



the bulleTIn

Temple Israel established 1914



The months of Tevet and Shevat bring us deep into the rainy winter months in the Land of Israel. Their names are derived from Akkadian during the Babylonian Captivity. Tevet is derived from Arah Tebētum, the "muddy month." Shevat has a fascinating origin; "Šabātu" is believed to mean "strike," a reference to the heavy rains characteristic of the season. This etymology highlights the deep connection between ancient cultures and their environment.

TEMPLE ISRAEL'S MISSION

Temple Israel founded in 1914 is a Reform Congregation affiliated with the Union for Reform Judaism. Temple Israel is truly our House of Worship, Study, and Gathering. For over a century, our synagogue embodies the ritual warmth and ceremonial beauty of our Jewish tradition while serving as the center for worship, life-cycle celebration and events, education, social justice, and activities and gatherings for all ages. We are an inclusive and actively engaged community. We welcome singles and couples, interfaith couples and families, LGBTQ Jews and those seeking to convert to Judaism. Temple Israel values the diversity of Jewish expression and community.

SAVE THE DATES

Saturday, January 18, 6:45 PM

Jukebox Classics Dance

Sunday, January 19, 2:00 PM

YJP Tulsa Oilers Game

Monday, January 20, 10:00 AM

MLK Parade

Sunday, February 9, 1:00 PM

Sisterhood Stained Glass Event

Friday, February 21, 7:00 PM

Congregational Dinner

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Racial Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (**REDI**) means recognizing the holiness of each individual and affirming and reflecting the actual diversity of Jewish people. The URJ is dedicated to representing individuals across the gender spectrum, including transgender, nonbinary, and gender-expansive individuals.

For more information about the Reform Movement's stance on inclusivity and a quick guide to pronouns, please visit

<https://urj.org/what-we-do/audacious-hospitality/quick-guide-pronouns>.

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RABBI REMARKS

by Rabbi Michael Weinstein
Temple Israel Senior Rabbi



January first and the secular New Year are upon us; hopefully, it was a safe and healthy new year for each of you. As Americans, we are tied to our Gregorian calendar. As Jews, we are also tied to our Hebrew calendar. We know that Rosh Hashanah occurs each autumn, just after “back to school.” We know that Hanukkah is in the winter, sometime after Thanksgiving; Pesach falls in the spring, sometime around Spring Break!

We are tied to our calendar. On February 13th, we will experience the holiday of Tu B’Shevat. Rabbinic literature teaches us that Tu B’Shevat is “the new year for the trees,” or perhaps the birthday of the trees. Growing up, I was always told that the 15th of Shevat is the “jewish arbor day.” This statement is incomplete. The American Arbor Day was founded solely to foster the planting of trees, completely lacking the larger significance and breadth of spirit that characterizes Tu B’Shevat.

Tu B’Shevat is an agricultural holiday. This is when the rainy season in Israel is ending, as Pesach approaches. The trees in Israel begin to sprout flowers and fruits. Tu B’Shevat is a holiday of ethical and moral implications. As Dr. Seuss’ Lorax would tell us “I am the Lorax. I speak for the trees. I speak for the trees for the trees have no tongues.” It is a holiday of advocacy and stepping up for those who cannot do so.

Tu B’Shevat is a holiday of spiritual awakening. At this time of the year, the coldest time on the calendar, we are just beginning to have light, as the days are lengthening. The mystical rabbis teach us that Tu B’Shevat is when the trees awaken, and the sap begins to flow; similarly, this is when our souls begin to awaken, and our spiritual sap begins to flow. We begin to look forward to the remembrance of our redemption and the coming of Pesach. Carefully, we begin to assess where we fall in Creation. Where are we in our relationship with the Creator? Where are we in our relationship with nature?

In this life on earth, we must contemplate, confront, and accept The Creation. We did not initiate or conceive of this world; we were born into it. All of this happened through our Creator’s intention. How will we deal with and learn from it? (continued on page 4)



(continued from page 3)

20th-century Jewish philosopher, Martin Buber, offers the following meditation, in which he puts our relationship with nature into perspective:

I contemplate a tree.

