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Jewish Review
Elul/Tishrei 5786-87
September 2026
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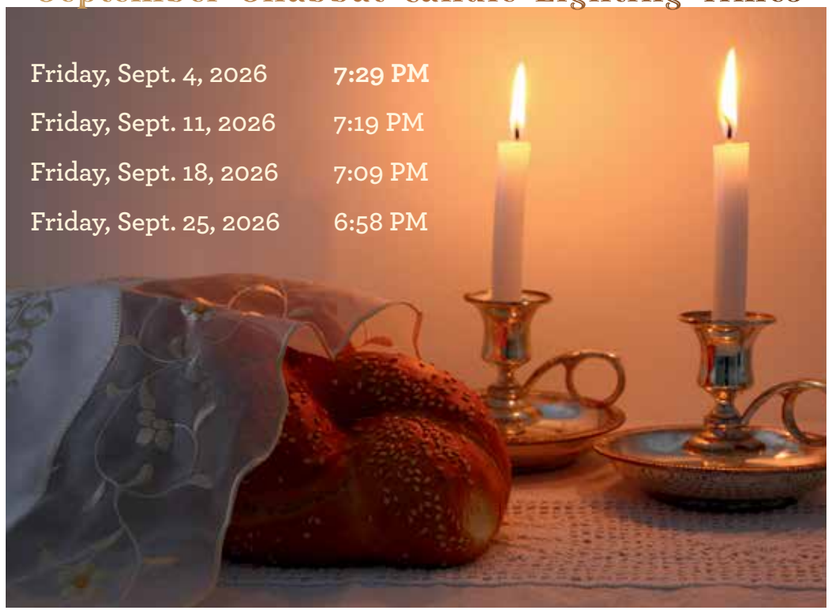

Friday, Sept. 4, 2026	7:29 PM
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September 2026
Elul/Tishrei 5786-87
Volume 98 | Number 9

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Tulsa Jewish Review

Founded in 1930 by Tulsa Section, National Council of Jewish Women

(ISSN# 2154-0209)
Tulsa Jewish Review
(USPS 016-928) is published monthly by
JEWISH TULSA
2021 E. 71st St., Tulsa, OK 74136.
Periodicals postage paid at Tulsa, OK.

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Front Cover

Students holding the shofar

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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DIRECTOR'S CORNER by Joe Roberts, Executive Director

The High Holidays force us to ask some pretty basic questions of ourselves. Who are we? What do we care about? Where have we fallen short? What do we want to be different when we arrive at this point next year?

When I think about Jewish Tulsa today, I am proud of what we are building. I am proud of the growth, the energy, the new ideas and the ambition we have for the future. Anyone who works with me knows I am not particularly good at being satisfied with where we are. There is always another thing I want us to try, another person I want us to reach, another way I think we can be better.

But the High Holidays are also a good time to stop moving for a minute and take stock of where we are. And what I keep coming back to is the heart of this community.

There is something about Jewish Tulsa that is hard to quantify. People show up for each other here. When a family is new, people make introductions. When someone is hurting, people rally around them. When something needs to be done, people volunteer, give, call, organize, lead, and help. We have institutions, programs and buildings that matter enormously, but underneath all of them is something much more basic. There are people here who care deeply about one another and about the future of Jewish life.

I see it constantly in the day to day of Jewish life in this community.

There is a lesson from Zionist philosophy that I think is especially relevant at this time of year.

The Jewish people are not simply passengers in our own history. We have agency over our future, and with that agency comes enormous responsibility. We do not have the luxury of being passive about our future. We must ask ourselves what we are prepared to build.

The State of Israel is among the greatest expressions of that idea, but the principle does not stop at Israel's borders. It belongs to all of us, from Midtown Tulsa to the Old City of Jerusalem.

We inherited Jewish Tulsa from people who faced that question and made a bold choice. They could have looked at a small Jewish community in Oklahoma and decided to maintain the minimum necessary to get by. Instead, they built. They built institutions, a campus, a museum, a JCC, a Federation, congregations and a culture of Jewish life that we have the privilege to inherit.

Our job is not simply to preserve those things exactly as they were handed to us. Our job is to take responsibility for what comes next.

That is why I care so much about growing Camp Shalom, investing in young families, creating more opportunities to learn Jewishly, deepening our connection with Israel, developing new leaders and thinking boldly about what our campus and institutions can become. It is not fair to those who built this community for Jewish Tulsa simply to maintain. I want us to build the best Jewish community in America.

I am bullish on us.

But none of that works without the heart underneath it. Buildings do not make a community. Programs do not make a community. Even money, necessary as it is, does not make a community. People do. *Ahavat Yisrael*, love of the Jewish people, means more than having warm feelings about other Jews. It means taking responsibility for one another. It means understanding that our futures are inexorably intertwined no matter how similar or different we are from one another.

That feels particularly important now. We are living through a moment when it would be very easy for Jewish life to become defined by what other people think about us. Antisemitism is real, and we have an obligation to confront it and to protect ourselves. But I refuse to let the people who hold hatred in their hearts determine what it means for us to be Jewish or to live Jewish lives.

We do not secure this community so that we can become exceptionally good at hiding behind locked doors. We protect Jewish life so that we can actually live it. Proudly. Joyfully. Without apology.

That is what I want our children to inherit from us. A community they love, the knowledge that they belong to an extraordinary people, and that they have the responsibility of writing the next chapter of our collective story.

The High Holidays pops up every year to remind us that our future is not predetermined. Teshuvah only makes sense because Judaism teaches us to believe that change is not only possible, it is required. We can repair. We can grow. We can choose what comes next.

That is true for each of us as individuals, and I think it is true for us as a community too. What we have inherited is remarkable. Now it is our turn to continue the project. And if we keep doing it with the heart that has always defined this community, I cannot wait to see what we will achieve together.

Shanah Tovah!

UPCOMING EVENTS

YALLA 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

Mezuzah Dedication | Thursday, September 3 | 5 pm | Location provided upon registration

You are warmly invited to help us dedicate the new home of our Shaliach and his family! Maor, Michal, Zohar, Amiro, Netta Shalom, and Pepe the dog have arrived from Be'er Sheva, bringing with them not only themselves, but also a firsthand connection to Israel. We'll affix a mezuzah, get to know them, and hear about their plans and the exciting journey ahead. We look forward to celebrating with you in simcha!

RSVP: JewishTulsa.org/mezuzah

Paws in the Pool | Monday, September 7, 5-8 pm | Sharna & Irvin Frank Aquatics Center

Let your best friend cool down after a hot summer! The pool will be open for your dogs for an afternoon of supervised swimming and play before closing for the season. Local Jewish-owned Knot Yours pet boutique will be on-site with handcrafted pet products. They will also be serving up free pup cup treats for your furry friends. All pups must be people-and dog-friendly.

$10/pet; FREE for all Pet Campaign Donors

RSVP: JewishTulsa.org/paws

Hebrew Lessons | 10 weeks: Mondays/Wednesdays starting Wednesday, September 9 | 6 pm | Jewish Tulsa (Asher)

Back by popular demand—beginner and intermediate Hebrew lessons! Starting on Wednesday, September 9, join us every Monday and Wednesday for a ten-week session to learn Hebrew. Taught by Israeli Tali Kaplan, participants will learn the basics of conversational Hebrew. By the end of the class, you can have the confidence to speak with the locals the next time you travel to Israel! *Minimum of 10 participants required for beginner lessons.

