

*Emanuel Synagogue*



*Bulletin*





# Emanuel Synagogue Bulletin

March 2025

Adar-Nisan 5785

## 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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## THIS MONTH'S EVENTS

- 13 Erev Purim
- 14 Purim

### ATTENTION PLEASE

In our efforts to organize, starting this month members can begin using the below email addresses. Cox accounts will no longer be available starting May 2025.

[Office@emanuelsynagogueokc.org](mailto:Office@emanuelsynagogueokc.org)

[Finance@emanuelsynagogueokc.org](mailto:Finance@emanuelsynagogueokc.org)

[Rabbi@emanuelsynagogueokc.org](mailto:Rabbi@emanuelsynagogueokc.org)

[President@emanuelsynagogueokc.org](mailto:President@emanuelsynagogueokc.org)

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October 2024

**EMANUEL  
SYNAGOGUE**

# MONTHLY BULLETIN



## Until They All Come Home

Emanuel Synagogue, the Conservative synagogue for the Oklahoma City area, is home to some 200 member families and individuals. Our congregation is close-knit and friendly, like a big family. Most of us have known each other for years (often for generations), but we're thrilled when newcomers ask to join us, and we do everything we can to make them feel welcome and integrate them into our community.

Our synagogue membership is diverse, including people of all ages and a wide range of Jewish backgrounds (Conservative, Orthodox, Reform, and Jews by marriage or by choice). What we all have in common is our commitment to maintaining our Jewish culture and heritage for ourselves and for our children and grandchildren.

As Conservative Jews, we respect Judaic traditions and study Torah while seeking to make them relevant to busy lives in the modern world.



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# March

2025

February						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	

April						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
23	24	25	26	27	28	1
					6:06 PM Candlelighting	9:30 AM Shabbat Service 7:08 PM Havdalah
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
					6:13 PM Candlelighting	7:40 AM Shabbat Service 7:14 PM Havdalah
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
Cohen Unveiling 2 PM				Erev Purim	Purim 7:19 PM Candlelighting	9:30 AM Shabbat Service 8:20 PM Havdalah
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
					7:24 PM Candlelighting	9:30 AM Shabbat Service 8:26 PM Havdalah
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
					7:30 PM Candlelighting	9:30 AM Shabbat Service 8:32 PM Havdalah





The unveiling for Murray Cohen will be held on Sunday, March 9, 2025, at 2:00 pm, at Emanuel Hebrew Cemetery (10536 S Western Ave., OKC).



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## Orbiting

Howard F. Stein

Not long after sunset,  
A crescent moon,  
As it hovers low  
In the sky,  
Orbits around its earth –  
Though, to be precise,  
They both encircle  
A common center of gravity –  
But we'll let that  
Be for now.

Then there's our earth,  
Our home, if we will  
Tend it well, a planet  
Like Venus, Mars, and  
Jupiter, the three now high  
In the western sky  
Just after dark –  
All of us in orbit  
Around the sun.

Take one step back further,  
And see our entire solar system  
Nestled in a spiral arm  
Of the Milky Way Galaxy,  
Taking millions of years  
To encircle the center,  
Where reigns  
An enormous black hole.

Then step back once more,  
Our Milky Way, already

Too vast to imagine,  
Itself in orbit within  
A local group of galaxies.

There are probably  
Many more of these,  
Increasingly formidable  
To hold in our mind,  
Yet real as dark matter  
And interstellar dust.

I don't know whether  
This orbiting business  
Has any limit  
In scale –

But maybe if we  
Allow ourselves to wonder,  
We might just see  
Behind our eyes,  
The Hand of G-d,  
Around Whom  
All Creation Revolves  
In Adoration, chanting,  
"K'vodo malei Olam."  
("His Glory fills All Time.")  
(my translation, HFS)

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# MESSAGE FROM RABBI JACOBSON

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There is No *Mi Sheberach* for Sad People

On days when we read Torah publicly – Shabbat and most holidays, as well as Monday and Thursday mornings, we include at least three prayers that begin with the Hebrew words “*Mi Sheberach...*” – “May the One Who blessed (our ancestors)...” When most people use the term “*Mi Sheberach*,” casually, they specifically mean the *Mi Sheberach* prayer for the sick.

