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ARIZONA

THE JEWISH LIFESTYLE MAGAZINE FOR ARIZONA

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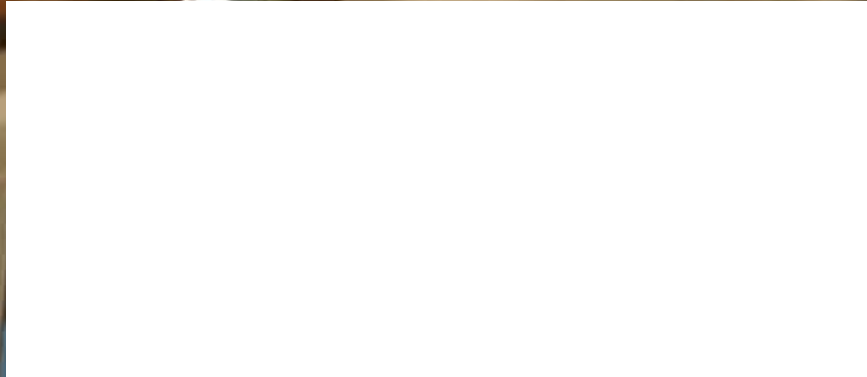
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Editor's Letter



This month Arizona Jewish Life looks at education and the impact good schools and good teachers can have on children. An excellent teacher influences a child's life long after the school year ends.

A 2012 study by professors at Harvard and Columbia tracked 2.5 million students over 20 years, from fourth grade to adulthood. It showed that a good teacher improves lives into adulthood. I think most adults can look back on a teacher who made a difference in their lives. I know I can. I feel fortunate to have had many wonderful teachers growing up. But I remember two without whom I would not be a journalist. When I was in seventh grade, my family moved to the small town of Youngstown, NY. The transition to junior high was especially nerve-racking, since I had spent most of the previous years in class with the pretty much the same 20-25 children. But Mrs. Smith, yes that really was my English teacher's name, changed my experience. From our first writing assignment she became my champion. She inspired me to think and write clearly. And at the end of seventh grade, she recommended me for a special eighth-grade class in creative writing instead of the standard eighth-grade English. That class, too, was wonderful,

though I can't recall the name of the teacher who guided us as we spent the year writing, among other things, our own novel. As much as I enjoyed writing, when I headed to college, I enrolled in science and math classes so I could apply to vet school. After spending a summer working in a vet clinic, I realized I didn't want to become a veterinarian. I had taken several literature courses with one professor who taught me a lot about writing. On my very first essay in his class, he wrote in huge red letters, "Holes you could drive a truck through" and "Support this." I took his comments to heart and learned more about writing with purpose. When I wanted to change my major, I went to talk to him. He suggested I apply to the technical journalism department – it would use my science background and my writing skills. "You are a good writer," he assured me.

I took his advice and have never been sorry. For this issue I talked to some wonderful educators whom I expect to have just as much impact on their students. As you read about them, I hope you find yourself smiling as you remember your own favorite teacher.

Deborah

Letters to the Editors

I receive Jewish Life Magazine. I am the past president of the Phoenix Holocaust Survivors' Association. I am impressed with your magazine, which gives a much broader view of what is going on in the Jewish community. I love the article about Alex ("Schindler's List survivor Dr. Alexander White," November 2013), who is a friend, and so much admire Todd ("Todd Herzog & Jewish Music Fest," November 2013), who has done so much to bring us together. Thank you for being here.

Kae Knight
Phoenix

I just wanted to write you and thank you very much for the lovely article that you wrote about me and the festival for AZ Jewish Life. It came out beautifully and I have only gotten fantastic feedback about both the content and the presentation. The magazine itself looks incredible, and I am honored that you included me in this way. I'm sure it will help our efforts to get the word out.

Todd Herzog
Phoenix

I loved the article about Todd Herzog in Arizona Jewish Life. I wish I could be there for the music festival. Thank you so much for writing a wonderful

article about an inspirational and talented young man who clearly understands that Jewish music has a scope far greater than most Jews realize. Many Jews are familiar with wonderful singers such as Theodore Bikel, Debbie Friedman, Shlomo Carlbach, Matisyahu, the Klezmatics, and (hopefully) Yale Strom -- each of whom is different in his/her Jewish music and focus. But how many American Jews are familiar with the late Zohar Argov, the Israeli who sang in the Mizrahi tradition, or the wonderful Mor Karbasi, whose Ladino melodies are known throughout the countries bordering the Mediterranean? Secular and spiritual The breadth and variety of Israeli, Sephardic, Mizrahi, European Yiddish, Hebrew, holiday, folk songs, liturgical and cantorial music and the variations within each are a reflection of the Jewish people's survival, adaption and culture. Festivals such as Herzog's can expose different generations to the wealth of Jewish music. I hope his Arizona Jewish Music Festival will be the first of many.

Ed Karesky
San Diego (former resident of Phoenix)

I'm so thrilled to find your magazine. Everything was absolutely wonderful.

Rosalind Jansen
Phoenix

SOUNDBITES

NEXT MONTH: For our special section on weddings in our February issue, we want to hear from couples for our monthly Soundbites feature (see page 47 in this issue). **Tell us about how you met and/or your proposal.** Please send a "couple photo" and your short story (up to 70 words) of how you proposed or met to editor1@azjewishlife.com by Jan. 8.

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Game On!

Transforming Recess

By Jane Larson



Playworks Arizona Executive Director Chuck Warshaver helps kids enjoy positive playtime.

Imagine a 7-year-old child – say his name is Oscar. As a smaller, shy boy, there’s one thing he hates at school more than anything – recess. That’s when the bullies seek him out. He doesn’t know how to play any of the games, and no one invites or teaches him to play. Oscar’s teacher knows he’s afraid of recess, because he starts tuning her out during class as he spends time thinking about how best to escape the bullies. The teacher also sees the effects as she gathers kids back to class, because the negative energy from conflicts at recess takes time to dissipate before classroom learning can resume.

This is a real story from too many schools ... until Playworks comes in.

Playworks transforms the schoolyard by placing a full-time coach at a school to teach kids how to play together, be inclusive and resolve conflicts through the rock/paper/scissors game. The results are amazing: as bullying decreases, students feel safer and healthier, and students return to class ready to learn. Kids like Oscar are playing the games like everyone else, feeling safer and included. Teachers credit the program with improved behavior and faster transitions to learning time.

To Chuck Warshaver, executive director of Playworks Arizona, transforming recess can give kids the same inclusive playtime he experienced as a child growing up in Schenectady, NY.

“When I was a kid, we were taught how to play by the older kids,” the 53-year-old Warshaver says. “They would teach us how to play kickball, dodge ball, basketball, handball and all the different games ... The culture was, you’d go outside and play all day long, and then at recess at school, you’d know the games.”

Warshaver went on to play basketball and tennis in high school and tennis in college. That experience in sports, along with his Jewish faith, helped shape his belief in inclusiveness. His family belonged to synagogues when they lived in Schenectady, where the Jewish population was small, and when they moved to Boston, where the Jewish population was larger. At Williams College in Massachusetts, he was again in the minority but didn’t feel singled out.

“Never in my life did I experience any negativity about being Jewish,” Warshaver says, though he knows others who have. “I grew up in a lot of

diversity, and it was really inclusive, so that’s the culture that I’m used to.”

After graduation, Warshaver joined his family’s mattress manufacturing business. When the family sold the business and Warshaver’s non-compete agreement expired, he cofounded World Sleep Products in 1992.

While running World Sleep Products, though, Warshaver’s belief in inclusiveness was tested. Workers in his mattress factory came from a variety of ethnicities, and they weren’t getting along.

Warshaver remembered a trip led by Combined Jewish Philanthropies that he and other Jewish community leaders had taken to the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington, D.C. – and the moving speech and discussion that followed at their dinner that night. He turned to the Anti-Defamation League for help and spent more than \$30,000 to replicate the trip for his employees.

His workers came out of the museum crying, Warshaver says. At lunch, an ADL speaker reminded them that if Adolph Hitler had had his way, none of them would be there. “The speaker was so powerful and moving,” Warshaver says. “When you start thinking you’re the superior and someone’s telling you, ‘This is what reality would have been, you’re all in this together,’ it makes a big difference.”

When the group returned to work, Warshaver says, the old issues of exclusion and superiority were gone. Years later, employees were still talking about the experience.

