TULSA Jewish Review

Tishrei/Cheshvan 5787
October 2026

THE SHERWIN MILLER MUSEUM OF JEWISH ART

Royale Diamond Gala

Sunday, October 25, 2026

Join us for a glamorous evening celebrating 60 years of The Sherwin Miller Museum of Jewish Art

Gala Chairs

Sharon Cash and Caitlin Cash Contreras

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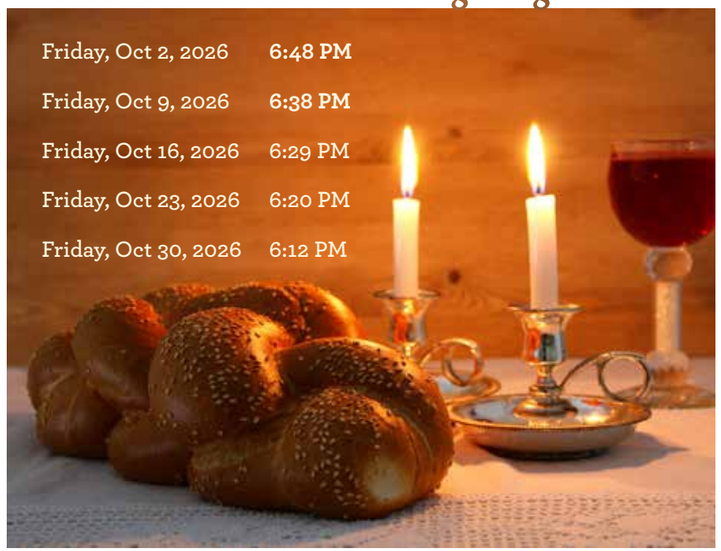
October Shabbat Candle Lighting Times



OCTOBER HOLIDAY HOURS

CSJCC Fitness

Saturday, October 3 – Shemini Atzeret ..CLOSED
Sunday, October 4 – Simchat Torah .....CLOSED

SMMJA

Saturday, October 3 – Shemini Atzeret ..CLOSED
Sunday, October 4 – Simchat Torah .....CLOSED

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STAFF

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
Joe Roberts
joe@jewishtulsa.org

EDITOR
Sandy Sloan
sandy@jewishtulsa.org

ADVERTISING MANAGER and COPY EDITOR
Sarah Howman
showman@jewishtulsa.org

DESIGN
Stephanie Krautheim
skrautheim@jewishtulsa.org

BOARD PRESIDENT, JEWISH FEDERATION OF TULSA
Tyler Coretz

Front Cover

The Royale Diamond Gala
October 25, 2026
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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

What We Have Built Together

Sixty years is a long time. As we prepare to mark the 60th anniversary of The Sherwin Miller Museum of Jewish Art, I think we should take a moment to appreciate how remarkable what we have built together really is.

Sixty years. Long enough for generations of families to walk through its doors, for children who first visited on school field trips to return with children of their own, and for an idea born of the imagination and generosity of a few people to become something that belongs to all of us.

I wonder whether those who first imagined the Museum could have known what they were setting in motion. They wanted to preserve Jewish history, art, and culture, and they believed Tulsa was the right place to do it. They gave their time, their resources, and something of themselves to a vision whose greatest impact would be felt by people they would never meet.

Today, their vision has become one of the great cultural treasures of our city, home to more than 5,000 objects spanning thousands of years of Jewish civilization and a Holocaust Center that preserves the stories of those who survived, including those who made Oklahoma their home.

And it is all right here in Tulsa of all places.

I love seeing what happens when someone walks through the Museum for the first time. The child who has never met a Jewish person discovers a world of traditions and stories they knew nothing about. The Jewish grandmother who recognizes an object that reminds her of her own childhood and gets to share that memory with her grandchildren. The visitor to the Holocaust Center who encounters the story of a family whose life was forever changed, and leaves carrying something of that story with them.

These are moments of connection, when something that might otherwise have remained distant and abstract becomes real.

There is a beautiful idea in Hasidic thought that sparks of holiness are scattered throughout the world, waiting to be discovered and elevated through our actions. I think there is something of that in what our Museum does every day. It takes the things our people have carried, cherished, and created and gives them new life in the hands and hearts of another generation.

And in each of those encounters, something precious is passed from one person to another.

I think that is a wonderful way to understand what generations of Jewish Tulsans have accomplished here. They created a place where our past continues to touch lives and where the richness of Jewish civilization can be experienced by people from across Oklahoma and beyond.

This anniversary is a triumph for everyone who believed in the Museum and helped make it what it is today. It is a triumph for the Jewish people, whose story is filled with so much richness. And it is a triumph for Jewish Tulsa, a community that has never needed to be large to do extraordinary things.

When we gather for the 60th Anniversary Gala, I hope we take real joy in what has been accomplished. I hope we recognize the people whose generosity and love made it possible. And I hope we appreciate what an extraordinary gift they have given us.

Because somewhere, sixty years from now, another visitor will leave knowing our people a little better. And that, more than anything, is what makes this anniversary so special.

The people who built our Museum gave us something that continues to grow more meaningful with every life it touches. What a beautiful inheritance. And what a wonderful thing to pass on.

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

UPCOMING EVENTS

Lunch Bunch: Jewish and Christian Archeology | Thursday, October 1 | 12 pm | Jewish Tulsa

Join us for a fascinating journey: *Excavating Bethsaida/Tsaidan: A City at the Crossroads of Jewish and Christian History*. Guest speaker Dr. Steve Notley is a Tulsa native, a graduate of ORU, and holds a Ph.D. from Hebrew University under the direction of the late David Flusser, one of the world's leading Jewish authorities on Early Christianity. He lived in Israel with his family for sixteen years and is currently both a Dean at Pillar College in New Jersey and the co-director of the El Araj Excavation Project in its search for first-century Bethsaida-Julias, the lost city of the Apostles, near the Sea of Galilee.
$13 optional lunch.

RSVP: JewishTulsa.org/ lb-Oct26

Book Club: When We See You Again | Tuesday, October 6 | 7 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

Marking October 7th: Community Commemoration | Wednesday, October 7 | Jewish Tulsa

- Wings of Hope Art Installation Unveiling
- 5 PM Community Dialogue – your opportunity to share your feelings and ask questions in a safe space
- 7 PM Elson Israel Fellow, Yakir Englander "Building Hope"

Come to both programs or just one—you decide.

Childcare available!

RSVP: JewishTulsa.org/oct7-2026

Israel at a Crossroads: 2026 Elections Overview | Tuesday, October 13 | 7 pm | Jewish Tulsa

Join our emissary, Maor, for a fascinating and engaging look at Israel's unique parliamentary election system. We'll go beyond the basics to explore intriguing dilemmas, surprising stories, and what happens on the journey from campaign trail to ballot box. Most importantly, we'll discuss why this election matters—not only to Israelis, but to Jewish communities here in America. Come curious, bring your questions, and gain a better understanding of how Israel's political process works and why this election matters to all of us.

RSVP: JewishTulsa.org/crossroads26

JEWISH FEDERATION OF TULSA

UPCOMING EVENTS

Young Adult Regional Shabbaton | Friday, October 16 – Sunday, October 18 | Post Oak

Join us for a special young adult regional Shabbaton, in partnership with the Federations of Arkansas, Fort Worth/Tarrant County, and Oklahoma City. This weekend consists of activities and programs of reflection, conversation, and connection amongst our young adult community. Come to meet new people from across the region as we bond over our Jewish experiences, ***As One***. We will stay in a hotel-style lodge with individual bedrooms and attached bathrooms. The cost is $180/person, and it covers lodging, meals, and activities. Young Adults are Jews aged 21-40.

RSVP: JewishTulsa.org/shabbaton26

Lunch Bunch: The Golem | Wednesday, October 21 | 12 pm | Jewish Tulsa

"'CREATE ME NOT!' The Golem and a Brief History of Jewish Theatre." Dr. Michael Chemers, Founding Director of the UC Santa Cruz Center for Monster Studies, discusses his research on *The Golem* (1921), H. Leivick's Yiddish-language reworking of the old myth of Rabbi Judah Loew, the Maharal, and the inhuman automaton he raised to protect and defend the Jews of Prague, at a terrible cost. Tracking this play's production history traces the history of Jews as told through theatre, from the 20th century into the 21st. What lessons does this old Jewish monster still hold for us today?

$13 optional lunch

RSVP: JewishTulsa.org/lb-golem

Monsters and Jews | Thursday, October 22 | 6:30 pm | Jewish Tulsa

Monster theorist and theatre historian, Dr. Michael Chemers presents "Der Evige Jude; Monster Theory and Dehumanization," discussing the strange and often surprising relationship between Jews and the monsters designed to dehumanize them. What new revelations does Monster Theory provide to the contemplation of this ancient problem? Dr. Chemers is the author of numerous books on Monsters and Monsters in Theatre, and is the featured expert in the upcoming National Geographic Series, Monsters: *Truth Behind the Myths* (2026).

