TULSA
Jewish Review
Cheshvan/Kislev 5786
November 2025
McCLURE
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
As One
We Support
Empower
Respond
Engage

November 2025
Cheshvan/Kislev 5786
Volume 97 | Number 11

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Front Cover

As One
2025 Annual Campaign

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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As One 2025 ANNUAL CAMPAIGN

Picture an ordinary Tuesday on our campus. A toddler clutches a PJ Library book like a treasure. A teen practices their Student to Student story and the nerves turn into pride. A young professional walks into a Young Jewish Professionals (YJP) gathering knowing no one and walks out with a purpose and a few new friends. A senior opens the door to a warm hello. None of this is random. All of it is what your Annual Campaign gift makes possible.

The Annual Campaign is not a pushke. It is the engine that powers the entire community. It keeps the doors open, the programs excellent, and the welcome unmistakable. The Jewish Federation of Tulsa Foundation gives us a strong horizon through careful stewardship. The Annual Campaign brings that strength into daily life. Together they let us plan in generations and deliver in real time. That is how a community moves from maintenance to momentum, from a good idea to a lived reality.

Momentum sounds like joy. A PJ Library bedtime story about courage and kindness. A student in a public school says, I did not know that, thank you, and means it. A newcomer says, I thought I had to leave Tulsa to live a full Jewish life, and then decides to put down roots here. Momentum looks like care. The Emergency Social Services Fund bridges a month so a family can breathe again. Groceries arrive. Prescriptions are filled. Rent gets paid on time. Dignity stays intact. The message is simple. No one is alone.

Security matters because joy needs room to grow. We invest in strong protection that still feels human and warm. We educate partners across the city. We build alliances that hold. We speak clearly about who we are and the future we want. The goal is not to argue. The goal is to thrive. The Annual Campaign turns that goal into daily practice, steady and reliable.

Most of all, your gift builds belonging. Intergenerational programs bring toddlers and grandparents into the same song. Holiday gatherings turn strangers into neighbors in the space of a single melody. Learning turns spectators into builders. Volunteering turns goodwill into action. Our campus has many doors and one heart. If you want a Jewish life in Tulsa, there is a way in. If you are already inside, there is a way forward.

"The goal is to thrive. The Annual Campaign turns that goal into daily practice, steady and reliable. "

Here is the radical idea that guides us, and we mean every word. Jewish Tulsa will be the best Jewish community in North America. Not the largest. The best. The most welcoming. The most reliable. The most creative. The most faithful to action. We will measure success by the speed at which a door opens and the quality of the encounter that follows. By the confidence our teens carry into their schools. By the way our seniors feel honored and seen. By how newcomers feel invited into a circle that is always widening. We will be known for excellence that is quiet and consistent and for courage that is calm and steady. We will be the place where people say, I want to raise my family here, I want to give here, I want to lead here.

What makes this believable is not rhetoric. It is practice. It is PJ Library books on nightstands across the city. It is Student to Student presentations that turn rumor into relationship. It is YJP dinners where talent meets mentors and purpose. It is a staff person who knows your name. It is a volunteer who says, I have time, use me. It is a security team that understands welcoming. It is a check written with gratitude. It is the quiet heroism of daily consistency.

You are part of this story. If you have given, thank you. If you can stretch, please stretch. If this is your first gift, let it be a strong beginning. Give at a level you feel in your heart. Your contribution multiplies books and meals, mentors and friendships, safety and pride. It multiplies the steady certainty that you helped someone stand taller.

Choose the future with us. Give today. Help us prove that the best place to be Jewish is right here, with each other, in Jewish Tulsa. As one community we support. As one people we empower. As one family we respond. As one heart we engage. Together we will build a future that is strong, tender, joyful, and secure. And we will do it here. *As One.*

Joe Roberts
Executive Director

Brian E. Brouse
Chair, Annual Campaign

UPCOMING EVENTS

Festivals of Lights: Diwali and Hanukkah | Sunday, November 2 | 1:30 pm | Hindu Temple of Greater Tulsa

The Festivals of Lights, Diwali and Hanukkah, though celebrated by different cultures and religions, share the common theme of celebrating the triumph of good over evil and light over darkness. Both festivals involve the symbolic lighting of lamps or candles as a central ritual. While Diwali is a five-day Hindu festival, Hanukkah is an eight-day Jewish festival. This year, Diwali falls on Oct 20 and Hanukkah is Dec 15, so let's celebrate in the middle with the whole family! Enjoy crafts and activities for kids, taste festive treats from both traditions, tour the Hindu Temple, and join a thoughtful discussion about the similarities between our communities.

RSVP: JewishTulsa.org/lights

Film: As Seen Through These Eyes | Sunday, November 2 | 3 pm | Circle Cinema | FREE

As Maya Angelou narrates this powerful, award-winning documentary, she reveals the story of a brave group of people who fought Hitler with the only weapons they had: charcoal, pencil stubs, shreds of paper, and memories etched in their minds. FREE film in conjunction with the Annual Kristallnacht Commemoration Event on Thursday, November 6. Includes a post-film discussion with the film's award-winning documentary producer Amy Janes.

FREE film but please sign up in advance: JewishTulsa.org/kristallnacht-film

Torah on Tap | Monday, November 3 | 6:30 pm | New Story Brewing

We welcome the newest clergy member to our community, Rabbi Batsheva Appel, Interim Rabbi at Temple Israel, for this edition of Torah on Tap. The topic for this month is Kashrut or kosher laws. It is the highest requested topic, so be sure to come with your questions and an open mind!

This program is in partnership with Moishe Pod Tulsa. YJPs are aged 21–40.

RSVP: JewishTulsa.org/torah-tap-Nov25

Lunch Bunch | Wednesday, November 5 | 12 pm | Jewish Federation

We welcome Dr. Danielle Gurevitch, a cultural anthropologist at Bar-Ilan University in Israel and currently a distinguished visiting scholar at the University of Tulsa, where she teaches modern Hebrew for beginners. Professor Gurevitch specializes in comparative literature, cultural diplomacy, and the history of ideas. She chairs the Sir Naim Dangoor Center for Universal Monotheism at Bar-Ilan University, leading international interdisciplinary initiatives that connect scholarship, cultural diplomacy, and public dialogue on Jewish and Israeli affairs. She is also the author of two books, the editor of three academic volumes, and numerous scholarly articles. $13 optional lunch.

RSVP: JewishTulsa.org/lb-Nov25

UPCOMING EVENTS

Music Against All Odds: A Kristallnacht Commemoration | Thursday, November 6 | 7 pm | All Souls Unitarian Church

Acclaimed flutist Christie Beard and accompanist Christi Zuniga will take us through history audibly and visually. The stories of the progression of Nazi oppression to dominance are told by the music's composers. Christie will introduce each piece and narrate video images that reflect the conditions that were experienced during their composition. The performance will give the audience a sense of the emotions associated with the deteriorating climate before Kristallnacht, the despair afterward, and the too-often unrequited hope for peace. The program includes the Kristallnacht Art Contest for middle and high school students, with the winners announced.

