

Emanuel Synagogue



Bulletin



SERVICE TIMES

Join us on Zoom, using the same link as all services: <https://zoom.us/j/6574911810>.

Please remember that we still have Evening Minyan Sundays through Thursdays at 8:00 pm, and Morning Minyan every Thursday at 8:30 am.



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 OKC, OK 73118
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THIS MONTH'S EVENTS

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Good & Welfare Announcements

A special mazal tov to Emma Sassoon - granddaughter of Nikki and Charles (z"l) Singer, and daughter of Marla and Dr. Robert Sassoon - on her Emmy nomination! Emma was the Associate Producer of HBO Documentary Film "Obama: In Pursuit of a More Perfect Union." Mazal tov to Emma and to the entire extended Sassoon and Singer families.

Please send any G&W announcements to bethryanmd@att.net.

Welcome TO THE FAMILY



Dr. Margaret Levin Philips

Joshua & Carmen Izakson

Angelina, Cecelia, & Solomon Dunn

Please take the time to introduce yourself and let him know how much we appreciate him choosing to join our family.

FAMILY
*Love Laughter Friends & Family
Welcome Here*

Luncheon in the Sukkah

Thursday, October 13 was a perfect fall day for Sisterhood's Luncheon in the Sukkah. The menu consisted of both cheese and spinach quiches, tossed salad, fruit salad, challah, and assorted cakes and cookies prepared by Laura Levine, Anita Barlow, Barb Brandenburg and our fantastic kitchen helper, Mandie Thornton and Suzanne Dillday who helped serve. Our sukkah was packed with women and men enjoying the mitzvah of eating in the beautifully decorated sukkah, adorned with pictures of our dear departed families and friends whose memories live on. Anna and Don Sterne provided the beautiful fall table decorations which were later raffled off.

Our Sisterhood's tradition is to invite a guest speaker and we hit a homer with Alice Lutwak who told of her journey from Europe to America and how she wound up in Norman, OK. She engaged us with her wit, charming accent and memorable stories. Carla Hinton, from The Oklahoman, came to interview Alice and take pictures of our event.

We appreciate everyone who helped and participated in making this event a great success, including our gift shop chair, Jan Green for staying afterwards to open our well stocked gift shop so that we could prepare for our next celebrations.

Thank you, Anita and Laura





Rabbi's Rostrum



Mazal tov to our own Alex Hamilton, and to proud parents Hali and Jeff Goss and proud sisters Debra and Michelle, on Alex's successfully delivering his Senior Sermon - the last major milestone before rabbinic ordination at the Jewish Theological Seminary in New York City. Please watch your email for a YouTube link to his sermon, or please enjoy reading the text of the sermon on the following 3 pages.



Many of you may think that it is funny that the officer in the Navy is giving his senior sermon on Parshat Noach. You may have missed it, but there was a recently discovered, lost manuscript of Rashi's commentary right here in the JTS archives that indicates irrefutable, incontrovertible evidence that the Holy, Blessed One, God Almighty roots for Navy over Army.

There are very few laws that are given in the Book of Genesis. Sefer HaChinuch, the 13th Century Spanish work lists a grand total of three mitzvot or commandments in the entire book. However there are other things that we learn that are not explicitly commanded to us. We learn about hospitality based on how Abraham welcomed his three special guests, we learn about veiling at a wedding from Rebecca.

And of course in Parashat Noach we learn a few things as well, we are given permission to eat meat, But told not to eat the blood, and we learn that we are supposed to treat our parents with a certain level of dignity. Sorry Mom.

In the Jewish community, we call these commandments and lessons a *chiyyuv*. We usually translate *chiyyuv* as 'obligation'. We'll say things like: We are obligated in the complex laws surrounding how we slaughter animals for meat. We are obligated to salt our meat to avoid eating the blood. We are obligated to treat our parents with dignity, Just as Noah's sons, Shem and Yaphet did. However, I want to suggest a slightly different translation for *chiyyuv*: duty.

Now, if you were to quickly look up 'duty' on a dictionary app on your phone, it would use obligation in the definition; and if you were to look up 'obligation' on your phone, sure enough duty would be used. However, an obligation is something for us as individuals to do for God. Duty is something much broader and weightier.