$10/per person includes dinner

RSVP: JewishTulsa.org/monsters-jews

Elections Watch Party | Tuesday, October 27 | 1 pm | Location provided upon RSVP

Join us at the Shaliach's house for an exciting live watch party as the results from Israel's elections come in. The government formed after this election could shape Israeli society and regional policy for years to come, affecting everything from security, political accountability, democracy, Israel's relationship with the Palestinians, and the country's place in a rapidly changing Middle East. All are welcome!

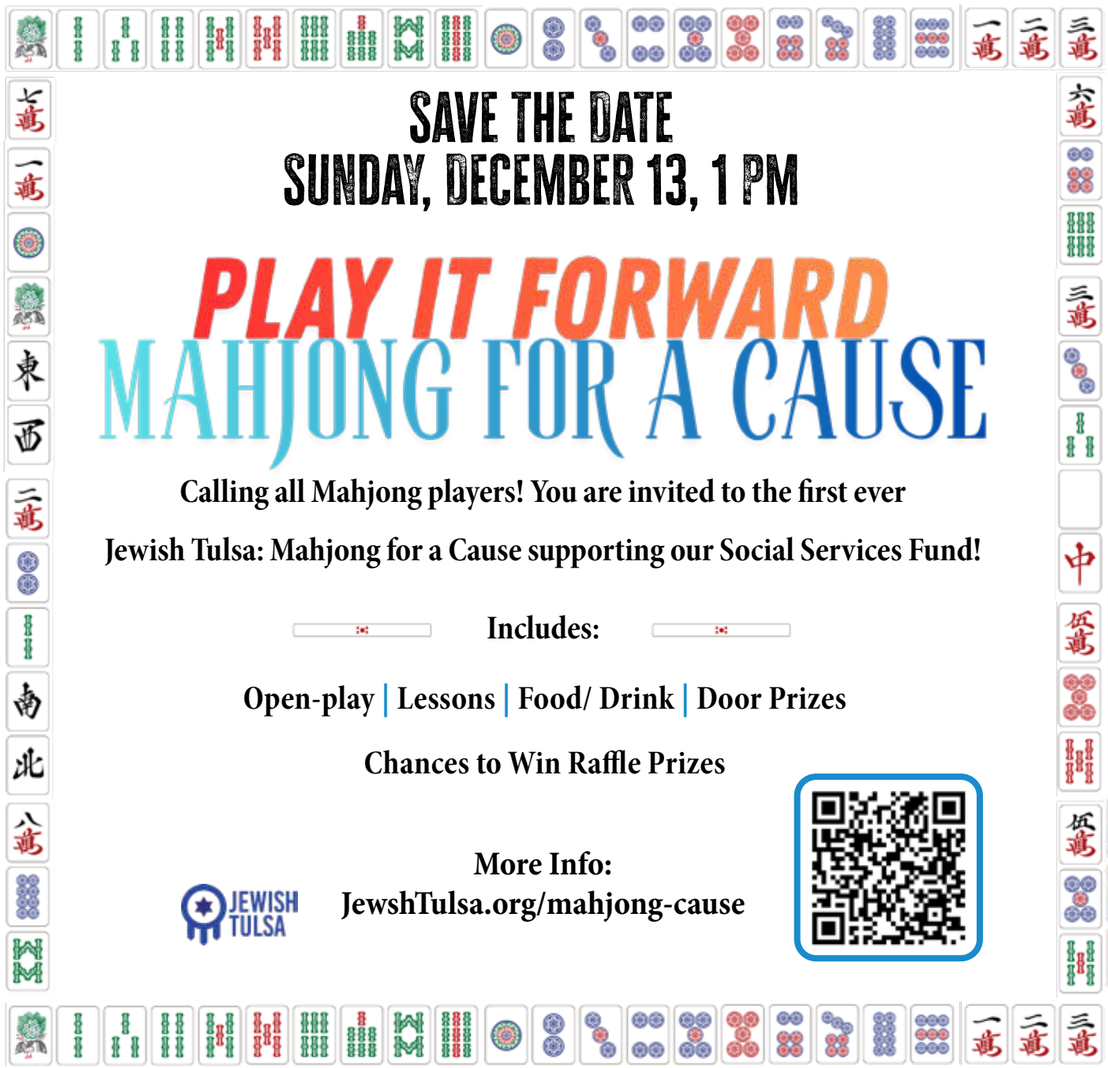
RSVP: JewishTulsa.org/elections26

UPCOMING EVENTS

Mahjong Lessons | Sunday, November 1 | 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



MY OCTOBER 7TH

by Maor Elkayam, Israeli Emissary

On the weekend of October 5–7, 2023, about 15 families from my local urban community went on a trip to the Jerusalem Hills. The night before, we had a lively backgammon tournament and a delicious barbecue, planning to go hiking the following day.

In the morning, we woke up to reports of rocket fire. They weren't in our area yet, but from a distance, we could see interceptions and explosions. We started packing up, knowing there would be no hike that day. We were worried because there was no bomb shelter in our campsite, and we wanted to get out of there quickly.

However, the first siren was not long in coming. Knowing there was no protected space, we had no choice but to lie flat on the ground and hope for the best. The kids were stressed, understandably, and we tried to stay calm. How do you drive home under these conditions? The initial reports of terrorist infiltrations began trickling in, forcing us to recalculate our route using safer roads. We sped home while the echoes of explosions could be heard in the distance, listening to radio reports we could hardly believe were real.

We are from Beersheba, a half-hour drive from the Gaza Envelope. We had studied and worked with many residents there and had many close friends. For us, the names of the kibbutzim appearing in the news brought back memories of Saturdays by the pool with friends, meals in the kibbutz dining hall, lawns, and sunshine. We were horrified and anxious, desperately trying to gather information.

More and more names of friends, acquaintances, and mutual friends appeared in the news—listed as missing or dead. The person who was with you in college, the woman who worked with your friend, the midwife who delivered your son. When I saw the names of the Kutz family among the missing, my heart skipped a beat. It couldn't be! In hindsight, their house bordered the fields between Gaza and the kibbutz, making them among the first to be targeted. They were found embracing each other in bed. What a tragedy.

I had met Livnat Kutz about a decade earlier. I was working as an accelerator manager for social entrepreneurship, and Livnat arrived with an idea to establish a woodwork center for children in the Gaza Envelope. The rationale was simple: traumatized children need to return to basics—working with their hands, occupational therapy, and preventing intrusive thoughts and fears from taking over.

I was impressed by her courage to leave a secure job as a graphic designer at a high-tech company to pursue her dream. I felt confident in my ability to help her. We worked together on the business model and theory of change. On pitch night, her presentation was remarkable, and she ultimately launched the initiative.

We became friends. Our families spent time together, enjoying watermelon by the kibbutz pool. Such a terrible end was never part of the plan.

On the evening before that terrible day, the family had planned to fly "peace kites" toward Gaza as a counter-response to the incendiary kites launched from the other side.

About three months earlier, Livnat and her friends from the kibbutz created an art installation. The project began by collecting old and broken toy parts to construct colorful wings on the wall of a bomb shelter in the kibbutz—a symbol of childhood, hope, and soaring high. The wings remained intact even after the great catastrophe of October 7th, serving as a tangible memorial to lives cut short. Today, with the help of her

(*Continued on p. 24*)

Livnat Kutz (z"l) working on the first "Wings of Hope" art installation

October

UPCOMING EVENTS

CHARLES SCHUSTERMAN FITNESS

Fitness Challenge: Walk-Tober

This October, we're celebrating the power of walking. Regular walking boosts cardiovascular fitness, helps maintain a healthy weight, and fights heart disease and other conditions. For every 5 miles you log (2,000 steps = 1 mile!), earn a footprint with your name on our Walk-Tober Wall. Walk your neighborhood, hit the trails, take your dog out, or hop on a treadmill — however you move, we want CSJCC members to cover the entire wall! Sign up at the fitness desk to get started, and you could win a gift card for new fitness gear or walking shoes..

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

1 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.

Volunteer Project | Tuesday, October 6 | 10:30 am | Meals on Wheels

Join us for a meaningful volunteer morning helping prepare important mailings. We'll be stuffing and sealing envelopes in a relaxed and seated environment. 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: csjcc.org/tzedek-Oct26

Wellness Series

Wellness Series: Strategies for Sleep Deprivation | Friday, October 9 | 10:15 am | Dan Room

Tired of Being Tired? Let's Talk Sleep. We spend a third of our lives asleep, but how much do we really understand about it? Join retired pediatrician Dr. Rick Cohen for an engaging look at the science of sleep: what a healthy sleep cycle and circadian rhythm look like, and why REM sleep matters more than we give it credit for. He'll also cover what happens when sleep goes wrong, health effects of sleep deprivation, common causes of disruption, and practical strategies to fight back and reclaim your rest. Bring a friend! Our Wellness Series is free and open to the public.

