

# MESSENGER

volume

102

THE SYNAGOGUE | CONGREGATION B'NAI EMUNAH | TULSA | MARCH 2018 | NO. 3



TOURO BANQUET—SEE PAGE 5 FOR DETAILS

# MILESTONES

## BIRTHS

Augustus Lantz Hinton, son of Meredith Lantz and Adam Hinton; grandson of Dr. Linda Goldenstern and the late Dr. Gordon Lantz. Born in San Francisco on January 8, 2018.

Alex Benjamin Dickinson, son of Meagan and Ryan Dickinson. Grandparents are Jim and Susan Hall of Phoenix, Arizona, and Bobby and Cindy Dickinson of Stroud, Oklahoma.

## DEATHS

**Brandon Fabes**

Grandson of Norman and Estelle Fabes

**Robert Renberg**

Father of Mitch, Elissa, and Devin Renberg

**Rita Garcia**

Grandmother of Matt Levitt

**Nan Krisman Rush**

Wife of Bob Rush

Mother of Mark and Michael Rush

**Brenda Jane Schnur**

Mother of Melissa Schnur

**Katherine Spencer**

Daughter of Andy Spencer

Step-daughter of Chaya Spencer

**Jenny Brouse**

Mother of Carol Windland and Brian Brouse

**Jerry Borofsky**

Mother of Michael and Gary Borofsky

# HOUSEKEEPING

## CHILD CARE AT THE SYNAGOGUE

Child care is always available at the Synagogue. All you have to do is to let us know two days in advance of an event or a service and we will be glad to help. **We love having children in the Sanctuary and the Chapel**, but sometimes they are uncomfortable with their surroundings and make it difficult for others to hear. Please let us help you strike the right balance between having your children at your side and making it possible for others to participate comfortably. Todah rabah!

# APRIL AT A GLANCE

6/7 WEEKEND WITH DANNY KRAFT

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14 BAR MITZVAH OF BEN KAISER-BULMASH

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## THE MESSENGER

March - Published Monthly | Bimonthly

### CONGREGATION B'NAI EMUNAH

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## ON THE COVER

A scene of matzah baking in Vilna, Lithuania before the Second World War. The process requires that the dough be mixed, rolled, and baked in an eighteen minute interval. The machine at the center of the picture was used for rolling. We are looking at the early mechanization of food preparation for Passover.

# THE MARCH CALENDAR AT B'NAI EMUNAH

## 3 BAR MITZVAH OF REID SOTKIN

The Synagogue notes with pride the upcoming bar mitzvah of Reid Sotkin, the son of Jason Sotkin and Michele Sotkin. Reid's preparations have been led by Greg Raskin and Sara Levitt. The Havdalah ceremony will begin at 5:30 p.m.

## 3 PURIM BASH AT INNER CIRCLE V-BAR

Join your friends for a millennials' celebration of Purim on Saturday, March 3, at Inner Circle Vodka Bar starting at 8:00 p.m. Entrance is free for those dressed in costume and \$10 per person otherwise. Drinks and small dishes are on us. For more information and to RSVP, please contact Sara Levitt at [slevitt@bnaiemunah.com](mailto:slevitt@bnaiemunah.com) or call (918) 583-7121.

## 9 TABLE TALK: LEE GORDON

For this edition of **Table Talks**, we welcome noted educator Lee Gordon, who will speak about his work co-founding the Hand in Hand Center for Jewish-Arab Education in Israel. Lee will be visiting Tulsa to accept the 2018 Brock International Prize in Education. Dinner is \$14 for adults; reservations can be made by calling the Synagogue office or visiting our website. The dinner will begin at 6:00 p.m. with the talk. Treats are scheduled for approximately 6:45 p.m. See [page 9](#) for details.

## 11 DOING JEWISH: BAR AND BAT MITZVAH

How does a child become an adult? At what point do we ever really grow up? In this month's edition of **Doing Jewish**, we take a look at the "coming of age" life cycle rituals known as Bar and Bat Mitzvah. These hour-long sessions on Basic Judaism are open to all. For questions or more information, contact Rabbi Kaiman through the Synagogue office. **Doing Jewish** begins at 11:00 a.m.

