

Temple Israel established 1914



"There are two ways of spreading light: to be the candle or the mirror that reflects it."

Edith Wharton

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, November 1, 10:30 a.m.

"Time" for Learning: Marcheshvan @ Temple Offices

Saturday, November 8, 10:30 a.m. Torah Study @ Temple Offices

Saturday, November 15, 6:45 - 9:00 p.m. Jukebox Classics Dance

Thursday, November 20, 6:30 p.m. Paint & Sip @ Temple Offices

Friday, November 21, 4:00 p.m. Shabbat Services @ Zarrow Pointe

Friday, November 21, 6:00 p.m. Social Justice Shabbat

Monday, November 24, 6:00 p.m. Brotherhood After Hours

Saturday, December 6, 10:30 a.m. "Time" for Learning: Kislev @ Temple Offices

Sunday, December 14, 5:30 p.m. Hanukkiah Lighting with Music & Treats

Friday, December 19, 6:00 p.m. Zamru L'Shabbat with Consecration followed by Congregational Hanukkah Dinner

Friday, December 19, 6:00 p.m. Consecration

Sunday, December 21, 9:30 a.m. Breakfast by Brotherhood

Friday, December 26, 4:00 p.m. Shabbat Services @ Zarrow Pointe

Friday, December 26, 6:00 p.m. Anniversary Shabbat



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Racial Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (REDI) means recognizing the holiness of individual and affirming reflecting the actual diversity of Jewish people. The URJ is dedicated to representing individuals across 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.

RABBI REMARKS

by Batsheva Appel Interim Rabbi



Giving Thanks in Every Season

We usually think of Sukkot as a fall harvest festival—a week of shaking the *lulav* and *etrog*, and eating in the sukkah with the stars visible through the leafy roof. But actually, we celebrate Sukkot two other times each year: at Thanksgiving and at Hanukkah.

Thanksgiving, as many of us learned in school, was modeled in part on the biblical harvest festivals described in Leviticus. The Pilgrims wanted to thank God for their first harvest in a

new land. Whether or not they knew the words *z'man simchateinu*—our season of rejoicing—they understood that gratitude for abundance, community, and survival is sacred. Even if our thinking about the Pilgrims is more nuanced now, there is a benefit to creating the time for giving thanks, for remembering that bounty is not guaranteed and that our gratitude can move us to care for others.

A few weeks later, we reach Hanukkah, which may seem far removed from Sukkot. Yet the stories of the Maccabees tell us that when the Temple was rededicated in Jerusalem, the people were actually celebrating Sukkot, because the harvest festival was delayed by war. That's why Hanukkah lasts eight days: the same length as Sukkot. When the Temple was restored, light returned—just as we bring light into our homes when nights are longest.

The rabbis taught, "In the world to come, all sacrifices will cease, but the sacrifices of thanksgiving will never cease; all prayers will cease, but prayers of thanksgiving will never cease" (Vayikra Rabbah 9:7). Gratitude, they remind us, is eternal.

So whether we're sitting at a Thanksgiving table or lighting the Hanukkah menorah, we are still, in a sense, in the sukkah: giving thanks for harvest, for shelter, and for renewed hope.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Brina Reinstein, Temple Israel Board President

As we came together in the Sylvan Auditorium over the High Holy Days I was reminded of the warmth and welcoming care of our Jewish community, our members, our greeters and our Temple staff. It really does take a village to bring our congregation together for prayer, contemplation and celebration. We appreciate you all.

Thank you Rabbi Appel for very beautiful, meaningful, and thoughtful services. Thank you Jenny, Paul, and our Holy Day choir for filling the auditorium with beautiful sacred music. Thank you to Rick Cohn, our Shofar sounder, for helping us bring in the new year.



Continued on page 4

Continued from page 3

Thank you Lesley for organizing the many board members and congregants who honored us by taking part in the services. Also thank you Lesley for organizing and planning the amazing Break Fast. Thank you Jory, Kelsey, and Nichole for helping to make sure everything ran smoothly.

I am very excited to welcome in 5786, a year in which we will start construction of our new Temple. When the doors to our new Temple finally open we will gather in one another's company in the inviting welcoming Community Court, our teens will hang out in the new Youth Lounge, we will study together in the new Beit Midrash, and quietly contemplate in the outdoor courtyard.

On a final note, on October 13th, after two years of waiting, of days filled with pain and loss we can breathe again. The remaining living hostages are home! It was a day of profound relief for their loved ones, for the people of Israel and for the Jewish people everywhere. Here's to 5786! May it be a year of fulfillment for our Temple Community. May it be a year of greater peace for all the world.