The text of the prayer is as follows:

“May the One Who blessed our ancestors – Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, Sarah, Rebecca, Rachel, and Leah – bring blessing and healing to the sick. May the Holy One, blessed be He, mercifully restore them to health and vigor. May God grant them physical and spiritual well-being, together with all others who are ill. (And though it is Shabbat/a holiday – a time to refrain from petitions, we yet hope and pray that

healing is at hand.) And let us say:

Amen.” (Rabbinical Assembly translation, 1998)

Although this text says that we pray for both physical and spiritual well-being, we only use it when someone is in poor health – be it physical or mental. We may say this prayer for someone who has broken a leg or a nail, and for someone who has cancer or a cold, and for someone who has anxiety, depression, or dementia. Despite this prayer’s many uses, it is not used for people who are bereaved, unlucky, heartbroken, out of work, or otherwise sad.

Why not?

We certainly want people to feel content, if not joyous, all the time. We want the heartbroken to mend, and the lonely to find companionship, and the jobless to be cared for, and the bereaved to find peace. Should we not include such people in this important prayer?

Illness requires a combination of internal fortitude, healthy eating and exercising, medical intervention, and luck to overcome. Because internal fortitude and luck are exclusively God’s to oversee, and because even the best of

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medical intervention and healthy lifestyle are often not enough to heal someone's illness, we turn to prayer.

Jewish tradition sees sadness as something that people (experts or not) could help mitigate. The Talmud and Medieval Jewish writings are full of advice and instructions on how to help those who are sad for a variety of reasons. There is also advice on being sad and bereavement, lonely, out of a job, and so on – ways to persevere as the heart mends itself. Some of you may know of the old Jewish saying “This too shall pass.” With time, and with the caring people around you, sadness of all kinds will pass.

More importantly, however, Jewish tradition views illness as a function of the body working incorrectly. Illness is a form of brokenness – it requires mending. That mending could be Divine intervention, a bodily process that works over time, or medical intervention. When we pray for healing, it is because something needs to be fixed.

When we are sad, we certainly feel broken – broken in spirit, brokenhearted, downtrodden, and many other metaphors that we use to describe just how bad we feel. However, in contrast to illness, sadness is a sign that our bodies are working correctly. If you never caught a cold or twisted an ankle in your life, you would be lucky. If you never felt sadness in your life, that would be cause for deep concern. Sadness is an appropriate response to

loss and hardship, and people who try to push away their sadness often find that they cause themselves greater sadness and hardship later in life. We are supposed to be sad when a loved one passes away, and even when we just hear stories of pain and tragedy. Jewish tradition does not encourage praying away the sadness because sad people are allowed to be sad – they do not need to be *fixed*.

We no longer live in communities of the past. Our walls are thicker, and our doors and windows close tightly. We no longer do our laundry at the river with all our neighbors, and we can no longer smell all of our friends' dinners as they are cooking. In many ways, this is a good thing. When someone in the community needs support, however, all this privacy can make it feel like we are unwelcome in someone else's sadness. In the past, we could have gone to our neighbor to say that we heard them crying, or we noticed that they had not been able to make it to the well as often as usual. Today, we sit behind walls and phones and computer screens wondering how someone is doing and wondering whether reaching out to them would be intrusive. In the absence of tangible ways to help, then, the Synagogue gets requests to include sad people along with the sick on the *Mi Sheberach* list.

If you want to pray for people who are sad and broken-hearted to feel better, that is a praiseworthy instinct. Remember, though, that our tradition pushes us to be a little nosy and to interfere a little bit in the lives of our

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friends and neighbors – your inquiry into their emotional state will be welcome, and you might find that someone would love a visit, a phone call, a walk, a card, a picture of your cat/dog/chicken/turtle/goat/alpaca, or (as someone very kind did for me a few times) for you to show up with hot tea and a bag of Oreo cookies. This is the kind of prayer that Rabbi Abraham Joshua Heschel called praying with his feet.

Drop in for tea and a chat with Rabbi Jacobson!

Office Hours are Mondays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays from 9:00 am to 12:00 pm

Feel free to drop in, or schedule a meeting time that is more convenient for you.

(Hours subject to change to accommodate an emergency in the congregation, and Rabbi Jacobson will not hold office hours on Jewish holidays, federal holidays, or any other time when the Synagogue offices are closed.)