## 15 SEDER SIMPLIFIED

The most daunting holiday meal? Maybe. But we think hosting Seder can be a pretty manageable task. Just let the B'nai Emunah Cooking School and instructor Molly Berger show you the way. In this evening workshop, we'll dig our hands into essential recipes, learn skills that will save you time, and help you envision hosting a bountiful feast of your own. Along the way, we'll enjoy good food and have a great time together. Call our offices or visit the Synagogue website to register for this workshop. The program will begin at 6:00 p.m. The charge for materials is \$18.

## 21 MIDDLE SCHOOL MYSTERY MANIA

Calling all Synagogue middle school (6th – 8th grade) students! Join your friends from the Synagogue for a day on the town during spring break. The entire day will be a mystery to the teens as we gallivant around Tulsa. (Parents will be in the loop about our plans.) We will begin at 9:00 a.m. and wrap up our day at 4:30 p.m. at the Synagogue. The cost is \$36 per student, including lunch. Contact Morah Sara to hold your student's spot at [slevitt@bnaiemunah.com](mailto:slevitt@bnaiemunah.com) or call (918) 583-7121.

## 22 SOCIAL JUSTICE STORY HOUR

All are invited to join the B'nai Emunah Preschool community for Social Justice Story Hour in **The Khalid Jabara Tikkun Olam Memorial Library** at the Synagogue. Each month, we focus on a broad idea of social justice and make it accessible and meaningful to young children. We've explored issues of disaster relief and displacement, life cycle rituals around the world, immigration and child hunger. Our goal is to empower young children to use their strong voices and actions to be kind friends and helpers, as well as powerful agents of social change. Story hour begins at 5:30 p.m.

## 22 BETTY'S FINE PASSOVER FOODS

Beginning March 22, feel free to stop by the Synagogue during regular business hours to peruse our Kosher-for-Passover food items and make your holiday purchases. Remember, wonderful kosher meat is available for your Passover needs at Trader Joe's in Brookside.

## 23 BIBI-DIBI: SHABBAT FOR THE TINIEST

Very young children and their parents are invited to join us for another soft and cuddly Shabbat experience. It all gets started at 6:00 p.m. Parachutes, rattles, and toys sit at the center of our circle, while parents and kids share in the blessings of peaceful Shabbat. A delicious, kid-friendly Shabbat dinner accompanies this program. Please visit our website or call our offices by Thursday, March 22, to reserve your spot on the floor.

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THE B'NAI EMUNAH COOKING SCHOOL

Next session on Thursday, March 15

Seder simplified!

# THE CALENDAR [CONT.]

## 29 MILLENIALS IN THE KITCHEN

Join other Tulsa Jewish millennials in the kitchen! Learn some of the intricacies of cooking for the holiday of Passover and try your hand at a yummy recipe to take home with you. Each participant will take home a dish and a recipe. Space is limited. The cost is \$5 per person for supplies. Please RSVP to Sara at [slevitt@bnaiemunah.com](mailto:slevitt@bnaiemunah.com) or call 918-583-7121. The starting time is 7:00 p.m.

## 30 SELL YOUR CHAMAYTZ

Are you selling your chamaytz this year? Visit [tulsagogue.com/chamaytz](http://tulsagogue.com/chamaytz) to participate in this ritual transaction. We'd be glad to help! If you have any questions or would prefer an analog form, please contact Rabbi Kaiman through the Synagogue Office.

## 31 SECOND SEDER AT THE SYNAGOGUE

The Synagogue's annual **Second Seder** is open to the entire community, with a special welcome to Tulsa newcomers and those whose families are far away. Join Synagogue members and friends for a joyful celebration of the most important event in Jewish history. The seder will feature spirited and moving music from members of the Synagogue's instrumental ensemble, Klay Kodesh, and participants will enjoy a festive mixture of Ashkenazic and Sephardic traditions. For more details or to make your reservation, please call our office or visit our website. Seder begins at 6:30 p.m.

# MITZVOT

## ART FROM THE HEART

Imagine that you are just getting started again after a period of homelessness or dislocation. You have some tableware and a bed to sleep in, but your walls are bare and your apartment looks temporary. At the same time, you have to husband your resources and concentrate on the basics.

Enter "Art from the Heart." The purpose of this project is to give framed artwork to the residents of community-supported housing in the Tulsa area. The Synagogue has now been the conduit for a significant flow of contributions. All you have to do is drop your gift off at the Synagogue. For information about pickup of your artwork at your home, please call Dr. Melissa Weiss at (918) 260-2294.

