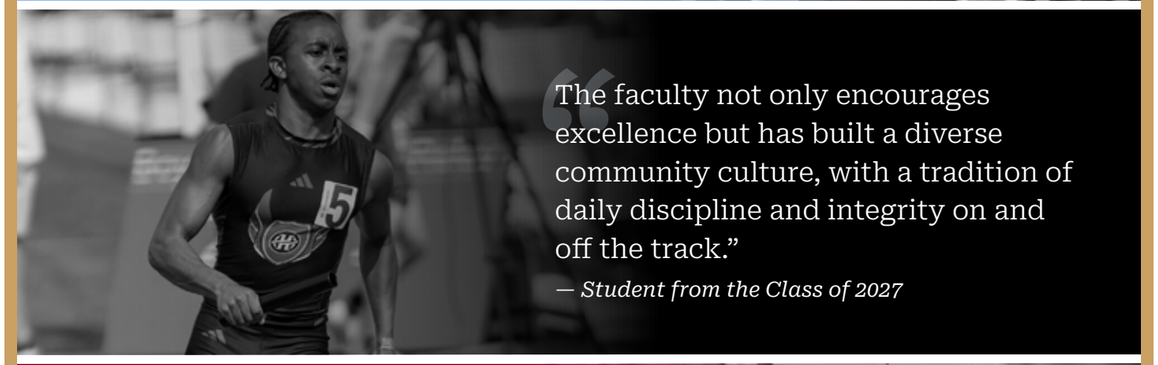
TULSA
Jewish Review
Shevat/Adar 5786
February 2026
As One
Kehillah
Jewish Joy
Ben Gurion Society
Lion of Judah
Young Jewish Professionals
Community Gatherings
Annual Campaign
Community Partnerships
Chai Society
JEWISH RESILIENCE
Israel Connection
Social Action
L'Dor V'Dor
Tzedakah
Pride
Peoplehood
Tikkun Olam
Jewish Identity
Jewish Resilience
Israel Connection
L'DOR V'DOR ENDOWMENT
Pomegranate Society
UNITY
Women's Philanthropy
Jewish Celebrations
Belonging
YJP
Am Yisrael
Kehillah
Ben Gurion Society
Jewish Joy
Tikkun Olam
Pride
Peoplehood
Jewish Identity
Tzedakah

"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

"Our rigorous, college preparatory academics set the standard. Our students are prepared for post-secondary opportunities throughout the world."
— Ashlee Lowry, Director of College Counseling

SUMMER PROGRAMS 2026
Open to all families! 9 weeks of fun!

Registration opens
April 1st

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Sign up for a Welcome Wednesday Open House
Scan the QR code to learn more

(539) 416-8294
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Private tours are offered Monday through Friday. Tours are by appointments only, call (539) 416-8294 to schedule a tour. Tulsa's only PreK-Grade 12 independent Episcopal school.

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Shabbat Candle Lighting Times

Friday, February 6 . . . . . 5:38 pm
Friday, February 13 . . . . 5:45 pm
Friday, February 20 . . . . 5:52 pm
Friday, February 27 . . . . 5:59 pm

Tulsa Jewish Review

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Front Cover

As One 2025 Annual Campaign
page 12

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.

FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA!

Get social with us on Facebook and Instagram!
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@CharlesSchustermanJCC
@JewishMuseumTulsa

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DIRECTOR'S CORNER *by Joe Roberts*

This issue of the *Tulsa Jewish Review* is about our annual campaign, but really, it is about your generosity.

Because the annual campaign is just a vehicle. Generosity is the deeper thing beneath it, the instinct to look at another Jew and say, your wellbeing is my responsibility too. Not out of pity. Not out of guilt. Out of covenant. Out of peoplehood.

In 2025, you turned that instinct into action. Because of your generosity, Jewish Tulsa had our best annual campaign in decades.

I am proud of that. But if we are talking about generosity, we should tell the truth about what it costs and what it heals.

There were moments this year when I did not know if we would get there.

Not because I doubted this community. I have seen too much goodness to doubt that. But I know what people are carrying right now. I hear it in quiet phone calls and hallway conversations, in the pause before someone admits what they are worried about, money, health, parents, kids, loneliness. I also know how exhausting it has been to be Jewish in public these last couple of years. Some people are frightened. Some are furious. Many are simply tired.

And I felt, personally, the vulnerability of asking.

There is a unique weight that comes with asking again and again: Will you help? Will you show up? Will you give? Even when you believe in the mission with your whole heart, the asking exposes something vulnerable. Because beneath the logistics, the real question is always deeper: Do you still believe in our community? Do you believe we belong to each other?

Your response in 2025 answered that question with a resounding yes. And it did not just fund programs. It restored something you cannot measure on a spreadsheet. Confidence.

Confidence that Jewish Tulsa is not simply maintaining institutions, but building a home. Confidence that we can plan beyond crises. Confidence that we can care for people in moments when life is hard and pride makes it difficult to ask for help.

The Jewish tradition has a word for this: tzedakah. It is often translated as charity, but that misses the point. Tzedakah is justice. It is the insistence that the world as it is is not good enough, and we are not allowed to be passive about that. It is a spiritual practice with concrete consequences: meals, scholarships, security, and support when someone falls behind.

It is also why peoplehood is at the core of what we do here.

Peoplehood means it does not matter where you come from, what your tradition is, what level of observance you have, or what income you draw. This is your home.

I say that often, but I want to add something personal. I do not say it because it sounds nice. I say it because I need it to be true. I moved my family here. I am raising children here. And like any parent, I carry quiet questions in the background: Will my kids feel proud to be Jewish? Will they feel safe? Will they feel rooted?