The economic downturn of 2008 pared World Sleep’s customer base, and Warshaver and his partners sold the company in 2010. As he and his wife Shari prepared to retire, they decided to leave the Northeast for better weather and a place where Shari could meet other former Midwesterners. They visited Arizona in August, bought a home in Scottsdale and settled in.

Warshaver didn’t intend to go back to work. He began mentoring entrepreneurs through SCORE (a business mentoring group) and other programs. He got involved in the same groups he had been involved in back East, including Special Olympics, Big Brothers Big Sisters and the ADL. Key words for all those organizations included: anti-bullying, inclusion, under-served children.



Playworks Arizona
playworks.org/arizona
 Phone: 480-525-6566

In 2012 Warshaver received an email from the networking website LinkedIn that Playworks Arizona was looking for an executive director. It fit his passion for mentoring and sports as a way to teach young people social skills and citizenship. “The more I looked into it, the more I really liked what they were doing and how comprehensive it was,” he says. He connected to Playworks’ founder Jill Vialet, who urged him to apply, and Warshaver was hired in July 2012.

Playworks Arizona operated then in seven schools with 4,000 students. It will be expanding to 14 schools with more than 10,000 students by January 2014, and Warshaver’s goal for the next academic year is 24 schools with 15,000 students or more. The pace of growth is rapid, just like a start-up, and Warshaver



Playworks Arizona Executive Director Chuck Warshaver, right, talks with Chompies Founders Lou and Lovey Borenstein about why they chose to help Playworks stop bullying.

says his role as executive director is to build the brand and raise funds.

“The kids we serve are the poorest of poor,” Warshaver says. “When we come in, we create a high-five culture. We tell them, ‘good job,’ ‘nice try,’ and they start feeling good about themselves. It’s really amazing to see a kid who doesn’t feel good about himself transform into someone who has self-respect and empathy.”

Playworks is the nation’s only nonprofit organization to send trained, full-time coaches to low-income, urban schools. The coaches introduce classic games like kickball and new games designed to build leadership and foster teamwork. Nationally, the Oakland, CA-based organization serves more than 300,000 children in 300 low-income schools in 23 regions across the country.

Studies back the benefits of Playworks. A national study by Stanford University and Mathematica Policy Research found that teachers in Playworks schools reported an average of 43% less bullying and exclusionary behavior and an average of 20% greater feelings of safety among students compared to teachers at similar schools without Playworks programs. Teachers in Playworks schools also said it took them 34% less time to shift from recess to learning compared to teachers in schools without Playworks.

A survey of teachers and administrators from the seven metro Phoenix schools with Playworks during the 2012-2013 school year credits the program with a 90% reduction in disciplinary incidents compared to before Playworks began at their school, a 68% increase in academic success and 16 hours of recovered teaching time.

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Playworks Arizona's supporters include Chompie's New York Style Deli, a family-owned eatery with four locations in metro Phoenix. The Borenstein family, which owns Chompie's, visited schools and was overwhelmed by Playworks' success in reducing bullying and increasing teacher time.

"I'm very passionate about this because I was bullied a lot when I was in school. I was a heavy kid, and I dreaded getting on the bus every morning," says Neal Borenstein, co-owner of Chompie's. "Playworks bringing this kind of stuff into the schools, where kids can feel as one, is very important."

Chompie's and Playworks have created a children's menu to teach sharing, inclusion and conflict resolution. Chompie's also makes a donation to Playworks for purchases from the new menu and of Chompie's water bottles. The first donation for sales through late October totaled \$11,282 in cash and in-kind donations, and Chompie's plans to make donations regularly.

Nathan Hoffman, president and CEO of Live 3V and a member of Chabad of Chandler, is a member of Playworks' Leadership Council. He believes the program has multiple community benefits.

"The principles and lessons learned through Playworks go far beyond the playground," says Hoffman. "Teaching these kids to lead, collaborate and work together will benefit them personally as well as the community as they eventually become adults within the workforce."

"As adults, we can learn a lot from Playworks as well," Hoffman continues. "I use rock/paper/scissors to solve everyday conflicts. It could range from a dumb bet to major business decisions. It always works and allows the losing party to avoid residual hurt feelings."

Jay Spector, certified financial planner and wealth management advisor at Merrill Lynch and a member of Or Chadash synagogue in Scottsdale, also serves on the Leadership Council. He notes that the energy Chuck brings to the organization is contagious.

"I'm not the first person that was told that I needed to meet Chuck," says Spector. "The passion and enthusiasm Chuck displays towards Playworks makes you want attend recess and see the program in action. Once you see it, you're completely hooked, because it's easy to recognize the positive impact it creates within schools and in the lives of so many kids."

Warshaver the businessman knows he needs to balance Playworks' Arizona's growth with funding, and the organization can use sponsors and help for upcoming events. It costs approximately \$60,000 to place a full-time coach in one school for a year. The school pays \$23,500 of that, and Playworks must raise the remaining funds.

This spring Playworks will hold two of its biggest fundraising events. On Feb. 21, Playworks hosts its 2nd annual Corporate Kickball Tournament featuring 32 teams (there are still some team spots available). The organization hosts its Run the Runway event April 5. The 5K is held on the runway of the Scottsdale Airport. A full list of upcoming events or information on how to get involved can be viewed at playworks.org/arizona.

"The bottom line for me is, I am 'all in' because I believe what we're doing is making a huge difference," Warshaver says. "I don't care who you are, just come out and see our recess in action, you'll be amazed and inspired – Game On!"

Josh Weiss contributed to this story.

BIZ INS&OUTS



Jessica Berg joins Congregation Kehillah

Jessica Berg is the new executive director of Congregation Kehillah in Scottsdale. Jessica served as executive director of the Lodestar

Day Resource Center from 2006 to 2013. Before that, she was the special assistant to the Maricopa County Manager through the National Urban Fellowship scholarship. She continues to draw on her past experiences as an art therapist, a community development director with Peacekeeper Cause-metics, and a camp director and program coordinator with the Jewish Community Center.

She holds a Master of Public Administration degree from Baruch College (City University of New York), a Master of Art Therapy from George Washington University and a Bachelor of Arts from Duke University. After college Jessica spent 10 months living in Israel through the Project Otzma program.

In 2011 Jessica was a finalist for the City of Phoenix Chamber of Commerce Athena Awards. Jessica and her husband, Al Aguinaga, are proud parents of 1-year-old Asher. Congregation Kehillah shares space at Har Zion Congregation's site at 6140 E Thunderbird Road in Scottsdale. kehillahofarizona.org



Steven Cohen now of counsel at Nussbaum Gillis & Dinner

Steven A. Cohen, personal injury lawyer, is now of counsel at the firm of Nussbaum Gillis & Dinner in Scottsdale. Steve, who has been practicing here for 35 years, says, "It's a great fit. The firm's lawyers handle legal matters that I do not, such as real estate, commercial and bankruptcy cases, and they have not

traditionally handled injury claims. We each have our own areas of expertise and all of our clients benefit.

Steve is a State Bar of Arizona board-certified specialist in injury and wrongful death litigation and has been named a Southwest Super Lawyer every year since 2007.

An interesting offshoot of his practice is Steve's interest in motorcycles. Helping his clients deal with devastating consequences of motorcycle accidents, Steve supports and promotes the well-being of motorcyclists to increase awareness and education regarding rider safety.

Originally from New York, Steve has lived in the Valley since 1973 and received both his undergraduate and law degrees from ASU. Steve is proud of the fact that he was appointed as a judge for the Paradise Valley Municipal Court and has served as such since 2001. Prior to that, he also served on the Paradise Valley Planning Commission. He is perhaps equally proud that he was able to create a co-ed softball league through Temple Solel, which plays regularly on Sunday mornings! He and his wife Shari are long-time members of Temple Solel, where both of their now adult daughters, Shana and Jennifer, became b'nai mitzvah.

You can reach Steve at 602-677-3216 or steven@cohenlawgrp.com

Suzanne Swift to direct Jewish Book Council Network

Suzanne Swift, former program director at the Valley of the Sun JCC, is now the director of the Jewish Book Council Network.

She will be working from Phoenix and New York to place authors at book events, fairs and other programs around the United States and Canada at the 110 participating network sites. She will be working with about 260 authors and publicists who have current books available. Suzanne will also be running the annual conference at which the authors and site representatives meet.

"It is very exciting to be working with JBC," Suzanne says. "This is an organization that I have worked with both in my many roles at VOSJCC and the New Orleans JCC. They have an amazing staff, and I'm so happy to be a part of it." For now, Suzanne will be based in Phoenix with regular trips to New York. jewishbookcouncil.org



Nathine Goldenthal new AVIV president

Nathine Tereana Goldenthal has been elected president of AVIV, the local Jewish LGBT organization. AVIV is a religious and social organization fulfilling the needs of the LGBT Jewish community of Greater Phoenix, holding regular Shabbat and holiday services as well as social events.