# NEW MEMBERS

## WE'RE STRONGER

Thanks so much to these good people for joining the Synagogue family and taking the next part of their Jewish journey with us. We appreciate their willingness to strengthen our efforts at learning, celebration, and community!

**Meagan and Ryan Dickinson**  
3718 East 48th Street  
Tulsa, Oklahoma 74135

**Ryan Donaldson**  
107 North Detroit Avenue, #205  
Tulsa, Oklahoma 74120

**Emily and David Fisher**  
1544 East 35th Place  
Tulsa, Oklahoma 74105

**Esteban and Monica Goldzweig**  
**Robbie and Jozzie**  
3214 East 77th Place  
Tulsa, Oklahoma 74136

**Elissa Renberg**  
**Lily Adcock**  
8 Woodward Blvd  
Tulsa, Oklahoma 74114

**Meredith and Colby Wyatt**  
2617 East 2nd Street  
Tulsa, Oklahoma 74104

# TODAH RABAH

## THANK YOU

A warm todah rabah to our volunteers, who helped bring smiles to members of our community when they need it most. Cheryl Myers and Vellie Bloch, Carol Mandelbaum, Mabelle Diemart, Sally Donaldson, Nancy Cohen, Joan and Les Neidell, Terry Marcum and Jackie Lasky have all been extraordinarily helpful. Interested in helping with **Bikur Cholim** or **Elijah's Cloak**? Contact Sara Levitt at [slevitt@bnaiemunah.com](mailto:slevitt@bnaiemunah.com) or call (918) 583-7121.

BIBI-DIBI AT THE SYNAGOGUE

MARCH 23, 2018, AT 6:00 P.M. PLEASE JOIN US!

# FROM RABBI FITZGERMAN

## ■ TOURO

We know a great deal about Judah Touro, namesake of the honor bestowed by the Synagogue each year. Descended from a line of Sephardic Jews from Holland, he was born into a prominent family in Newport. But early prominence only gets you so far. Orphaned with his siblings, he was raised by an uncle and eventually found his way to New Orleans.

Once there, he established a general store, but his life was interrupted by the War of 1812. After serious injury, he returned to business and built the career for which he is remembered. At the end of his life, he was the most notable Jew in America—a titan of philanthropy, good works, and institution building. He was also a pioneer in what we now call interfaith relations. Judah Touro was as good as it got—a perfect gentleman and a self-made man.

I'm happy to announce that the honor that bears his name will be bestowed this year on Dave and Barbara Sylan. You will hear more about this in the coming months, but the Sylans have had a remarkable career of their own, mirroring many of the commitments of Touro, himself. Every Jewish institution in Tulsa has benefitted from their time, energy, and resources. On many occasions, their contributions have been transformative, and their philanthropy radiates a sense of joyful readiness.

I should also note that their efforts are boundaryless. To take a single example of their work in the larger world, the Iron Gate community has benefitted significantly from their efforts. The same is true for many arts organizations in Tulsa.

I hope you will be present to hear more about all of this and that you will help us honor Dave and Barbara at the Synagogue. The date we've chosen is Thursday, May 17, right in the middle of springtime in Tulsa.

The **Touro Banquet** is one of the highlights of the year and helps us foreground the ideas of generosity and service. Invitations will reach you shortly and we ask that you make your reservations early. Onward and upward with Dave and Barbara Sylan!



MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION?

PLEASE CALL RABBI KAIMAN AT (918) 583-7121.

# BAR MITZVAH

## ■ REID SOTKIN

Reid Hyland Sotkin, son of Jason Sotkin and Michele Sotkin, brother of Alexi Sotkin, and grandson of loving grandparents, Jeanne and Steve Sotkin and Albert and Robbie Selkin, will become a bar mitzvah on Saturday, March 3.

Reid attends Jenks Middle School, and thrives in academics and life skills. His exceptional interest in how things work began as a toddler. His craving for knowledge of how something works, why something happens and how intricate machines are made leads to his inquisitive questions and research.

He currently plays tennis at Jenks High School and loves many sports. From the moment he could walk, he began skateboarding on ramps, and at four years old, it was amazing to see him race across the ice in hockey and ride motorized dirt bikes. His talent in basketball, baseball, wake-boarding and snowboarding followed. He continues to receive recognition for his excellent grades and shows great empathy toward other people and deep care for animals in need.

We are all very proud of Reid as he embraces his Jewish religion and heritage. Teachers and leaders at B'nai Emunah have been key to this growth, along with his supportive family and community.

