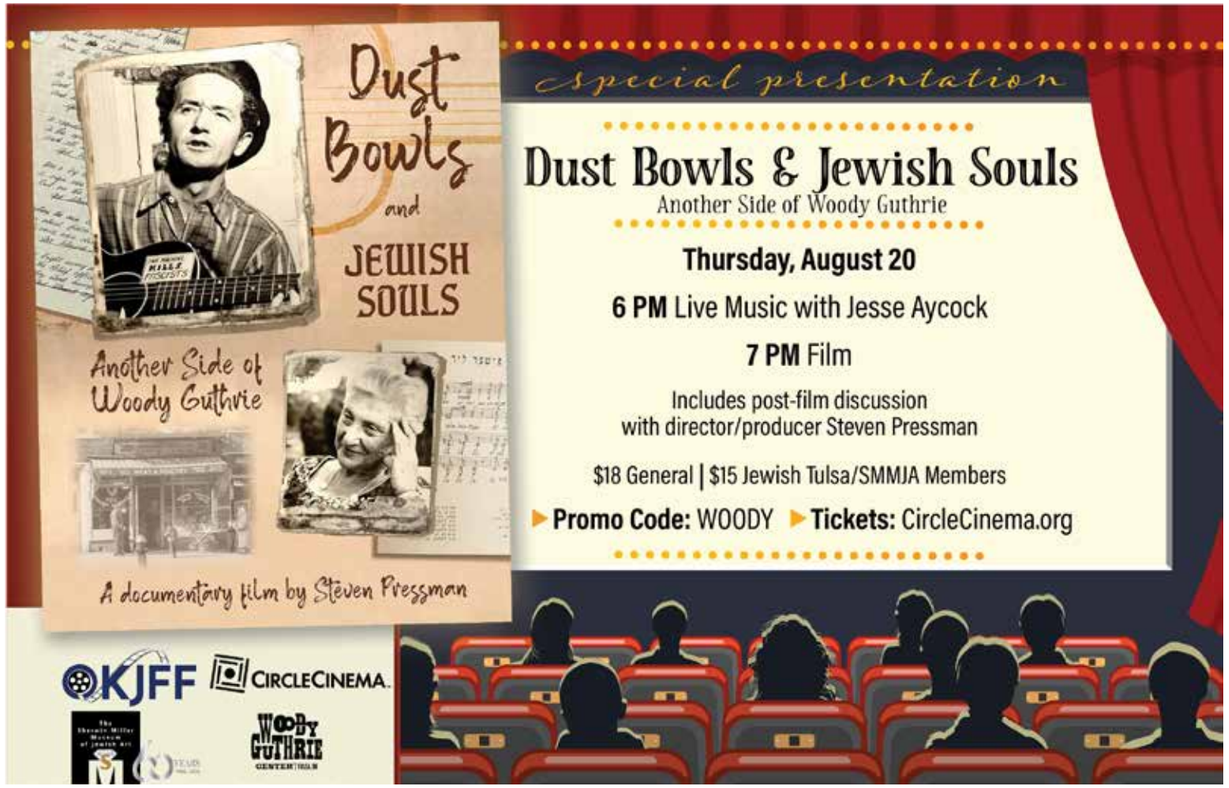
Sophie (z"l)
Grey & Sprout
Ted (z"l)
Anshel & Zelda
TULSA
Jewish Review
Av/Elul 5786
August 2026
Maggie
Charlie
Lucky (z"l)
Jonah
Poppy
Banks
Tully
Bella
Ziva
Luna
Ranger
Molly
JoJo
Shana
Georgie
Midge
Molly
Bay
Ozzie
Winnie
Lola



August 2026
Av/Elul 5786
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August Shabbat Candle Lighting Times

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Jewish Tulsa Pet Campaign 2026

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 proudly supported 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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WAGS, PURRS, & CHIRPS: JEWISH TULSA PET CAMPAIGN SUCCESS

by Isabella Silberg Ross, Director of Development

THIS year's Jewish Tulsa Pet Campaign was our most successful yet, with an increase in participation from community members eager to celebrate the pets who bring so much joy, comfort, and companionship to our lives.

Each tribute featured below honors the special bond between Jewish Tulsa families and their beloved pets, whether recognizing a cherished companion, celebrating a new furry family member, or remembering a pet whose memory continues to hold a special place in their hearts.

The success of this year's campaign would not have been possible without the generosity of our matching sponsor and community partner, Hammond Animal Hospital. Their continued support helped amplify the impact of every gift while demonstrating their commitment to both the animals and people who make our community so special. Thank you, Dr. Lauren Johnson and the team at Hammond!

Most importantly, thank you to everyone who participated by making a tribute gift in your pet's honor or memory. Your support helps strengthen Jewish Tulsa while creating one of the community's most anticipated and heartwarming traditions.

Thank you for sharing your beloved pets with all of us. We can't wait to see even more wagging tails, whiskers, and wonderful stories in next year's Pet Campaign!

Donors	Pets
Amanda and Evan Anderson	In honor of Lola
Sue Arlan	In honor of Shana
Estelle and Allan Avery	In honor of Bella
Batsheva Appel	In honor of Anshel and Zelda
Shirley and Martin Brody	In loving memory of Sophie (z"l)
Brian Brouse	In loving memory of Ted (z"l)
Lee Carlson	In honor of Jonah
Sharon D'Agostino	In honor of Winnie and Ozzie
Gyan Galoob	In honor of Molly
Mindy Galoob	In loving memory of Lucky (z"l) and in honor of JoJo
Lisa and Phil Goldfarb	In honor of Molly
Alana and Rob Gorden	In honor of Midge
Sarah and David Howman	In honor of Ranger
Jackie and Art Lasky	In honor of Luna (Grand-cat)
Debbie Lederman	In honor of Bay
Isabella Ross	In honor of Tully
Michael Sachs	In honor of Poppy
Erika Taylor	In honor of Banks
Cheryl Bloch Wallace	In honor of Grey and Sprout
Barbara and Ron Winder	In honor of Maggie
Nancy Wolov	In honor of Charlie
Paul, Tracey, and Hannah Woods	In honor of Georgie and Ziva

A heartfelt thank you to ***Hammond Animal Hospital*** *for their generous matching gift, which helped double the impact of our Jewish Tulsa Pet Campaign!*

hammond ANIMAL HOSPITAL

UPCOMING EVENTS

Childhood Vaccines | Sunday, August 2 | 9:30 am | Jewish Tulsa

Join Jewish Tulsa's Maimonides Society for an informative, community program exploring childhood vaccines and the recent rise in infectious diseases. Chaired by Dr. Jill Wenger, Chief of Staff at Ascension St. John Medical Center, the program will feature a panel of local medical experts, including pediatricians, infectious disease specialists, and other healthcare professionals, who will share evidence-based information and answer community questions. The program will address concerns and encourage open discussion. Open to parents, grandparents, professionals, and community members interested in learning more. All are welcome to participate and engage in this important community conversation. Sponsor Ascension St. John Medical Center will provide a **light breakfast at 9:30 am. The program will begin at 10 am.**

RSVP: JewishTulsa.org/childhood-vaccines

YALLA Painting Night | Monday, August 3 | 6 pm | Purple Glaze

Beat the summer heat with an indoor painting activity and schmoozing with your fellow young adult community. In preparation for the High Holidays, we're painting items for our Rosh Hashanah dinner table. You have the choice between a honey jar or a divided plate, perfect for presenting your apples and honey! Registration is $18 per person and includes the studio fee, your ceramic item, all painting materials, and dinner.
Yalla (Young Adult cohort) are Jewish adults ages 21-40.