Beginner lessons: 6-7 pm; Intermediate lessons: 7-8 pm | $200 per person for 10 weeks

RSVP: JewishTulsa.org/Hebrew-Sept26

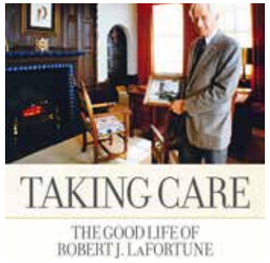
JEWISH FEDERATION OF TULSA

UPCOMING EVENTS

Lunch Bunch | Wednesday, September 16 | 12 pm | Jewish Tulsa

Meet our new shaliach (Israel emissary), Maor! Maor brings with him a unique background rooted in social entrepreneurship, community building, and coexistence. His journey has taken him from life in a social commune to an urban kibbutz, where he helped support entrepreneurs launching businesses with a social impact. Along the way, he also led his own initiatives, including a bilingual school that brought Arab and Jewish students together. These experiences ultimately led him to become a shaliach and begin a new chapter in Tulsa. Join us to hear more about Maor's story, the values that have shaped his path, and what inspired him to become an emissary.

RSVP: JewishTulsa.org/lb-Sept26



Book Talk with Mayor GT Bynum | Thursday, September 17 | 7 pm | Jewish Tulsa

Tulsa native Robert J. LaFortune devoted his life to public service and community leadership. After a successful career in oil and gas, he served three terms as a Tulsa city commissioner and eight terms as Tulsa's 31st mayor. He helped secure funding for the Port of Catoosa, major infrastructure improvements, INCOG, and the Performing Arts Center. Beyond public office, he led and supported numerous civic, healthcare, cultural, and charitable organizations. Known for his integrity, faith, and commitment to family, LaFortune left a lasting impact on Tulsa. Taking Care tells his story in his own words and celebrates his beloved hometown.

Preorder a signed copy of Mayor GT Bynum's Book for $18 | Childcare $10/child

RSVP: JewishTulsa.org/lafortune

Sukkot Havdalah | Saturday, September 26 | 7 pm | Location provided upon registration

Join us at the Shaliach's Sukkah for a special dessert reception, conversation, and Havdalah under the Sukkah. Together, we'll say goodbye to Shabbat and welcome a new week with blessings and songs. The evening includes an art project coloring mandalas to decorate the Sukkah. All ages are welcome!

RSVP: JewishTulsa.org/sukkot-havdalah

PJ Library: S'mores in the Sukkah | Sunday, September 27 | 3 pm | Location provided upon registration

Gather your tribe for S'mores in the Sukkah, an afternoon of sweet treats and holiday fun! Roast marshmallows, enjoy delicious s'mores, and celebrate the joy of Sukkot together in a warm and welcoming home-hosted atmosphere. Make memories and come meet our new shaliach and his family!

RSVP: JewishTulsa.org/smores-sukkah

UPCOMING EVENTS

FarmBar Sukkot Dinner | Wednesday, September 30 | 5 & 7:30 pm | FarmBar

Join us in celebrating Sukkot (September 25 to October 2), a joyous harvest holiday, with a special multi-course tasting dinner created in partnership with FarmBar. This thoughtfully curated multi-course tasting dinner features ingredients from their farm and other local growers, including crops planted earlier this year expressly for this occasion. Seatings are offered at 5 pm and 7:30 pm. Dinner is $65 per person, with an optional wine pairing for $45. Tax and gratuity are included.

RSVP: JewishTulsa.org/sukkot-farmbar

Book Club: When We See You Again | Tuesday, October 6 | 6:30 pm | Jewish Tulsa

When We See You Again is Rachel Goldberg-Polin's powerful memoir of love, loss, and resilience following the October 7 kidnapping of her son, Hersh. As she and her husband fought tirelessly for his release, Rachel became a voice for the hostages and their families. Written with extraordinary honesty and hope, this deeply moving book explores grief, faith, and the search for light in the darkest moments. Both heartbreaking and inspiring, *When We See You Again* is a testament to the enduring power of love and the strength of the human spirit.

RSVP: JewishTulsa.org/book-clubOct26

Save the Date

Marking October 7th

Wednesday, October 7th
At Jewish Tulsa

Building Hope with Elson Israel Fellow Yakir Englander

Join us for a powerful evening commemorating the 3rd anniversary of the October 7th attacks.

- Wings of Hope art installation unveiling
- 5 PM Community Dialogue – Your opportunity to share your feelings and ask questions about October 7th in a safe space.
- 7 PM Elson Israel Fellow Yakir Englander "Building Hope"

Come to both programs or just one—you decide.

Childcare available!

More info and sign up at: JewishTulsa.org/oct7-2026

Yakir Englander

Elson ISRAEL FELLOWSHIP

I'M YOUR NEW SHALIACH!

by Maor Elkayam, Israeli Emissary

Maor Elkayam

To be honest, I feel like I've been preparing for this chapter my whole life.

It started in the youth movement, where I learned to be part of a group, resolve conflicts through open dialogue, and act upon the values I believe in.

It continued through my year of community service (Shin Shin) and military service, where I dedicated my best years to those values and learned that your unit can become the most important thing in the world to you.

Later, I worked at summer camps around the globe, in the U.S., but also on the edges of the Jewish world, in New Zealand and South Africa. Serving as a summer Shaliach there taught me how vast the Jewish world really is. In Israel, you are exposed to one specific perspective of Judaism, and sometimes it's wise to stay humble, observe, learn, and, above all, drop the attitude that the truth is only on your side.

In my adult life, I went on to establish social enterprises, a hybrid of a for-profit business driven by a social mission, where both sides balance each other out. I learned that making money isn't a dirty word, but you don't have to compromise your values along the way: fairness, humanity, and striving for a better world. Eventually, you are your own best product.

Together with good friends, I co-founded the urban community I'm part of, a sort of urban kibbutz in Be'er Sheva, the capital of the Negev, where we all live in the same neighborhood, literally house next to house. I learned that raising your kids alongside your friends is the most rewarding experience, that social capital is worth no less than a nice house or a fast car, and that it's pretty cool to be a meaningful adult figure for many other children and youth, almost like a parent.

We also founded a nonprofit operating in Israel's periphery to build resilience by establishing urban communities and social businesses. I have always surrounded myself with a community, people looking for the good, wanting to act for others, and recognizing the power of a group to create meaningful change.

Through these endeavors, I also worked with Jewish Federations on campaign management and project operations. I was deeply moved by how people stood with Israel during its hardest hours, by the drive to volunteer and contribute regardless of whether one agrees or disagrees with its leadership. I felt this connection is something we must strengthen, preserve, and never give up on.

Together with my partner, Michal, we built our modest family. Each child who joined brought light and joy, and together we move like a school of fish. They taught me what truly matters: balancing family and work, and realizing that an extra hour at the office is never worth missing playtime with your child. And when you choose to relocate to another country, your family keeps you grounded, and it has to be strong for the journey to succeed.

When we chose in Israel to send our children to a bilingual Jewish-Arab school, it raised a few questions. If we lived abroad, I would do the exact opposite, and indeed, our youngest is attending Mizel Jewish Community Day School. But to us, it's clear that your actions reflect your values. In Israel, I never worried about my kids losing their Jewish identity; that's what home education is for. Instead, we wanted an education focused on tolerance, knowing the "other," and friendship with our neighbors. And yes, it's important for kids to speak Arabic and understand different narratives as a foundation for building peace.

Surprisingly, my first few days here with you in Tulsa, spent between Temple Israel, the Synagogue, and the Chabad House, brought me right back to my childhood. They reminded me of my father, who insisted we come to the local synagogue with him according to his ancestors' tradition. Sure, what you really wanted back then was to play outside with friends or sleep in for another hour, but hey, *Kibbud Av* (honoring your parents). Eventually, action creates emotion. I received an education rooted in moderate Sephardic Judaism, the kind that sees no contradiction in making *Kiddush* while the TV is on in the background, or walking to synagogue and then straight to the stadium for a match. Here you may call it Reform, but perhaps the roots sprouted in Sephardic tradition all along.

So, I've been preparing for this chapter my whole life. Am I ready now? Time will tell. What's certain is that I have a lot to learn, humbly, about this incredible thing you've built here called the Jewish Community of Tulsa.

