TULSA Jewish Review

Iyar/Sivan 5786
May 2026

The Magic of Jewish Summer Camp

Inside this issue:

- Meet our summer Shlichim
- Host an Israeli counselor

"The arts at Holland Hall have taught me to be confident in myself, and it's a great creative outlet."
— Student from the Class of 2026

"The faculty not only encourages excellence but has built a diverse community culture, with a tradition of daily discipline and integrity on and off the track."
— Student from the Class of 2027

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— Ashlee Lowry, Director of College Counseling

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May 2026
Iyar/Sivan 5786
Volume 98 | Number 5

Contents

5 **Director's Corner** by Joe Roberts
6 **Jewish Federation of Tulsa Upcoming Events**
8 **Welcome New Staff**
10 **Charles Schusterman Jewish Community Center Upcoming Events**
12 **Community, Camp, Connection: Meet our Summer Shlichim** by Sandy Sloan
13 **Host a Shlichim**
14 **The Sherwin Miller Museum of Jewish Art Exhibits and Events**
15 **The Royale Diamond Gala | October 25, 2026**
16 **A Family Tradition: The Brouse Legacy Finds a Home at Jewish Tulsa** by Sandy Sloan
18 **Rooted in Israel: A Journey from Student to Jewish Professional** by Sarah Howman
19 **Never Again Starts in the Classroom** by Ginnie Graham
20 **A Celebration of Storytelling: OKJFF Wraps Its 12th Year** by Sandy Sloan
21 **Zarrow Pointe Butterflies**
22 **The Jewish Jenner©** by Phil Goldfarb
24 **Congregation B'nai Emunah - Events Calendar**
26 **Temple Israel - Events Calendar**
27 **Finding Meaning in Los Angeles** by Sydney Gebhardt
28 **Annual Pet Campaign 2026**

Editor's Note: The title of Phil Goldfarb's April article was inadvertently missing from the print version of the Tulsa Jewish Review. His article was titled: "The Tulsa Rabbi on the U.S. Postage Stamp" © (pg. 22-23). We apologize for the error.

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May Shabbat Candle Lighting Times

Friday, May 1. . . . . 7:54 pm
Friday, May 8. . . . . 8:00 pm
Friday, May 15 . . . . . 8:05 pm
Friday, May 22 . . . . . 8:11 pm
Friday, May 29 . . . . . 8:16 pm

Tulsa Jewish Review

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Front Cover

Visitors Day Camp Massad 1976
by Jacqueline Kott-Wolle
Oil on Canvas
On display until May 15 at The Sherwin Miller Museum of Jewish Art

JEWISH TULSA

JEWISH TULSA Federation | CHARLES SCHUSTERMAN JEWISH TULSA | JEWISH TULSA Foundation | 60 YEARS The Sherwin Miller Museum of Jewish Art JEWISH TULSA

MISSION:

The mission of Jewish Tulsa 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 engaging in community relations and outreach, and providing a variety of services to the broader Tulsa community. Jewish Tulsa comprises four entities: The Jewish Federation of Tulsa, Charles Schusterman Jewish Community Center, and The Sherwin Miller Museum of Jewish Art. Mizel Jewish Community Day School is located on the campus and supported in part by Jewish Tulsa.

VALUES:

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

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

L'Dor V'Dor – From Generation to Generation
Sustaining the culture, traditions, and collective memory of the Jewish people, through innovative intergenerational programming that is meaningful, educational, and fun.

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DIRECTOR'S CORNER

by Joe Roberts, Executive Director

It is hard to believe camp season is back again.

Soon, our campus will be overflowing with the sounds and scenes that, to me, define a Jewish summer. Smiling faces, Hebrew songs, the splash of children in the pool, the rush of counselors moving from one activity to the next, and that unmistakable sense that something larger than fun is taking place. Something formative. Something enduring.

At a time when so much of Jewish life is discussed in the language of concern, there is something almost radical about a place built around joy.

That is what Camp Shalom is.

For more than six decades, Camp Shalom has been one of the most important things we do at Jewish Tulsa. More than 10,000 campers have come through our doors and found a way into Jewish life. They have made friendships that lasted far beyond camp. They have discovered pride in who they are. They have learned, often without even realizing it, that being Jewish is something you live every day.

And this year, Camp Shalom will be our biggest ever.

We expect more than 3,000 campers this summer. That number is extraordinary for a community our size. But what matters even more is what it represents. 3,000 children, Jewish and non-Jewish alike, encountering Jewish life together. Singing together. Celebrating together. Bringing in Shabbat together. Learning, in the most natural and human way possible, that Jewish identity is lived in community. It is felt in belonging.

That matters more than we sometimes admit.

American Jews are living through a time of real unease. Parents worry, and not without reason, about what it will mean for their children to grow up visibly and proudly Jewish. They worry about what their kids will hear, what they will face, and whether Jewish identity will feel to them like a burden or a blessing. We cannot answer those questions only with security measures and statements, necessary as those things are. We answer them by building joyful Jewish life so full of warmth and meaning that our children know, deep in their bones, that our tradition is worth loving.

Camp does that in a way few things can.

A child can sit through a lesson about Jewish identity and forget most of it by dinner. But let that same child dance on a Friday afternoon as Shabbat approaches, sing with friends, laugh with counselors they admire, and feel entirely at home in a Jewish space, and something much deeper takes root. That kind of memory becomes part of them.

I have seen it happen over and over again. I have watched children, including my own, blossom at Camp Shalom. I have seen shy kids come alive. I have seen friendships form that endure long after summer ends. I have seen children develop not just fond memories, but confidence, joy, and pride in being part of the Jewish people.

And I have to say, I am deeply proud of that.

I am proud of Camp Shalom. Proud of the staff and counselors who make it possible. Proud of Jewish Tulsa for building and sustaining something so full of life. Proud of a Jewish community that has chosen, year after year, to invest in shaping the future.

Because that is what camp really is. It is future-making.

Every summer, we hand children an experience of Jewish life that is warm, confident, and alive. We show them that Jewish community is something beautiful to belong to. Something joyful to carry forward.

That may be one of the most important things we can do right now.

So yes, camp season is back. Thank G-d.

And soon our campus will once again be filled with the noise of children having the time of their lives. There will be songs, games, friendships, Shabbat, and so so so much sunscreen. But beneath all of that will be something deeper and more hopeful, a community giving its children reasons to love being Jewish.

There are few things more important than that. ■

"We answer them by building joyful Jewish life so full of warmth and meaning that our children know, deep in their bones, that our tradition is worth loving."

UPCOMING EVENTS

Brunch with Miss Israel | Friday, May 1 | 11 am | Jewish Tulsa

We are honored to host Melanie Shiraz, Miss Israel (2025–2026), for an intimate brunch, where we will hear her story about representing Israel on the world stage amid an increasingly polarized world. Melanie is one of the most globally visible Jewish public figures of the past year. As an outspoken advocate for Israel and the Jewish people, she has navigated intense international scrutiny, online hostility, and coordinated disinformation campaigns, experiencing firsthand how antisemitism and identity politics manifest across campuses, media, culture, and public life. No cost, but please RSVP in advance so we have enough food.

