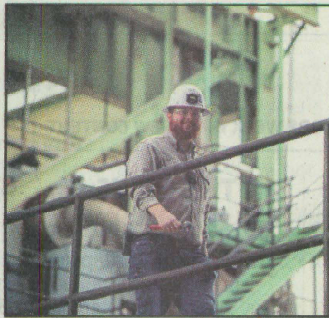




Building a Stronger Grid for Oklahoma



**PUBLIC SERVICE
COMPANY OF
OKLAHOMA**

TULSA WORLD

Meet the 10 best Tulsa-area running backs, then cast your vote **SPORTS, PAGE B4**

Cybersecurity threats, AI and skills gaps highlighted at Tulsa workforce event **BUSINESS, PAGE E1**



MTV at 45: Tulsa and former Tulsan played major roles in music video channel's boom years **SCENE, PAGE D1**

Life's work for genealogist finds home at Tulsa's Sherwin Miller Museum of Jewish Art **METRO & REGION, PAGE A13**

Sunday, July 26, 2026

WHERE YOUR STORY LIVES

tulsaworld.com

Genealogist donates life's work to local art museum

BELLA CASEY
Tulsa World

History is on the move.

One hundred pounds of free luggage at a time. A few flights here and there. One big trip next spring.

Jewish genealogist Miriam Weiner, 83, donated her life's work to the Sherwin Miller Museum of Jewish Art, museum officials announced this month. The massive archive of genealogical material is already in the process of relocating, and the full collection is slated to arrive at the museum next spring with help from Weiner, museum officials and professional art movers.

"It was absolutely a no-brainer to bring this to Oklahoma," Chief Museum Officer Tracey Herst-Woods said. "For her family's history, for her, what she's created over the last 40 years, her in-depth knowledge, and having her here to tell us these stories and things that she has seen — (it) has been just astounding, and so we're honored and humbled that it's coming here."

Weiner

From A13

The collection lives with Weiner in her New Jersey home and online at the website she made for others to access the information called Routes to Roots. The move preserves and expands access to the information Weiner spent most of her life gathering.

She spent about five decades traveling overseas, scouring records and interviewing Jewish people to acquire important maps, lists, photographs, postcards, interview transcriptions and more. And that came after she worked as a paralegal and for country music star Bobbie Gentry.

The career she devoted her life to was no office job — a lot of her interview material is collected in small towns with dwindling Jewish populations. She is sometimes responsible for caring for precious family heirlooms and she started traveling to Ukraine when it was still a communist country. All to help families understand their history.

"It's really fun," she said of her work.

Weiner's passion for the time-consuming process started at a family bar mitzvah where she didn't recognize many of her relatives.

"So I started making little drawings of family trees and that sort of thing, and that really got me interested in this," Weiner said. "Plus, I'm named after my grandmother."

A Ku Klux Klan member in 1924 shot and killed Weiner's grandmother Miriam Odnopozov Rabkin in a Tulsa neighborhood. Rabkin is buried in Tulsa, along with Weiner's grandfather, making Tulsa a suitable home for her collection, Weiner explained. She



COURTESY, MIRIAM WEINER

Jewish genealogist Miriam Weiner, left, and Sherwin Miller Museum of Jewish Art Chief Museum Officer Tracey Herst-Woods, right, are working together to move Weiner's important archives to the museum in Tulsa.

said she can't help but dream that her grandmother would be proud of her reconnection to Tulsa in spite of their family history.

Because she considered other locations. It took her a decade to finally select Tulsa.

Weiner talked with the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington, D.C., where officials were interested in her Holocaust material, but they didn't specialize

in genealogy, she said. The Library of Congress also expressed interest, but only in her business directories and telephone books for small towns in Ukraine. Her local library could store the collection but not display it.

Then her friend, Jewish Genealogy Society of Tulsa President Phil Goldfarb, suggested the Sherwin Miller Museum of Jewish Art in Tulsa. The Jewish Genealogy

Society of Tulsa is a museum resource.

"I came out to meet with them (museum officials) last year," Weiner said. "There was just a tremendous interest, and not just the material or having it, but what they could do with it."

Herst-Woods said she knew the collection was a "treasure trove" of genealogy, and it could offer research and learning

opportunities to college students across the state. Museum officials are building a new space within the museum that will serve as a hub for Jewish genealogy research, history and culture.

"That space will now officially be the Miriam Weiner Jewish Genealogy Archive Collection," Herst-Woods said.

bella.casey@tulsaworld.com