

MESSENGER

volume
107

THE SYNAGOGUE | CONGREGATION B'NAI EMUNAH | JANUARY 2023 | **PUBLISHED MONTHLY**



OHEL WRITING WELLNESS WORKSHOP—SEE PAGE 3 FOR DETAILS

MILESTONES

IN MEMORIAM

J.P (Che) Greenwood
Father of Rhett Mathews

Alvaro Raul Parra Torres
Father of Renny Parra

Estelle Finer
Wife of the late Joseph Finer;
Mother of David Finer, Dr. Paul Finer,
and Judith Finer-Freedman

If there is a note you'd like us to list in the Milestone section of the Messenger, please let us know by writing us at info@bnaiemunah.com. We'll take it from there!

**PLEASE CONSIDER A CHARITABLE
CONTRIBUTION
TO HONOR THE MEMORY OR ACHIEVEMENTS
OF A FAMILY MEMBER OR FRIEND**

We would be happy to list your contribution in the next issue of the Messenger and honor your generosity to the Synagogue.

ON THE COVER

Shtetl Jews may not be your favorite subject of Jewish art, but it's hard to deny the occasional charm of this nostalgic genre. Here, artist Dora Holzhandler (1928 - 2015) captures the sweet intimacy of a Jewish family stepping through a village snowfall. Those who pay attention to such things might notice that the father wears a Van Dyke beard instead of a full Chasidic whisker situation, which reminds us that shtetl Jewry was not a monoculture. Why can't we all be the same? Because we can't. The variety of Jewish feeling, political commitment, language, and ideas is much more a feature of Jewish history than any version of ethnic uniformity.

MASTHEAD

Daniel S. Kaiman Principal Rabbi
 Marc Boone Fitzerman Rabbi (of Counsel)
 Dr. John Henning Schumann..... President
 Mark Goldman..... Executive Vice President
 Ross Heyman.....Vice President
 Aaron Miller.....Vice President
 Sally Donaldson Treasurer
 Nancy Cohen..... Secretary
 Jeremy Rabinowitz Synagogue Foundation President
 Sara Levitt Director of Jewish Life and Learning
 Cassidy Petrazzi Director of Operations
 Shelli Wright Preschool Director
 Amber Knecht Director of Refugee Resettlement
 Cheryl Myers Operations Associate
 Shawna Fain Receptionist
 Hillary Roubein + Dr. Jan Finer.....Sisterhood Presidents
 Nancy Cohen..... Sisterhood Gift Shop Chair
 Design and Typesetting Davidoff Typeworks

IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENTS

Elana Newman
Sally A. Donaldson
Craig Silberg

CONGRATULATIONS

MAZAL TOV...

To Daphne Alexander, who recently celebrated her bat mitzvah in Denver. Daphne is the daughter of Dr. Stephanie Bates and Robert Alexander, and the granddaughter of Dr. Jeff and Judy Alexander.

To Ahilyn Arce and Daniel Gomora on their recent engagement. Ahilyn is the daughter of Miguel and Elvira Arce, and sister of Miguel Jr. and Richy. A December 2023 wedding is planned.

THE MESSENGER

January 2023 - Published Monthly, Without Fail

CONGREGATION B'NAI EMUNAH

1719 South Owasso Tulsa, Oklahoma 74120
 Office: (918) 583-7121 School: (918) 585-KIDS
 Fax: (918) 747-9696 Website: www.tulsagogue.com

JANUARY CALENDAR HIGHLIGHTS

12 BLATT + BLUE: FARHA

Bringing with it an avalanche of controversy, a new film called **Farha** is presented as a fictionalized memoir, rooted in the events of 1948. It has already been screened at many international festivals and has been chosen as Jordan's 2023 Oscar entry. As always, these sessions take place in the Synagogue Zoom Room (Meeting ID: 918 583 7121) at 7:00 p.m..

18 LIFELONG LEARNERS

Ageless seniors from every corner of the community are invited to join Rabbi Kaiman at the Synagogue for lunch and rabbinic storytelling from the literature of our civilization. The session will begin at 11:30 a.m., and a bus leaves from Zarrow Pointe at 11:00 a.m. each time. No charge for transportation (you may, of course, come in your vehicle), and lunch from Queenie's will be provided. It's our pleasure to provide this service in cooperation with our fellow Jewish institution. Please reserve your spot by calling the Synagogue at (918) 583-7121 or emailing programs@bnaiemunah.com.