RSVP: JewishTulsa.org/miss-Israel

Lag B'Omer Bonfire | Tuesday, May 5 | 4-8 pm | Jeanette Altman Frieden Sports Complex

Join us for a Zarrow Campus Lag B'Omer Bonfire party at the Jeanette Frieden Sports Complex! Starting at 4 pm, we will have a family fun afternoon. Enjoy arts and crafts, a bounce house, and yard games. For the working professionals, join us at 6 pm for an adults-only party! Enjoy a bonfire, light food and drinks, and a night celebrating the holiday together!

RSVP: JewishTulsa.org/lag-bomer26

Eurovision Watch Party | Tuesday, May 12 | 2 pm | Jewish Tulsa

The Eurovision Song Contest 2026 consists of two semi-finals on May 12 and 14, with the final competition on May 16, 2026, held at Wiener Stadthalle in Vienna, Austria. Come see Israel shine in the 70th edition of Eurovision! Noam Bettan will represent Israel at this year's contest with the song "Michelle". Selected via HaKokhav HaBa, his entry is described as an emotional, multi-lingual track. No sign up needed. Just show up and we'll meet in the Dan Room.

Annual Meeting | Wednesday, May 20 | 11:30 am | Jewish Tulsa

JFT Members (Annual Campaign Donors) are invited to the annual meeting luncheon, where we will highlight 2025 accomplishments, celebrate our impact, honor the dedicated supporters, leaders, and volunteers who make this work possible, and look ahead to the future, together ***As One***. Members will vote on the 2026-2027 board of directors slate, and we will thank outgoing board members for their service.

RSVP: JewishTulsa.org/AnnualMeeting26

UPCOMING EVENTS

Meet the Shlichot Ice Cream Social | Wednesday, May 20 | 4:30 pm | Jewish Tulsa

Join us for a casual meet and greet ice cream social as we welcome our two Israeli Shlichot, Lital and Michaela, to Tulsa for the summer. Lital, age 20, loves all things physical exercise, cooking, nature, handmade crafts, and celebrating Shabbat with her family. Michaela, age 20, loves exploring new places, getting lost in a good book, baking treats, and cooking new cuisines. Please join us in giving them a warm, Tulsa welcome! Please RSVP to ensure we have enough goodies.

RSVP: JewishTulsa.org/shlichot-social

PJ Library: Shavuot Scoops Ice Cream Social | Friday, May 22 | 4 pm | Big Dipper

Celebrate Shavuot with PJ Library at our sweetest gathering of the year! Join us for a relaxed, family-friendly ice cream social. We'll enjoy delicious scoops and explore the themes of Shavuot, from receiving the Torah to the joy of dairy treats. $5 per person

RSVP: JewishTulsa.org/pj-Shavuot

Lunch Bunch | Wednesday, May 27 | 12 pm | Burnstein Auditorium @ Zarrow Pointe

Meet our 2026 summer Israeli counselors for Camp Shalom. Lital and Michaela are in Tulsa for the summer to represent Israel as this year's shlichot. Shlichot are carefully selected young Israeli ambassadors who serve in Jewish communities worldwide through the Jewish Agency for Israel (JAFI). Both young ladies completed their two-year IDF service and will share their background about what life looked like as a soldier during an active war, and why they chose to come to Tulsa for the summer.

$13 optional lunch

RSVP: JewishTulsa.org/lb-may26

Elson Fellow in Residence: Sarah Sasoon | June 7 - 14

June 7 . .. .. . PJ Story Time
June 9 . .. .. . Torah on Tap
June 10 . .. . Lunch Bunch
June 11 .. .. . JMoms Workshop
June 13 .. .. . Summer Soireé

More details coming soon!

View all events: JewishTulsa.org/event

ORGANIZATIONAL UPDATE: STRENGTHENING LEADERSHIP FOR CAMP SHALOM AND THE JCC

by Martha Kelley, Director, Camp Shalom

Martha Kelley

Over the past several years, both the CSJCC and Camp Shalom have experienced meaningful and exciting growth. Camp Shalom continues to see strong enrollment, with a healthy mix of returning and new families each summer, while the JCC has expanded its programs, membership, and daily engagement across the community.

This growth is a tremendous positive, but it also makes clear that the scope and complexity of both areas now require dedicated leadership. Camp Shalom has evolved into a true year-round operation, with extensive planning, staffing, and communication leading up to an intensive summer season that demands full-time focus and presence. At the same time, the JCC continues to grow in scale and expectations, requiring consistent, responsive leadership to meet the needs of its members and community.

Historically, it made sense for one role to oversee both areas. However, given our current success at Camp and the JCC, it is no longer sustainable, nor in the best interest of either Camp Shalom or the JCC for these responsibilities to remain combined. Therefore, we are separating these roles to ensure each area receives the focus and leadership it deserves. This shift will strengthen staff support, enhance program quality, and improve the overall experience for our campers, families, and members.

As part of this transition, I will now focus exclusively on leading Camp Shalom, bringing my experience and passion to continue building on what makes camp so special: "A Summer of Fun, A Lifetime of Memories."

This is an exciting and positive step forward, reflecting the growth and success of both Camp Shalom and the JCC, and positioning us for even greater success in the years ahead. Thank you for being a continued part of our successful journey—**You Belong Here!**

Sharna and Irvin Frank Aquatics Center

MEET THE NEW STAFF

Evan Anderson, Director, Charles Schusterman Jewish Community Center

For the past several years, many in our community have known me as Amanda's husband, Eisen and Alden's dad, or Jim J's son-in-law. I'm excited now to reintroduce myself as the new Director of the Charles Schusterman Jewish Community Center!

Since moving to Tulsa nearly six years ago, I have served Tulsa Public Schools, first at Hale High School as an assistant principal, and most recently at East Central Middle School as Interim Principal. In these and other roles, I've developed and overseen programming, instruction, athletics, community engagement, and whole-child development.

Beyond education, I'm a bit of a gym nut! I love lifting weights and running, but really, it's just about staying active. There's nothing like the endorphin rush, the routine, the stress relief, and most importantly, the easy access to community. So, if you're into pickup basketball, chatting on the treadmill, or playing pickleball, let me know. I'd love to join when I can!

Growing up in Louisville, Kentucky, our JCC was always a special place. Everything seemed to revolve around it. As a child, that meant preschool, camp, swim lessons, and hanging out in the kids' club while my parents worked out. As I got older, the JCC became Hebrew school, BBYO, club sports, the Maccabi Games, and my first job as a lifeguard. As a young adult, it became a place where I learned how to lead and help lift a community.

Evan Anderson

It truly was the premier facility in town, not just for the Jewish community, but for people of all backgrounds who called the JCC home. And now, as a parent, I want all of that for all of our kids!

The JCC is the place I go when something exciting is happening, and the place I go when nothing is planned at all. It's my default, where I play, learn, grow, and connect.

I am honored to join Jewish Tulsa in this new role, and I look forward to meeting many of you in the days ahead. Together, we can make the Charles Schusterman JCC the place where everyone wants to be.

Bailey Kaufman, Assistant Director, Camp Shalom

I studied Psychology at Arizona State University and bring a strong foundation in child development and relationship-based practices into my work. For the past four years, I worked at an Orthodox Jewish day school in Phoenix, Arizona where I supported preschool leadership and mentored first-year teachers. My work focused on building strong classroom environments, guiding educators, and fostering young children's social and emotional growth so they feel confident, supported, and seen.

