 2005.

"The days may be long," she said with a smile, "but the summers always fly by in a blink!"

**Mazel Tov, Martha!** Your heart, humor, and dedication to our community have made Camp Shalom feel like home for generations of campers. Here's to many more summers of sunshine, friendship, and Martha's legendary camp spirit! ■



Martha Kelley's 1st day at CSJCC



20th Anniversary Celebration, 2025

## Back to School Pool Hours

**AUGUST 4 –  
SEPTEMBER 1**

Mondays and Wednesdays

4:30-8 pm

Saturdays and Sundays

12-8 pm

**OPEN** — Labor Day, Sept 1

12-8 pm

Tuesday, Sept 2nd

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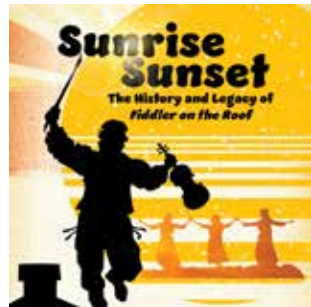
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### Sunrise Sunset: The History and Legacy of *Fiddler on the Roof*

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.



### 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.



*The*  
**BIG  
BEAUTIFUL  
FRIED**  
*Exhibit*

SAVE THE DATE  
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### New! The Big Beautiful Fried Exhibit

See our display of some of our largest works by Jewish-Hungarian painter, Theodore Fried! He painted a wide variety of subjects and objects, such as musicians and city scenes.

## CABARET: SETTING THE STAGE

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

When Theater Tulsa announced their 2025-2026 season, I was delighted to see that *Cabaret* was one of the shows they were producing.

I called their Executive Director, Travis Guillery, almost immediately and told him that if he needed a historical consultant for the show, I was surely his “guy”.

It turns out that there is a word for historical consultants in theater productions: dramaturg. This was a completely new concept to me, though I had worked with the Tulsa Performing Arts Center on their 2024 production of *Fiddler on the Roof*.

I volunteered to curate an exhibit, meet with the cast, and give them a tour of The Sherwin Miller Museum's Sanditen Kaiser Holocaust Education Center. I also decided to audition for the production and was ultimately cast as *Cabaret* girl Fritzie.

Why *Cabaret*?

If you are not familiar with the story, the musical *Cabaret* is based on the writings of Christopher Isherwood that center around his time in 1920s-30s Berlin. The time right before the Nazis came to power.

The show explores how the Nazis rise to power effects the protagonists' Cliff Bradshaw and Sally Bowles, as well as their friends. It is set predominantly in a nightclub called the Kit Kat Klub, which is based on a real club called the Eldorado that was frequented by Christopher Isherwood.

*Cabaret* addresses antisemitism, but it is also a deeply queer show, and demonstrates how Berlin, the queer capital of the world at the time, fell to fascism and eventually disappeared.

When meeting with the cast, I shared with them the history of the Holocaust. We specifically focused in on the persecution of queer people, and their vibrant lives in pre-war Germany.

One person I made sure to highlight was Magnus Hirschfeld, a Jewish gay psychologist who studied human sexuality, provided healthcare for queer people, and promoted tolerance. His institute of sexology in Berlin was one of the first places raided by the Nazis when they came to power. Everything about Magnus threatened them. His identities were labeled as degenerate and ultimately made him a target for persecution. The Nazis banned his work. They burned his library. If he had not been out of town at the time of the incident, he likely would have been detained...or worse.

To put this story into perspective, I highlighted the fact that he and his circle would have frequented the Eldorado.

Learning that these stories were about real people helped the cast connect with their characters



I was the only Jew in the cast, but I was not the only person who had been “othered” due to my identity. While honoring

this history and our various identities, we were able to create a safe space for each other. A space like the Eldorado used to be.

At the beginning of the 2nd act, there is a number called *If You Could See Her*. In this number, the Emcee sings a song to one of the Kit Kat Klub dancers who is dressed as a gorilla. At the end of the number, it is revealed that the gorilla is a metaphor for antisemitic depictions of Jewish people.

I bet you can guess who was the cast member to play the role of the gorilla.

Inside the gorilla suit, I would dance across the stage with the Emcee. The choreography was designed to elicit laughter, but at the end of the number, the Emcee would bring me center stage, and a violin would tremble several heartbreaking notes. From behind the gorilla mask, I would watch as the Emcee sang the following lines:

*I understand your objection,*

*I grant you the problem's not small...*

*But if you could see her through my eyes*

*She wouldn't look Jewish at all*

There would be a brief pause in the music after those words to see how the audience would react. To let the meaning of the song shock and horrify them. If the intended reaction was achieved, the music would kick back up, we would finish our dance, and exit the stage, leaving the audience uncomfortable.

But during several performances, the audience thought the ending was funny. Their laughter caught both of us off guard. It was not an anxious titter from the back of the audience. It was uproarious laughter like we had just given them all permission to think Jew jokes were acceptable. It was as if their laughter was telling us that Jews really are ugly gorillas.