As a professional model and video personality, Nathine promotes AVIV during various festivals, including doing live promotions. As president this year she hopes to guide the group as they publish their own siddur with orientation toward the LGBT Jewish community and expand their membership base with increasing social activities. The group is currently accepting donations to help with the printing of the prayerbook. Nathine promises to be "developing a whole new agenda for the coming year." Services are held at Temple Chai in northeast Phoenix and at the Cutler-Plotkin Jewish Heritage Center in downtown Phoenix. avivaz.com



Congregation Anshei Israel receives Schechter Commendation

Congregation Anshei Israel has received The United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism's Centennial Schechter Commendation for the creation of mobile applications for Apple and Android devices to help keep users up-to-date by putting synagogue communications, programs and

events, and Shabbat and holiday information at their fingertips.

To create the apps, congregant Gary Windham gathered feedback from clergy, lay leaders and others regarding features they felt would be beneficial. He first developed an app compatible with the Apple iPhone, iPod Touch and iPad. It was approved in early 2012 and offered to users soon after. Gary next developed the Android version, completing it in late 2012. Both apps are free and can be retrieved via the iTunes App Store or Google Play (search for "CAI Mobile"), or by visiting the synagogue's website, caiaz.org.

Gary is employed by the University of Arizona's UITS (University Information Technology Services) department as an enterprise systems architect.

For more information, call 520-745-5550. Congregation Anshei Israel is located at 5550 E 5th St. in Tucson.



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Education



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- Educators change lives
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Raising a Reader and a Mighty Mensch!

By Jill Leshin, M. Ed.

Parents want their children to grow up to be decent human beings. We hope our children will give back to the community, be productive citizens, get along with others and be knowledgeable and kind. Many of us also hope that our children will gain a love of learning and continue to seek knowledge throughout their lives. We basically just want them to grow up to be intelligent, well-educated, mighty mensches. Is that so much to ask? A mensch, as defined by Merriam-Webster's dictionary, is a person with integrity and honor.

The task of parenting has become increasingly difficult. Young parents are constantly bombarded with messages about what they should be doing for their child. Buy this brainy toy! This app will teach your child to read! Buy that food to help your child be an Olympian!

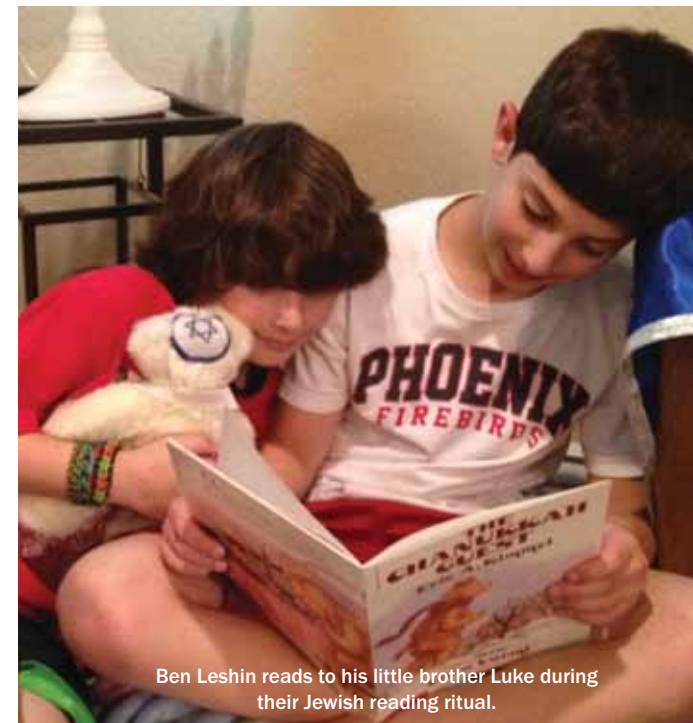
Let's face it, parents today are under way too much pressure. We are overwhelmed, exhausted and confused about what we should be doing to raise an intelligent, well-educated, mighty mensch.

The good news is that raising a reader and a mighty mensch can be quite simple. Here are some fun, easy, back-to-basics tips that will not only set your child up for academic success, but will also help you build a home filled with strong Jewish traditions, ethics and values. Who knew? Raising a reader and a mensch is a piece of cake!

Five Tips on How to Raise a Reader and a Mensch

1. Create a Jewish reading ritual: Every week spend a few minutes reading a book about Jewish ethics and values to your child. Signing up for the PJ Library (pjlibrary.org) is an excellent way to get free, high-quality, Jewish-themed literature. Reading to your child is the most important thing you can do to help her or him discover the joy of reading. Be sure to keep your reading ritual sacred and special. Find a comfortable spot in which to read. Invite your child to sit on your lap or cuddle up in pool of blankets on the floor. Encourage your child to invite a favorite stuffed animal to join the reading ritual.

2. Surround your child with Jewish print: Children begin to understand that the written word has meaning at a very young age. Begin by writing out the words of the items on your



Ben Leshin reads to his little brother Luke during their Jewish reading ritual.

Shabbat table, for example challah, candles, wine, etc. Challenge your child to match the words to the items. Encourage your child to listen for the beginning sounds in each word and place the word next to the correct item.

Repeat this activity every week and for every Jewish holiday.

3. Mitzvah makers: Challenge your children to do mitzvahs (good deeds) all week. Post a sign in a common area of your home labeled "Mitzvah Makers." Every time you see your children doing a mitzvah, write it down on the paper. Say the words aloud as you write so your children can hear you positively reinforcing their behavior and also begin to make connections between the oral word and the written word. At the end of the week, celebrate all of the mitzvahs by reading the list and cheering on your mighty mensches.

4. Jewish cooking: Did you know that learning to follow a recipe teaches sequencing skills and concepts of print, and builds reading fluency and listening comprehension? Why not bake challah with your child on Shabbat? Write out the recipe on easy-to-read note cards large enough for your child to see the print and follow along with you step by step.

5. Get well cards for the sick: The commandment of visiting the sick (bikur cholim) is one of the noblest acts of kindness. Have your children make cards for people in the hospital or a nursing home and hand deliver them. Writing is an excellent tool to reinforce literacy skills and visiting the sick is an important way to nurture your little mensch in the making.

Yasher koach, may you have strength in raising your reader and your mensch!

Jill Leshin, M. Ed., is a certified reading specialist, the founder of the Literacy Links program and the Pre-K Academy. Literacy Links teaches fundamental pre-reading skills while reinforcing Jewish ethics, values and traditions. The program is at the VOSJCC Early Childhood Center and Temple Kol Ami Early Childhood Center. Contact Jill at 480-227-9845, jill@pre-kacademy.com or visit Pre-kacademy.com.



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Educators making a difference

By Deborah Moon

As budget constraints force school districts to shorten school years, increase class sizes and reduce offerings, many families are turning to private schools to meet their children's intellectual and spiritual needs. When it's time for college, families and students again have a range of choices.

The educators profiled here have found a home where they make a difference in students' lives.

Elaine Chapman

Pardes Jewish Day School

pardesschool.org

Elaine Chapman, who has been teaching for 42 years, is now in her 14th year teaching at Pardes Jewish Day School, where she teaches general studies in third grade.



"PJDS allows me to cover the curriculum – and more – in my own way," says Chapman. "I can be creative in my teaching, making sure that each student reaches his/her highest potential. I am not only allowed, but encouraged, to integrate the 'real world' into our studies. We can learn multiplication of 7 through football touchdowns and learn the important role Jews took in fighting for civil rights. We study the culture of different countries so that we can celebrate differences and respect everyone's uniqueness. The children learn not to take their

schooling for granted and understand the efforts they must make to become well-rounded and educated individuals."

This fall her students heard an inspiring presentation from Scott Fifer, CEO of the GO Campaign, who visited Pardes after students contributed to his campaign through the school's collection of box tops. After his presentation, her class decided to make rainbow loom bracelets to send with him on his next visit to Tanzania, along with a video demonstrating how to make them, so the African schoolchildren can make their own bracelets and perhaps sell them to raise money for a water well or books or other supplies for their school. "We are sending over 600 of these bracelets, all made during recess or on the students' own time," says Chapman.

Chapman says she tries to give the students a love of learning so that it will be a lifelong endeavor. "We laugh every day. Learning can be, and is, fun in my class," she says.

