

November 2015



the bulleTIn

A monthly newsletter of Temple Israel. Also available online at www.templetulsa.com.

Worship Schedule:

All are welcome at Shabbat services.
Childcare is available if needed.

Friday, November 6

Shabbat Evening Service | **7:30 p.m.**

Sermon by Guest Speaker

Reverend Marlin Marlin Lavanhar,
Senior Minister All Souls Unitarian

Church Topic: How to say "No!" to God
see page 4 for more details

Music with Jenny Labow.

Friday, November 13

Picnic Dinner | **5:45 p.m.**

Bring your dinner (drink and utensils
provided). Blessings will begin at 5:45.

Shabbat Evening Service | **6:30 p.m.**

Music with Rabbis Citrin.

Friday, November 20 | 6:00 p.m.

Pre-Oneg | **5:30 p.m.**

TGIS! Shabbat Service | **6:00 p.m.**

Lively, musical service with TI band and
kids' choir. Birthday Blessing. Followed
by catered Dinner by Ti Amo. See page
4 for RSVP information.

Music with Jenny Labow.

Saturday, November 21

Shabbat Morning Service | **10:30 a.m.**

Participatory prayer, music and Torah
study followed by potluck lunch. Please
bring a dish to share or just bring
yourself.

Friday, November 27

Shabbat Evening Service | **7:30 p.m.**

Special Pie Oneg

Music with Sarah Beth Gordon.

Ten Commandments

Co-Rabbis Karen and Micah Citrin

One of the distinguishing, treasured features of Temple Israel is the Ten Commandments carved boldly into the outer wall of the sanctuary. This beautiful sculpture by Bernard Frazier shows the commandments superimposed on twin pillars to symbolize "the pillar of cloud by day and the pillar of fire by night" (Ex. 13:21-22). It is no wonder that the builders of our Temple featured the Ten Commandments as a focal point. This emphasis reflects the centrality of these ten utterances in Jewish tradition.

Few teachings have had such a lasting impact on human society as the Ten Commandments. They embody a basis for interaction between people and God, and between one person and another. It is a profoundly religious message.

Every so often, we, as rabbis, are called upon to comment on issues in our broader society. As we shared with the media a month ago, even as we cherish these fundamental mitzvot (commandments) in our tradition, as Jews we affirm their removal from the capitol grounds in Oklahoma City.

The freedom and prosperity we have enjoyed as Jews in America stems from the clear boundary the First Amendment draws between religion and state. By prohibiting the establishment of any state sponsored religion, all faith traditions can exercise full expression without fear of persecution while participating equally as American citizens. When a religious text such as the Ten Commandments is placed at a government facility there is a tacit endorsement by the government of religion.

Unfortunately, the debate about the placement of the Ten Commandments at the capitol building often divides along religious vs. secular lines. As religious Jews, we believe Oklahoma needs to hear our voices. A movement to change the Oklahoma State Constitution is gaining momentum in the aftermath of the removal of the Ten Commandments monument. It is possible that such an amendment could be put to popular referendum relying on a majority of the population to skirt the U.S. Constitution.

In the Torah, just a few chapters after God issues the Ten Commandments, God instructs the Israelites not to side with the majority to do wrong (Ex. 23:2). This is also the brilliance

Continued on page 2

Save the date for our Centennial Culmination on December 5!

of our American system of checks and balances. The judiciary ensures that the democratic process adheres to fundamental rights guaranteed by the Constitution.

Our people have survived for thousands of years because we have kept the Covenant and observed the Commandments. Religious principles should be celebrated in America, but in their proper places; in synagogues, churches, mosques, and temples. The Ten Commandments at Temple Israel will continue to serve as a monument of faith in Tulsa. That is where they belong.

Youth and Family Education

The Mussar Movement Then and Now

Within the 5776 years of Jewish history, there have been several major movements or trends that have influenced Jewish life and education. One such movement is the Mussar Movement, made popular by Rabbi Israel Lipkin Salanter in the 19th Century in Lithuanian yeshivot (Jewish schools focused on the study of Jewish texts). In its simplest form, Mussar is the education of the individual toward ethical behavior. To be a student of Torah in itself is not enough, one must also live an ethical life. According to the Union for Reform Judaism, Mussar is a Jewish spiritual practice which focuses on living a more conscientious life and heightening awareness of the world and one's responsibilities; in short, becoming more of a mensch.