An obligation is doing something one is expected to do. A duty serves a higher purpose. Duty unifies people in that higher purpose. As George Hegel, the Enlightenment philosopher said "pure duty is the essential moment of relating itself universally to others." Our duties, our *chiyyuvim*, which God gave to us, act as something that unites the Jewish people and all peoples of the world.

If we rework *chiyyuv* as 'duty', we no longer have an obligation to eat matzah on Passover: it is now our *duty* to eat matzah on Passover, Just as our ancestors have done for thousands of years. We have a *duty* to sanctify Shabbat over the wine just as the Jewish community has done for generations.

We have a *duty* to pray in community three times a day.

Understanding *chiyyuv* as duty helps us understand that we are unified in serving God and each other.

Of course this week's Torah portion not only includes the story of Noah and the Flood, but also the Tower of Babel narrative. Where the inhabitants of the Land of Shinar build their infamous

tower. If we look at Avot D'Rabbi Natan, a late-Talmudic commentary of Pirkei Avot, We learn that the people in the land of Shinar were *not* gathered for the fulfillment of God's commandments. This means they had no rules, expectations, or duties. The Medieval Spanish scholar Ibn Ezra says that the Shinar-dwellers were no longer afraid, because God promised to never flood humanity again. What could God do to them now?

—

With their newfound audacity, the Shinar-dwellers set to work on building for themselves fame and glory. In other words, “a tower with its top in the sky.” Rabbi David Kimchi, the 12th Century French commentator, teaches that the Shinar-dwellers really had to force the construction of this tower. There were no stones in the land of Shinar suitable for building, so they invented the brick-firing so they could construct their tower. This tower now got so tall that, according to the Medieval addition to this story in Sefer HaYashar, it took a single year to carry a brick to the top.

The Godless-ness and chaos continues yet further in the 8th century work, Pirkei D'Rabbi Eliezer. When a single brick would fall off the stack and tumble to the ground, the builders would sit down and wail and say, “Woe is us.

Where will we ever find a brick of this one's like?” However, when a fellow builder took the same tumble, the builders would continue as if nothing had happened. In other words, the Shinar-dwellers had no duty to each other, only an obligation to their perverse cause.

Today this is an apt question: what is our duty to each other? Too often we put our own agenda first. We neglect each other. We want to build a better world, yet we ignore people in front of our eyes. We see problems in the world as bricks that we put in the towers of our vision of a better world, yet walk past the human suffering right in front of us. It is this indifference and hypocrisy that leads to division.

This is why God descended and scattered the various peoples throughout the world. The lack of a unifying duty is what triggered their scattering. This happens today when we do not truly see each other. When we speak but do not listen, our lips become impure. Throughout Leviticus, we learn that that which is impure cannot be used to serve God And if we cannot serve God, we can neither fulfill our duties nor our obligations.

We are so busy putting bricks into our own agenda-towers that we do not talk to one another, we do not care for one another, we do not recognize the stresses, frustrations, and struggles of the person sitting across from us, let alone the person three states away. We keep trying to fix problems that we see in the world around us, but don't talk to the people we are trying to help.

We see bricks, not people.

There is a spark of divinity that exists between two people, and as long as we are trying to build our towers out of ideas, we will keep forgetting those who bring God into the world around us. We must pray that we, like Isaiah, can have the impurities of speech purged from our lips.

So I have to ask again: what is our chiyuv, our duty, to one another?

We have a duty to do as Noah did, care and protect one's family and all living beings.

We have a duty to do as Shem and Yaphet did, care for their father. No one told them what to do, they just did what they had to do. In other words, their duty.

We have a duty to do as Abram does in Pirkei D'Rabbi Eliezer, and see the evil of the Tower and reject those teachings that come forth from bad sources.

In essence, our duty is to bring about a better world through recognizing the divine spark in everyone. We have a duty to use our language, speech, and words to bring a better, more unified world together. The Prophet Tzeplaniah teaches that when the peoples of the world are of pure speech, they may invoke Adonai and serve God with one Accord. Only our pure speech, Where we are truly listening, unifies. It is only by doing our duties, By being mechayav, To each other, And by speaking and listening to one another that we can come together and build a better world.