I see myself first as an emissary of my own journey, of the sum of my choices and actions, reflecting an Israeli, Jewish, Mizrahi, and Middle Eastern world. Second, as a representative of Israeli society, with all its diverse shades, complexities, and wounds. Representing the State of Israel is a big title for this message; maybe I'll dive into that in the next article!

So, if you see a tall guy wearing a newsboy cap, come say hi! I promise a smile, a conversation, and maybe a joke (though it usually works better in Hebrew). ■

Elkayam family

UPCOMING EVENTS

Fitness Challenge: Steeptember

This September, take your fitness goals to new heights with Steeptember—a community stair-climbing challenge where you'll join either Team Hannah or Team Laura in a friendly, month-long competition to see which team can climb the most flights of stairs! A flight equals 10 consecutive steps—tracked using stairs, a stair machine, or a fitness app. Every flight you climb adds to your progress and your team's total. To keep the momentum going, our community bulletin board will feature a cartoon Hannah and Laura climbing a mountain. As each team racks up more flights, their character will climb higher and higher up the mountain. It's a fun, visual way to celebrate your effort and see who's leading the climb! Track your flights daily, support your teammates, and cheer each other on as we climb our way through Steeptember—one step at a time.

Fall Hiking Series | Friday, September 18 | 10 am | Oxley Nature Center

Back by popular demand! We will kick off our Fall Hiking Series at Oxley Nature Center with a beginner-friendly, short hike with some uneven surfaces, yet manageable for most members. We will meet at the Oxley Nature Center; please park in the main lot. The hike will be about one hour (driving time not included). JCC staff will lead you through trails of forests, grasslands, and wetlands. Hike your way towards better health and enjoy nature along the way!

RSVP: csjcc.org/hiking-sept26

Wellness Series: Healthy Dining Out Tips | Wednesday, September 23 | 10:15 am | Dan Room

Eating out can be both enjoyable and nutritious! Join us for our next Wellness Series with dietitian Whitney Yaffe, MS RD/LD, as she shares practical strategies for making balanced, mindful choices when dining at restaurants. Learn how to navigate menus, manage portions, make smart substitutions, and enjoy your favorite foods without sacrificing your wellness goals. Whether you're dining out occasionally or frequently, you'll leave with simple tips you can put into practice right away.

RSVP: csjcc.org/wellness-sept26

Intro to Pickleball Series: 3 Lessons | Afternoons or Evenings | Squash Courts

1:00 pm — Mon. Oct. 5, Wed. Oct. 7, and Fri. Oct. 9

5:30 pm — Mon. Oct. 5, Wed. Oct. 7, and Mon. Oct. 12

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. Paddles 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 scheduled in September.

Don't need lessons, but want to have fun, play, and improve? Join us for Open Pickleball Monday evenings 5-7 pm. A good group of players meets each Monday, and there is always room for more participants!

CAMP SHALOM 2026: A SUMMER OF GROWTH, COMMUNITY, AND JEWISH VALUES

by Martha Kelley, Director Camp Shalom and Bailey Kaufman, Assistant Director, Camp Shalom

Camp Shalom had an incredible summer filled with record enrollment, new traditions, meaningful Jewish experiences, and countless memories made together.

This summer, we welcomed 665 campers, with Week 9 reaching a record-breaking enrollment of 341 campers—the largest week in Camp Shalom history. Even more exciting, nine of our ten weeks served more than 300 campers. It was amazing to see our community continue to grow and to welcome so many families to Camp Shalom.

One of the most meaningful additions this year was Boker Tov, which means "good morning" in Hebrew. More than just a morning gathering, Boker Tov became a special way to bring our entire camp community together each day. Mornings included our camp chant, Israeli dancing, birthdays, announcements, and the introduction of our Jewish Value of the Week.

Throughout the week, campers continued exploring that value through activities, games, discussions, and projects. Whether focusing on kindness, respect, courage, community, or responsibility, campers had opportunities to experience Jewish values in ways that were fun, meaningful, and connected to everyday camp life.

Our Shlichot also played an invaluable role in creating an authentic connection to Israel throughout the summer. Through music, Israeli dancing, storytelling, Hebrew, traditions, and hands-on activities, they brought Israeli culture to life for our campers. From learning songs and dances to making favorites like butter cookie cake and chocolate balls, they helped create experiences and relationships that our campers will remember long after summer ends.

This year also marked the addition of Bailey Kaufman, Camp Shalom's first full time Assistant Camp Director, strengthening our leadership team and providing even more support for campers, families, and staff as our program continues to grow.

Behind the scenes, we worked closely with Oklahoma DHS to increase Camp Shalom's licensed capacity and meet the growing demand for camp. This allowed us to welcome more campers than ever before while continuing to focus on creating a safe, welcoming, and fun environment for every child.

We also launched the Camp Shalom Alumni Network, a new initiative designed to celebrate and strengthen the lifelong connections created through camp. Open to campers, families, and staff—past and present—the Alumni Network will help keep our community connected beyond the summer and celebrate the traditions, friendships, and memories that make Camp Shalom so special.

Together, these highlights represent so much more than another successful summer. They reflect a growing Camp Shalom community rooted in Jewish values, meaningful relationships, belonging, and experiences that we hope will stay with our campers and families for years to come.

SWIM FOR ALL: LESSONS THAT CAN SAVE LIVES

by Laura Allen, Director of Membership & Community Outreach

HERE AT THE CHARLES SCHUSTERMAN JCC, WE BELIEVE SWIMMING IS NOT ONLY A FUN AND HEALTHY WAY TO SPEND YOUR SUMMER, BUT ALSO A LIFE-SAVING SKILL.

Since the start of Swim for All in the summer of 2022, more than 450 students have attended our swim lessons. Our swim instructors focus on water safety, teaching children to always ask permission before entering the pool and to make sure an adult knows they are getting in the water. Other skills include blowing bubbles, putting their whole head underwater, floating on their front and back, and learning to kick their legs and pull their arms through the water.

Every spring I hustle to get kids signed up, and I always feel a little anxious about how the summer will go. But as soon as the families arrive on that first night, I remember why we do this. The kids arrive filled with excitement, and the families come filled with gratitude. It's a reminder that we're not just teaching children how to swim—we're giving them confidence, important safety skills, and memories that will last long after summer ends.

We target Title I schools near the CSJCC, including Marshall, McClure, and Key, and we often have several families from Jenks West participate as well.

For some of these kids, this was their third summer with me. Seeing their growth has been incredible—from barely putting their face in the water that first summer to confidently swimming in the shallow end of the pool and even going off the diving board. Moments like that are a powerful reminder of how much they can accomplish with encouragement, patience, and practice.

Thank you to the George Kaiser Family Foundation for supporting this important program and LifeGuard Pro for providing the skilled lifeguards. ■

Swim For All Classes

MUSIC TOGETHER®

JCC Family Programming

In a Music Together® class, we move, sing, clap, and dance! We are instilling a love of music—bonding families—and beginning your child's journey in speaking and creating with the language of music. Children 0-5 and their caregivers make music in a supportive environment where creation is valued over achievement. Bottom line- get ready to have fun and MAKE some music!

Sibling babies 7 months and younger at the start of the session are free! Each class is 45 minutes.

JCC Family Programs

- **9-week Session starts October 9**
- **csjcc.org/music-together-oct26**
- **$155/JCC Members; $180/Non-members**
- **Promo code: JCCMEMBER**

THE TEACHERS OF ISRAEL

by Cara Wilson-Armour, Ph.D

Author Cara Wilson-Armour, Ph.D top left with educators group

After a marathon of delayed flights, I found myself in Ein Gedi. In the dining hall over lunch, Eli, my host, explained that he had been a biology and chemistry teacher at the kibbutz's high school for 30 years. He was full of dad jokes, wisdom, and a sprinkle of self-deprecating Jewish humor. Some of his fellow Kibbutzniks filtered up to us one by one to introduce themselves and tell me that teaching students about the Shoah is God's work. In between introductions, Eli expressed the woes of modern education in Israel, which could have easily been comments from a teacher in Tulsa, Oklahoma.