RSVP: JewishTulsa.org/kristallnacht25

Mahj Lessons | Sunday, November 9 | 1 pm | Jewish Federation

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. $72/per person.

RSVP: JewishTulsa.org/mahj918-nov2025

Mizrahi Heritage Month with Elson Fellow Sarah Sassoon | Monday, November 10 | 12 pm | Zoom

Join us for an inspiring talk in honor of Mizrahi Heritage Month with Elson Fellow Sarah Sassoon. We'll explore the history and stories of one million Middle Eastern Jewish refugees from Arab lands in the 20th century. Sarah will share how their resilience and contributions shaped the modern State of Israel and continue to influence world politics today. Sarah is an Australian-born Iraqi Jewish writer, poet, and educator, and an Elson Fellow—a program of the Jewish Federation of Tulsa that brings Israel's most innovative thinkers, scholars, and advocates to our community.

RSVP: JewishTulsa.org/ mizhari

JMoms Friendsgiving | Wednesday, November 19 | 6 pm | Private Residence

Spend a cozy evening connecting with your fellow JMoms as we enjoy a delicious meal and great company. Bring a dish to share for our potluck-style dinner, hosted by one of our JMoms, and let's enjoy some quality time together! In the spirit of giving thanks, please bring any gently-used children's clothes (including baby clothes) or books you no longer need for a clothing swap. It's a wonderful way to pass along items your little ones have outgrown and find something new to love. Come celebrate the season with new and familiar faces. We'd love to see you there!

RSVP: JewishTulsa.org/jmoms-friendsgiving2025

JEWISH FEDERATION OF TULSA

UPCOMING EVENTS

Still Neighbors: Holding Relationship in a Fractured World | Thursday, November 20 | 7 pm | Location provided upon registration

Join us for a public conversation between two people who refuse to walk away from one another—despite everything. Joe Roberts, a Jewish communal leader and Zionist, and Ihab Hassan, a Palestinian human rights advocate, do not agree on many things. But even through two years of devastating war, political rupture, and unimaginable grief, they've chosen to stay in relationship. This event is not a debate. It's not about resolving geopolitics. Together, Joe and Ihab will explore what it means to stay connected across deep difference, to grieve with dignity, and to work—however imperfectly—toward peace. This evening offers a rare and necessary glimpse of what it means to remain human even when the world is breaking apart.

Free and open to the public | RSVP: JewishTulsa.org/neighbors

Community Wide Volunteer Day | Wednesday, November 26 | 9 am | Food Bank of Eastern Oklahoma

Oklahoma is 1 of only 5 states with a food insecurity rate above 14% with 1 in 6 people being food insecure. Join your Tulsa Jewish community to give back this holiday season by volunteering at the Food Bank of Eastern Oklahoma. We will learn about the impact of the Food Bank before moving to the packing room to sort and pack food for those in need. This is an all-ages program. **Please wear closed-toed shoes.**

RSVP: JewishTulsa.org/volunteer

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.

RSVP: JewishTulsa.org/sisterhood-simcha

UPCOMING EVENTS

Fitness Challenge: No Skip November

This month, it's all about consistency and meeting your personal weekly goals. Sign up at the Fitness Desk and choose how many days you'll work out each week—anywhere from 1 to 6 days (we recommend at least one rest day). Each time you exercise, check off a box next to your name on our fitness tracker. Every week you hit your goal, you'll earn one entry into our end-of-month drawing for a chance to win one of five free JCC Fitness T-shirts! Join us for a month of motivation, accountability, and community support—and let's finish the year strong!

Tzedek: Meals on Wheels | Wednesday, November 5 | 10-11 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 together.

RSVP: csjcc.org/tzedek-Nov25

Wellness Series: Living with Chronic Illness | Wednesday, November 12 | 10:15 | Dan Room

Do you have a chronic illness or disease? Even though the treatments for these different conditions aren't the same, there are common ways to approach living with chronic disease. In this session, Dr. Sarah-Anne Schumann, Family and Lifestyle Medicine physician, will talk about living with chronic disease, including finding how to find credible health information, how the 6 pillars of lifestyle medicine (sleep, healthy eating, physical activity, stress management, avoiding risky substances, and social connection) can improve your quality of life, and how to practice self-compassion when dealing with challenging health issues.

RSVP: csjcc.org/wellness-Nov24

Fall Hiking Series: Turkey Mountain | Friday, November 14 | 10 am | Turkey Mountain

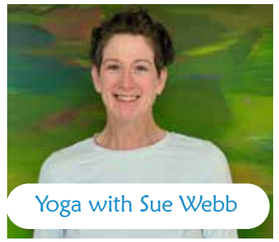
This month's Fall Hiking Series takes us just down the street to Turkey Mountain. We'll meet at 10 am in the lower parking lot near the restrooms before setting off on a 3-mile loop with slight elevation and some rocky terrain. If you prefer an easier route, you are welcome to turn back anytime for an out-and-back hike. Please bring water and wear proper hiking gear. Contact email Laura at lallen@jewistulsa.org with questions.

RSVP at: csjcc.org/hiking-Nov2025

NEW AND RETURNING CLASSES!

Water Aerobics | Tuesdays 5:30 pm & Thursdays 10 am | Zarrow Point Indoor Pool

Back by popular demand! Water aerobics offers a low-impact exercise option that can relieve joint stress, improve heart health, muscle strength, and joint mobility in a fun, supportive environment, making it ideal for older adults and people recovering from an injury. Class is located at the Zarrow Pointe indoor pool. Please contact Laura Allen to sign the required waiver: lallen@jewishtulsa.org



Yoga | Tuesdays & Thursdays | 4:30 pm | Dance Studio

Yoga is back at the CSJCC! Sue Webb is a certified yoga instructor and mindfulness meditation teacher who specializes in creating welcoming spaces for all levels of practice. With training in trauma-informed yoga, clinical somatic movement, and over 25 years of studying yoga, Sue brings a calm, modern approach that blends balanced movement and mindful awareness. **All levels welcome.** All props are provided; you are welcome to bring your own mat.

Somatics Exercise: Experience the Body from Within | 6-weeks starting Wednesday, November 5 | 10:15 am | Dance Studio

Mobility, flexibility, injury recovery, relaxation, and balance. Discover how the brain restores comfort, relieves pain through easy, gentle conscious movement. All exercises are done on the floor or in a chair. Instructor Edward Barrera lived with Fibromyalgia in his 20s and 30s. He successfully overcame it and is a 25-year Hanna Somatic Educator. You can attend one class or the entire series! Purchase your punch card at the Fitness Desk.

Members: $10/class or $60/series | **Nonmembers:** $20/class or $120/series

DRIVE-THRU
FLU VACCINES

Saint Francis and Warren Clinic are offering convenient drive-thru flu vaccinations with online appointment scheduling.