Your generosity in 2025 helped answer those questions in the most concrete way possible. Because of your support, we can do more to connect families, enrich Jewish life, and serve those most vulnerable in our community.

But your generosity did something else too.

Because of your generosity, we are changing the conversation about Jewish life beyond Tulsa. Tulsa has become a real topic of conversation far outside Oklahoma. I have heard from people across North America asking: What are you doing in Tulsa? How is this happening? What is the model?

The honest answer is simple. It is possible because you are making it possible.

So as we step into 2026, we are going to be even more focused on peoplehood, and even more focused on the things that truly matter. That means doubling down on belonging, for the young family walking into a program for the first time, for the older adult who is proud but needs a hand, and for the teen trying to make sense of Jewish identity in a world that can be loud and, sometimes, cruel.

A strong community holds people close. It offers meaning when the broader culture offers emptiness. It offers memory when the world forgets. It offers something sturdy enough to lean on.

That is what generosity builds.

So yes, this issue is about the annual campaign. But really, it is about your generosity.

To everyone who gave in 2025, whether it was your first gift or your fiftieth, thank you. Thank you for believing in this community. Thank you for making Jewish Tulsa more of a home. And thank you for reminding me that what makes Jewish life endure is not perfection. It is commitment. It is the decision, again and again, to belong to one another.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Lunch Bunch | Wednesday, February 4 | 12 pm | Jewish Tulsa

In anticipation of Tulsa's first-ever Jewish Heritage Game on March 1st, hear from Zack Reynolds, Broadcaster and Director of Media Relations for the Tulsa Oilers. Zack has been with the Oilers since 2015 and in his current role since 2019. Born and raised in the Dallas-Fort Worth area to British immigrants, Zack has been an avid hockey lover since 1999 and began playing in 2004. He relocated to Oklahoma in 2011, and two years later traveled to Israel with a friend—an experience that deeply influenced his worldview and marked a meaningful shift in his secular perspective. He is excited grow the game of hockey in Tulsa—and learn more about the Jewish community.

RSVP: JewishTulsa.org/lb-Feb2026

JMoms Galentine's Tea Party | Sunday, February 15 | 3:30 pm | Grazy House

Calling all JMoms to our special Galentine's Tea Party! We will sip curated teas and savor sweet treats and sandwiches, all in a beautiful historic home setting. Put on your finest frock and spend a golden afternoon with your gal pals.

JMoms is for moms with children 18 and under, raising them Jewishly.

RSVP: JewishTulsa.org/Jmoms-Feb2026

Among Neighbors | Wednesday, February 18 | 7 pm | Circle Cinema

Blending exquisite hand-drawn animation with searing first-person testimony, *Among Neighbors* uncovers the haunting story of a Polish town where centuries of coexistence with its Jewish community collapsed in the shadow of World War II. At its center are two remarkable voices: the town's last living Holocaust survivor and an elderly eyewitness who recalls a shocking massacre—not under Nazi occupation, but months after its defeat. This award-winning and controversial film unearths the deepest mysteries of the town, revealing both the love and hatred that local poles felt for their Jewish neighbors. Includes post-film discussion with Rabbi Yehoshua Ellis, former Rabbi in Poland.

$12 - Tickets at: circlecinema.org. **Presented by OKJFF.**

More Info and Trailer: JewishTulsa.org/amongneighbors

The Challah Connection: Family Shabbat | Friday, February 20 | 4:30 pm | Jewish Tulsa

Shabbat is the time when we sit back, relax, and connect with new people. PJ Library, Mizel, and Temple Israel families are invited to a special, family-friendly Shabbat! Before we sit down for Shabbat dinner, arrive between 4:30 - 5 pm to tie-dye a challah cover for our new Shabbat Together initiative, and create crowns to be transformed into the Shabbat Kings and Queens of the evening. We will welcome in the day of rest with a short family-friendly Kabbalat Shabbat Service at 5:15 pm led by Rabbi Appel of Temple Israel. This evening is a time to learn, honor Shabbat, and connect with others. Come with an open mind, stomach, and get ready for a special night! The price is $25/family.

RSVP deadline: Friday, February 13

RSVP: JewishTulsa.org/pj-mizel-shabbat

UPCOMING EVENTS

Super Sunday | Sunday, February 22 | 9:30-11:30 am OR 1:30-3:30 pm | Jewish Tulsa

You do-nut want to miss this year's Super Sunday! This year, we're adding some sweetness to our annual phone-a-thon and largest one-day fundraiser of the year! Your support helps individuals and families across our community through programming, security, social services, and education. Come for the calls, stay for the vibes. Whether you're dialing, cheering on callers, or jumping in to help, every role matters as we work toward our shared goals. Expect a friendly competition for callers, raffle items, complimentary childcare, and of course, donuts. Sundays are sweeter, As One.
Co-chairs: Kate Columbia and Jenny Wilner

Sign up to volunteer: JewishTulsa.org/SuperSunday2026

David Hazony: Being Jewish in a Crazy World | Tuesday, February 24 | 7:00 pm | Jewish Tulsa

What does it mean to live openly as a Jew when the culture around us is unraveling? Join Jewish Tulsa for "Being Jewish in a Crazy World," with writer and editor David Hazony. In an era of rising antisemitism and institutional silence, Hazony will confront the pressures Jews are facing—social, political, and spiritual—and make a clear case for Jewish confidence rooted in peoplehood, history, and moral seriousness. This talk is for anyone who wants a grounded understanding of the moment and a stronger framework for how we respond as Jews and as a community.