I can accept it as a picture: a rigid pillar in a flood of light, or splashes of green traversed by the gentleness of the blue-silver ground.

I can feel it as movement: the flowing veins around the sturdy, striving core, the sucking of the roots, the breathing of the leaves, the infinite.

Commerce with earth and air – and the growing itself in its darkness.

I can assign it to a species and observe it as an instance, with an eye to Construction and its way of life...

I can dissolve it into a number, into a pure relation between numbers, and eternalize it.

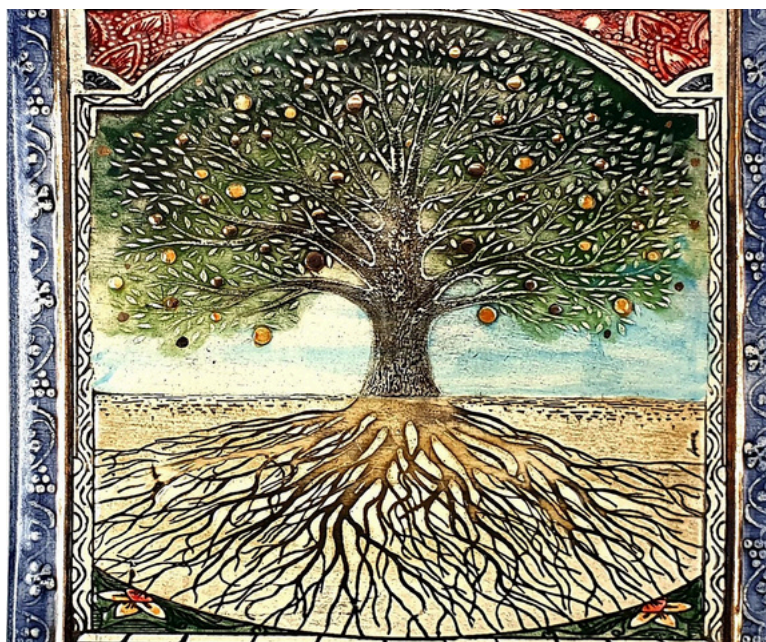
Throughout all of this the tree remains my object and has its place and its time span, its kind and condition.

But it can also happen, if will and grace are joined, that as I contemplate the tree I am drawn into a relation, and the tree ceases to be an It. The power of exclusiveness has seized me...

Whatever belongs to the tree is included: its form and its mechanics, its colors and its chemistry, its conversation with the elements and its conversation with the stars – all this in its entirety.

The tree is no impression, no play of my imagination, no aspect of a mood; it confronts me bodily and has to deal with me as I must deal with it – only differently.

During these winter months and the coming Tu B'Shevat, may we each find a connection to the natural world, in which we feel connected to the Creator in each of us. May we be reminded of our relationship with God as we are awakened to the world around us.



BOARD UPDATE

by Brina Reinstein
Temple Israel Board President



As you know one of my jobs as Temple President is to write a message in the Temple Bulletin. I feel it is important for the congregation to get to know all the Temple leadership, so I have asked each member of the Executive Committee to write a Bulletin article in my place. This month’s article is written by **Josh Corngold**, Temple Israel’s Vice President.

Recent survey data indicates that religious identification among U.S. adults has been in steady decline in the first few decades of the new millennium. In a 2020 Gallup poll, 47% of Americans said they belong to a house of worship. That represents a 23 percentage point drop since 1999 and the lowest percentage ever reported by Gallup. Meanwhile, a Pew Research Center poll released in early 2024 found that 28% of U.S. adults identify as “religiously unaffiliated” (i.e. they consider themselves to be atheist, agnostic, or “nothing in particular”). This makes “religiously unaffiliated” the largest individual religious cohort in the nation— outnumbering those who consider themselves Catholics or Evangelicals.