The first time it happened, the Emcee and I locked eyes, stunned. I felt myself begin to hyperventilate. I thought about taking off my mask and revealing the real Jewish girl behind it. But he did what every non-Jew should do in that situation. He took a step forward and said in a stern German accent, “It's not funny”.

The laughter ceased immediately. ■





# LAUNCHING CAREERS, ONE ARTIFACT AT A TIME

by Greg Falconetti, Chief Archivist & Registrar; Director of Exhibit and Library Services

Internships are more than just a stepping stone—they're a launchpad into the world of museum and library work.

When I was a graduate student, my own internship at the Philbrook Museum of Art was a defining moment. Under the guidance of longtime librarian, archivist, and registrar Tom Young, I gained invaluable hands-on experience that simply can't be taught in a classroom. That kind of real-world learning—problem-solving, teamwork, and applying academic knowledge in a professional setting—is exactly what internships offer.

For students just beginning their careers, internships provide the chance to build essential skills and begin forming a professional network that will support them for years to come.

At The Sherwin Miller Museum of Jewish Art, our interns are an integral part of our team. They help digitize, catalog, house, and describe our growing Jewish Family Archives; photograph and accession new objects; and assist in the physical preparation of exhibitions. Many even learn how to design and install exhibits—bringing history to life for our visitors.

As the intern supervisor, I believe no two internships should look the same. Every student brings different goals, interests, and experiences. That's why I work closely with each intern to shape a personalized experience aligned with their academic focus and career aspirations.

Whether it's an undergraduate exploring museum work for the first time or a graduate student deepening their professional skills, we're committed to making each internship meaningful, memorable, and impactful—for both the student and the museum.

## Meet our summer interns:

Hi, I'm Collette Adatto-Safdie, and I'm thrilled to be interning at The Sherwin Miller Museum of Jewish Art as part of my fieldwork for California State University Long Beach's Museum Collection Management program, with a focus on Costumes and Textiles. With a BFA in Theatrical Design from the University of Southern California and a certificate in Costume Technology from East Los Angeles College, I've always been passionate about storytelling through fabric, design, and history. My past experience includes working in the costume department at the Children's Theatre of Charlotte in North Carolina and with the wardrobe team at Tulsa Ballet—both of which fueled my love for preserving and presenting garments in dynamic, creative ways. Now, at the Sherwin Miller Museum, I'm excited to bring that passion into the world of museum collections.



Collette Adatto-Safdie

Hi, I'm Ella Hampton, a senior at the University of Tulsa majoring in anthropology and history. Interning at The Sherwin Miller Museum of Jewish Art has been an incredible opportunity that brings my studies to life! This experience has deepened my understanding of anthropology in a real-world museum setting. ■



Ella Hampton

(Continued from p. 8)

Thompson and Representative Gise have been active partners with the Jewish Federation of Tulsa every step of the way. Both wanted to understand the issues and use their platforms to do good, which is exactly what public service should look like. Senator Kristen Thompson and Representative Emily Gise have shown what's possible when empathy meets action.

The Legislator Recognition Luncheon will be held in the Barbara and Dave Sylvan Auditorium at the Jewish Federation of Tulsa on **Tuesday, September 30 at 1 pm**. Please join us in recognizing and thanking Senator Thompson and Representative Gise. RSVP required at: [JewishTulsa.org/YCA](http://JewishTulsa.org/YCA). ■



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# Graduation and Gratitude: Reflections of BBYO SENIORS

TULSA IS FORTUNATE TO HAVE AN ACTIVE AND THRIVING WAY FOR JEWISH TEENS TO DEVELOP MEANINGFUL RELATIONSHIPS WITH PEERS AND ADULTS, DISCOVER THEIR CONNECTION TO JUDAISM, AND BUILD THE CONFIDENCE AND LEADERSHIP SKILLS THEY NEED TO MAKE A PROFOUND AND LASTING IMPACT ON OUR WORLD. BBYO, THE LARGEST PLURALISTIC JEWISH TEEN MOVEMENT HAS OVER 725 CHAPTERS IN 60 COUNTRIES AROUND THE WORLD. FEINBURG RUBIN AZA FOR MALE TEENS AND NONA BLOCK SOLOMON BBG FOR FEMALE TEENS FORMED IN TULSA IN THE 30S AND 50S, RESPECTIVELY.

THIS YEAR'S SENIOR CLASS REFLECTS ON THEIR EXPERIENCES AND IMPACT FROM THEIR BBYO JOURNEY.

## Adam Arbital -

### Jeanette Altman Frieden BBYO Excellence in Education Scholarship

It's no exaggeration to say BBYO has had a massive impact on my life. When I was younger, I struggled to connect to my Judaism in a way that was meaningful to me. However, when I was invited to join BBYO, that all changed. Attending fun Jewish educational programs with fellow Jews my age really encouraged me to try to learn more about my religion. Additionally, the guys and gals I met throughout my time in BBYO have become true friends, and if it weren't for them I would not be the man I am today. Next year, I will be attending Oklahoma State to study aerospace engineering. Although I am incredibly excited to begin this new journey, it is not without sadness for the conclusion of one of the best times of my life.