RSVP: JewishTulsa.org/David-Hazony

YJP Purim Party | Friday, February 27 | 6 pm | DoubleTree Hotel

Join us for our annual young adult Purim Shabbat Special: Murder Mystery Party, where costumes aren't just encouraged, they're part of the plot. Inspired by the Purim story's characters: hidden queens, powerful kings, questionable advisors, and unexpected heroes, this night is all about fun, secrets, surprises, and Jewish Tulsa. Sip cocktails, step into character, mingle with suspicious "strangers" and follow the clues as the story unfolds and everyone becomes a suspect.

$60/person; $36/YJP Giving Society Members

RSVP: JewishTulsa.org/YJP-purim2026

LET YOUR VOICE BE HEARD

During

FEEDBACK FEBRUARY

Give your feedback on Jewish Federation programming!
All surveys are anonymous and each respondent is entered for a chance to win 1 of 2 $50 Visa gift cards!

Look for the survey in February:

▶ In your email inbox ▶ At Jewish Federation programs ▶ Fill out in person at the JCC

SPEAK PROUDLY. SPEAK BOLDLY. SPEAK UP.

Join Jewish Tulsa and The Tulsa Oilers for the first ever

Jewish Heritage Game

March 1 2026

- SUNDAY
3:00-6:00 PM
BOK CENTER,
200 S DENVER AVE., TULSA, OK

- *Family Friendly Event*
- *Discounted Ticket Prices!*

While supplies last!

JEWISHTULSA.ORG/HERITAGE-GAME

Celebrate our collective Jewish identity and everything Jewish Tulsa has contributed to the city of Tulsa.

TICKETS

JEWISH HERITAGE GAME JERSEY

Sponsors

JEWISH TULSA

Making History!
- First time a Jewish Heritage Game Jersey will be worn for a Professional Game!

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Mark Your CALENDAR!

AMONG NEIGHBORS

Wednesday, February 18

7:00 PM
at Circle Cinema

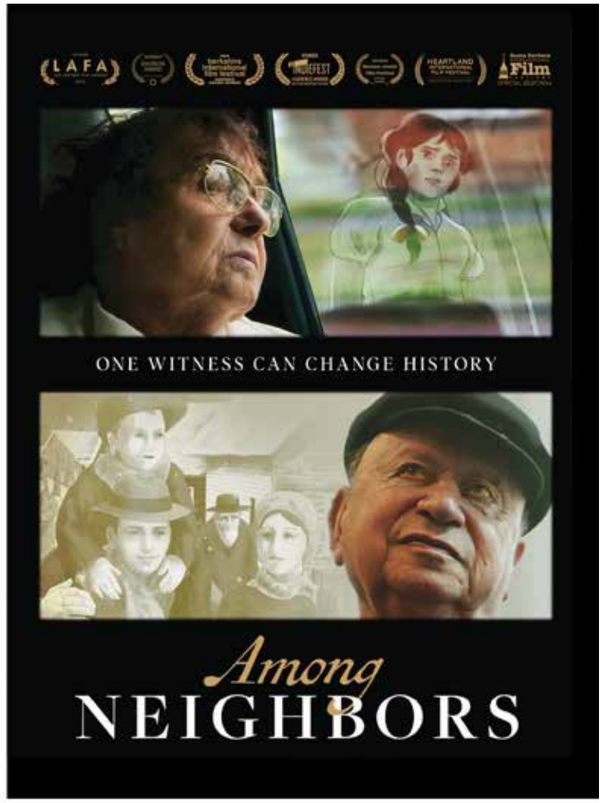
$12
Includes post-film discussion with Rabbi Yehoshua Ellis, a former Rabbi in Poland

TICKETS at: CircleCinema.ORG

Award-Winning Film!

Presented by KJFF

Learn why the Polish government wants to ban this film!



UPCOMING EVENTS

Fitness Challenge: Free Friend February

Celebrate the month of love and friendship with FREE Friend February. During February, you can bring a friend with you to the gym for free! Your friend will fill out paperwork at the JFT front desk or JCC fitness desk. You are welcome to bring the same friend or a different friend each day. There is no limit on friendship! Take advantage of this by bringing your friend(s) to try out the cardio equipment, a fitness class, a game of pickleball, or even to enjoy the hot tub and sauna. This is your opportunity to show your friends our excellent facility and welcoming community. We hope to see you and your friends throughout February!

We will have a tracker on the wall where you can add a sticker to your name for every friend you bring. The winner will receive a JCC swag bag for themselves and a friend!

Beginner Pickleball Lessons | Mon. Feb 2, Wed. Feb 4, Fri. Feb 6 | 1-2 pm | Racquetball Court

Want to learn how to play the fastest-growing sport in America? Join us for a beginner pickleball series the first week of February. Sign up early! Space is very limited for this small group lesson. Learn basic techniques, serving, rules, and etiquette. This series is for people who have never played the game, are a clean slate, and are waiting to learn the basics of the game. The Friday class will take place on the pickleball court from 1-3 pm, and the last hour will be open-play.

$30 for the series/JCC Members only

RSVP at: csjcc.org/beg-pb-Feb2026

National Wear Red Day | Friday, February 6

Cardiovascular disease is the No. 1 killer of women—but together, we can change the future of women's heart health. On National Wear Red Day®, we wear RED because every heart tells a story, and women at every age, stage, and season of life deserve to be celebrated and supported as we take on our greatest health threat. Wear your red today and stop by the fitness desk for your "National Wear Red Day Photo" and heart-healthy snacks!