Flu shots are available to those age 12 and older. The cost is covered by most insurance plans. High-dose flu vaccine is available to those age 65 and older.

WARREN CLINIC TOWER
NORTHWEST PARKING LOT
6600 S Yale Ave, Tulsa

DRIVE-THRU DATE:
Monday - Friday | 9 a.m. to 7 p.m.
Saturday | 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.
ENDS NOVEMBER 21

For location information and to schedule your vaccination, visit ***saintfrancis.com/flu***.

WarrenClinic

~ JOIN US ~
NOVEMBER 12
Special Reception
SACRED LAND

Reception on Wednesday, November 12, 4:30 pm
~ Exhibit on View Now ~

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.

~ EXHIBITIONS AND EVENTS ~

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.

As One WE SUPPORT

Highlighting Foundation support from 2024

2.89 MILLION in total funds raised

1.5 MILLION ANNUAL CAMPAIGN

107 Programs ▶ 6,024 total engagement

Why We Give //

"We are pleased to continue a commitment to the JFT Annual Campaign that our family has supported for generations. Our parents had the vision to establish the Don and Rita Newman Family Endowment Fund within the Jewish Federation of Tulsa's Foundation. Aided by these funds, we are honored to maintain an involvement in the JFT's ongoing efforts that sustain and enrich Jewish life in Tulsa and beyond."

– The Newman Family

As One WE EMPOWER

Teens combating antisemitism in schools **Student to Student**

- Jewish Student participation from School Year **2024** to current: **10**

Number of students who have received presentations:

- School year **2024:** **150** students
- School year **2025:** **51** students

At time of printing

STUDENT TO STUDENT

"Jewish Tulsa really is a place where you can grow from baby to bubbie. We started out just looking for community and now we're raising our daughter, Stella, in it. From Young Jewish Professionals (YJP) gatherings to PJ Library events, like apple picking, we're so grateful for everything that makes Jewish Tulsa feel like home. We have gained a community to belong to, friendships that feel like family, and now a place for Stella to grow up surrounded by Jewish traditions. We are proud to support the JFT campaign and hope to help others thrive in this community."

– The Falk Family

Falk Family at PJ Library event

"Moving to Tulsa has truly been a blessing for our young Jewish family. My husband and I always dreamed of raising our children in a close-knit community, and since we've arrived, it's been everything we hoped for and more. We've joined PJ Library, JMoms, and JDads, and the experience has been nothing short of magical. We've connected with so many incredible families and have built meaningful relationships that make us feel right at home in this vibrant Jewish community.
We're grateful for the warmth, support, and friendships that have made this transition so special!"

– Michelle Blachman

Building Jewish Identity **PJ Library**

195 Active Children

140 Active Families

PJ Library

BY THE NUMBERS–

- Jewish Camps and Immersion Scholarships: **$41,575.00**
- Camp Shalom 2025 Scholarships: Total funds: **$19,866.20**
- **2024**, the Jewish Federation of Tulsa Foundation proudly invested in **50+** organizations- strengthening our community ***As One***
- **SWIM FOR ALL 2025**:**139** kids enrolled
  - Target schools: McClure, Marshall, and Key Elementary TPS

- SMMJA numbers **(2024): 7,274** total visitors
  - **2,748** total number of student visitors
  - **321** total number of tours

As One WE ENGAGE

- Community Events: Film Festival, Social Action Days, JCC Tzedek Programming
- Intergenerational Connections: Tu B'Shevat Festival, Mahjong, Women's Philanthropy

- Total programs in **2024**
  - **107** programs ➢ **6,024** total engagement
  - **145** young adults participated in Jewish engagement programming

As One WE RESPOND

"In my role overseeing the Emergency Social Services Fund, I've seen more and more people in our community reaching out for help with groceries, rent, or utility bills. The JFT annual campaign makes it possible for us to step in quickly and offer support when it's most needed. Every donation truly makes a difference for families right here in Tulsa. Thank you to our donors who support this work." *– Falisha Brown*

- Support for community members needing emergency assistance
- School supply drive—supported 3 local schools in 2025
- Combatting Antisemitism

"Rising antisemitism requires both a policy response and a community response. On the policy side, clear definitions, reporting pathways, and accountability measures help ensure that hate is addressed consistently. At the same time, the Jewish Federation's work: educating the broader public, supporting those impacted by incidents, coordinating with law enforcement and community partners, and strengthening security – translates policy into real protection and resilience. Together, these approaches signal that hate has no home here and that Jewish Tulsa stands united against antisemitism." *– Jacob Parra*

Sen. Kristen Thompson and Rep. Emily Gise at Legislator's Luncheon

DONATE TO OUR ANNUAL CAMPAIGN TODAY!

- Our Campaign goal: 1.5 M

Building Community, together

As One

Scan here or online at

JewishTulsa.org/**donate**

THANK YOU!

MEET THE MIZEL JCDS 2025-26 FACULTY AND STAFF

by Amanda Anderson, Executive Director

Mizel Jewish Community Day School continues to grow as a thriving hub of academic excellence, Jewish values, and joyful learning. This year, Mizel proudly welcomes 60 students in grades PreK–5 and an additional 12 students in our two-year-old program, the Turtle Room toddler program, our largest in recent years, and a vibrant student body.

At Mizel Jewish Community Day School, our educators and staff are dedicated to inspiring curiosity, building confidence, and nurturing meaningful connections—ensuring that every child grows, learns, and shines both in and beyond the classroom.

Skilynn Billings: Toddler (Tzavim – "Turtles") Teacher

Skilynn joins Mizel as our Toddler Lead Teacher in the two-year-old room. With experience working at Camp Shalom, she creates a joyful, caring environment where toddlers thrive through play, exploration, and love.

Lauren Drover: Prekindergarten (Katan) Teacher

With 24 years of experience in education, Lauren has been an integral part of Mizel JCDS since 2013. Having grown up attending Camp Shalom since she was three, she brings deep community roots and a nurturing touch to Mizel's youngest learners.

Chelsea Sexton: Prekindergarten (Katan) Assistant Teacher

Chelsea, who has homeschooled her entire life, has partnered with Morah Drover since 2017. She loves traveling and family time and is thrilled to have her children, Tommy and Piper, attending Mizel this year.

Hannah Basham: Prekindergarten (Katan) Assistant Teacher

Hannah joins Mizel JCDS with experience as a camp counselor at Whiteside Community Center, where she developed engaging programs that encouraged teamwork and creativity. She loves working with children in both classroom and camp settings and brings her passion for the outdoors, learning, and hands-on activities to Mizel students..

Gigi Grimes: Kindergarten (Gan) Teacher

A certified Early Childhood–8th grade teacher with a Science of Teaching Reading (SOR) credential, Gigi is passionate about helping children discover the power of reading. Since joining Mizel in 2022, she has helped countless students develop strong literacy skills and confidence.