Preparations for Reid's bar mitzvah have been led by Greg Raskin. Please join the Sotkin family for a Havdallah service at 5:30 p.m.



# SISTERS | JANET DUNDEE

## ■ IMPORTANT DATE CHANGE

Please note that Sisterhood has moved Sisterhood Shabbat to Saturday, May 5, 2018. Please join Sisterhood as we lead services, recite Saturday morning prayers and hear a meaningful D'var Torah, all orchestrated by the women of B'nai Emunah.

Following Shabbat morning services, there will be a light luncheon. We invite the entire congregation and friends to join in this joyous Shabbat celebration.

For more information, please email our Sisterhood Shabbat chair, Hillary Roubein, at [hillaryroubein@gmail.com](mailto:hillaryroubein@gmail.com).

## ■ BOOK CLUB IN APRIL

The Sisterhood Book Club has been a very successful and well-attended program. Thanks again to Alice Blue and Jennifer Airey for leading our first two meetings.

Elana Newman has volunteered to facilitate the April meeting (date to be announced very soon). Selected for review and dialogue is **Lilac Girls** by Martha Hall Kelly. Based on a true story and inspired by the lives of Caroline Ferriday, a New York socialite, and Dr. Herta Oberhauser, a Nazi physician, **Lilac Girls** is a powerful novel about love, redemption and terrible secrets hidden for decades during World War II.

This book is available through local book sellers and through the Tulsa County Library. Sisterhood guarantees a lively conversation. Watch the Synagogue email newsletter for the date and time for the Book Club meeting.

## ■ IRON GATE

Once again, we remind you that Sisterhood continues to serve breakfast at Iron Gate on the fourth Sunday of the month. We hope you will be part of this wonderful mitzvah.

Men and women over the age of 13 years are invited to volunteer from 8:30-10:45 a.m. on that Sunday morning. Contact Sarah-Anne Schumann at [hennschu@gmail.com](mailto:hennschu@gmail.com) to let her know you are "all in!"

## ■ COUNT DOWN TO PASSOVER

This year, First Seder is Friday evening, March 30, and Sisterhood's Gift Shop is gearing up for almost everything but the chicken soup for your Seder. And there's even a recipe for Chicken Soup/Matzah Balls to be found in **Kum Essen V!**

(continued from page 8)

# FROM RABBI KAIMAN

## ■ JOURNEYS

I never used to travel with a camera. My theory was plain; traveling was about experiences. And I never wanted a lens, or the task of capturing a moment, to impede the experience of a moment itself. I wanted to "live in the present." I wanted to immerse myself fully.

And so, as it happens, there are many journeys I have taken for which there is very little record. Of course, I have my memories and my writing. But the prompt of a photo to recall my adventures seldom exists for a whole period of my life.

My approach had intended to create lasting recollection through first-hand experience. Yet the result has been illusory memory and distant feelings. While I may have lived those adventures "up-close," in a very real way, it is as if they have faded from reality.

The central command of Passover is clear. In every generation, we each are each obligated to see ourselves as if we personally had experienced Exodus from Egypt. Our tradition wants us to recall the memory in such a way that it feels tangible and familiar. But how are we to do this when we never had the experience in the first place?

The answer? Take a picture. No, I'm not talking about pulling out your camera-phone to snap a selfie. What our tradition wants us to do is consciously prepare for ritual and practice. By preparing, we are framing our experiences in such a way that we remember and will be able to remember. It is not sufficient to simply "live in the present." Rather, we exert effort in advance of the moment to ensure lasting impact.

The error of my earlier self was to assume that memory was only created through experience. But we know this not to be true. To hold onto a unique moment in our lives, we need to be conscious about recording the moment. This can only be achieved through careful preparation and intention in our actions.

And so, as the days of Passover draw near, I encourage you to take the time to prepare. Read about the holiday, throw out all the bread in your kitchen, try out a new recipe for seder. There are many ways we can raise our consciousness about this experiential holiday. And in doing so, we can create memories that last.