I'd like to thank some of the many, many people who got me here today: I have learned much Torah from all the teachers and administrators here at JTS, including my faculty advisor Professor Benjamin Sommer as well as Rabbi Mordecai Schwartz, who has deeply influenced how I understand Jewish Law. Additionally I want to thank the amazing chaplains from the Jewish Welfare Board: Yonina Creditor, Irv Elson, David Frommer, Josh Sherwin, and Yoni Warren who have encouraged me in the toughest of times. The rabbi who pushed me into applying to rabbinical school, Eliav Bock. My Hillel Rabbi, wedding officiant, and now my boss at Rutgers Hillel, Esther Reed.

My hometown rabbi, Abby Jacobson and her husband Rabbi Juan Mejia. I was also lucky enough to have, perhaps, the best cohort of classmates to ever enter this seminary. I'd like to also take this time and thank my four parents and siblings for their constant support. And I'd like to, most importantly, thank my beshert, my rock, my wife, Adeena, without whom I could not be half the person I am today.

Mazal tov to Jennifer Dennis and the entire Emanuel Synagogue board on receiving the Interfaith Alliance Community Service Award for 2022 for our work with refugees. Accepting on the Synagogue's behalf, Elizabeth Caplan spoke movingly about her background as the child of Holocaust refugee and her appreciation for what she called "Brave Spaces" - gatherings of people who face challenges together with comraderie and determination.





Principal's Podium



Dear Bloom Family School Families,

The Hebrew month of **Marcheshvan**, that just began, is called "mar" (bitter) as it has no holidays. We will make this month joyous with our Torah, our learning and our song. Also, this year, the Bloom Family School continues a long tradition of joining the Jewish Federation's "Take a Bite Out of Hunger" in which we spend one morning feeding our hungry neighbors. We strongly encourage you to bring siblings and friends and come out in force for this mitzvah day.

When: Sunday, November 13th, 2022. 9-12 AM

Where: Regional Food Bank of Oklahoma (3355 S Purdue St, Oklahoma City, OK 73179)

What: God feeds the hungry, so

you too feed the hungry.

Where to register: [2022 Take A Bite Out Of Hunger | Jewish Federation of Greater Oklahoma City \(jfedokc.org\)](https://www.jfedokc.org/2022-Take-A-Bite-Out-Of-Hunger)

Furthermore, these are the dates when we will be meeting for the Bloom Family Hebrew School for the month of **November**:

- **Wednesday, November 2nd**- Bloom Family School (4:30-6 PM)
- **Sunday, November 6th**- Bloom Family School (10 AM-12 PM)
- **Wednesday, November 9th**- Bloom Family School (4:30-6 PM)
- **Sunday, November 13th**- **TAKE A BITE OUT OF HUNGER** (9 AM-12 PM)
- **Wednesday, November 16th**- Bloom Family School (4:30-6 PM)

- **Sunday, November 20th-**
Bloom Family School (10 AM-12 PM)
- **Wednesday, November 23rd- THANKSGIVING BREAK (NO SCHOOL)**
- **Sunday, November 27th- THANKSGIVING BREAK (NO SCHOOL)**
- **Wednesday, November 30th-** Bloom Family School (4:30-6 PM)

Yours in education,

Rabbi Juan Mejia

Bloom Family School Director
Emanuel Synagogue
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OKC, OK 73118

405-245-8138

rabbi.juan.okc@gmail.com
www.emanuelokc.org



Ma Koreh?

November 2022

Dear Emanuel Family,

The fall holidays are over, and we can take a deep breath around the synagogue until Hanukkah. However, I cannot help reflecting on the return to “normal.” The kids are making themselves at home again in their synagogue, and the interaction between the youth is crazy, unrestricted fun again.

It was wonderful to be in the sanctuary (thank you to the hard work of all the staff, and special thank you to Bob Weiss and Sherry for keeping the air working) for the High Holidays. Seeing all the members I have not seen in nearly two years was fantastic, but seeing the children who have not been at the synagogue or hidden behind masks for two years was simply awesome. While there has been youth programming throughout the pandemic, it seemed less than, or significantly different, or “not normal” from pre-Covid events. For me, the turning point toward normalcy happened at Burgers Bar and the Sleepover

in the Sukkah.

It was fantastic to see the kids running around the patio and herding them away from the grill. The yelling, screaming, and laughing at dinner by the kids under the Sukkah felt right. The volume continued to rise as soon as dinner was over, and the youth went downstairs.