Jodi Pass: 1st Grade (Aleph) Teacher

With 25 years of experience, a Master's in Literacy and Special Education, and Peace Corps service in Ethiopia, Jodi brings a wealth of global and instructional expertise. She joined Mizel JCDS in 2024 and supports both students and teachers in their growth.

Jennifer Solis: 2nd Grade (Bet) & 3rd Grade (Gimmel) Teacher

Jennifer holds degrees in Religion and Special Education and is certified in Elementary and Special Education. Since joining Mizel in 2024, she has helped build inclusive, student-centered classrooms that celebrate every learner.

Shelley Diamond: 4th Grade (Dalet) & 5th Graade (Hay) Teacher

As Mizel's English Language Development Specialist, Shelley brings over 15 years of experience in K–12 and higher education. She holds dual master's degrees in English Literature and History and previously taught Jewish studies at B'nai Emunah. Her classes make language learning meaningful and joyful.

Trisha Zielinski: Librarian + Reading Specialist

Trisha, our Reading Specialist, holds a Master's in Reading from Northeastern State University. With over 25 years of experience—including founding a private school and homeschool co-op—she brings expertise, compassion, and a passion for literacy to Mizel.

Shira Sachs: Hebrew & Judaic Studies Teacher

With a background in Jewish Studies and seven years of experience at Vancouver Talmud Torah, Shira teaches Hebrew and Judaic Studies with warmth and creativity. She inspires students to connect deeply with Jewish life and language.

Emily Carpenter: Art & STEM Teacher

Emily brings over eight years of experience from Tulsa Public Schools, where she served as a Teacher Leader and Teacher of the Year semifinalist. She also worked as an Education Specialist at the Tulsa Zoo, blending science, creativity, and hands-on learning.

Trinity Hammond: Music Teacher

A lifelong musician and percussionist, Trinity brings rhythm, movement, and confidence to Mizel's music program. She also teaches swim lessons and enjoys helping children find joy in creative expression and teamwork.

Charria Lane: Café Morah

Known as our "Cafeteria Extraordinaire," Charria brings laughter, music, and heart to Mizel every day. Her energy and dedication make the lunchroom a space for connection, kindness, and community.

(Continued)

MIZEL JEWISH COMMUNITY DAY SCHOOL

(Mizel Staff Continued)

Keri Jenkins: Physical Education + School Operations & Support Coordinator

A Tulsa native and OSU graduate, Keri specializes in Early Childhood Education, Youth Nutrition, and Physical Fitness. As Mizel's PE and Health Specialist, she promotes wellness, teamwork, and active learning through fun, engaging activities.

Amanda Anderson, Executive Director

Amanda holds three degrees from the University of Oklahoma—Elementary Education, Math Specialist, and Instructional Leadership & Administration. Since joining Mizel JCDS in 2021, she has guided the school with excellence, compassion, and a vision for continued growth and innovation.

At Mizel Jewish Community Day School, learning is joyful, relationships are strong, and every child shines. As we look forward to another inspiring school year, we celebrate the educators and staff who make our classrooms come alive with curiosity, creativity, and compassion. Their dedication ensures that every student feels seen, supported, and challenged to reach their fullest potential. Together with our families and community partners, we continue to build a school where children love to learn, and where a sense of belonging and Jewish pride flourish every day.

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WORKING4GOOD: THE SHINING HONOR PROJECT

by Erin Wambold, Executive Director of the Shining Honor Project

My name is Erin Wambold, and I'm proud to serve as Executive Director of the Shining Honor Project (SHP)—a mission close to my heart since its founding in 2017. As a longtime advocate for people with developmental challenges and mental health needs, and as someone whose family has served in the military, leading SHP feels deeply personal. Every day, I have the privilege of helping two groups I care deeply about: individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities and our nation's Veterans.

At its core, the Shining Honor Project enriches lives. We create meaningful, therapeutic opportunities for adults with developmental challenges while paying tribute to Veterans who have served our country. Through our partnerships, participants lovingly clean and restore Veterans' headstones—an act of service that honors the fallen while empowering those who serve them.

Our work is built on two powerful beliefs:

- Everyone deserves the dignity and pride that come from meaningful work.
- Every veteran deserves to be remembered and honored.

Today, SHP proudly partners with incredible Oklahoma organizations including Gatesway Foundation, A New Leaf, Ability Works, Incor, and Home of Hope. Together, we form "Honor Teams", small groups of dedicated workers and a job coach, who travel to cemeteries, wear SHP uniforms, and bring honor and beauty back to the resting places of heroes. Each team member earns above minimum wage, develops confidence and independence, and experiences firsthand the pride of a job that truly matters.

The results have been extraordinary. Across Oklahoma and Montana, thousands of Veterans' headstones have been lovingly cleaned, each one a visible act of gratitude and remembrance.

One of my favorite stories is about two Honor Team members who, after several months in the program, proudly announced that they were ready to "graduate."

"The gratitude we receive from families of both Veterans and team members keeps me inspired."

One applied for a job at an industrial site, and the other at a restaurant. Their courage and confidence were the clearest proof of SHP's impact.

The gratitude we receive from families of both Veterans and team members keeps me inspired. Every note, every phone call reminds me how powerful this work truly is—it connects people, heals hearts, and restores dignity.

(Continued on p. 29)

New Series

Working4Good is a new series highlighting members in our community dedicating their lives to improving our community. If you wish to nominate someone for a Working4Good feature, please contact Sandy Sloan, sandy@jewishtulsa.org.

Honor Team members posing alongside a special Veteran plot

Memorial Day gatherings at Glacier Memorial Gardens in Kalispell, Montana

Honor Team members in action cleaning Veteran memorial markers

738 DAYS

Reprinted courtesy of Jewish Federations of North America

October 13, 2025 is a day of hope and, we pray, the beginning of healing for the hostages, their families, and all of Israel.

For 738 days, 48 out of 250 people kidnapped from Israel have been held in captivity by Hamas terrorists, in horrific conditions.

Through 18 major Jewish holidays and 105 Shabbat dinners, Jewish families in Israel and around the world had empty chairs at our tables, yellow ribbons on our lapels, and fractures in our hearts.

Each of those 1 million minutes was filled with anguish and uncertainty — wondering if the hostages would live or die, knowing that the Jewish people were incomplete without them.

Today, we rejoice as the 20 surviving hostages come home to their loved ones and finally fill the empty chairs at our tables and begin mending our broken hearts. Jewish Federations across North America and Jews everywhere celebrate this long-awaited moment of relief and joy, standing in solidarity with the families and the people of Israel.