RSVP: JewishTulsa.org/yalla-paint26

Mahjong Lesson | Sunday, August 9 | 12:30 pm | Jewish Tulsa

Inviting novice beginners for our next round of Mahjong lessons with Mahj918. This four-hour session is a deep dive into all things Mahjong, and includes the 2026 card, a handy booklet, and snacks throughout the afternoon. After this session, you will be invited to play with intermediate players, which can help sharpen your skills as you continue to play. This is a partnership between JFT and CSJCC. Mahj918 is a Tulsa-based group offering Mahjong instruction, open play, and special events. They aim to make the game approachable and fun for everyone! Cost is $72/per person

RSVP: JewishTulsa.org/mahj918

Back to School Beach Bash | Sunday, August 9 | 3 pm | The Sand Patch

Celebrate the end of summer with an indoor beach party in the sand! Meet up with your PJ pals for a special Back to School Beach Bash filled with sandy adventures, imaginative play, and summer vibes before the new school year begins. It's the perfect way to make one last summer memory with friends before backpacks and lunchboxes return. We can't wait to see you there! Please note that in line with the venue's requirements, this event is for children 9 years old and under. $15/child; Adults Free

RSVP: JewishTulsa.org/beach-bash

JEWISH FEDERATION OF TULSA

UPCOMING EVENTS

Jews & Brews | Friday, August 14 | 1 pm | Jones Co. Coffee

Do you wonder if you're living the life you were meant for? Have you thought about your purpose through a Jewish lens? Join us for an honest conversation with Jacob Parra, Director of Public Affairs and Interim Director of Holocaust Education, as we dig into what Jewish thought and philosophy have to say about this topic. Together, we'll explore what different Jewish scholars have to share, develop a new outlook on life, and build the tools to engage with purpose. No studying needed. Just show up ready for a good conversation and some coffee. The first cup is on us! This program is open to all ages.

RSVP: JewishTulsa.org/jews-brews-Aug26

Lunch Bunch | Wednesday, August 19 | 12 pm | Jewish Tulsa

This Lunch Bunch session features Jewish Community member Roniet Sachs, who will share her personal journey and professional work in community building. She will discuss how identity, belonging, and showing up for others have shaped both her life and career. Roniet is the Placemaking Strategist with the Lobeck Taylor Family Foundation, where she helps lead the Tulsa Market District, including Kitchen 66 programming and the Mother Road Market Food Hall. Through stories of local entrepreneurship, placemaking, and cultural connection, Roniet will highlight the power of relationships in strengthening community and discuss her role in the 100-year Tulsa celebrations of Route 66. $13 optional lunch

RSVP: JewishTulsa.org/lb-Aug26

Dust Bowls & Jewish Souls | Thursday, August 20 | 6 pm | Circle Cinema

This compelling documentary explores an often-overlooked chapter of Woody Guthrie's life and legacy, examining the profound influence of Jewish culture, faith, and community on the iconic folk singer's worldview, music, and activism. Through archival footage, interviews, and historical insight, the film reveals Guthrie's relationship with his mother-in-law, prominent Yiddish poet Aliza Greenblatt, and the relationships that helped shape some of his most enduring beliefs about justice, equality, and human dignity. The film offers a fresh perspective, revealing how one of the nation's most celebrated voices found inspiration in Jewish culture, family, and tradition. Reception featuring music by Jesse Aycock at 6 pm; Film at 7 pm; Post-film discussion with producer/director Steven Pressman.
$18/General Admission $15/JFT & SMMJA Members Promo code: WOODY

RSVP: JewishTulsa.org/woody-guthrie-film

Comedy for Peace | Sunday, August 23 | 4 pm | Location Provided Upon Sign Up

A Jewish, a Christian, and a Muslim comedian walk into a club… this isn't a setup for a joke…it's Comedy for Peace. Five years after their last visit, the touring group of diverse stand-up comedians returns to Tulsa! The project was founded by comedian/producer Dotan Malach, who understood that although the political situation isn't easily fixable, on a personal level, we're all human beings who want to work and live together, peacefully. The primary goal of Comedy for Peace is to show people of all communities that we can, very easily, collaborate and stand on one stage together and have fun, laughing at ourselves and each other, without any politics involved. Comedy for Peace is appropriate for ages 15 – 120! $18/person

RSVP: JewishTulsa.org/comedy-for-peace

UPCOMING EVENTS

White. Blonde. Jew. | Wednesday, August 26 | 7 pm | Congregation B'nai Emunah

Join us, in partnership with the Congregation B'nai Emunah, for a special book release conversation with acclaimed author, designer, and native Tulsan, Alyssa Rosenheck, as she discusses her deeply personal new memoir, White. Blonde. Jew. In this candid and thought-provoking conversation, Rosenheck shares her journey of uncovering her Jewish identity, confronting family secrets, and embracing the complexities of faith, heritage, and belonging. Blending heartfelt storytelling with themes of resilience, self-discovery, and courage, White. Blonde. Jew. invites readers to reflect on their own identities and the power of living authentically. No cost to attend, but please indicate your attendance through the CBE website. Books will be available for sale.

RSVP: Tulsagogue/events

JMoms: Sunset Sips | Saturday, August 29 | 7 pm | The Saturn Room

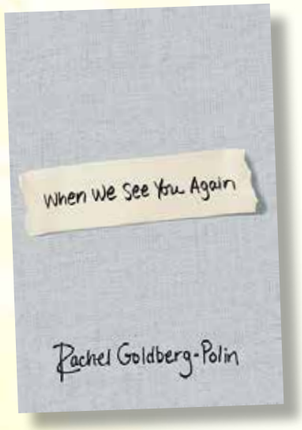
After a busy summer and the start of a new school year, take a break to join us for Sunset Sips Happy Hour! Enjoy a fun, Tiki themed evening to relax, connect, and unwind with other moms. Whether you're new to the group or a regular, we'd love to see you there! First drink is on us! $10/person

RSVP: JewishTulsa.org/sunset-sips

Torah on Tap | Tuesday, September 1 | 6:30 pm | Nothings Left Brewing

In a country where approximately 2% of the population is Jewish, how do we explain Judaism to our neighbors, peers, colleagues, and friends? Come with an open mind to learn from Rabbi Weg of Chabad about this highly requested Torah on Tap topic, "How to Explain Judaism and Jewish Culture to Someone who isn't Jewish." This program is in partnership with Moishe Pod Tulsa and is for adults ages 21-40.

RSVP: JewishTulsa.org/torah-tap-Sept26



NEW!! BOOK CLUB
STARTING OCTOBER 6TH

When We See You Again by Rachel Goldberg-Polin

A searing portrait of a mother's grief and strength in the wake of unthinkable tragedy.

WE ARE A SMALL PEOPLE, BUT STRONG TOGETHER
REFLECTIONS AS AN ISRAEL ELSON FELLOW IN TULSA, OKLAHOMA

by Sarah Sassoon, Elson Israel Fellow

Let me tell you a human story about what it feels like to travel today as a Jew from Israel. Every Uber ride begins with the same question: "So, where are you from?"

I arrived in Tulsa, Oklahoma, to begin my week-long Elson Israel Fellowship with the Jewish Federation of Tulsa.

When asked where I'm from, I could easily reply, "Australia." At first glance, there's nothing obviously Israeli about me. My accent is Australian, my olive skin and forest of dark curls could belong almost anywhere in the Mediterranean, and instead of a Star of David I wear my Iraqi Jewish grandmother's Afsa amulet.

But I always answer, "Israel."

My driver, Bunyamin, was Kurdish.

"I wish the Kurds were like the Jews," he told me.

"Why?" I asked.

"The Jews around the world are united. They build communities and are strong together. The Kurds in the diaspora are not."

I nodded, both sober and proud. Judaism contains an ancient blueprint for belonging. Wherever Jews have lived, we have gathered to create communities of learning, prayer, and mutual responsibility. We don't always agree. Israel itself is made up of many voices, arguments, and identities. But unity is not the absence of disagreement. It is the commitment to remain one people despite it.