Shehecheyanu, v'kiy'manu V'higiyanu laz'man hazeh.



NEXTDOR UPDATE

Jon Stolper, NextDor Chair

The Leadership Team for the Next Dor Project is delighted to share exciting progress on our new house of worship. We recently received several highly competitive construction bids, marking an important milestone in bringing our vision to life. As we go to press, we are working closely with our nationally recognized architectural firm, Finegold Alexander, along with our talented team of local engineers, to "value engineer" the project. This means we're identifying opportunities to reduce costs without compromising the aesthetics, quality, or integrity of our design. Several promising adjustments have already been found, and we continue to evaluate additional options before finalizing the overall construction cost.

Our commitment remains firm: this new space will be a showcase for the Jewish community and for all of Tulsa, reflecting beauty, functionality, and enduring quality. We anticipate signing a construction contract by the end of October, with demolition and construction set to begin soon after.

Current estimates indicate that construction will take approximately 65 weeks—about one year and 13 weeks—barring unforeseen delays. If work begins by December 1, completion is expected in the first quarter of 2027, aligning closely with our original timeline. Fun fact: the Empire State Building was famously completed in just one year and 45 days! While our project is a bit different, we're inspired by that spirit of efficiency and optimism as we move forward.

We are truly on the cusp of seeing the collective vision and hard work of so many come to life—literally from the ground up. What a meaningful way to begin the Jewish New Year! Thank you for your continued support, enthusiasm, and dedication as we move together into this exciting next phase.

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TEMPLE FAMILY by Lesley Bumgarner

Director of Congregational Life



As I write this article we are about to start our fifth month in our temporary location. Many of you have visited our Temple Israel office space on the grounds of the Federation campus. For those who have not yet had the opportunity to visit, we invite you to stop by! We are open from 9-5 from Monday through Friday. And we are much more than an office space!

We have a large and comfortable Activity Space, suitable for small gatherings, study sessions, or luncheons. This room can be used in many ways, with options for different configurations of tables and chairs

and multiple seating areas with sofas. Are you interested in reading a new book? Come visit us! Our Temple Israel Librarian, Kira Corngold, has ordered 50 new books that are available for our members to check out. We are comfortable in our temporary office space and are very grateful for the generosity of Zarrow Pointe for offering it to us.

Looking forward, I am curious about your interest in joining a new social group. Are you interested in playing Pickleball? If so please contact me. If you are past the age of being a "young Jewish professional" but not quite ready to be a "Sociable Senior", perhaps you would be interested in the reboot of what has been called "Mensches in the Middle" or "The Brat Pack" in the past. If you are interested in opportunities to socialize with others in this middle aged cohort, please let me know. Finally, mark your calendar for a festive Zamru L'Shabbat Hanukkah Service on Friday, December 19th at 6:00 followed by a Congregational Hanukkah Dinner.

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You can reach me at lesley@templetulsa.com. I look forward to hearing from you! .

YEAR-END PLANNING

by Jory Budd, Staff Accountant

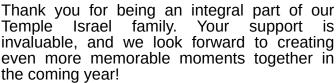
It's hard to believe that 2025 is already coming to a close. This year, we've found community and connection in our temporary home on the Jewish Federation of Tulsa campus, creating meaningful moments even as we look ahead to the future. We're especially excited about what's to come with our Next Dor building project, as we look forward to the next chapter of Temple Israel's future.

As we enter this season of reflection and gratitude, we invite you to consider making a year-end contribution to Temple Israel. Your generous support helps us to stay strong and connected through a time of change.

For those aged 70½ or older, donating to Temple Israel can be a part of your qualified charitable distribution (QCD).

This allows you to make a donation directly from your IRA to a qualified charity, such as Temple Israel, and satisfy all or part of your required minimum distribution (RMD) for those over 73. This is a wonderful opportunity to make lasting impact enjoying potential tax benefits. Please check with your IRA

custodian or call the Temple Office for details on how to donate from your IRA.



TEMPLE EDUCATION

by Kelsey Holder Director of Education & Communication



We are well and truly into the school year, and what a fantastic year it is. Since August, nine students have joined Shorashim, a growth so significant that we are adding a fourth class on Sunday mornings!