We welcome the long-awaited return of:

Matan Angrest

Gali Berman

Ziv Berman

Elkana Bohbot

Rom Braslavski

Nimrod Cohen

Ariel Cunio

David Cunio

Guy Gilboa-Dalal

Evyatar David

Maxim Herkin

Eitan Horn

Segev Kalfon

Bar Kuperstein

Omri Miran

Eitan Mor

Yosef-Haim Ohana

Alon Ohel

Avinatan Or

Matan Zangauker

We also mourn the indelible loss of 28 people who faced down Hamas with heroism and bravery but did not survive captivity, whose bodies are expected to return home in the coming hours and days. We pray for their families and loved ones to be able to give them the proper burial they deserve. May they be comforted among all the mourners of Zion.

We honor the resilience of the hostages and their families and continue to pray for all whose lives have been shattered by terror. They built their cause into a social movement that has garnered support across the globe and never wavered.

We also take this moment to recognize the enormous sacrifice and service of Israel's soldiers and their families, who put their time, their economic well-being, their bodies, and their lives on the line to protect Israel during this horrific period. We mourn the loss of 915 soldiers who died as they fought successfully to get the hostages home and defeat Israel's enemies.

We are grateful to President Trump and his negotiators whose tireless efforts made this day possible.

May this moment mark the beginning of comfort and renewal for the people of Israel and the Jewish people everywhere. ■

STILL NEIGHBORS: HOLDING RELATIONSHIP IN A FRACTURED WORLD

by Joe Roberts, Executive Director

In a year defined by war, grief, and rupture, it is tempting to believe that relationship is no longer possible. That the divides are too deep. That the pain is too personal. That those who see the world differently are better left behind. The war in Israel and Gaza has torn through lives and communities. It has tested the foundations of friendships, institutions, and families. And while the return of the hostages and a fragile ceasefire offer a sliver of hope, the political horizon to true and lasting peace remains unclear at best.

In this fragile space, after the shouting, after the silence, when trust is scarce and sorrow runs deep, the most radical thing two people can do is stay in the room together.

On Thursday, November 20, at 7:00 PM, the Jewish Federation of Tulsa and the University of Tulsa will present a conversation between two such people: Joe Roberts, Executive Director of the Jewish Federation of Tulsa, and Ihab Hassan, a Palestinian peace activist and human rights advocate. They are not coming to debate. They are not here to resolve geopolitics. They are coming together because they haven't stopped talking, not even through two years of brutal war. They have held on to friendship, even when every external force suggested letting go.

> *"But both believe that the work of building something better must begin with the decision not to walk away."*

This public event, titled *Still Neighbors: Holding Relationship in a Fractured World*, is not a scripted performance or a feel-good gesture. It is something deeper, harder, and more necessary. It is a demonstration of what it looks like to maintain connection when trust is strained, when convictions diverge, when even the word "peace" feels complicated.

Joe and Ihab do not agree on everything. They come from different stories, different losses, different commitments. But both believe that the work of building something better must begin with the decision not to walk away. Their conversation will explore how they've stayed in relationship through the darkest months of the war, how they've navigated deep moral disagreements, and how they've found shared purpose without shared politics.

This is not an easy conversation. It is not meant to be. It is a space for grief, for tension, and for courage. It is a chance to witness two people hold space for one another without giving up what they believe. And it is a challenge to the rest of us—to consider what it might mean to do the same.

The questions they will explore are not abstract. They are urgent. How do we mourn our dead without turning away from the pain of others? How do we pursue justice without forfeiting compassion? Can friendship survive this moment? Can dignity? And what does it really mean to work toward peace, even when you are not sure how to get there?

For those feeling exhausted by slogans, worn down by outrage, or quietly unsure of what to say next, this evening is for you. For those longing to see what it looks like to disagree with decency, to speak with clarity and care, to stay present when it's easier to disappear, this conversation is an invitation.

It will not solve the conflict. But it may remind us what is still possible. That we can remain neighbors. That we can stay human. That even now, there is another way to be in the world.

Still Neighbors: Holding Relationship in a Fractured World

Thursday, November 20 | 7:00 PM

Location provided upon registration
Free and open to the public

RSVP: JewishTulsa.org/neighbors

Peace does not begin with treaties. It begins with two people sitting down, refusing to give up on each other. ■

Ihab Hassan

Joe Roberts

FIGHT HATE. RESPECT DIVERSITY. PROTECT DEMOCRACY

by Nancy Pettus, SB1671 Professional Development Consultant

Oklahoma Holocaust Educators Visit United States Holocaust Memorial Museum to Deepen Historical Understanding and Promote Human Rights Education

Washington, D.C. — July 11-14, 2025 — A group of 8 Oklahoma educators traveled to the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum (USHMM) in Washington, D.C. this summer for an immersive professional development experience focused on Holocaust history, the dangers of unchecked hatred, and the importance of teaching historical truths.

These educators were chosen for their commitment to fostering inclusive learning environments and strengthening their ability to teach complex and sensitive historical topics. The experience included tours of the USHMM's permanent exhibition, the National Museum of African American History and Culture, and collaborative sessions exploring facilitated best practices for classroom use.

"Every time I visit the USHMM, I come away with a deeper understanding of how hate impacts us all" said Kimberly McKinley, 11th-12th grade history teacher at Broken Arrow High School. " The temporary exhibit over 'America and the Holocaust' helped me better understand how our country is impacted by events taking place in other parts of the world" stated McKinley. She also expressed the importance that all educators should encourage students to look beyond their communities to have a true global understanding of the world in which we live.

The USHMM, a living memorial to the victims of the Holocaust, serves as a powerful educational resource and a call to action. Educators explored historical artifacts, personal testimonies, and evidence documenting the rise of Nazi Germany, the systematic persecution and genocide of European Jews, and the broader context of global responses to the Holocaust.

The visit to the National Museum of African American History and Culture offered educators a multifaceted look at the African American experience—from slavery and segregation to cultural achievements and modern-day social justice movements. The museum's rich array of exhibits and interactive galleries allowed participants to connect with history through personal stories, primary sources, and cultural artifacts.

Educators described the experience as a crucial step in improving how they address issues of race, identity, and systemic inequality in their classrooms.

The trip was organized and sponsored by SB1671 Oklahoma Holocaust Legislation Coalition to equip teachers with resources to combat antisemitism, racism, and all forms of hatred through education.

"This experience reaffirmed our belief that historical literacy and moral courage go hand-in-hand," said Michelle Hilterbran. "Our group returns home not only better informed but also deeply motivated to empower our students to be upstanders in their communities." ■

Educator Misty Boston views the tile wall created by children in remembrance of the 1.5 million children killed in the Holocaust

Outside USHMM. L-R Michelle Hilterbran; Diane Huff, John Dixon, Nancy Pettus, Shannon Daye, Drew Diamond, Kelly Cook, Derek Collins. Missing from picture: Misty Boston, Kim McKinley

CELEBRATE SIMCHAS!

Jack Spencer Drouin, son of Sarah and Jeffrey Drouin, will become a Bar Mitzvah on the 17th of Cheshvan, 5786, Saturday, November 8th, at Congregation B'nai Emunah. Mazel Tov Jack!