RSVP: csjcc.org/wellness-Oct26

FALL HIKING SERIES

Fall Hiking Series | Friday, October 16 | 10:30 am | Lubell Park

Join us as we continue our Fall Hiking Series! We will meet either in the parking lot or at the trailhead adjacent to the lot. Please be ready to hike at 10:30 am. This newer trail is around 2.5 miles round-trip and is mostly flat and even ground with some larger rock surfaces. Please bring water and wear proper hiking attire. Note: only Porta-Potty bathrooms at this park.

RSVP: csjcc.org/hike-Oct26

CHARLES SCHUSTERMAN JCC

October

UPCOMING EVENTS

Line Dancing | Monday, November 2 | 10:15 am | Dance Studio

Back by popular demand! Join fitness instructor Hannah Bakewell for a fun line dancing activity! Learn traditional Israeli dances including the Hora and modern-day line dancing. Snacks and drinks will be provided after the activity, so please sign up in advance.

RSVP: csjcc.org/dance-Nov26

NEW CLASS~

ZUMBA GOLD

Wednesdays | 10:15 am | Dance Studio

BREAST CANCER AWARENESS & CORE FOR THE CURE

This October, the CSJCC is coming together to support Breast Cancer Awareness Month—a time to promote early detection, spread awareness, support those affected by breast cancer, and help advance research toward a cure.

Pink Out Day — Wednesday, October 21

Wear all the pink you've got! Want to add a little more pink to your wardrobe? We'll have PINK JCC shirts available for purchase to help support the cause. All proceeds from t-shirts sales will benefit Sharsheret (Jewish breast cancer awareness org).

Core for the Cure Plank Contest | Wednesday, October 21 | 10:05 am | Dance Studio

Think you've got a strong core? Put it to the test! Join us on Wednesday, October 21 at 10:05 AM for our Core for the Cure Plank Contest. How long can you hold your plank? Come participate, challenge yourself, or cheer on your fellow JCC members!

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 15

Opening Reception

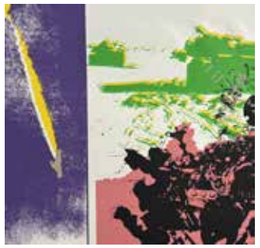
featuring Artist Talk with

Julie Alpert

Paper Window
October 15, 2026–September 2027

Inspired by the stained-glass panels in the Museum lobby, Seattle-based artist Julie Alpert reimagines their vivid colors, imagery, and patterns through small works on paper and large-scale collages.

Hand-drawn, cut, and assembled, Alpert's playful compositions transform familiar materials into explorations of attention, discovery, wonder, and imagination. Elements extending throughout the gallery create a dialogue with the surrounding architecture and invite visitors to experience the Museum's familiar spaces in a new way.



Totally Tumarkin
Brodsky Gallery – through October 26

Discover the work of Igael Tumarkin (1933–2021), one of Israel's most influential contemporary artists. Known for challenging conventions throughout his six-decade career, Tumarkin explored themes of history, identity, conflict, memory, and the complexities of the human experience. His contributions to Israeli art earned him the Israel Prize for Sculpture.

Totally Tumarkin brings together a selection of Tumarkin's prints alongside sculptures by fellow Israeli artist Aharon Bezalel. Presented together, the works reveal two distinctive approaches to modern Israeli art and invite visitors to consider the historical and cultural experiences that shaped both artists.

Tumarkin's works in the exhibition are being presented publicly at The Sherwin Miller Museum of Jewish Art for the first time following a generous gift from Sam and Renee Sax of Chicago.

Lost to Tulsa's Jewish History… an Evening with Jon Boorstin
October 8, 2026

Award-winning novelist, filmmaker, and producer Jon Boorstin explores his family's remarkable connections to Tulsa, Jewish history, the 1921 Tulsa Race Massacre, and the life and legacy of his father, Pulitzer Prize-winning historian Daniel J. Boorstin.

Boorstin will share the story of his grandfather, Samuel Aaron Boorstin, a Jewish immigrant who became a prominent Tulsa attorney and worked alongside Black attorney B.C. Franklin in representing victims and survivors of the 1921 Tulsa Race Massacre. He will also discuss his father, Daniel J. Boorstin, who grew up in Tulsa before becoming one of America's most celebrated historians and serving as the 12th Librarian of Congress.

Part biography, part family history, and part Tulsa history, the evening offers a compelling look at Jewish immigration, race, identity, memory, and the forces that have shaped American life.

Presented by The Sherwin Miller Museum of Jewish Art, Jewish Tulsa, and The Jewish Genealogical Society of Tulsa.

CELEBRATING 60 YEARS AT THE ROYALE DIAMOND GALA

by Tracey Herst-Woods, Chief Museum Officer, SMMJA

This year marks a remarkable milestone for The Sherwin Miller Museum of Jewish Art. For 60 years, the Museum has preserved Jewish art, history and culture while creating a place where people can learn from the past and better understand one another.

On Sunday, October 25, we will celebrate this anniversary at the Royale Diamond Gala. I hope you will join us for this very special evening in the Barbara and Dave Sylvan Auditorium.

The gala is our largest annual fundraiser, but this year's celebration carries special meaning. It gives us a chance to reflect on how far the Museum has come and recognize the community whose commitment has made that progress possible.

Our gala chairs, Sharon Cash and Caitlin Cash Contreras, have planned an evening that brings the glamour of the '60s to life in Palm Royale style. Guests will enjoy an elegant dinner prepared by Chef William Lyle of Summit Club and complimentary hand-drawn fashion portraits to take home as keepsakes.

The Royale Diamond Raffle will add another touch of sparkle to the celebration. Participants can reserve Champagne Celebration Bottles for a chance to win a custom-designed diamond necklace from Cherry Street Jewelers.

The evening will also introduce a special exhibition honoring the Museum's 60th anniversary. Drawn from our permanent collection, the exhibition will recognize both the works themselves and the people who believed those objects belonged in Tulsa and chose to place them in the Museum's care.

As we have selected works for the exhibition, I have been reminded that every object carries a personal connection. There is the story of how it came to Tulsa and why someone believed it should be preserved here. Many of the works reflect the generosity of families, collectors and longtime supporters who wanted future generations to have access to Jewish art and heritage.

Those gifts helped shape the Museum. They also reflect the trust that members of our community have placed in us to care for these objects and ensure that their significance is not lost.

When I think about sixty years, I think about the many hands that built this Museum: the visionaries who first imagined it, the families who entrusted us with meaningful works, the leaders who guided it, the docents who welcomed visitors and the supporters who stepped forward year after year.

Funds raised through the gala support every part of the Museum's work. They help us care for the collection and create new exhibitions. They also allow us to welcome school groups and visitors, offer educational experiences and present programs that bring people together through art and history.

At a time when antisemitism and hatred remain present in our world, the work of the Museum continues to matter. We have a responsibility to preserve the history entrusted to us and to make sure its lessons are shared.

I am grateful to Sharon, Caitlin and the entire gala committee for creating an evening worthy of this milestone. I also want to thank our Board, volunteers, sponsors and supporters. Their dedication allows the Museum to continue serving Tulsa and visitors from across the region.

I hope you will celebrate with us on October 25. Together, we can honor the people who built this Museum and help prepare it for the next 60 years.

Photos from our 2025 Gala

SECURE YOUR SEAT!

To learn more about the Royale Diamond Gala, purchase tickets or become a patron, visit **jewishmuseumtulsa.org/gala2026**.

To help advance the Museum's mission to preserve and promote Jewish heritage, culture, history and community, please **contact Tracey Herst-Woods, Chief Museum Officer, at 918.492.1818**.

THE SHERWIN MILLER MUSEUM OF JEWISH ART

THE MONSTER WHISPERER: DR. MICHAEL CHEMERS

by Sandy Sloan, Editor, Tulsa Jewish Review

There are academics who study history, and there are academics who study the things that haunt it. Dr. Michael Chemers belongs to the second group, and this month, he's bringing his research on monsters, memory, and Jewish identity to the Tulsa community for two fascinating programs.

Who Is Michael Chemers?

Michael Chemers is a Professor of Dramatic Literature and Chair of the Department of Performance, Play & Design at UC Santa Cruz. He earned his MFA in Playwriting from Indiana University and his Ph.D. in Theatre History and Theory from the University of Washington, before joining the faculty of Carnegie Mellon's prestigious School of Drama, where he founded its Bachelor of Fine Arts program in Dramaturgy. In 2012, he moved to UC Santa Cruz, where he now lives with his wife, Farhana, and son, Zain. "Plays have featured monsters since their earliest incarnations: Ancient Greek plays, for instance, are full of them. There's also a vibrant relationship between mythology, folklore, and performance," Chemers says. "I am certainly not the first nor the only theatre scholar who is interested in monsters, but my work ties into the broader discipline of Monster Studies. It's a natural connection!"

