# Tulsa Jewish Review

Kislev/Tevet 5786
December 2025

happy Hanukkah

**December 2025**
**Kislev/Tevet 5786**
**Volume 97 | Number 12**

## Contents

5 **Director's Corner** by Joe Roberts
6 **Jewish Federation of Tulsa Upcoming Events**
8 **Jewish Heritage Game Announcement**
9 **Charles Schusterman Jewish Community Center Upcoming Events**
10 **"What It's Like..."** by Avi Gamulka
11 **The Sherwin Miller Museum of Jewish Art Exhibits**
12 **We're in Good Company | Celebrating Jewish Art Museums Around the World! Museum Gala** by Tracey Herst-Woods
15 **Honoring Lynn Schusterman: A Celebration of 25 Years of Birthright Israel's Impact** by Isabella Silberg
17 **Leading with Heart and Reflection: My Journey as a Jewish Educational Leader** by Amanda Anderson
18 **Working4Good: Karen Tilkin, CAP Tulsa** by Sandy Sloan and Karen Tilkin
20 **Simchas**
20 **Shabbat Candle Lighting Times**
21 **Jewish Tulsa Community and Tamar Regional Council Partnership** by Yoni Shtern and Itzik Levin
22 **The State of Israel's First General Was an American©** by Phil Goldfarb
24 **Congregation B'nai Emunah - Events Calendar**
26 **Temple Israel - Events Calendar**
27 **"Holding Space"** by Kelsey Holder
28 **Winter Break Camp**

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Tulsa Jewish Review

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Front Cover

Brass Decalogue, Hanukkah Menorah, Israel 1970's
The Sherwin Miller Museum of Jewish Art Collection



# JEWISH FEDERATION OF TULSA

## MISSION:

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

## VALUES:

### *Kehila – Community*

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

### *Tzedek – Justice*

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

### *L'Dor V'Dor – From Generation to Generation*

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

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# *DIRECTOR'S CORNER*

### *INTRODUCING JEWISH TULSA: A Home for Every Jew*

Names matter. They tell us who we are, where we belong, and what we are building together. We are adopting a new name that says all three at once: Jewish Tulsa.

This change is more than signage and logos. It is a clear statement of identity and mission. Jewish Tulsa names the collective home that already exists here in our city and invites every Jew to find their place within it.

First, what is not changing. Jewish Tulsa will continue to be home to the Jewish Federation of Tulsa, the Charles Schusterman Jewish Community Center, the Jewish Federation of Tulsa Foundation, and The Sherwin Miller Museum of Jewish Art. These institutions remain the pillars of our communal life. They are the rooms so many Jewish Tulsans grew up, learned, played, volunteered, and led from. Their work continues with the same care and purpose.

What is changing is how we express that shared purpose. Jewish Tulsa is a single front door with many rooms behind it. It is an umbrella that brings together our institutions, programs, and people into one visible, welcoming identity. It is a way to make it simpler for someone new to step in, and easier for those already here to see how their efforts fit into something larger than any one department or logo.

Most of all, Jewish Tulsa names our promise of belonging. Jewish Tulsa is home to every Jew in Tulsa, from Secular to Hasidic. Deeply connected or just beginning. Members and newcomers. Interfaith families and those exploring. Skeptics, seekers, and passionate believers. If you identify with the Jewish people, there is a place for you here. We are the umbrella for the full spectrum of Jewish expression, and we welcome you as you are.

This clarity of identity matters because we have real work to do. Our community needs spaces that nurture Jewish pride and literacy for our kids, support and friendship for our seniors, meaningful connections for young families, and outlets for service and leadership for all ages. We need to deepen our relationship with Israel while building bridges across Tulsa with neighbors of every background. We need to invest in safety and security, and also in culture, creativity, and joy. Naming ourselves Jewish Tulsa helps us coordinate that work with focus and ambition.

*"Everything we are today rests on the vision, generosity, and sweat of those who built our community."*

The mystics teach that creation is scattered with holy sparks and that each of us carries a piece of that light. The work of a community is to gather and lift those sparks until they burn as one steady flame. Jewish Tulsa is where scattered light becomes shared warmth.

We are aiming high. We believe Tulsa can model Jewish life for the 21st century. That means being bold and inclusive at the same time. It means holding fast to tradition while welcoming new ideas. It means building institutions that are financially sound, transparent, and innovative. It means raising a generation that knows our story, loves our people, and feels responsible for one another.

To get there, you will begin to see practical changes. Our communications will be more unified, so people can find what they need quickly. Programs across our campus will speak to each other, so a child at camp and a grandparent at a lecture feel part of one shared journey. Donors and volunteers will see how their generosity travels across the whole system. And when someone in Tulsa asks, "Where do I start?" the answer will be simple: start with Jewish Tulsa.

None of this erases what came before. Everything we are today rests on the vision, generosity, and sweat of those who built our community. Families who raised funds, leaders who gave their time, volunteers who always made sure there was room for one more. We honor them not by freezing the past in place, but by carrying their commitment forward with gratitude and courage.

In the weeks and months ahead, we will invite you to help shape this chapter. Share your ideas. Tell us what helps you feel at home. Bring a friend to a program. Consider a class you have not tried. Lend your expertise to a committee or a project. If you have been away, this is a good moment to come back. If you are new, this is your invitation to step in.

Jewish Tulsa is a promise and a practice. A promise that every Jew has a home here. A practice of showing up for one another, learning together, and building a future worthy of our past. We hope to see you on campus soon.

# UPCOMING EVENTS

### FEAST-ival of Lights: Eight Course Hanukkah Dinner | Thursday, December 4 | 6:30 pm | Jewish Federation

Celebrate Hanukkah early with a special eight-course tasting dinner. Mark the miracle of the oil lasting eight nights with unique olive oil-themed dishes curated by the experienced Chef Aaron B. Ware from OSU Institute of Technology Culinary Arts. The night will feature a tasting of infused olive oils from a local store, Pawhuska Olive Oil Co. The dinner is $36/person, which includes the olive oil tasting experience, an eight-course tasting dinner, and drinks (wine and non-alcoholic options).

**RSVP: JewishTulsa.org/FEASTival**

### Sisterhood Simcha: A Shower of Support with CAP Tulsa | Sunday, December 7 | 9:30 am | Legacy Plaza (East Tower)

Join the sisterhoods of The Synagogue | Congregation B'nai Emunah, Temple Israel, and the Jewish Federation of Tulsa for our annual Sisterhood Social Action project! This year, we're partnering with CAP Tulsa to "shower" the moms participating in the Choosing Childbirth program. We'll be collecting essential items for their Learning@Home Pregnancy Bags, which we will be putting together. These thoughtful bags are filled with the necessities every new mom needs for her hospital stay upon giving birth. Together, we can celebrate motherhood and support women in our community during one of life's most meaningful moments. (Read about CAP Tulsa, p. 18)

**RSVP: JewishTulsa.org/sisterhood-simcha**

### Dad's Night Out | Tuesday, December 9 | 7 pm | Welltown Brewing

Take a break from the holiday hustle and bustle and relax with other dads raising Jewish kids! We'll gather inside a heated rooftop igloo featuring panoramic skyline views, twinkling lights, and ice-cold beers. Enjoy great conversation, a laid-back vibe, and complimentary appetizers in this unique warm winter escape. $18 per person, includes appetizers.