Certainly, the Reform Jewish community is not immune to these social trends. And yet, at present, Temple Israel is showing very encouraging signs of growth! As Board President Brina Reinstein recently reported, over 59 families have joined Temple Israel in the past two years. Enrollment in Shorashim—Temple Israel’s religious school program—is up 50% over the same period. And since August, seven of our members have been called to the Torah as Bnai Mitzvah.

Progress on the NextDor project continues apace! Fundraising for the project is now at over \$12 million and counting. And groundbreaking for the beautiful, new, energy-efficient building is slated for the coming summer.

In short, this is an exciting and momentous time to be a part of the Temple Israel family. We have powerful momentum on our side. I look forward to seeing you in Temple soon.

Josh Corngold
Temple Israel Vice President

YOUNG JEWISH PROFESSIONALS



Calling all young adults in their 20’s and 30’s! Join Temple Israel on Sunday, January 19th at 2:00pm at the BOK Center for a night of hockey! We will cheer on the Tulsa Oilers as they battle the Idaho Steelheads. We will meet at the entrance where everyone who RSVP’d will receive their tickets. To enjoy a night on the town with your Jewish besties, it only costs \$15! To claim your ticket now, please go to TempleTulsa.com/upcoming-events/. RSVP will close on January 10th, so act fast!

TEMPLE FAMILY

by Lesley Bumgarner



During these cold, dark winter months many of us gravitate towards cozy, early evenings at home. I enjoy sitting on my sofa in front of the fireplace with my dog at my side. It is easy to slip into "hibernation mode" when the temperature drops and the sun sets so early.

While quiet time alone can be restorative, we can all learn from Hillel who advised, "Do not separate yourself from the community." With these sage words in mind, Temple Israel has planned a variety of opportunities for you to learn, worship, socialize, and connect over the next two months. Please refer to the calendar in this bulletin (or online) for more specifics about dates and times.

In January, please consider joining us for Shabbat Services on Friday evenings. Join us to snack and schmooze at our Pre Oneg gatherings before early services or stay after our late services for coffee and dessert. If you are a Young Jewish Professional, Rabbi Jasper will be purchasing tickets for a Tulsa Oilers hockey game at the BOK Center. Sisterhood and Brotherhood will be hosting a Jukebox Classics Dance featuring music from the 1950's -1980's.

In February, we will enjoy an Italian Congregational Shabbat Dinner. Our Temple Juniors (TJs) will meet for fun following Shorashim. Our monthly Young Family Shabbat with dinner will continue, as will our once monthly service at Zarrow Pointe. And, of course, our monthly observances of both Birthday and Anniversary Shabbatot will continue, as well. If you truly want to stay cozy at home while participating, you can watch our services on Zoom or Facebook Live. Rabbi Weinstein also offers a weekly Thursday Learning via Zoom.

While this list of activities and events is not exhaustive, we hope that there is something offered that will appeal to each member of our Temple Israel Family. Bundle up, venture out, and come join us!

ADULT EDUCATION

Temple Israel recently reconvened our Adult Education Committee. We have been at work creating opportunities that will explore our Jewish traditions and bring our TI community together to learn.

Mark your calendars for Saturday, February 8, at 10:30 AM! We will present the first 2025 Shabbat Learning through the Ages by holding a Tu B'Shevat Seder. This practice finds its origins in Kabbalistic tradition, making it both fascinating and fun.

Stay tuned for more opportunities throughout the year, including a summer learning series. In the meantime, please reach out to Kelsey Holder with any questions by calling the Temple office.