But it's what Chemers has built since then that makes him one of the most distinctive voices in theatre scholarship today. In 2019, he founded the UCSC Center for Monster Studies, the first research center of its kind anywhere in the world. "I noticed that in addition to the classes I teach at UCSC, many other teachers were offering classes that featured monsters. When we all got together and talked about it, I realized there was a critical mass and enough interest to support an active research center," Chemers recalls. Each October, he runs the Center's Festival of Monsters, drawing scholars from around the globe to explore how monsters and their tropes shape culture. Its students, he notes, "study plays, films, folklore, and literature that feature monsters," with faculty teaching across disciplines "as diverse as History, Geography, Social Sciences, Theater Arts, Games, Literature, and even Biological Sciences." He co-hosts the podcast The Show Where They Talk About Monsters, sits on the Advisory Board of the new European Centre for Monster Studies launching in Germany, and appears as a featured expert in the upcoming National Geographic documentary series Monsters: Truth Behind the Myths (October 2026).

Chemers is the author or co-editor of numerous books, including The Monster in Theatre History: This Thing of Darkness, Monsters in Performance, The Figure of the Monster in Global Theatre, and the forthcoming Staging Monstrous Bodies and Monstrous Utopias. His scholarship examines how theatre magnifies both our capacity for empathy and its dark opposite, dehumanization, and much of that inquiry, he says, traces directly back to his own Jewish heritage.

Chemers is no stranger to Tulsa. He's been a regular visitor since the 1980s, when his mother, Arlene, moved to the city, and he's long admired its culture and history.

Why Monsters? A Personal Story

For Chemers, this isn't purely academic. He grew up Jewish in Salt Lake City in the 1970s and '80s—a place, he explains, with a famously fraught relationship to Judaism, thanks to the dominant Mormon culture around him. As a child, he was bullied by classmates who asked him, more than once, where his horns were. He didn't yet have the language for antisemitism; he just knew he'd been made into something monstrous.

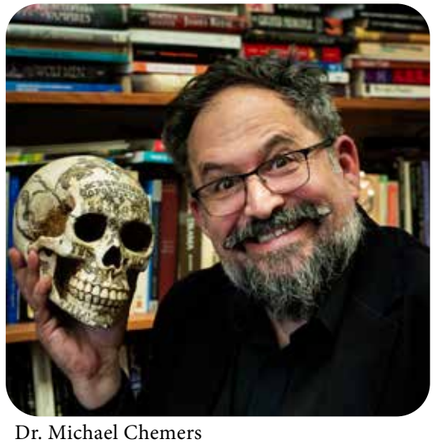
That experience became the seed of a career. "If you map monsters onto people, that legitimizes atrocities against them," Chemers explains, "but if you look at the monster and see yourself, you're on the cusp of some very exciting psychological, maybe even spiritual, self-development." That conviction underlies his whole field of study. "Antisemitism is a form of dehumanization which is often accompanied by representations of monstrosity. That is to say, Jews have been represented as monsters by anti-Semites for many centuries. But Jews also have their own monsters, including the Golem and the Dybbuk. These are all parts of my study," Chemers says. Monster studies, as a field, dates formally to 1996, when scholar Jeffrey Jerome Cohen proposed that monsters function as texts we can read backward, revealing the anxieties, hopes, and fears of the societies that invent them. Few peoples have been "monsterized" as persistently, or for as long, as the Jews. It's no accident, Chemers notes, that so many prominent scholars in his field are Jewish themselves.

Two Opportunities to Hear Dr. Chemers

Two nights, one extraordinary scholar, and a monster that has followed the Jewish people for over a thousand years. Whether you come for the folklore, the theatre history, or the hard questions about how societies create monsters out of people, you won't want to miss these two programs.

October 21 at 12 pm: "'CREATE ME NOT!' The Golem and a Brief History of Jewish Theatre"

Chemers's first program dives into the golem, arguably the most famous monster in Jewish folklore, with roots that may reach back to the eighth century. In its earliest forms, the golem is almost comic: commanded to fish, he empties the river; commanded to dig a well, he tunnels through the earth. He's a tool—a useful, dangerous one. But in later legends, the golem is called upon to defend the Jewish community against pogroms, and once unleashed, he cannot easily be stopped.



Dr. Michael Chemers

That protector-golem exploded into prominence in the early 1900s, alongside a surge of antisemitism across Eastern Europe and the era's wildly popular stage adaptations of Frankenstein. Chemers points out that Rabbi Judah Loew, the golem's creator in Jewish legend, is sometimes given the very same language Dr. Frankenstein uses toward his own creature in period plays. The two monsters, born of very different traditions, seem to have shaped each other.

At the center of Chemers's talk is The Golem (1921), H. Leivick's landmark Yiddish-language play, first staged by the Habima theater troupe in 1920s Moscow. Chemers calls it "a very powerful meditation on righteousness and the importance of, and difficulty of, ethical behavior in a world that doesn't seem to respond to ethical behavior." Its journey is its own remarkable story: the play toured Eastern Europe to wildly mixed receptions, followed Habima into exile in New York (where audiences found it too grim), and finally settled with the company in Israel, where critics were skeptical, but audiences loved it. Tracing that production history, Chemers argues, is really tracing the history of twentieth- and twenty-first-century Jewish life itself. What does this century-old monster still have to teach us today? Come find out.

October 22 at 6:30 pm: "Der Evige Jude: Monster Theory and Dehumanization"

The following evening, Chemers turns from folklore to something darker—the long, strange history of monsters deliberately designed to dehumanize Jews. Drawing on Monster Theory, the same scholarly framework he uses to understand the golem, Chemers will explore how the "monster" has been used not just to comfort and protect, but to marginalize, exclude, and justify atrocity. It's a history he says is urgently relevant now, as old antisemitic tropes resurface in new forms. What can decades of monster scholarship reveal about how dehumanization works, and how it might be resisted?

Visit JewishTulsa.org/event to sign up for Dr. Chemers' monster programs. (more info page 7).

MORE THAN TREES AND BLUE BOXES: BRINGING ISRAEL HOME TO TULSA

by Amanda Anderson and Shira Sachs, Mizel JCDS

When Shira Sachs and I left for Israel this summer, we knew we were going to learn. We knew we would visit places, meet educators, and come home with new ideas to bring back to our students at Mizel JCDS. What we did not expect was how much the experience would challenge both of us to think about Israel, Zionism, Jewish education, and our responsibility to the next generation.

More than 20 educators from across the United States, some from public schools, some from supplemental Jewish schools, and others from Jewish day schools, spent eight days together as part of Jewish National Fund-USA's Educators Mission. We also joined the U.S. delegation at the KKL-JNF World Education Conference, where more than 200 educators from 26 countries gathered together.

Growing up, when I thought about Jewish National Fund-USA, I thought about planting trees and putting money into those little blue tzedakah boxes. Shira and I quickly learned that Jewish National Fund-USA is so much more than that.

We saw the partnerships Jewish National Fund-USA is building throughout Israel, the communities it is helping strengthen, and the opportunities it is creating for Israelis. But as educators, we kept coming back to one question:

How do we help raise young people who have a strong, meaningful connection to Israel?

Our first stop was Alexander Muss High School in Israel. Students can spend a semester, nine weeks, a mini-semester, or part of their summer living and learning in Israel. What stood out to us was that Israel itself becomes their classroom. Students don't just learn about an event in Jewish history and take a test on it. They learn the history and then travel to the place where it actually happened.

For Shira, who teaches Hebrew and Judaics every day, this was especially powerful. So much of what she teaches our students in Tulsa—the Hebrew language, Jewish history, traditions, prayers, and our connection to Israel— suddenly surrounded us.

There is a huge difference between teaching children about Israel and giving them opportunities to experience and connect with Israel.

For the next eight days, that is exactly what happened to us.

We traveled north and learned about Jewish National Fund-USA's work in the Galilee. We saw projects focused on bringing families back to northern Israel, strengthening infrastructure, expanding medical care, developing food technology, and creating economic opportunities. We toured the Galilee Culinary Institute and saw firsthand what it looks like when an organization doesn't simply talk about strengthening Israel but invests in the people who live there.

Some of the experiences that stayed with us the most were the ones that introduced us to people and stories we might never have encountered otherwise.

Amanda Anderson and Shira Sachs attend the Jewish National Fund's educator trip to Israel

We spent time in a Druze village, where we volunteered and met an incredible woman who owns Noor, a restaurant named after her son. After October 7, she wanted to do something to help, so she began cooking for Israeli soldiers.

Then she learned that some soldiers couldn't eat the meals she was preparing because her kitchen wasn't kosher. So she made it kosher.

With help from Jewish National Fund-USA, she now prepares hundreds of meals for soldiers. Here was a Druze woman making sure Jewish soldiers could eat the food she lovingly prepared for them.

It was one of those experiences that reminded both of us that Israel is much more complicated, and also much more beautiful, when you experience it through the stories of the people who actually live there.

We also connected with the IDF and met with its chief education officer. We learned about social integration, Hebrew-language education, and programs that provide opportunities for individuals with special needs to serve.