**RSVP: JewishTulsa.org/welltown**

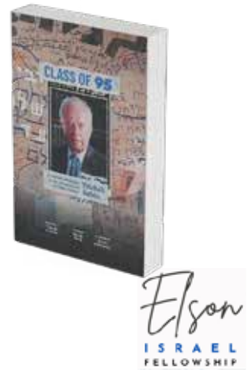
### Lunch Bunch | Elson Israel Fellow Barak Sella | Thursday, December 11 | 12 pm | Jewish Federation

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.

**RSVP: JewishTulsa.org/lb-Dec25**



UPCOMING EVENTS




### Class of 95: Book Talk with Elson Fellow Barak Sella | Monday, December 15 | 5:30 pm | Jewish Federation

Join us for an evening of reflection, community, and light. We are honored to welcome Israeli Elson Fellow Barak Sella for an emotional and thought-provoking conversation about a recent book he edited, *Class of '95: A Literary Anthology on the Assassination of Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin*. This collection gathers powerful poems that explore the assassination of Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin and the deep cultural tremors that followed. Three decades later, we will reflect together on how that night reshaped Israeli society and continues to influence the Jewish world today. This program coincides with the second night of Hanukkah, filling our time with the warmth of candlelight, the comfort of community, and the enduring spirit of hope. ✶5:30 pm — Menorah lighting and light dinner; 6:00 pm — Program

**RSVP: JewishTulsa.org/book-talk**

### JMoms Hanukkah | Tuesday, December 16 | 6:30 pm | Wick and Flame Candle Bar

Light up the night with your JMom friends in this cozy candle-making evening! You'll be guided in the process from start to finish, receiving all the necessary materials and tools to create your own unique candle, including customizing your own fragrance blend. Celebrate the light of Hanukkah with a beautiful candle to take home. $36 per person. JMoms is for moms with children 18 years and under, raising them Jewishly.

**RSVP: JewishTulsa.org/jmoms-wick25**

### Latke Contest | Friday, December 19 | 8-10 am | Jewish Federation

Do you make the best latkes in town? After the success of our challah bake off in March, we are hosting our first ever latke competition!

Drop off your latkes between 8 am and 10 am and our panel of esteemed judges will convene for the tasting. Your fried base can be regular russet potatoes or you can change it up with sweet potatoes, zucchini, or something else! The winner will be crowned "Latke Legend" on both social media and the email newsletter.

### PJ Hanukkah Glow Party | Sunday, December 21 | 4 pm | BounceU

Get ready to glow this Hanukkah! Join us for an awesome night of jumping, bouncing, laughing, and lighting up the night at our PJ Hanukkah Glow Party! This luminous event is open to all ages—even the littles will have their own special space to shine. After all the bouncy fun, we'll refuel with a delicious pizza dinner to wrap up the night together. Come celebrate the Festival of Lights in the most glow-tastic way imaginable! $18 per child; $36 per family maximum; adults free.

**RSVP: JewishTulsa.org/pj-glow-party**



JEWISH FEDERATION OF TULSA

*Join Jewish Tulsa and The Tulsa Oilers for the first ever*

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- SUNDAY
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• Family Friendly Event
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While supplies last!

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# UPCOMING EVENTS

**Fitness Challenge: Ding-Dong December.| Every Door Ding Counts!**

It's the season of showing up—and every ding-dong through our doors brings you closer to finishing the year strong! Join our Ding-Dong December Challenge and turn your key fob check-ins into consistency, confidence, and a chance to win amazing prizes. Every visit earns you a point toward our top contender rewards—whether you're lifting, stretching, sweating, or simply getting moving. Keep those CSJCC doors dinging this December and discover the routine that keeps you strong all year long!

Wellness Series

**Wellness Series: Optimize Your Efforts in the Gym | Wednesday, December 3 | 10:15 am | Dan Room**

This session is designed to provide you with practical insights and a deeper understanding of your own body and how this relates to your strength and wellness goals. You will learn why progress can stall, acquire a framework for making food choices that support your body's hormonal response, learn about hunger and energy levels, see your body as a logical system, and leave feeling empowered to make informed decisions about your nutrition and training. After this session, you will be equipped with the knowledge needed to break through plateaus and optimize your efforts for building strength and improving body composition.

**RSVP: csjcc.org/wellness-Dec25**

FALL HIKING SERIES

**Fall Hiking Series | Thursday, December 4 | 10:30 am | Keystone Ancient Forest**

Did you know we have an old-growth forest in Sand Springs? Join us on a 3-mile hike as we explore are areas only old growth forest featuring 500-year-old cedars and 300-year-old post oaks. We will hike if it is cold out, but cancel with rain or snow. Grab your sturdy hiking boots, water bottle, wear layers and meet at the Keystone Ancient Forest Visitor's Center ready to hike at 10:30 am.

**RSVP at: csjcc.org/hike-Dec25**

**Tzedek: Meals on Wheels | Friday, December 5 | 10:30 am | Meals on Wheels**

Join us for a meaningful volunteer morning helping prepare important mailings. We'll be stuffing and sealing envelopes in a relaxed and seated volunteer opportunity. Please arrive a few minutes early so we can start on time at 10:30 am. We will volunteer until 12:30 pm.

**RSVP at: csjcc.org/tzedek-Dec25**

# "WHAT IT'S LIKE..."

by Avi Gamulka, Elson Israel Fellow

*When I venture out of my ever-shifting homeland, it's getting harder and harder to hold my head high. Early this year, an Israeli friend and I went to Australia to drive the famous Great Ocean Road. But when other foreigners there found out who we were, we became the tourist attraction. "What are you doing here?" they'd ask. What they really meant was, "Shouldn't you be driving Palestinians from their homes and shelling defenseless villages?"*

*I was in Hong Kong when my fellow countrymen targeted the Fahmi al-Jarjawi School, killing 18 children. Feelings against Israelis ran so high that I had to pretend to be Maltese. The worst thing was, I couldn't help but agree with my critics. Collective guilt is hard to escape.*

Elson ISRAEL FELLOWSHIP

The previous paragraphs, to be clear, are not my own. They're adapted—almost verbatim, with only minor edits—from a monumental 1998 essay in Newsweek by Zoran Ćirjaković, titled "What It's Like Being a Serb." In it, he lays bare the experience of coming from a country accused of war crimes committed by its military and leaders.

But if my imagined version seemed all too believable to you, we have a serious problem. The essay recently crossed my feed and caught me off guard—for Israel is now, effectively, a pariah state. Whether we like it or not, whether we accept it or not—that is the reality. Our state, and the national movement that brought it into existence—Zionism itself—is now synonymous, for many millions worldwide, with the worst that humanity has to offer.

Until I played my depressing game of geopolitical Mad-Libs with that quote, I don't think I had fully processed what that actually meant, not just for my day-to-day life in Jerusalem, but for my emotional experience of the world as well. It has forced me to confront an uncomfortable truth: that identity, which once felt like a source of pride and belonging, can suddenly become a mark of shame.