## Addison Barnes

Throughout my four years in BBYO, I was encouraged to participate in new activities that I may not have previously done. Members in both Salomon and FRAZA helped me to break out of my shell and become less shy. While I did not go to many events throughout my years, I genuinely enjoyed them and enjoyed hanging out with all the members who showed up, whether it was joint events or just chapter events. This fall, I will be attending George Mason University and majoring in criminology.



## Jacob Barnes -

### Jeanette Altman Frieden BBYO Excellence in Education Scholarship (Top Scholar)

BBYO taught me what it means to be a leader and how to take pride in my Jewish identity. BBYO has been such an integral part of who I am today, and it has helped me understand how much of an impact you can have on the world by just making connections and friendships with people. This organization also gave me some of my closest friendships, and I am forever grateful for them. It also helped build my leadership skills and shape me into a leader. Next year, I will be attending Northeastern University, where I plan to major in psychology.





# BBYO Reflections

**Kira Dees -  
Jeanette Altman Frieden BBYO Excellence in Education Scholarship**

I will forever be grateful for what BBYO has given me. From friendships around the world to leadership roles, the organization has shaped who I am today and allowed me to grow as a person. I will be able to take skills, friends, and experiences into adulthood that I otherwise wouldn't have been afforded. I plan to attend Tulsa Community College to study digital media, while forever remaining a proud BBG.



**Maren Hettler -  
Jeanette Altman Frieden BBYO Excellence in Education Scholarship**

BBYO taught me more about myself than any other extracurricular I was involved in. I developed leadership skills, built a strong Jewish identity and formed friendships with Jewish teens from all over the world. During my time on chapter and regional board, I learned so much about time management and balancing multiple responsibilities. I am so grateful for the welcoming and supportive environment that Tulsa BBYO created because it brought me some of my best friends. This fall, I will attend the University of Missouri to study journalism.



**Xander Loosvelt - Jeanette Altman Frieden BBYO Excellence in Education Scholarship**

BBYO has taught me leadership skills, helped me grow in my Jewish identity, and allowed me to gain a community of lifelong friends. From holding various positions on the chapter board, I learned a variety of useful skills and techniques for effective collaboration and communication. I'm so grateful for all BBYO has given to me, and I hope I was able to give back to the organization as much as I've gotten out of it. I've loved every moment, event, and opportunity I've gotten because of BBYO, and I will always cherish the time I had in this organization. I will be attending the University of Kansas to study Journalism with a concentration in sports media and society.



**Gabby Raskin-Irwin**

BBYO has taught me critical leadership skills and has given me lasting friendships that have benefited me greatly. I will be attending Hendrix College, and as of now, I am undecided on what I want to major in.



(Continued )

## JFT Foundation & BBYO Scholarships

Under the helm of David Finer, Lydia Lapidus, and local volunteer advisors, Tulsa's BBYO chapters have continued to grow and prosper. A large part of the success is due to the foresight of generous community members creating philanthropic funds to sustain the organization for future generations. Through the Jewish Federation of Tulsa Foundation, donor-directed funds were created by several families to support the long-standing legacy of BBYO in our community.

★ **Jeanette Altman Frieden BBYO Excellence in Education Scholarship**

Provides scholarships to college-bound BBYO seniors showing excellence in academics and BBYO participation and leadership.

*Jeanette Altman Frieden was a longtime Tulsa philanthropist. Her three kids were members of Tulsa BBYO in the 1960s and 1970s, and Jeanette was an active BBYO supporting parent. Later in her life, Jeanette made the decision to create a BBYO scholarship in her name, supporting graduating BBYO seniors who were active members, good citizens, good students, and who might need a financial helping hand to attend college. Jeanette often remarked about her own difficulty in securing a higher education, and she wanted to make certain that Tulsa BBYO members of today had someone to depend on. Jeanette loved getting to know all the young men and women of Tulsa BBYO, and she participated each year in the scholarship selections and would come to BBYO installations to present to the winners. Jeanette passed away in May of 2015. Her love of Tulsa BBYO and her generosity live on through her children, who continue to support this scholarship.*

★ **David Finer BBYO Scholarship Fund**

Provides financial aid for teens to attend BBYO summer programs.

*David was a member of Feenberg-Rubin AZA from 1971-1974. He has served as an advisor and special programs coordinator since 1981.*

★ **Herschel And Marj Rubin BBYO Leadership Fund Scholarships**

Provides financial aid for teens to attend BBYO summer programs.

*Herschel and Marj Rubin were the mainstays of Tulsa BBYO from 1950 to 1972. Herschel was a prominent Tulsa pediatrician who was an AZA advisor and mentor during this period. Feenberg-Rubin is, in part, named for his father, Nathan Rubin, who was instrumental in the origins of AZA in Tulsa. Herschel passed away in 1997. Marj was the heart and soul of Tulsa BBYO for 22 years. She was not only the BBG advisor, but was the inspiration for all BBYO'ers of that era. Marj Rubin passed away in 2003.*

★ **Scott Sanditen BBYO Leadership Development Scholarships**

Provides financial aid for teens to attend BBYO summer programs.