Wellness Series: Heart Health | Wednesday, February 11 | 10:15 am | Dan Room

Learn how to preserve your heart's architecture and avoid the debilitating chronic syndrome of heart failure. Dr. David Meggo with the Oklahoma Heart Institute will speak about chronic hypertension and how to proactively monitor your blood pressure. He'll provide recommended blood pressure goals based on guidelines and discuss lifestyle changes to prevent and treat hypertension, as well as the role of medication. David Meggo, M.D., is a board-certified advanced heart failure specialist at the Oklahoma Heart Institute.

RSVP at: csjcc.org/wellness-Feb2026

UPCOMING EVENTS

Somatics Exercise: Experience the Body from Within | 6-weeks starting Wednesdays, February 18 – March 25 | 10:15 am & 5:20 pm | 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; Nonmembers: $20/class

RSVP: csjcc.org/somatics-Feb2026

CHARLES SCHUSTERMAN JCC

As One

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~ ON VIEW NOW ~

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?"

~ ON VIEW THROUGH FEBRUARY ~

Sacred Land

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

The Big Beautiful Fried Exhibit

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

Save The Dates

- 19th Annual Purim Mask Invitational, March 12
- Membership Lunch/Annual Meeting, May 13
- Opening Reception Tchotchke, May 23
- Julie Alpert Artist Talk, October 15
- Gala, October 25
- 60th Anniversary Exhibit, Summer

INTO THE SOUL OF AN ARTIST

by David Kahn

It was 60 years ago this May when my father, Rabbi Arthur Kahn, of blessed memory, stood in front a large gathering in the foyer of B'nai Emunah Synagogue for the formal dedication of the Gershon and Rebecca Fenster Gallery of Jewish Art, the predecessor to The Sherwin Miller Museum of Jewish Art. The gallery had opened a half year earlier, presenting its first exhibit of Jewish ceremonial art.

As I read my father's words to the gathering of founders and supporters of the gallery, as well as other Tulsa Jewish and communal leaders, I was struck by how my father's speech not only captured the excitement of that moment in Jewish Tulsa's history but also encapsulated the majestic architecture of his worldview. Underlying his message about the beauty and importance of art in Jewish life was a subliminal lesson about the beauty of collective vision, of community to make things happen, and most trenchantly, of character traits essential for a good life.

My father began his remarks, as he often did, with his clarion call of gratitude—thanking God and just about everyone else in the room for having made the gallery a reality. That was him: the ever-effusive font of appreciation which he saw as essential humanity. He did single out

"Underlying his message about the beauty and importance of art in Jewish life was a subliminal lesson about the beauty of collective vision, of community to make things happen, and most trenchantly, of character traits essential for a good life."

several persons for praise, including Sherwin Miller, who was then the Chairman of the Gallery's trustees, and Ad Eichenberg, the synagogue's president. But his primary focus rested lovingly on Mildred and Julius Sanditen, of blessed memory, for their endowment of the Gallery in memory of Julius' late sister and her husband, Gershon Fenster.

It was the Fensters who had originally gifted a miniature bronze ark to the Synagogue that rested in my dad's study for several years and that would be become, appropriately, the centerpiece of the new Gallery. The longer that ark resided in my dad's inner sanctum, the more he felt that it rightfully should be shared with others, and from there came his ideation of a gallery of Jewish art that could someday become a showcase of Jewish tradition, history, and memory for the Southwest. You could rightfully claim that his unquenchable desire to share propelled not only his daily efforts to teach, impart and inspire as the Rabbi of the Synagogue, but also his vision to create a visual representation of Judaism through a gallery of Judaica.

But like all realistic visionaries, he knew that a project of that magnitude required buy-in, and more to the point, buy-up. And buy up the Jewish community generously did with Sherwin Miller's efforts, of beautiful, often haunting objects d'art that they lovingly dedicated to the gallery in memory of loved ones or simply to be part of creating a place of beauty and history.

But I suspect that it was not just the Fensters' munificence that attracted my father's admiration. It was, as he said, "that their minds and hearts were open to the needs of others and that they radiated light and warmth". He recognized those qualities because they were the sturdy scaffolding on which my father built his relationship with the Tulsa community over a period of 50 years. The words he used to describe the Fensters, words like kindness, dignity, and inspiration, would be among those included if Arthur Kahn were giving a master class on how to be a "mensch". And, in truth, they were words often used about him, as well: kind, dignified, inspirational.

In his remarks, my father shone a spotlight on the similarity in the Hebrew language of the words art and faith – "amanut" and "emunah" – and the essential faith, if not daring, of individuals to imitate the Divine Creativity through their own creativity and art. He suggested that the Supreme Being was also the Supreme Artist of the universe. This wasn't mere Arthur Kahn wordplay. It was an essential component of his worldview: the imperative to continuously look outside of ourselves at the sheer beauty, intricacy, and order of the natural world. He understood beauty as a bridge to the outside, as a means of not

Rabbi Arthur Kahn

(Continued p. 21)

JEWISH VALUES IN EVERYDAY ACTION

by Amanda Anderson, Director of Mizel Jewish Community Day School

At Mizel Jewish Community Day School, Jewish values are not confined to a curriculum or a calendar. They shape the culture of the school itself. Simply put, the culture at Mizel is mitzvot; daily opportunities to act with kindness, responsibility, and respect.