For generations, Israelis traveled the world with a mixture of curiosity and confidence. We built startups, played concerts, climbed mountains, and represented a small, resilient democracy. Today, our passports feel heavier in our hands. This sense of stigma isn't confined to the abstract moral plane; it's beginning to materialize in the everyday.

Much can and will be written about the practical consequences of this new situation we find ourselves in. The most obvious and immediate effects concern tourism, both for Israel's own tourism industry and for Israelis' ability to visit the world's wonders. The next is, of course, arms and munitions: a complicated global market to begin with, and one I admittedly know little about. But beyond those, Israelis are now waking up to the real, tangible effects of ostracization. The psychological toll may even prove more lasting than the economic one. The creeping sense that you are no longer welcome anywhere—that the word *Israeli* itself has become radioactive—is somewhat new for my generation.

Examples appear in nearly every sphere of daily life. Sometimes they're overt, like the shrinking music libraries available to Israeli users after artists such as Björk and 400 others pulled their songs from Israeli accounts. Similarly, Israel's participation in this year's Eurovision Song Contest seems all but impossible, an event many Israelis, especially within the LGBTQ community, eagerly await each spring. Now that multiple countries have threatened to boycott the competition if Israel is invited (after 47 straight years of participation), that annual burst of joy may take place this year sans Jews.

Other boycotts are quieter, almost passive. Academics in Israeli universities are encountering a silent embargo taking place in the shadows. Who can really say why a paper was rejected or an invitation to a conference never arrived? In the humanities and social sciences in particular, Israeli scholars are becoming intellectual exiles within their own disciplines.

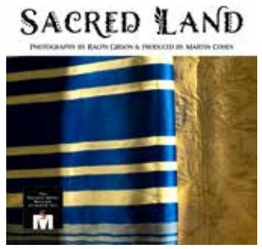
Or take Israeli infrastructure projects, which require the world's best and most experienced companies, often European, to compete for contracts and tenders. Reports already circulate of top firms simply choosing not to apply. The result? Delays, lower-quality construction, and cost overruns in projects such as the Tel Aviv Metro, Israel Railways, and renewable energy developments. Israelis sitting in unbearable traffic will feel the very real consequences of this isolation. What begins as a moral stance abroad ends,

Avi Gamulka

*(Continued on p. 23)*



# ~ EXHIBITIONS ~




## Sacred Land

Legendary American photographer Ralph Gibson and producer Martin Cohen have created a unique photographic exhibition and publication that captures the soul of Israel, both ancient and contemporary. The photographs convey the fundamental humanity and underlying affinities that connect all who deem this land as sacred and express aspirations for mutual understanding and peace. At a time when the war and suffering in Israel and Gaza overwhelm us, Gibson's images offer a compelling and hopeful outlook for the future.

## 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.

## 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.

## 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.

# ~ COMING IN OUR 60TH YEAR ~

- Growing Up Jewish by Jacqueline Kott-Wolle, January 2026
- 19th Annual Purim Mask Invitational Student Art Exhibit, March 2026
- Tchotchke! Exhibit, April 2026
- Totally Tumerkin Exhibit, May 2026
- Julie Alpert Works of Art Exhibit, October 2026
- The Artist Who Captured Eichmann November, 2026
- The SMMJA's 60th Anniversary Diamond Celebration Gala on Sunday, October 25, 2026
- And much more!

# WE'RE IN GOOD COMPANY

## CELEBRATING JEWISH ART MUSEUMS AROUND THE WORLD! MUSEUM GALA

by Tracey Herst-Woods, Deputy Director of the SMMJA

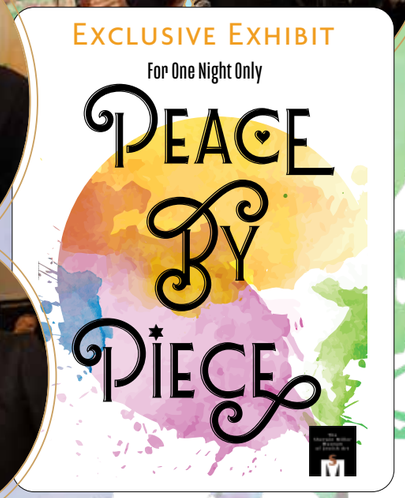
*Thank you to all the Patrons and guests for your support of The Sherwin Miller Museum of Jewish Art's annual gala.*

The event, **We're in Good Company | Celebrating Jewish Art Museums Around the World**, recognized our 59th anniversary. The evening's international vibe showcased the exclusive, *Peace by Piece*, a one-night-only exhibit of unique works from the Museum's rich, beautiful, and international treasures. These items, reflecting our history and splendid archives, crystallized the significance of this jewel in Oklahoma's crown. Dinner from around the world was deliciously provided by Fountains Catering, where guests enjoyed food from fabulous destinations. The evening's wine and spirits were generously donated by Carolyn and David Nierenberg.

The night was designed to highlight the SMMJA's collection and reinforce its place in Oklahoma, the United States, and the World. Thank you to Titus Jackson, who created a video reminder of why The Miller Museum is an important part of the fabric of our State. Thank you to Katherine Frame and David Halpern, who both wrote and advised on the narration of the video. As past presidents, your leadership is seen in all that we continue to accomplish. Chief Archivist Greg Falconetti's narration of those powerful written words could be felt by the whole room.

The Gala Committee works hard year in and year out to create a fun party while raising funds and awareness of all aspects of what the Museum teaches the world. Thank you to Carol Miller, Patron Chair, for your continued commitment. Your love for the SMMJA has never diminished. Thank you to both Laurie Berman and Brina Reinstein. Your leadership has sustained

*(Continued, p. 14)*




Photos from the 2025 Museum Gala



*The supporters of The Sherwin Miller Museum are the reason for the Museum's continuing success and why it continues to thrive. THANK YOU!*

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Stephanie Krautheim
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David Halpern, Advisor
Titus Jackson, Videographer
David Nierenberg, Advisor
Ranch Acres Wine & Spirits
Social Ghost, Photographer

Thank You!

*(Continued)*

us for decades and continues to shine through your many roles as trusted advisors, decorators, artists, food tasters, loyal volunteers, and so much more. Rounding out this dream committee are Allan Avery, Brian Brouse, Andy Cagle, Lynn Goldberg, Miranda Kaiser, Judy Kishner, Stephanie Krautheim, and Barbara Sylvan. You all make what we do look easy. With your unwavering volunteerism, myself, Sofia, Greg, Melissa, Emily, and Addison are able to do what we do and we thank you.

Lastly, thank you to the Museum Board members for their commitment to the museum. The support the Board gives to the staff and our collaborative working relationship is vital to the museum's longevity and success.

Membership, patron, donor, sponsor, volunteer, and in-kind gift support ensure our ability to inspire visitors and to help achieve our educational and programming goals. For this, we are deeply grateful. Save the Date for next year's **60th Diamond Anniversary Gala on Sunday, October 25, 2026**.