Your TI Adult Education Committee

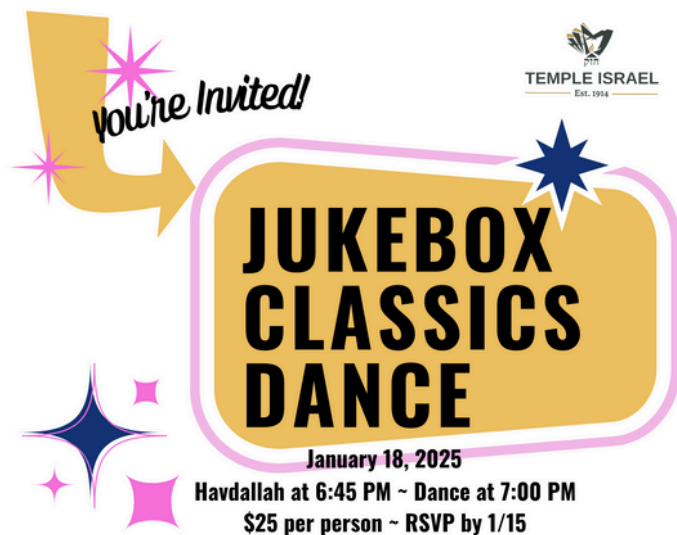
BROTHERHOOD

As the secular year begins, Brotherhood is staying busy with various activities. Our big event will take place on Saturday, January 18th. Brotherhood is teaming up with Sisterhood to produce “Jukebox Classics”, our first ever dance. It will feature music from the mid 50’s through the mid 80’s, so get out your dancing shoes and dance the night away! It will be hosted by a disc jockey and hors d’oeuvres will be provided by Cassie and Dan Kovin’s company, Phenomenal Flavors. We will have a photo booth with Tina Haney of Quiet Coyote Photography taking the photos. Wine will be served along with other assorted beverages. The cost is \$25.00 per person. Don’t miss the fun. It is sure to be a great evening.

In other news, Brotherhood is working with Tina Haney on t-shirts, sweatshirts, and hoodies commemorating Temple Israel. Tina has taken an outstanding photo of Temple Israel and has worked with a company who will do a full color screen print of the photo on the garment. We feel this will help provide a long-lasting memory of our Temple Israel building, circa 2024.

We will not be hosting Taste of Temple this year due to the proximity with Jukebox Classics dance. We are hoping to add a cookout or other event in the late spring or early summer.

Craig Kovin
Temple Israel Brotherhood President



SISTERHOOD

Happy Secular New Year everyone! I hope your holiday season was all you wanted it to be and more. October through December is my favorite time of year. As much as I love the season, I am happy to see it in the rear view. A slower pace is much appreciated as we burrow in for the colder days of January and February.

Brotherhood and Sisterhood will be hosting our first ever Temple Israel Dance – “Jukebox Classics”. Please join us on Saturday, January 18, 2025 from 6:45–9 p.m. A DJ will be playing music from the 50’s to the 80’s and more – so dust off those blue suede shoes, put on your best leisure suit and get ready to hit the dance floor! Hors d’oeuvres are by Phenomenal Flavors and a photo booth by Tina Haney of Quiet Coyote Photography will be available. Wine and assorted beverages will be served. Tickets are \$25 per person. You don’t want to miss what will surely be the event of the year!

Please join us for a Mosaic Class at Tulsa Stained Glass on Sunday, February 9th from 1–4 p.m. \$60 per person includes a history of stained glass, instruction and all the materials needed to make your own mosaic piece. Tulsa Stained Glass is located at 4131 S. Sheridan Road.

Important Dates:

March 2 – Sisterhood Board Meeting 1 p.m.

March 14 – Sisterhood Shabbat 7:30 p.m.

April 6 – Sisterhood Board Meeting 1 p.m.



Donna Gantner
Temple Israel Sisterhood President



TEMPLE TAKES

Sisterhood at Pinot's Palette



Anniversary Shabbat



Celebrating 15 years of marriage with the McMillins!

Social Justice Shabbat



Presenting the Food Bank with a check for the money raised during our High Holy Days.



Merrilee Langer being honored with the Tikkun Olam Award.



On December 18, Rabbi Jasper visited Happy Campers to teach the children about Hanukkah and created a fun activity for them..

TEMPLE TAKES

Joint Sisterhood Program



Temple Sisterhood members joined together with the Federation and B'nai Emunah's Sisterhood to put together kitchen baskets for Women in Recovery.

Jewish Craft and Food Fair

Our November 17th Craft Fair was a huge success, with 31 vendors and hundreds of happy shoppers!