Chapman's favorite subject, and the one she hopes has the most impact, is economics.

"I teach about resources (human, capital, natural), supply and demand and most importantly, the difference between wants and needs," she says. "Each child must do a job at home, above and beyond their normal

chores. This job must be done multiple (times) and they must earn \$5. We then go to the Dollar Store, and the students purchase needed items for the Watkins Homeless Shelter. We take those items to the shelter and then serve the residents dinner. ... The children learn an appreciation for the cost of necessary items. They realize they can't buy diapers, because a box costs more than the \$5 they have earned. This is tikkun olam put into practice!"



Megan Erdely works with Tesseract Senior Ariel Shemesh on college admissions.

Megan Erdely

Tesseract School

tesseractschool.org

Megan Erdely has worked in education for 14 years and has been the college advisor at Tesseract School since 2011. Tesseract is an independent, non-denominational, co-educational private day school serving 415 students in early childhood through high school. Erdely works with the high school students to help them prepare for and evaluate college choices.

"I feel I make a difference in our students' lives by providing them with unconditional support and a 'road map' to navigate the college process," she says. "The process can be so overwhelming, and many times students are unsure of where to begin. It is exciting to know I can help them successfully achieve their college goals."

Erdely works with students in three primary areas. She uses Naviance, a college and career readiness platform that helps connect academic achievement to post-secondary goals, as she helps sophomores through seniors navigate the college process.

She also serves on the educators' team for the students' Junior Projects. This is a week-long project where juniors research five colleges, including one state school, in their chosen field. Students create three to five criteria that they will use to select schools and explain how the schools they chose fit this criteria. At the end of the week, they share their information in a 20-minute presentation. Tesseract has also created a class period where Erdely meets with juniors and seniors once a week to help move them through the college application process. "I enjoy working with students at Tesseract because I have the opportunity to get to know these kids very well," says Erdely. "I meet most of them freshmen year and get to watch them grow and mature into seniors. When I write letters of recommendation about my seniors, I feel I can speak about them in a unique way, and I am able to share insights that other counselors are not afforded since they have so many more students. Our small class sizes allow me to cultivate strong relationships

with my students, and that is important as our students enter the college world."

Members of Tesseract's inaugural graduating class in 2012 were accepted to Arizona State University, Barrett's Honor College, Cal Poly, Chapman University, Coe College, Colorado College, Elon University, Emerson College, Kansas State University, Lycoming College, Miami University, Northeastern University, Purdue University, Santa Monica College, Soka University of America and Vassar College.

David Graizbord

The Arizona Center for Judaic Studies

University of Arizona, Tucson



Shortly after earning his Ph.D. in history (with an emphasis on Jewish history) from the University of Michigan in 2000, Professor David Graizbord joined the Arizona Center for Judaic Studies at the University of Arizona as associate professor of Judaic Studies.

"I provide students with the opportunity to explore and analyze one of the world's oldest, most unique, most diverse and most intriguing cultures – that of the Jewish people," says Graizbord.

More generally, I contribute to students' understanding of all culture – how it is built, and what it does for individuals and groups. In that sense, I build upon key elements of the students' education in the liberal arts. Professor Todd Endelman, a former mentor of mine, once observed that the purpose of such an education is not to prepare students for professional or business careers. Universities are not trade schools, after all. Rather, the point is to learn how to read and think critically, and how to express complex ideas cogently. To that I would add that Judaic studies is really a fantastic vehicle for learning those life-transforming, highly practical and very marketable skills, the mastery of which is a basis for success in diverse fields of endeavor."

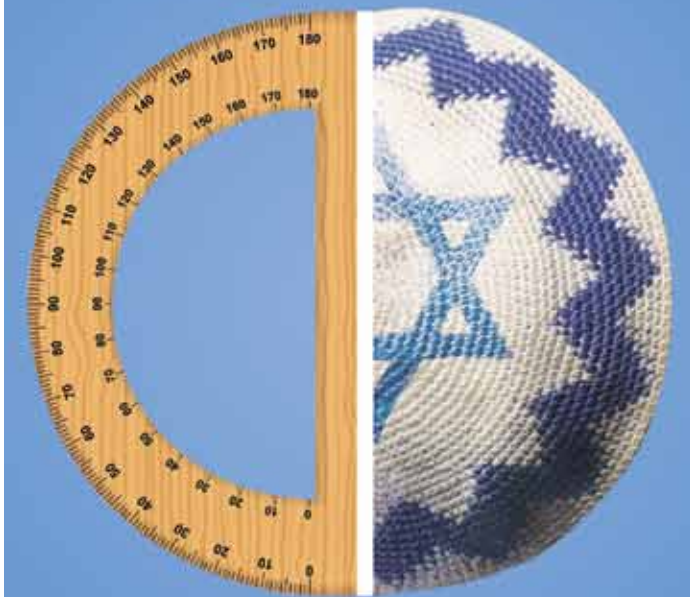
Graizbord says that the Arizona Center for Judaic Studies is a nurturing place that promotes high-level scholarship and collegiality. "The faculty members of the ACJS know the difference between scholarship and politics, and strive to keep the two apart," he says.

Graizbord's courses include Medieval and Early Modern Jewish History; Modern Jewish History; The History of Judeoconverts and the Iberian Inquisitions; Iberian Catholic Cultures of the Early Modern Period; The History of Judeophobia; Jewish Mysticism: History and Principal Phenomena; Jewish Identity in Historical Perspective; and History of Sepharad and the Western Sephardi Diaspora to 1810.

Most of his published work concerns the history of Judeoconverts, the Christianized descendants of Iberian Jews in the 16th and 17th centuries.

"Recently, the questions of Jewish identity that drew me to Judeoconverts in the first place have taken me far afield, to the study of American Jews of "Generation Y" (18- to 30-year-olds) who identify as Zionists or pro-Israel," says Graizbord. "For over a year, I have been interviewing such people in order to get a 'high-resolution' picture of why they feel attached to Israel and what that attachment means to them. To speak to my subjects and to research American Jewish identities along the way has been fascinating. I hope to publish my findings soon."

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Sherri Adler finds math an interfaith path

By Elizabeth Schwartz

Mathematics may seem like an odd means for building interfaith bridges, but mathematics teacher and consultant Sherri Adler has met people she would never have encountered without it.

Adler lives in the Phoenix area and trains teachers in Singapore Math and Common Core standards. Until recently she was a partner and co-founder of SMARTTraining, LLC, which provides in-depth teacher training in the Singapore Math method to school district math departments around the country. Adler also lectures about math for the Bureau of Educational Research. Her current lecture, which she'll deliver several times next year, is titled, "How To Close the Achievement Gap Using Singapore Math Strategies."

Singapore Math is a teaching method based on the national math curriculum used for kindergarten through sixth grade in Singapore. Students master basic mathematical concepts using a three-step learning process. "We start with a concrete manipulative, like blocks or poker chips or paper clips, then move to a pictorial representation of the idea and finally introduce the equation, which is the most abstract aspect of the process," Adler explains. "Singapore Math emphasizes mastery. It explains why the math works, not just how."

Adler first encountered Singapore Math when her own children went through the program in Phoenix, in one of the first schools to implement Singapore Math in the United States. "I never thought I wanted to teach math until my kids went through this program, and I saw what a big difference it made to them," she explains. Adler taught full time between 1993 and 2006 – "I took a few years off when the kids were young" – and now spends most of her time as a trainer and consultant to teachers and school districts around the country and overseas. "I recently returned to the classroom twice

a week, so I can experience what today's classrooms are really like," she adds.

Teacher trainings generally take place in the summer months when school is out of session. "Now that I'm a consultant and trainer, I'm just a picture on the mantle to my family during the busy season, because I'm gone for three out of four weeks in a month," Adler admits with a rueful grin.

Last summer she returned to the Minaret Academy, a Muslim school in Anaheim, CA, for a teacher training. "I've been there three times, and they found out after the first time that I was Jewish. I'm very proud of my religion, and I've taught religious school for many years, so I made of point of slipping it into the conversation," says Adler. "Initially, I think they were a little surprised that a Jewish woman would come into their school and share with them, but from that moment on they made me feel very welcome. They made incredible feasts for me every time I visited." Minaret Academy is a religious Islamic school; all the



female teachers wear full hijab, and the whole school breaks for daily midday prayers. "There are Muslims from all over the Middle East represented among the educators, so I've been able to learn about many different cultural and religious customs from them."