The youth were divided into two groups, youngers and the tween/teens. The youngers began the evening with a competitive game of Simon Says. The game proved little boys struggle to listen and forget left from right when the sun goes down or comes up. After checking their ears for blockage, the youngers played a mean game of pool-noodle tag, exhausting them for a good night’s sleep.

The tween/teens started off with a game of the Donner Dinner Party, “a rowdy game of frontier cannibalism.” After a few games of cannibalized fun, the tween/teen group took the party upstairs for a more physical game, Jungle Speed. After battling over the totem pole and a few bumps and bruises, many called it a night, but there were a few that were determined to stay up all night. Finally, at 3:45 AM, it was me and the sounds of silence as I roamed the halls all night long. THIS WAS GREAT!

See you around the shul for more synagogue late night fun,

Jeff Goss
ES Youth Director



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NOVEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

5 Michael Alpert &
Sherry Silverstein-Alpert

5 Jay & Barbara Farber

6 Don & Hilary
Karchmer

21 Alan & Hilary
Levenson

25 George & Vandelia
Grahan

NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

3 Sue Goldfarb

4 David Goss

6 Amalia "Molly" Fox

8 Verne Cotten

9 Debra Carlson

10 Davis Dennis

12 Zachariah Johnson

13 Dr. Yair Pincu

14 Gefen Pincu-Seidelman

14 Naomi Rosie Zafarti

16 Leonard Rubin

17 Jeff Blumenthal

18 Dr. Deborah Israel

18 Kenneth Meek

21 Kathleen Casamayor

21 Erin Duffy

22 Jacqueline Bendorf

23 Sharon Cohen

25 Jiji Pollack

27 Rai Kleins



In Memory Of Our Loved Ones

JEREMY ALTSHULER

Richard & Louise Fritz

SANDRA BELSON

Richard & Louise Fritz
Michael & Carol Krasnow
Myrna & Ivan Markowitz
Shirley Rich
Irene Silberg
Shirley Skalovsky
Dr. Mark & Debra
Wolraich

HENRY BLACK

Linda Black

SIDNEY BLOCK

Drs. Charles & Naomi
Esmon

KATHERINE BROWN

Zelda Brown

SAMPSON BROWN

Zelda Brown

KATHERINE BROWN

Zelda Brown

MAX FURER

Dr. Karen Jonscher

EDNA GRACE**GOLDSBERRY**

James Goldsberry

SUSAN JOSEPHSON

Tom Osherwitz

LOUIS KOWALOFF

Dr. Mark & Debra
Wolraich

DEANNA LACERRA

Dr. Perry Gethner

MAX MELNICK

Stacy Coe

ABRAHAM REDLICH

Win & Frances Stewart

NATHALIA SCHAEFER

Shira Michael

HARRY STACKHOUSE

Richard & Louise Fritz

**LAWRENCE
STACKHOUSE**

Richard & Louise Fritz

**ROSEMARY
STACKHOUSE**

Richard & Louise Fritz

ESTHER WASSERMAN

Dr. Mark & Debra
Wolraich

SAM WASSERMAN

Dr. Mark & Debra
Wolraich

BEN SHANKER

Robert Abernathy
Henry & Carol Asin
Sherry Barton
Jerry & Jacqueline Bendorf
Clayton & Louise Bennett
Murray & Sharon Cohen
Steve & Susan Donchin
Linda Gardner
Frank D. & Bette Jo Hill
Bruce & Amy Karpas
Boyd Kickox
Robert & Karen Luke
Gail Meltzner
Sharon Neuwald
Donna Page
Loren & Julie Plotkin
Shirley Rich
Shelley Savage
Marc & Susan Silver
Richard & Glenna
Tanenbaum
Larry & Mary Trachtenberg
Elaine Weise
Dr. Mark & Debra Wolraich

BELLE WEISE

Shirley Skalovsky

PAUL WEISE

Shirley Skalovsky

WILLIAM WEISE

Shirley Skalovsky



With Affection We Recall...