Along with the Museum board of directors, gala committee, and staff, we thank you for your generosity and support. ■

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TAGLIT BIRTHRIGHT ISRAEL

# HONORING LYNN SCHUSTERMAN:
## A CELEBRATION OF 25 YEARS OF BIRTHRIGHT ISRAEL'S IMPACT

by Isabella Silberg, Director of Development

On Monday, November 3, a group of Tulsans joined hundreds of others for the Birthright Israel Foundation celebration honoring Lynn Schusterman. The evening was deeply moving and inspiring. It was a testament to the extraordinary impact that Lynn and her late husband, Charles Schusterman z"l, have had on generations of young Jews who have been able to experience Israel through Birthright.

Birthright Israel was born from a simple yet powerful idea: that every Jew should have the opportunity to experience the magic of the Jewish state. In her remarks, Lynn shared that she was 40 years old the first time she set foot in Israel, and from that moment on, she knew she never wanted anyone else to wait that long to experience the culture, heritage, and sense of belonging that connect all Jews to the land of Israel.

Nearly 1,000 people gathered that evening to honor Lynn and celebrate her unwavering commitment to Birthright's mission. Known for her inspirational words, Lynn encouraged the audience to "Be THAT Jew", to be bold, proud, and to make a difference. She also shared her personal mantra to "embrace THE moment," adding, "The moment means the world to me, because Birthright means the world to me."

This summer, I had the opportunity to see that mission in action. In late August through September, I joined a Birthright Israel Volunteer trip, an initiative launched after October 7, born from alumni who wanted to help and do something tangible. I traveled with my fiancé, Shane Ross, and it was an incredibly meaningful experience for us as we begin our lives together as a Jewish couple. Our hope is to raise a family grounded in Jewish values and with a deep connection to the State of Israel.

Another Jewish Tulsan, Zach Almakias, also experienced Birthright this summer and shared his reflections, "Birthright was a truly transformative experience for me. Birthright allowed me to experience Israel in a completely new light. We laughed together, danced together through the streets of Tel Aviv, prayed together at the Kotel, and cried together on Mount Herzl. We explored complicated and important topics like the ongoing conflict, antisemitism, and what it means to be Jewish in today's world. Even though we started as strangers, the people I met on this trip have become lifelong friends."

> *"Even though we started as strangers, the people I met on this trip have become lifelong friends."*

Throughout the evening honoring Lynn, speakers and Israeli representatives reminded attendees of the unbreakable bond between Israel and the diaspora. One Israeli soldier expressed it best, "You are there [in the United States] and we are here [in Israel], but our faith, our Judaism, is one." ■

JFT Executive Director Joe Roberts, Lynn Schusterman, JFT President Tyler Coretz

Isabella Silberg and Shane Ross on recent Birthright trip

L to Rt: Debbie Sylvan deLeeuw, Isabella Silberg, Lynn Schusterman, Joe Roberts, Brina Reinstein, and Robert deLeeuw

Jacob Parra at the Kotel

Zach Almakias (left) at Kotel in Jerusalem during Birthright trip

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# LEADING WITH HEART AND REFLECTION:
## MY JOURNEY AS A JEWISH EDUCATIONAL LEADER

by Amanda Anderson, Executive Director

*Over the past several years, my journey as an educational leader at Mizel Jewish Community Day School has been one of growth, transformation, and deep reflection. When I first stepped into this role, I thought leadership was primarily about organization and management—keeping things running smoothly, ensuring programs succeeded, and supporting teachers in their classrooms. But through my participation in the Mandel Teacher Educator Institute (MTEI), I have come to understand leadership as something much deeper: a practice of relationship, reflection, and meaning-making that is grounded in Jewish wisdom.*

### What is MTEI?

The Mandel Teacher Educator Institute is a national, two-year professional learning program that brings together Jewish educational leaders like principals, heads of school, instructional coaches, and directors from across the country. Its goal is to transform how leaders cultivate teaching and learning in their communities.

At the heart of MTEI's work is the belief that Jewish education thrives when teachers and leaders engage in reflective practice, collaborative learning, and relationship-centered leadership. Participants study Jewish texts, educational theory, and leadership models through *Havruta*, partnered learning, and structured reflection. This approach empowers leaders to create schools that are not just academically excellent, but spiritually and emotionally grounded.

Through my experience in MTEI, I've learned that leadership is not only about administration but also about nurturing people, fostering inquiry, and holding space for growth.

### From Management to Meaning-Making

Before MTEI, I often thought of my leadership as task-oriented: planning programs, supporting teachers, maintaining excellence. Now, I see it as a process of meaning-making. Leadership is about connecting daily actions to a larger story, one rooted in our mission, our community, and our Jewish values.

MTEI has taught me to see professional learning as sacred work. Through reflective dialogue and *Havruta* learning, I've transformed faculty meetings into spaces where teachers study together, ask deep questions, and reflect on how their teaching connects to both Jewish text and contemporary pedagogy. These gatherings have become sources of renewal, not routine.

### Building a Culture of Trust and Growth

One of the most powerful lessons from MTEI is that sustainable growth depends on trust. Teachers and leaders grow when they feel safe, seen, and supported. I've learned that real change doesn't come from mandates; it comes from relationships.

I've shifted from directing to facilitating, from evaluating to empowering. Today, our teachers design their own professional growth plans, reflecting on their practice and identifying goals that align with their passions and our school's mission. We talk openly about what's working, what's challenging, and what we're learning together.

When we engage as learners ourselves, our students benefit most. This culture of inquiry and reflection has brought new energy to Mizel JCDS and it has made our school not only stronger academically, but more connected as a community.

### Seeing Leadership Through a Jewish Lens

MTEI has also helped me connect my leadership philosophy to Jewish values. *Chesed* (loving-kindness), *b'tzelem Elohim* (seeing the divine image in every person), and *tikkun olam* (repairing the world) have become guiding principles for how I lead, teach, and build community.

These values remind me that every decision, whether it's about curriculum, communication, or community partnerships, carries moral weight. They challenge me to see leadership not as authority, but as service, not as control, but as collaboration.

### Leading with Reflection, Purpose, and Joy

As a result of MTEI, I feel more grounded and more joyful in my leadership. I have grown into someone who leads with both confidence and humility, who listens deeply, and who sees leadership as a continuous journey of learning.

At Mizel JCDS, I strive to model reflective practice not just for teachers, but for students. We celebrate curiosity, empathy, and courage and the same qualities I aim to nurture in myself.

As our school honors its 50th anniversary, I am filled with gratitude for how far we've come and the bright future ahead. Together, we are building a community where learning is sacred, reflection is routine, and kindness is central to everything we do.

Because at Mizel JCDS, and through the lessons of MTEI, I've learned that the truest form of leadership is one that begins and ends with heart.

MIZEL
FLO AND MORRIS MIZEL JEWISH COMMUNITY DAY SCHOOL

Mizel JCDS Executive Director, Amanda Anderson

# WORKING4GOOD: KAREN TILKIN, CAP TULSA

by Sandy Sloan and Karen Tilkin

**▶ Tell us a bit about your education and background.**

I am a proud graduate of Booker T. Washington High School, after which I earned a B.S. in Economics from the Wharton School at the University of Pennsylvania. Twenty years later I went back to school to obtain an MBA from Oklahoma State University. And this Spring I completed my Ph.D. in Organizational and Community Leadership from the University of Oklahoma. I have always loved being in school! And because I just can't get enough of university life, I've begun teaching graduate courses at the University of Oklahoma, Tulsa campus.