I recently relocated to Tulsa to serve as the Assistant Director for Camp Shalom at the Charles Schusterman Jewish Community Center. In this newly created role, I will assist with daily camp operations, support staff, and shape the overall camper experience. As a former Jewish day camp participant, this work feels especially meaningful to me as camp played a significant role in helping me connect to my community and Judaism. I'm excited to help create impact and lasting memories for Tulsa's young campers, while bringing my energy and perspective to Camp Shalom.

As I begin this next chapter, I'm looking forward to continuing to learn, grow, and deepen my connection to the Tulsa community. Please stop by the Camp Shalom office next time you are at the JCC to introduce yourself! I look forward to meeting my new Tulsa community!

Bailey Kaufman

UPCOMING EVENTS

Fitness Challenge: Momentum May

This May, we're focusing on one powerful word: momentum. Small, consistent actions add up, and Momentum May is all about building streaks that keep you moving forward. Each time you come to the gym and complete a workout, you'll mark your progress on our Community Fitness Board. The goal is to create your personal movement streaks — 3 days, 5 days, even 10 days in a row! As you hit milestones, you'll add a leaf to our "Momentum Tree" on the board, watching it grow fuller with each workout completed by our community. This challenge isn't about intensity — it's about consistency. Show up, move your body in a way that works for you, and keep the momentum going all month long. Let's grow something strong together this May!

Intro to Pickleball: In the Squash Courts
Daytime Lessons: Mon. May 4, Wed. May 6, and Fri. May 8 | 1:00 –2:00 pm
Evening Lessons: Mon. May 4, Wed. May 6, Mon. May 11 | 5:30-6:30 pm

Want to learn how to play the fastest growing sport in America? Join us for a fun and social Pickleball series in the first week of April. Sign up early, space is limited for this small group lesson. Learn basic strokes, serving, rules, and etiquette. This series is for people who have never played the game and want to learn the basics or just need a refresher. Paddle and Pickleballs are provided. The last lesson is two hours to allow for open play. Daytime Lesson 1-3 pm; Evening Lesson: 5:30-7:30 pm.

$30 for the series. All are welcome.

Register at the JCC Fitness Desk: 918-935-3681.

Can't make the April class? Sign up next month for lessons June 1, 3, 5 (or 8).

Volunteer | Wednesday May 6 | 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. Only 12 spots available — please sign up in advance.

RSVP: cjscc.org/volunteer-May26

Line Dancing Pop-Up | Wednesday, May 13 | 10:15 am | Dance Studio

Join fitness instructor Hannah Bakewell for a fun-filled line dancing activity! Learn traditional Israeli dances, the Hora, and Oklahoma country line dancing. Snacks and drinks are provided after this activity so please sign up in advance. All levels are welcome.

RSVP at: csjcc.org/line-dancing-may2026

Class Changes Starting May 1ST ~ No Cost to Members

Zarrow Pointe Indoor Aquatics Center

Water Aerobics //
Mondays & Wednesdays 3:15-4 pm
Thursdays 10-10:45 am

Free Swim //
Tuesdays & Thursdays 12-1 pm

Somatics //
Wednesdays 10:15 am

Yoga (All Levels) //

Chair Yoga //
Mondays & Wednesdays 12–1 pm

Restorative Yoga //
Wednesdays 4:15–5:15 pm

Barre (intermediate/advanced) //
Tuesdays & Thursdays 12-1 pm

Golden Barre (beginner/low impact) //
Thursdays 10 am

COMMUNITY, CAMP, CONNECTION: MEET OUR SUMMER SHLICHOT

by Sandy Sloan, Director of Marketing and Communications

Each year, The Jewish Agency recruits charismatic and energetic young Israelis to travel abroad as Summer Camp Shlichim (Israeli emissaries) in North America, where they work in Jewish summer camps as counselors, specialists, and educators. They participate fully in camp life, sharing Jewish traditions, teaching Israeli and Jewish culture, and serving as role models for campers and staff.

In the summer of 2024, over 1,500 Shlichim participated in North American summer camps, reaching over 100,000 campers and nearly 20,000 staff. Camp Shalom is fortunate to be one of the summer camps that bring in Summer Shlichim to engage, educate, and enrich the camp experience.

Summer Shlichnum live in the community with host families, make personal connections, and share their unique stories and perspectives with the community. They provide a unique way to offer fresh perspectives about all facets of Israel to Jews and non-Jews.

This summer, we welcome two Shlichot (meaning two or more females), Lital and Michaela, both 20 years old:

Lital

Lital

Lital brings a natural sense of movement and creativity wherever she goes. At home, she is a devoted big sister to her two younger brothers, Noam (16) and Yonatan (10), a role she clearly cherishes. While she doesn't have pets of her own, she has a soft spot for big dogs. Though she admits she can be a bit shy around animals at first, she quickly forms deep, lasting bonds once she feels at ease in a warm and loving environment.

Rarely sitting still for long, Lital finds joy in staying active—whether through yoga, dancing, running, or simply keeping her body in motion. When she slows down, her creativity takes center stage. She enjoys crafting by hand, preparing vibrant and nourishing whole-food meals, and immersing herself in music.

For Lital, the highlight of each week is Shabbat, which she embraces with simplicity and intention. Lighting candles and sharing a meaningful family dinner are at the heart of her observance, with the focus placed on togetherness. In her kitchen, she honors tradition by keeping meat and dairy separate, reflecting a thoughtful and respectful approach to her heritage.

On weekends, Lital gravitates toward nature and the outdoors, whether that means a trip to the beach or simply enjoying fresh air and open space. She also loves preparing comforting, home-style meals and savoring the freedom of a day without a strict agenda.

Lital shares, "Having a host family is something I don't take for granted at all. I am so excited to meet you, the camp staff, and the campers this summer!"

Michaela

Michaela

Hailing from the historic streets of Jerusalem, Michaela is warm and engaging, and brings both curiosity and heart to everything she does. She lives with her parents, her older sister, and her younger brother, along with a "very silly" cat named Dorit who keeps the household entertained. While Michaela proudly considers herself a cat person, she has a deep affection for dogs as well and loves any opportunity to be around them.

After completing two years of meaningful service in the IDF, Michaela is currently enjoying some well-earned free time. She fills her days with simple pleasures: spending time with friends and family, getting lost in a good book, baking delicious treats, and discovering the hidden gems of her hometown.

Though her family identifies as secular, they hold tight to one cherished tradition, Friday night dinner together. These gatherings are filled with warmth, laughter, and a shared love of cooking a wide variety of cuisines. In fact, Michaela has been given a special "mission" for the summer—to return home with authentic American recipes to introduce to her family back in Jerusalem.

Michaela thrives on connection and shared experiences. Whether she's experimenting with a new dish in the kitchen or exploring a new neighborhood, she finds the most joy in doing it alongside others.

"I feel so grateful for the opportunity to come to Tulsa this summer. I can't wait to share my time and my culture with different families in the community," shares Michaela.