See page 28 for more details.

Big Al's junk removal and clean-outs is a newly launched Jewish business owned by Alex Moskowitz. Big Al's provides a variety of services for both commercial and residential clients. Whether you need a parking lot cleaned up, garage/ storage unit cleaned out, trash pickup and haul off, or even that old chicken coop taken care of, Big Al is your friend with a pickup truck and a trailer. New customers who mention seeing our Simcha will receive a 25% discount on their first service. No job too BIG or small, just give Big Al a call! (918) 639-3745. Mazel Tov Alex on your new endeavor!

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

TWO LOCAL YOUNG JEWISH PROFESSIONALS OPEN BYGONE

Micah Cash and Grant Bumgarner grew up together in Tulsa. They became friends through BBYO and through their participation in the Speech and Debate program as students at Booker T. Washington High School. Each of them went away to college. Micah attended Stanford University in California and Columbia University in New York. Grant attended Northwestern University in Illinois. Both of them have now made their way back to Tulsa and are engaged participants in both the Jewish and larger Tulsa community.

Grant works as the Director of Experience Tulsa, a division of the George Kaiser Family Foundation, and Micah works as a teacher and Speech and Debate coach at his alma mater, Booker T. Micah serves on the board of trustees of B'nai Emunah. Grant serves on the board of trustees of Temple Israel and on the boards of the Nature Conservancy and the Oklahoma chapter of the Alzheimer's Association.

Despite their very busy schedules, they have followed their passion for print and have opened up a pop-up magazine shop called Bygone in the Arts District of downtown Tulsa. Bygone stocks both new and vintage magazines as well as publications of particlocal interest. From decades old Life, Look, Mad, and National Geographic magazines to current issues of literary, decor and arts magazines, as well as many others, there is something for everyone who loves to read. Tote bags and hats with the Bygone logo are also available for purchase.

BYGONE, a pop-up magzine shop

Micah and Grant hope that you will stop by for conversation, to browse their stock, and perhaps find a treasure. Because it is a pop-up, Bygone will only be open until the end of 2025, so don't delay your visit. Their tagline is: Bygone is a pop-up; Print is eternal.

Come visit their shop at 216 North Main Street. They are open on Thursdays and Fridays from 5:30-9:30 PM, on Saturdays from 10:00 AM-2:30 PM and 5:30-9:30 PM and on Sundays from 10:00 AM-2:00 PM. ■

THE JEWISH MOTHER OF WOMAN'S BASKETBALL ©

by Phil Goldfarb

Senda Berenson Abbott was a trailblazer and is called the "Mother of Women's Basketball." She was the author of the first Basketball Guide for Women (1901–07), became the first woman enshrined in the Basketball Hall of Fame in 1985, the International Jewish Sports Hall of Fame in 1987, and the Women's Basketball Hall of Fame in 1999.

She was born on March 19, 1868 as Senda Valvrojenski to Albert Valvrojenski (1846-1928) and Judith Mickleshanski Valvrojenski (1847-1938) in Butrimonys, Vilnius, Lithuania to a Jewish family. Her father Albert grew up following an educational track of classical Jewish learning and contemplated becoming a rabbi. However, he became a practitioner of Haskalah, a European movement which advocated more integration of Jews into secular society. After his home and lumber business were burned to the ground, he decided to move to the United States, traveling alone in 1874 to Boston and became a peddler of pots and pans, selling his wares in nearby towns. Albert changed his surname to Berenson soon after his arrival as part of his "Westernization." After months of work, he sent for his family. Senda was seven-years-old when she immigrated to Boston in 1875 with her mother, older brother Bernard, and younger brother Abie. In 1880, Albert Berenson became a Naturalized citizen, making the entire family American citizens.

Senda did not have much interest in athletics as a child and preferred music, literature, and art. She was "frail and delicate" in her childhood, which interfered with her schooling, as she was partially home-schooled by her father and attended Boston Latin Academy, but did not graduate. She briefly attended the Boston Conservatory of Music, but health issues forced her to leave the school. She tried painting and the piano, but her health limited both; she was unable to keep up the practice.

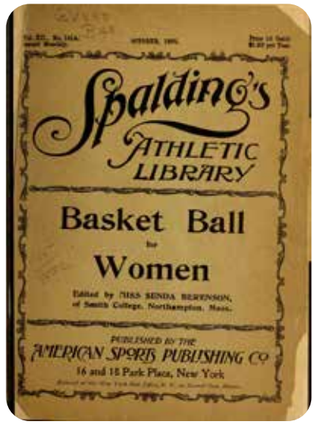
In an effort to improve her strength and vigor, she attended the Boston Normal School of Gymnastics in Boston from 1890 to 1892. There she was trained in anatomy, physiology, and hygiene to teach gymnastics. At age twenty-three, she began her teaching career at Smith College.

Berenson arrived at Smith which had recently completed the Alumnae Gymnasium in 1890, that provided some of the best facilities in the country for college women. Although the physical facilities were in fine shape, the notion that women should engage in team sports, physical exercise or physical activity much less be required to do so, was not then well-established and deemed as too strenuous. They did participate in individual sports such as horseback riding, hiking, rowing, swimming, golf, fencing, archery, and tennis.

In 1892, after Berenson realized that the gymnastic exercises were not as popular as she had originally thought, she looked for alternatives. Within a year after joining the staff at Smith College, Berenson read about a new game then called "Basket Ball" that had been invented as a class exercise for boys. She observed the game being played at the YMCA Training Center in Springfield and attended a physical education conference at Yale University. At that convention, she met the game's inventor, Dr. James Naismith, and received his encouragement to adopt the sport as a team exercise for her female students.

Other attempts at teaching games had not succeeded, in part because the women of that time had no experience with team play. Initial games were played in class in the spring of 1892. Instead of the peach baskets used in the first men's game, the goals in the first women's game were fashioned from waste baskets.

The response was so positive that she scheduled a game between the freshman and sophomore classes. That game in which she refereed the first official game of woman's basketball was played on March 22, 1893, and was played with Naismith rules. The players wore bloomers, and as a matter of decorum, no men were allowed to watch the games, The players all wore blue uniforms, adorned by an armband with the color associated with their class. The score was 5-4 in favor of the sophomores after a close contest of two 15-minute halves.



While competition with other schools was discouraged, she did promote competition among classes and established a tradition of interclass games. The atmosphere at the games was noisy, but enthusiasm was expressed by singing. Shouting would result in the discontinuation of the game.

Berenson was pleased with the reception to the game but felt some

(Continued)

(Basketball continued from p. 25)

changes were needed. She thought the game had a "tendency to roughness", so she sat down with her class to discuss how to modify the rules. She divided the court into three regions and prohibited players from leaving their assigned region. Players could not dribble more than three times, hold the ball for more than three seconds, or snatch the ball from an opponent.