*Scott Sanditen was a Tulsa businessman and exemplary leader in the Tulsa Jewish community and the Tulsa community as a whole, who lost his life in a traffic accident in March 2000. As a supporter of many humanitarian causes, Scott spent a great deal of time making a difference in people's lives, and he gave of himself unselfishly. He was a gifted leader who could inspire others to enlist in causes greater than themselves. As a tribute to him and in his memory, David and Jan Finer, in December 2000, created two scholarships in his name to annually send outstanding BBYO members to international BBYO leadership institutes, to further develop their leadership skills and heighten their Jewish identities. Scott was a member of Feenberg-Rubin AZA from 1967-1971. His leadership abilities flourished during his time in BBYO. It is with the hope that others can learn to walk in his footsteps that these scholarships have been created.*

(Continued)



### Charlie Rotenberg

My one year I got in BBYO was monumental to my personal growth as a person. Joining FRAZA gave me the remarkable opportunity to meet stand-out people, participate in thought-provoking conversations, and explore a new aspect of my Judaism. No matter where I end up in life, the innumerable memories I've made and lessons I've learned will stay with me forever. I will attend the University of Minnesota in the fall.



### Jaden Sloan - Jeanette Altman Frieden BBYO Excellence in Education Scholarship

It really is hard to put into words how much BBYO has meant to me. What started as a meaningless group to pass time on weekends turned into so much more. I have made some of my closest friends these past four years and formed connections I hope to maintain my whole life. Through numerous BBYO camps, conventions, and summer trips, I met Jews from around the world. I gained new perspectives on issues facing the global Jewish community, driving me to become an advocate against antisemitism in Tulsa. BBYO also provided me with a space where I could be comfortably open about my religion, something I had struggled to do anywhere else. I am extremely grateful for all the support I have received from the advisors, and especially David Finer. This fall, I am attending the University of Oklahoma and majoring in engineering.



### ★ Ellen Singer BBG Fund

Provides financial aid for BBG girls to attend BBYO summer programs.

*Ellen Singer was an active BBYO member and native Tulsan. Her 4 years in Nona Bloch Salomon BBG were instrumental in the development of her leadership skills and her passion for Judaism. Ellen graduated from Edison High School in 1971, the University of Michigan in 1975, received a master's degree in Jewish education from the Jewish Theological Seminary in 1980, and was on the BBYO International Board of Directors. To create a lasting memorial to Ellen, her family and friends created an award given annually to an outstanding Nona Bloch Salomon BBG member.*

To learn how you can make a difference in a teen's life by contributing to one of the BBYO scholarship funds, or how to set up your endowment fund and ensure your name and wishes continue to last in perpetuity, contact Isabella Silberg, Director of Annual Campaign, [isilberg@jewishtulsa.org](mailto:isilberg@jewishtulsa.org), 918-935-3690.

More information about the Jewish Federation of Tulsa Foundation can be found on our website: [JewishTulsa.org/jft-foundation](http://JewishTulsa.org/jft-foundation).

**BBYO is open to all Jewish teens entering grades 9 - 12.**

**Fall recruitment starts now!**

To learn more about how your teen can get involved, contact Lydia Lapidus, [lydia.lapidus@gmail.com](mailto:lydia.lapidus@gmail.com)

## WHY MIZEL? A PARENT'S REFLECTION

by Rachel Budavich

When our family first found Mizel Jewish Community Day School, we weren't planning on joining a private school. After the pandemic, we were simply looking for a safe, nurturing place for our daughter to start kindergarten. When we didn't win the public school aftercare lottery, we widened our search. We weren't Jewish, but Mizel felt warm, inclusive, and inviting—and something about it just felt right.

Our first Mizel event was a popsicle social in the park on a hot August afternoon. Every teacher we met introduced themselves as "Morah," which my husband and I assumed must be a very popular Jewish name (we later learned "Morah" means "teacher"). Even more memorable than our mix-up was how kind and joyful the teachers were. The new director, Morah Amanda Anderson, was handing out popsicles and introducing herself to the parents—it was her first year at Mizel too. At the time, there were just 24 students enrolled, from Pre-K through 2nd grade. This fall, Mizel will welcome 72 students from 2 years old through 5th grade. This includes the new year-round childcare early education program for ages 18 months and up.

It wasn't long before we met Morah Alin Avitan. From day one, Alin made morning drop-off a joy. My daughter had no trouble saying goodbye to me because Alin greeted her like family. She loved my children as if they were her own—and that was one of the reasons we moved our youngest daughter to Mizel the following year.

The other reason was Morah Lauren Drover's whimsical Pre-K classroom, full of wonder, student-led exploration, and gentle structure. Her approach to learning through play is rooted in a deep understanding of how children learn. Every parent-teacher conference felt like a mini masterclass in early childhood development. She saw our child—intuitively, holistically, and with individualized care.