Eli, an 80-year-old retired teacher, tells me that students are not learning; "Jews, Christians, Muslims, they are raising their children to be ideologically extreme and isolated because of phones!" He explains that cell phones have driven everyone into intellectual isolation. Children have no vocabulary, no social skills, and no sense of community. He passionately argued that political and religious extremism is every religion's visceral reaction to modernity.

This made sense to me. For nine years, I have been teaching Holocaust education in Oklahoma high schools, well before SB 1671 required it for the purposes of promoting human dignity. Some students bristle against reading Holocaust literature, while simultaneously championing causes célèbres. There is an outgrowth of none-too-subtle jabs, demands that we watch livestreams of present-day genocide, or attempts to steer Socratic seminars in the direction of the Israel/Gaza war. Their opposition is driven by an errant algorithm that prioritizes virtue signaling.

Eli asked, "What work will you do?" I explained I was chosen to attend the Advanced Learning Seminar at Yad Vashem, the World Holocaust Remembrance Center, in Jerusalem. Eighteen made the trip to study at the Yad Vashem campus, which contrasts the death and despair of World War II diaspora Jews with a living, vibrant Jewish state. We visited holy sites and the locations of the October 7th massacre, engaged with academics and survivors, and attended workshops. Their philosophy:

Holocaust education exists to cultivate a moral compass.

I had the privilege of hearing Rena Quint's story, a Shoah survivor who had been a child during the war. Now, a 90-year-old with 61 great-grandchildren, her home was a tribute to a life well-lived. Photos dotted the walls. Family pictures were stationed next to thick frames containing painted portraits of children from a bygone era. She survived by having "many mothers" who took care of her on the way to being adopted by a family in the U.S. She often compared her experiences to those of October 7th survivors and hostages. She emphasized that teachers should "educate the educable… fight the hate by choosing which things to engage with."

I was invited to Rabbi Yisroel and Shoshana Goldberg's Shabbat dinner. Their home, in the Rahavia neighborhood, was in a modest apartment building set in a lush garden of native trees and shrubs.

Shoshi, also a teacher, was curious about American education. She asked, "What motivates students to keep coming to school?" The Goldberg children busied themselves serving and clearing each course. The sounds of Hebrew and English mingled over the dinner table. For a long moment, everyone stopped speaking mid-sentence. All eyes darted to the window to discern if the wailing sound outside was a red alert siren or a malfunctioning car. Many awkward apologies and nervous explanations began with something like, "We've been living with constant sirens for so long…"

Programming about Nazi Ideology and the Final Solution paralleled a visit to October 7th massacre sites. The Nova Festival location has become a eucalyptus grove that arcs around spontaneous memorials with thousands of decorative ceramic anemones. Kibbutzim, destroyed by terrorists, are slowly returning to agricultural activity. Sderot is again a bustling Israeli crossroads, but the site of the Battle of Sderot, Sderot Police Station, no longer stands. Surrounded by multi-story apartments and university dormitories, the memorial plaza is now bullet holes fused with sculptures and murals. Off a nearby terrace, an Israeli flag and Pride flag hang beside each other, a quiet sign of Western resilience.

Israel demands introspection. Israel asked questions of me as if I hadn't brought any of my own. In the final days of my trip, etched into a pillar of the Sderot memorial, one last question. After being orphaned by terrorists amidst the Battle of Sderot, six-year-old Romi Shira Swisa asked a policeman:

"Are you with Israel?"

This trip would not have been possible without the support of Jewish Tulsa and the Jewish National Fund. Thank you from the bottom of my heart! ■

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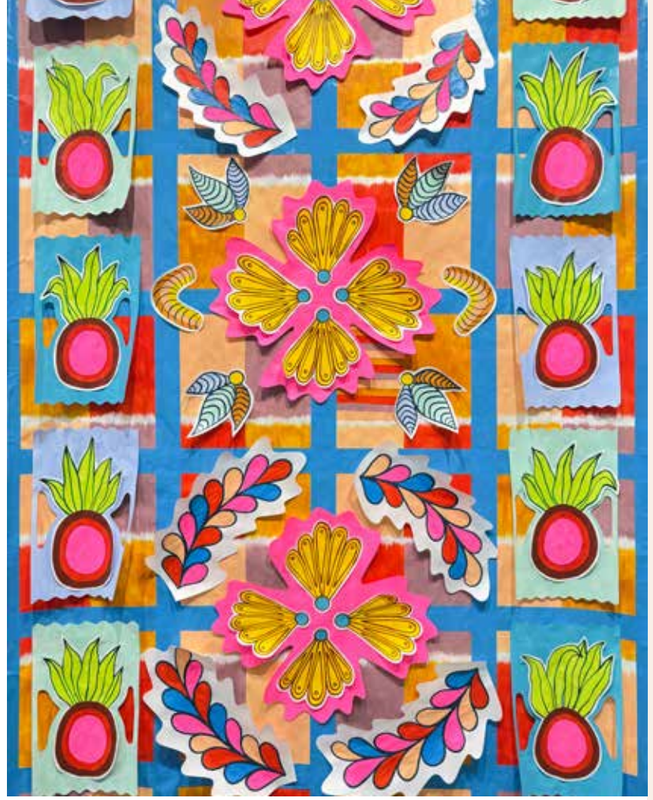
Save the Date

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 15

Opening Reception

featuring Artist Talk with

Julie Alpert



Paper Window
October 15, 2026–September 2027
Mezzanine

Inspired by the Museum's iconic stained-glass windows, Seattle artist Julie Alpert presents a vibrant installation of large-scale painted paper collages and intimate works on paper that reinterpret the windows' geometric patterns and brilliant colors.

Using painted paper, hand-drawn paint marker designs, and painted gallery walls, Alpert transforms the exhibition space into an immersive environment where contemporary abstraction meets architectural inspiration.

Totally Tumarkin
Brodsky Gallery – through October 26

One of Israel's most celebrated contemporary artists, Igael Tumarkin (1933–2021) was known for 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 Renee Sax of Chicago.

60th Anniversary Exhibition Opening Fall 2026

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.

Royale Diamond Gala

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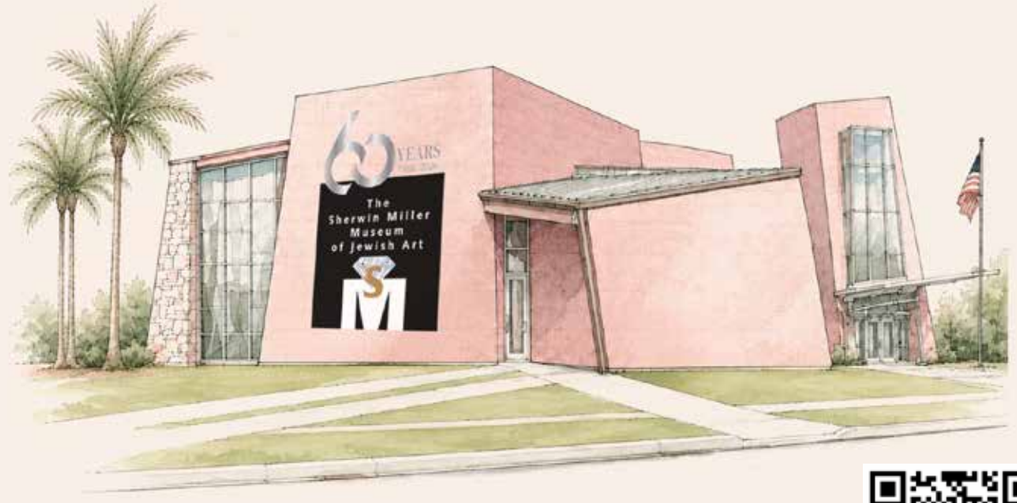
The Sherwin Miller Museum of Jewish Art



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MORE THAN A SCHOOL

by Amanda Anderson, Executive Director, Mizel JCDS

Every morning, I watch families walk through our front doors. Some parents are dropping off a toddler for the very first time. Others are sending off an independent fifth grader who barely turns around to wave goodbye anymore. Every family is different, but I know one thing they all have in common. They are trusting us with the people they love most.