Bunyamin gave me the perfect introduction to my week in Tulsa.

The Jewish community here numbers only about two thousand people. Yet it has built something extraordinary. Through the vision and care of the Jewish Federation of Tulsa and its communal institutions, Jewish life flourishes: a JCC alive with families, synagogues, a Jewish day school, PJ Library, camps, programs for every generation, and countless opportunities for Jews to gather. Small, but strong.

I had come to share the story of Iraqi Jews, a once-thriving Babylonian Jewish community with its own schools, synagogues, and communal life. That world is gone. Yet in Tulsa I found another vibrant Jewish community choosing every day to build Jewish life with joy.

The JCC reverberated with life. Camp Shalom children dripped their way from the pool in happy-tired lines. Seniors, families, children, and a gym all shared the same campus. Being Jewish here wasn't simply something you believed. It was a way of life.

I met young adults wrestling honestly with what it means to be Jewish online today. They spoke about fear, isolation, and being judged for being Jewish, for expressing support for Israel. But they also spoke with hope and pride. Together we explored what it means to strengthen one another's Jewish voices.

Elson ISRAEL FELLOWSHIP

At a PJ Library reading of Shoham's Bangle, we gathered around a world map and traced the countries our families had come from. One little girl announced, "I love being Jewish." By the end we all felt part of a larger Jewish story stretching from East to West.

One of the highlights of my week was leading a writing workshop for JMoms. It was a small gathering filled with laughter, tears, and moments when someone quietly said, "I've never spoken about this before, but that's exactly how I feel."

It left me wondering: do we gather together enough? Do we make enough space to tell our stories?

By the week's end, my thoughts crystallized into the blessing of the non-Jewish prophet Balaam, which I shared on Shabbat at

(Continued on p. 23)

Sarah Sassoon captivating young readers at a PJ Library Program

UPCOMING EVENTS

CHARLES SCHUSTERMAN FITNESS

Fitness Challenge: The Kindest August

This August exercise your kindness! Pick up kindness cards from the fitness desk to pass around. Give kindness to your friends or someone working hard in the fitness center! We will have twelve examples of kindness to do outside the gym as well. Every time you pass out a card at the CSJCC or perform an act of kindness outside, you can add a paper ring to our kindness chain hanging from the wall. As a community, let's make the longest chain possible!

End of Summer Bash | Saturday, August 1 | 7 pm | Sharna & Irvin Frank Aquatics Center

Don't miss the final pool party of the season! All are invited to the annual "End of Summer Bash." This family-friendly event is a perfect way to enjoy a summer evening! Float in the pool while watching the featured film, *The Super Mario Galaxy* Movie at dusk. Enjoy an ice cream sundae bar and stay cool poolside! The atmosphere can't get any better! $20/family – open to all

RSVP: csjcc.org/summer-bash26

Intro to Pickleball Series: 3 Lessons | Mon. Aug. 3, Wed. Aug. 5, Mon. Aug 10, 5:30-7 pm | Squash Courts

Learn how to play the fastest growing sport in America. Join us for a fun and social pickleball series. Learn basic strokes, serving, rules, etiquette, and scoring. This series is for people who have never played the game and want to learn the basics, or for people who need a refresher. Paddle and balls are provided. $30.00 for the series. All are welcome. Sign up at the Fitness Desk: 918-935-3681. Lessons are offered once a month; there are no lessons in September.

Join in on the fun! Open play Pickleball, Mondays 5-7 pm

Volunteer | Friday, August 7 | 10:30 am | Meals on Wheelss

Want to make a difference?

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-Aug26

Spin Pop-Up | Tuesday, August 25 | 1:15 pm | Dance Studio

Ready to get back on a bike—or try spin for the very first time? Join us for a high-energy August Pop-Up Spin Class designed to challenge, motivate, and energize you. This low-impact workout is easy on the joints while delivering a powerful cardiovascular boost, helping you build endurance, relieve stress, and enjoy that post-workout endorphin rush. We'll ride through a fun mix of hills, jumps, and sprints set to an energizing playlist. Whether you're looking to push your limits or simply enjoy a fun ride with great music, this class is for you. Space is extremely limited with only 9 bikes available, so reserve your spot today before they're gone!

RSVP: csjcc.org/spin-aug26

MEET THE PEOPLE BEHIND THE SCENES

by Holly Golightly, Operations Manager

Every day, hundreds of people walk through the doors of Jewish Tulsa to exercise, attend programs, visit the museum, or gather with friends. While many of us know the staff who greet us at the front desk or lead programs, two dedicated team members are working quietly behind the scenes to ensure our campus remains clean, safe, and welcoming.

Meet Deborah Clark and Rodolfo Sandoval.

Deborah Clark

Rodolfo Sandoval

For the past four years, Deborah has served as Jewish Tulsa's day porter, caring for our building with pride and attention to detail. Before joining our team, she worked in housekeeping at a local hospital, bringing the same dedication and compassion to our community.

"My favorite part of the job is the kids," Deborah says. "They run up to me and say hello every morning—what a great way to start my day!"

When she's not at work, Deborah enjoys listening to music, and she says it's the people who make Jewish Tulsa such a special place. "I love that everyone gets along and it feels like one big happy family."

Rodolfo joined Jewish Tulsa just one year ago, but his hard work is already evident throughout the building. Whether he's tackling repairs, maintaining equipment, or solving unexpected problems, he helps keep our facility running smoothly every day. Additionally, he continues to work nights doing repairs for Tulsa Public Schools.

"What stood out to me on my first day," Rodolfo recalls, "was how my supervisor and the entire staff made me feel welcome—like a member of the family. That's rare to find in a workplace."

Outside of work, Rodolfo has a musical side that many people may not know about. For nearly 20 years, he had a recording contract in Los Angeles, where he performed professionally, playing timbales in a tropical Latin band. While he no longer performs professionally, he still enjoys playing and keeping the lively rhythms of tropical music alive.

Although Rodolfo is still learning about Jewish culture, he has embraced our community with open arms. "The Jewish community is very nice," he says. "If I hadn't been born in El Salvador, I would have wanted to have been born in Israel!"

The next time you see Deborah mopping a hallway, Rodolfo repairing a door, or either of them setting up for an event, take a moment to say hello or offer a simple thank you. Their work often happens out of the spotlight, but it touches every person who walks through our doors.

Behind every clean space, every successful event, and every well-maintained building are people who genuinely care. Deborah and Rodolfo are more than valued employees—they are an essential part of what makes Jewish Tulsa feel like home.

NEW DOCUMENTARY REVEALS WOODY GUTHRIE'S LITTLE-KNOWN JEWISH CONNECTION

by Sandy Sloan, Editor Tulsa Jewish Review

What does Woody Guthrie have to do with Hanukkah? As it turns out, quite a bit.

The new documentary *Dust Bowls and Jewish Souls: Another Side of Woody Guthrie* makes its Oklahoma premiere on **Thursday, August 20 at 7 pm at the Circle Cinema** in Tulsa. Directed by Steven Pressman, the film explores a little-known chapter of the Oklahoma folk legend's life—his deep connection to Jewish culture and the profound influence it had on his music.

"I'll never forget the moment when I first discovered that Woody Guthrie had written songs about Hanukkah," says Pressman. "My curiosity kicked in immediately, and from that moment on I felt almost obligated to tell this remarkable story about this little-known Jewish side of Woody's life and music."

Much has been written about Guthrie, the iconic songwriter behind This Land Is Your Land. Yet few people know that Jewish culture played a significant role in both his personal life and artistic development. At the heart of the film is Guthrie's relationship with his mother-in-law, acclaimed Yiddish poet Aliza Greenblatt, whose influence opened a new creative and cultural world for him.