Become a SUMMER HOST

Camp Shalom

Open your hearts and home this summer by hosting one or both of our Summer Shlichim. If you have an extra bedroom or two and can provide breakfast, dinner, and transportation to and from Camp Shalom, please consider hosting our young Israelis. One former host shares, "We wanted to give our children a real connection to Israelis and show them that giving back to the community brings memories that last forever."

LEARN MORE ON HOW TO BECOME A HOST AT:
csjcc.org/summer-shlichim-hosting or **click the QR code**

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~ EVENTS & EXHIBITIONS ~

Opening Reception: **Thursday, May 28 at 6 pm**

Totally Tumarkin Exhibition

Peter Martin Gregor Heinrich Hellberg (later Igael Tumarkin) was born in 1933 in Dresden, Saxony, Germany. His Jewish mother, Berta Gurevitch, and his stepfather, Herzl Tumarkin, immigrated to then British Mandate of Palestine (now Israel) when he was two.

Among Tumarkin's best-known works are the Holocaust and Revival Memorial in Rabin Square, Tel Aviv, and his sculptures commemorating fallen soldiers in the Negev. Tumarkin was also an art theoretician and stage designer. In the 1950s, Tumarkin worked in East Berlin, Amsterdam, and Paris. Upon his return to Israel in 1961, he became a driving force behind the break from the charismatic monopoly of lyric abstraction there. Tumarkin created assemblages of found objects, generally with violent expressionist undertones and decidedly unlyrical color. His determination to "be different" influenced his younger Israeli colleagues. The furor generated around Tumarkin's works, such as the old pair of trousers stuck to one of his pictures, intensified the mystique surrounding him. One of his controversial works is a pig wearing phylacteries (or tefillin, small boxes containing scriptures). A series of Tumarkin prints was recently donated to The Sherwin Miller Museum by Sam and Rene Sax of Chicago. Come see them on display for the first time!

Tchotchke Exhibition
On Display Now

Remember your Grandma's collection of ceramic figurines? Perhaps your mom collected decorative spoons from every vacation she took? Or maybe you kept your childhood Beanie Babies, and now they are worth a fortune. Well, there's a Yiddish word for all of that: **Tchotchke!** You may also have heard these decorative objects referred to as knick-knacks or trinkets. This exhibition consists of tchotchkes not only from our collection, but also from the homes and families of the Jewish Tulsa community.

Growing up Jewish by Artist Jaqueline Kott Wolle
On View through May 15

Painted in a fresh palette of color, *Growing Up Jewish – Art & Storytelling* traces the story of one North American Jewish family through five generations from 1925 to the present. Kott-Wolle's Jewish identity was informed by the experiences of her parents and grandparents, who arrived in Canada in 1949 after the Holocaust. As a member of the *Second Generation*, the artist reflects on how her forebears faced the enormous task of starting over upon surviving one of modern history's darkest chapters. Drawing upon decades of family photos for inspiration, the exhibit includes this colorful cast of characters as they rebuild their lives and flourish in North America's vibrant Jewish communities, navigating a painful past, contending with tradition, and summoning optimism for the future. Paired with the artist's own narration, Kott-Wolle asks, "What does it mean to be Jewish for past, present, and future generations in North America?"

The Big Beautiful Fried Exhibit
On Display Now

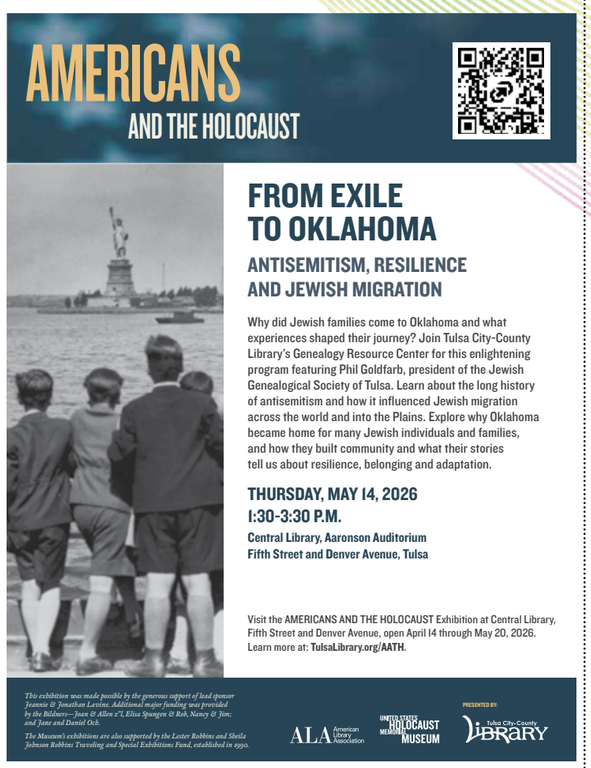
See our display of some of our largest works by Jewish-Hungarian painter, Theodore Fried! He painted a wide variety of subjects and objects, such as musicians and city scenes.

Save the Date | October 25, 2026
In the Barbara and Dave Sylvan Auditorium
Catered by Summit Club Chef William Lyle

Royale Diamond Gala

60 YEARS 1966-2026
The Sherwin Miller Museum of Jewish Art

Chairs
Sharon Cash and Caitlin Contreras



CIRCLECINEMA.

Circle Cinema is Tulsa's longest-standing nonprofit movie theater. Our mission is to create community consciousness through film and that is exactly what we do with our diverse film selection. At Circle Cinema you can see a mix of box office hits, locally made films, indie films, documentaries, repertory film and on occasion 35mm films.

Scan the QR code to see showtimes.

918.585.3456 | 10 S. Lewis Ave, 74104

A FAMILY TRADITION: THE BROUSE LEGACY FINDS A HOME AT JEWISH TULSA

by Sandy Sloan, Director of Marketing and Communications

Spend enough time around Jewish Tulsa, and one name keeps popping up: Brouse.

So often, in fact, that when Brian Brouse stops by the office, it's easy to assume he works there. (Honestly, all he was missing was his own office.)

Now, in a way, he has one.

Jewish Tulsa recently revealed the newly remodeled Brouse Conference Room, a welcoming, modern gathering space that honors a family whose dedication has helped shape the community for generations.

Brian's story begins where all great legacies do: at home. Growing up in Tulsa, he watched his parents, Sidney and Jenny Brouse, lead by example—showing up, stepping up, and giving back to the community. For Brian, involvement wasn't just encouraged, it was modeled.

Jenny Brouse made history as the first woman to serve as president of the Jewish Federation board of directors. Her leadership extended far beyond the boardroom, including her role as a founding docent at The Sherwin Miller Museum of Jewish Art. Not long after Jenny completed her term, Sidney Brouse took his turn at the helm, serving as president and vice president, continuing the family's deep commitment to leadership and service.

By 1995, the impact of the Brouse family was undeniable. Sidney, Jenny, and Brian were collectively honored with the Maimonides Award, recognizing their extraordinary contributions to the success and strength of the Jewish Federation.

Sidney and Jenny Brouse volunteering on Super Sunday

And Brian? He never slowed down.

Over the years, he's worn just about every leadership hat imaginable—serving in nearly every board position, including his current role as secretary, and guiding the campaign committee since the early 2000s. From Holocaust education and Israel initiatives to community relations, budgeting, and even the film festival, Brian's fingerprints are everywhere. His passion is simple but powerful, ensuring Tulsa remains a vibrant, thriving Jewish community for generations to come.