Adler relishes the opportunity to connect with and learn from these Muslim teachers. "There are so many similarities between Judaism and Islam," she says. "They eat halal foods and we keep kosher. The separation of

men and women and women wearing modest dress reminds me of Orthodox Jewish practice." Adler's continuing relationship with the teachers and administrators at Minaret has blossomed into friendship. "I feel a connection to them because they are so warm and welcoming. They also feel the necessity to convey the fact that all Muslims are not extremists. Since 9/11, many



On a journey to learn how to teach mathematics, Sherri Adler (back row, third from left) also formed interfaith connections at the Minaret Academy, a religious Islamic school in California.

“Now that I’m a consultant and trainer, I’m just a picture on the mantle to my family during the busy season, because I’m gone for three out of four weeks in a month.”

– Sherri Adler

people have negative feelings towards Muslims and Islamic culture. Jews have been through that kind of persecution so many times in our history, so I feel some empathy for what they've experienced."

For Adler, combining her Jewish values with her work provides an unparalleled opportunity to practice tikkun olam. "Education is a core Jewish value, one I was taught and that I've instilled in my children," she says. "But if one person can make a difference to another person, that's part of Judaism too. To be able to treat people humanely even if they are different from you is so important. It's healing the world."

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Hebrew High unites teens

By Masada Siegel

Perhaps it was yet another Hanukkah miracle – a room filled with hundreds of teenagers so silent you could hear a pin drop. It was Dec. 3, 2013, and the Israel Program Fair was in session.

Thousands of miles away in Israel it was 4:30 in the morning, and Israeli Major Amir ben David was awake, in uniform and addressing the students on Skype. He recounted his experience as one of the representatives of Israel who rescued injured people and saved lives from the horrors of the rubble in Haiti after the earthquake.

The Bureau of Jewish Education's Hebrew High created this memorable evening for students and parents to learn about the variety of Israel's programs for short- and long-term high school and gap year programs – and for all to learn about volunteer opportunities for adults. The program also featured information about going to Israel, why Israel matters and how Israel makes a difference in communities around the world: from helping here during Hurricane Katrina to secretly saving lives of Syrians injured on the border. The evening was accented with Hanukkah jelly donuts, music and menorah lighting.

"Hebrew High has co-sponsored the Israel Program Fair since the Harold and Jean Grossman Incentive Grant was initiated in 1995," says Myra Shindler, the program coordinator of the Bureau of Jewish Education of Greater Phoenix. "Some families look for a program to fit their child's interests; educational, sports-related, music or technology, all these types of experiences are available." National programs at the fair included Young Judea, NFTY, USY, BBYO, NCSY and Alexander Muss High School in Israel.

A representative from "Volunteers for Israel" spoke about meaningful opportunities for those over age 17 to serve on an Israeli army base in a non-military capacity for one to three weeks.

Not only does the BJE encourage people to go to Israel, it helps finance the trip for eligible participants. The Grossman Incentive Grant is available for all the teen programs, and the BJE offers the Sarah L. Levitz Fellowship for teens who attend a summer or semester program at Alexander Muss High School in Israel.

"An Israel teen experience during high school is a wonderful opportunity for our teens to embrace and enrich their Jewish identity and solidarity with Israel," says Shindler. "For teens who have continued their Jewish education from religious school to summer camp and to Hebrew High, an Israel experience



Hebrew High students clean up during last summer's Care-a-van that incorporates travel, community service, socialization and spirituality.

is the icing on the cake. All our teaching and Jewish learning comes together in such a meaningful way. This is why when the Grossman Incentive Grant was established, we didn't want teens going to Israel just to have fun, but wanted the Israel experience to be something bigger. That is why we have required teens to take an Israel preparation course before departing. The more they know ahead of time, the more they can digest and learn while in Eretz Yisrael."

In addition to the Israel programs, BJE's community Hebrew High provides multifaceted benefits for teens. Hebrew High has provided positive Jewish experiences for Valley teens for more than 40 years. It is the only program in the Valley for Jewish teens of all affiliations to meet and interact regularly with hundreds of their peers.

Hebrew High is an academic as well as a social experience designed specifically to meet the developmental needs of adolescents. Instructors represent all Jewish movements and include rabbis, school directors, high school teachers, lawyers, writers and entrepreneurs.

"Hebrew High has a most positive effect on the emotional intelligence of our teens," says Shindler. "Through the variety of discussions that take place in our Hebrew High classes, teens are provided the opportunity to get to know themselves to reinforce positive decision making and to provide a Jewish context to give of themselves. By providing a warm and welcoming Jewish community, we are able to cultivate relationships and lessons that serve our teens beyond their high school years.

Teens have so many competing programs throughout the school week, Hebrew High becomes a safe haven, an opportunity to get out, see friends and de-stress for a couple of hours."

Hebrew High alumnus Jon Basha credits the program with exposing him to a world that enriched his life in a myriad of ways.

Basha says, "Hebrew High was a life-changer for me. It was where I made my best friends – and I now live with two of them. It was an escape from the regular social circle that I was so accustomed to and was the ideal outlet for me to make like-minded, Jewish friends. Aside from the social side, it was an incredibly rewarding education. It allowed me to study a language that I loved (Hebrew) instead of settling for the languages that my school offered. Plus, I got to study topics with Jewish educators who not only knew their stuff, but also knew how to engage and connect with high schoolers.

It barely felt like a class – it was more of a club where I learned and spent time with my inner circle of friends. It inspired me to stick with Jewish programs and ideals as I grew up."

Pardes' move to Ina Levine campus to benefit all

By Deborah Moon

When Pardes Jewish Day School relocates to the Ina Levine Jewish Community Campus next fall, school and campus leaders expect the synergy to benefit both organizations and the community.

When classes begin Aug. 13, 2014, the state's largest Jewish day school will join the Jewish Community Association, the Valley of the Sun Jewish Community Center, the Jewish Community Foundation, the Bureau of Jewish Education and other smaller agencies on the campus located in the heart of the Valley's Jewish community.

"It's a win for Ina Levine to have a thriving day school on the campus, and we gain access to the gymnasiums and swimming pool and amenities, including the beautiful library of BJE," says Jill Kessler, head of school of Pardes, an independent, coeducational day school for kindergarten through eighth grade.

"The cooperation between the executive director of the JCA, Stuart Wachs, and me and the synergy of the boards was tremendous as we shared the goal to create a very thriving Ina Levine Jewish Community Campus," says Kessler, who has led Pardes for the past 11 years. She adds that the 25-year lease with extension options means this will be Pardes' permanent home. Pardes will move into the section of the campus that originally housed King David School, which merged with Jess Schwartz Jewish Community High School in 2009 before both closed just over two years ago.

JCA CEO Wachs agrees the move benefits all involved. "The dream of the founders was to be the hub of Jewish life," he says. "The Association has been working hard for over a year with Pardes to bring this vision to a reality. This development is a testament to the founders of the campus."

Wachs says Pardes will have use of the pool, two gymnasiums, large social hall, playing fields and other amenities. He says the synergy of the union is enhanced because, "the times they need the facilities are generally slow times for the JCC." He adds the campus expects to attract many of the students and their families for after-school programs, sports programs and camps. The JCC's preschool families will also have the benefit of a day school on the same campus.

A comprehensive, joint fundraising campaign between Pardes and the Association has raised more than \$2 million to fund construction, including eight new classrooms, a kosher kitchen and other needed improvements, according to a press release. The school site currently consists of 15 classrooms, administration offices, a large multipurpose room and sanctuary, and is adjacent to the expansive athletic fields of the Jewish Community Center. Construction will begin in spring 2014. When Pardes sells its current five-acre campus, the school will pay off its mortgage and be in great financial shape for the future says Kessler,



Students of Pardes Jewish Day School – from left Ari Kreisberger, Zoe Cafarella, Jonah Wachs and Alexa Greenberg – show off some of the student-made mosaics that will move with the school to its new home on the Ina Levine Jewish Community Campus for the next school year. After the move, art teacher Orit Feinberg is expected to help students design and create more mosaics specifically for the new space.

noting that the renovated school area will allow Pardes to accommodate 350 students, giving the school plenty of room to expand from its current 264 students.

"Our enrollment is expected to increase, and being on the hub of the Jewish community, we do hope for more growth," says Kessler. This will be the school's third move since Kessler took the helm of the school founded in 1993 at Temple Solel, with a middle school added on the campus of Temple Kol Ami in 2002. Under Kessler the two schools were united at Congregation Beth Israel. The school then moved to the five-acre campus at Paradise Lane and 40th Street in Phoenix in 2006. Kessler calls the move to the Ina Levine Campus "our final home." "With every move you gain strength," she says. "It brings your community together."