With the slogan "This Machine Kills Fascists" emblazoned across his guitar, Guthrie traveled from Oklahoma to Los Angeles and eventually to New York City, where he met and married dancer Marjorie Greenblatt, his second wife. Through Marjorie and her family, Guthrie developed a close and transformative bond with Aliza Greenblatt, who introduced him to Jewish history, traditions, and literature.

The impact was profound. A man who once knew little about Hanukkah or Passover began writing songs about Jewish life, including latkes, borscht, and even the Holocaust. Greenblatt's influence helped expand Guthrie's understanding of identity, displacement, and social justice—themes that already resonated deeply in his work.

The documentary also offers a personal glimpse into the Guthrie household through interviews with Woody's children, Arlo and Nora Guthrie. They recall growing up in Brooklyn during the 1950s, surrounded by Jewish immigrant culture. Friday evenings often centered around family gatherings filled with food, Yiddish poetry, music, and storytelling. Though they were not raised with a formal religion, Judaism was woven into their childhood through culture, community, and family traditions.

Drawing on archival footage, photographs, music, and interviews with family members, collaborators, and historians, Pressman crafts a compelling story of cultural exchange and artistic evolution. The film traces Guthrie's journey from Dust Bowl balladeer to a coalition-building artist whose empathy extended across communities and experiences.

Along the way, Pressman highlights striking parallels between displaced Americans fleeing the Dust Bowl and Jewish refugees seeking safety and belonging. The result is a portrait of Guthrie that feels both surprising and deeply authentic.

The film's soundtrack reflects that intersection of cultures, blending Guthrie classics with klezmer and Yiddish folk music. Even longtime Woody Guthrie enthusiasts are likely to discover a side of the legendary songwriter they have never encountered before.

Dust Bowls and Jewish Souls offers a fresh perspective on an American icon, revealing how one of the nation's most celebrated voices found inspiration in Jewish culture, family, and tradition.

Join the Oklahoma Jewish Film Festival, Woody Guthrie Center, The Sherwin Miller Museum of Jewish Art, and Circle Cinema on Thursday, August 20 at 6 pm for the Oklahoma premiere of Dust Bowls and Jewish Souls. A reception with singer/songwriter Jesse Aycock singing Woody Guthrie songs begins at 6 pm, followed by the film at 7 pm. Director and producer Steven Pressman will be in attendance for a short post-film discussion.

Woody Guthrie

by Sarah Howman, Director of Community Engagement

Shabbat, the Jewish day of rest and celebration, begins Friday at sunset through Saturday at sunset. For some, it means going out with friends after a long workweek. For others, it brings to mind tradition, ritual, or rules. For me, it means building community.

When I moved to Arizona between high school and college, I wasn't super involved in the Jewish community. Once I started school and was identified as an "ASJew," I was immediately invited to both large (100+ people) and small, intimate (under 10) Shabbat dinners. Both were extremely meaningful to me and led to my love of Shabbat practices as an adult in the post-college world.

Now, one of my favorite things to do to wind down at the end of the week is observe Shabbat. Sometimes, it's just my husband, David and me. I light candles, David says Kiddush, and we say HaMotzi together. Sometimes, we have a home-cooked meal; other times, we order in pizza. Sometimes, we host a small group, and other times we have a 30+ person Shabbatluck (Shabbat potluck). Whichever way it works out that week, it's a time to slow down and reconnect Jewishly.

While not everyone grows up with traditional Jewish practices and customs, that's okay. There is no single way to observe Shabbat. You can pray in Hebrew, English, or another language. You can follow longstanding traditions or create new ones. Shabbat has the flexibility to meet you wherever you are on your Jewish journey.

In that spirit of accessibility, Jewish Tulsa is starting a new initiative: ***Shabbat Together.***

Shabbat Together is a community builder and connector. It's a way to meet new people in similar or different stages of life. Whether you're interested in connecting on a deeper level with someone you have met at a community-wide program or you are interested in growing your network and want to meet someone new, Shabbat Together is for you.

Shabbat hosts receive a custom Jewish Tulsa Shabbat box filled with everything needed to begin celebrating Shabbat in a meaningful way. Inside you'll find:

- Challah cover decorated by Camp Shalom campers
- Candles
- Matchbox
- Shabbat blessings cards
- One complimentary voucher for challah from Jewish Tulsa baker, Susan Surchev

Hosts and guests complete a brief questionnaire to help us create thoughtful matches based on family makeup, interests, desired Shabbat experience, and level of observance. Our goal is to create welcoming, comfortable gatherings where meaningful relationships can grow.

My hope is that Shabbat Together becomes more than a program; it becomes part of the fabric of Jewish life in Tulsa. One dinner, one conversation, and one connection at a time, we can build a stronger, more connected community around the Shabbat table.

Fill out the form to help us begin pairing hosts with guests.

~ EVENTS & EXHIBITIONS ~

Honoring the Legacy of Yaacov Agam
On display through August 31, 2026
Mildred and Julius Sanditen Gallery

The Sherwin Miller Museum of Jewish Art is honoring the life and legacy of renowned Israeli artist Yaacov Agam (1928–2026) with a special installation drawn from the Museum's permanent collection, the exhibition celebrates one of the most innovative figures in modern Israeli art.

Highlights include several of Agam's celebrated Agamographs, signed prints that transform as viewers move through the space, as well as one of the Museum's most important holdings, Rainbow Rhythm (1980), a monumental serigraph polymorph produced with 60 different colors in a limited edition of only 99 impressions.

A pioneer of kinetic and optical art, Agam challenged traditional ideas of viewing art by creating works that change with perspective. His vibrant compositions invite visitors to engage with each piece from multiple angles, revealing an ever-changing interplay of color, form, and movement.

Totally Tumarkin
Brodsky Gallery – through October 26

One of Israel's most celebrated contemporary artists, Igael Tumarkin (1933–2021) was known for his bold, thought-provoking works that explored history, identity, conflict, and the human experience. A recipient of the Israel Prize for Sculpture, Tumarkin helped shape modern Israeli art through a career spanning more than six decades.

This exhibition features a series of Tumarkin prints displayed alongside sculptures by fellow Israeli artist Aharon Bezalel, creating a dialogue between two influential artists whose work reflects the complexity of Israeli history and cultural heritage.

The works by Tumarkin are on public view at The Sherwin Miller Museum of Jewish Art for the first time following a generous gift from Sam and Rene Sax of Chicago.

Tchotchke
Mezzanine Gallery– through September 8

What makes an everyday object worth keeping?
Tchotchke celebrates the sentimental treasures that connect us to family, friendships, and cherished memories. Borrowing its name from the Yiddish word for a small decorative keepsake, the exhibition features everything from souvenir spoons and figurines to heirlooms lovingly preserved across generations.

Drawn from both the Museum's collection and the personal collections of members of Tulsa's Jewish community, these seemingly ordinary objects reveal the extraordinary stories they carry.