That same spirit of generosity extends across the entire family. Brian's sister, Carol, may live out of state, but her support remains unwavering, regularly contributing and staying connected whenever she's back in Tulsa.

It's only fitting, then, that this newly refreshed space bears the Brouse name.

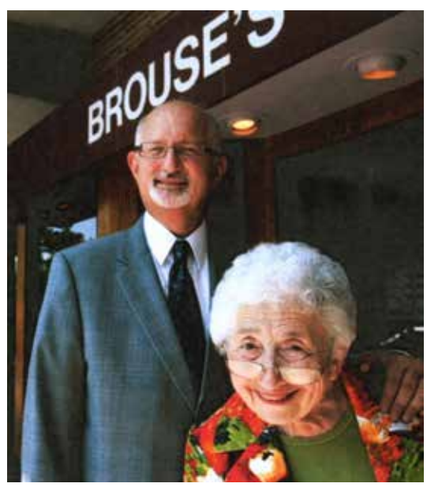
The conference room itself is warm, inviting, and thoughtfully designed. Outfitted with Wi-Fi and Zoom capabilities, it blends tradition with modern functionality. Around the office, staff have already given it the nickname "the Brouse House."

This beautiful upgrade was made possible thanks to Brina Reinstein and the generosity of dedicated donors, whose support helped bring the vision to life. Thank you to:

Rick Brodsky, Susan Brodsky, Rosalie and Bob Hanson, Mudd Family, Faye and Marvin Robinowitz, Marcy and Bernard Robinowitz, Scott and Stacey Robinowitz, Charles and Lynn Schusterman Family Philanthropies, Diana Wolff

So next time you're at Jewish Tulsa, stop by and take a look. The room is available for the entire community to enjoy! Chances are, great ideas are brewing inside!

Design: Stacey Herman Robinowitz, Stripe Street Studio
Construction: AMTRA. ■



Brian and Jenny Brouse in front of family store

ROOTED IN ISRAEL: A JOURNEY FROM STUDENT TO JEWISH PROFESSIONAL

by Sarah Howman, Director of Community Engagement

Picking figs from trees outside my apartment in the old city of Jerusalem is one of my core memories. I had fresh, sweet figs every morning for breakfast before heading to whatever adventure I had planned that day. Whether it was going to seminary classes at Neve or Aish HaTorah, or taking the bus to Masada with a bag packed full of snacks and a swimsuit for the Dead Sea, I knew my day was starting with figs and probably a 6- shekel iced coffee from Cofix (if you know, you know). Nine years later, I enjoyed a delicious upside-down chocolate fig cake in the lobby of The Sherwin Miller Museum of Jewish Art, and yet I am transported back to my first fig in Jerusalem.

This delicious cake by Chef Tuck Curren of Biga was the dessert and final course of the Tu B'Shevat Shabbat Seder this past January. Tu B'Shevat has always been my favorite Jewish holiday and it holds a special place in my heart because of the connection to my grandmother, Roberta Levitt of blessed memory, and my love for being outside amongst the trees. While this holiday is celebrated by Jews around the world, it is inherently an Israel-based holiday. Late January/ early February in Tulsa, the trees are not green, blooming, or lively as it often feels like the dead of winter, but in Israel, the first sprouts of green and white are forming on the branches of almond trees.

Tu B'Shevat is often called the birthday of the trees, and it focuses on the seven species of Israel: barley, dates, figs, grapes, olives, pomegranates, and wheat. With the help of Yoni Stern from the Tamar Regional Council, community members read short passages throughout the courses of the Tu B'Shevat Shabbat Seder. These texts highlighted the uniqueness of each species and what they mean to our partnership with the Tamar region, which spreads from Ein Gedi to Ein Hatseva, bordering the Dead Sea, Masada, and Jordan. The region is named after ancient dates, and is evidence of the agricultural activity of the Dead Sea region from biblical times, the Second Temple period, to the present day.

Throughout the meal, we learned that a fig tree is a symbol of peace, continuity, and has historically grown throughout the Dead Sea region. Wheat symbolizes sustenance and human partnership with the land. The grapevine represents abundance, joy, and spiritual blessing in Jewish tradition. Olive cultivation has shaped both the economy and landscape of the region, including desert-edge areas near the Dead Sea. Barley is one of the earliest domesticated grains and was closely linked to the agricultural calendar of ancient Israel. A pomegranate's ability to flourish in dry climates reflects the deep connection between the fruit and the Land of Israel.

As I finish up my time in the Martin Pear Israel Fellowship, an 18-month program that immerses JCC professionals in a comprehensive learning experience to integrate more Israel education into the community, I am reflecting on what I learned. I think about my first trip to Israel, as a 19-year-old on a Birthright trip. I spent my first Shabbat in Jerusalem, wearing my grandmother's white satin blouse and bright floral skirt, having no idea what to expect. I didn't picture myself as a Jewish professional; I was going to be a lawyer or entrepreneur like my parents—and like many other stereotypical Jewish parents—always wanted for their kids. I was here to have fun on Birthright with my college friends and party late into the night. I mean, come on, that's what Birthright is all about, right? Eight years later, I was getting ready for Shabbat and had to run to the stairwell in the hotel to shelter from Yemenite Houthis (a terrorist group funded by Iran) missiles. Now, as a Jewish professional instead of a college student, I brought in Shabbat in Jerusalem with a new sense of purpose, absorbing and learning as much as I could about how to infuse Israel into Tulsa and my job.

Since returning from Israel and stepping into a new role of Director of Community Engagement one year ago, we've launched adult Hebrew classes and brought in 15 Israel-focused speakers. We've hosted over 50 Israel-themed events, including ones that encourage tough conversations, such as "Still Neighbors: Holding Relationship in a Fractured World" with Ihab Hassan, a Palestinian human rights advocate, and Reverend Johnnie Moore, the head of the Gaza Humanitarian Foundation, who discussed Evangelical-Jewish Relations. In the next few months, our final Elson Israel Fellow from our first Cohort will be joining us, and we will be welcoming our new Shliach. This month, Israel shines at the 70th edition of the Eurovision Song Contest on Tuesday, May 12. Join us for our first Eurovision Watch Party! Be on the lookout for many more exciting opportunities to learn about and engage with Israel!

Martin Pear Israel Fellowship is named in memory of Martin Pear, z"l, the beloved longtime CEO of Valley of the Sun JCC in Scottsdale, Arizona. The fellowship reflects his enduring belief that Jewish professionals should be deeply committed and connected to Israel.

Sarah in Tamar Region at Ein Bokek

NEVER AGAIN STARTS IN THE CLASSROOM

by Ginnie Graham

Oklahomans rallied around Holocaust education at a time when public schools were politicized over programs of diversity, equity, inclusion, and sensitivity to difficult history. Yet in 2022, nearly every Oklahoma legislator voted to adopt a Holocaust curriculum.

That bipartisan embrace began two years earlier when Tulsa Jewish community member Charlotte Schumann brought key leaders together.

Among the leaders in Oklahoma's effort was former Tulsa mayor and legislator Rodger Randle, who helped with the political guidance. Holocaust curriculum experts were consulted and officials from the Oklahoma State Department of Education were brought into discussions.