Berenson viewed the sport as "a complete educational experience" and did not allow players to play if they failed in subjects as the importance of education was paramount. Players were required to wear their hair in braids or ribbons to maintain a tidy appearance. She encouraged responsibility by naming captains, who helped serve as coaches for the players.

The Division of Girls' and Women's Sports of the American Association for Health, Physical Education and Recreation (the forerunner of the National Association for Girls and Women in Sports) felt the need for a written set of rules specifically applicable to the women's game and asked Berenson to undertake a publication outlining the rules. Berenson formalized her rules into a set of official rules – *Line Basketball or Basket Ball for Women*, often referred to as *Basket Ball for Women*. In 1901, the Spalding Library published the rules with Berenson as editor and would continue to publish them for eighteen years. Berenson organized the United States Basket Ball Committee in 1905, where she served as chairman until 1917. The rules would remain in use with only minor modification until the 1960s.

In 1911, she married a professor of English at Smith, Herbert Vaughan Abbott (1865-1929). Soon afterward, Berenson resigned from her position, although she continued her interest in sport by serving as the Director of Physical Education at the Burham School located in Northampton, Massachusetts where she remained until 1921.

Senda Berenson died in Santa Barbara, California, on February 16, 1954 and is buried in the Woodlawn Cemetery, New Windsor, NY. ■

The next Jewish Genealogy Society meeting will be on
Sunday, November 16th at 2:00 pm
in the Dan Room of the CSJCC.
Professor Miriam Bellmaker from the University of Tulsa will give a talk on: "That Which Came Before . . . Tracing Family from Poland Back to 1750." Miriam will explain with examples how to research, how names changed, how confusing it can get, and how to overcome it!

Butterflies

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Arlene Roberts

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

Seventeenth Street Deli
Sunday, November 9 | 5:30 p.m.

Indulge in the delectable offerings of the Seventeenth Street Deli, where our kitchen crafts dishes with a perfect blend of slow cures, a touch of pepper, and heaps of love. Our much-loved pop-up restaurant invites you to enjoy both dine-in and take-out dinner services. Ensure your place in this culinary experience by pre-registering at www.tulsadeli.org and choose from our delightful pastrami, corned beef, or deli egg salad options.

Lifelong Learners at Zarrow Pointe
Wednesday, November 12 | 12:00 p.m. lunch, 1:00 p.m. seminar

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. Following lunch, 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 event registration.

Shabbat Shalom: Musical Circle, Dinner and Shabbat Talks
Friday, November 14 | 5:30 p.m.

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

Behind the Lifecyle: Weddings
Sunday, November 16 | 10:00 a.m.

Too often, we only think about Jewish lifecycle events when they arrive at our doorstep. Behind the Lifecycle is a new series designed to take a step back and explore these moments before we encounter them in real time. Each session will focus on a different stage of life, weaving together traditional sources, contemporary practice, and practical guidance to help us make thoughtful, informed choices.

Booksmart: *Brigands & Breadknives* with Travis Baldree
Monday, November 17 | 7:00 p.m.

Magic City Books and The Synagogue welcome New York Times best-selling author Travis Baldree to celebrate his latest book in the Legends & Lattes series, *Brigands & Breadknives*. In addition to being a bestselling and award-winning author, Baldree is also an audiobook narrator and video game developer. For more information about this ticketed event, please visit magiccitybooks.com/events.

Blatt + Blue: Auction (2024)
Thursday, November 20 | 7:00 p.m.

When Parisian auctioneer Andre learns that a long-lost Egon Schiele painting looted by Nazis is hanging in a small town worker's home, he pays a visit and verifies its authenticity. The film skewers the absurdities of the big money art market while converging historical and moral questions with welcome optimism. Visit tulsagogue.com/events for more information regarding the movie selection and viewing options. Join us for our conversation at 7:00 p.m. on Zoom (918 583 7121). Newcomers are welcome to join the dialogue.

Bibi Dibi – Shabbat for Little Ones
Friday, November 21 | 5:30 p.m.

Join us for a Shabbat gathering crafted for babies and their families. Revel in the joy of singing songs, playing games, and savoring a delightful Shabbat dinner. It's an excellent opportunity to establish and embrace your own family traditions. While no reservation is required for the celebration, please secure your spot for the meal through event registration.

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.

Bar Mitzvah of Jack Drouin

Jack Spencer Drouin, son of Sarah and Jeffrey Drouin, will become a Bar Mitzvah on the 17th of Cheshvan, 5786, Saturday, November 8th, at Congregation B'nai Emunah.

Jack is a 7th-grade student at Carver Middle School, where he is on the school baseball team, plays saxophone in the band, and participates in academic bowl. When not immersed in video games and playing with friends, he is an active member of Boy Scout Troop 20. Jack has attended B'nai Emunah Sunday school since kindergarten. For the past year, he has been preparing for his Bar Mitzvah under the tutoring and the guidance of Morah Sara Levitt.

As he leads the Shabbat service, Jack will be surrounded by his family and friends, including his brother, Charlie, and out-of-town family from Massachusetts, the District of Columbia, Washington state, Florida, New Jersey, and New York. Jack is the grandson of Judy Schechtman and the late Edward De Vos of Newton, MA, Phyllis Brawarsky and Noah Fasten of Brookline, MA, and Barbara and Donald Drouin of Naples, FL.

The community is invited to join the Drouin family for services at 9:30 a.m. in person at Congregation B'nai Emunah or in the Synagogue Zoom Room. The meeting ID is 918-583-7121. ■

THE SACRED FOUNDATIONS OF A JEWISH COMMUNITY

by Rabbi Daniel Kaiman

In the Talmud, the rabbis describe what it takes to build a Jewish community. A town, they say, must have a court to uphold justice, a school for children, a doctor and a bloodletter, a scribe, a ritual slaughterer, and even a fruit market — because, as Rabbi Akiva adds, "varieties of fruit illuminate the eyes." The list is practical, but it points to something deeper: a Jewish community must be able to sustain both body and soul.

Later tradition expands that list and teaches that two other institutions are indispensable — a mikveh and a *chevra kadisha*. The *mikveh*, the ritual bath, allows for new beginnings: conversion, marriage, renewal, and return. The *chevra kadisha*, the burial society, ensures that every person is treated with dignity and care at the end of life. Together, they mark the sacred boundaries of human experience — the capacity to enter and to depart in holiness.

At The Synagogue | Congregation B'nai Emunah, we take that teaching seriously. Our *Community Mikveh* and *Chevra Kadisha* serve not only our members but also serve as resources for the entire Jewish community of Tulsa and beyond. We see ourselves as caretakers of these shared treasures, ensuring that anyone who needs them can find comfort and care within our walls.

The Chevra Kadisha, facilitated through The Synagogue, quietly serves whenever Jewish burial traditions are needed anywhere in Tulsa. Volunteers gather with reverence to perform the taharah — washing and preparing the deceased while reciting ancient prayers that affirm the dignity of every human life.