Do you know someone who is sick, or who could use some cheering up?

One way to help someone who is sick or feeling down is to let Rabbi

Jacobson know to contact him/her/

them. Another great way is to add someone to the Misheberach list, for the congregation to pray for their

health. However, please remember to ask that person's permission first!

\*Please note: We read the names on the Misheberach (sick prayer) list out

loud during Shabbat services and Evening Minyan. For the sake of their

privacy, we read people's Hebrew names, or if they do not have a

Hebrew name, we only read their first name in English. We want to comfort

people with our prayers, not to invade their privacy.

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# MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

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This past month has been an emotional roller coaster for the Jewish community. The psychological war far brought on by the terrorists has been nothing but disgusting treatment of human life.

The return of the hostages is relieving and I am grateful for all the hostages that have returned in any form. While the ceasefire has allowed for their return, there are still many more hostages we hope to be freed.

The Jewish community in the United States has seen an increase in antisemitism, we have bonded even more strongly to speak up, to speak out and work in productive ways to peacefully combat the hate.

Thank you to Rabbi Jacobson for bringing the organization, Alums for Campus Fairness to Emanuel Synagogue last month. We got a

close up view of what is happening on college campuses across the U.S. and how this organization can help alums organize in various ways so our voice and message is brought to a college campus. You can learn more about the organization, sign up for alerts on a campus of your choice by visiting their website <https://www.campusfairness.org>.

A reminder to you all: It is ok to unplug. It is ok to stay away from the news for a little bit. The sun is setting later. The weather is warming up. Take a break with a walk and let the sun bring some healing to your soul.

Look forward to seeing you all around the shul.

L'Shalom,  
Paola

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# HEBREW SCHOOL

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Even though the Megillah introduces Mordekhai a “Jewish man” (2:5) it immediately continues to give us his pedigree as “son of Yair, son of Shimei, son of Kish, of the tribe of Benjamin.” Moreover, if we further explore his genealogy, we discover that Mordekhai was the grandnephew of King Saul (son of Kish of the tribe of Benjamin). Mordekhai and Esther are not just two simple Jews in the city of Shushan, but they are exiled aristocrats, movers and shakers among the people Israel and the nobles from the many nations that make the Persian Empire. It is precisely this princely privilege which gives them access to the throne room of Achashverosh, and also it is this princely privilege that draws the ire of Haman. Hadassa did not cinderella herself from sheltered shtetl darling into a worldly empress able to manipulate the capricious flow of the Persian court, she came to her position with the education and demeanour that allowed her to help lead the largest Empire the world had seen.

In this month of Adar, when we measure our souls and the souls of the students against the spiritual example of Esther and Mordekhai, I am happy to report that we have a congregation full of exceedingly studious and well prepared Mordekhaish and

Esthers. Our wonderful student body is curious and driven, with enormous ambitions and regal confidence in their worldly skills to succeed in this ever evolving and changing world with its inexhaustible rotation Achaveroses and Hamans. We are blessed to have a supportive community that provides us all the material needs we have to succeed and learn.

In one of the key points of the story, Mordekhai texts this to Queen Esther: “Do not imagine that you, of all the Jews, will escape with your life by being in the king’s palace. On the contrary, if you keep silent in this crisis, relief and deliverance will come to the Jews from another quarter, while you and your father’s house will perish. And who knows, perhaps you have attained to royal position for just such a crisis.” (4:13-14) Esther is not a heroine of our people because of her previous achievements and preparations but rather for her ability to use those abilities for the sake of her people and for the sake of justice. It was not the intellectual acumen or preparation that compelled Hadassa to do the right thing, but also the emotional connection and moral anchoring provided by her community.

In the halls of the Bloom Family Hebrew School we can provide our future Esthers and

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Mordekhais with the tools to face the future as Jews, endowed with the knowledge to make Jewish choices. However, the emotional connection to their Jewishness and the anchoring to the community cannot only happen during our appointed class times. Frequent participation in the life of the community is necessary for them to develop the connections to Jews of all ages and backgrounds, and to build the ATTACHMENT that is going to motivate their future selves to engage in Jewish causes and follow up on the Jewish choices that we have taught them to prefer.