In the 19th Century, Mussar was practiced in yeshivot to help students better understand the spirit of halacha, Jewish law. Practicing Mussar consisted of reading specific passages of text that helped to invoke a certain mood of reverence toward God and the mitzvot, commandments. Mussar literature comes from Jewish texts. An example of Mussar literature is: "Love your neighbor as yourself: I am the Eternal" (Leviticus 19:18). Pirkei Avot, Ethics of Our Ancestors, found in the Mishnah is a compilation of ethical and moral principles as taught by rabbis in the Mishnaic period.

Within the Orthodox Jewish community, there was some controversy around the Mussar Movement, fearing that this "spiritual" practice would take away from the traditional studies. Today, institutions have been created with the sole purpose of Mussar education. The Mussar Institute explains that, "Mussar is a path of contemplative practices and exercises that have evolved over the past thousand years to help an individual soul to pinpoint and then to break through the barriers that surround and obstruct the flow of inner light in our lives. Mussar is a treasury of techniques and understandings that offers immensely valuable guidance for the journey of our lives...."

Similar to last year, we have thoughtfully shaped a yearly educational theme that helps to make connections for our students between Jewish learning and living. This year's learning theme is **Middot and Mitzvot: Holy Values, Holy Deeds for You and Me.** There are clear and wonderful connections between the Mussar tradition and educating children with positive Jewish values.

Within the context of our educational theme, our learning includes Torah, Jewish values and ethics, history and culture, God and spirituality, holidays, life cycle, and Israel. A middah (plural is middot) is a Jewish virtue or value. A mitzvah (plural is mitzvot) is a commandment. Middot and mitzvot are the core concepts which inform Jewish belief and practice. How do middot and mitzvot inform how we interact with others, with ourselves, and God? How do middot and mitzvot guide us to fulfill our potential as human beings? How can we achieve a Jewish vision of tikun (repair) and shalom (wholeness) to our communities and world? Using the Mussar texts and stories of our tradition, we continue to explore these essential questions and others in age-appropriate ways. This year, each of our school sessions builds around a specific middah or mitzvah.

There is always parallel learning for adults with Rabbis Citrin or guest speakers (around 10-11:30), while the kids are in classes. Come grab a bagel, enjoy a cup of coffee, and learn about these exciting Jewish values and concepts at an adult level with fellow congregants.

Next month I look forward to sharing more about the mitzvot, sacred obligations aspect of our Shorashim Religious School curriculum.

Jennifer Selco, Director of Education and Programming

Nov. 1 - Kipah, Tallit, Tzitzit (our Jewish clothing/uniform)

Nov. 8 - Tzar Ba'alei Chayim (caring for animals) - Tulsa Zoo

Nov. 15 - Shmirat HaGuf (taking care of your body)

Nov. 20 - Shamor V'Zachor (Keep and Remember the Sabbath)

OCCJ Youth Tour

All middle and high school students are invited to participate in this year's Interfaith Youth Tour taking place on **Sunday, November 8** sponsored by the Oklahoma Center for Community Justice from **1:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.** This year's tour stops include: Temple Israel, Fellowship Congregational UCC, and the Masjid Al-Salam Mosque. We are looking for a few adults and teens to help with registration and giving short tours of Temple Israel as students arrive from **1:00 p.m. - 1:30 p.m.** Please contact Jennifer Selco if you are able to participate or volunteer.

Sisterhood

Food for the Soul & Body

Women's Torah Study is back in full swing! We hope to see you on **Wednesday, November 11** when we study Genesis 25:19 - 28:9. We meet in the Youth Center from **Noon - 1:00 p.m.**, so bring your lunch as we will have a lively discussion of this week's Torah portion, The Story of Rebekah. Call Shirley Dormont at 918-622-0344 or Ginny Katz at 918-627-0319 if you have any questions. Hope to see you on the 11th.