The Budavich family

As our daughters have grown at Mizel, we've continued to be amazed—by the creative academics, the joyful celebration of Jewish traditions, and the incredible dedication of the teachers. Morah Gigi's kindergarten class was a perfect blend of challenge and fun. My husband and I would text each other during the day about how happy our daughter looked in daily class photos sent by the teacher. Her homework was covered in "I love Gigi" doodles, and she walked around the house singing phonics songs and proudly identifying digraphs. She also began talking passionately about protecting sea turtles from plastic and picking up litter in the name of caring for the earth. That's the impact of *Tikkun Olam*—the Jewish value of healing the world—which now echoes in our home.

Mizel doesn't just grow bright students. It grows kind, resilient, compassionate human beings. That's what has made all the difference for our family.

As a parent—and someone who works in higher education—I care deeply about academic excellence. But I also care about joy in learning, imagination, and heart. Mizel offers all of that. This school is a gem, and I hope more families will take a closer look. You might just find, like we did, something truly special. ■

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**Mazel Tov to Alana and Rob Gorden** who welcomed their second child, a daughter, on Friday, June 20, 2025. Shaina Abigail was born at 8 lbs 3 oz, and 20.5 inches long. Big sister Noa is so excited and mom and dad are thrilled to begin this new chapter in their lives! Adoring grandparents are Eric and Amy Geboff of Longwood, FL, and Mark and Susan Gorden of Westborough, MA.

Baby Shaina will receive a blessing during the Torah service on Saturday, August 2nd at Congregation B'nai Emunah.

### CELEBRATE SIMCHAS!

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

Send submissions for the Tulsa Jewish Review to Sandy Sloan, [sandy@jewishtulsa.org](mailto:sandy@jewishtulsa.org)



## CELEBRATING TULSA'S UNSUNG HEROES

by Sandy Sloan, Editor, *Tulsa Jewish Review*

More than 20 local heroes were honored on June 23rd at the 2025 Leon Rollerson Diamond Awards, a heartfelt tribute to Veterans and First Responders whose selfless service has left a lasting mark on the Tulsa community. Since 2010, the awards have celebrated unsung champions—individuals who've led with integrity, inspired change, and uplifted the city through their unwavering dedication and impact. **Lieutenant Kyle Murray**, a well-known presence around the campus of the Charles Schusterman Jewish Community Center and Jewish Federation, was one of the city's first responders honored for his outstanding service.

Lt. Murray has been part of the security team on the Charles Schusterman Jewish Community Center campus for over 20 years. "I am proud of the work that I do, the man that I am, and the difference I have made in the community," stated Murray after receiving the Diamond Award.

Leon Rollerson was a prominent figure in Tulsa's jazz scene, a name synonymous with soulful rhythm and community spirit until he passed from cancer in 2023. For over 50 years, this masterful bass player dazzled audiences on tour and at home, earning a rightful place in the Oklahoma City Museum Hall of Fame, the Jazz Hall of Fame, and the Blues Hall of Fame. But Rollerson's legacy

extended far beyond the stage. He was a mentor, educator, writer, and tireless activist. He nurtured young talent in television media and championed causes through his work with organizations like the North Tulsa Economic Development Initiative, Kids Against Hunger, the Martin Luther King Jr. Commemorative Society, and the National Juneteenth Observance Foundation. Deeply rooted in the historic Greenwood District where he was raised, Rollerson was a fierce guardian of its legacy, ensuring its stories echoed far beyond Tulsa.

The Leon Rollerson Diamond Awards are a tribute not only to Rollerson's deep love for the Tulsa community but also to the everyday heroes whose bravery, compassion, and selfless commitment define what it means to serve.

Mazel Tov, Lieutenant Kyle Murray! We appreciate your dedication and service to Tulsa and the Jewish community! ■



Lieutenant Kyle Murray and family

## THE HISTORY OF HADASSAH ©

by Phil Goldfarb

Hadassah is a Jewish women's volunteer organization founded in 1912 by Henrietta Szold and other women as the Hadassah Chapter of the Daughters of Zion. Hadassah is the Hebrew name for the biblical Queen Esther. The organization was born out of a small study circle of American Jewish women who were distressed by the public health conditions in Palestine. Hadassah/Esther is viewed as a heroine in Jewish tradition and is celebrated for her courage and resilience.

Born in Baltimore, Maryland on December 21, 1860, founder Henrietta Chaya Szold was the oldest of five sisters of Benjamin Szold (1829-1902), a rabbi and his wife Sophie Schaar Szold (1839-1918) both Jewish immigrants from Hungary who encouraged education for all of their children. Henrietta was the first female editor of the Jewish Publication Society — then the premiere publisher of Jewish liturgical and secular texts. She defied convention and studied at the Jewish Theological Seminary of America, although female rabbis were unheard of in the early 1900s. Henrietta saw the suffering of Jewish immigrants from Russia and Eastern Europe, and organized English language and American citizenship night classes to provide them with greater opportunities. Her model of nighttime ESL (English as a Second Language) schools continues to this day.