A Holocaust education movement was growing nationally in response to rising antisemitism and hate crimes. Studies from the Pew Research Center and Claims Conference revealed a startling lack of Holocaust knowledge among youth.

In 2020, about 11 states had a Holocaust education mandate and that increased to 27 states (including Oklahoma) by 2026, according to the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum.

Sen. Adam Pugh of Edmond and Rep. Carol Bush of Tulsa, both Republicans, sponsored Senate Bill 1671 with Democratic cooperation from Sen. Jo Anna Dossett and Rep. John Waldron, both from Tulsa. Passage depended on Republican support because its members held more than 80% of both legislative chambers and every statewide office.

SB1671 added a Holocaust Education requirement for grades 6 to 12 in public schools. It passed unanimously in the Senate and only seven lawmakers (out of 101) in the House voted against it.

"If we are to learn from our past, how can you learn from the past that was never taught?" Bush said.

SB 1671 did not come with funding for teacher training or classroom resources. That prompted the creation of a nonprofit—SB1671 Oklahoma Holocaust Legislation Coalition—dedicated to providing the tools necessary for implementing the curriculum.

Its mission is: "Fight Hate. Respect Diversity. Protect Democracy. Teach these values to future generations through study of the Holocaust."

The coalition quickly harnessed its network of experts to work with the state Education Department to build a Holocaust training and curriculum program. Then it raised funds for free teacher summer conferences held at various locations across the state.

The coalition was able to provide two conferences, named for Holocaust survivor and educator

Eva K. Unterman, the first year, which doubled to four conferences the following summer. So far, educators from 114 school districts (out of 509) have completed a workshop.

Waldron, an award-winning teacher before getting elected to the Oklahoma House, is a legislative consultant for the coalition. He is working with the Cherokee Nation to host a joint conference that would host educators from the coalition and tribe to present information on the Trail of Tears and the Holocaust.

The Trail of Tears was prompted by the 1830 Indian Removal Act that forced the displacement of at least five Indigenous tribes from the southeast into Oklahoma Territory. At least 10,000 American Indians died on the journey, along with the loss of land and possessions.

"We're having very good conversations about our common values," Waldron said. "We talk about fighting hate and respecting diverse cultures."

In addition, the coalition created the Teacher Appreciation Program that provides a paid trip to Washington, D.C. for selected Holocaust educators to visit the U.S. Holocaust Memorial

Museum, National Museum of African American History and Culture, and National Museum of the American Indian.

"Standing in these museums reminded me of the responsibility we hold as educators, to teach history accurately, but to inspire our students to approach the world with empathy, courage, and a commitment to human rights," said one teacher participant.

To reach more students, the coalition is launching a pilot program that would pay retired teachers trained in Holocaust education to return to classrooms in their communities to present those lessons.

To gauge response, the coalition asked some students who went through a Holocaust program what they deemed important. Among the responses:

" I think it's very important! It ensures history doesn't repeat itself, and it memorializes the victims."

"Students can develop a deeper understanding of the consequences of discrimination and the importance of standing up against injustice."

Coalition members say the student responses are critical because they will be future leaders—a reminder of their mission to support Holocaust education.

Stay Tuned . . .

Stay tuned for the June edition of *Tulsa Jewish Review* to learn more about the upcoming teacher education conferences across the state.

A Celebration of Storytelling: OKJFF Wraps Its 12th Year

by Sandy Sloan, Director of Marketing and Communications

The 12th Oklahoma Jewish Film Festival (OKJFF), held March 22-29, brought audiences together for a week of powerful storytelling, meaningful conversation, and shared cultural experience. A partnership between Jewish Tulsa and the Circle Cinema, the festival continues to grow as a cornerstone event celebrating the richness and diversity of Jewish life around the world.

Founded by Circle Cinema co-founder Clark Wiens and supported by founding sponsor Charles and Lynn Schusterman Family Philanthropies, OKJFF was built on a simple but powerful idea: stories have the ability to connect us. That mission remains at the heart of the festival today, using film to inspire, educate, and foster understanding across cultures and communities.

This year's lineup delivered just that. From thought-provoking documentaries to heartfelt family stories, each film invited audiences to see the world through a new lens while sparking important dialogue and reflection. New this year, the Audience Choice Award gave attendees a chance to weigh in, adding an extra layer of excitement and engagement throughout the week.

The 2026 Audience Choice Award winner, Once Upon My Mother, captured hearts with its moving portrayal of faith, devotion, and the enduring power of maternal love. Inspired by a bestselling autobiography, the film left a lasting impression on audiences and stood out as a festival favorite.

None of this would be possible without the incredible support behind the scenes. From dedicated sponsors and passionate volunteers to insightful guest speakers, committed committee members, and the hardworking Circle Cinema staff, OKJFF is truly a community effort in every sense of the word.

To everyone who attended, supported, and helped bring this festival to life—THANK YOU for making the 12th Oklahoma Jewish Film Festival such a meaningful and memorable success. ■

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THE JEWISH JENNER ©

by Phil Goldfarb

Waldemar Mordechai Wolff Haffkine was one of the most influential yet least-remembered figures in the history of medicine. A Russian-born Orthodox Jew, he became the first person to develop and deploy effective vaccines against both cholera and bubonic plague—two of the most devastating diseases of the 19th century. His work saved millions of lives, yet his name remains overshadowed by contemporaries such as Pasteur, Koch, and Jenner. Joseph Lister, the pioneer of antiseptic surgery, once described him simply as "a savior of humanity."

Born Vladimir Aronovich (Markus-Volf) Khavkin in Odessa on March 15, 1860 the son of Aaron and Rosalie Khavkin. His father was a secular merchant; his mother, a devoutly Orthodox woman whose early death left him to be raised by his grandmother.

As a young man, he joined the Jewish League for Self-Defense in Odessa, formed to protect Jewish neighborhoods from pogroms. During the 1881 pogrom, he was injured defending a Jewish home and briefly arrested, but released through the intervention of his mentor, the eminent biologist Elie (Ilya) Mechnikov.

Haffkine studied at Imperial Novorossiya University in Odessa, where he trained under Mechnikov, one of the founders of modern immunology. He completed his Doctor of Science degree at 23. Despite his brilliance, he was barred from a professorship because he refused to convert to Russian Orthodoxy—an all-too-common barrier for Jews in the Russian Empire. After Mechnikov himself was forced out, Haffkine protested and was expelled, though he eventually secured his degree.

Unable to advance academically in Russia, he emigrated in 1888, first to Switzerland and then to France. In Paris he joined Mechnikov and Louis Pasteur at the newly founded Pasteur Institute, though the only available position for him was as librarian. Even so, he continued his research in protozoology and later shifted toward bacteriology, the field that would define his legacy.

By the early 1890s, cholera was ravaging Asia and Europe in one of the century's great pandemics. Although Robert Koch had identified Vibrio cholerae in 1883, the scientific community remained divided about its role in the disease. Haffkine, convinced that an attenuated bacterial vaccine could prevent infection, began developing one at the Pasteur Institute. On July 18, 1892, he performed the first human test—on himself. Two weeks later he reported his results to the Biological Society of Paris.