Michael Knigin: Remembrance 2000 & Anne Frank Series
Katharine Penson Miller Fine Art Gallery– through December 31

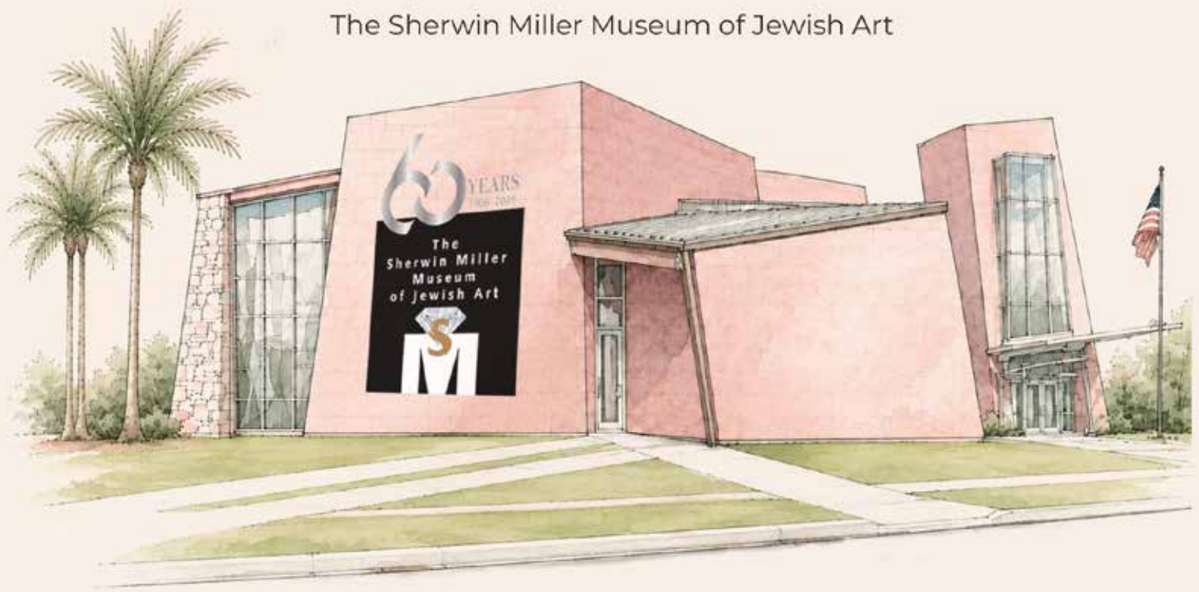
This powerful exhibition presents selected works from Michael Knigin's Remembrance 2000 and Anne Frank Series, honoring the victims, survivors, and rescuers of the Holocaust while encouraging reflection on the enduring consequences of hatred and intolerance.

Combining historical photographs, symbolic imagery, collage, and digital media, Knigin creates compelling visual narratives that preserve memory, inspire resilience, and reinforce the importance of Holocaust remembrance for future generations.

Royale Diamond Gala

60TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

The Sherwin Miller Museum of Jewish Art



SAVE THE DATE

Sunday, October 25, 2026

60th Anniversary Exhibition Opening Soon!

Celebrate six decades of The Sherwin Miller Museum of Jewish Art with a landmark exhibition highlighting the Museum's history, growth, and extraordinary collection. The exhibition will showcase significant works and artifacts that reflect our ongoing mission to preserve and share Jewish art, history, and culture.

THE SHERWIN MILLER MUSEUM OF JEWISH ART

JEWISH TULSA

This past February, we conducted a survey about Jewish Federation programming

Here is what we heard…

You said we are good at:

- Program Offerings
- Building Community
- Communication

73% of you feel you are always treated with respect

52% of you feel the Jewish Federation meets your needs very well or extremely well

You said we can improve:

Program Offerings

You asked for more Adult Education, ongoing classes, and programs for mid-life (41-64) adults

Inclusiveness

Less programs separated by age

Making space for differing opinions on Israel

This is what we are doing…

New Programs

- New book club starting in October
- Jewish philosophy series "Jews & Brews" at local coffee shops starting August 14th
- More adult learning in the works!

- More programs open to all adults

- Staff training from the Constructive Dialogue Institute, learning to navigate complex conversations with respect

> "The Jewish Federation is good at providing meaningful programming and genuine outreach within the Jewish Community."

Thank you to our community members who took the time to fill out our Programming Survey during Feedback February!

A New Leaf

ROOTED IN COMMUNITY

by Isabella Silberg Ross, Director of Development

The Catalyst — Repair the World | Jewish Federations

We've heard you! If you've driven past the Community Garden at the Charles Schusterman Jewish Community Center and thought, "That garden could use a little love," you're not alone. The good news? We're doing something about it and we'd love for you to be part of it.

Jewish Tulsa is proud to launch *Rooted in Community*, a volunteer initiative that brings together Jewish values and meaningful community service through our Community Garden.

This project is about much more than growing plants and vegetables. It is about building relationships, strengthening our community, and living out the Jewish values that inspire us to care for both people and the world around us.

Each Monday from 10 am – 2 pm (with hours adjusting seasonally), volunteers gather in the garden to weed, plant, harvest, and maintain the space. We are especially grateful to our dedicated partners at A New Leaf, whose participants and staff have committed to joining us every Monday morning. Their partnership brings not only helping hands, but also joy, and a shared commitment to making our community stronger. Working side by side, volunteers have already begun building friendships while transforming the garden into a thriving space that reflects the best of collaboration and inclusion.

Our first few volunteer days have reminded us that a garden is full of unexpected lessons. During one morning, volunteers discovered a bunny nest tucked safely beneath the plants. Rather than seeing it as an obstacle, the moment became an opportunity to reflect on our responsibility to care for all living creatures. Together, we're reminded of a Jewish value, *shomrei adamah*, guardians of the earth, and how every act of kindness toward nature reflects our responsibility to care for our campus and our planet.

Rooted in Community was made possible through grant funding awarded through my participation in the Catalyst program, a national leadership development initiative focused on Jewish service and learning. The grant provides an opportunity for volunteers of all ages and abilities to engage in meaningful, hands-on service grounded in Jewish values while making a lasting impact right here in Tulsa.

Whether you have years of gardening experience or have never held a trowel before, there is a place for you in the garden. Every weed pulled, every seed planted, and every hour volunteered helps strengthen our community while creating opportunities to learn, connect, and give back.

We invite you to come dig with us as we continue to grow meaningful friendships and build a community rooted in service! If you're interested in volunteering or learning more about the Rooted in Community initiative, please contact Laura Allen, Director of Membership and Community Engagement (lallen@jewishtulsa.org). Advance sign-up through JewishTulsa.org is encouraged so we can notify you of schedule changes or weather delays.

JEWISH COMMUNITY MENTAL HEALTH INITIATIVE: HEALING IN COMMUNITY

by Tara E. Liberman, PsyD, JCMHI Founder and Executive Director and Sasha Soykin, PhD, JCMHI Director of Operations

In the weeks after October 7, 2023, Jewish people navigated a complicated mix of grief, fear, and isolation. Communities were not only absorbing the devastation in Israel, but also confronting a sharp rise in antisemitism reaching into schools, workplaces, campuses, parenting, friendships, and everyday life.

For many, the experience felt intensely personal. People who had always felt secure in their identities suddenly found themselves questioning where they belonged.

Recognizing the urgency of the moment and the lack of culturally responsive mental health support for Jewish communities, psychologist Dr. Tara E. Liberman convened a volunteer task force of mental health professionals to offer free virtual support groups for Jewish individuals and families.

What began as an emergency response has grown into something much larger. Today, the Jewish Community Mental Health Initiative (JCMHI), a Direct Action Program of the American Psychological Foundation, is a global network of more than 100 volunteer clinicians, researchers, educators, and community leaders. Led by Dr. Tara Liberman and Dr. Sasha Soykin, JCMHI has facilitated more than 2,000 free clinician-led support groups and runs 25 free weekly groups serving Jewish individuals and communities around the world.

At its core, JCMHI is built on a simple belief: healing happens in community. Rather than pathologizing people's responses to a persistent, challenging period marked by rising antisemitism and communal uncertainty, JCMHI creates spaces where individuals gather with others who share their experiences, identities, and concerns. These groups meet participants with compassion and evidence-informed support from clinicians who understand both the psychological and cultural dimensions of what many Jewish individuals and communities are living through.