As educators, we were fascinated by how much education is woven into Israeli society. Education doesn't stop when someone graduates from high school. Hebrew, Jewish identity, community, responsibility, and belonging continue to play a role throughout life.

We visited the 9/11 Living Memorial in Jerusalem, the only memorial outside of the United States that includes the names of every victim killed on September 11. Standing there as Americans and as Jewish educators was incredibly meaningful.

We also had the opportunity to learn from Jewish educator Avraham Infeld. He spoke about five things that connect the Jewish people: the Hebrew language, the Land of Israel, Jewish values, Jewish religion, and Jewish community.

Shira and I have talked about that idea since returning home. At Mizel, we are teaching all five of those things. Sometimes they happen separately: a Hebrew lesson, T'filah, a conversation about Israel, a Jewish value of the month, or celebrating Shabbat together. But together, they are helping our students understand something much bigger: They are part of the Jewish people.

Then we went to Sderot. That was different.

It is difficult to fully understand what October 7 means to the people who experienced it until you stand in their community and listen to their stories. We heard firsthand accounts from people whose community has lived under the constant threat of rockets. We stood in places directly connected to what happened on October 7. Some moments were incredibly difficult for both of us. But what stayed with us just as much as the tragedy was the hope.

People are returning. They are rebuilding. Children are going back to school. Families are choosing to stay. Communities are refusing to disappear.

Throughout the trip, we heard the phrase *radical* hope, and Sderot helped us understand what that really means. It isn't pretending everything is okay. It is choosing hope when everything isn't okay.

Shira Sachs planting a tree

Another important part of our experience was learning how to better talk about Zionism with our students. With educator Charlotte Korchak, we explored antisemitism, modern Zionism, and the different streams of Zionist thought.

Shira Sachs and Amanda Anderson

This was powerful for both of us because sometimes we talk about "Zionism" as though it has one simple definition. It doesn't.

We learned about political Zionism and establishing the institutions needed for a Jewish state. We explored labor Zionism and the idea of working the land and creating a new Jewish society. We discussed religious Zionism, revisionist Zionism and Jewish self-defense, cultural Zionism and the revival of Hebrew, and the role of Jews in the Diaspora who may never live in Israel but still feel deeply connected and responsible to the Jewish people.

There wasn't one way to be a Zionist then, and there isn't one way now. That may be one of the most important lessons Shira and I brought home.

Our job as Jewish educators isn't simply to tell our students what to think about Israel. We want to give them the history, experiences, relationships, knowledge, and confidence they need to understand Israel and develop their own meaningful connection to it.

For Shira, that means continuing to make Hebrew and Judaics something our students don't simply learn, but something they live.

For me, as the Executive Director of Mizel JCDS, it means thinking even bigger about what role our school can play in building Jewish identity in Tulsa.

This is only a small glimpse into what we experienced. We could fill pages with the people we met, the places we visited, the conversations we had, and the moments that changed our perspectives.

But Shira and I came home asking the same question: Now what?

(Continued on p. 27)

MIZEL JEWISH COMMUNITY DAY SCHOOL

2026 KRISTALLNACHT: A DRAMATIC COMMEMORATION

by Janet Dundee, Member, Council for Holocaust Education

Great novels change lives, transforming literary events into an unforgettable story. Great stories transform real-world history into memorable and challenging masterpieces. It is such literature that alters how we see our place in the world.

Jewish Tulsa's Council for Holocaust Education has chosen such a story to perform for the annual Kristallnacht commemoration, to be held on Sunday afternoon, November 8, at 2:00 p.m., at Congregation B'nai Emunah, located at 1719 South Owasso, Tulsa.

Address Unknown, written by Kathrine Kressman Taylor and published in 1938, is a powerful novel of letters between two friends who are also business partners. The background of the story is set as Hitler and Nazism are rising to power in Germany. The two friends are corresponding about their lives and their business, as the world is changing. What they share in letters ultimately fractures their friendship.

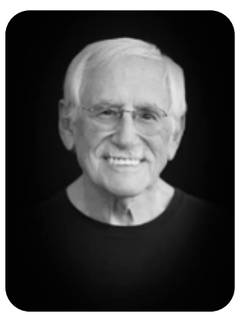
Martin has returned with his family to Munich, Germany, while Max remains in San Francisco, taking care of their art gallery business.

Germany's loss in World War I has left the country in a national state of depression. Hitler, as Chancellor, preys upon a wounded country, instilling a conviction that Germans will once again reclaim their former glory. Max warns Martin that Hitler and Nazi propaganda will soon become the brutal persecution of the Jews.

Martin rejects Max's warning, choosing instead to fully embrace the new Nazi regime. He dismisses Max's fears, choosing his own social status and personal safety over their friendship and basic human decency. In rejecting Max's warning, Martin triggers a terrifying sequence of letters, ending with a demand for Max never to write again.

Betrayal on the part of both Max and Martin builds toward a lethal and haunting ending.

Kurt Harris



Tom Berenson

Tulsa well-known actors, Tom Berenson and Kurt Harris, will play Max and Martin, as the characters correspond during 1932-1934. The actors will bring the correspondence to life in a staged reading of *Address Unknown*.

Address Unknown: A Dramatic Commemoration is open to the public, without charge. The Council asks those who are attending to register at www.tulsagogue.com/Kristallnacht. Doors will open at 1:30 p.m.

Partners

Annual Kristallnacht Commemoration:
Address Unknown
Sunday, November 8 | 2 p.m.

Scan here

OKLAHOMA EDUCATORS REACH BEYOND THE TEXTBOOK TO FOSTER EMPATHY AND UNDERSTANDING

by Nancy Pettus, Professional Development Consultant
SB1671 Oklahoma Holocaust Legislation Coalition

Teaching history requires more than just reading facts from a textbook. It demands a deep, personal connection to the triumphs and tragedies of human experience. From July 17-20, eight select Oklahoma educators embarked on a profound professional journey to Washington, DC. Seeking to transform how they bring America's complex narratives into their classrooms, these teachers immersed themselves in three of the nation's major museums: The United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, the National Museum of the American Indian, and the National Museum of African American History. Their goal: to bring powerful lessons about history, identity, and empathy back to their students. Read on to hear what our DC Travelers had to say about their "experience of a lifetime"

In response to her USHMM visit, Rhonda Cegielski (Verdigris) commented, "While I have studied the Holocaust and taught about its history, nothing could have prepared me emotionally for standing among the shoes, suitcases, photographs, and countless reminders of lives lost and forever changed. The weight of that event is something I will carry with me for the rest of my life."

The visit also sparked pedagogical adjustments in how teachers now intend to share the lessons of the Holocaust with their students. According to Lacy Plines (Madill), "This trip…was a deeply transformative experience that has changed the way I understand history, and, more importantly, how I will teach it. I was reminded that the Holocaust is not simply a chapter in a textbook or a collection of dates and statistics. It is the story of individuals, families, choices, loss, courage, survival, and the consequences of hatred and indifference."

Lynn Fogg (Broken Bow) continues this narrative by affirming, "The Holocaust was the result of prejudice, hatred, discrimination, and the silence of those who could have spoken out." Personally, Lynn continues, "The lessons I gained from this experience will continue to impact hundreds of students… creating a ripple effect that reaches far beyond my own classroom."

From day one, our Coalition president Charlotte Schuman has emphasized that our teaching must communicate, "The Holocaust is not solely a Jewish narrative; it is a universal warning of the consequences of hate, indifference, prejudice, persecution, and the loss of human rights. In turn, Audrey Spindel (Stillwell) stated, "This trip provided the incentive to bring America's complex narratives into my classrooms by combining the energy around teaching the Holocaust to include broader historical narratives of totalitarian political movements, state-sponsored violence on a larger scale, and the rise of ethno-nationalism, including the history of African Americans and Native Americans."

"Exploring the histories of the Black American and Native American experiences alongside Holocaust education helped Cheryl Bledsoe (Osage Hills Schools) recognize important connections among historical injustice, discrimination, resilience, resistance, and the ongoing struggle for equality and human dignity. "I want my students to understand that the lessons of history are not simply stories of the past; they are reminders of the responsibilities we have to one another today."

"Teaching how the Holocaust, the Tulsa Race Massacre, and the Native American tribes of Oklahoma intertwine has been a passion of mine for a good portion of my teaching career," shared Jacqualyn Heinrich (Tonkawa). "From this trip I bring back a greater depth of knowledge to curate and cultivate lessons to help my students become more empathetic and peaceful individuals through understanding the misery of not only the Jewish community, but also other ethnicities and cultures who have suffered."

A sense of true camaraderie and collaboration among the teachers was expressed by Felix Linden (Oklahoma City): "Heart-wrenching tales of survival, coupled with indiscriminate cases of man's inhumanity to man, allowed me to better understand the Holocaust in a way that I had never experienced. In addition, sharing this opportunity with educators from across the state showed a common commitment to learning about this important topic."