18 THE NAZI CONSPIRACY

In his new book, *The Nazi Conspiracy*, NY Times bestselling author Brad Meltzer shares a little-known true story of a Nazi plot to kill FDR, Joseph Stalin, and Winston Churchill at the height of World War II. Due to be released in January, the book explores the great political minds of the twentieth century, investigating these pivotal years of the war in gripping detail. This is a ticketed event at 7:00 p.m., with each ticket including one copy of the book and a seat at the event. A book signing will be available after the event. Tickets are available at magiccitybooks.com. As always, if tickets are prohibitive to your participation, please contact info@bnaiemunah.com so we can ensure all are included in Synagogue programming.

21 SISTERHOOD SHABBAT

A morning of celebration and community, Sisterhood Shabbat brings together women of the congregation in a weekend-long experience. Chaired by Jackie Lasky, this year's

program will feature Rachel Roubein, national healthcare reporter for the Washington Post, speaking about her work covering reproductive justice issues, among other national health policy issues. Starting time: 9:30 a.m. A kiddush will follow the service, which will be led by members of Sisterhood.

22 SHEMA: JEWISH MUSIC FOR BABIES

Join us for the next gathering in a series of Jewish music classes for babies and their adults! We'll blend the best of what we know about early childhood education and the joy of Jewish music for this class geared towards kiddos 2 and under with their adults. This will center around gratitude as we sing, dance, move, and explore together at the Synagogue. Interested in joining us? Starting time is 10:30 a.m. Please be in touch with Morah Sara at slevitt@bnaiemunah.com.

22 OHEL: WELLNESS WORKSHOP

Writing is an activity that can bring us into creativity and play, self-reflection, and processing. In this series, we'll playfully experiment in writing together to explore how writing is positioned in us and how we might invent and open new writing practices in our lives. Sessions will be led by Lewis Freedman a noted creative writing instructor and widely published poet. Lewis frequently teaches at Bard College, in addition to his professional writing career. Wellness in Writing is a part of the Synagogue's OHEL (Offering Healing Education and Love) initiative. Sessions will meet on Sunday mornings at 10:00 a.m. beginning January 22 at the Synagogue. To hold your spot, please be in touch with Sara Levitt at slevitt@bnaiemunah.com.

29 B-MITZVAH FAMILY PROGRAM

Sixth Grade Families are invited to join us for the first of three sessions in preparation, reflection and learning for B'nai Mitzvah Families. Students and parents will learn together to help lay the foundation for this preparatory year. The B-Mitzvah program will begin at 10:00 a.m. on Sunday, January 29th. For questions, please be in touch with Morah Sara at slevitt@bnaiemunah.com.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS DR. COREY AND
KATHARINE HOROWITZ AND SHILOH!

Women's Wellbeing Retreat
Save the Dates: February 24 and 25, 2023

BLATT AND BLUE

■ FARHA ON JANUARY 12

When a film attracts an avalanche of controversy, it needs to be seen in order to be understood. That is not always the conventional thing to do. We draw back from the things that make us uncomfortable, but that does not make them disappear. We need to evaluate such material with rigor, even if it doesn't conform to our systems of belief or understanding.

Such is the case with a new film called *Farha*, reviled by many Israeli officials and reviewers for its assertion of civilian casualties in the War of Independence. Its titular character is a Palestinian teenager whose family members are depicted as victims of Israeli soldiers. The film is presented as a fictionalized memoir, rooted in the events of 1948, and it has already been screened at many international festivals. It is likely to be chosen as Jordan's Oscar entry, and will no doubt attract additional attention.

Response in the Jewish press has been predictably mixed. Ha'aretz, Israel's liberal paper of record, chose only to report on the controversy itself and has not yet reviewed the film. The Forward, on the other hand, was more sympathetic, pointing out the reality of Palestinian suffering and stressing the basic legitimacy of the film.

All of this will figure in the next edition of Blatt + Blue, now scheduled for Thursday, January 12, at 7:00 p.m. Potential participants can see the film on Netflix, which has taken significant criticism for its decision to screen it. Call the Synagogue at (918) 583-7121 if you have any difficulty locating the program at home. The Zoom Room access number is 918 583 7121.



FROM RABBI KAIMAN

■ IT'S NOT JUST THE DONUTS

The message might have been lost during the whirl of noise and excitement at this year's Winterlight Chanukah Festival, but did you happen to notice whom we partnered with to provide our donuts? Those sweet treats came from a little shop called "The Donut Hole," which has been open for a few years in Brookside.

While the donuts themselves were excellent, we chose to turn our attention to this donut shop because of what happened this past October. Twice within one month, the storefront was vandalized in incidents that accompanied anti-LGBTQ remarks. The second incident saw a Molotov cocktail thrown into business. The shop was first vandalized after it hosted an event where drag queens served customers donuts. Many people in Tulsa see these incidents as acts of hate and terror directed at the LGBTQ community.