The Ina Levine Jewish Community Campus is located at 12701 N Scottsdale Road, on 30 acres in north Scottsdale, at the Southeast corner of Scottsdale and Sweetwater Roads. The 150,000-square-foot structure opened in 2002.

Bureau of Jewish Education: 480-634-8050

CHEF'S CORNER

FUN AND HEALTHY SCHOOL LUNCHES

By Lucia Schnitzer

Photos by Matthew Strauss



Like most parents, I find school lunches to be one more thing to check off the list in the morning. Trying to make them quick and nutritious can be a serious task. But “serious” is something we all need to stay away from when preparing our little ones’

lunch. Whether adding food color to dips or cutting sandwiches into shapes, there are plenty of ways to make lunches far from boring. Follow these simple ideas to creating enjoyable and healthy meals for your kids.

Choose fruits and vegetables

Fruits and vegetables hit the jackpot when it comes to nutrition. They’re packed with vitamins and fiber. It’s recommended to eat four to five servings of fruits and vegetables a day. Six baby carrots and one medium orange are each one serving. Keep in mind that sauces, hummus and dips are a great way to get picky eaters to eat their veggies and fruits.

Know your food facts

Kids need quality food to stay focused and engaged throughout the day. Healthy fats are essential to staying healthy, feeling satisfied and feeling full longer. Try to buy products that are GMO free (genetically modified organisms) and organic; and stay away from high fructose corn syrup, hydrogenated oils and “fat-free” products.

Whole grains versus refined grains

“Grains” include breads, cereals, rice and pasta. Whole grains are better than refined grains. What’s the difference? Brown rice is a whole grain, but white rice is not. Likewise, whole-wheat bread contains whole grains, whereas regular white bread does not. Look for 100% whole wheat in the ingredient panel and try to choose other healthy grains like spelt, quinoa, buckwheat and whole-wheat couscous.

Drinks count too

Avoid juice drinks and sodas, and try to stick with water, milk or veggie drinks. If fruit juice is a must, mix half water and half juice. Sugar is an energy drainer and only provides empty calories. Make each food and drink count.

Mix it up

Keep their taste buds from getting bored and try something new. Eating different kinds of foods gives their bodies a variety of nutrients. Keep it balanced by making sure that their lunch consists of grains, fruits, vegetables, protein and dairy.

Here are some fun and easy recipes you can start making right away:



Butterfly Garden

What you'll need

- Cheese slices
- Red pepper
- Deviled egg
- Clementine
- Green leaf lettuce
- Baby carrots
- Black and green olives
- Strawberries
- Circular lunch container

How to make it

Make your child’s favorite sandwich and cut into a butterfly shape. Use cheese and red pepper cutouts to decorate the wings. Use a red pepper strip for the butterfly’s body. Add a deviled egg to the garden as a “tulip.” Fill the box with a background of green lettuce, arranging the butterfly and flowers on top. Use clementine segments, baby carrots, black and green olives and strawberries as fill-ins for the garden.



Egg Salad Pinwheels

What you'll need

- 2 pieces of bread
- 4 hard-boiled eggs
- ¼ cup of raisins
- ¼ cup of chopped celery
- 2 tablespoon mayonnaise

How to make it

Combine chopped hard-boiled eggs, raisins, celery and mayonnaise. Trim the crust from a slice of bread and press bread to flatten. Spread with a layer of egg salad, then roll and secure with a toothpick.

Note: Make pinwheels with tuna salad or sunflower butter, jelly and mashed banana.

- ½ cup fake pepperoni
- 3 flour tortillas

How to make it

Combine the cream cheese, yogurt, oregano and garlic powder. Stir until creamy. Stir in the shredded cheeses. Spread the cheese mixture evenly on the tortillas. Sprinkle the olives, green peppers and tomatoes over the cheese mixture. Top each tortilla with a layer of fake pepperoni. Gently roll the tortillas up tightly, making sure everything stays inside. Wrap in plastic wrap and refrigerate for at least 30 minutes. Take off the plastic wrap and cut each tortilla into 8 pinwheels. Serve with toothpicks if desired. Makes 24 pinwheels.



Spaghetti Faces

What you'll need

- 8 ounces spaghetti, cooked and drained
- 4 eggs, slightly beaten
- ½ cup grated Parmesan cheese
- ¼ teaspoon ground black pepper
- 1½ cups pasta sauce (optional)
- 2 cups shredded mozzarella cheese (about 8 ounces)

For the face (optional)

Red bell pepper, black olives and broccoli

How to make it

Preheat oven to 375°F. Grease 12 muffin pan cups; set aside. In large bowl, combine spaghetti, eggs, Parmesan cheese and pepper. Evenly press into muffin cups to form a “crust.” Top each cup with pasta sauce, then mozzarella cheese. Bake 15 minutes or until bubbling. Let stand 5 minutes before serving as an after school treat.



Pizza Pinwheels

What you'll need

- 4 ounces cream cheese, softened
- ¼ cup plain Greek yogurt
- 2 teaspoons dried oregano
- 1/8 teaspoon garlic powder
- ¼ cup shredded cheddar cheese
- ¼ cup shredded mozzarella cheese
- ¼ cup diced black olives
- ¼ cup diced green pepper
- ¼ cup canned diced, Italian-style tomatoes, drained

Lucia Schnitzer and her husband, Ken, own Luci’s Healthy Marketplace in Phoenix. The local coffee shop and marketplace opened in 2009 in Lucia’s honor after her successful battle with breast cancer. She successfully manages her career, her growing family (four children), her personal well-being and the countless demands of the day.

Where do JEWISH PEOPLE EAT?

By A. Noshman

I am the world's fastest ice cream eater. While those around me are savoring their first few bites, I have already finished. This skill was honed as an ASU student driving home in my non-air-conditioned stick shift truck with a double scoop cone from Swenson's. Tonight, as usual, I find myself finished first and beginning to drift from my group to explore this tiny ice cream shop. My senses lead me down a long dark hallway that connects to a restaurant in the same building; the aroma is heavenly and the music is cranked. I quickly learn that the restaurant at the end of the hall, Windsor, and the ice cream shop, Churn, are related. I vow to return to get the "scoop."

I had heard from friends about Churn, a delightfully shiny, tiny, retro ice cream shop featuring homemade ice cream, pastries, nostalgic candy and soda fountain treats. What I hadn't heard, but discovered by sound and smell, was the restaurant next door. Located on Central Avenue just north of Camelback sits Windsor, a restaurant named after the neighborhood, and Churn, its sister dessert palace. Turns out this little complex is part of the Upward Projects restaurants, which also include Federal Pizza, Postino and, coming soon, Joyride Taco House. If anyone understands the concept of neighborhood restaurants and bars, it's these people.

We were fortunate to have a mixologist as our waiter one night, and he spent all the time we needed answering our cocktail questions. Although I counted 118 different spirits, it was the signature cocktails that intrigued me the most.

On our first night at Windsor and Churn, here's what we tried:

No. 15 – Apple-Infused Vodka, Apple Brandy, Apple-Masala Syrup, Vermouth Blanc, \$9.50

Served very chilled in a daiquiri glass, the first sip was all it took to know this was nectar from above. It's the kind of alcoholic drink that doesn't taste like it has alcohol in it. Don't be fooled – it packs a wonderful punch and most likely you will order a second.

Cosmopolitan, \$9.50

I don't know how they did it, and at this point, honestly, I forgot to ask, but this timeless standard had the Windsor touch and was one of the most flavorful cosmos I've ever had. Like all the other cocktails we tried, it was served very chilled in a daiquiri glass and the fresh, but subtle, fruitiness disguised the

Windsor \$\$

5223 N. Central Avenue
Phoenix, AZ 85012
windsoraz.com

Churn \$\$

5223 N. Central Avenue
Phoenix, AZ 85012
churnaz.com



Mixed Grain Salad

potency of this delicious beverage.

Mixed Grain Salad, \$10.50

Mixed grains, butternut squash, oven-dried tomatoes, zucchini, beets, currants, goat cheese and orange basil vinaigrette. Biscuit.

There's a lot going on in this bowl. It's one of those salads where every bite can taste different because you can't get all ingredients onto the fork at once. The orange basil vinaigrette is light and complementary to the complex mix. There's crunch from the grains, and the greens were fresh.

I wouldn't be surprised if this is the most popular salad in the restaurant. There is a simple salad on the menu, but I would urge the salad squeamish to just go for it and dive into the amazing array of flavors.