The impact of these groups is best captured in participants' own words. For many, the groups provide an antidote to isolation and invalidation. As one participant put it, without a group like this, "I start to feel like I'm losing my mind." Another expressed it more simply: "I don't feel alone." Others described finding a genuine sense of belonging, even among people with very different backgrounds. One participant reflected on the mix of longtime members and newcomers, noting that "somehow it felt like we all connected and heard each other. It really felt like community." Participants also emphasized the safety of the space itself: "Having a safe and supportive space to talk. I appreciate the care with which the facilitators addressed the themes that arose in the group. It is clear they truly understand." Others described the relief of finally being able to show up authentically: "Getting to be my whole self and feeling welcome." Still others point to the diversity of perspectives within the groups, with members joining from around the world, "not all cut from the same cloth," as part of what makes the connection feel real.

JCMHI support groups serve college students, parents, clinicians, LGBTQ+ Jews, descendants of Holocaust survivors, educators, and people navigating grief or chronic illness, with new groups emerging as the organization adapts to what communities need.

Support groups remain the most visible part of JCMHI's work, but they are only one piece of it. JCMHI is also advancing research into the psychological impact of antisemitism and identity-based hate, with current studies spanning nearly 2,000 Jewish college students across more than 350 campuses, alongside work on moral injury, resilience, workplace experiences, parenting, and traumatic invalidation. That research stays grounded in lived experience: insight from support groups, education, and clinical work shapes the research questions being asked, while findings are translated back into practical tools and training.

Education is central to that translation. Since its founding, JCMHI has delivered more than 100 workshops and trainings for clinicians, educators, healthcare providers, universities, and community leaders, building understanding of identity-based stress and collective trauma alongside concrete strategies for resilience. And when a crisis strikes, whether an antisemitic attack, an act of terrorism, or a communal tragedy, JCMHI mobilizes as a rapid-response resource, offering support and connection in the hours it's needed most.

Throughout its growth, JCMHI has held onto the values that inspired its creation: community, compassion, resilience, and hope. By creating spaces where people feel seen and understood, JCMHI helps transform isolation into connection, and distress into resilience—proof that in this challenging moment, no one has to carry it alone.

This work reaches Jewish individuals in Tulsa just as it does communities around the world because JCMHI's support is offered virtually. Clinicians who work with Jewish clients in Tulsa often describe a familiar set of challenges: older adults who feel lonely and disconnected despite belonging to an active local Jewish community; second-generation Holocaust

(Continued on p. 23)

A JEWISH CHILDHOOD IN TULSA – 1938-1946

by Werner Renberg

As I approach my 98th birthday and the 88th anniversary of my arrival in Tulsa from Nazi Germany, I thought readers might be interested in some memories of my Jewish childhood in Tulsa from when I moved there at age 10 in December, 1938 through my graduation from Central High School in 1946.

I grew up in Delmenhorst, Germany as one of two sons of Anna and Herman Renberg. Our father had a store that sold sewing machines and bicycles in our small town. My brother, Guenther (later "Ken") was eight years older and as the Nazi's came to power in the mid-1930s, my parents thought it best to send him to live with family in Enid, Oklahoma, where he subsequently attended high school. The family that hosted him, the Herzberg's, were responsible for saving our family and we stayed close to them for decades, including Jerry Herzberg of Tulsa.

After the Nazis prevented my father from owning a store and after we moved to the larger city of Bremen to stick out a little less as Jews, Kristallnacht occurred. My father was taken to the Sachsenhausen concentration camp that night, leaving my mother and me alone. The Gestapo did say that since we had visas (having been sponsored to emigrate to the US by the Herzberg family) and steamship tickets for early December, we should see if my father could be released. To our pleasant surprise, two weeks later, he was released, and he and I sailed for New York. My mother came later, and we were able to settle in Tulsa, thanks in great part to my father's older brother, Sam, who had established Renberg's clothing store in downtown. Within a few years, I was working at the store part-time. My parents' main source of income was a small shop in the lobby of an office building, where they sold food, beverages, cigars, magazines and newspapers, shaving items, and similar products the workers needed. I helped them, too, since it was expected.

I think it is important to note that as a non-English speaking Jewish 10-year-old child, I did not experience antisemitism when I started school in Tulsa. I was pretty outgoing and made friends over time. At school, I was not given an English language tutor, but I managed to learn it well enough to be a good student and ultimately to become a journalist.

Some of my memories involve attending synagogue services with my parents at B'nai Emunah, where my mother sat in the balcony and I joined my father and other men in the seats below. Synagogue was an important part of our lives in Tulsa, just as it had been in Germany. I recall having a bar mitzvah shortly after the Pearl Harbor attack but not the specifics of my ceremony.

Our family observed Shabbat and did Kiddush every Friday and attended synagogue every Saturday. My mother made traditional meals for Jewish holidays. We managed to obtain kosher meat in Tulsa, likely imported from Chicago, and I recall that we had whole kosher chickens for my mother to cook.

I attended Hebrew School in Tulsa and remember that we had an instructor who came from Chicago. In fact, one of the instructors from Chicago temporarily rented a room in our house.

I very much wanted to assimilate and to become more American. I recall that across from the synagogue, there was a Jewish-owned gas station and I joined some of the other boys in sneaking out of high holiday services to listen to the World Series. What could be more American?

I felt generally welcomed by most of my classmates. As my language improved, I made new friends. During my 50th and 60th Central High reunions, classmates remembered me. I once gave a speech thanking the class as a whole for allowing me, as a German Jewish immigrant all the way back in the late 1930's, to feel stability and warmth, the polar opposite from living under Nazi rule as a small child. One of my Central classmates, who had become a minister, came up to me, crying, after my speech because he was so thankful that I had

(Continued on p. 23)

Top: Anna and Herman Renberg; Bottom: Ken and Werner Renberg in Tulsa

THE JEWISH NUDIE SUIT ©

by Phil Goldfarb, President Jewish Geneological Society

Nuta Kotlyarenko known professionally as Nudie Cohn, was born on December 15, 1902 in Kiev, Ukraine to Abraham Kotlyarenko (1864-1929) and Bearl Hirsdansky (1883-1960) He was a tailor who designed outlandish, decorative, rhinestone-covered suits known popularly as "Nudie Suits", and other elaborate outfits for some of the most famous celebrities of his era.

Nuta became a tailor's apprentice at age eight. To escape the anti-Jewish pogroms of Czarist Russia, his parents sent him, at age 11 along with his older brother Julius, age 19, to America. For a time, he crisscrossed the country, working as a shoeshine boy and later a boxer. While living in a boardinghouse in Mankato, Minnesota, he met Helen Barbara "Bobbie" Kruger, (1913-2006) and married her in 1933. In the midst of the Great Depression, the newlyweds moved to New York City and opened their first store in 1934: "Nudie's for the Ladies," specializing in rhinestone-embellished costumes for chorus girls and strippers.

They relocated to California in the early 1940s, and began designing and manufacturing clothing in their garage. In 1947, Cohn persuaded young, struggling country singer Tex Williams to buy him a sewing machine with the proceeds from auctioning off a horse. In exchange, Cohn made clothing for Williams. As their creations gained a following, the Cohn's opened "Nudie's of Hollywood" dealing exclusively in Western wear, a style much in fashion at the time.

Cohn's designs brought the already-flamboyant Western style to a new level of ostentation with the liberal use of rhinestones and themed images in chain stitch embroidery. One of his early designs, in 1962, for singer Porter Wagoner, was a peach-colored suit featuring rhinestones, a covered wagon on the back, and wagon wheels on the legs. He offered the suit to Wagoner for free, confident that the popular performer would serve as a billboard for his clothing line. His confidence was justified, and the business grew rapidly. In 1963, the Cohn's relocated their business to a larger facility and renamed it "Nudie's Rodeo Tailors" and employed bootmakers, leather workers, alterations experts, embroiderers, tailors, and designers.