On a trip to pre-state Israel in 1909, Henrietta Szold's view of the world changed. Horrified by Jews living in camps without proper plumbing or sanitation, the impact starvation and disease had on her people, she decided to act. Returning to America, Henrietta founded Hadassah and she devoted the rest of her long life to the health and well-being of her people and what was to become their Jewish homeland. On February 24, 1912, 38 women constituted the Hadassah Chapter of Daughters of Zion, elected Henrietta Szold as president and chose nursing as their focus. The new organization's first act was to collect money and sent Hadassah nurses, Rose Kaplan and Rae Landy, to Palestine in 1913 to provide maternity care with pasteurized milk to infants and new mothers and treat trachoma, a serious, widespread eye disease in the Middle East. The organization changed its name to Hadassah, The Women's Zionist Organization of America in 1914. Their original mission was Arukat Bat Ami: the Healing of the Daughter of my People.

At the dawn of the Holocaust in Europe, in the 1930s,

Henrietta Szold and a German colleague organized the rescue of thousands of Jewish children to safety in Palestine through Youth Aliyah. She met every boat as it arrived. Today, Hadassah still supports Youth Aliyah villages in Israel, which nurture and heal at-risk youth by setting them on a path to a successful future.

Nearly a third of children in Israel live in poverty, and almost half a million suffer from high-risk situations such as abuse, learning disabilities or a lack of basic needs. Still others come to Hadassah from places around the world where it is no longer safe to be a Jew.

In 2025, Hadassah is 300,000 strong with members, male Associates and supporters from across the nation. They remain committed to building a better world through medicine and health care, advocating for change including for women's equality, and supporting Israel while promoting a strong US-Israel relationship. Henrietta Szold is a testament to what one person,

one organization and one vision can accomplish and they continue to advance her legacy and lifesaving work today.

Some Hadassah highlights include:

1918: Hadassah establishes the American Zionist Medical Unit (AZMU) — renamed Hadassah Medical Organization in 1924 — to create permanent health and welfare programs in postwar Palestine.

1918: Hadassah's Nurses' Training School is founded in Palestine to train local personnel and establish a strong base of nurses.

1933: Youth Aliyah is founded and Henrietta Szold is appointed as its first Director, working with a German colleague to help Jewish children leave Nazi Germany and resettle in Palestine before and during the Holocaust. Since 1934, over 300,000 students from 80 lands have graduated from Youth Aliyah.

1939: The Rothschild-Hadassah University Hospital, the first teaching and medical center in Palestine, opens on Mount Scopus.

1942: Hadassah mobilizes to support the American war effort during WWII, establishing blood banks, selling war bonds and volunteering.

1948: As the State of Israel is born, Hadassah Medical Organization cares for thousands of wounded soldiers in Jerusalem.

1952: A groundbreaking is held for Hadassah's new medical center in Ein Kerem. Hadassah Hospital Ein

(Continued)



(Continued from p. 21)

Kerem officially opens on June 6, 1961.

1962: Hadassah celebrates its 50th anniversary with the dedication of the Fannie and Maxwell Abbell Synagogue at Hadassah Hospital Ein Kerem, which features Marc Chagall's magnificent 12 stained glass windows.

1967: Hadassah Associates is founded to give American men the opportunity to support Hadassah's work.

1967: After the Six-Day War and the reunification of Jerusalem, Hadassah National President Charlotte Jacobson travels to Mount Scopus to receive the keys to the hospital, marking the reunification between Hadassah Hospital Mount Scopus and Hadassah Hospital Ein Kerem.

1988: USAID invites Hadassah Medical Organization medical staff to help construct and open a new hospital in Kinshasa, Zaire, while Hadassah advocates for expanded treatment and funding for research to help people infected with AIDS in the US.

2001: Hadassah is recognized by the UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) as a non-governmental organization (NGO), enabling Hadassah to lend its medical and social expertise internationally.

2005: Hadassah Medical Organization in Jerusalem earned a Nobel Peace Prize nomination for bringing advanced medical care to all, regardless of race, ethnicity or nationality, in essence creating a bridge to peace through medicine.

2012: Hadassah celebrates its centennial in Jerusalem and opens the state-of-the-art Sarah Wetsman Davidson Hospital Tower.

2018: Hadassah celebrates the 100th Anniversary of the Henrietta Szold Hadassah-Hebrew University School of Nursing, the Hadassah Medical Organization and the Hadassah Department of Ophthalmology.