This year, we honor both tradition and innovation. Shorashim students created a "DIY Blessing" for Rosh Hashanah using apples and an array of toppings. The world had its annual birthday party at the Tulsa Zoo. Rabbi Appel and our families changed the Torah covers for the High Holy Days on a Sunday morning. We "built the

boat" and brought Jonah on board for Yom Kippur. Our Madrichim did a phenomenal job teaching "Tasty Torah," building a Torah scroll from snackies and strategically placed frosting. For our Fall Family Day of Service, we helped our Mizel Jewish Community Day School friends who are so graciously hosting our Sunday School. TJs kicked off for the year with a trip to Andy B's, and we already have "A Pickle of a TJs" on the calendar for November 9.

Midrasha's new format is taking off, too. For one special class, we joined in a Mikvah Meditation, sparking students' interest in visiting the mikvah. Speakers from our Tulsa community will visit soon, including a representative from Mayor Nichols' office. Through knowledge and service opportunity, we are helping our teens develop their Jewish lens for social justice as they carry forward tikkun olam.

Carrying on our traditions, we will hold Consecration for our Shorashim students on Friday, December 19, during Shabbat Services. We hope you will join us, as this will be a night of community programming bringing together our Temple Israel family across the generations.

Rosh Hashanah Birthday Party for the World at the Tulsa Zoo





TJs at Andy B's





SOCIAL JUSTICE

by Ethan Jones, Committee Chair

"There may be times when we are powerless to prevent injustice, but there must never be a time when we fail to protest." – Elie Wiesel

Thank you all for a very successful High Holiday Food Drive! I can confidently say we've made quite an impact. Now, just because the High Holidays are over, that doesn't mean you should stop donating. We will continue to have bins at the JCC and in front of Doug's at Zarrow Pointe, and the Food Bank can always use your financial donations.

The committee is always busy. On Veterans Day, we'll be giving Quiktrip gift cards to veterans in Tulsa. These gift cards are essential to help veterans in need to access gas to get to critical appointments, food, and other needs. If you'd like to donate to this effort, please mark your gift for the Social Justice Committee.

Social Justice Shabbat is scheduled for November 21. The Rev. Kelli Driscoll Crews will be our featured speaker on behalf of ACTION Tulsa, and she'll speak on the topic of immigration. I can't think of a more critical topic for discussion right now, when immigrants (and even citizens) are being terrorized by masked thugs in unmarked vans without due process. Please plan to attend this very important service. We'll also announce the final numbers from our Food Drive and have a representative from the Food Bank there to receive a symbolic Big Check.

We're planning to provide dinner for the Day Center for the Homeless on Christmas Day, December 25. If you can help, we can certainly use the volunteers.

We need more people involved in the committee. I can't stress enough how important our work is right now, when cruelty and hate run the government and more and more people find themselves victimized by fascism. Get involved, get active, and make a difference.

Shalom, Ethan Jones



Social Justice Committee members and friends attend the annual Tulsa Pride Parade.

HIGH HOLY DAYS FOOD DRIVE: BY THE NUMBERS!

This year, Social **Justice** our Committee led us to another successful food drive benefitting the Food Bank of Northeastern Oklahoma. Temple family donated \$38,968.02 and 819 pounds of food! Thank you to all who donated, and please keep the food bank and Mazon in mind throughout the year.



TEMPLE TAKES

High Holy Days







Tashlich at Tulsa Gathering Place





TEMPLE TAKES

Sukkot Pizza in the Hut





Rosh Hashanah "Build Your Blessing"









Simchat Torah









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BROTHERHOOD

by Craig Kovin,

Brotherhood President

The temperatures may be cooling down, but Brotherhood activities are heating Brotherhood has three events planned in November and December. Saturday, November 15th at 6:45 p.m. is the date of the famous Brotherhood/Sisterhood dance which will take place at the Federation. The format will be the same as last year with music from the 50's through the 80's, with a DJ providing all the dance music. There will be hors d'oeuvres, nonalcoholic beverages and wine. For those who just want to listen to the music, there will be two games to play, Cornhole and Jenga. The cost is \$30.00 per person. Look for more information in the iTinerary and the mail.

Brotherhood After Hours is scheduled for Monday, November 24th at 6 p.m. We will meet at The Bros. Houligan at 48th and Yale. Come join the fun and interact with other Temple Israel members. This is open to all members, both male and female. Our last Brotherhood After Hours was held at McNellie's and was thoroughly enjoyed by all who attended. Call the Temple office to reserve your spot.





Yoni Shtern, Israeli travel guide and ambassador, speaks at the October Breakfast by Brotherhood

Our next Breakfast by Brotherhood will take place on December 21st at 9:30 a.m. at the Federation. The guest speaker will be Tyrance Billingsley II. Mr. Billingsley is an AI expert and will give us an overview of the powers of AI. His knowledge helped to revitalize Black Wall Street.