Many of Cohn's designs became signature looks for their owners. Among his most famous creations was Elvis Presley's $10,000 gold lamé suit worn by the singer on the cover of his *50,000,000 Elvis Fans Can't Be Wrong* album (They netted $9,950 on the suit). Cohn created Hank Williams' white cowboy suit with musical notations on the sleeves, and Gram Parsons' infamous suit for the cover of the Flying Burrito Brothers' 1969 album *The Gilded Palace of Sin*, featuring pills, poppies, marijuana leaves, naked women, and a huge cross. He designed the iconic costume worn by Robert Redford in the 1979 film *Electric Horseman* as well as Jimmy Page's famous black colored Dragon suit worn at Led Zeppelin's Earl's Court shows in 1975.

Many of the film costumes worn by Roy Rogers and Dale Evans were Nudie's designs. John Lennon was a customer, as were John Wayne, David Cassidy, Gene Autry, George Jones, Cher, Ronald Reagan, Elton John, Robert Mitchum, Pat Buttram, Tony Curtis, Michael Landon, Glen Campbell, Michael Nesmith, Hank Snow, Hank Thompson, and numerous musical groups, notably America and Chicago. ZZ Top band members Billy Gibbons and Dusty Hill sported Nudie suits on the cover photo of their 1975 album *Fandango!*.

In 2006, Porter Wagoner said he had accumulated 52 Nudie suits, costing between $11,000 and $18,000 each, since receiving his first free outfit in 1962. Belgian entertainer Bobbejaan Schoepen was a client and personal friend as his collection of 35 complete stage outfits is the largest in Europe. Singer, songwriter, and guitarist Hank Snow, who passed away in 1999, bequeathed to the Country Music Hall of Fame and Museum a large collection of his stage clothing made by Nudie's Rodeo Tailors.

Cohn strutted around town in his own outrageous suits and rhinestone-studded cowboy hats. His sartorial trademark was mismatched boots, which he wore, he said, to remember his humble beginnings in the 1930s, when he could not afford a matching pair of shoes. According to his granddaughter, Jamie Lee Nudie (who changed her last name to her grandfather's first name), he would often pay for items with dollar bills sporting a sticker of his face covering George Washington's. "When you get sick of looking at me," he would say, "just rip the sticker off and spend it."

Nudie Cohn, left, with a fellow nudie suit lover

Cohn was equally famous for his garishly decorated automobiles. Between 1950 and 1975, he customized 18 vehicles, mostly white Pontiac Bonneville convertibles, with silver dollar-studded dashboards, pistol door handles and gearshifts, extended rear bumpers, and enormous Longhorn steer-horn hood ornaments. They were nicknamed "Nudie Mobiles", and the nine surviving cars have become valued collector's items. A Bonneville convertible designed for country singer Webb Pierce is on display at the Country Music Hall of Fame and Museum in Nashville, Tennessee. A Pontiac Grand Ville convertible customized by Nudie can be seen at the end of the 1988 Buck Owens/Dwight Yoakam music video, *"The Streets of Bakersfield"*. That same car—which Owens's manager claims was originally built for Elvis Presley—now hangs over the bar inside Buck Owens's Crystal Palace in Bakersfield, California.

Nudie Cohn died on May 9, 1984 and he is buried at Forrest Lawn Cemetery in Beverely Hills, California, with the eulogy delivered by Dale Evans. Western stars like Roy Rogers and Buck Owens wore "Nudies" to their final rest. Nudie's Rodeo Tailors remained open for an additional 10 years under the ownership of Nudie's widow Bobbie and granddaughter Jamie, but closed in 1994 when Bobbie retired.

In 2015, Nudie's granddaughter Jamie reopened his shop, leading to a revival of Nudie suits among celebrities during the late 2010s and early 2020s. Cohn's creations, particularly those with celebrity provenance, remain popular with country-western and show-business collectors, and continue to command high prices when they come on the market. In December 2009, a white Nudie stage shirt owned by Roy Rogers, decorated with blue tassels and red musical notes, sold for $16,250 at a Christie's auction. A Nudie shirt worn by Johnny Cash as grand marshal of the 1976 American Bicentennial Grand Parade in Washington, D.C., and in several subsequent stage performances, sold at auction for $25,000 in 2010. ■

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

Butterflies

Honoring Donors to the Zarrow Pointe

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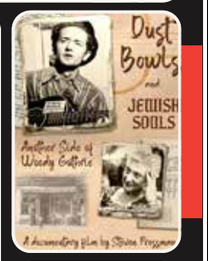
DUST BOWLS & JEWISH SOULS

Dust Bowls and Jewish Souls reveals the Jewish world that shaped Woody Guthrie, from his Yiddish poet mother-in-law onward, with director Steven Pressman in attendance, presented with the Jewish Federation of Tulsa and the Woody Guthrie Center.

THURSDAY, 8/20 | 7 PM



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(Continued from p. 9 We Are Small . . .)

Congregation B'nai Emunah:

"How goodly are your tents, O Jacob, your dwelling places, O Israel." (Numbers 24:5)

How good are the gathering places of Jews in Tulsa.

Jews from every background. Converts. Immigrants. Families whose stories began in Europe, the former Soviet Union, the Middle East, and beyond.

How good is a community that chooses to invest in Jewish life, knowing that every child, every family, every story matters.

Together we tell our stories. Together we remember who we are. Together we become stronger.

If there is one message I hoped to leave with the Jews of Tulsa, it is this: be proud to be Jewish. Be proud to be connected to Israel—a country that became home not only for my Iraqi Jewish family, but for Holocaust survivors, Jews from Arab lands, Ethiopia, the former Soviet Union, and wherever Jews could no longer live safely as Jews.

In truth, though, Tulsa left me with its own message. The Jewish Federation of Tulsa shows what investing in Jewish life makes possible. Sometimes it takes an outsider to remind us what we have created.

Bunyamin was right.

We are a small people.

But together, we are strong. ■

Elson ISRAEL FELLOWSHIP

Sarah (front row third from right) at a YALLA Torah on Tap Program

(Continued from p. 18 Healing in Community. . .)

survivors carrying guilt, shame, or grief; individuals living with ongoing fear of antisemitism; and adults navigating life's difficulties without access to a Jewish-specific support network. If any of this resonates with you or someone you know in Tulsa, you don't have to face it alone. JCMHI's free support groups, trainings, and educational resources are available to you right now. To find a support group, request a training for your community, or learn more, visit JCMHI.com or email admin@jcmhi.com today. ■

JEWISH COMMUNITY MENTAL HEALTH INITIATIVE

(Continued from p. 19 A Jewish Childhood . . .)

a positive experience as a Jewish refugee when I came to Tulsa.

A great example of my assimilation is that I even started my own little newspaper, the "Ace Reporter," using a child's printing press my parents purchased for me. I still have copies and enjoy seeing my coverage of World War II, movie listings, and sports results that I thought were important to publish. I did not put the Tulsa World out of business, but it gave me a taste of what my future would hold as a journalist, and later as a public affairs executive in the oil industry in New York.

My father died in his 70's, and my mother made it to age 90 before passing in 1986. They lived in Tulsa to the end, as did my older brother, Ken, who was a leading petroleum engineer and co-founder of Lee Keeling & Associates. Being part of the Tulsa Jewish community was important to us from the beginning in 1938. I love reading this magazine so I can stay connected, even at age 98, and as a Maryland resident. ■

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

Lifelong Learners at Zarrow Pointe
Wednesday, August 12 | 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.

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

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

First Day of ShulSchool
Sunday, August 16 | 9:00 a.m.

School is back in session! A new year of learning, community, and fun begins. Every Sunday morning at 9:00 a.m. until noon during the school year, our building is filled with the sounds of our kids exploring Jewish values, holidays, and the meaning of shared community. Caring and creative faculty are planning a great year ahead. Interested in learning more? Be in touch with Morah Sara at slevitt@bnaiemunah.com for questions and registration information!