Shorashim Mock Wedding

The Shorashim students have been studying Jewish life cycle events and hosted their very own mock wedding.



SIMCHA + SORROW

contributions & memorial gifts to Temple Israel

Building Fund

In Loving Memory of Edith Sylvan
by Barbara Sylvan

Cemetery Beautification Fund

In Loving Memory of
Dr. Richard Milsten
by Brina Reinstein

In Loving Memory of
Don & Rita Newman
by Carol Miller

General Fund

by Anonymous
by Randi Weingarten

In Loving Memory of
Morris Sylvan & Cecil Breeding
by Barbara Sylvan

In Honor of TI High Holy Days
by Deborah E. Hammond
& David L. Emanuel

In Honor of Israel
by Jimmie R. Coleman

Wishing R'fuah Sh'leimah to
Sandi Viner
by Ron Viner

In Loving Memory Renata Treitel
by Linda Brown

Judy Halpern Social Justice Fund

In Loving Memory of
Dr. Richard Milsten
In Loving Memory of
Marilyn Diamond
by Ed & Betty Sherman

In Loving Memory of
Phyllis Lustgarten
by Iris Chandler

In Loving Memory of
Marilyn Diamond
by Irene & Marc Bookbinder

In Honor of the Birthday of
Evelyn Jones
by Jeanne Jacobs
by Anonymous

In Honor of Merrilee Langer
Receiving the
2024 Tikkun Olam Award
by Jeanne Jacobs

Music Fund

In Loving Memory of
Allan Peter Scholl
by Eric Scholl

Happy Thanksgiving Temple Israel
Happy Hanukkah Temple Israel
by Curtis & Regina Scissons

In Honor of
Rabbi Jasper
& Paul Sweet

In Honor of Jenny Labow
In Honor of Melani Crosley
by Curtis & Regina Scissons

In Loving Memory of
Max Aronowitz
by Marcia Weinstein

NextDor Fund

In Loving Memory of
Edgar Benarrous
by Anonymous
by Mark & Brenda Blumenthal
by Brina Reinstein
by Irene & Marc Bookbinder
by Ed & Betty Sherman
by Craig & Carol Kovin
by Myron & Jane Katz
by Roy & Evelyn Jones
by TI Brotherhood

Queen Esther Fund

In Loving Memory of
Marilyn Diamond
by Eric Scholl

Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

In Loving Memory of
Dr. Richard Milsten
by Eric Scholl

In Honor of Rabbi Weinstein
by Deana (Linfield),
Bill and Scott Diamond

In Honor of Rabbi Weinstein
by Curtis & Regina Scissons

In Loving Memory of our son, Gil
by Mark & Brenda Blumenthal

In Loving Memory of Marilyn Diamond
In Honor of Merrilee Langer
Receiving the
2024 Tikkun Olam Award
by Mark & Brenda Blumenthal

Rabbi Charles P. Sherman
Members Helping Members Fund
by Anonymous

Security Fund

In Loving Memory of Dorothy Wittels
In Loving Memory of Herb Miller
by Carol Miller

In Loving Memory of Hannah Kutner
by Lee Kutner, Janet Simmons &
Ian Simmons

Technology Fund

by Anonymous

Zola Brand Garden Fund
Welcome Baby Boy Budd
by Anne Cummins & Jenny Labow

ALL IN THE FAMILY

MAZEL TOV!

Mazel Tov to Sabrina and Brit Leggett and big sister, Lana, on the birth of little brother, Reno Leggett. Reno was named on our bima on Friday, December 6th.

Mazel Tov to Lucian and Emily Bode on their marriage. Lucien is the grandson of Klara and John Bode, and the son of Brian Bode.

Mazel Tov to Jory and Taylor Budd and big sister Eleanor, on the arrival of Baby Boy Budd.

Mazel Tov to Jenny Labow on the release of the new holiday album "A Gift For Tulsa".

Your Rabbis in The Community

Your rabbis have been busy, sharing Judaism in the greater Tulsa community over the past month.