Walk through the halls on any given morning, and those values are easy to spot: a student helping a classmate organize materials, children collaborating over a shared problem, a teacher gently prompting reflection with the question, *"Who was caught in the act of a mitzvah today?"*

Many classrooms use what students proudly call the "Caught in the Act" books, where acts of goodness are noticed, recorded, and celebrated. Each month focuses on a specific Jewish value, giving students practical ways to live the mitzvah in meaningful, age-appropriate ways.

"One month we might focus on *Kavod (respect)*, another on helping a friend or honoring parents," a teacher shared. "The students begin looking for ways to live the value throughout their day. It becomes part of how they see themselves."

Other months highlight mitzvot that strengthen empathy and community connection. During *Hachnasat Orchim (welcoming guests)*, students might offer a snack to a friend or invite someone new to join their game. When learning about *Bikur Cholim (caring for the sick)*, students create cards or reach out to someone who is unwell. These small acts reinforce a powerful message: Jewish values are lived through action.

"Our goal is to raise children who strive to be a mensch," states Shira Sachs, our Hebrew & Judaic Studies teacher. "Kindness, responsibility, and integrity aren't extras here; they're expectations."

That commitment deepens as students grow. Fourth and fifth graders

Bikur Cholim in action.
Mizel students share stories and connection with residents at Zarrow Pointe, bringing warmth across generations.

Caught in the act of a mitzvah! A Mizel student receives a kindness book from her peers; celebrating our culture of chesed and being a mensch.

recently launched their own Kindness Challenge, calling out peers who demonstrate acts of chesed. The initiative, led by students themselves, has strengthened awareness, accountability, and positivity throughout the grade.

Teachers intentionally look for opportunities to recognize "Mitzvah Boys" and "Mitzvah Girls," reinforcing that leadership is defined not only by academic achievement, but by character and care for others. As one student reflected, "It feels good when someone notices you doing the right thing."

"Through consistent practice and intentional culture-building, students are not simply learning about Jewish values; they are growing into young people who live them naturally and joyfully."

Learning at Mizel also reflects this relational approach through havruta-style learning, where students engage in respectful dialogue, listen carefully, and learn collaboratively. These moments cultivate both intellectual curiosity and interpersonal responsibility.

February offers an opportunity to reflect on community, love of learning, and responsibility to one another, values that animate daily life at Mizel. Through consistent practice and intentional culture-building, students are not simply learning about Jewish values; they are growing into young people who live them naturally and joyfully.

MIZEL
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ISRAEL'S NEXT WAR WON'T EXPLODE, IT'LL DISCONNECT

by Avi Gamulka, Elson Israel Fellow

They started pulling them quietly, fleet after fleet, an order from the IDF chief of staff to reclaim dozens of Chinese-made vehicles from officers near sensitive information. The explanation was stark: embedded cameras, sensors, and smart systems in those cars could transmit data to servers outside Israel's control. A family SUV could, in theory, become a listening device on wheels. Or worse.

If that sounds alarmist, recall what happened last year. In September 2024, thousands of pagers and walkie-talkies used by Hezbollah in Lebanon exploded almost simultaneously in an operation widely attributed to the Mossad. The devices, trusted without hesitation, were weaponized—betraying the very people who carried them. What sounded like sci-fi is now documented reality, and so the IDF's call wasn't hysteria; it was common sense. Our weak points aren't buried deep in servers anymore. They sit in our pockets, our dashboards, our daily routines.

That same logic applies to infrastructure. Over the last decade, Chinese companies have built or operated some of Israel's most ambitious projects: the Haifa Bay port, the Light Rail in Tel Aviv, and several major highways. The reasoning seemed sound. Chinese firms delivered quickly, cheaply, and with formidable engineering capacity. For a country that thrives on efficiency and innovation, the partnership felt natural. That is why Chinese companies are also slated to build Israel's next two new power stations, as Israel struggles to remain a step ahead of energy demands.

Yet the broader context matters. The Chinese Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) was launched over a decade ago as a massive Chinese global infrastructure and economic strategy aimed at connecting Asia, Europe, and Africa through a network of land (Belt) and sea (Road) infrastructure mega-investments. But it was never just about laying tracks or pouring concrete. It was about influence, embedding China into the logistical and digital arteries of other nations. As Galia Lavi, Deputy Director of the Institute for National Security Studies' Israel-China Policy Center, warned recently, China's growing presence is quietly binding economies—including Israel's—into what some now call the "Digital Silk Road."

And the equation is shifting dramatically. Since October 7, European companies— particularly from Spain and France— have been quietly scaling back activity in Israel or avoiding new tenders altogether. Some no longer bid; others withdraw discreetly after early negotiations. The result: Israeli infrastructure tenders are drawing fewer Western competitors. But vacuums don't remain empty for long. Chinese firms are stepping in—and fast. What began a decade ago as a cautious BRI foothold is now evolving into potential dominance by default.

For Israel, this blend of economic urgency and strategic risk can no longer be shrugged off. Chinese involvement has outgrown ports and rail lines; it has crept into questions of sovereignty and survival. The IDF's car recall was only the opening act. The real issue is harder to see and harder to fix: who actually controls the systems that keep Israel running?

Control over a port is never just about ships. It's about the code, the flow, the data streams that keep the economy breathing. So when a foreign firm runs the signaling for the Tel Aviv Light Rail, for example, that's not a convenience, it's a single point of failure. One crisis, one command, and the city stops. The same logic applies to ports, power grids, and data centers. The information collected by these "smart" systems, from traffic flows and utility usage to camera feeds, maps out the operational tempo of an entire nation. That is intelligence gold.