Kristi Merchant's message: "This trip is incredibly valuable to teach others about empathy and compassion. Plus, it's a difficult time watching what's happening in our own country right now! Stand up to Hate!!"

As we learn from their powerful statements, it is evident that teaching history requires looking beyond the page to confront the sometimes-raw realities of human experience. Through the passion and dedication of these 8 remarkable Oklahoma educators, the stories of struggles, lives lost, and resilience will live on, not only in their minds but in the hearts and minds of the students whose lives were changed by becoming witnesses. As Elie Wiesel affirmed, "I believe firmly and profoundly that whoever listens to a witness becomes a witness."

LOST TO TULSA JEWISH HISTORY... A MUST ATTEND EVENT ON OCTOBER 8, 2026

by Phil Goldfarb, President Jewish Geneological Society

While the City of Tulsa has produced a number of outstanding Jewish business and philanthropic figures in our past, two distinguished and prominent individuals have played a part in not only Tulsa history but our nation's history who have been largely lost to time.

On Thursday, October 8th, beginning at 7:00 p.m., this will be rectified. Novelist, winner of the New York Society Library Award for Historical Fiction, Oscar-nominated filmmaker (*Exploratorium*) and producer (*All The President's Men*), Jon Boorstin will be speaking in the Barbara & Dave Sylvan Auditorium about his grandfather Samuel Boorstin (1887-1967), as well as his father, Daniel Boorstin (1914-2004) called one of the most influential public intellectuals of the 20th century and one of America's foremost historians. Jon will be discussing his newly released book: *The American: The Hidden History of Daniel J. Boorstin and His Twentieth Century*.

The narrative begins with Boorstin's immigrant grandfather, Samuel Aaron Boorstin, born in Grodna, Poland, and his family's 1887 immigration; the youngest lawyer in Georgia's history; and his response to racial and anti-Jewish violence, including being not only a good friend but also one of Leo Frank's defense attorneys. Leo Frank was a Jewish factory superintendent of the National Pencil Company in Atlanta, Georgia, who was accused and convicted unjustly of the rape and murder of a 13-year-old female factory worker, one of the most controversial criminal cases in American history. In a notorious antisemitic incident, the subsequent lynching of Leo Frank in 1915 led to Sam's move to boomtown Tulsa to join his wife's family and his role in the 1921 Tulsa Massacre alongside Black attorney Buck Colbert (B.C.) Franklin in representing the Massacre's victims and survivors in their efforts to rebuild their community. Sam Boorstin became a prominent member of the Tulsa Jewish community for over 50 years. Both Sam and his wife Dora Olsan Boorstin (1894-1948) are buried at Rose Hill Cemetery in Tulsa.

Jon will also highlight Daniel Joseph Boorstin's formative years in Tulsa, a 1930 graduate of Tulsa Central High School at the age of 15. At Central, he was the President of the National Honor Society, on the school's Speaker Bureau, Debate Team, Student Senate, and Valedictorian. In the 1930 yearbook, Daniel was listed as being "Tulsa High School's Orator and Student Par Excellence."

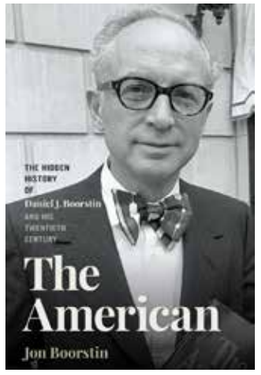
From Tulsa, he graduated from Harvard College in 1934, went on to become a Rhodes Scholar, passed the English bar exams, and attained a barrister-at-law in 1937. Receiving a Doctor of Law at Yale University, awarded in 1940, he returned to Harvard as an instructor. After a brief tour as an attorney with President Franklin D. Roosevelt's Lend-Lease administration, he joined the faculty at Swarthmore, then at the University of Chicago (where he brought his good friend, Tulsan John Hope Franklin) and was appointed to the endowed chair as a Distinguished Service Professor of History.

He was summoned before the House Un-American Activities Committee in February 1953, accused of being a Communist. With his career hanging by a thread, he replied that his "bulwark against Communism" was his Jewish faith. He quoted Thomas Jefferson: "Can the liberties of a people be thought secure if we have removed their only firm basis, a conviction in the minds of the people that those liberties are the gift of God?" Daniel swore under oath, "I believe that, sir." Daniel was being lawyerly to appease god-fearing congressmen. He wasn't saying that he believes in God. He was saying that not believing makes our liberties insecure.

Boorstin wrote over 20 books, including his celebrated trilogy: *The Americans: The Colonial Experience* (1958), which won the Bancroft Prize; *The Americans: The National Experience* (1965), which won the Parkman Prize; and *The Americans: The Democratic Experience* (1973), which won the Pulitzer Prize in 1974.

Boorstin was the Director and Senior Historian of the Smithsonian Institution's National Museum of History and Technology before he was selected by President Gerald Ford as the 12th Librarian of Congress, inducted by fellow Oklahoman (and also a Rhodes Scholar), Speaker of the House Carl Albert. He served in that capacity from 1975-1987. The Librarian of Congress was established in 1802 by President Thomas Jefferson, and only 14 individuals to date have held that position. Boorstin was the only Jew to hold this prestigious title.

An important thread of the book, especially in Tulsa but in later life as well, is the enduring friendship of Daniel Boorstin and the distinguished black historian John Hope Franklin (1914-2009), a fellow Tulsan. They began a book together that they were naming *Two from Tulsa, a Tale of Two Cities*, which Jon discusses. Why they abandoned it, and how their lives contrasted growing up in Tulsa, yet left them both with a strong sense of the possibilities America



provides (which would have been the subject of their book), is important for their story; both were unwavering proponents of the American Dream in the face of extraordinary prejudice.

Holding twenty honorary degrees, including an honorary Doctor of Laws from the University of Tulsa, he was inducted into the Tulsa Hall of Fame in 1989 and received the Oklahoma Book Award in 1993 for *The Creators*. The Boorstin Collection is housed at the University of Oklahoma Bizzell Library.

There is a Yiddish proverb which says: "It's hard to be a Jew." We Jews all have ancestors who lived through difficult times. Daniel's life and work remind us that what binds us together as part of the American community is stronger than what drives us apart. If we can share Daniel's spirit, we can share his hope.

Please join the Jewish Federation of Tulsa, Jewish Genealogy Society of Tulsa, The Museum of Tulsa History, and the Sherwin Miller Museum of Jewish Art on October 8th at 7 pm in the Barbara & Dave Sylvan Auditorium at the Charles Schusterman Jewish Community Center for Jon's presentation.

To sign up for the program visit: JewishTulsa.org/jon-boorstin (see event on page 12).

Books will be on sale (or you may bring your own) and Jon will be available to sign them after his program.

Part biography, part family history, and a crucial extension of his father's work, Jon Boorstin illuminates what we might learn from what was left out, and how, during another challenging time for America, we may renew our own faith in the future.

This is an interesting, compelling, educational, and enlightening event for Tulsa that will be talked about for years to come and should not be missed! ■

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

Butterflies

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ZARROW POINTE

CELEBRATE SIMCHAS!

Jacob Daven Aizenman, son of Jenna and Daniel Aizenman, will become a bar mitzvah on Saturday, October 24, 2026, corresponding to the 13th of Chesvan, 5787, at Congregation B'nai Emunah.

Jacob is an 8th-grade student at Holland Hall. When he's not playing soccer for this school and soccer club, you might find him fishing or in his room playing video games with his friends. When he grows up, he hopes to work with drones. Jacob has been preparing for his bar mitzvah under the tutoring and guidance of Sonia Hocherman.

Jacob is the grandson of Judee & Leo Weinberg of Tulsa, OK, and Irina & Tony Aizenman of Oklahoma City, OK. Jacob is the older brother of Max. The community is invited to join the Aizenman family for services at 9:30 a.m. in person at Congregation B'nai Emunah or in the Synagogue Zoom Room. The meeting ID is, as always, 918 583 7121.

After five years of studying, learning, and living a Jewish life, we welcome Tina Offir to the Jewish community. Tina completed her conversion to Judaism on June 17th with Rabbi Kaiman at Congregation B'nai Emunah. "It still feels surreal to be seen and embraced by my tribe," shares Tina. "Judaism has given me a place where I truly feel at home—in my heart, mind, and soul—and for that I am deeply thankful."

One of Tina's greatest joys is teaching barre and yoga at the Charles Schusterman Jewish Community Center, where she has the privilege of sharing her passion for movement, wellness, and connection with others. She looks forward to building meaningful relationships, celebrating together, and continuing this wonderful journey with her Tulsa Jewish family. Mazel Tov Tina!

Mazel Tov to Abersons Clothing! The Tulsa clothing store, located at Center 1 on Peoria, was recently recognized by The New York Times as one of the 25 Best Clothing Stores in America, earning praise for its customer service, merchandising, and shopping experience. Abersons has been a Tulsa staple since 1974.