Philbrook Art Tour

Temple member Dr. George Blake is a docent at the Philbrook Museum. He has offered to give Sisterhood members an hour tour on **Saturday, November 14** during the open to the public free second Saturday **between 10:30 a.m. and 11:30 a.m.** Space is limited so please RSVP to Roxanne Preston at 918-408-8505 or PrestRo@tulsaschools.org by **Thursday, November 12.**

Chanukah has arrived at Judaica and Java! Gift wrap, chanukias, dreidels, chocolate coins and candles! Be on the lookout for special school and community shopping days. Many new gift items under \$10.00! Spin by!

Mizel Marketplace Madness

Sunday, November 15, 2015
12:00 pm - 4:00 pm
Charles Schusterman JCC
2021 East 71st Street
Tulsa, OK 74136

Get your holiday shopping done early while supporting Mizel Jewish Community Day School's PTO. Exciting vendors, "take and bake" authentic Jewish delicacies, and delicious Israeli foods will be available. For more information and to pre-order foods, contact MizelJCDSPTO@gmail.com.



Brotherhood

Taste of Temple on **Saturday, November 14 at 6:00 p.m.** Temple Israel's Taste of Temple is a special evening of culinary delight while raising money for the Jewish Chautauqua Society. The delicious food items are prepared by Temple Israel Brotherhood members. Admission is \$30 per person. One free admission with a \$60 donation to the Jewish Chautauqua Society. Havdalah, cocktails and appetizers will start the evening. Comedian Benji Lovitt will provide this year's entertainment. Reservations by **November 6** are required and can be made at TasteOfTemple@TempleTulsa.com or by contacting Gary Goldberg, Brotherhood President at 918-645-5621 or gg1884@gmail.com or Brotherhood Vice President Aaron Maissell at 918-810-8074 or amm51@aol.com.

Benji Lovitt:

Why does Benji Lovitt get up in front of a microphone and make people laugh? Because, as he puts it, "the Middle East is Funny." Benji is a graduate of the University of Texas and made Aliyah (moved to Israel) in 2006. His standup comedy has been seen by audiences in Israel, North America, and around the world. He has been featured in publications including USA Today, Time Magazine, The Atlantic, the Times of Israel, and the Jerusalem Post, among many others. Benji's fun and cultural workshops expose audiences to the human side of Israeli society not visible on CNN.



Benji is a member of the ROI Community, an initiative of the Charles and Lynn Schusterman Family Foundation, that brings together dynamic young Jewish leaders from around the globe to shape the future of the Jewish world. You won't want to miss Benji's visit to Tulsa. Benji will perform at the Temple Israel Brotherhood "Taste of Temple" event on **Saturday, November 14th.**



Simchat Torah: "In the Beginning: A Garden of Study for All Generations"

TGIS (Thank God It's Shabbat!) Friday, November 20

Welcome Shabbat with joyful prayer and warm community. Come at **5:30 p.m.** for savory Pre-Oneg snacks and then at **6:00 p.m.** join in our family-friendly musical, participatory Shabbat Service with the TI band and kids choir. New this month: TI will debut the Reform movement's Visual T'fillah (prayers projected onto the big screen)! We are grateful for the generous donation of Gerald and Connie Harris who made the purchase of new projection equipment for our worship setting possible. Prayer books will be available as well. During the service there will also be a special Birthday Blessing for all November birthdays. Following the service all are welcome to enjoy a delicious catered Shabbat dinner by Ti Amo (contact the Temple office or reservations@templetulsa.com to RSVP by **Wed, Nov. 18**). Engaging and educational kids activities will be available during dinner. Adults will have an informal opportunity to explore the pathways that inspire you to be a part of Temple Israel. Learn about the core "entry points" of a synagogue, share what brings you to Temple, and explore how you fit in. **Thank you to The Sharna and Irvin Frank Foundation for generously supporting our Shabbat dinner and community.**

Adults: \$12/person; Religious School Parents: \$5/person; RS kids and teens free

Menu includes:

Garden and Caesar Salads
Pollo Napoli - Chicken breast grilled, garlic, olives, almonds and roasted red peppers
mashed potatoes, sauteed green beans
vegetarian, vegan, and gluten-free options upon request.
Fettucine Alfredo and chicken fingers for kids
gelato and fruit for dessert

Young Kehillah

Young Kehillah Oneg and Games! Following the TGIS! Service and Dinner on **Friday, November 20**, young adults (20s, 30s, 40s) are invited to join in a special wine, cheese, and sweets oneg celebration. Relax with other young adults. Babysitting is available. For more information or to let us know you'll be there, please contact Jennifer Selco at jennifer@templetulsa.com or RSVP to the YK Facebook page.