Haffkine believed that only large-scale field trials could prove the vaccine's value. India, where hundreds of thousands were dying, offered the ideal testing ground. Arriving in early 1893, Haffkine confronted immense obstacles. British authorities required that all participation be voluntary, making controlled trials nearly impossible. English anti-vaccination activists stirred public resistance. Neither the British nor Indian governments provided funding, forcing him to finance the work himself.

He vaccinated more than 20,000 people across northern India in 1893, but no outbreaks occurred among them, leaving the results inconclusive. His breakthrough came in 1894 when cholera struck a village with a shared water tank. Most deaths occurred among the unvaccinated, providing the first clear evidence of the vaccine's effectiveness. Calcutta health officials funded broader trials, and Haffkine became the first scientist to bring laboratory medicine directly into the slums of a tropical country.

By 1895, when he contracted malaria and returned briefly to England, he had vaccinated roughly 42,000 people. After resuming his work in India, cholera cases among the vaccinated population dropped by 80 percent.

In October 1896, bubonic plague erupted in Bombay with a mortality rate even higher than cholera. The Indian government urgently requested Haffkine's help. Working in a makeshift laboratory he developed the world's first plague vaccine in just three months. As before, he tested it on himself first, on January 10, 1897.

A controlled trial at the Byculla House of Correction soon followed. Among the vaccinated prisoners, deaths were dramatically lower than among the unvaccinated control group. The results were undeniable.

The Aga Khan, impressed by Haffkine's work, donated a building for a dedicated "Plague Research Laboratory." Within a year, hundreds of thousands of Indians had been inoculated. In recognition of his achievements, Queen Victoria appointed him a Companion of the Order of the Indian Empire (CIE) in 1897.

Despite official Russian hostility toward him as a Jew, his vaccine—known as "Haffkine's lymph"—was used widely during the 1898 cholera outbreak in the Russian Empire, saving thousands of lives. By the early 20th century, more than four million Indians had received his vaccines.

Unfortunately, many British colonial officials disliked the idea of a Russian Jew leading a major scientific operation. Rumors circulated that he was a Russian spy or that his vaccines contained pig flesh, offensive to both Hindus and Muslims.

Throughout his life, Haffkine remained a committed Orthodox Jew. In 1898, he proposed a plan to resettle Jews in Palestine through land purchases funded by wealthy Jewish philanthropists. The plan was presented to Sultan Abdul Hamid II but rejected.

He founded the Haffkine Foundation to support yeshivot and Talmud Torahs in Eastern Europe, focusing especially on reaching secular Jews. He also supported the Jewish Free School in Calcutta, advocated for Jewish studies at the Hebrew University, and served on the boards of YIVO and the Alliance Israélite Universelle.

(Continued)

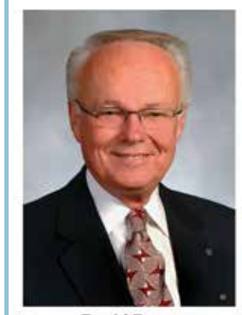
During a 1915–1916 visit to the United States, he wrote "A Plea for Orthodoxy," arguing that assimilation posed a greater threat to Jewish survival than persecution and emphasizing the enduring power of Jewish tradition, community, and ethical teachings.

After retiring, Haffkine lived in France and later in Lausanne, Switzerland, where he died on October 26, 1930.

His legacy, though underappreciated, is profound. In 1925, the Indian government renamed the Parel laboratory the Haffkine Institute, which remains a major center for biomedical research and public health.

Today, historians increasingly recognize Haffkine as one of the most important scientists in terms of lives saved. His courage, perseverance, and scientific ingenuity, combined with the obstacles he faced as a Jew in the Russian Empire and the British Raj, make his story not only a landmark in medical history but also a testament to resilience in the face of prejudice. ■

Phil Goldfarb is the president of the Jewish Genealogical Society of Tulsa and can be e-mailed at: phil.goldfarb@cox.net.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First Friday Shabbat at 101 Archer
Friday, May 1 | 6:15 p.m.

Experience a creative Shabbat evening with songs and storytelling on the third floor of 101 Archer, the University of Tulsa's arts and culture hub in the center of the Tulsa Arts District. This inclusive and accessible event is an ideal introduction to Shabbat traditions, welcoming participants of all ages and backgrounds. Following services, we'll join the wider community in the Tulsa Arts District, enjoying the sights and sounds of the First Friday Art Crawl. There is no cost to attend, but please indicate your attendance through website registration.

Sisterhood Book Club: Address Unknown
Sunday, May 3 | 10:30 a.m.

Join Sisterhood in the discussion of Address Unknown, a powerful 1938 novel by Kathrine Kressmann Taylor, told through a series of letters between two German friends: Max, a Jewish art dealer in San Francisco, and Martin, who returns to Germany in 1932. The story chillingly documents the rise of Nazism and the poisoning of their friendship as Martin becomes swept up in the extremist ideology, serving as an early warning against fascism and the power of propaganda. It became an international sensation, was banned in Nazi Germany, and remains relevant today.

Family Jewish Cooking Club
Sunday, May 3 | 12:00 p.m.

Join the club and embark on a flavorful, family adventure. Participants will meet after ShulSchool for lunch, schmoozing, and a hands-on kitchen session. Throughout the experience, we'll learn about the history and meaning of a traditional Jewish dish and get to work on making it ourselves. Each family will leave with their dish in hand, along with a recipe and instructions to recreate the experience at home. Please indicate your attendance through website registration.

Lifelong Learners at Zarrow Pointe
Wednesday, May 6 | 1:00 p.m.

Lifelong learners from all over the community are invited to join Rabbi Kaiman for a learning session at Zarrow Pointe. Please check in at Zarrow Pointe Town Center, and you will be directed to the Theater Room. Light treats and refreshments will be served. There is no cost to attend the learning series, but please indicate your attendance through website registration.

Blatt + Blue: The Human Resources Manager (2010)
Thursday, May 7 | 7:00 p.m.

When a foreign worker at Jerusalem's largest bakery is killed in an accident, the HR manager goes on a face-saving mission to Romania and finds himself on a warm-hearted and meaningful journey. The film is available to view for a small fee on Amazon Prime. Please call our offices at 918-583-7121 to receive the viewing access code. Join us for our conversation at 7:00 p.m. on Zoom (918 583 7121). Newcomers are always welcome to join the dialogue.

Bibi Dibi – Shabbat for Little Ones
Friday, May 8 | 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.

Congregation B'nai Emunah Birthday Bash
Thursday, May 14 | 6:00 p.m.

For 110 years, Congregation B'nai Emunah has served a diverse community of people who engage with Jewish life, culture, and community in radically different ways. Join us for a true birthday celebration with food, music, laughter, and community as we honor the generations who built The Synagogue and the ones growing up in it right now. For more details and to register, please visit www.tulsagogue.com/birthday or call our offices at (918) 583-7121.

Shavuot Yom Tov Morning Services
Friday, May 22 and Saturday, May 23 | 9:30 a.m.

Our tradition speaks of the extraordinary power that exists when a group of people gathers for prayer. On holidays, we gather in a traditional form that mirrors our Shabbat observances. These services will include Torah readings tied to the season and messages associated with the holiday. A Yizkor (Memorial) service will be added to our observance at 11:00 a.m. on May 23. As always, all services are available for hybrid participation on Zoom.