Free Eggs to Order Sunday Seminar: Faces of Iron Gate Art Exhibition
Sunday, August 16 | 9:30 a.m.

Step behind the lens and discover the stories that make Iron Gate one of Tulsa's most compassionate community organizations. Faces of Iron Gate is a moving photography exhibit celebrating the individuals, volunteers, staff, and neighbors whose lives intersect through Iron Gate's mission of fighting hunger and homelessness. Featuring powerful images captured by talented photographers, the exhibit offers an intimate look at resilience, dignity, hope, and human connection. The morning will also include presentations from Iron Gate of Tulsa staff and participating photographers, providing deeper insight into the stories behind the photographs and the impact of serving our community with compassion. Breakfast at 9:30 a.m., exhibit and seminar at 10:30 a.m. There is no cost to attend, but please indicate your attendance by registering on our website.

Blatt + Blue: *The Swedish Connection*
Thursday, August 20 | 7:00 p.m.

The Swedish Connection is an inspiring historical drama based on the true story of Gösta Engzell, a Swedish diplomat whose courage and determination helped save thousands of Jewish lives during World War II. By using diplomacy and ingenuity to outmaneuver Nazi bureaucracy, Engzell proved that one person's moral conviction can make an extraordinary difference, even in history's darkest moments. This film is available for viewing on Netflix. Join us for our conversation at 7:00 p.m. on Zoom (918 583 7121). Newcomers are always welcome to join the dialogue.

An Evening with Alyssa Rosenheck: *White. Blonde. Jew.*
Wednesday, August 26 | 7:00 p.m.

Join us, in partnership with the Jewish Federation of Tulsa, for a special book release conversation with acclaimed author, designer, and native Tulsan, Alyssa Rosenheck, as she discusses her deeply personal new memoir, *White. Blonde. Jew*. In this candid and thought-provoking conversation, Rosenheck shares her journey of uncovering her Jewish identity, confronting family secrets, and embracing the complexities of faith, heritage, and belonging. Blending heartfelt storytelling with themes of resilience, self-discovery, and courage, *White. Blonde. Jew.* invites readers to reflect on their own identities and the power of living authentically. There is no cost to attend this book release conversation, but please indicate your attendance through website registration. Books will be available for sale.

Bibi Dibi – Shabbat for Little Ones
Friday, August 28 | 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.

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

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

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

Shabbat Services in person, on Zoom & Facebook Live • Fri., August 7 • 6:00 p.m.
Join us as we welcome Shabbat! Arrive early for our pre-oneg at 5:30 p.m., including a variety of light snacks and beverages.

Shabbat Learning * • Sat., August 8 • 10:30 a.m.
Our summer learning continues with Abraham Joshua Heschel's classic book, The Sabbath. First published in 1951, Heschel's reflections on the tensions between the material and the spiritual still resonate strongly today. *The Sabbath* is available in print or as an ebook through Bookshop.org at tinyurl.com/mryjjwpy, or wherever you purchase books. Our learning will take place in the *Activity Space at the Temple Offices.*

Gourmets on the Go at The Chalkboard * • Sun., August 9 • 11:00 a.m.
This month, our dining series takes us on a sophisticated brunch journey to The Chalkboard! Join us for this pay-your-way gathering—seats are limited, so please sign up via the Temple Israel website events page by Tuesday, August 4. *The Chalkboard is located at 1324 S. Main Street in the Ambassador Hotel.*

Zarrow Pointe Shabbat Service * • Fri., August 14 • 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.

Birthday Shabbat Service in person, on Zoom & Facebook Live • Fri., August 14 • 6:00 p.m.
Celebrate our August birthdays with us at this special Birthday Shabbat! Arrive early for our pre-oneg at 5:30 p.m., including a variety of light snacks and beverages.

Paint & Sip * • Wed., August 19 • 7:00 p.m.
Our resident art scholar, Lesley Bumgarner, presents a special learning about iconic Jewish painter Marc Chagall. Enjoy light snacks and sip some wine while creating your own Chagall-inspired work of art! Please sign up via the Temple Israel website events page by Monday, August 17. *This event will take place in the Activity Space at the Temple Offices.*

Shabbat Services in person, on Zoom & Facebook Live • Fri., August 21 • 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., August 25 • 6:00 p.m.
Temple Israel's Adult Education Committee invites you to read *We Were the Lucky Ones* by Georgia Hunter with us in August, then join us to discuss and enjoy light snacks! Please visit the Temple Israel "Events" page on our website for a full reading list and to sign up. *Our book club will meet in the Activity Space at the Temple Offices.*

Anniversary Shabbat Service in person, on Zoom, & Facebook Live • Fri., August 28 • 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.

"READ ALONG WITH ME"

by Kelsey Holder, Director of Education

There's something to be said for a big event: fancy linens, caterers, décor . . . sometimes carnival inflatables. Each year, TI hosts a variety of events ranging from extravagant to casual. But there's also something to be said for the low-key gathering, the simple snacks and flexible agenda.

For the second year, Temple Israel's Adult Education Committee has worked diligently to create new adult learning opportunities—a Tu B'Shevat Seder, a Purim mask making, an Elul Kintsugi project, a charoset making class. These individual opportunities certainly draw a crowd. This year, though, the committee wanted a regular opportunity for gathering and learning. So, they answered the call for a book club.

Hence, "TI Reads!". We met for the first time in April and have gathered every month since. Putting their collective heads together, the Adult Ed Committee curated a Jewish reading list to carry us through the end of 2026. It's an amalgam of genres: memoir, fiction, poetry, drama.

Our crowd of readers each month continues to grow, and it's a group that shows up regardless of the book's flavor of the month. There's always one or two sheepish, "Well . . .I didn't actually read the book" And that's ok! We recently read Michael Chabon's *The Yiddish Policemen's Union*, a noir detective story merged with speculative fiction. The conversations from the book drew everyone in, even those who "skipped a few pages."

It's this special space for reading Jewish books and discussing Jewish topics. If you visit one of the many fabulous independent book shops that Oklahoma has to offer, there's usually a special section featuring lots of options for book clubs based on reading interests. TI's book club serves an interest, more than one really. It's an opportunity to immerse in Jewish literature and Jewish discussion in our special Jewish space.

So, mark your calendars for the last Tuesday of each month. In August, we are reading *We Were the Lucky Ones* by Georgia Hunter. This one, though? You won't want to skip any pages.

HIGH HOLIDAYS AT TEMPLE ISRAEL

Selichot Services & Program at TI Offices	Saturday, 9/5 - 7:30 pm
Kever Avot at Rose Hill Cemetery	Sunday, 9/6 - 10:00 am
*Erev Rosh Hashanah	Friday, 9/11 - 7:30 pm
*Rosh Hashanah Service	Saturday, 9/12- 10:00 am
Tashlich at Gathering Place	Sunday, 9/13 - 10:00 am
Rosh Hashanah Family Event at LaFortune Park	Sunday, 9/13 - 10:30 am
Shabbat Shuvah & Anniversary Shabbat	Friday 9/18 - 6:00 pm
*Kol Nidre	Sunday, 9/20 - 7:30 pm
*Yom Kippur	Monday, 9/21- 10:00 am
Yom Kippur Afternoon Learning	Monday, 9/21 - 1:00 pm
Music and Meditation	Monday, 9/21- 2:00 pm
*Yom Kippur Afternoon Service, Yizkor, and N'eilah	Monday, 9/21 - 3:30 pm
Yom Kippur Community Break Fast	Monday, 9/21 - 6:00 pm
Sukkot & Shabbat Service	Friday, 9/25 - 6:00 pm
Truckin' to the Sukkah on JCC Campus	Sunday, 9/27 - 12:00 pm
Simchat Torah, Consecration & Congregational Dinner	Friday, 10/02 - 6:00 pm

JEWISH TULSA
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