**▶ Tell us about CAP Tulsa. Your role and how long have you been with the organization?**

I just celebrated my seventeenth anniversary with CAP Tulsa! I joined the agency in 2008 and was named chief operating officer in 2009. In October 2019, I succeeded our founder, Steven Dow, and became Executive Director/CEO.

At CAP Tulsa, we serve over 1,650 children under age five—most of whom attend one of our nine schools year-round in a high-quality early childhood program. The rest are supported through our home visiting program we call Learning@Home.

CAP's Mission is to help young children in lower-income families grow up and achieve economic success. Our vision for the future is that children grow up and achieve economic success so that their children are not born into poverty. We accomplish this by combining high-quality childcare and early childhood education with innovative family services and resources. Our two-generation approach aims not only to prepare young children for future success in school but also to help their parents succeed through programs designed to increase parenting skills, employability, and earning potential.

**▶ What personally drew you to this work?**

After working in the private sector and growing my leadership capacity for more than two decades, I wanted to devote my energy and skills to making a difference in our community. Once I learned about the opportunity at CAP Tulsa from Steven Dow, I was confident that the organization would be a great fit. And here we are, nearly two decades later!

**▶ What need(s) is CAP Tulsa fulfilling in Tulsa?**

There is a shortage of licensed childcare in our community, particularly for children under age four. And the cost to operate quality childcare exceeds families' ability to pay. Thus, the gap in affordable, available childcare prevents many parents from working or going to school. Moreover, brain science supports the need for very young children to receive high-quality early care and education to prepare them for both academic and lifelong success.

CAP Tulsa operates the largest Head Start program in the State of Oklahoma, and we are also the fiscal agent for the Oklahoma Early Childhood Program (OECP). All the early childhood services offered by the agency are free of charge to families who income qualify.

Our year-round center-based services help families have time to work or go to school to further their education and maximize employability. One example is CAP's ESL program, which, for over a decade, has enabled hundreds of parents to improve their communication skills and increase their job prospects.

**▶ Can you share one success story since you joined CAP Tulsa—a moment that reminds you why this work matters?**

My long tenure at CAP Tulsa is punctuated by so many memorable client success stories that it's tough to choose just one! Here are two that illustrate the incredible work we do every single day to help children and families succeed:

CAP Tulsa in action

Executive Director Karen Tilkin

Melah, a 3-year-old in her second year at CAP Tulsa, initially struggled with transitions and tantrums. With consistent support from her teachers and family, she made steady progress. After moving to a new school, Melah experienced some regression, prompting her mother to accept a referral to the Infant Mental Health program. Through child/family therapy and classroom strategies like breathing exercises, emotion charts, and personalized social stories, Melah is developing stronger emotional awareness and coping skills. Her teachers and family continue to work closely together to support her growth.

Serena had been absent during her child's school drop-offs. When her Family Services Advocate (FSA) saw her again, Serena broke down in tears. She'd had emergency surgery with a prolonged recovery, her husband had been unable to work during her time in the hospital, and as a result they were behind on rent. Her FSA helped her apply for emergency assistance and delivered food and hygiene supplies that same day.

**▶ What are some of the biggest challenges you face, and how do you keep the mission moving forward?**

Like most non-profits, the biggest issue CAP Tulsa faces is sustainable funding. The cost to operate nine schools with 128 classrooms continues to escalate, and our recurring government funding sources do not always adjust for inflation. Our organization has been very fortunate to have significant support for early childhood education from a long-time funding partner in George Kaiser Family Foundation. Additionally, we have benefited greatly from the support of several local foundations, including Charles and Lynn Schusterman Family Philanthropies, The Anne & Henry Zarrow Foundation, Sharna and Irvin Frank Foundation, Sanford and Irene Burnstein Family Foundation, and Coretz Family Foundation. We simply would not have the solid financial footing we do today without their continued generosity.

The other major challenge is staffing, though I'm pleased to say that our on-going commitment to making CAP Tulsa a great place to work has resulted in extremely low employee turnover. Nevertheless, we remain focused on providing competitive compensation and benefits and top-notch employee development opportunities, including tuition assistance.

**▶ Looking back at your career with CAP Tulsa, what accomplishments or milestones are you most proud of?**

Last year CAP Tulsa celebrated its 25th anniversary. Since 1998, CAP Tulsa has become one of the nation's most highly regarded early childhood education programs, developed a two-generation approach to reducing intergenerational poverty, and been the subject of research on the effects of preschool conducted by Georgetown University, along with many other notable accomplishments. During this time, we have had the incredible privilege and awesome responsibility of teaching over 30,000 young children and connecting with more than 20,000 families.

I am extremely proud of the organizational culture we have built over my tenure. Since joining the agency, CAP Tulsa has been named "Best Non-Profit to Work For" by the Non-Profit Times for seven consecutive years, earning the top spot in 2021 as well as a 2024 Oklahoma Top Workplace and 2025 Best Nonprofit Workplace nationally.

**▶ If you left the job tomorrow, what kind of legacy do you want to leave behind?**

When I leave the agency, I want to know that there is an exceptional leadership team in place, a well-conceived strategic plan, and sufficient financial resources to continue to serve children and families in Tulsa with excellence for another twenty-five years.

**▶ Anything else you wish to add?**

I have served on the Board of the Center for Housing Solutions, Inc. since its inception in April 2020. I am immensely proud of the work we're doing, in concert with Mayor Nichols and his team at the City of Tulsa, to eliminate homelessness in our community. I am also honored to serve on the boards of the Jewish Federation of Tulsa and B'nai Emunah Sisterhood. ■

Ryan and Rebekah Kriegsman are delighted to announce the birth of their second son Jack Ronald born October 2025. He was 6 lbs 13 ounces 19 inches long. He is welcomed by his brother Bennie, his grandparents James and Audrey Martin, Susan and Mark Ballew, and Ted Kriegsman. Mazel Tov Kriegsman family!

## CELEBRATE SIMCHAS!

Sara and Matt Levitt are delighted to announce the birth of their daughter, Tova Meirav, on October 1, 2025. She is welcomed with love by her big brothers, Lior and Avi. Proud grandparents are Angie Levitt of Illinois, Amy and Eric Geboff of Florida, and great-grandfathers Jack Levitt and Jesus Garcia of Illinois as well. Mazel Tov Levitt family!

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**

## December Shabbat Candle Lighting Times

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# JEWISH TULSA COMMUNITY AND TAMAR REGIONAL COUNCIL PARTNERSHIP

Tamar Regional Council
Dead Sea

by Yoni Shtern and Itzik Levin

We are continuing to build and strengthen our partnership with the Tamar Region. In April of this year a delegation from the Tamar Regional Council visited Tulsa, and in October, we hosted Yoni Shtern, a resident of the Tamar region. Below is a heartfelt appreciation from Yoni for an inspiring visit to Tulsa.

Dear Friends,

I would like to express my heartfelt gratitude for the warm, generous, and inspiring hospitality I received during my visit to the Jewish Federation of Tulsa. My week in Tulsa was truly unforgettable, filled with meaningful encounters, deep conversations, and an exceptional sense of community.