Shavuot Shabbat Service and Dinner
Friday, May 22 | 5:30 p.m.

Experience a 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 the services, we'll enjoy a traditional Shavuot dairy meal and plenty of cheesecake. 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.

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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., May 1 • 6:00 p.m. •

Join us as we welcome in Shabbat! Arrive early for our pre-oneg at 5:30 p.m., including a variety of light snacks and beverages.

"An Afternoon at the Movies" – Temple Israel's Annual Fundraiser * • Sun., May 3 • 3:00 p.m. •

Meet us at Circle Cinema for Temple Israel's 2026 Annual Fundraiser! All donors are invited to the Circle to see a free screening of the movie "Sixty Six" and a complimentary drink, popcorn, and a special treat for all! This family-friendly biographical comedy-drama film is about a bar mitzvah that takes place on the day of the 1966 FIFA World Cup Final. It was Bernie's big day, but there was a little competition! Please visit the Temple Israel "Events" page on our website to learn more and make a donation to reserve a spot!

Birthday Shabbat Service with Torah in person, on Zoom & Facebook Live • Fri., May 8 • 7:30 p.m. •

Celebrate our May birthdays with us at this special Birthday Shabbat! This service takes place each month and includes a Torah reading. Following the service, please continue celebrating with us at our sweet oneg.

Temple Israel After Hours * • Mon., May 11 • 6:00 p.m. •

Temple Israel's Brotherhood invites you to join them at Big Whiskey for dinner and a chance to unwind in a private room! This pay-your way event is open to anyone in the community, not just Brotherhood members. Please visit the Temple Israel "Events" page on our website to sign up by Tuesday, May 5.

TEMPLE ISRAEL
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Zamru L'Shabbat in person, on Zoom & Facebook Live • Fri., May 15 • 6:00 p.m. •

Celebrate with Elijah's Minor Prophets, our Temple Israel band, as we welcome in Shabbat. This talented group of musicians joins Cantorial Soloist Jenny Labow for a Shabbat Service filled with the joy and spirituality of Shabbat. Arrive early for our pre-oneg with your Temple family.

"Time" For Learning * • Sat., May 16 • 10:30 a.m. •

Join us as Rabbi Appel continues our learning series based on Rabbi Dr. Dalia Marx's book From Time to Time: Journeys in the Jewish Calendar. Through text study, we will explore the holidays and traditions for each month in the Jewish calendar, journeying this month into Sivan, the month of the giving of Torah at Mount Sinai. To make our study a sweet one, bagels and coffee are provided. Please sign up through the Temple Israel website events page by Thursday, May 14. Our learning will take place in the Activity Space at the Temple Offices.

ARZA Breakfast by Brotherhood • Sun., May 17 • 9:30 a.m. •

Temple Israel's Brotherhood invites you to this special breakfast featuring guest speaker Rabbi Rinat Safania Schwartz, a Reform rabbi from Shoham, Israel. Rabbi Schwartz's presentation will shed light on her Reform congregation in Israel and its work in the community and region. All are welcome! Cost is $12 per person. Please visit the Temple Israel "Events" page on our website to sign up by Friday, May 15.

Tikkun Leil Shavuot * • Thurs., May 21 • 6:30 p.m. •

Enjoy the traditional cheese and cheesecake spread for our Shavuot evening of learning. This year, there is a wonderful study opportunity for members of our congregation produced in partnership with URJ Small Congregations. On that evening, there will be about 25 learning blocks spread over different hours where you can join by Zoom. This is in addition to our in-person learning while eating dairy foods. Please visit the Temple Israel "Events" page on our website to sign up by Tuesday, May 19. * Temple Israel Activity Space in the Temple Offices on the JCC Campus.

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

Join us as we welcome in Shabbat! Arrive early for our pre-oneg at 5:30 p.m., including a variety of light snacks and beverages.

Temple Reads – TI's Adult Book Club * • Tues., May 28 • 6:00 p.m. • T

emple Israel's Adult Education Committee invites you to read Rabbi Sharon Brous' The Amen Effect with us in May, then join us to discuss and enjoy light snacks! Please visit the Temple Israel "Events" page on our website to sign up. * Temple Israel Activity Space in the Temple Offices on the JCC Campus.

Zarrow Pointe Shabbat Service * • Fri., May 29 • 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., May 29 • 6:00 p.m •

Welcome in Shabbat and celebrate significant anniversaries with us. Each month, we honor congregants with a special gift and a blessing on the bimah for reaching their milestone anniversaries. Start celebrating early at our 5:30 p.m. joyous pre-oneg.

FINDING MEANING IN LOS ANGELES

by Sydney Gebhardt

While going to Midrasha on Wednesdays is the highlight of my week, going on a trip with the other Midrasha teens to Los Angeles was the highlight of my year. Our itinerary included the Santa Monica Pier, a Clippers game, Hillel on USC's campus, Universal Studios, delicious Kosher restaurants, and more. However, for me, the best part of the trip was our visit to Beit T'Shuvah, a Jewish addiction recovery center.

Founded in 1987, Beit T'Shuvah's mission is to "heal broken souls and save the lives of those wrestling with addiction by providing integrated care in a community setting." Beit T'Shuvah requires residents to participate in daily Torah study and attend weekly Shabbat services, and those of all faiths and backgrounds are welcomed. The Education Program Director, Jessica, and another resident both shared their stories of addiction, sobriety, relapse, and recovery, and gave us a tour of the facility. I was moved at how Beit T'Shuvah positively impacted them and their lives, knowing that Beit T'Shuvah does so—and will continue to do so—for everyone who walks through their doors. What touched me even more was learning that Beit T'Shuvah covers costs for participants thanks to gracious donations and funding from a myriad of sources.

After learning about the experiences of the residents at Beit T'Shuvah, I am considering a career path in addiction and recovery healthcare. Jessica told us she's found a loving, welcoming, and lifelong community at Beit T'Shuvah; she knows that everyone will go out of their way to support each other, no matter the circumstances. I know that working in addiction recovery is challenging and difficult, but, as Jessica explained, the reward is worth it, and I think I want to see what that looks like.

On top of going to Beit T'Shuvah, Midrasha also explored Skirball Cultural Center, which is a Jewish cultural institute. Skirball has several exhibits depicting different aspects of Jewish life, including the interactive and famous exhibit about Noah's ark; however, I think the group liked the exhibit about immigration and Ellis Island the most. Since most Jewish families arrived at the U.S. through Ellis Island, we all felt connected to the pictures, the stories, and the large recreation of the Statue of Liberty's hand.

We also went to Warner Bros. Studios, learned about ghosts and graffiti, and flocked to many multiple-story bookstores. Though we ran on caffeine every day (and mouth-watering Kosher food), we had a blast on this unforgettable trip. Thank you to the Jewish community for supporting this fun and educational trip for us!

Thank You

The annual Midrasha spring break trip was made possible by funding from Charles and Lynn Schusterman Family Philanthropies, The Synagogue | Congregation B'nai Emunah, Temple Israel, and Jewish Tulsa.

Skirball Cultural Center

Midrasha at USC

JEWISH TULSA
2021 East 71st Street
Tulsa, OK 74136

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