On behalf of Brotherhood, I would like to thank the anonymous donor who made a substantial contribution to the Brotherhood general fund. This money will help support the various activities of Brotherhood. Please consider joining Brotherhood if you're not already a member. I think you'll be pleasantly surprised!

SISTERHOOD

by Donna Gantner,
Sisterhood President

This past month, many of us came together in song, prayer and reflection in our new temporary spiritual home. We remembered the past, replenished our spirits and rejoiced at what lies ahead. While the setting was different, the feelings remained the same. It is the people not the place, that make us united. We remain deeply anchored in our values as individuals as well as a holy community.

Brotherhood and Sisterhood are once again joining forces to host a wonderful evening of dancing, celebration and great food! Mark your calendars for Saturday, November 15th for a night filled with fun, connection, and community as we light up the dance floor together. Whether you're showing off your best moves or just enjoying the energy, this is an event you won't want to miss. Havdallah is at 6:45, and the dance is from 7-9 p.m.

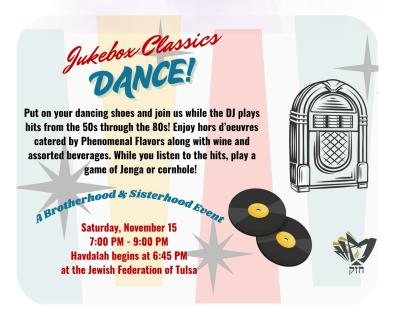
The days are growing shorter and the nights growing longer, which can only mean one thing...Hanukkah is fast approaching! Sisterhood will once again have our annual POP-UP Hanukkah Sale. Please watch the Itinerary for more information. May the Festival of Lights bring peace and joy to us all!

We are excited to announce that this year's Joint Sisterhood Day of Action will take place on Sunday, December 7th. We have chosen to partner with CAP Tulsa, an organization dedicated to breaking the cycle of childhood poverty. Over the past 25 years CAP has positively impacted more than 30,000 Tulsa families. This year, we'll be collecting items for "Go Bags" for moms heading to the hospital to give birth. These bags provide essential comfort and support during a crucial time. By the time you read this, an Amazon wish list will be available to make donating easy. Boxes will be set up in the lobbies of B'nai Emunah and The Jewish Federation of Tulsa. A detailed list will be sent to all Sisterhoods. We invite you to join us by donating your time and items to make a meaningful difference in the lives of mothers in our community.

Temple Israel Sisterhood invites you to become one of us! We are a vibrant, multigenerational group of women dedicated to spiritual growth, social connection, and meaningful service where tradition meets service. Please consider joining us – we are Stronger Together.



Honorary President Paula Milsten with radio personality, John Ehrling, Sisterhood's guest for opening day.



SIMCHA + SORROW

contributions & memorial gifts to Temple Israel

Arlan B'nai Mitzvah Fund

In Honor of Sue & Rick Arlan's 60th Wedding Anniversary by Carol Kallmeyer

Cemetery Beautification Fund

In Loving Memory of Morris Sylvan by Marilyn Sylvan

General Fund

Anonymous

In Loving Memory of Bee Lipkin by Sandi Peterson

In Honor of Rabbi Appel by Curtis & Regina Scissons

In Loving Memory of Doug Stahl
by Deana Linfield

Judy Halpern Social Justice Fund

In Loving Memory of Dwight Axelrod by Harold & Sheryl Springer

Landscape Fund

In Loving Memory of Doug Stahl
by Anne Cummins
& Jenny Labow

Music Fund

In Honor of Cantorial Soloist,

Jenny Labow

by Ed & Betty Sherman

In Loving Memory of Liv Labow by Anne Cummins & Jenny Labow

Newman Camp Scholarship Fund

In Loving Memory of Betty Newman by Julie B. Frank

NextDor Fund

In Loving Memory of Lee Kutner by Roy & Evelyn Jones

In Loving Memory of Doug Stahl
by Brina Reinstein

In Loving Memory of
Kenneth Axelrod
by Harold & Sheryl Springer

Rabbi Charles P. Sherman
Members Helping Members Fund
Anonymous

Security Fund

In Loving Memory of Lee Kutner by Ginny Katz

Sisterhood

In Loving Memory of Doug Stahl by Mark & Brenda Blumenthal

To make a donation, please contact the Temple offices, send your donation via USPS, or visit the Temple website at www. templetulsa.com/donate/

ALL IN THE FAMILY

MAZEL TOV!