As the Executive Director of Flo & Morris Mizel Jewish Community Day School, I never take that responsibility lightly. As a mother with both of my own children attending Mizel, I feel that responsibility even more deeply.

When my family moved to Tulsa, choosing a school wasn't simply about academics. I wanted my children to grow up in a place where Judaism wasn't something they experienced only on Shabbat or during the holidays. I wanted it to be woven into everyday life. I wanted Hebrew words to become familiar. I wanted Jewish holidays to be anticipated with excitement instead of explained after the fact. I wanted my children to understand that kindness, gratitude, responsibility, and tikkun olam are not just values we talk about. They are values we practice.

That is what happens every day at Mizel.

Our students begin each morning knowing they are part of a community. They learn math, science, reading, and writing alongside Hebrew, Jewish history, traditions, and values that have connected generations of Jews for thousands of years. They celebrate together, ask thoughtful questions, and discover that learning can be both rigorous and joyful.

What makes Mizel JCDS special, however, isn't found on a class schedule. It's found in the relationships. Our teachers know each child well. They understand what excites them, what challenges them, and what helps them grow. They celebrate milestones that might otherwise go unnoticed, encourage students to take healthy risks, and partner closely with families throughout each stage of childhood. That kind of attention is possible because our classrooms are intentionally small.

For some families, that is what first brings them to Mizel. For others, it is our Jewish foundation or our academic program. What often surprises them is how quickly the school begins to feel like an extension of their family. Parents know one another. Older students naturally look after younger ones. Teachers collaborate across grade levels because every child matters. There is a sense of shared responsibility here that is increasingly difficult to find.

Mizel serves children from 18 months through fifth grade, and every stage of that journey is intentional. Our youngest learners build confidence through exploration, play, and nurturing relationships. As they grow, they are challenged academically while developing independence, resilience, curiosity, and character.

By the time our students leave fifth grade, we hope they have gained much more than strong academic skills. We hope they know who they are. We hope they understand where they come from. We hope they are proud of their Jewish identity and prepared to engage thoughtfully with the world around them.

Amanda and Evan Anderson with their sons

Jewish day schools have always been about more than education. They are an investment in the future of Jewish life. In a community the size of Tulsa, that investment matters.

Every child who develops a love for Jewish learning, every family that finds connection, and every graduate who carries these values into adulthood strengthens the future of our entire community.

That is why I believe so deeply in the work we do. Not simply because I lead this school. Because every day, I watch my own children grow here.

Whether your family has deep roots in Tulsa or is just beginning its journey here, I invite you to visit Mizel. Walk through our classrooms. Meet our teachers. Spend time with our students. You'll learn about our academic program, our Hebrew curriculum, and the opportunities available to children from 18 months through fifth grade. More importantly, you'll see a school that is helping children develop a strong sense of who they are, where they come from, and how they can contribute to our Jewish community.

Every morning, I have two roles when I walk through our front doors. I'm the Executive Director, responsible for leading this remarkable school. But before anything else, I'm a mom watching her own children head to class. If I didn't believe wholeheartedly in what happens here every day, my children wouldn't be here. They are. And I couldn't be prouder to share this community with other families who are looking for a place to belong. ■

CELEBRATING 70 YEARS OF PIONEERING, COURAGE, AND VISION

by Itzik Levin

Seventy years ago, a bold vision took root in one of the most challenging environments on earth.

Established in 1955 with the opening of lodging facilities at Sodom near the Dead Sea Works, the Tamar Regional Council today oversees more than 400,000 acres of some of Israel's most breathtaking and unique landscapes. Stretching across the Dead Sea region, Tamar encompasses thriving communities, agricultural enterprises, industrial facilities, tourist destinations, and both civilian and military installations.

Despite its vast size, Tamar remains home to a close-knit population of approximately 2,300 residents. Half are Jewish residents living in six communities, while thousands of additional workers and visitors arrive throughout the year to support the area's industries and world-renowned tourism destinations, including Ein Gedi, Masada, and the Dead Sea hotel district at Neve Zohar.

Tamar's six communities tell a remarkable story of determination and resilience:

- Ein Gedi (Kibbutz, established 1956)
- Har Amasa (Kibbutz, established 1984)
- Neot HaKikar (Moshav, established 1970)
- Ein Hatzeva (Moshav, established 1960)
- Ein Tamar (Moshav, established 1982)
- Neve Zohar (Community Settlement, established 1986)

Each community represents the vision and perseverance of pioneers who chose to build lives and raise families in a remote desert region.

Having lived in the Dead Sea region for nearly 17 years, including 13 years as a member of Kibbutz Ein Gedi, I have witnessed firsthand the extraordinary achievements of the people who call this place home.

The young pioneers who settled here faced extreme conditions, yet they saw opportunity where others saw only desert. Through creativity, hard work, and determination, they developed innovative agricultural techniques that transformed the landscape.

Today, the region produces dates, vegetables, herbs, spices, and many other crops. The area's unique climate, with hot summers and mild winters, has enabled farmers to cultivate crops year-round using specialized desert-growing methods. What was once considered inhospitable terrain has become a flourishing agricultural success story.

In many ways, these pioneers accomplished the impossible: they turned the desert into an oasis.

Tamar's impact extends well beyond agriculture. The region is home to major industrial and economic drivers, including Dead Sea Works, Ahava, Ein Gedi Mineral Water, natural gas-powered electricity facilities, Negev Mineral, and ICL Rotem.

Together, these enterprises contribute significantly to the local economy while providing employment opportunities for residents throughout the region.

As Tamar looks to the future, education remains at the center of its growth strategy. Regional leaders believe that strong educational opportunities attract families, strengthen communities, and ensure long-term success.

The Ein Gedi Education Village, established in 1977, exemplifies this commitment. Today it serves approximately 300 local students and 100 boarding students. Its success has created new opportunities while also highlighting the need for continued investment as enrollment approaches capacity.

The Tamar Regional Council occupies a truly unique position. Situated at the lowest elevation on Earth, it combines extraordinary natural beauty, rich history, educational innovation, and cultural diversity into a vibrant and forward-looking community.

From the ancient fortress of Masada and the lush oasis of Ein Gedi to the healing waters of the Dead Sea, Tamar offers experiences found nowhere else in the world.

Several years ago, Jewish Tulsa established a partnership with the Tamar region, creating a meaningful bridge between our communities.

Since then, many members of our community have visited the region, participated in the Dead Sea Marathon, met local residents, and experienced firsthand the beauty and spirit of this remarkable area.

We look forward to continuing to deepen that connection through future exchanges, visits, and shared experiences. ■

// MARK YOUR CALENDARS! //

Next year's Dead Sea Marathon has been scheduled for **February 5, 2027**, in Ein Bokek. The event offers flat, fast courses on compacted salt embankments and the promenade, with race categories including a 5K, 10K, 15K, Half Marathon, Full Marathon, and a 50K Ultra-Marathon. For more information on joining the Jewish Tulsa Marathon Team contact JCC Director, **Evan Anderson at 918-495-1100 or eanderson@jewishtulsa.org**

Summer Shlichot Program: A Living Connection to Israel

An Unforgettable Summer

by Lital, Summer Shlicha

It's been about 7 months since I received the assignment to interview for the summer shlicha position at Camp Shalom, in a city I'd never heard of before, somewhere in the south with all the cowboys and farmers. Little did I know that Tulsa would become a second home to me, as well as the place where I had the best summer of my life!