And so, as we celebrated Chanukah, which touches on themes of inclusion and the minority experience, it was vital for us to think about how to translate that message more broadly. I'm sure our donut order did not make or break their business this year, but I do hope the symbolism of our gesture does not get lost. Our actions play a role in both reinforcing and challenging the structures of our society. And even something as simple as a donut purchase can communicate a lot about our values and sense of justice.

Similarly, I want to highlight another way we're thinking about the structures of society within the purview of the Synagogue. Many are familiar with the binary "men's" and "women's" labels for bathrooms. It's the standard design for public buildings. Several years ago, we changed the sign on one of our restrooms to be "gender-neutral." This was in service of creating space where people, no matter how they identify, could feel as though they did not have to fit neatly within the binary of these two choices.

Over the coming weeks, you'll see something new on all the bathroom signs around the Synagogue. We'll be adding language describing the facilities available within each room. Stalls, urinals, changing tables, sinks, etc. If you are a person who needs to use a stall, we want you to know which bathroom has what you need. If you are a person who needs a urinal, we want the same for you. Hopefully, this additional language will make our building more user-friendly.

But just like the donuts we ate on Chanukah, we hope these signs also highlight the structures of our society and prompt us to act in ways that are inclusive, open, and sensitive to each other. Little changes can have big impacts. Let's make sure these messages don't get lost.

FROM RABBI FITZGERMAN

■ PEOPLE OF THE BOOK

When I first came to the Synagogue, Isabelle Rips was our librarian. My guess is that few people remember her today, but she was a force of nature when I met her. Fiercely protective of our collection, she ran a tight operation that was more Leavenworth than library. It seemed like all the books were stamped as reference materials and almost nothing circulated in the world of Jewish readers. So it went for many years. You don't storm the castle just because you're sitting on a nice white horse.

Years later, I realize that there was much to be said for her approach. As part of my job in this period of Life 2.0, I'm now re-sorting the material she left behind. Her vision was a library that served as a research center, with some of the essentials of Jewish scholarship gathered in one central place. She collected reference books, scholarly journals, classic texts, and Synagogue records, all in the name of preservation and utility, even if she didn't make it exactly easy to get to them. In a pre-Internet world, this was the right thing to do. At this point in Jewish history, her approach has run its course. We can't really be a university library, and much of what she presided over is now online. There's a sound argument about making room for other goals and purposes, especially when so much is available with the ease of a click.

The result is that our library is in flux. If the **Proceedings of the Rabbinical Assembly** are now gathered together on a website, no one has to preserve the complete printed run. Until a few days ago, I did that myself. All evidence to the contrary, I am not a hoarder, just a person who is committed to the future and likes to have the past at my fingertips. But I let it go. There's a limit to what one institution or one individual should carry to the end.

The Synagogue itself needs to cooperate with other institutions. The most obvious example is the Sherwin Miller collection of Holocaust materials. I'll be depositing my own small collection there shortly and hope that we can do the same with what the Synagogue has on its shelves. Joint effort in such a case is the right approach. In my heart, our library is beginning to look like a literary hub, with novels and short stories as the core collection. If we do the same with children's books, I think that we can develop a real constituency of Synagogue readers.

But I won't forget my friend Isabelle Rips. She was a tiny, dynamic, titan of a librarian, and she had a good idea about the Jewish people. We are nothing without the literature of peoplehood in all its multifarious forms. She would have argued that a Synagogue isn't much without a library, and long after her tenure, that's still a powerful idea.

BAT MITZVAH

■ ROWAN MORRIS

Rowan Christine Morris, daughter of Bethany Casady, will become a bat mitzvah on Saturday, January 28th, at Congregation B'nai Emunah.

Rowan is a student at Sequoyah Middle School. She is a budding artist and enjoys acting in plays. Rowan has attended B'nai Emunah Sunday school since preschool. During the past year, she has been preparing for her bat mitzvah under the tutoring of Elliot Wulff and the guidance of Morah Sara.

As she leads the Havdalah service, Rowan will be surrounded by her family and friends, including her brothers, Falcon and Tristan Clemens, and her nephew Arthur. She has also requested to lead the Mourner's Kaddish in honor of her father Darrell who passed away in January of 2020.



BIRTHS

Bennie Ira Kriegsman, born to Dr. Rebekah and Ryan Kriegsman. Bennie is the grandson of Ted Kriegsman, Susan and Mark Ballew, of Tulsa, and Jim and Audrey Martin of Norman.



CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE SYNAGOGUE

Altamont Bakery

Michael and Cindy Guterman

Ann Beerman Flower and Garden Fund

Laurie, Bob and Stacy Berman

Annie Birnbaum

Mark Goldman and Dr. WC Goad

Michael and Cindy Guterman

The Hertz Family

George and Bonnie Kennedy

Ann Rosen

Richard and Wendy Rubin

Susan Sales

Rona and Barry Seidel

Bikur Cholim Fund

Dr. Leor and Hillary Roubein

Brouse Family

Shabbat and Holiday Fund

The Schultz Family

Camp Ramah Scholarship Fund

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Jerry and Susan Sokol

Ann Weisman and Charles King

Eleanor Weisman and Jay Hanes

Robert and Nancy Weisman

In Memory Of

Bessie and Louis Blend

Meryl N Brodsky

Aaron Contente

Ruth Dubin

Lance M Dubois

Morris Dundee

Irene Fenster

Estelle Finer

Irvin and Sharna Frank

Jack Friedman

Dr. Eric S Glichouse

Frederick Gock

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Kate Kaiser

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Joel J. Klein

Lillian Krisman

Doris Wain Lencke

Dr. Jerald Miller

Berthold Neuwald

Max Pepper

Muriel Pepper

Marvin J. Rosmarin

Blanche Roubein

Fred Sokol

Ronald Sokol

Hermine Weiss

Gertrude Weisman

Tseitel Weisman

In Honor Of

Eva Unterman, **on her 90th birthday**

Charlie Drouin, **for his bar mitzvah**

Rabbis Fitzerman and Kaiman, **for supporting**

Charlie Drouin's bar mitzvah preparations.

JANUARY | TEVET-SHEVAT

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2 Preschool and Offices Closed	3	4 4:00 PM Hebrew Lab 5:30 PM Weekday Service	5	6 5:06 PM Candles 5:30 PM Friday Service	7 9:30 AM Shabbat Morning 6:07 PM Havdalah Torah: Vayechi
8 9:00 AM ShulSchool 10:00 AM Intro to Judaism	9	10 7:00 PM Board of Directors	11 4:00 PM Hebrew Lab 5:00 PM Ramah in the Rockies Info Session 5:30 PM Weekday Service	12 7:00 PM Blatt and Blue: Farha	13 5:12 PM Candles 5:30 PM Friday Service	14 9:30 AM Shabbat Morning Bat Mitzvah 6:13 PM Havdalah Torah: Shemot
15 9:00 AM ShulSchool 10:00 AM Intro to Judaism 6:00 PM MLK Interfaith Service	16 11:00 AM MLK Parade Preschool and Offices Closed MLK Jr. Day	17	18 11:30 AM Lifelong Learners 4:00 PM Hebrew Lab 5:30 PM Weekday Service 7:00 PM Midrasha at TI 7:00 PM Booksmart: Brad Meltzer	19	20 5:19 PM Candles 5:30 PM Friday Service	21 9:30 AM Shabbat Morning Sisterhood Shabbat 6:20 PM Havdalah Torah: Vaera
22 9:00 AM ShulSchool 10:00 AM Intro to Judaism 10:30 AM SHEMA Baby Music 10:30 AM OHEL Writing Workshop	23 Rosh Chodesh Shevat	24	25 4:00 PM Hebrew Lab 5:30 PM Weekday Service 7:00 PM Midrasha at TI	26	27 5:27 PM Candles 5:30 PM Friday Service 6:15 PM Shabbat Dinner 7:00 PM Shabbat for Everyone	28 9:30 AM Shabbat Morning 6:26 PM Havdalah 6:00 PM Bat Mitzvah of Rowan Morris Torah: Bo
29 9:00 AM ShulSchool 10:00 AM Intro to Judaism 10:00 AM B-Mitzvah Program 10:30 AM OHEL Writing Workshop	30	31				

THE SYNAGOGUE

CONGREGATION B'NAI EMUNAH

1719 South Owasso Avenue
Tulsa, Oklahoma 74120
P.O. Box 52430
Tulsa, Oklahoma 74152

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YAHRTZEIT CALENDAR — 8 TEVET THROUGH 9 SHEVAT

Sunday, January 1 - 8 Tevet

Norman Axe
Arthur Joseph Frey
Walter Kaiser
Jennie S. Myers
Myron Rubinstein
Elizabeth Shapiro