We are excited to welcome the following families into our larger Temple Israel family. Our new members are:

Michael and Shira Sachs and their children Izzy and Desi. The Sachs family has recently moved to Tulsa from Canada. Michael is Senior Director of Strategic Philanthropy at the Federation and Shira is a Hebrew teacher at Mizel Jewish Community Day School.

Ann Kennedy, who has been participating in Temple Israel life for some time now and who is a frequent attendee at Shabbat services.

Kevin Green, who goes by the name Green. Green is recently retired and is looking forward to becoming an involved member of Brotherhood.

We are thrilled to welcome all of them to our Temple Israel Family.

TODAH RABAH

Many thanks to our congregants who served as *greeters and ushers* for our High Holiday Services.

A wholehearted thanks to *Holly Hughes* and all our friends at the *JFT* for assisting us in making our High Holiday Services a beautiful success in our temporary home.

A special thanks to our devoted *Temple Israel Brotherhood* for their help
erecting the sukkah in Liberator's Park!

Thank you to *Lesley Bumgarner* for her tireless efforts creating lovely events and meals for our High Holidays gatherings.

Thank you to *Rabbi Appel and*Cantorial Soloist Jenny Labow for our beautiful and meaningful High Holiday

Services this year.

NOVEMBER CALENDAR

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THUR	FRI	SHABBAT
						"Time" for Learning: Marcheshvan 10:30 AM
Shorashim 9 AM-12:30 PM	3	4	Midrasha @ CBE 6:30 PM	6	Shabbat Services 6:00 PM	Torah Study 10:30 AM
9 Shorashim 9 AM-12:30 PM TJs 12:30 PM-2:00 PM	10	BOT Meeting 5:30 PM	Midrasha @ CBE 6:30 PM	Social Justice Committee 7:00 PM	Birthday Shabbat 7:30 PM	Jukebox Classics Dance! 7:00 - 9:00 PM Havdalah at 6:45 PM
Shorashim 9-12:30	17	Brotherhood Board Meeting 5:30 PM	Midrasha @ CBE 6:30 PM	Paint & Sip 6:30 PM	Shabbat Services at Zarrow Pointe 4:00 PM Social Justice Shabbat 6:00 PM	22
Shorashim 9-12:30 30 No Shorashim	24 Brotherhood After Hours 6:00 PM	25	26 No Midrasha	nappy thanksziving	Anniversary Shabbat 6:00 PM	29

Temple Offices will be closed Thursday, November 27 & Friday November 28



Birthday Shabbat



Anniversary Shabbat

DECEMBER CALENDAR

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THUR	FRI	SHABBAT
	1	2	Midrasha e CBE 6:30 PM	4	Shabbat Services 6:00 PM	6 "Time" for Learning: Kislev 10:30 AM
7 Shorashim 9-12:30 PM	8	9 BOT Meeting 5:30 PM	10 Midrasha e CBE 6:30 PM	Social Justice Committee 7:00 PM	Birthday Shabbat 7:30 PM	13
Shorashim 9-12:30 Sisterhood Board 1:00 PM Hanukkah Begins at Sundown Ist Candle	15 2nd Candle	Brotherhood Board 5:30 PM 3rd Candle	17 Midrasha e CBE 6:30	18 5th Candle	Zamru L'Shabbat 6:00 PM Consecration 6:00 PM Services 6th Candle	20 7th Candle
No Shorashim Breakfast by Brotherhood 9:30 AM 8th Candle	22	23	24 No Midrasha	25	Shabbat Services at Zarrow Pointe 4:00 PM Anniversary Shabbat 6:00 PM	27
28 No Shorashim	29	30	31 No Midrasha			

Temple Offices will be closed:

Wednesday, December 24 through Friday, December 26 Thursday, December 31 & Friday, January 1



Birthday Shabbat



Anniversary Shabbat



12/14 Hanukkiah Lighting with Music & Treats, 5:30 PM 12/21 Last Night Hanukkiah Lighting, 5:30 PM



12/19 Congregational Hanukkah Dinner Following Shabbat Services



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Cantor Laurie Weinstein, Cantor, cantor@templetulsa.com

Rabbi Charles P. Sherman, Rabbi Emeritus (918) 749.4523 Charles18@att.net

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Paul Sweet, Accompanist

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SISTERHOOD JUDAICA SHOP

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NOW OPEN 30 minutes before every Shabbat Service or by appointment.

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