Since the moment I landed in Tulsa, all sluggish and messy after 20 hours of travel, I felt so welcomed and grateful. Everyone I met was kind and generous, and I knew right away that I'd be in good hands. After a week of staff training, I thought I couldn't be happier, but then camp started and proved otherwise. Each morning began with Boker Tov (good morning in Hebrew), which was by far my favorite part of the day! The staff would greet the campers, dance together to Israeli songs, remind them of the weekly value, and challenge them with a way to practice it. I felt this was such a powerful way to start a day—with good energy and movement—and a reminder of what's truly important.

At first it was only Michaela (the other summer shlicha) and I on stage; after a couple of days, a few staff members joined us, and by the end of summer the stage was filled with campers-in-training (CITS), staff members, and campers! This truly reminded me why we started the tradition in the first place. Camp Shalom holds so many unforgettable memories for me, but this one will be one I'll savor for a long time.

The camp experience has taught me so much—about working with kids, being a part of a community, and even how to work better as a team. But if I had to choose one that was really special to me, I would choose the camp values.

At camp, we focused on a different value each week (friendship, hope, spirit, community, etc.). These are values we practice daily back home, but it's easy to take them for granted and stop noticing them. Camp reminded me that even the smallest acts of kindness and connection can make a meaningful difference. We would recognize and celebrate these acts of kindness with our campers to help instill their importance in daily life.

I remember Bailey, the Assistant Camp Director, saying to us in the first week, "Working with kids is a hard job, but a fulfilling one." It wasn't until I watched the campers grow into kinder, more compassionate, more confident people that I truly understood what she meant.

Whenever I wasn't working at camp, I loved spending time with our host families. Sometimes we would cook meals together and then sit at the dinner table chatting; on other days we would go for a sunset walk on the River Park Trails or explore Tulsa. It didn't matter what we did. It was the people that made the moment last. These generous families opened their homes and their hearts to Michaela and me before even knowing us, and that's something I will always remember about Tulsa.

Now that summer has slipped away, I've been thinking about what made it so special. Looking back on what I've learned, if I had one piece of advice for next summer's shlichim, it would be to always be there for one another. This summer was packed with amazing memories, and of course some challenges as well. I feel so lucky that I had Michaela by my side to work together, come up with wonderful programming ideas, solutions, and endless priceless moments. Do you know the feeling when you click with someone so much that you don't know how you didn't know each other before? Apparently, Michaela and I needed to travel all the way to Oklahoma to make a really good lifelong friend. ■

More than Cowbody Boots: A Summer in Tulsa

by Michaela, Summer Shlicha

Last February, I received an email from the Jewish Agency for Israel (JAFI), announcing I'd been assigned to a summer camp in Tulsa. My mind went blank—I didn't know a thing about Tulsa, except for the fact Chandler Bing spent some time there during Season Nine of the sitcom "Friends". I pictured tumbleweeds rolling in the dust, funny accents, and cowboy boots.

While I did spot a few pairs of boots around town, I have since learned quite a few things about Tulsa and my preconceived notions.

I learned that the Tulsa community is so kind, warm, and welcoming. Be it one of my many host families, curious little campers, or community members—every single person I met made me feel loved.

I learned that working with children will challenge and push you to be better, to find answers to the most bizarre questions, and to be present in every single moment—because you never want to miss a thing.

I was pleasantly surprised to learn that there were so many new and different ways to approach Judaism. Coming from Israel, I (somewhat foolishly) assumed that Judaism in the modern world is just about the same anywhere. It was so interesting to spot the many differences between the two cultures, yet all the while noticing how our values and core beliefs unite us.

I feel so fortunate I was able to spend this summer in Tulsa. It's been a life-changing experience and I would do it all over again if I could!

My one word of advice to next year's Shlichot is this—it is far more fun to put effort into things than to let them pass you by. As taxing as it may be from time to time, giving every moment your all, it will create the best summer experiences. This applies to everything—your activities, the connections you make, your relationships with each other. All of those require work, but it is good work, the kind that fulfills your soul and nourishes your mind.

Thank you to the Tulsa Jewish community for opening your hearts and homes to me. It was an experience I will always treasure! ■

Thank You!

Thank you to the following community members for opening their homes and hearts to our summer shlichim:

Klara & John Bode
Naomi & Evan Charney
Wynter Hill-Ferrell & Ryan Ferrell and Family
Hilary & Lawrence Lieberman and Family
Kathryn & Alex Moskowitz and Family
Molly & Renny Parra
Kristi & Jacob Tarabolous
Jodi Finer Zalk and Mat Zalk and Family

THE FIRST JEWISH GHETTO ©

by Phil Goldfarb, President Jewish Geneological Society

In 1516, the Republic of Venice created what became the world's first officially recognized Jewish ghetto, establishing a model of segregation that would later spread across Europe. Although the word "ghetto" would eventually become synonymous with oppression, its origins lie in a small island neighborhood in Venice's Cannaregio district, where a thriving Jewish community endured centuries of discrimination while making remarkable contributions to the city's economy and culture.

Jews had lived and traded in Venice for centuries before the ghetto was established. Their skills as merchants, moneylenders, physicians, and craftsmen made them valuable to the city's commercial success, yet their growing prosperity also fueled resentment. Laws governing Jewish life changed repeatedly, allowing commerce one year and restricting it the next, until the government settled on a permanent solution.

On March 29, 1516, Doge Leonardo Loredan and the Venetian Senate ordered every Jew living in Venice to move into a confined section of the city known as the Ghetto Nuovo. The neighborhood took its name from an abandoned metal foundry, or *geto* in the Venetian dialect, where molten metal had once been cast into cannonballs. Over time, the word evolved into "ghetto," forever linking the district with enforced segregation.

The location was surrounded by canals and connected to the rest of Venice by only two bridges, so it could be easily controlled. Gates were opened each morning when the great bell of St. Mark's Campanile rang and locked each evening at sunset. Christian guards watched the entrances through the night, while boats patrolled the surrounding canals to prevent anyone from entering or leaving after curfew. Jews found outside the gates during restricted hours faced heavy fines, imprisonment, or worse.

Life inside the ghetto was filled with restrictions. Jews could not own property and instead paid inflated rents for overcrowded apartments. They were required to wear identifying badges whenever they left the neighborhood and were limited to a handful of occupations, including lending money, medicine, secondhand trading, and pawnbroking.

As the Jewish population increased, the original neighborhood became too small. In 1541, authorities expanded the district into the adjacent Ghetto Vecchio. With little land available, families built upward rather than outward, creating some of the tallest residential buildings in sixteenth-century Venice. Several generations often lived under one roof in cramped quarters, but the neighborhood remained vibrant and active.

The Venetian ghetto quickly became one of Europe's most diverse Jewish communities. German Ashkenazim, native Italian Jews, Spanish and Portuguese Sephardim, and Levantine Jews each maintained their own traditions while living side by side. Rather than blending into a single culture, they established separate synagogues reflecting their different customs and languages. Five synagogues eventually served the community, each preserving the religious heritage of its members while strengthening Jewish life within the walls of the ghetto.

The ghetto developed into an important center of commerce and scholarship. Hebrew printing flourished in Venice, producing prayer books, biblical commentaries, and some of Judaism's most influential religious texts. Venetian printers produced Hebrew books that circulated throughout Europe and the Ottoman Empire, helping spread Jewish scholarship far beyond the city's canals. The famous Venice editions of the Talmud and beautifully illustrated Haggadot became treasured works, helped shape Passover celebrations for generations, and reinforced the city's reputation as one of the intellectual capitals of the Jewish world.

Markets, bakeries, butcher shops, and small businesses also prospered. Although Jews faced legal discrimination, many Venetian Christians visited the ghetto during daylight hours to trade, shop, or seek medical treatment from respected Jewish physicians. Economic necessity often succeeded where prejudice failed, creating daily interactions that benefited both communities.