It was a privilege to spend time at the Mizel Jewish Community Day School, and to participate in the Shabbat and Sukkot services at both Temple Israel and Congregation B'nai Emunah. Visiting The Sherwin Miller Museum of Jewish Art and the impressive senior living center (Zarrow Pointe) were very exciting for me. I was deeply touched by the openness, the spirit, and the sincere dedication of each community member I met.

Taking part in tours of the Aquarium, the Botanical Gardens, the Oklahoma State Capitol, and Greenwood Rising provided me with a rich understanding of Tulsa's culture and heritage. This visit took place during a deeply emotional time, as Israel marked the release of hostages held in Gaza. Experiencing the solidarity, compassion, and unwavering support of the Tulsa Jewish community during these days strengthened my sense of shared destiny between the Jewish people of Tulsa and the State of Israel.

I also want to extend my warm personal thanks to Itzik, the devoted Chair of the Israel Engagement Committee, for his heartfelt home hospitality, kindness, and leadership in promoting the partnership between our communities.

Beyond the personal inspiration, I am grateful for the opportunity to explore future collaboration between the Jewish Federation of Tulsa, the Tamar Regional Council, and the Dead Sea region, which I had the honor of representing. I believe our shared values and mutual commitment to Jewish continuity can serve as a foundation for meaningful partnership.

I warmly invite you to visit Israel and the Dead Sea region, to continue building our friendship and shared work. I would also be delighted to schedule a video call soon to discuss concrete ways to strengthen our ongoing collaboration.

Thank you again for your warmth, hospitality, and the unforgettable experience you created. Please extend my appreciation to everyone involved in the visit. I return to Israel with a full heart and great hope for continued friendship and cooperation.

With deep appreciation and warm regards,

Yoni Shtern

Neot Hakikar village,

Tamar Regional Council,

The Dead Sea Region

Israel ■

Speaking at The Synagogue | Congregation B'nai Emunah

Yoni with Mizel JCDS students

# THE STATE OF ISRAEL'S FIRST GENERAL WAS AN AMERICAN ©

by Phil Goldfarb

David Daniel "Mickey" Marcus, a tough Brooklyn street kid, rose by virtue of his courage and intelligence to help save Israel in 1948 and became its first general in 2,000 years.

Marcus's Jewish parents, Max (Mordechai) Marcus (1864-1910) and Leah Goldstein Marcus (1866-1933), came from Iași, Romania and immigrated to the U.S. on April 2 1898. David was the first Marcus to be born in the United States on February 23, 1901 in Manhattan and attended Boys' High School in Brooklyn. His high school athletic and academic record won him admission to West Point in 1920, graduating with the class of 1924. On July 3, 1927 he married Emma Chaison (1905-1982). After completing his active duty requirement, he attended Brooklyn Law School where he received an LL.B. and JD. He spent most of the 1930s as a United States Federal attorney in New York, prosecuting gangsters such as Lucky Luciano. In 1940, Mayor Fiorello La Guardia named Marcus Commissioner of the New York City Department of Corrections.

Convinced that war was imminent, Marcus voluntarily went back into Army uniform in 1940, and after the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor served as the Judge Advocate to the military governor of Hawaii. In 1942, he was named commandant of the Army's new Ranger school, which developed innovative tactics for jungle fighting. In 1943, Marcus was sent to Washington and was assigned to the Civil Affairs Division, as Chief of Planning for occupation governments in territories liberated from the Axis. He accompanied U.S. delegations to the conferences at Cairo, Teheran, Yalta, and Potsdam, working on the proposed charter of the United Nations, while helping to draft the Instruments of Surrender terms for Italy, Germany and Japan as well as post-war Military Government Policy.

In late 1944, Marcus's consciousness of himself as a Jew took a dramatic turn when he was put in charge of planning how to take care of the millions of starving and displaced persons in the regions liberated by the Allied invasion of Europe and with closing the Nazi Concentration Camps. Here, Marcus came face to face with the survivors of Nazi atrocities and saw with his own eyes the piles of uncounted Jewish corpses in Europe's death camps.

In 1946, he was named Chief of the Army's War Crimes Division in Washington, DC, planning legal and security procedures for the Nuremberg trials and the Tokyo War Crimes Tribunal. In eight months, he recruited hundreds of judges, prosecutors, court officials and lawyers for war crime trials in Nuremburg and the Far East He attended the Nuremberg trials, making sure that Nazi crimes were thoroughly documented. After the trials, in 1947, he was offered promotion to brigadier general, but instead elected to return to civilian life and his law practice.

A few months later, the United Nations authorized the partition of Palestine and the eventual creation of a Jewish state. Within days, David Ben-Gurion asked Marcus to recruit an American officer to serve as military advisor to Israel. However, all 24 officers whom he tried to recruit rejected the offer so Marcus volunteered himself. The U.S. War Department granted Marcus, who was a reservist, permission to accept the offer, provided Marcus did not use his own name or rank and disguise his military record.

Therefore, one "Michael Stone" arrived in Tel Aviv in January 1948, to confront a nearly impossible situation. The widely separated Jewish settlements in Palestine were surrounded by a sea of hostile Arabs from five countries (Egypt, Jordan, Syria, Lebanon and Iraq). The newly created Israel would have no defensible borders, no air power, a few tanks and ancient artillery pieces and almost no arms or ammunition. The Haganah was an effective underground organization but it had no experience as a regular national army. Facing it were well-supplied Arab armies determined to drive the Jews into the sea. The pro-Arab British administration in Palestine prevented the importation of military supplies to the Israelis.

Undaunted, Stone designed a command structure for Israel's new army, established a training school for officers, and led the reorganization of the Haganah's militia forces into a modern army. He wrote field manuals in long-hand by memory, based on the U.S. Army Doctrine and adjusted to the local situation. He identified Israel's weakest points as the scattered settlements in the Negev and the new quarter of Jerusalem. When Israel declared independence and the Arab armies attacked in May 1948, Israel was ready, thanks to Stone's planning. His hit-and-run tactics kept the Egyptian army in the Negev off balance. When the Jewish section of Jerusalem was about to fall, Marcus ordered the construction of a road to bring additional men and equipment to break the Arab siege just days before the United Nations negotiated a cease fire. Israel had withstood the Arab assault with its borders virtually intact. In gratitude, Ben-Gurion appointed Marcus a Lieutenant General (Aluf in Hebrew). As no ranks had been granted to the Israeli high command at that time, he became the first general in the fledgling nation's army since Judah Maccabee.