Shabbat in the Home

Shabbat in the Home Friday, December 4. As our centennial year comes to a close, (like last year) you are invited to enjoy Shabbat dinner in a congregant's home as we celebrate our Temple Israel community. We are looking for temple members who would like to host and be hosted. Please contact Jennifer Selco at jennifer@templetulsa.com or 918-747-1309 by **Wednesday, November 11** to sign up to participate. If you are signing up to be a host, let us know how many spaces you have at your Shabbat table and/or if you will be inviting your own guests. If you are signing up as a participant, please let us know how many people are in your party so that we can appropriately match you with a host. Please also indicate any dietary needs. We look forward to matching you for a memorable Shabbat dinner! An abbreviated service including Kaddish will take place at temple **5:00 p.m. - 5:30 p.m.** Let's welcome Shabbat together as we go from strength to strength!

Save the Date

Culmination of Centennial Celebration on Saturday, December 5 at 6:30 p.m. Join your Temple Israel family in commemoration of our 100th anniversary at the Hyatt Regency Tulsa! Enjoy a delightful cocktail buffet. The evening's entertainment features **Joshua Nelson**, "The Prince of Kosher Gospel." There will be a special candle lighting ceremony led by members of the congregation. Watch your mailbox for your invitation and please make sure to RSVP to be a part of this special event in Temple Israel's history, present, and future.

Details about Rev. Lavanhar's Visit

Reverend Marlin Lavanhar, Senior Minister All Souls Unitarian Church, will offer an engaging sermon on **Friday, November 6** at 7:30 p.m. entitled: "How to say 'No!' to God." Reverend Lavanhar will explore what Abraham can teach us about responding to religious fanaticism. Reverend Lavanhar will incorporate bibliodrama, a dramatic technique to illuminate biblical texts, as he brings Genesis to life. Reverend Lavanhar is a dynamic and thought provoking speaker. His sermons are not to be missed. Come hear what he will teach us about this important topic.

Oct. Board Highlights

Edgar Benarrous

Consultants/Facilitators: Teri Aulph is a local Consultant. She started talking with Board members through phone interviews. She attended the Board meeting in September and answered several questions. She facilitated part of the Board of Trustees meeting on October 13, focusing on conflict management, decision-making, and what success looks like. Dr. David Brubaker is with the Congregational Consulting Group, an independent group of consultants. He used to work at the widely respected Alban Institute and specializes in congregational training, coaching and planning. He was interviewed on Skype. Dr. David Brubaker should be available in a couple of weeks.

Reference Group: The EC selected a reference group to work closely with the consultants. We wanted it to be a small diverse group of 9 members representative of the congregation. The group consists of: Dr. George Pikler, Russ Newman, Todd Arlan, Stan Kessler, Lesley Bumgarner, Betty Sherman, Mike Jacobs, Patti Elliot and Jackie Karpman.

Administrator Report: Klara Bode reported that we are working on adding new carpeting upstairs in the Early Learning Center.

Rabbi Report: Rabbi Karen Citrin reported that we have many things to be thankful for: the beautiful and meaningful High Holidays, the break the fast after Yom Kippur, a lovely outdoor Sukkot service, and a very well-attended intergenerational, joyful Simchat Torah and Consecration. This was due to the outpouring of support and talent from many people. The High Holy Day food drive was a success and we should be proud that we surpassed the social justice committee's \$50,000 goal.

Interim Rabbi Application: President Stan Kessler suggested that the Reform Interim Rabbi Search Committee be formed of the entire Executive Committee plus one more member with young children. The EC agreed. The application was reviewed and finalized and it was sent to the Central Conference of American Rabbis (CCAR). It has been posted on the CCAR members-website. We will wait about a week before resumes are sent to us. The applications will be reviewed and the process should be concluded with the selection of the Interim Rabbi who would start on July 1st, 2016.

Financials: Treasurer Donnie Suter-Levin reported that as of August 31, the Temple statement of operations is better than budget.