Henryetta Szold never married and died on February 13, 1945 in Jerusalem where she is buried. ■

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

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



David Dopp



Levi Olsen



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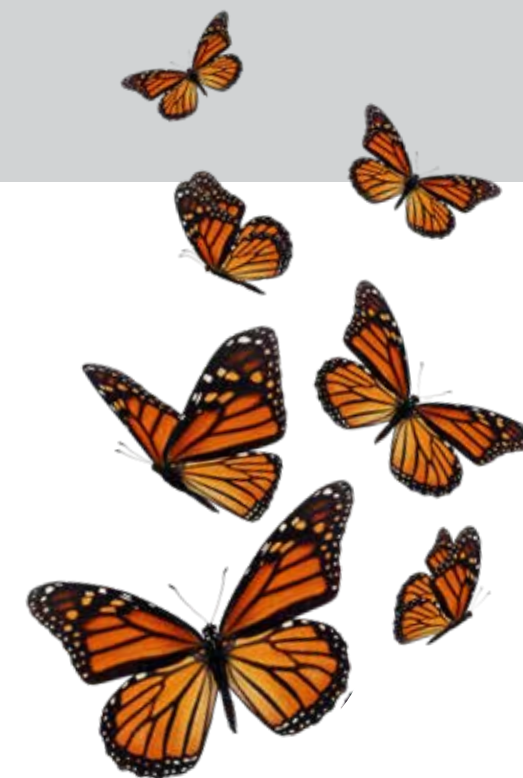
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**Friday, August 1 | 5:30 p.m.**

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.

**Tisha B'Av in Film – Porcelain War**

**Saturday, August 2 | 7:00 p.m.**

Join us this Tisha B'Av for a powerful and poignant screening of Porcelain War, an award-winning documentary that captures the resilience of the human spirit in the face of destruction. As we reflect on the tragedies of Jewish history and the enduring consequences of hatred and violence, this film—set amid the war in Ukraine—offers a deeply moving lens into the courage of artists who resist tyranny not with weapons, but with creativity and beauty. Porcelain War echoes the themes of loss, hope, and resistance that are central to Tisha B'Av, making it a meaningful and thought-provoking experience for this solemn day.

**Shabbat Morning Story Studio Hour**  
**Saturday, August 9 | 10:00 a.m.**

Join us for a joyful and engaging Shabbat Morning Story Studio Hour—perfect for families with elementary-aged children! Through timeless tales, lively songs, and imaginative play, children and their grown-ups will connect with Jewish traditions in a warm, welcoming, and age-appropriate setting. Come share in the magic of Shabbat as we build community, spark curiosity, and create lasting memories together!

**Shabbat Morning Luncheon**  
**Saturday, August 9 | 11:30 a.m.**

Celebrate Shabbat with us at a special morning luncheon following services! Enjoy a delicious light lunch, meaningful conversation, and the warmth of community as we come together to share the joy and rest of this sacred day. All are welcome!

**Tu B'Av – Jewish Valentine's Day Date Night at Oren Restaurant**  
**Saturday, August 9 | 7:00 p.m.**

Celebrate love and connection this Tu B'Av with a special Date Night designed to bring couples together in a warm, joyful atmosphere. Often called the "Jewish Valentine's Day," Tu B'Av is a time to celebrate romance, renewal, and meaningful relationships. Join us in partnership with Oren Restaurant for an evening of delicious food, laughter, and opportunities to reflect and reconnect with your partner. Whether you're newly dating or long-time soulmates, this fun and soulful night is the perfect way to honor your love and the beauty of Jewish tradition. Seating is limited, so please make your reservations as early as possible.

**Lifelong Learners**  
**Wednesday, August 13 | 11:30 a.m.**

Lifelong learners from all over the community are invited to join Rabbi Kaiman for a learning session and lunch provided by Zarrow Pointe. Please check-in at Zarrow Pointe Town Center and you will be directed to the Dining Hall for the learning seminar.

**Blatt + Blue – You Are So Not Invited to My Bat Mitzvah**

**Thursday, August 14 | 7:00 p.m.**

This coming-of-age comedy, produced by Adam Sandler and starring his real-life daughters, offers a fresh, funny, and relatable take on the rollercoaster of friendship, identity, and Jewish tradition. Visit [tulsagogue.com/events](http://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.

**FETO – Free Eggs to Order Sunday Seminar – "What's So Funny About Jews?" with Boris Dralyuk**

**Sunday, August 17 | Breakfast at 9:30 a.m., Seminar at 10:30 a.m.**

Why has laughter played such a central role in Jewish life, literature, and culture? Writer, editor, translator, and all-around wise guy, Boris Dralyuk, will lead us on a historical overview of Jewish wit as a response to diaspora, persecution, assimilation, and resilience—tracing its roots in Eastern and Central Europe and its transformation in the American context. From the melancholic ironies of Sholem Aleichem and Kafka to the neurotic brilliance of Philip Roth and Gary Shteyngart; from the zany wordplay of S.J. Perelman and the Marx Brothers to the existential absurdities of Woody Allen and Andy Kaufman; from the bawdy stage presence of Fanny Brice and Sophie Tucker to the razor-sharp provocations of Joan Rivers and Sarah Silverman—this seminar will explore how Jewish humor has both reflected and refracted the anxieties, aspirations, and identities of modern Jewish life. Join us for a journey through laughter that's as much about survival as it is about punchlines.