# IN OUR SCHOOL FROM MORAH SARA LEVITT

## ■ WAITING FOR REDEMPTION

As Passover approaches, we are reminded again of the story of our ancestors living in slavery for 400 years in Egypt and their subsequent freedom under the inspiration of God and the direction of Moses. Passover has the makings of any great tale—a villain, a hero, interesting characters and plot twists and, of course, the fairy tale ending. The holiday is rich with themes of redemption, hope, renewal and freedom. Our collective memory of this event, and perhaps even the historical trauma of slavery and leaving Egypt, makes a thematic reappearance throughout the Jewish narrative. We often recall our time as slaves in Egypt and our texts remind us that we were once strangers in a strange land, imploring us to treat strangers with kindness and dignity. On Passover, we even physically remind ourselves of our hardships with salt water and charoset and the scores of other symbols of our tragic story. We hope to leave our Seder tables inspired and charged with a sense of purpose.

Passover is perhaps the perfect opportunity to remind ourselves of those in our world today who are waiting for redemption, praying for freedom and dreaming of hope. Last year, the Synagogue began a project that put us side by side with those who have had their own Passover story in recent years. Our English as a Second Language program engages refugee students who have fled their home countries of Burma, Russia and Ukraine to the United States for a better life. Many of them lived for years in refugee camps, before being allowed into the United States. They are now starting over, navigating the complexities of our systems and our language. The parallels in their experience to our own story are too obvious to overlook. This Passover I am thinking of them—a highly motivated group eager to learn and to contribute to our country and our community. They are extremely grateful and humble for the work of the Synagogue and Catholic Charities in our initiative to help them adjust to their new home. I am thinking about the holy work our volunteers do in supporting our teachers, and the tender love and care given to students' children while their parents are learning.

This spring, Bobbie Chew Bigby, our esteemed teacher, and I are going to begin exploring ways to develop our program further. We are beginning with assessing the current needs of the community and additional opportunities for partnership. Bobbie and I are committed to moving the classes in a direction that will elevate our students' educational experiences.

We are embodying through this initiative the notion that we too were strangers in the land of Egypt. Join us this season in

helping the strangers in our land. Please be in touch via email at [slevitt@bnaiemunah.com](mailto:slevitt@bnaiemunah.com) or phone at (918) 583-7121 for more information and to volunteer.

## SISTERS [CONT.]

(continued from page 6)

## ■ GIFT SHOP

Shop local and buy your Judaica at the Sisterhood Shop. There will be seder plates, novelty items adding meaningful fun to the Seder, a variety of Haggadot, candles, greeting cards and more. Proceeds from Gift Shop sales help Sisterhood meet its annual donation to the Synagogue Religious School program. So that's a 2 for 1 purchase—good for you and good for the kids. Nancy Cohen, Gift Shop chair, can help with your Passover needs. Don't "Passover" the opportunity to shop for all your Judaica needs at the Sisterhood shop.

## MAZAL TOV

Mazel tov to Ryan and Bekah Kriegsman on the celebration of their marriage on January 6, 2018, in Norman, Oklahoma. Ryan is the son of Ted Kriegsman and Susan and Mark Ballew of Tulsa. Bekah is the daughter of Jim and Audrey Martin of Norman.

Congratulations to Michael and Marcy Cyter on the celebration of their marriage on January 21, 2018.

Mazel tov to Renee Kaplan, who was recently honored by the Realtors Association on achieving a 40-year milestone in the real estate field.

Kudos to Alin Avitan on successfully fulfilling the requirements for U.S. citizenship. Much good fortune to our congregation's newest official American!

Mazel tov to Toby Hurewitz on the naming of her twin girls Adinah Rose and Eliana Jane Hurewitz. Adinah's Hebrew name is Malka Rachel and Eliana will be known in Hebrew as Elisheva Devora.

PLEASE REMEMBER THAT MARCH 31 IS  
THE CLOSE OF OUR FISCAL YEAR. HELP US  
MEET OUR FINANCIAL RESPONSIBILITIES.

# FEATURED EVENTS AT THE SYNAGOGUE

## LEE GORDON: HAND IN HAND

In a society that feels perpetually divided, how do people build a shared society? In 1997, two activists, Lee Gordon and Amin Khalaf, joined creative forces to pursue an idea. Together, they co-founded **Hand in Hand**, the center for Jewish-Arab education in Israel. With a mission to create strong and inclusive community, their idea is now a network of six schools with over 1,578 Jewish and Arab students and more than 8,000 community members.

Originally from the United States, Lee Gordon earned an M.A. in social work from the Hebrew University in Jerusalem and graduated from the Mandel Institute's prestigious School for Educational Leadership. Gordon is the 2018 Laureate for the Brock International Prize in Education and regularly addresses audiences about issues of co-existence, shared society and education.