Shalom Fest: Enormous thanks to Dianne Selco, Chair, and all of the Temple volunteers who created such a successful ShalomFest 2015!

All in the Family

Mazel Tov to Aaron & Mindy Kallsnick on the birth of their son, Michael Graham. Michael was born on September 22 in Chicago, IL and is the grandson of Richard & Fran Kallsnick.

Mazel Tov to John Sieler for being awarded the 2015 Star Award by Leadership Tulsa. Each year, Leadership Tulsa recognizes and honors nominated volunteers for the outstanding leadership and commitment they provide to local non-profit organizations and the Tulsa community.

Mazel Tov to Bracken Klar and Melanie Gillespy on their wedding at Temple Israel on November 7.

Rose & Shelly Miller have relocated to Villa Hermosa in Tucson, AZ. We wish them well in their new home.

With sorrow, the congregation notes the death of:

Roberta Morris, sister of Anne Cummins and aunt of Jenny Labow.

Danny Zalta, husband of Ronnie Zalta.

May their memory be a blessing.

New Members:

We welcome these new members to our Temple Family:

Aron and Ally Katz and their children Madison (age 3) and Lilah (7 months)

Please join us in greeting and getting to know these new members of our Temple family.



Unrolling the scroll on Simchat Torah

Thanking our Heroes

On 9/11 home baked and purchased sweets and fruit baskets were delivered to Tulsa Fire Station # 27 and the Mingo Valley Division of the Tulsa Police Department.

Ample quantities to cover all shifts were contributed. "These gifts from Temple Israel congregants were extremely well received" reported Nanette and Larry Peck, who delivered the items.

This annual project is sponsored by the temple's Social Justice Committee. Each year a fire and police location from varying sections of Tulsa are chosen to receive these treats, as a means of honoring those who risk their lives to protect the citizens of Tulsa.

Kudos to Peg Kishner and Jeanne Jacobs, who packed the items for distribution. Thanks to all who baked, purchased goods, or made a monetary contribution. Donors included Michal Maybello, Rayna Harrington, Beverly Kehlmann, Gloria Estlin, Jeff and Janet Darby, Marilyn Sylvan, Carol Kovin, Teddy Lachterman, Dianne Selco, Merilee Langer, Evelyn Jones, Marilyn Kulick, Barbara Waxman, Mary Arlan, Peg Kishner, Jeanne Jacobs, and Nanette and Larry Peck. Some items left at temple did not include the donors' names. Please know that these items contributed to the project's success, as well. A special card made and signed by Temple Israel Religious School students accompanied the treats.



Social Justice

November Mitzvah of the Month

Please check your weekly emails for updates regarding the social justice project in honor of Veterans Day. You may also contact Social Justice chair, Barbara Waxman, for information on volunteer opportunities and ongoing projects: 508-785-5447 or barbara.woodfin@gmail.com. We welcome your involvement!

ShalomFest Thank You

Thank you to everyone who made ShalomFest a huge success! ShalomFest drew its usual large crowds for a great day of celebrating Judaism at Temple Israel. There was delicious food, including Pastrami all the way from the Broadway Deli in New York City, homemade falafel and hummus, art, music, dancing, model ceremonies, animated shorts, and more. The heart and soul of ShalomFest is all of you, the hundreds of volunteers working side by side to make everything possible. All ages of the Temple Family pitched in, and once again ShalomFest demonstrated the power of community. Thank you for everyone who cooked, sorted, prepared, and set up, too! A very special thank you to Dianne Selco, ShalomFest Committee Chair, whose steady, calm leadership enabled the committee to accomplish so much. We also want to recognize the ShalomFest committee leaders:

Aaron Maissell and Craig Kovin - Kitchen
Allan Avery - Vendors
Aron and Bill Cox - Books Stall
Brina Reinstein and Rosalie Childs - Program Book
Chuck Langer - Security
Donnie Suter Levin - Finances
Gail Newman and Mark Goldman - Food Line
Greg Woitte - Model Ceremonies
Itzik Levin - Chef
Janet Dundee, Jeff Darby, and Sabrina Darby - Bakery
John Sieler - Facilities
Kimberly Wallis and Estelle Avery - Volunteers
Linda Brown - Judaica Shop
Michael Pollak - Tours
Paula and Joshua Ontko - Cafe
Pat Snitz - First Aid
Shiri West and Mark Lobo - Israel Room
Susan Woitte - G-dcast Animated Shorts Facilitator

ShalomFest



Volunteer Spotlight

THANK YOU to **Randy Westbrook**, Chair of the Facilities Committee, for all of his work on the Temple landscaping.