Elazar Eckstein Shirley, son of Jacob Shirley and Rabyne Eckstein, grandson of the late Lynn and Ray Shirley, will be called to the Torah as a Bar Mitzvah on Saturday, October 31, 2026, which will be the 20th of Cheshvan, 5787.

Elazar is in seventh grade at Edison Magnet School and is a graduate of Mizel Jewish Community Day School. He started his education at B'nai Emunah Preschool and is now finding his place as a leader, enjoying his first summer as a Counselor in Training at Camp Shalom and a Madrich at Shul School.

Elazar is learning to play trombone and loves to play Minecraft. When he's not forging a new pickaxe, he forges ahead with absorbing new knowledge of our world. He's full of curiosity and always excited to share all that he's learned. He's been enthusiastically studying with Morah Sonia Hocherman.

Elazar became a big brother exactly 18 months after he became a real, breathing boy. He's guided Yitzhak through many experiences and adventures, most of them good. Come, share in this adventure with us! We'll start at 9:30 at Congregation B'nai Emunah, with lunch to follow.

Rachel Gold, executive director of The National Albert Schweitzer Fellowship, has earned another prestigious accolade. In fact, this award literally has her name on it!

The University of Tulsa is celebrating a decade of impact through the Tulsa Schweitzer Fellowship with the creation of the Rachel Gold Impact Award, honoring the namesake for her leadership in founding and growing the Tulsa chapter of the Albert Schweitzer Fellowship over its first decade.

The inaugural award recognizes individuals whose leadership, service, and commitment have made an extraordinary and lasting impact on the Tulsa community. Gold was selected as the first recipient in recognition of her role in launching and sustaining the fellowship throughout its first decade.

Headquartered in Tulsa, the national Albert Schweitzer Fellowship works with local programs to develop emerging leaders committed to creating positive change in their communities. Mazel Tov Rachel!

Share your simchas with the entire community! Send us your b'nai mitzvah, wedding announcement, birth of a child, graduation, or other milestone for our "simchas" section each month.

Send submissions for the Tulsa Jewish Review to Sandy Sloan, sandy@jewishtulsa.org

JEWISH TULSA WELCOMES A NEW COHORT OF ELSON ISRAEL FELLOWS

by Sandy Sloan, Editor, Tulsa Jewish Review

The Elson Israel Fellowship is made possible through a generous gift from **Bill Elson**, z"l, whose lifelong vision and legacy were rooted in fostering a strong connection to Israel and preserving the Zionist ideal of a free, democratic, and Jewish state. Each year, the fellowship brings Israel's most innovative thinkers, scholars, visionaries, and advocates to Tulsa, where they engage the community through public lectures, discussions, and events, contribute original thought pieces to the global conversation on Israel and Zionism, and help drive the global narrative so that the Jewish people's story is told with strength, clarity, and pride. In doing so, fellows confront antisemitism, combat the delegitimization of Israel, and build bridges between Israel and the diaspora, fostering greater unity and collaboration.

This year's cohort brings together four remarkable voices, each shaped by a distinct path to the work of Jewish peoplehood.

Yakir Englander

Yakir Englander is the Senior Director of Leadership programs at the Israeli-American Council and founder of Sacred Roots, New Branches, a private consulting practice. He also teaches at the Academy for Jewish Religion. Raised in Israel's Hasidic community, Englander left Ultra-Orthodoxy and served in an elite IDF unit tasked with identifying human remains, an experience that profoundly shaped his worldview. He formerly served as volunteer director and Vice President of Kids4Peace, an interfaith youth movement in Jerusalem. A Fulbright scholar, he has held visiting professorships at Harvard Divinity School, Northwestern, Rutgers, Hebrew University, and the Shalom Hartman Institute, and his two books on body and sexuality have transformed discourse within Israeli religious societies.

Tracy Frydberg

Tracy Frydberg is the founding director of the Tisch Center for Jewish Dialogue at ANU – Museum of the Jewish People. Tracy served as a senior advisor to two of Israel's Ministers of Diaspora Affairs and previously worked as an analyst at the Reut Group, focused on Israel–world Jewry relations and the delegitimization challenges facing Israel. Before that, and after a short stint in journalism, Tracy served two years in the IDF as a representative to the Palestinian population in the West Bank, and is now pursuing a doctorate in contemporary Jewish studies.

Itamar Kremer is an Israeli educator, author, and social entrepreneur with more than twenty years of experience in educational leadership and Jewish peoplehood. He is the founder and director of Israel Education Watch, a national initiative working to defend and strengthen Israel's public education system and its democratic foundations. A former school principal and senior executive in Israeli educational organizations, Kremer is the author of Kaplan Meets Halakha: On the Way to a New Jewish-Israeli Social Contract, and is also a lieutenant colonel in the IDF reserves who has served extensively since October 7.

Itamar Kremer

Maia Zelkha is the editor-in-chief of Yad Mizrah, the first literary magazine devoted to promoting Mizrahi and Sephardic creative work. Her writing and research focus on the intersections of identity, diaspora, and historical narrative. Her work has appeared in the anthology Young Zionist Voices and in Brill's Encyclopedia of Jews in the Islamic World, and she is a current fellow at the Z3 Institute. Her forthcoming book, *Muhammad's Jewish Wife*, explores the intersection of Jewish and Islamic civilization in the 7th century and its enduring impact on Jewish-Muslim

Maia Zelkha

(Continued on p. 24)

Our first Elson Fellow, Yakir Englander,
will speak on "Building Hope"
at the community October 7th Commemoration,
Wednesday, October 7 at Jewish Tulsa.
For more information and to RSVP,
visit: JewishTulsa.org/oct7-2026.

Bill Elson's legacy continues through this important fellowship, preserving his wish to connect Israel and the diaspora.

To learn how to create your lasting legacy, contact **Joe Roberts, Executive Director, joe@jewishtulsa.org, 918-495-1100.**

(Continued from p. 21, Elson Fellows)

relations today.

Together, these four fellows embody the fellowship's core mission: to defend Israel's place in the world by tackling delegitimization and antisemitism with clarity and courage, to strengthen Jewish unity by building bridges between Israel and diaspora communities, and to position Tulsa as a global leader, a hub of innovation, leadership, and pride for Jewish communities worldwide.

During their one-week residency in Tulsa, the fellows engage the local community through public lectures and discussions, interact with civic organizations, and broaden the fellowship's impact through media outreach. Each will produce an original thought piece for the Tulsa Jewish Review and write three op-eds on topics related to Israel, Zionism, and Jewish identity. Their reach extends well beyond Tulsa. ■

Elson
ISRAEL
FELLOWSHIP

(Continued from p. 9, My Oct. 7)

family, the initiative carries on her legacy and is spreading across Israel and the world—communities, institutions, and schools are joining in, recycling, creating together, and continuing the family's path.

Livnat's legacy, **Wings of Hope**, has reached us here in Tulsa. It is an honor for me to cherish her memory, as well as the memory of my many friends and fellow countrymen who lost their lives on that cursed day. Together, we will build these wings, pray for hope and human connection, and seek our shared good.

Join us on the evening of October 7th as we unveil **Wings of Hope** in the Jewish Tulsa lobby. ■

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

Simchat Torah Dinner and Dancing
Friday, October 2 | 5:30 p.m.

We roll from one experience to the next as we celebrate the cycle of Torah learning and the new year with an evening of dinner and dancing. The evening begins with a dinner at 5:30 p.m. in the Synagogue Sukkah. There is no charge for this meal, but please indicate your participation through our website registration. At 6:15 p.m., we move into the Kaiser-Miller Auditorium, where music will fill our hearts as we dance together. It's an evening of toys and wonders at this intergenerational gathering.

Shemini Atzeret and Simchat Torah Yom Tov Services
Saturday, October 3 and Sunday, October 4 | 9:30 a.m.

The final days of the holiday season bring us back together for the last two mornings of Yom Tov services. Yizkor will be chanted at 11:00 a.m. on October 3. On October 4, join us for the traditional finale to B'nai Emunah's holiday celebrations as members and friends gather following services for the annual Simchat Torah luncheon sponsored by the Zarrow Families. The meal is complimentary; however, reservations are appreciated.

Adult Art History Seminar Series with Dr. Kate Green
Tuesdays, October 6 and 20 | 6:00 p.m.

Explore the fascinating world of art in a lively five-part series led by curator, educator, and writer, Dr. Kate Green. Through engaging, image-driven presentations and conversation, we'll examine key moments in art history and discover what they reveal about creativity, culture, and society—both then and now. Expect works of art that inspire, surprise, challenge, and occasionally leave you scratching your head. No previous knowledge of art history is needed—just bring your curiosity and come ready to learn, sip, and nosh over wine and cheese. Sessions meet every other Tuesday from September 22 through November 17. For more information about ticket pricing, please contact the Synagogue at (918) 583-7121.