By the early seventeenth century, more than 5,000 Jews lived within the crowded district. What had begun as an instrument of segregation had become a thriving center of religious, intellectual, and commercial life. The walls that were intended to isolate the Jewish population instead fostered an extraordinary sense of resilience, allowing the community to preserve its traditions while adapting to the harsh realities imposed by the Venetian government.

The first Jewish Ghetto

Despite the restrictions imposed upon them, the Jews of Venice built a community that endured for nearly three centuries. The ghetto became far more than a place of confinement. It evolved into a center of Jewish learning, worship, and commerce that attracted scholars, merchants, and visitors from across Europe. Hebrew, Venetian, Yiddish, Judeo-Spanish, Italian, and other languages could all be heard in its narrow streets, reflecting the remarkable diversity of its residents.

Over time, attitudes within Venice slowly began to change. Although prejudice never disappeared, many Christian merchants depended on Jewish trade and financial services.

The system finally came to an end in 1797. Napoleon Bonaparte's army entered Venice, dissolved the centuries-old Venetian Republic, and ordered the gates of the ghetto removed. For the first time in nearly 300 years, Jews were free to live wherever they chose within the city. The district itself was renamed the Contrada dell'Unione, or "District of Union," symbolizing the end of official segregation and the beginning of equal citizenship under French rule.

Many Jewish families chose to leave the crowded neighborhood for larger homes elsewhere in Venice. Others remained, maintaining the synagogues and institutions that had served the community for generations. Although the walls and gates disappeared, the former ghetto continued to be recognized as the heart of Jewish life in Venice.

Today, the community, though small, remains active. Two of the historic synagogues continue to hold regular religious services, while the others serve as museums and architectural treasures. The Jewish Museum of Venice preserves the history of the ghetto through exhibits, manuscripts, ceremonial objects, and educational programs. Visitors can also find kosher restaurants, Judaica shops, a yeshiva, and community institutions that continue traditions established centuries ago.

In 2026, only a small number of Jews still live within the boundaries of the old ghetto, largely because the neighborhood has become one of Venice's most expensive residential areas. Yet it remains the symbolic center of Jewish Venice. Thousands of visitors walk its quiet squares each year, exploring the synagogues, museums, and memorials that tell the story of one of history's most remarkable communities.

The Venetian Ghetto occupies a unique place in history. It is a story of discrimination, but also of determination; of exclusion, but also of extraordinary cultural achievement. Their experience demonstrates that even under severe legal and social restrictions, a community can preserve its identity, strengthen its traditions, and make lasting contributions to civilization. The people who lived behind the gates of Venice's first ghetto were denied many basic freedoms, yet they refused to surrender their faith, their culture, or their resilience. ■

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

September Holiday Closings

CSJCC

Monday, September 7 – Labor Day	12 pm – 5 pm
Friday, September 11 – Erev Rosh Hashanah	Closed at 5 pm
Saturday, September 12 – Rosh Hashanah	CLOSED
Sunday, September 13 – Rosh Hashanah	12 pm – 5 pm
Monday, September 21 – Yom Kippur	CLOSED
Saturday, September 26 – Sukkot	CLOSED
Sunday, September 27 – Sukkot	12 pm – 5 pm

JFT

Monday, September 7 – Labor Day	CLOSED
Friday, September 11 – Erev Rosh Hashanah	Closing at 12 pm
Monday, September 21 – Yom Kippur	CLOSED
Friday, September 25 – Erev Sukkot	Closing at 12 pm

SMMJA

Monday, September 7 – Labor Day	CLOSED
Friday, September 11 – Erev Rosh Hashanah	Closing at 12 pm
Saturday, September 12 – Rosh Hashanah	CLOSED
Sunday, September 13 – Rosh Hashanah	CLOSED
Sunday, September 20 – Erev Yom Kippur	CLOSED
Monday, September 21 – Yom Kippur	CLOSED
Saturday, September 26 – Sukkot	CLOSED
Sunday, September 27 – Sukkot	CLOSED

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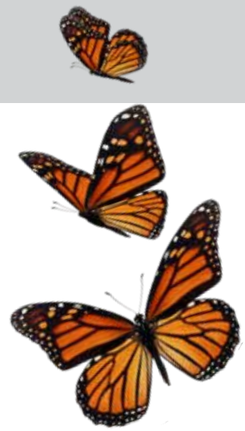

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Selichot: Entering the High Holidays
Saturday, September 5 | 5:30 p.m.

A traditional prelude to the Jewish New Year, we gather to sing a service that highlights the themes and ideas of the holiday season. Dinner begins at 5:30 p.m., prior to a musical Selichot service, led by the talents of Klay Kodesh, starting at 6:30 p.m. The evening culminates with blasts from the shofar as we begin our preparations for Rosh HaShanah and Yom Kippur. Please reserve your spot at the Shabbat table through website registration.

Erev Rosh HaShanah Musical Circle and Dinner
Friday, September 11 | 5:30 p.m.

Kick off the Jewish New Year with music, reflection, and storytelling. A short, family-friendly service inspired by our monthly "Shabbat Shalom" gatherings will be led by our Klay Kodesh musical ensemble. Optional brisket dinner to follow at 6:30 p.m. Please reserve your spot at the Shabbat table through website registration.

Rosh HaShanah 5787: The Year Begins
Saturday and Sunday, September 12 and 13

No tickets, just you. All you have to do is walk through the door. There are no admission requirements of any kind for High Holiday services at Congregation B'nai Emunah. Sit where you like and bring friends who might appreciate a spirited observance of this Jewish New Year. We'll be waiting for you just inside. A variety of services and celebrations highlight the holiday. The daytime services begin at 9:30 a.m. Sermons will be delivered around 10:45 a.m. Music, big ideas, and spending time with community combine to create a powerful way to start the New Year. We hope to see you there. As is now always the case, all programs and services will be available on Zoom for hybrid participation. For a full calendar and detailed description of events, please visit tulsagogue.com/highholidays.

Blatt + Blue: Yes (2026)
Thursday, September 17 | 7:00 p.m.

Yes (2026), the latest film from acclaimed director Nadav Lapid, is a daring and provocative cinematic experience that confronts the moral and emotional fractures of contemporary society with fearless intensity. Blending biting satire, music, and drama, the film follows a jazz musician and his dancer wife as they navigate a world in the days following October 7. Yes stands as one of the year's most talked-about international films and a powerful testament to cinema's ability to provoke meaningful conversation. The film is available to view for a small fee through Amazon Prime. Join us for our conversation on Zoom (918 583 7121). Newcomers are welcome to join the dialogue.

Kapparot Butterfly Release
Sunday, September 20 | 11:30 a.m.

Kapparot is an ancient practice through which we symbolically transfer our transgressions from the year past in preparation for Yom Kippur (the Day of Atonement). Our version of this ritual requires we release hundreds of butterflies within the Synagogue garden. You won't want to miss out on this once-a-year event.

Yom Kippur: Seeking Forgiveness
Sunday and Monday, September 20-21

No tickets, just you. All you have to do is walk through the door. There are no admission requirements for the High Holiday services at Congregation B'nai Emunah. Sit where you like and bring friends who might appreciate a spirited observance of this holiest day. We look forward to being together. Kol Nidray inaugurates this holiday at 6:45 p.m. on September 20. The following day, daytime services begin at 9:30 a.m. with a sermon and Yizkor taking place around 11:00 a.m. Programming will continue throughout the day, culminating in the Neilah closing service at sundown. A community break-the-fast will follow. Come as you are and feel the strength of community. As is always the case, all programs and services will be available on Zoom for hybrid participation. For a complete calendar and detailed description of events, visit tulsagogue.com/high-holidays.

Sukkot Shabbat Shalom
Friday, September 25 | 5:30 p.m.