From services, to dinners, through youth groups, to holiday programming we need our children to **experience** (not just learn intellectually) that in this world of unfriendly spaces and spaces that are not

built with us in mind, our community is home base. This is the place where people know your name, where people love you, where you are fed, where you are safe. In my experience, this strong sense of home is what will propel our prepared and regal Esthers and Mordekhais into becoming Jewish heroes when the time comes for them to use their many and wondrous gifts.

Rabbi Juan Mejia

*Bloom Family School Director*

*Emanuel Synagogue*

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# MISHPACHA



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Are you getting excited for  
this year's Purim on

Broadway? ✨



Mishpacha wants to celebrate with you by delivering a mishloach manot gift basket to your home with all the goodies that you'll need to make your holiday festive! You are invited to show your support for your friends and family in the community by sponsoring a basket for \$18. Each family will receive a note letting them know who sponsored their basket. For \$118, you can sponsor the baskets of those who send you a basket (the reciprocity feature), and for a \$180 donation, you can sponsor baskets for every member family in the community. Purim is a great time to show your generosity for your community by

sending mishloach manot, and we thank you in advance for your donation!

Please check your email for a message from Happy Purim with a personalized link! We will need a response by February 28, as it takes time to assemble and deliver the baskets. If you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to reach out to me at [hkgrillot@outlook.com](mailto:hkgrillot@outlook.com). Chag sameach — see you on Broadway!

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**by Deborah Zoe Lauffer**

8 pm Saturday, March 22 & 2 pm Sunday, March 23  
 At Carpenter Square Theatre | Starring Anita Barlow



[www.jewishtheatreok.org/tickets](http://www.jewishtheatreok.org/tickets)



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# SISTERHOOD

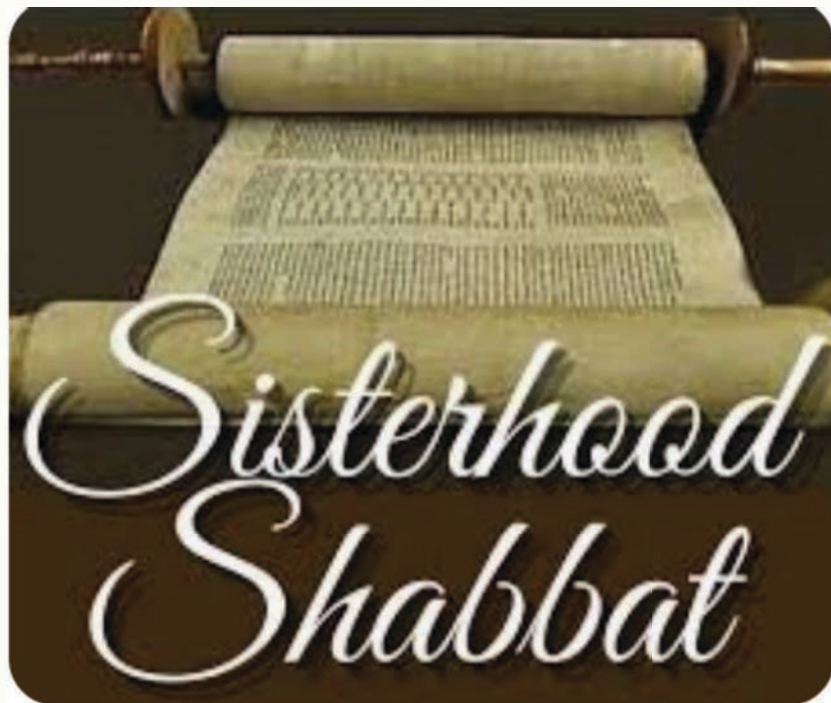


Sisterhood Shabbat was a great success! Thank you to all who volunteered to read/lein Torah or participated in the services in some capacity and to all those who came to support our women of Emanuel! We're already looking forward to next year!

We will announce the date for our celebratory brunch/lunch for Laura in the near future, so keep an eye out for that announcement.

Have a PURIM SAMEACH!

A big MAZAL TOV to Laura Levine for becoming our 2025 Martha Weiss Volunteer of the Year! Laura has chaired many events like this year's Sisterhood Sukkah lunch and also this year's Sisterhood Shabbat lunch, for which she made her famous & delicious Lasagna, and proved once again how deserving she is of this award. Thank you, Laura, for all that you do for our Sisterhood and our community. You are greatly appreciated!