While no security incidents have yet emerged from Chinese-operated sites like Haifa Bay, calm today is not a guarantee of safety tomorrow. A superpower patient enough to think in decades doesn't need to act now; it only needs to wait for the right moment of geopolitical distraction. The essence of the "Digital Silk Road" isn't espionage in the old sense; it's leverage. The quiet capacity to switch off, to slow down, or to see everything.

This vulnerability is compounded by mounting pressure from Washington. The United States has long viewed China's reach into strategic Israeli assets as a direct security concern. Accepting Chinese investment risks alienates Washington and jeopardizes access to critical defense technologies. Rejecting it, however, risks leaving essential infrastructure projects without bidders or financing. Post-October 7, this dilemma has sharpened. Israel finds itself cornered, forced to choose between strategic alignment with the West and the pragmatic need to build.

Avi Gamulka

The government can no longer treat infrastructure tenders as purely economic transactions. When the absence of Western participation translates into unexamined Chinese dominance, neutrality becomes surrender. A national security audit of all major infrastructure projects,

(Continue

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current and proposed, is urgently required. That audit must define strict, enforceable red lines. Foreign firms may build, but they should not operate or manage the digital systems of critical national infrastructure. Construction can be global; control must be Israeli or, at the very least, Western-aligned and transparent.

A decade ago, China's role in Israel looked like an opportunity. Now it looks like a mirror, reflecting how power is exercised in a connected age, silently, through systems. The choice before Israel is not between openness and isolation. It is between autonomy and dependency.

The next attack won't announce itself. It won't roar across the border or flash on radar. It will hum in the background: a software update, a maintenance glitch, a flicker on a power station screen. The future battlefield won't look like Gaza or Lebanon. It will look like a traffic jam that doesn't clear, a crane that won't lift, a grid that suddenly goes dark.

That's how sovereignty ends in the digital age—not with explosions—but with silence. ■

Elson Israel Fellow, Avi Gamilka, will be in Tulsa for his week-long residency, March 5-11.

Elson ISRAEL FELLOWSHIP

CELEBRATE SIMCHAS!

Shai Micah Prescott was born December 21, 2025, to Jai Retter and Ari Prescott of Stamford, CT. Grandparents are Suzy Galat of Washington, D.C. and Brian Retter of Weston, CT., and Mindy (of blessed memory) and Harris Prescott of Tulsa, Oklahoma. Great-grandmother is Isrella Taxon of Tulsa, Oklahoma. Mazel Tov!

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

SIMCHAS

(Into Artist Soul continued from p. 18)

staying stuck in ourselves.

But for him, the outward gaze never stopped at nature: he believed that the essence of the human spirit was to see the other—be it family member, friend, neighbor, the Jewish people at large, and, always, the stranger. To see the needs of that other and respond in a caring, nurturing way. My dad had an intense faith in God, but it wound its way through his ardent belief in man's godlike ability to look outside of himself and be a change agent for good.

At the end of his speech, my dad quoted Keats who defined a thing of beauty as a joy forever. To Keats' description of art as beauty, joy and eternity, he added a fourth dimension when it came to Jewish ceremonial art: holiness. He believed that sanctity elevates beauty. That the beautifully crafted objects in the Gallery were raised up by their use as instruments that celebrated sacred Jewish traditions or as a means to glorify our heritage or ingrain our memories in the collective Jewish experience, both radiant and painful.

The Fenster Gallery that my father conceived together with a full cast of Tulsa's inspired souls and generous hearts is a loving testimony to the divine imperative by which my father lived his life: to see sanctity in the actions of man, not only in the beauty he creates but in the way we can come together to build, to respect each other even as we disagree, to love each other regardless of difference, and to see in each other a transcendent image of God. That was my father's design for a beautiful world.

Just as each of the works that would come to fill the museum is a reflection of the artist who conceived and made them, my father's address that memorable Sunday 60 years ago was likewise a powerful expression of his essence and being. It was the art and soul of Arthur Kahn. ■

1981 L-R Rabbi Arthur Kahn, Harris Prescott, Father VC McGouldrick, Sister Stephanie Sanchez and Brian Brouse at a Passover Workshop for Christians

Scan here to read Rabbi Kahn's address on May 15, 1966

Butterflies

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THE JEWISH PHYSICIANS WHO INVENTED THE MODERN PREGNANCY TEST©

by Phil Goldfarb

For all of the advancements made in women's reproductive health throughout history, the nature of pregnancy tests has remained rather primitive. The ancient Egyptians used a urine sample to test for pregnancy, much like our modern methods, only their tests relied on barley and wheat seeds. Details of the method were found on a papyrus scroll dating to around 1350 BCE.

Potential mothers were advised to urinate on bags containing wheat and barley, and according to the theory, if the grains sprouted shortly after, it indicated pregnancy. A 1963 study reproduced the test and found it successfully diagnosed pregnancy in about 70% of expectant mothers. While the ancient Egyptians believed the test worked because of the life-generating power of childbearing, it's more likely that the heightened levels of estrogen in urine during pregnancy helped stimulate the seeds' growth.

Fast forward 3,276 years with two Jewish physicians whose names you might not know. What was their great contribution? A test that could detect pregnancy—reliably, scientifically, and for the first time in history… accurately.

Selmar Aschheim was born in Berlin on October 4, 1878, the son of Heymann (1833-1914) and Ernestine Hirschberg Aschheim (1846-1903). He studied at Freiburg, Munich, and Hamburg. In 1902 he received a Doctor of Medicine in Freiburg, and later became director of the laboratory of the Universitäts-Frauenklinik at the Berlin Charité.