THE SYNAGOGUE
B'NAI EMUNAH

Lifelong Learners at Zarrow Pointe
Wednesday, October 14 | 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.

B'nai Emunah Cooking School
Thursday, October 15 | 6:00 p.m.

Explore the flavors, traditions, and stories of Jewish cuisine through fun, hands-on cooking experiences. Each quarterly session will feature beloved Jewish dishes, from treasured classics to holiday favorites, as we learn the techniques and traditions that have brought generations together around the table. Cook, learn, taste, and celebrate the delicious traditions of Jewish life together. Reserve your place at the kitchen counter by registering online.

INTRO to Judaism Begins
Sunday, October 18 | 10:00 a.m.

Looking into Judaism? Born Jewish and want to know more? Sharing your life with a Jew and want to crack the code? INTRO explores Jewish culture, history, and wisdom in a setting where questions are more important than answers. Classes, taught by Rabbi Kaiman, are joined with beautiful Shabbat celebrations, supportive discussion groups, and many opportunities for interactive, experiential learning. Visit tulsagogue.com/intro for a complete schedule and to register.

Blatt + Blue: The Swedish Connection
Thursday, October 22 | 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).

Bibi Dibi – Shabbat for Little Ones
Friday, October 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.

Costume Closet Giveaway
Thursday, October 29 | 6:00 p.m.

The decade-long Costume Closet project ensures that every child has the chance to dress up, dream big, and experience the joy of the holiday season. From superheroes to princesses, animals to adventurers, our Costume Closet helps unlock creativity and confidence while bringing smiles to kids who might not otherwise have access to these special moments. Donate your new or gently used costumes today and help us turn everyday kids into extraordinary heroes! Contact the Synagogue offices at (918) 583-7121, if you are interested in volunteering for this special project.

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. ■

TEMPLE ISRAEL
Est. 1914
TULSA OKLAHOMA

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!

Simchat Torah, Consecration & Shabbat Services in person, on Zoom & Facebook Live • Fri., Oct 2 • 6:00 p.m.

Join us as we consecrate our new students and celebrate Simchat Torah together. Stay afterward for a festive congregational dinner with your Temple Israel family. RSVP on our website by Wednesday, September 30.

Breakfast with Brotherhood • Sun., Oct. 4 at 9:30 a.m.

Join us for Breakfast with Brotherhood featuring Tulsa native and 2 News meteorologist Mike Grogan! Enjoy good food, good company, and an engaging presentation from one of Tulsa's familiar voices in weather. Breakfast begins at 9:30, speaker at 10:00 a.m. Cost is $12, RSVP on our website by Oct. 1 at 3:00 p.m.

Zarrow Pointe Shabbat Service * • Fri., Oct. 9 • 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 Services in person, on Zoom & Facebook Live • Fri., Oct. 9 • 7:30 p.m.

Join us as we welcome in Shabbat and celebrate October birthdays. Stay afterwards for a sweet oneg.

Jewish Learning – Ten Commandments • Sat., Oct. 10• 10:30 a.m.

Join Rabbi Appel as she teaches on the subject of the Ten Commandments. To make our study a sweet one, bagels and coffee are provided. Please sign up through the Temple Israel website events page by Thursday, Oct. 8. *Our learning will take place in the Activity Space at the Temple Offices.*

Zamru L'Shabbat & Pride Shabbat in person, on Zoom & Facebook Live • Fri., Oct. 16 • 6:00 p.m.

Celebrate with *Elijah's Minor Prophets*, our Temple Israel band, as we welcome in Pride Shabbat. This talented group of musicians joins Cantorial Soloist Jenny Labow for a Shabbat Service filled with the joy and spirituality of Shabbat. Arrive early for our pre-oneg at 5:30 p.m., including a variety of light snacks and beverages.

Sisterhood Opening Luncheon • Sun., Oct. 18 • 1:00 p.m.

Join us in the Temple Israel Activity Space for our Sisterhood Opening Luncheon featuring special guest speaker Morgan Walker, Executive Director of Tulsa Symphony. Sisterhood Members: $20, Non-Members: $25. RSVP by Monday, October 12.

Brotherhood & Sisterhood Axe Throwing Event • Sun., Oct. 18 • 3:00 p.m.

Brotherhood & Sisterhood are stepping into new territory! Join us for a fun afternoon of axe throwing at A&R Axe Throwing. Whether you're an experienced thrower or ready to try something new, come enjoy the competition, camaraderie, and fun! $12 per person. Bring your favorite snacks! Drinks will be available for purchase. A&R Axe Throwing will require all participants to sign a release before participating. You must RSVP online no later than October 15 at 3:00 p.m.

Anniversary Shabbat Service in person, on Zoom & Facebook Live • Fri., Oct. 23 • 6:00 p.m.

Join us as we welcome in Shabbat and celebrate October anniversaries. Come at 5:30 p.m. for our pre-oneg.

S'more & Campfire Storytelling • Sat., Oct. 24 • 7:00 p.m.

We'll begin the evening with Havdalah. And what better way to spend an October night than roasting s'mores by the fire and telling stories! Bring your favorite story to tell and enjoy snacks & beverages. RSVP on our website.

Temple Israel's Adult Book Club * • Tues., Oct. 27• 6:00 p.m.

Temple Israel's Adult Education Committee invites you to read *He, She, & It* by Marge. 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.*

OUR SEARCH BEGINS

by Grant Bumgarner, Temple Israel Rabbinic Search Committee Chair

I have had the honor and privilege of chairing Temple Israel's Rabbinic Search Committee for the past few months. In that capacity, I'm excited to share an update on where we are in this exciting journey.

The first thing our search committee did as we began this process was to **listen**. We held a series of congregational focus groups and collected survey responses from more than 100 members. Through these listening sessions, we learned more about what our community values, where we hope to grow, and the qualities we're seeking in our next rabbi. I want to sincerely thank everyone who took the time to share their thoughts. Your voices were heard, and they helped shape the search process in meaningful ways.

We completed and submitted our application to the Central Conference of American Rabbis (CCAR)—the Reform rabbinic leadership organization—in early August. That means rabbis from around the country can now begin learning about Temple Israel and consider applying to be our next leader. Applications will be accepted through the fall. We will carefully review each candidate's materials and conduct virtual interviews with promising applicants.

Our hope is to welcome finalist candidates for in-person visits by the end of this year or early 2027. In addition, we may also have the opportunity to visit candidates in their home congregations to see them in action and better understand their leadership in context.

One thing I've learned throughout this process is just how much care and dedication our committee members bring to this work. The committee represents every demographic of Temple Israel, and each member has generously given their time because they care deeply about our congregation's future.

This is an exciting moment for Temple Israel. Over the next year, God willing, we will welcome a new rabbi into our new Temple Israel building. Change can feel uncertain, but it also brings the opportunity to come together around a shared vision.

For more than a century, Temple Israel has been a cornerstone of Jewish life in Tulsa—L'dor V'dor. Now we have the privilege of honoring that legacy while writing the next chapter of our story.

If you have any questions or feedback for us regarding the Rabbinic Search, please reach out to me at search@templetulsa.com.

David Dopp

Levi Olsen

The Fitzgerald FUNERAL SERVICE
BOULDER AT FOURTEENTH, TULSA, OKLAHOMA 74119
918.585.1151

(Continued from p. 17, Mizel JCDS)

It is easy to come home from Israel inspired. The harder part is deciding what you are going to do with that inspiration.

We don't want this experience to end with us. We came back to Tulsa knowing that our responsibility is bigger than bringing home a few new Israel lessons or activities for our classrooms. We want to help build a community of young Zionists right here in Tulsa.

We want our students to know that Israel is more than a place on a map. We want them to understand its history while also being willing to wrestle with its complexities. We want them to know Israelis—not just know *about* Israelis. We want them to have the confidence to ask difficult questions. We want them to recognize antisemitism and feel prepared to stand up against it.

We want Hebrew to be more than words they practice in class. We want Jewish values to be more than something written on a bulletin board. We want Israel to be more than something we celebrate once a year.

Most importantly, we want our students to understand that they are part of this story. Israel isn't just something that happened in 1948. Jewish history isn't something that ended in their textbooks. The Jewish story is still being written.

Shira and I returned from Israel more committed than ever to making sure the next generation of Jewish children in Tulsa knows that they have a place in it.

JEWISH TULSA

2021 East 71st Street
Tulsa, OK 74136

Save the Date

THURSDAY | DECEMBER 10 | 6 PM

FEAST-IVAL OF LIGHTS

EIGHT-COURSE HANUKKAH DINNER

FEAST-ival of Lights eight-course tasting dinner returns! Mark the miracle of the oil lasting eight nights with unique olive oil-themed dishes curated by the experienced Chef Aaron B. Ware. The dinner is $36/person, which includes the olive oil tasting experience, an eight-course tasting dinner, and drinks (wine and non-alcoholic options).

Childcare available $10/child

RSVP: JEWISHTULSA.ORG/FEASTIVAL