## Sisterhood Gift Shop

Buy your Bar & Bat Mitzvah, Wedding, and Baby Gifts. Plus, Yahrzeit and Shabbos candles, Jewelry, pottery and so much more.

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# SOCIAL JUSTICE COMMITTEE

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## Our Bakeless Bake Sale: Skip the Baking, Sweeten the World

No mixing, no baking: just the sweetness of giving!

This January, the Social Justice Committee invites you to take part in our Bakeless Bake Sale — a stress-free way to make a big difference!

Here's the idea:

- Imagine baking a dozen chocolate chip cookies for **\$10**
- Picture whipping up a batch of brownies for **\$15**
- Think about crafting a homemade layer cake for **\$25**

Instead of spending time in the kitchen, simply donate the cost of what you would have baked to the Social Justice Committee!

Every “treat” you donate funds critical social justice programs in our community. From combating hunger to promoting equity, your generosity will make a powerful impact without ever preheating the oven.

**Just decide how much your favorite baked good is “worth”, make your donation (online, cash or check), and enjoy the satisfaction of giving back without flour on your hands!**

**Deadline: Donations accepted through January 30th, 2025**

**Your gift is the key ingredient to sweetening lives, creating change, and supporting those in need. Thank you for “baking” the world a better place with us!**

With gratitude,

The Social Justice Committee



**social justice  
at emanuel.**

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# With Affection We Recall...



**Saturday, March 1,  
1 Adar**

Donald T. Kumm

**Monday, March 3,  
3 Adar**

Jose Farina

**Tuesday, March 4,  
4 Adar**

Richard Evans  
Kate Finkelstein

**Wednesday, March 5,  
5 Adar**

Bernard Shanker

**Friday, March 7,  
7 Adar**

Louis Karchmer  
Martin Rich

**Saturday, March 8,  
8 Adar**

Julius Bendorf  
Donald Esrig

**Monday, March 10,  
10 Adar**

Doug Tolliver

**Tuesday, March 11,  
11 Adar**

Rose Karchmer

**Thursday, March 13,  
13 Adar**

Dora Robinson  
Esther Skalovsky

**Friday, March 14,  
14 Adar**

Margarite Eidsness

**Saturday, March 15,  
15 Adar**

Gussie Ginden  
Barbara Goldfarb  
Sammy Kornblit  
Helen Smith Levy  
Shirley Stavinsky

**Sunday, March 16,  
16 Adar**

Edward Kaswan  
Faye Rose  
Rose Rubenstein  
Rose Unger

**Monday, March 17,  
17 Adar**

Mollie Bleiweiss  
Irving Kushner  
A.B. (Bum) Sandler  
Elaine Sogolow  
Charles D. Stein