Rabbi Weinstein spent Sunday morning, December 6th teaching the Adult Challenger class on Hanukkah in the New Light at Harvard Avenue Christian Church. The morning was a text-based study on the origins of Hanukkah through Apocrypha, Talmud, and other modern commentaries.

Rabbi Weinstein also sat on an interfaith panel at Tulsa Youth Services on Wednesday, December 11. The panel embodied an interesting comparative religion discussion for the staff of TYS, sponsored by Metropolitan Ministry. The panel touched on Judaism, Christianity, Islam, and Paganism.

On December 18, Rabbi Jasper offered a taste of Judaism to the students of Tulsa Boys Home School.

PROSPECTIVE NEW MEMBERS

People become members of our Temple Israel Family in several ways. Sometimes people are new to Tulsa and are seeking a new congregational home. We are happy to welcome them.

Other times, people are unaffiliated Jews already living in Tulsa. Through our outreach and engagement efforts we reach out to them and invite them to become members of our congregation.

A third avenue to membership is through conversion to Judaism. Currently Rabbi Weinstein is studying with seven people who are approaching the end of conversion to Judaism. Once these seven have completed their conversion, we will officially invite them to become members of Temple Israel. As extra incentive, we offer these members through conversion, six months of free membership.

In the coming months, we look forward to sharing more news about these conversion students. We look forward to adding them to our community as we move from strength to strength.

Lesley Bumgarner
Director of Congregational Life

MIZEL IS OPENING A PRESCHOOL




CSJCC Camp Shalom/Mizel JCDS CHILDCARE

Now Enrolling! Opening February 3rd
18 month +
Licensed childcare facility
Mon – Fri 7:30 am – 5:30 pm YEAR-ROUND
\$100 application fee
\$1,300/month

Contact: Amanda Anderson, aanderson@mizelschool.org
918-494-0953 for more information.

JANUARY CALENDAR



| SUN | MON | TUES | WED | THUR | FRI | SHABBAT |
|---|---|---|---|--|---|---|
| | | | Temple Closed 1 HAPPY NEW YEAR  No Midrasha | 2 No online learning | 3 Service 6:00 PM | 4 |
| 5 No Shorashim | 6 | 7 Executive Committee Meeting 5:30 PM | 8 No Midrasha | 9 No online learning SJC Meeting 7:00 PM | 10 Family Shabbat 6:00 PM Birthday Shabbat 7:30 PM  | 11 |
| 12 No Shorashim Sisterhood Board Meeting 1:00 PM | 13 | 14 Board of Trustees Meeting 5:30 PM | 15 No Midrasha | 16 Repairing Our People Online Learning 2:00 PM YJP Event 6:30 PM | 17 Zamru L'Shabbat 6:00 PM | 18 Jukebox Classics Dance Havdalah 6:45 PM Dance 7:00 PM |
| 19 Shorashim 9:00 AM YJP Event 2:00 PM | 20 Temple Closed Inauguration Day Martin Luther King Jr. Day MLK Parade 10:00 AM | 21 Brotherhood Board Meeting 5:30 PM | 22 Midrasha at TI 6:30 PM | 23 Repairing Our People Online Learning 2:00 PM | 24 Zarrow Pointe Service 6:30 PM Anniversary Shabbat 6:00 PM  | 25 |
| 26 Shorashim 9:00 AM | 27 | 28 | 29 Midrasha at TI 6:30 PM | 30 No online learning | 31 Service 6:00 PM | |