They called the chunk of fresh bread served on the side a "biscuit." It tasted like soda bread and offered a nice offset of both flavor and texture to the intense salad.

On the night we had this fabulous salad, we decided to skip straight to dessert.

There are no dessert items at all on the Windsor menu, and why would there be when you are only 10 steps from a terrific ice cream store? Our server let us in on a little secret: "If you know what you want from Churn, I can get it and bring it to your table," he said. As tempting as that sounded, I really wanted to explore everything Churn had to offer, because it is as much a treat to the eye as to the tongue.

Scoop of Homemade Banana Ice Cream, \$2.75

If you are a banana lover, you know how disappointing it is to find that artificial banana flavoring in desserts, ice cream and candy. NO WORRIES! This was the greatest-tasting banana ice cream I've ever had. You can tell by the freshness it's made right there with quality ingredients. Best of all, scoops of ice cream are served with wooden spoons. Why that wooden flavor enhances the experience I don't know. Perhaps it's nostalgia, perhaps it just gives your tongue another thing to do. I just love it.

Scoop of Homemade Double Chocolate Ice Cream, \$2.75

A lot of places serve what they call "double chocolate." How Churn packs so much chocolate flavor into this dessert is beyond me. Creamy, fresh, rich, cold and delicious – chocolate lovers will have to try this.

~~~

I realize it's going to take many trips to enjoy everything. After our night of dairy delights, we decided to return to



Backyard Burger

Windsor and Churn to sample the meat offerings, though of course we had to sample another cocktail too.

## No. 17 – Cucumber Vodka, Green Tea Syrup, Cucumber, Mint, \$9.50

I'm not a cucumber guy, but I am a green tea, mint and certainly a vodka guy. It was refreshing and decidedly alcoholic, though you couldn't taste the alcohol. This drink prompted me to ask what brand of vodka is used. Surprisingly, it is Smirnoff. The tender care used to infuse and concoct transforms this average spirit into something quite extraordinary.

Our server told us that the place "was known for its burgers," so we had to try one.

## Backyard Burger with Shoe String Fries, \$11.75

Windsor Style: garlic aioli, lettuce, tomato and caramelized onion. He also suggested having it "Windsor Style," which includes sharp cheddar, but we didn't order that. This burger was a great recommendation served on a fresh bun and cooked the way we asked. The fries were nicely done, but the real treat here was the flavorful, fresh patty. I think there may have been steak sauce involved, and you can never go wrong with caramelized onions on anything!

## JC's Short Ribs, \$18

Wine-braised short ribs; parsnips, potatoes, and carrots; crimini, oyster and black trumpet mushrooms; and crispy shallots

Lovingly slow roasted to a darkened, caramelized exterior with a fork tender, fall-apart center, you can taste every minute these wine-braised short ribs spend in the oven. Nestled atop equally slow-roasted vegetables, this winter medley soaks up all the flavor and aroma of the short ribs and delivers it to your mouth with a burst of flavor in a way that only roasted vegetables can. The entree is a little salty for those looking to avoid that, otherwise, this dish is a must.

While heading to an ice cream shop after a good burger or steak might sound like a lost cause, don't worry, the shop is filled with all kinds of goodies, coffee drinks and candies. There are plenty of nondairy options for your sweet tooth.

The parking lot at Windsor and Churn is tiny, but complimentary valet service is offered. There's an outdoor patio too. The residents of the Windsor neighborhood are blessed to have so many culinary options.

Contact A. Noshman at a.noshman@azjewishlife.com

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By Deborah Moon

Since the first Jewish Film Festival was held in San Francisco in 1980, the phenomena has spread across the country. Now about 150 such festivals are held across the United States each year – including the Tucson International Jewish Film Festival in January and the Greater Phoenix Jewish Film Festival in February. With 23- and 18-year histories, respectively, the two festivals are among the longer-running Jewish film festivals in the country.

According to Isaac Zablocki, director of Israel Film Center (Manhattan), “I have in the Jewish Film Presenters Network (created to link film festival programmers, directors and film presenters) more than 250 presenters – mostly American. I would say in reality there are 150 (Jewish film festivals) ranging from small synagogue programs to full-blown festivals. Twenty-three (years) is definitely one of the older ones.”

The TIJFF began in 1991 with three films on the University of Arizona campus and has since grown into a 24-film, nine-day event held at four venues in and around Tucson. (See the 2014 TIJFF schedule on pages 32-33.)

For filmmakers, the festivals provide an opportunity to build enthusiasm for a film and to gauge audience reaction.

Director Brad Bernstein will appear at the Tucson festival’s Grand Opening, where his film “Far Out Isn’t Far Enough” is being shown. Since his parents have lived in Sedona for the last

12 years, he says he considers Arizona his second home. While he is looking forward to the film festival in Tucson – “I love the vibe and the people there” – he says he appreciates film festivals generally.

“The festival circuit allows a film to build an audience and, if you don’t already have a distributor signed on, to create a buzz for distribution,” says Bernstein. “But what I liked about the circuit was that it gave us a chance to interact with audiences on a very intimate level. In other words, we really got a chance to hear what the average person resonated with within the film – or didn’t. But generally speaking, even big Hollywood films like ‘Argo’ play at a festival before they go theatrical, and it’s the same concept: to build a buzz.”

For audiences, Jewish film festivals offer entertainment, education and new horizons.

“The festival is a tremendous vehicle for the promotion and preservation of Jewish culture and a great way to increase understanding both among and between Jews and non-Jews. Our theater is a place for everyone and anyone to learn something new,” says Lynn Davis, director of arts and culture at the Tucson Jewish Community Center, under whose auspices the TIJFF is held. “For the audience, it is a diverse representation of Jewish life throughout the world. You get a glimpse of people and lifestyles you wouldn’t see otherwise.”

The Tucson festival’s mission statement reads: “The Tucson International Jewish Film Festival, through the magic and power

of cinema, promotes the preservation of Jewish culture and encourages cultural diversity.”

Peck says she is very excited about the films selected for this year’s Tucson festival. She wants to be sure the community knows about films starring Sir Patrick Stewart (“Hunting Elephants”), Isabella Rossellini (“The Dandelions”) and Alan Cumming (“Any Day Now”).

Peck has helped screen films for the festivals every year beginning in 2008 (for the 2009 festival) and says the committee never has a theme in mind when they begin looking at films, but that a theme often emerges “organically.” “Last year we had a lot of musicals,” she says, noting a series of films featured Jews and music, both religious and secular, composing and performing. “This year an underlying theme that emerged is social justice – including racial equality, LGBT rights, free speech and freedom from oppression. Any number of the films talk about that universal theme, which could be extrapolated as Jewish.”

Davis adds that for the past four years, TIJFF was the only Jewish Film Festival in the country with a stand-alone series of LGBT films. But this year, those films have become part of the main festival. “This year we decided the LGBT films are of wider interest, so we rolled them into our larger schedule.

“We are always hoping to raise awareness and encourage conversation,” adds Davis. “A portion of the proceeds from our closing night film, “Brave Miss World,” will go to benefit LEAH



Tucson International Jewish Film Festival Chair Patty Peck

(Let’s End Abusive Households), a program of Jewish Child & Family Services here in Tucson.”

Tucson has expanded the number of locations where it presents films. Since only about 10% of the attendees are members of the JCC, Davis says organizers decided to screen films in multiple locations.

Tucson has also expanded in another dimension – time. Recognizing the cycle for films has become more condensed from release to DVD, Davis says the festival organizers decided that in order to be “more responsive and make films available to our audience,” films needed to be shown outside the confines of the festival dates. This year the TIJFF will present about one film a month during the year.

The first two “out of festival” events will be A Sweetheart of an Evening on Feb. 13 and a film presented by the Holocaust Education & Commemoration Project on March 30.

The romantic comedy “The Day I Saw your Heart” will be shown in the JCC Ballroom at 7 pm, Feb. 13.

At 3 pm, March 30, the JCC Ballroom will feature “The Flat.” In this award-winning documentary, director Arnon Goldfinger sifts through the possessions, letters and photos of his recently deceased grandmother in her Tel Aviv flat. He finds the troubling story of three generations of Germans – both Jewish and non-Jewish – while trying to piece together the puzzle of their lives in the aftermath of World War II.

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Unlike the Tucson film fest, the Phoenix festival is an

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FESTIVAL GRAND OPENING
at the LOFT CINEMAS