Why do you volunteer your time to work on Temple facilities? I am an architect and I come from a family of builders. My father, Max Westbrook, installed the Ten Commandments on the front façade of Temple Israel during its original construction in the 1950's. I have always loved the Temple Israel Building and the beautiful site.

What is it like to see the Temple beautification project to completion? What about it gives you the most pride? It is wonderful to see the Temple beautification project completed. I am so grateful to the many donors who funded the different phases of the project. I am so glad that we were able to include the fencing and improvements to the east playground. Perhaps one of my favorite components of the project is the Temple Israel sign and the adjacent landscaping which was an idea that came from Kingdom Landscape. The new sign provides the Temple with a new branding that will serve us into the future.

What would you want Temple members to know about you when you are not volunteering for Temple? I have practiced architecture for 35 years and I have projects located in 30 states. I am currently working on senior living communities located in Tulsa and Tampa. My wife Carolyn is also an architect. Our children; Jordan, Emily, Julia and Max are all still residing in Tulsa. In my spare time I enjoy playing music, recording, reading and travel.

Get to Know Us

Get to know our staff a little bit better. This month we are featuring our Administrative Assistant, **Mary Clare**. **10 things to know about Mary:**

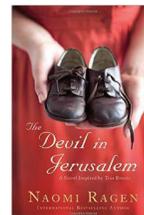
1. She has been married to her husband for 20 years
2. She has a 13 year old son and 19 year old daughter
3. Her favorite movie is Coal Miner's Daughter
4. Dr. Pepper is her main source of nourishment
5. Her family raises pigs - her son shows them in 4H
6. Mexican food is good but she loves a slow smoked brisket
7. She prefers country life to city life
8. She enjoys classic country and southern gospel music
9. Her favorite color is blue
10. She'd move to Gulf Shores, AL...If her parents would go too

I greatly enjoying working with our congregants and learning about their personal lives. Each person has a story and I enjoy hearing about their specific journey.

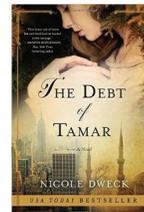
Library

New in November

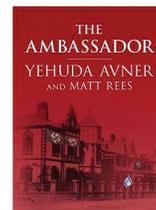
Attention fans of Naomi Ragen, her latest book is now in the library! **The Devil in Jerusalem** is a chilling mystery unraveled in a plot similar to a criminal investigative television show. Two sadly injured brothers lie in hospital beds with their mother praying for their healing yet she refuses to speak to anyone. Inspired by actual events, you won't want to miss the latest novel by Naomi Ragen.



You also will not want to overlook our new book by Nicole Dweck, **The Debt of Tamar**. Author of several best selling books, the plot of this sure to please novel includes varying backdrops from a 16th-century harem to a seaside village in Israel, from Nazi-occupied Paris to modern-day New York. This is an enchanting tale of love, history, and fate that will capture your attention from the very beginning of the story.



Yehuda Avner's political insight meets Matt Rees's novelistic skill in a co-authored, fast-paced counter-historical thriller called **The Ambassador**. Taking a fictional turn of historical events, what if the state of Israel had actually been formed in 1937? Could the ambassador from the new state to Germany save more Jews, prevent a world war and the Final Solution? You will have to read it to find out what Avner and Rees think might have happened.



Consecration - welcome new Shorashim Religious School and Hebrew School students!

1970s #2 November 2015 bulletin

Rabbi Emeritus Charles and Nancy Sherman

In December 1975, Temple President Jan Jankowsky appointed Dr. E. N. Lubin to Chair a Rabbinic Search Committee. Dr. Lubin assembled an 18-member committee representing all age groups of the congregation. The Search Committee invited Rabbi Charles and Nancy Sherman to visit Tulsa the last weekend in January. It was minus-three degrees when the Shermans departed from Hartford, CT, and they were dressed appropriately - heavy winter coats, scarves, gloves, boots, etc. When the Shermans landed in Tulsa it was 70 degrees. Temple President Jan Jankowsky greeted them at the airport and placed them in the backseat of his car. As the Shermans began shedding outer layers of winter-wear, Jan asked if they would like him to turn the air conditioning in his car up. Golfers were on the courses on this beautiful sunny day.