Monday, January 2 - 9 Tevet

Abraham Beerman
Jacob Borofsky
Celia Brown
Elizabeth Frank
Adolph W. Friedman

Tuesday, January 3 - 10 Tevet

Leebeh Feldgreber
Wally Heimlich
Irwin Schreier
Sadie Sitrin

Wednesday, January 4 - 11 Tevet

Frimi Apt
Phillip Dunitz
Robert Joels
Jay Narotzky
Jerald Schuman

Thursday, January 5 - 12 Tevet

Clara Brooks
Celia Cohen
Phillip H. Gordon
Anna Greenberg
Donna Kraft
Nathan Landa
Frances Robinowitz

Friday, January 6 - 13 Tevet

Esther Aron
Louis Firestone
Christine Jackson
Sylvia Polsky

Saturday, January 7 - 14 Tevet

Harry Cohen

Sunday, January 8 - 15 Tevet

Howard Alexander
Celia R. Apt
Rosalind Bolusky
Shirley B'tesh
Isadore Gordon
Al Morrison

Ben Moskowitz
Benjamin Rosen
Ethel Ettie Sack
Edward Weinstein

Monday, January 9 - 16 Tevet

Abraham J. Freed
Joseph Manes
Charles Miller
Sam Sanditen

Tuesday, January 10 - 17 Tevet

Rebbitzen Anna Kahn
Adolf Neuwald
Ida Soclof
Anita Ulrich
Donald Viner
Scott Zarrow

Wednesday, January 11 - 18 Tevet

George Paru

Thursday, January 12 - 19 Tevet

Sam Epstein
Robert A. Jacobs
Bernie LeVine
Joseph Lewis
Adeline Sara Singer

Friday, January 13 - 20 Tevet

Ivonne Goldstein
Ely G. Sanditen
Frances Shushansky
Martha Strauss

Saturday, January 14 - 21 Tevet

Mandel Fischer
Harry W. Glasser
Pearl Watt Isralsky
Ralph Jeffy
Rebecca Olson
Jacob Rozen
Robert A. Stekoll
Bessie Tureck

Sunday, January 15 - 22 Tevet

Maurice Abrams
Bernard Finer

Monday, January 16 - 23 Tevet

Brandon Reed Fabes
Harriet Levinson
Martin Weise

Tuesday, January 17 - 24 Tevet

Loren Frederick
Helmut Kaiser
Ronald Kriegsmann
Milton Lasky
Sol Marvin Levin
Yetta Magoon
Juda Neuman
Mary Raskin
Max Rubin

Wednesday, January 18 - 25 Tevet

Martin Hersh
Shellim Massil
Mark Sokol
Harry Springer

Thursday, January 19 - 26 Tevet

Bella Finer
Melvin Goldenstern
Occie Edna Hawkins
Tzvia Shaharabany
Ray Shirley
Rose Stekoll
Sam H. Weisman

Friday, January 20 - 27 Tevet

Sam Bookman
Bessie R. Goldsmith

Saturday, January 21 - 28 Tevet

David Trope Iola
Georgia Mizel
Peter Wozobski

Sunday, January 22 - 29 Tevet

Gene Serlin
Anne V. Zarrow
Pearl Zeff

Monday, January 23 - 1 Shevat

Solomon Apt
Ms. Ray Brown
Vinita Carruthers
Leonard Kitz
Isadore Paskel
Darrell H. Smith
Mary Wax

Tuesday, January 24 - 2 Shevat

Marion Brodsky
Sanford I. Brophy

Leona Adelaide Hurst
Rabbi Isaac Paru

Wednesday, January 25 - 3 Shevat

Mathilda Lewis
Ethel Moran
Edward S. Zechman

Thursday, January 26 - 4 Shevat

Arthur Brimer
Lois Contente
Nellie Mandel
Melvyn C. Resnick
Jose Rousso
Zel Rozin
Rose Winer

Friday, January 27 - 5 Shevat

Rachel Bedrick
Louis Levy
Fannie Miller
William Israel Weisman
Florence Williams

Saturday, January 28 - 6 Shevat

Jenny Brouse
Joseph D. Davis
Myrtle Della Hudson
Morad Nejad Khalil
Elkan Massil
Phyllis Mendlowitz

Sunday, January 29 - 7 Shevat

Herman Leff
Frank Salle
Ruth R. Shwatsshkin
Flora Solow
Rebecca Yett Vinick

Monday, January 30 - 8 Shevat

Meyer Spector
Katherine Ruth Spencer

Tuesday, January 31 - 9 Shevat

Hyman Dundee
Sylvia Golsen
Moses Abraham Hyman
Martin Kallmeyer
Jacob Israel Singer
Alexander George Wolf
Jack Zarrow

May their souls be bound up in the bond of life everlasting. Please note that each yahrtzeit begins at sunset on the day before the date listed.