**Shabbat Shalom: Musical Circle, Dinner and Shabbat Talks**  
**Friday, August 22 | 5:30 p.m.**

Experience a musical Shabbat evening with songs and storytelling starting at 5:30 p.m. This inclusive

(Continued)



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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 presentation from our Jewish summer camp participants to share their camp experiences, starting at 7:00 p.m.

**INTRO to Judaism Begins Monday, August 25 | 7:00 p.m.**  
Looking into Judaism? Born Jewish and want to know more? Sharing your life with a Jew and want to crack the code? INTRO explores Jewish culture, history, and wisdom in a setting where questions are more important than answers. Classes are enhanced by invitations for community participation, supportive discussion groups, and many opportunities for interactive, experiential learning. This is an 18-session Introduction to Judaism Course, which is affiliated with the Miller Intro Program at American Jewish University and taught by Rabbi Kaiman. Sessions this year will meet on Monday evenings at 7:00 p.m., primarily on ZOOM, with opportunities for in-person/hybrid participation along the way. Registration and cost can be accessed on our website.

**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. ■

# STARTING NOW: PREPARING FOR THE HOLIDAYS

by Rabbi Daniel S. Kaiman

In the life of a rabbi, it's never too early to start thinking about the High Holidays. Truthfully, I start planning almost as soon as the previous season ends. Not because the logistics require a full year—but because the act of planning is part of what makes the holidays feel special.

Yes, there are a thousand moving parts: services, meals, child care, music, sermons. But more than any of that, what sets these days apart is how we prepare for them. That we think about them in advance. That we begin to ask: Where will I sit? What will I attend? With whom will I share a meal? What time will I set aside from work or school?

All of those questions point to something deeper: How will I make these days holy?

This isn't a guilt trip. I know many people have their plans in place well before Elul. And for others, there's still time. In fact, that's why I'm writing—because now is the right time to start. Not when the shofar blows, but now, when the days are still long and the heat hasn't quite broken.

Maybe this is the year you host a holiday meal for the first time. Or try out a new family recipe. Maybe you add a ritual to your observance or pick up a new piece of Judaica that makes your home feel just a little more sacred.

We need the High Holidays—now more than ever. To grieve and to grow. To reconnect and to remember. At The Synagogue, we're here to help you make them count. Visit [tulsagogue.com/high-holidays](http://tulsagogue.com/high-holidays) to start planning for a meaningful season together. ■



**CAT VIDEO FEST**  
FOR A LIMITED TIME 2025 ONLY IN THEATERS

**Cat Video Fest - Sat 8/2**  
The world's #1 cat video festival is back with screenings in theaters across the USA and around the world starting August 2025! Each year, across the country, local theaters partner with nearby cat-focused charities, animal welfare associations and shelters alike — a portion of ticket proceeds from every show goes directly to local cats in need.

**CIRCLE CINEMA**  
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.

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All services and events will be held on the campus of the Jewish Federation as Temple Israel transitions to its temporary space.

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2021 E. 71st St, Tulsa 74136

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

**Shabbat Service in person, on Zoom & Facebook Live • Fri., Aug. 1 • 6:00 p.m.**

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

**Birthday Shabbat Service in person, on Zoom & Facebook Live • Fri., Aug. 8 • 6:00 p.m.**

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

**Zamru L'Shabbat in person, on Zoom & Facebook Live • Fri., Aug. 15 • 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.

**Anniversary Shabbat Service in person, on Zoom & Facebook Live • Fri., Aug. 22 • 6:00 p.m.**

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

**Brotherhood After Hours • Mon., Aug. 25 • 6:00 p.m.**

Join TI Brotherhood for an after hours get together. Stay tuned and check our iTinerary for details on dinner location and cost.

**Shabbat Service in person, on Zoom & Facebook Live • Fri., Aug. 29 • 6:00 p.m.**

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



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**Vanessa E. Bennett, OD**  
Optometric Physician

## A DAY OF FIRSTS

by Kelsey Holder, Director of Education and Communication

Independence Day this year brought several “firsts” for Temple Israel. The congregation welcomed Rabbi Batsheva Appel as she led Shabbat Services for the first time with the TI family. This service also marked Temple Israel's first service in the Barbara and Dave Sylvan Auditorium at the Jewish Federation of Tulsa. Congregants filled the auditorium to hear Rabbi Appel and Cantorial Soloist Jenny Labow conduct what proved to be a lovely and meaningful service. The Jewish Federation of Tulsa graciously sponsored Temple Israel's first pre-oneg in the lobby of the Federation, allowing congregants to gather and greet their new Rabbi. Congregants gathered in this space that will host

Temple Israel's activities, religious school, and Shabbat Services over the next eighteen months. In this time of transition, Temple Israel's congregation, clergy, staff, and volunteers are creating a sacred space, a “home away from home.” As Temple staff makes the move to temporary office space generously donated by Zarrow Pointe, and the construction phase for our new Temple Israel begins in earnest, our Temple Israel family thanks the Jewish Federation of Tulsa, Mizel Jewish Community Day School, and Zarrow Pointe for their generosity and support. ■





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