Jan did his best to impress the newcomers with Tulsa's rich cultural life, pointing out the newly completed Performing Arts Center and noting that Tulsa had resident Philharmonic, Opera, and Ballet companies. Jan's efforts continued until they pulled into the parking lot of the Camelot Hotel, where reservations had been made for the Shermans. Jan was utterly dismayed when they walked into the lobby and found it filled with cowboys. This was the weekend when Tulsa hosted the National Rodeo Finals. The Shermans were intrigued - having never been so close-up to real, live cowboys and cowgirls.

By the time the weekend came to an end, the Committee invited Charles Sherman to become the congregation's next Rabbi. That the Committee would make a decision so quickly was a most unusual procedure. It turned out to be that the shidduch between Rabbi and congregation was truly b'shert (it lasted more than 37 years).

At a special congregational meeting on February 8, 1976, Charles Sherman - Associate Rabbi and Director of Religious Education at 1400 member congregation Beth Israel in West Hartford, Connecticut - was elected Rabbi of Temple Israel beginning July 1, 1976. At this meeting, one elderly female congregant rose to make this truly ironic comment - considering the subject before the assembly was the election of its new Rabbi. Many of the people present had not yet seen or met Rabbi Sherman, which prompted the lady to rise and state: "We're buying a pig in a poke!" On September 17, a service of formal installation took place.

In the Spring of 1977, Temple Israel hosted District 22 NFTS's Biennial Convention. Rabbi Laura Geller of Los Angeles gave one of the major addresses. This was the first time a female Jewish clergy person had ever appeared in Tulsa, Oklahoma. Recognizing this

fact, Rabbi Sherman instituted a practice whereby for almost every Sisterhood Shabbat a female Rabbi or Cantor was the guest speaker, so as to expose congregants to female clergy.

Major innovations over the next four years included an Oneg Shabbat Lecture-Discussion format periodically in place of a sermon; the formation of a Home Bible Study group; College Homecoming, Teacher Appreciation, and Consecration of Confirmands Shabbats; Marriage Reconsecration Service; grade level Shabbat family dinners; adult Bar and Bat Mitzvah ceremonies; the Institute of Adult Jewish Studies.

Midrasha, the Combined Jewish High School of Tulsa, opened in October 1977 with four elective courses for students in grades 11 and 12. The following year, grades 9 and 10 were added, and the Midrasha program was established.

February 19, 1978, Professor Howard Sachar became Temple's first Scholar-in-Residence - a full weekend of scholarly presentations. The following year, Rabbi Gunther Plaut was the Scholar-in-Residence, and the Clergy Institute on Judaism was inaugurated for Christian clergy in Northeast OK.

In 1978 Life Tenure was granted Cantor Harry Sebran. The resolution read that since 1964 "Cantor Sebran, through his sincerity of purpose, has created an awareness of the beauty and significance of Reform Judaism and has thereby enriched the lives of the members of this congregation . . . has enhanced the worship services of the congregation through his musical talents and has served as the mentor and guide of the youth in this congregation."

The Mallinger Hebrew Learning Center, what had formerly been the Youth Lounge, was dedicated - two state-of-the-art Hebrew classrooms in the Temple basement, the most modern, up-to-date educational facility for teaching Hebrew between Kansas City and Dallas.

In July 1979 Nachama Skolnik became the Temple's first Jewish Educator, coming from the UAHC office in San Francisco.

ARZA was created and Temple Israel's chapter was one of the first and most active in the country. Brotherhood held its first Gourmet Dinner in 1977, presented their first Isaiah Award in 1978 to David Milsten; and began their Blood Donor program. Brotherhood also won the NFTB Program Award.

The Board began an important Long Range Planning Project which Barry Davis chaired, and which would help steer the congregation over the next number of years. The decade ended with a vibrant Temple membership of 520.