The *Mikveh* serves the other end of that sacred continuum — moments of renewal and transformation. It's where conversions take place, where families celebrate milestones, and where individuals prepare for holidays or personal transitions. People come not only from Tulsa, but from across Oklahoma, northwest Arkansas, and southwest Missouri to immerse themselves in its waters.

Pickleball courts and swimming pools certainly have their place in Jewish life — they bring joy and connection. But the Talmud reminds us that a community isn't complete without the communal resources that sustain the sacred: the capacity to care for one another in life, in death, and in every holy moment in between. These quiet acts of service are sustained by volunteers and community support, ensuring these sacred traditions endure. At The Synagogue, we're honored to be stewards of these resources for the entire Jewish community of Tulsa. ■

(Work4Good continued from p. 19)

Beyond cemetery service, our Honor Teams proudly march in Tulsa's Veterans Day Parade, celebrate with group gatherings and appreciation parties, and help place flags on Memorial Day, Independence Day, and Veterans Day.

As we look ahead, we're hoping to bring this life-changing model to even more organizations and communities. None of this would be possible without the incredible support of our donors, volunteers, and partners. Together, we're honoring Veterans and uplifting lives.

Learn more or get involved at shininghonor.org, or by email ErinW@shininghonor.org. ■

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!

Time For Learning* • Sat., Nov. 1 • 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, October 31. Learning will take place in the Activity Space at the Temple Offices.

Shabbat Service in person, on Zoom & Facebook Live • Fri., Nov. 7 • 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 with Torah in person, on Zoom & Facebook Live • Fri., Nov. 14 • 7:30 p.m.
Join us as we welcome in Shabbat with the chanting of Torah. Stay afterwards for a sweet oneg.

Jukebox Classics Dance – A Brotherhood/Sisterhood Event • Sat., Nov. 15 • 6:30 p.m.-9:00 p.m. Havdalah begins at 6:45 p.m.
Put on your dancing shoes and come to the Jewish Federation to hear music from the 50's through the 80's. We'll have a DJ playing all the hits, hors d'oeuvres provided by Phenomenal Flavors, wine and assorted beverages. Plus, we will have two games, Jenga and Cornhole set up for your enjoyment. Cost is $30.00 per person.

Zarrow Pointe Shabbat Service* • Fri., Nov. 21 • 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.

Social Justice Shabbat & Anniversary Shabbat Service in person, on Zoom & Facebook Live • Fri., Nov. 21• 6:00 p.m.
Each year, the TI Social Justice Committee hosts an important Shabbat focused on community mitzvot. Join us for this important occasion. We will also celebrate significant November anniversaries. Stay for a sweet oneg afterwards.

Shabbat Service in person, on Zoom & Facebook Live • Fri., Nov. 28 • 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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CARRYING OUR TEMPLE COMMUNITY FORWARD

by Temple Israel's NextDor Project Leadership Team

Temple Israel prepares to move its Ten Commandments sculpture—and its enduring values—into a new spiritual home.

For more than half a century, Temple Israel's **Ten Commandments sculpture** has stood as a familiar presence on the Tulsa landscape. It has been a reminder of enduring faith, community, and continuity. Now, as the congregation prepares to move that sculpture to its new home, we are not only preserving a cherished symbol of Jewish life in Tulsa but also stepping boldly into a new era.

This fall marks a major milestone in Temple Israel's **NextDor** project, as we move closer to constructing a new synagogue building designed to honor our past while meeting the needs of the next generation.

We have partnered with **Finegold Alexander Architects**, a Boston-based firm recognized nationally for its innovative approach to sacred architecture. Their work blends tradition and modernity — values that lie at the core of this project and of Temple Israel itself.

Our new building represents both change and continuity. It will provide a welcoming, modern home for worship, learning, and celebration, while preserving the symbols and stories that define who we are.

THE JOURNEY OF A TULSA ICON

At the center of this transformation is the **Ten Commandments sculpture**, a **well-known feature of Tulsa's landscape** and a visible expression of Jewish presence in the city for more than half a century.

The sculpture will be **carefully relocated to the new building**, where it will again serve as a beacon of faith and community. In its new setting, it will anchor the east-facing side of the sanctuary, visible through tall, floor-to-ceiling windows — linking our congregation's history with its unfolding future.

BLENDING TRADITION AND INNOVATION

From the outset, our vision has been to weave together **the old and the new**. The Ten Commandments sculpture is the most visible example of that continuity, but many other beloved elements from our previous home will also find renewed life in the new building.

At the same time, the design embraces the future, incorporating **state-of-the-art technology, energy-efficient systems**, and adaptable spaces that can serve a range of purposes. Our work is focused on ensuring that Temple Israel remains vibrant, functional, and forward-looking for decades to come.

The new **sanctuary** will feature a soaring ceiling, abundant natural light, and flexible seating that can shift between intimate Shabbat worship and larger holiday gatherings. It will also include newly commissioned **Jewish art**, such as a custom **Ner Tamid (Eternal Light)**. Even as we move into a new space, the flame of our faith will continue to shine brightly.

A CENTER FOR LEARNING AND COMMUNITY

The new **Beit Midrash**, our "house of study," will offer space for learning, smaller worship services, and community programs. This room embodies the heart of Jewish life — study, conversation, and the ongoing search for meaning.

At the core of the building will be the **Community Court**, where memory and innovation meet. The yahrzeit plaques from our former home will be installed here, alongside a new **digital history display** that tells the story of Temple Israel through photographs and artifacts from across the decades (including confirmation class portraits dating back to our earliest years).

A WELCOMING PRESENCE

Outside, the building's **striking design** will make a bold statement about the strength and resilience of Jewish life in Tulsa. A covered **porte-cochère** will provide a weather-protected entrance, leading to a **Sacred Garden**—a quiet outdoor space for reflection, situated in the shadow of the Ten Commandments sculpture.

Temple Israel is currently reviewing bids from local contractors and expects to **begin construction before Thanksgiving**. A community-wide groundbreaking is planned for later this fall, with the dedication of the new building anticipated toward the end of 2026.

As we carry the Ten Commandments sculpture — a symbol of our covenant and our continuity — into a new home, we are reminded that while buildings may change, the values they embody endure. The NextDor project is more than construction; it is a reaffirmation of who we are, and a promise of who we are yet to become.

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

November Closings

Charles Schusterman Jewish Community Center

Wednesday 11/26.....Closed at 5 pm
Thursday 11/27 ..... Closed All Day
Friday 11/28 ..... Open 12 - 5 pm

Wednesday 11/26..... Closed at 12 pm
Thursday & Friday 11/27-28 ...Closed All Day

Camp Shalom

SCHOOL'S OUT THANKSGIVING BREAK CAMP

November 24 - 26
8:30am - 4:30pm | $55 per day
Ages 3-K & 1st-10th grades
Limited Space - Register Online