For some years he studied cyclic histochemical changes in the human endometrium, but from 1925, when his friend Dr. Bernhard Zondek implanted fragments of hypophysis in immature mice, Aschheim studied the stimulated ovaries, which showed follicular growth, blood follicles, luteinization and eggs retained in the corpora lutea. A test of gonadotrophic activity was thus established. These results were published in 1926.

In 1930 Aschheim attained the chair of biological research in gynecology at the University of Berlin. However, in 1933 he fled Nazi Germany, moved to Paris and was offered a post at the Collège de France in Paris by the Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique. A year later he became a naturalized Frenchman.

Bernhard Zondek was born on July 29, 1891, in Wronke, Germany to Abraham Zondek (1849-1920) and Sara Hollander Zondek (1859-1936). Growing up in an era of both astonishing medical discovery and growing antisemitism, he studied in Berlin, graduated medical school in 1919 and worked at the university women's clinic in Berlin Charité, where he specialized in obstetrics and gynecology. In 1926, he became ausserordentlicher Professor, and in 1929, chief physician of the obstetrics and gynecology ward at the municipal hospital of Berlin-Spandau, famous in medical annals as La Charite.

Before Aschheim and Zondek, pregnancy was guessed by symptoms and folk knowledge. There was no definitive way to know in the earliest weeks. Zondek, working in the turbulent years of the Weimar Republic, had begun studying hormones—especially the role of the pituitary gland and the mysterious gonadotropins in regulating the female cycle. With his colleague Selmar Aschheim, he discovered that a woman's urine in early pregnancy contained elevated levels of a particular hormone: human chorionic gonadotropin, or hCG. This was the basis of the pregnancy test, described to German gynecologists in June 1927.

Their breakthrough came in the early 1920's, by injecting a woman's urine into an immature female mouse. Later variations on this test used rabbits or amphibians, leading to the phrase "the rabbit died" to describe the discovery of a new pregnancy using the rabbit test. If the animal's ovaries swelled after a few days, the pregnancy was confirmed. From their research the "Aschheim-Zondek test" or the "A-Z Test for Pregnancy" was created in 1928, which involved injection of a patient's urine into an immature laboratory mouse. If the rodent displayed an estrous reaction, it represented a positive indication of pregnancy.

While primitive by today's standards, it revolutionized obstetrics and became the first modern pregnancy test. For the first time, doctors could confirm pregnancy in

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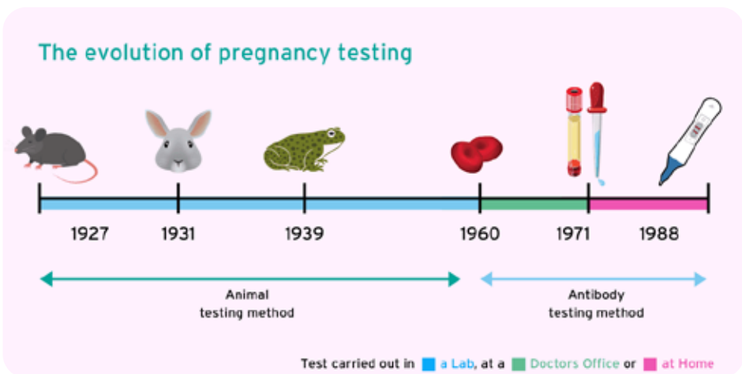

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the first few weeks. It also laid the foundation for later advances in fertility treatment, hormone testing, and reproductive endocrinology.

In 1931both men were nominated for the Nobel Prize in Physiology and Medicine for their discoveries relating to the pregnancy reaction.

Zondek's life was upended in 1933 when Hitler came to power. As a Jew, he was fired from his post in Berlin and forced into exile. He left Germany for Stockholm, where he applied for permission to work as a physician in Sweden. Expressions of hostility and Jew-hatred from his colleagues made Zondek decide that he could not stay in Sweden. In the fall of 1934, he immigrated to Palestine, where he was appointed professor of obstetrics and gynecology at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem and head of obstetrics and gynecology at Hadassah Hospital and the newly formed Hadassah Medical School. There, he helped build Israel's medical infrastructure from the ground up and became a pioneering force in endocrinology and women's health throughout the Middle East Zondek never returned to Germany as he spent the rest of his life in Jerusalem, where he became professor and head of the hormone research laboratory at the Hebrew University-Hadassah Medical School and Hospital, training a new generation of Israeli doctors. He became professor emeritus in 1961 when he retired from teaching and patient care and devoted his time to private study and research.

In 1956, Zondek received the Solomon Bublick Award of the Hebrew University of Jerusalem. In 1958, he was awarded the Israel Prize, in medicine. Dr. Zondek was an honorary fellow of the International Fertility Association and the International College of Surgeons. He had served on the editorial boards of the Obstetrical and Gynecological Survey and the International Journal of Fertility.

Every time a pregnancy test is taken today on a stick in a quiet bathroom, far from laboratories and animal trials, it is built on the foundations that Aschheim and Zondek laid nearly a century ago. They made it possible for a woman to know, with certainty, that life had begun inside her.

Bernhard Zondick died on November 8, 1966 in New York City where he had been conducting a research project at the Albert Einstein College of Medicine and is buried in the Sanhedria Cemetery in Jerusalem, Israel.

Selmar Aschheim's last paper was published in 1956 and he died at his home in Paris on February 15, 1965. ■

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

"The Inquisitor" explores Barbara Jordan, the groundbreaking Texas congresswoman whose powerful voice shaped U.S. politics from Nixon's impeachment to the fight for civil rights. This documentary is part of the new season of PBS' Independent Lens, with special guest details coming soon, hosted by Sydney Alison.