Happy Campers Update

Good things are happening at Happy Campers at Temple Israel! Our little ones have been busy learning about so many things during these fall months! During September our teachers incorporated the traditions of Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur into the curriculum. Throughout October, we were studying about weather change, leaves changing colors and the season of Autumn. HCTI held their annual Fall Festival on October 22.

We are thrilled to welcome Temple member Ms. Blythe Katz to our team! Blythe started teaching with us in September, and is teaching our Pre-K class. She has brought so many exciting ideas to her students, and we are so thrilled to have her with us!

We would love to show you our program if you are ever interested! Don't hesitate to call (918-747-3122) or email us at happycamperstempleisrael@gmail.com. Or you can visit our website at happycampersacademy.com. We appreciate your continued support and prayers!

Cindy Alonso and Staci Walkup

Great Adventures In Learning

Happy Campers Academy
A Creative Learning Environment
1819 East 15th Street
918-584-2779 (58-HAPPY)
HCAtulsa@gmail.com

Happy Campers at TEMPLE ISRAEL
Moe Gimp Early Learning Center
2004 East 22nd Place
918-747-3122
happycamperstempleisrael@gmail.com

- Ages 6 weeks - 5 Years • Internet Monitoring
- Child-Centered Philosophy
- Full- and Part-time Programs Available

N'davot - Offerings

*"Whoever is charitable and just fills the entire world with kindness."
- Talmud*

JUDY HALPERN SOCIAL JUSTICE FUND

In Loving Memory of Albert Dubin

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Wishing you a sweet New Year, Klara

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Honoring the 50th Wedding

Anniversary of Barry & Karen Davis

Carol Miller

Honoring the 50th Wedding

Anniversary of Barry & Karen Davis

Sallye Mann

Honoring the 50th Wedding

Anniversary of Rick & Sue Arlan

Sallye Mann

November

2015

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 9:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. Shorashim RS	2 7:00 p.m. Institute of Adult Jewish Studies @ Federation	3 7:30 p.m. Exec Comm Mtg	4 4:15 - 5:30 p.m. Hebrew Learning 6:45 - 8:30 p.m. Midrasha @ CBE URJ Biennial Convention in Orlando	5 URJ Biennial	6 7:30 p.m. Shabbat Evening Service & Guest Speaker URJ Biennial	7 Wedding URJ Biennial
8 9:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. Shorashim RS 1:30 p.m. OCCJ Youth Tour URJ Biennial	9 7:00 p.m. IAJS @ Federation	10 7:30 p.m. Board of Trustees Mtg	11 12:00 - 1:00 p.m. Women's Torah Study 4:15 - 5:30 p.m. Hebrew Learning 6:45 - 8:30 p.m. Midrasha @ CBE	12	13 5:45 p.m. Picnic Dinner 6:30 p.m. Shabbat Evening Service	14 10:30 a.m. Sisterhood tour @ Philbrook Museum 6:00 p.m. Taste of Temple & Benji Lovitt
15 9:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. Shorashim RS	16 7:00 p.m. IAJS @ Federation	17 7:30 p.m. B'hood Board Mtg	18 4:15 - 5:30 p.m. Hebrew Learning 6:45 - 8:30 p.m. Midrasha @ CBE	19	20 5:30 p.m. Pre-Oneg 6:00 p.m. TGIS! Shabbat Service followed by catered Dinner Shorashim RS Family Experience 8:00 p.m. Young Kehillah Oneg	21 10:30 a.m. Shabbat Morning Service & potluck lunch
22 No Shorashim RS (marathon)	23 7:00 p.m. IAJS @ Federation	24	25 No Hebrew Learning No Midrasha (Thanksgiving break)	26 Thanksgiving	27 7:30 p.m. Shabbat Evening Service & pie Oneg	28
29 No Shorashim RS (Thanksgiving break)	30 7:00 p.m. IAJS @ Federation	1	2 4:15-5:30 p.m. Hebrew Learning 6:45-8:30 p.m. Midrasha @ CBE	3	4 5:00-5:30 p.m. Kabbalat Shabbat Service followed by Shabbat in the Home Dinners	5 6:30 p.m. TI Centennial Culmination @ Hyatt Regency

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