Tragically, Marcus did not live to see the peace. Six hours before the cease fire began on June 10, 1948 in the village of Abu Ghosh near Jerusalem, Marcus was unable to sleep. He walked beyond the guarded perimeter wrapped in his bed sheet. A Jewish sentry saw a white-robed figure approaching and, not understanding Marcus's response in English, fired a single, fatal shot. His body was returned to the United States for burial at West Point, accompanied by Moshe Dayan. His burial, with military honors, was attended by Governor of New York Thomas Dewey, former Secretary of the Treasury Henry Morgenthau, and General Maxwell Taylor, Superintendent of the United States Military Academy at West Point. Marcus' grave is the only one in the West Point Cemetery for an American killed fighting under the flag of another country. His military awards and decorations include the Distinguished Service Medal, Bronze Star, Army Commendation Ribbon, Presidential Unit Citation, American Defense Medal, American Theater Campaign Medal, Asiatic-Pacific Theater Medal and the European African-Middle Eastern Theater Medal. His Allied award is the Commander, Most Excellent Order of the British Empire. Hollywood would later immortalize Marcus in the 1966 movie, "Cast A Giant Shadow" portrayed by a fellow Jew, Kirk Douglas (originally Issur Danielovitch -1916-2020) . ■

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. 10)*

inevitably, as an infrastructural inconvenience at home.

We have, of course, felt isolation before. During the Second Intifada, Israelis were shunned and feared as suicide bombings and military incursions defined our headlines. Again, after the 2014 Gaza War, international outrage reached a fever pitch, and Israeli embassies braced for protest. But those storms eventually passed. There was still a sense that Israel's legitimacy as a state—the moral foundation of its existence—remained intact. This time feels different. Now it isn't only our actions that are under scrutiny. It is the very idea of Israel, the very notion of Jewish sovereignty, that seems to be on trial.

To offset that opening line, allow me to be clear: I am proud to be Israeli. It should also go without saying that I am in no way equating the actions of the IDF with those of Yugoslavian war criminals, or criminals of any other kind. I'm simply saying that right now, that pride feels profoundly depressing. Pride and pain have become indistinguishable emotions. The recent ceasefire and hostage-release deal have given Israelis a brief breath of relief: families reunited, hope restored, headlines softened for a moment. Yet even in that reprieve, the questions remain. What will this mean for our reputation abroad? Will this fragile calm be enough to thaw the world's hostility? Or have we crossed a line that cannot be easily uncrossed?

As Israelis take stock of the ruins—physical, moral, and diplomatic—we are beginning to understand how fragile our place in the world truly is. The legitimacy we once took for granted now hangs by a thread, and rebuilding it will take years. We are about to find out what it looks like when a people tries to re-enter the moral community of nations, when we attempt, somehow, to get the worms back into the proverbial can, and to discover whether that can, can ever truly be sealed again.

*Elson Fellow Avi Gamulka will be coming to Tulsa in March 2026.* ■

Elson ISRAEL FELLOWSHIP

Please visit www.tulsagogue.com/events for more information and to register for Synagogue services and events.

### Shabbat Shalom Musical Circle
### Friday, December 5 | 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.

### Sisterhood - Women and Social Action at Legacy Plaza
### Sunday, December 7 | 9:30 a.m.
When women rise together, hearts open, hope grows, and change begins. Join B'nai Emunah Sisterhood, along with the sisters of the Jewish Federation of Tulsa and Temple Israel, in showering moms in the childbirth Community Action Program (CAP) with items they need for their hospital stay upon giving birth. You can purchase items for the Pregnancy Bags, as well as join in assembling these items. Details and RSVP: JewishTulsa.org/sisterhood-simcha

### Lifelong Learners at Zarrow Pointe
### Wednesday, December 10 | 12:00 p.m.
Lifelong learners from all over the community are invited to join Rabbi Kaiman for a learning session and lunch provided by Zarrow Pointe, starting at noon. Please check in at Zarrow Pointe Town Center, and you will be directed to the Dining Hall. Following lunch, at 1:00 p.m., participants will learn together in the Zarrow Pointe Theater Room. There is no cost to attend the learning series, but please indicate your attendance through website registration.

### Booksmart – Jack Sh*t 3: I'm the Father with Barry Friedman
### Wednesday, December 10 | 7:00 p.m.
The Synagogue is excited to partner with Magic City Books in welcoming home, long-time Tulsan and congregation member, Barry Friedman, to celebrate the newest book in his series, Jack Sh*t 3: I'm the Father. The book series is a warm, wry memoir-style reflection on the author's father, Jack Friedman, as he winds down his years at the Tulsa Jewish retirement center (which Jack dubs "The Hebrew Home"). Blending humor, compassion, and the bittersweet reality of aging and memory loss, the book follows Jack's antics and observations—from bagel runs and quirky conversations, to deeper moments of confusion as dementia progresses. This is a free event, open to the public. For more information, please visit magiccitybooks.com/events.

### Booksmart – *Superhero* with Tim Blake Nelson
### Thursday, December 11 | 7:00 p.m.
The Synagogue is excited to partner with Magic City Books in welcoming home a lifelong member of the Tulsa Jewish community, acclaimed actor, writer, and director, Tim Blake Nelson, to celebrate the publication of his newest book, Superhero. In this sharp and witty look behind the scenes of Hollywood's blockbuster machine, Nelson pulls back the curtain on fame, ambition, and the price of perfection. Nelson is known for his award-winning work across film, television, and theater. Born in Tulsa, Oklahoma, he has appeared in acclaimed films such as *O Brother, Where Art Thou?*, *The Ballad of Buster Scruggs*, and *The Incredible Hulk*, while also directing and writing several independent features. This is a ticketed event. For more information and to purchase tickets, please visit magiccitybooks.com/events.

### Chanukah Winterlight Festival
### Sunday, December 14 | 5:30 p.m.
Let loose outside as we light up the night. We'll pour into the street in front of the Synagogue for a dance party, Chanukah treats, interactive light installations, and a communal candle-lighting of a colossal-sized menorah. It will be an evening filled with music, laughter, and the warmth of community. Dress warmly for this outdoor party, which starts at 5:30 p.m. Please indicate your attendance by registering at tulsagogue.com/events.

### Blatt + Blue - *A Tree of Life: The Pittsburgh Synagogue Shooting*
### Thursday, December 18 | 7:00 p.m.
*A Tree of Life: The Pittsburgh Synagogue Shooting* chronicles the devastating massacre at Tree of Life Synagogue on October 27, 2018—the deadliest antisemitic attack in U.S. history. Through deeply personal interviews with survivors, family members of the slain, and members of the Pittsburgh Jewish community, the film lays bare the immediate horror of that day and explores the long journey of grief, resilience, reckoning, and hope for healing. The film is available to view on HBOMax. Join us for our conversation at 7:00 p.m. on Zoom (918 583 7121). Newcomers are welcome to join the dialogue.

### Shabbat Shalom Musical Circle and Chanukah Dinner
### Friday, December 19 | 5:30 p.m. service, 6:15 p.m. dinner
Experience a musical Shabbat evening with songs and storytelling starting at 5:30 p.m. This inclusive and accessible event is an ideal introduction to Shabbat traditions, welcoming participants of all ages and backgrounds. Following services at 6:15 p.m., we'll enjoy a traditional Chanukah feast of latkes and sufganiyot enjoyed with family and friends. Let us do the cooking and cleaning so you can relax and enjoy. Reserve your spot at the Shabbat table by registering at tulsagogue.com/events.

### 24 for 24
### Wednesday, December 24 | 9:00 a.m.
Volunteers will help prepare and deliver 24 complete turkey Christmas meals for families in hospice care who may not have the ability to provide a festive holiday meal for themselves. Kitchen volunteers will cook a meal worthy of the season, and later, a separate group will make delivery of the hot Christmas Eve meals to the homes of the recipient families. If you are interested in volunteering to cook or make deliveries, please contact Richie Bolusky at rbolusky@bnaiemunah.com.