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

Free Eggs to Order: Tu B'Shevat
Sunday, February 1 | 9:30 a.m. breakfast, 10:30 a.m. seminar

Tu B'Shevat, the New Year of the Trees, invites us to reflect on growth, renewal, and our responsibility to nurture the world around us. Our featured seminar speaker will explore these ideas through insightful teachings that connect Jewish tradition, the rhythms of nature, and contemporary Jewish life. Come join us for breakfast, be inspired, and enjoy the spirit of the holiday. There is no cost to attend, but please indicate your participation through event registration.

Behind the Lifecyle: B'nai Mitzvah
Sunday, February 8 | 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.

Lifelong Learners at Zarrow Pointe
Wednesday, February 11 | 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 Pageant*
Thursday, February 12 | 7:00 p.m.

Every year since 2011, a unique beauty contest has taken place in Haifa. The contestants are female survivors of the Holocaust. To become "Miss Holocaust Survivor", they train with an ex-beauty queen who teaches them how to catwalk on the red carpet. At the climactic moment of the night, the survivors have to impress a jury with their life stories and their traumatic memories. The Pageant explores how memory, politics, and spectacle are interconnected. Join us for our conversation at 7:00 p.m. on Zoom (918 583 7121). Newcomers are welcome to join the dialogue.

Shabbat Shalom Musical Circle and Dinner
Friday, February 13 | 5:30 p.m. service, 6:15 p.m. dinner

Experience a musical Shabbat evening with songs and storytelling starting at 5:30 p.m. This inclusive and accessible event is an ideal introduction to Shabbat traditions, welcoming participants of all ages and backgrounds. After services, we'll enjoy a beautiful Shabbat dinner together at 6:15 p.m. Reserve your spot at the Shabbat table through website registration.

At the Table: Parent-Teen Conversations
Monday, February 23 | 6:00 p.m.

Pull up a chair and join us for *At the Table*, a five-part dinner and learning series for teens and their parents. This experience creates space for meaningful connection, honest conversation, and learning side by side. Guided by Morah Sara and Anna Padgett Siegel, LCSW, we'll draw on Jewish wisdom and real-life insight to talk about what matters most to teens and families today—from friendships and wellbeing to identity, boundaries, antisemitism, and the world around us. Reserve your seat through event registration.

Bibi Dibi – Shabbat for Little Ones
Friday, February 27 | 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. ■

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., Feb. 6 • 6:00 p.m.•
Join us as we welcome in Shabbat. Come at 5:30 p.m. for our joyous pre-oneg.

Soup-er Bowl Sunday • Sun., Feb. 8 • 4:45 p.m. •
Join your Temple Israel friends and family to watch the Super Bowl and participate in our Soup and Chili Cook-off! RSVP by February 3.
Birthday Shabbat Service with Torah in person, on Zoom & Facebook Live • Fri., Feb. 13 • 7:30 p.m. • Join us as we welcome in Shabbat with the chanting of Torah. Stay afterwards for a sweet oneg.

TEMPLE ISRAEL
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TULSA OKLAHOMA

Zamru L'Shabbat in person, on Zoom & Facebook Live • Fri., Feb. 20 • 6:00 p.m. •
Celebrate with *Elijah's Minor Prophets as we welcome in Shabbat*. Come at 5:30 p.m. for our joyous pre-oneg.

"Time" For Learning: Adar* • Sat., Feb. 21 • 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, February 20. Learning will take place in the Activity Space at the Temple Offices.

Breakfast Hosted by Brotherhood • Sun., Feb. 22 • 9:30 a.m.
Brotherhood Breakfast begins at 9:30 a.m. with the presentation starting at 10:00 a.m. Our guest speaker will be Ginnie Graham, a former journalist for the Tulsa World.

Zarrow Pointe Shabbat Service* • Fri., Feb. 27 • 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., Feb. 27 • 6:00 p.m.
Join us as we welcome in Shabbat and celebrate significant January anniversaries. Come at 5:30 p.m. for our joyous pre-oneg.

Purim For Adults • Sat., Feb 28 • 7:00 p.m.
Stay tuned for more information about this event. ■

JOIN TEMPLE ISRAEL FOR SOUP-ER BOWL SUNDAY

Whether you are a football fan, a soup and chili fan, or just enjoy a little competition, this event is for you! Join us on Sunday, February 8th at 4:45 PM in the Sylvan Auditorium at the JCC. We will watch the game on the big screen while we enjoy delicious soups and chilis.

February is soup and chili weather. Do you have a soup or chili that you enjoy making this time of year? Would you like to compete for a prize? We would love to taste your special recipe!

Here are the rules of the game: For all those who bring a crock pot filled with home-made soup or chili, admission to this fun event is free of charge! These cooks will be eligible to compete for a prize! For all those who are simply coming to eat and enjoy what others have brought, the cost is $8 per person. All in attendance will sample the chilis and soups and cast their votes for favorites. Temple Israel will provide drinks, crackers, bread, and desserts.

All ages are welcome, and we will provide games and coloring sheets for children. Please RSVP through the Temple Israel website, templetulsa.com, by Tuesday, February 3rd to let us know that you plan to attend! This Soup-er event begins at 4:45 PM, and kick-off time is at 5:30 PM. We look forward to sampling your specialties and enjoying the game together! ■

JEWISH TULSA
2021 East 71st Street
Tulsa, OK 74136