**Tuesday, March 18,  
18 Adar**

Dr. Stanley Silberg  
David Stavinsky

**Wednesday, March 19,  
19 Adar**

Gertrude Cooper

**Thursday, March 20,  
20 Adar**

Sharon Montgomery  
Dorothea Tanenbaum

**Friday, March 21,  
21 Adar**

Celie Klein  
Irving Slutzky

**Saturday, March 22,  
22 Adar**

Margaret Lessmann  
C. David Rose

**Sunday, March 23,  
23 Adar**

Rachamim Hirschman  
Esther Rementer  
Sybil Sureck  
Joel Wolraich

**Tuesday, March 25,  
25 Adar**

Sally Colton

**Wednesday, March 26,  
26 Adar**

Ada May Israel

**Thursday, March 27,  
27 Adar**

Louis Emmer  
Elaine Muhlberg  
Ann Singer

**Friday, March 28,  
28 Adar**

Samuel Friedman  
Collis Walker

**Saturday, March 29,  
29 Adar**

Jack Price

**Sunday, March 30,  
1 Nisan**

Charles Haskell Caylen  
Dr. Michael Levine

**Monday, March 31,  
2 Nisan**

James Epstein  
Andrew Sontheimer

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# WE REMEMBER

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**JERRY ARVINE**

Ronald & Julie Arvine

**KITTY ARVINE**

Ronald & Julie Arvine

**JIM BELSON**

Janice Simonds

**SANDY BELSON**

Janice Simonds

**CARRIE BYERS**

Harry & Hedra Merson

**HOWARD EPSTEIN**

Dr. Robert H. & Carol  
Epstein

**SALLY FRIED**

Dr. Karen Jonscher

**ALICE GARDNER**

Dr. Robert H. & Carol  
Epstein

**MILLIE KOWALOFF**

Dr. Mark & Debra  
Wolraich

**MICHAEL  
KRASNOW**

Stefani & Scott  
Nachatilo

**KARIN KRUGER**

Stefani & Scott  
Nachatilo

Robert & Jeanne  
Schlotte

Dr. Mark & Debra  
Wolraich

**HERBERT  
LANGSAM**

Shelly Savage

**OMER NEUTRA**

Stefani & Scott  
Nachatilo

**BERNARD  
SHANKER**

Robin Shanker &  
Joseph Anzelmo

**IDA SHANKER**

Robin Shanker & Joseph  
Anzelmo

**ALBERT  
SKALOVSKY**

Shirley Skalovsky

**NEIL STRASSMAN**

Dr. Fatima Abrantes-Pais

**ALBERT  
WAINTROOB**

Sherry Barton

**MARTIN WEISE**

Shirley Skalovsky  
Elaine Weise

**HELEN WOLRAICH**

Dr. Mark & Debra  
Wolraich



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### MARCH ANNIVERSARIES

4 Ronald & Julie  
Arvine

5 Jeff & Hali Goss

11 Yaniv & Jennifer  
Damitsian

16 Kyle & Tiffany  
Logsdon

20 Richard &  
Louise Fritz

### MARCH BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Gabriel Hodge
- 2 Hedra Merson
- 4 Sara Jane Rose
- 8 Faith Fox  
Anna Sterne
- 12 Amalissa Kline
- 16 Dr. Joyce Friedman
- 19 Karen Jonscher  
Diana Robinson
- 20 Don Karchmer  
Georgie LeFever  
Nancy Weiss Meoli  
Dr. William Nechtow
- 22 Angelina Dunn  
Deborah Duren  
Xavier Jefferies  
Stephanie Meek
- 23 Cody Boswell  
Win Stewart
- 24 Avivah Dunn  
Dr. David J. Katz
- 25 Jerry Bendorf
- 28 Hali Goss
- 29 Yael Anna Buthman

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תודה רבה  
TODA RABAH

**Donation to Rabbi's  
Discretionary Fund**

Sherry Barton  
Shelley Savage

**Cemetery Fund Donation**

Coe Plumbing Inc.  
Harold & Jan Green  
Robert & Jeanne Schlotte  
Janice Simonds

**Congregants Assistance  
Fund Donation**

Dr. Yona Rebbetzin Alter &  
Dr. Rabbi Levi Alter  
Bernard Backer  
Meredith Willis

**Social Justice Committe**

Stefani & Scott Nachatilo  
Heather & Amit Zarfati

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To get on their mailing list or for inquiries, please feel free to contact us directly:

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FOR JUDAIC AND ISRAEL  
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**[judaicstudies@ou.edu](mailto:judaicstudies@ou.edu)** |

405-325-6508

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# JEWISH THEATRE OF OKLAHOMA

SEASON 2024/2025

## SISTERS IN LAW

by Jonathan Shapiro  
September 28 & 29  
Mock Trial Space at OCU

## THE DIARY OF ANNE FRANK

by Frances Goodrich & Albert Hackett  
November 14-17 & 21-23  
Poteet Theatre at St. Luke's Methodist Church

✧ Co-production with Poteet Theatre

## CROSSING DELANCEY

by Susan Sandler  
January 18 & 19  
Oklahoma Shakespeare

## THE LAST YIDDISH SPEAKER

by Deborah Zoe Laufer & starring Anita Barlow  
March 22 & 23  
Carpenter Square Theatre

✧ Winner of the 13th Annual National Jewish Playwriting Contest

## HOW TO REMAIN A HUMANIST AFTER A MASSACRE IN 17 STEPS

by Maya Arad Yasur  
April 6  
Oklahoma Shakespeare

## BRIS AMISS, A MUSICAL

by Jennie Fahn  
May 3 & 4  
Carpenter Square Theatre

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