On Friday, March 9, Lee will join our community for a Table Talks Shabbat dinner. The meal begins at 6:00 p.m. and will be followed by a talk at 6:45 p.m. The whole community is invited to participate in this conversation and reflect on the important model's partnership exhibited through Gordon's work. Reservations may be made by calling the Synagogue office or visiting our website. Cost is \$14 for adults.



A scene at *Hand in Hand*, the program founded by Lee Gordon and Amin Khalaf in Israel

## SECOND SEDER AT THE SYNAGOGUE

Congregation B'nai Emunah's annual **Second Seder at the Synagogue** is scheduled for Saturday evening, March 31, in Kaiser-Miller Auditorium beginning at 6:30 p.m. The event is open to the entire community, with a special welcome to Tulsa newcomers and those whose families are far away. Join Synagogue members and friends for a joyful celebration of the most important event in Jewish history.

The Seder will feature spirited and moving music from members of the Synagogue's instrumental ensemble, Klay Kodesh, and participants will enjoy a festive mix of Ashkenazic and Sephardic traditions. Please note that **Cantor Rafi Dworsky** will join us this year!

The Synagogue can seat 200 people for this event; reservations need to be confirmed by check or charge. Cost for adults, age 13 and up, is \$36; for children ages 4-12, \$18. Children ages 1-3 are \$6.

If you would like to reserve an entire table for up to 8 guests, please let us know, and we would be glad to oblige. To reserve such a table paid reservations of all guests sitting with you must be received no later than Monday, March 19. Please call our office to discuss your preferences. You may also make reservations by visiting our website.

Please note that the first part of the Seder will unfold between 6:30 and 7:30 p.m. The meal following will last until approximately 8:30 p.m., and we will close the evening by 9:30 p.m.

Thanks to the generosity of **B'nai Brith**, along with the Sam Marks Helping Hand Fund of the Synagogue, we would be glad to accommodate those for whom the price of attending poses a challenge. Please speak with Rabbi Kaiman or Betty Lehman at the Synagogue Office, if you would be benefited by financial assistance.

Are you selling your **chamaytz** this year? Visit [tulsa-synagogue.com/chamaytz](https://tulsa-synagogue.com/chamaytz) to complete this ritual task digitally. Call the Synagogue office if you'd like an analog form for this purpose. We'd be glad to help you with this ritual transaction.

Need Passover supplies? **Betty's Fine Foods** will be open in the weeks before Passover to help you secure all your holiday needs. Contact Betty Lehman by calling the office for more details.



# FEATURED EVENTS [CONT.]

(continued from page 8)

## TODAH RABAH

## MAZAL TOV

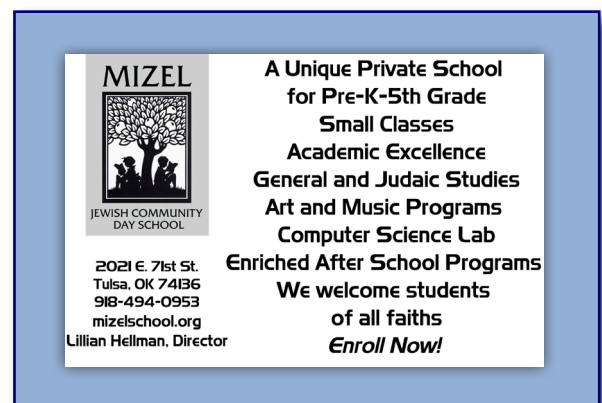
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# A CONGREGATION OF IMMIGRANTS



In the center of this picture are Jocelyn Brody and her two daughters. Pacey is on the left side of the frame, and Shelato is on the right. Shelato came to the United States from Sidama, Ethiopia, in 2010. Pacey arrived from Oromia, Ethiopia, in 2008. The girls hold pictures of their birth families in each hand as a way of honoring their origins and those who brought them into the world. In Pacey's right hand is a photo of herself, her brother, Hailu, and her sister, Bilise. In her left hand is an image of Pacey and her birth mother, Bachu.

On the other side of the picture, Shelato holds a picture of her birth father, Dawit; her siblings, Tungitu, Bereket, Mitsuat, and baby Sitota; and her step-mother, Esther. In her left hand is another image of her birth father, Dawit, along with Shelato, herself.

We're so happy that the Brody family agreed to be photographed this month. If you would like to be featured in an upcoming edition of the **Messenger**, please let us know!