### CookieBake 2025
### Wednesday, December 24 | 9:00 a.m.
We invite all community members to bake their favorite cookies and bars at home for this project any time during the month of December. If you begin early, please wrap your contribution securely and freeze it at home. Please drop your baked goods at the Synagogue on December 24, at or before 9:00 a.m. We will organize the sweet creations for eventual distribution to hospital emergency rooms, waiting rooms, police and fire stations—wherever essential services are offered on Christmas Day. If you are interested in making cookie deliveries, please contact Richie Bolusky at rbolusky@bnaiemunah.com.

### 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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**NO ONE SAVES MORE LIVES IN ISRAEL IN TIMES OF CRISIS.**

There are many ways to support Israel and its people, but this Chanukah, no gift is more transformative than one to Magen David Adom, Israel's emergency services system. Your support of MDA isn't just changing lives — it's literally saving them — providing critical care and hospital transport for everyone from victims of heart attacks to rocket attacks, and every emergency in between.

**Donate today at MagenDavidAdom.org or call 866.632.2763.**

AMERICAN FRIENDS OF MAGEN DAVID ADOM מגן דוד אדום
Israel's Emergency Services System

All services and events except those marked with * will be held on the campus of the CSJCC in the Sylvan Auditorium.

**Jewish Federation of Tulsa**
**2021 E. 71st St, Tulsa 74136**

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

**Shabbat Service in person, on Zoom & Facebook Live • Fri., Dec. 5 • 6:00 p.m.**
Join us as we welcome in Shabbat. Come at 5:30 p.m. for our joyous pre-oneg.

**"Time" For Learning: Kislev* • Sat., Dec. 6 • 10:30 a.m.**
Join us as Rabbi Appel continues our learning series. Through text study, we will explore the holidays for each month in the Jewish calendar. Please sign up by Friday, December 5. Learning will take place in the Activity Space at the Temple Offices.

**Birthday Shabbat Service in person, on Zoom & Facebook Live • Fri., Dec. 12 • 7:30 p.m.**
Join us as we welcome in Shabbat and celebrate December birthdays. Come at 5:30 p.m. for our joyous pre-oneg. First Night Hanukkiah Lighting* • Sun., Dec. 14 • 5:30 p.m. • Temple Israel lights the Hanukkiah on this first night of Hanukkah outside the Jewish Federation. Come for songs, hot chocolate and sufganiyot!

**Zamru L'Shabbat Hanukkah with Consecration & Dinner in person, on Zoom & Facebook Live • Fri., Dec. 19 • 6:00 p.m.**
Celebrate with *Elijah's Minor Prophets*, for a special Hanukkah service. Bring your *hanukkiah* to light! Consecration will also take place at this service. Stay afterwards for a catered Congregational Dinner.

**Breakfast Hosted by Brotherhood • Sun., Dec. 21 • 9:30 a.m.**
Brotherhood Breakfast begins at 9:30 a.m. with the presentation starting at 10:00 a.m. Stay tuned for more information about our guest speaker. Last Night Hanukkiah Lighting* • Sun., Dec. 21 • 5:30 p.m. • Temple Israel lights the Hanukkiah on the last night of Hanukkah outside the Jewish Federation.

**Zarrow Pointe Shabbat Service* • Fri., Dec. 26 • 4:00 p.m.**
We cordially invite all those who wish to join us for this meaningful Friday evening service, held in the Burnstein Auditorium at Zarrow Pointe. We welcome all friends in our community who would appreciate being together on Shabbat, in addition to Temple members and Zarrow Pointe residents.

**Anniversary Shabbat Service in person, on Zoom & Facebook Live • Fri., Dec. 26 • 6:00 p.m.**
Join us as we welcome in Shabbat and celebrate significant December anniversaries. Stay for a sweet oneg afterwards. ■

## December Closings

| | |
|---|---|
| Wednesday \| December 24 | – CJSCC OPEN 6 am – 5 pm |
| Thursday \| December 25 | – ALL CLOSED |
| Friday \| December 26 | – CSJCC Open 12 - 5 pm<br>– JFT & SMMJA CLOSED |
| Wednesday \| December 31 | – CJSCC OPEN 6 am – 5 pm |
| Thursday \| January 1 | – CSJCC Open 12 - 5 pm<br>– JFT & SMMJA CLOSED |



# "HOLDING SPACE"

by Kelsey Holder, Director of Education and Communication

In July, Temple Israel moved from our congregation's home of seventy years to our current location on the Zarrow Campus as we prepared to begin construction on our new Temple home. With the temporary relocation, I've thought a great deal about "space": our services, offices, school, event rooms. Those logistics have resolved beautifully—our congregants and community friends visit our current offices and join us for events in our activities space. Our proximity to all that Zarrow Campus offers has opened opportunities for our traditional gatherings and new programming as well.

As our newly minted Director of Education, I was entrusted with the task of smoothly transitioning our religious school, Shorashim, to a temporary location. As we await our new Temple home, we meet on Sundays at Mizel Jewish Community Day School. Mizel welcomed us with open arms, and we find ourselves thriving in a space specifically designed for children to learn and grow and begin their Jewish journeys. We file to our classrooms each week to study Hebrew and Jewish holidays, sing *hamotzi* in the cafeteria, gather for *t'filah* by the PJ Library, and play together on the beautiful playground. Our families feel welcome, so much so that we've seen enrollment increase by one-third and added a new class for Pre-K students.

Beyond the literal spaces, though, I also think about the metaphorical aspect of space. The literal and metaphorical tend to overlap—each relies on the other for a clear definition. What can we provide students to help them connect with each other, to see Sunday school as an opportunity for community with their Jewish friends in a Jewish…space? But more than the "where", I thought about what could create that special connection, that space you can feel if not touch.

When our Youth Education Committee met last spring, we recognized the importance of continuing our traditional community events alongside learning. We specifically focused on Temple Juniors events, "TJs", as opportunities for kids to just have fun together right after Shorashim. We typically alternated between outings and in-house activities at Temple. Initially this year, I thought, "These all have to be epic scale outings to the best places this town has to offer." But then our committee chair guided my thinking back to the "in-house" event. We are in our space at Mizel and on the Zarrow Campus. And it's the perfect place to bring children and families together to simply enjoy each other's company. Namely, our recent "Pickle of a TJs". We had the best spot for a pickling class and pickleball games, an afternoon spent together in the space that has welcomed our community.

During our *Zamru L'Hanukkah* Shabbat Service, Temple Israel will hold Consecration for our Shorashim students. That word "hold" has multiple meanings for this event. Our temporary sanctuary will physically hold us in one space. Our congregation will hold our children in that space in our hearts that we can feel if not touch, that space that is our community. ■

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

Camp Shalom

# SCHOOL'S OUT WINTER BREAK CAMP

## Dec 22–24 and Dec 29–31

**8:30-4:30 pm | $55 per day**

**Ages 3-K & 1st-10th grades**

*~Limited Space~*

**Register: csjcc.org/camp-shalom**