**Tuesday, November 1,
7 Heshvan**

Raymond Buratti
Lillian Muss
Shimon Oiknine
Dora Rodman

**Wednesday, November
2,
10 Heshvan**

Dr. William Shelton

**Friday, November 4,
10 Heshvan**

Molly Levick

**Sunday, November 6,
12 Heshvan**

Dr. Reuben Schechter

**Saturday, November 12,
18 Heshvan**

Jay Levy
Mel Marcus
Eric Rose
William Weise

**Sunday, November 13,
19 Heshvan**

David Muss

**Monday, November 14,
20 Heshvan**

Ethel Ginden
Fannie Josephson
Linda Meyer

**Tuesday, November 15,
21 Heshvan**

Loyd W. Goldsberry
Bill Patterson

**Wednesday, November
16,
22 Heshvan**

Suzanne Munzesheimer

**Thursday, November 17,
23 Heshvan**

Leah Kowaloff

**Saturday, November 19,
25 Heshvan**

Joseph Sureck
Adam Wachtel

**Sunday, November 20,
26 Heshvan**

Norma M. Lessmann

**Wednesday, November
23,
29 Heshvan**

Frank Seelig

**Friday, November 25,
1 Kislev**

Annie Blum
Herb Klein

**Saturday, November 26,
2 Kislev**

Charles I. Miller
Laura Stinger

**Sunday, November 27,
3 Kislev**

Ben Cooper
Gloria Ogrin

**Monday, November 28,
4 Kislev**

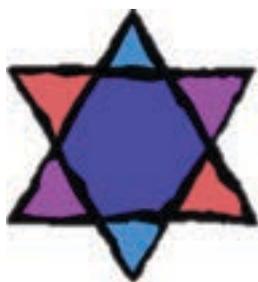
Sadie Klein
Flora Livingstone

**Tuesday, November 29,
5 Kislev**

Morris Josephson
Dottie Sheffel
Lewis C. Slesnick

**Wednesday, November
30,
6 Kislev**

Edward Price



תודה

רבה

TODA RABAH

*Donation to Rabbi's
Discretionary Fund*
Sherry Barton

Donation to Cemetery Fund
Bernard Backer

*In honor of Helene
Harpman, Joyce
Friedman, Brenda Hooper
& Barb Brandenburg for
their care of my mother
Sandra Belson*
Janice Simonds

BUILDING FUND
Shelley Savage

HIGH HOLY DAYS

Gerry Berg & Vicki Bravo
Joseph Manson

CONGREGANTS

ASSISTANCE FUND

Dr. Yona Rebbetzin Alter &
Dr. Rabbi Levi Alter
Jerry & Jacqueline Bendorf
Gus & Julie Buthman

GENERAL DONATIONS

Bernard Backer
Jeremy Rutman & Hadas
Cohen
Pamela & Barry Thurman

YOUTH PROGRAMS

Erin & Nathan Lofties



Jewish Federation of
Greater Oklahoma City

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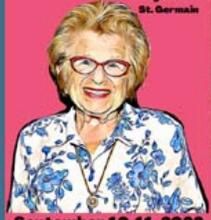
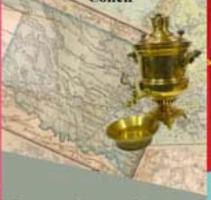
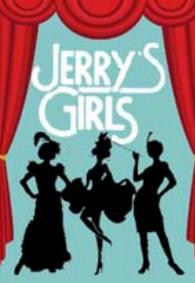
Welcome to the next generation of Jewish Theatre...

Jewish Theatre of Oklahoma

Where exceptional art meets cultural dynamism

Jewish Theatre of Oklahoma is committed to creating bold, compelling theatre that gives voice to Jewish and Israeli playwrights and ideas. Through intimate salon performances and riveting post-show discussions, led by renowned historical, religious and theatrical professionals, we hope to strengthen our Jewish community and its ties to the broader multicultural population.

Please consider joining JTO as one of our founding sustaining members to expand great theatre in our state and ensure the future of Jewish Theatre in Oklahoma and across the globe.

<p>Mothers in the Bible: Smart Women, Tough Choices <i>The Respect Diversity Foundation 10-minute Playwriting Competition.</i></p>  <p>April 30-May 1, 2022</p>	<p>Becoming Dr. Ruth By Mark St. Germain</p>  <p>September 10-11, 2022</p>	<p>Oklahoma Samovar By Alice Eve Cohen</p>  <p>November 5-6 2022</p>	<p>JERRY'S GIRLS</p>  <p>December 3-4, 2022</p>
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- invitations to participate in two exclusive theatre workshops

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