Birthday Shabbat



Anniversary Shabbat

FEBRUARY CALENDAR

| SUN | MON | TUES | WED | THUR | FRI | SHABBAT |
|---|---|---|---------------------------------|--|--|------------------------------------|
| | | | | | | 1 |
| 2 Shorashim 9:00 AM Knippa Lecture 4:00 PM | 3 | 4 Executive Committee Meeting 5:30 PM | 5 Midrasha at TI 6:30 PM | 6 Repairing Our People Online Learning 2:00 PM | 7 Family Shabbat 6:00 PM Zamru L'Shabbat Shira followed by Sherman oneg 6:00 PM | 8 Tu B'Shevat Seder 10:30 Am |
| 9 Shorashim 9:00 AM Sisterhood Stained Glass 1:00 PM | 10 | 11 Board of Trustees Meeting 5:30 PM | 12 Midrasha at TI 6:30 PM | 13 Repairing Our People Online Learning 2:00 PM SJC Meeting 7:00 PM | 14 <i>Valentine's Day</i>  Birthday Shabbat with Torah  | 15 |
| 16 No Shorashim | 17 <i>HAPPY Presidents Day</i>  | 18 Brotherhood Board Meeting 5:30 PM | 19 Midrasha at TI 6:30 PM | 20 Repairing Our People Online Learning 2:00 PM | 21 Service 6:00 PM Congregational Dinner 7:00 PM | 22 |
| 23 Shorashim 9:00 AM TJ's 12:00 PM | 24 | 25 | 26 Midrasha at TI 6:30 PM | 27 Repairing Our People Online Learning 2:00 PM | 28 Zarrow Pointe Service 6:30 PM Anniversary Shabbat  | |



Birthday Shabbat



Anniversary Shabbat

Watch for more news and updates about our programs in our bi-weekly e-mail correspondence, the **iTinerary**. Refer to it for planning your time with us!

For your convenience, the **bulleTIn** is also available on our website at www.templetulsa.com/bulletin. If you would prefer to view the Temple Israel newsletter *online* instead of receiving a printed copy, please let Jenny know at jenny@templetulsa.com.

KNIPPA LECTURE

The Knippa Interfaith/Ecumenical Lecture Series will be Sunday, February 2, at 4:00 PM at Grace Lutheran Church located at 2331 E. 5th Pl, Tulsa OK 74104. All are welcome to attend.

Dr. Jonathan Lee Walton, President of Princeton Theological Seminary, will be their 2025 speaker. The Title of his lecture is "What Do We Owe One Another in an Age of Self-help & Personal Spirituality?"

Over the last 40 years, the idea that social well-being is best advanced by promoting individual entrepreneurship & privatization has come to dominate the public approach to education, healthcare, environmental protection & so many other areas of our living together. What is the impact of such market-based morality on communities of faith? How can/should religious institutions still teach about "the Common Good" in a marketplace focused on individual spirituality?

NEXTDOR UPDATE

December 2024 / Kislev 5785

We are pleased to report a significant development in our NextDor process: The Jewish Federation of Tulsa has agreed to provide a temporary home for Temple Israel while we are "between buildings."

We are grateful to the Federation leadership for their support, and look forward to being on the Zarrow Campus. Once we are out of our existing building (probably sometime early in the summer of 2025), we will hold services and religious school on the campus. We will also be able to take advantage of the Federation's meeting rooms and other facilities.

Since the Federation is providing space at no charge, as part of their mission to support the Tulsa Jewish community, being on the Zarrow Campus is a major financial savings for Temple Israel. Instead of having to rent space for services and school, or having to move from place to place, we now will only have to rent office space for our staff (and, yes, we are working on finding a donor for that as well!).

We know that most of our members are quite familiar with the Zarrow Campus, and are confident that it will be convenient for our community.

We will share more specific information about the project timing – including when we will leave our current building – as soon as we have it. It is a complex process, and we want to make sure we get every step right.

With light-filled Hanukkah blessings,
The NextDor Leadership Team

Todd Arlan, Ryan Coretz, Brina Reinstein (Temple Israel President), Julie Rettinger, Jon Stolper (NextDor Chair), David Weil, Rabbi Michael Weinstein



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Paul Sweet, Accompanist

SISTERHOOD JUDAICA SHOP
templetulsashop@gmail.com

NOW OPEN Sundays during Shorashim 9:30-noon,
30 minutes before every Shabbat Service, (or by
appointment)

HAPPY CAMPERS AT TEMPLE ISRAEL
(918) 747.3122
Moe Gimp Early Learning Center
Staci Walkup, Director
happycamperstempleisrael@gmail.com
www.happycampersacademy.com

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