It's the single most ginormous Sukkah celebration in Oklahoma. We'll gather in the sukkah on the south lawn for an inclusive Sukkot Shabbat Shalom Music Circle, followed by dinner beneath the stars starting at 6:15 p.m. No reservation is necessary for the celebration, but please reserve your spot at the Shabbat table through website registration.

Sukkot: The First Days
Saturday and Sunday, September 26 and 27 | 9:30 a.m.

Sukkot occupies an unparalleled place on the Jewish calendar. It's a great harvest festival; after weeks of introspection, we go outside to celebrate in our beautiful surroundings. Assuming beautiful weather, we will chant services in the sukkah. We'll shake lulav and etrog and connect with the world beyond the confines of a permanent structure. Both in-person and Zoom participation are available.

Sounds of Sukkot Concert and Dinner
Tuesday, September 29 | 6:00 p.m.

Join us for a joyous Sukkot concert and dinner under the sukkah as we come together to celebrate the festival of harvest, community, and tradition. Surrounded by the beauty of the sukkah and the warmth of friends old and new, we will share a festive meal filled with laughter, gratitude, and song. Come and experience the spirit of Sukkot—connection, celebration, and community at its finest!

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 services, celebrations, and more!

Shabbat Services in person, on Zoom & Facebook Live • Fri., Sept 4 • 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.

Selichot Service in person * • Sat., Sept. 5 • 7:30 p.m.
Join us at the TI Activities Space for our Selichot service, as we prepare ourselves for the magnitude of the Days of Awe. *Temple Israel Activity Space in the Temple Offices on the JCC Campus.

Kever Avot Memorial Service * • Sun., Sept. 6 at 10:00 a.m.
Join us as we honor our ancestors with Yizkor at Rose Hill Cemetery.

Erev Rosh Hashanah • Fri., Sept. 11 • 7:30 p.m.
Join us for the New Year on the CSJCC Campus in the Barbara & Dave Sylvan Auditorium for Erev Rosh Hashanah. The service will also be broadcast via Zoom. RSVP to rsvp@templetulsa.com for the Zoom link.

Rosh Hashanah • Sat., Sept. 12 • 10:00 a.m.
Join us for the New Year on the CSJCC Campus in the Barbara & Dave Sylvan Auditorium on Rosh Hashanah morning. The service will also be broadcast via Zoom. RSVP to rsvp@templetulsa.com for the Zoom link.

TEMPLE ISRAEL
Est. 1914
TULSA OKLAHOMA

Tashlich * • Sun., Sept. 13 • 10:00 a.m. • LaFortune Park
Tashlich, meaning "to cast away", is a ceremony in which we symbolically rid ourselves of the wrongdoings we committed during the previous year. We will meet at LaFortune Park to cast our transgressions into the water as we reflect upon how we may be better in the coming year. Join in the warmth of community as we usher in the New Year with personal reflection and song.

Rosh Hashanah Birthday Party of the World * • Sun., Sept. 13 • 10:30 a.m. • LaFortune Park
Everyone is invited to meet at LaFortune for Birthday Party of the World directly following Tashlich. Our party concludes with the sounding of the shofar and cupcakes.

Zarrow Pointe Shabbat Service * • Fri., Sept. 18 • 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, Birthday & Shabbat Shuvah Service in person, on Zoom & Facebook Live • Fri., Sept. 18 • 6:00 p.m.
Join us as we welcome in Shabbat Shuvah, during these Days of Awe. We will also celebrate September birthdays and anniversaries. Come at 5:30 p.m. for our pre-oneg.

Kol Nidre • Sun., Sept. 20 • 7:30 p.m.
Join us for Kol Nidre on the CSJCC Campus in the Barbara & Dave Sylvan Auditorium. The service will also be broadcast via Zoom. RSVP to rsvp@templetulsa.com for the Zoom link.

Yom Kippur • Mon., Sept. 21 • 10:00 a.m.
Join us on the CSJCC Campus in the Barbara & Dave Sylvan Auditorium for Yom Kippur morning. Participate in Afternoon Learning, Music and Meditation, Yizkor and Neilah. The services will also be broadcast via Zoom. RSVP to rsvp@templetulsa.com for the Zoom link.

Break Fast • Mon., Sept. 21 • 6:00 p.m.
Compliments of the Sharna and Irvin Frank Foundation directly following N'eilah Service in the foyer of the Sylvan Auditorium on Yom Kippur. The Breakfast is free of charge, but we need your RSVP to plan for adequate food and seating for everyone. RSVP by Wed., Sept. 16 on our website.

Sukkot & Shabbat Service • Fri., Sept. 25 • 6:00 p.m.
Celebrate Sukkot and Shabbat with your Temple Israel Family. Come at 5:30 p.m. for a pre-oneg.

Truckin' to the Sukkah • Sun., Sept. 27 • Noon
Join us in Liberator's Park on the CSJCC Campus to enjoy Food Trucks, Gourmet Grilled Cheese Melts by Cheese Me and Bailey's Ice Cream. Cost is $10 per person. Free for TJ's students. RSVP by Wed., Sept. 23 on our website.

Temple Israel's Adult Book Club * • Tues., Sept. 29 • 6:00 p.m.
Temple Israel's Adult Education Committee invites you to read The Griffin Sisters' Greatest Hits by Jennifer Weiner in September. Please visit the Temple Israel "Events" page on our website to sign up. * Temple Israel Activity Space in the Temple Offices on the JCC Campus.

Be Our Guest

TEMPLE ISRAEL

High Holy Days 5787/ 2026

At Temple Israel, you'll find a seat at our meaningful High Holy Days services and events, featuring inspiring music and a warm community.

You'll also find welcoming opportunities to learn about Reform Judaism—whether you're just beginning, returning, or exploring for the first time.

All of our services and events are free to attend & childcare is available with reservation.

No matter your age or background, there's a place for you here.

Rosh Hashanah

FRI, SEPT 11	Erev Rosh Hashanah*	7:30 PM
SAT, SEPT 12	Rosh Hashanah Service*	10:00 AM
SUN, SEPT 13	Tashlich at LaFortune Park	10:00 AM
SUN, SEPT 13	Rosh Hashanah Family Event at LaFortune Park	10:30 AM

Yom Kippur

SUN, SEPT 20	Kol Nidre*	7:30 PM
MON, SEPT 21	Yom Kippur*	10:00 AM
MON, SEPT 21	Yom Kippur Afternoon Learning	1:00 PM
MON, SEPT 21	Music and Meditation	2:00 PM
MON, SEPT 21	Yom Kippur Afternoon Service, Yizkor, & N'eilah*	3:30 PM
MON, SEPT 21	Yom Kippur Community Break Fast	6:00 PM

Sukkot & Simchat Torah

FRI, SEPT 25	Sukkot & Shabbat Service	6:00 PM
SUN, SEPT 27	Truckin' to the Sukkah on JCC Campus	12:00 PM
FRI, OCT 2	Simchat Torah, Consecration & Congregational Dinner	6:00 PM

templetulsa.com/hhd-events-sign-up/

Wishing you a sweet new year!

JEWISH TULSA

2021 East 71st Street
Tulsa, OK 74136

Seeking Donations!

- Mizel students will be working on a special project of community and sustainable art to honor Livnat Kutz (z"l), the artist who created the first Wings of Hope in Kibbutz Kfar Aza, shortly before she was murdered on October 7th
- **We are seeking donations of old, small, or broken plastic toys in the colors below for the installation.**

Note: please avoid plush toys as they are difficult to adhere.

- **Project Unveiling:** Wednesday, October 7th
  Community Commoration Event (p. 8)
- **To learn more** about the project visit:
  livnatswings.org/en
- **Questions:** Maor Elkayam, Israel Emissary
  emissary@jewishtulsa.org

MIZEL
FLO AND MORRIS MIZEL
JEWISH COMMUNITY DAY SCHOOL