— Sat., Jan. 18, 8 p.m., \$10 —

**Far Out Isn't Far Enough:
The Tomi Ungerer Story**
(USA, 2012, English/French with subtitles, 98 min.)
+ Q & A with director Brad Bernstein in attendance. Tomi Ungerer maintained successful careers as both a renowned children's book author/illustrator and the creator of boundary-breaking, politically-charged erotic art. Ungerer recounts his provocative story in light of the formative social and political changes of the 20th century.
For mature audiences.



CLOSING NIGHT
at the TUCSON JCC
— Sat. Jan. 25, 7 p.m., \$10 —

Brave Miss World
(Israel, 2013, English/Hebrew with subtitles, 92 min.)
Two months before being crowned Miss World, Linor Abargil was brutally raped. Over a decade later, she's ready to talk about it – and to encourage others to speak out. Linor now travels the world as a victims' advocate, encouraging others to stand against sexual violence by putting an end to their silence. **Film contains descriptions of sexual violence.**



independent entity run by an all-volunteer board.

Currently the longest-running film festival in the Valley, the GPJFF celebrates its Chai (Hebrew for 18 and life) year by screening 12 films at three Valley locations from Feb. 9-23. (See the 2014 GPJFF schedule on pages 34-35.)

The Phoenix Jewish Film Festival began 18 years ago after Phyllis and Sheldon Pierson attended a Jewish film festival while on a visit to Los Angeles. At the time Phoenix had no film festivals, though Tucson had started its Jewish film festival five years earlier. Wanting to bring a festival to Phoenix, the Piersons contacted Janis Plotkin, who programmed and produced the San Francisco Jewish Film Festival from 1982-2002. She gave them a list of Jewish film distributors.

"We spent the summer writing to all of them and finally had a few (responses)," says Phyllis. They requested VCR tapes and began screening possible films. They spoke to their rabbi, William Berk of Temple Chai (where he is now rabbi emeritus), and he agreed to have Temple Chai underwrite the first year of the festival, but suggested they seek participation from other groups. Beth El also signed on as a sponsor. Sheldon says he had retired from advertising and PR work, so he knew how to get the word out to the media. "And I'm a people person, so I did a lot of talking," says Phyllis.

The first year's showing of three films (in a theater that is now the Museum of Modern Art) earned money, so rather than being underwriters, the two synagogues split the profits. The festival was off to a great start. The Piersons still help screen films for the festival.

About nine years after the Phoenix festival began, Gloria and Sid Israel founded the East Valley Jewish Film Festival. Five years ago the two merged, a West Valley site was added and the festival became the Greater Phoenix Jewish Film Festival.

Several Greater Phoenix Jewish Film Festival board and screening committee members attend an afternoon matinee of 2013 Festival favorite, "The Day I Saw Your Heart." From left (front) are GPJFF Executive Director Bob Segelbaum, Alison Feinberg, Doug Passon, Jerry Mittelman and Janet Arnold, and (back) Shelly Reiss and Sandra Harris.



Several Greater Phoenix Jewish Film Festival board and screening committee members attend an afternoon matinee of 2013 Festival favorite, "The Day I Saw Your Heart." From left (front) are GPJFF Executive Director Bob Segelbaum, Alison Feinberg, Doug Passon, Jerry Mittelman and Janet Arnold, and (back) Shelly Reiss and Sandra Harris.

"Even big Hollywood films like 'Argo' play at a festival before they go theatrical, and it's the same concept: to build a buzz."

— Director Brad Bernstein

"Film is a great way to communicate," says GPJFF Executive Director Bob Segelbaum. "We try to get the best films that are available ... they must have a Jewish theme somewhere in the film." This year's festival features "engaging new films that range

from defiance and struggle to fun and adventure to laughter and love, with something for everyone and stories to be remembered forever."

To build on the communication value of the films themselves, Segelbaum says the festival tries to have moderators to lead discussions after most of the films. However, he notes, "Some films lend themselves more to discussion. If you have a feel-good comedy, we don't feel the need to have a speaker afterward. If it's a Holocaust film, we definitely try to have a speaker."

Both festivals reach a wide audience. Some 2,600 to 3,000 people annually attend the festival in Tucson, and the Phoenix festival draws about 4,500 to 5,000 people each year.

In each city the festival committees start screening films for the next year almost as soon as the current year's festival ends. "We start in February for next January," says TIJFF Chair Patty Peck. Every Tuesday from February to August the committee screens one to three films. "We show 22 to 23 films out of the 60 to 80 films we screen."

In Phoenix, three screening committees view films from March to September. The six films with the most votes in September are shown at all three festival locations in the

Valley — east, west and central — with another six films shown only in Scottsdale.

The screening committees have woven together a feast of programming in each community. In January and February, Arizonans will have the opportunity to piece together their own cinematic journeys — through lives past and present, and stories both lighthearted and profound.



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Reviews

By Michael Fox

Poland still grappling with 'Aftermath' of Holocaust

Wladyslaw Pasikowski's extraordinary "Aftermath" is a rare, delicious example of a filmmaker fearlessly exposing a grievous chapter in his or her country's history. You can sense that everyone prefers that the secret itself, along with the amoral failings of a prior generation, remain buried, but one strong soul has chosen to invite the skeletons out of the closet.

The Polish director's masterstroke is to wrap his harrowing exposé of World War II crimes and contemporary cover-ups inside the onionskin layers of a seductive thriller. A slowly unfolding mystery that grows steadily darker, "Aftermath" is crackerjack entertainment capped by an unforgettable gut punch.

"Aftermath" screens in the Tucson & Phoenix Film Festivals.

German filmmakers have examined the Third Reich and the Holocaust since the early '50s, confronting every aspect of the Nazis' undeniable guilt. Polish directors, however, have largely steered clear of the period, with the notable (and controversial) exceptions of Andrzej Wajda's wrenching "Korczak" (1990) and Agnieszka Holland's powerful "In Darkness" (2001). Their dilemma is that the Poles, to this day, largely deny the accusation that they participated with the Nazis in the murder of Jews (or that they opportunistically used the invasion and the war as a cover for eliminating Jews.) "Aftermath" shines a bright light on the dark canard of Polish innocence – literally, in a middle-of-the-night climax – and the revelation could not be more shocking.

"It is a difficult and complex subject," Pasikowski explained in an interview with *Variety* last year, "and one that runs against the Polish image of the country as being both a heroic fighter against Nazism and a victim, which is also true."

"Aftermath" begins with the return of the prodigal son to the village of his childhood after many years in America. Although the surroundings and the people are familiar, Jozef (Maciej Stuhr) sees them through an outsider's eyes. It's a clever way of setting the scene, for we immediately



Tucson: 7:30 pm, Jan. 22 | Phoenix: 7 pm, Feb. 23

identify with Jozef's point of view.

As attractive and charismatic as Jozef is, though, we're put off by his casual, anti-Semitic putdowns of people he works with (or for) in Chicago. It's another canny move by Pasikowski, for it limits our identification and comfort level with the main character.

The younger brother, Franciszek (Ireneusz Czop), has been running the family farm since Jozef left. Jozef's arrival is fortuitous, however, for Franciszek's placid, small-town routine has been disrupted by a serious yet initially indefinable threat.

Actually, we've felt a sense of foreboding since Jozef got off the plane. The moment he set foot on the road leading to the farm, an unseen entity – friend or foe? – made its presence felt. It would be wrong to reveal any more of the plot and deprive the viewer of the pleasure of Pasikowski's carefully thought-out structure. "Aftermath" is the kind of film where every line of dialogue and every camera movement have a purpose, even if we can only recognize it after the fact.

Ambitious, complex, shocking and wholly satisfying (admittedly, in a disturbing way), "Aftermath" is a beautifully executed example of a film that draws on heavy-duty historical reality without exploiting or trivializing it. It also manages to integrate an otherworldly dimension into a wholly realistic story.

Above all, the film takes on Poland's World War II-era history and its ongoing silence with intelligence, style and – at the crucial juncture – unflinching courage. "Aftermath" is a movie to be savored, admired and celebrated.

Michael Fox is a San Francisco-based film critic and journalist.

'Other Son' conjures the dream of peaceful coexistence

The goal of most films about Israelis and Palestinians, narrative features as well as documentaries, is to combat the real-world demonization and fear of the "enemy" by humanizing the other side.

The captivating and heartfelt drama "The Other Son" is a particularly unabashed example, conveying its good intentions in almost every shot. Made by French filmmakers and tailor-made for Western audiences eager (if not desperate) for a sign that peaceful coexistence is still possible, the film necessarily evinces a degree of naiveté.

The story is so emotionally involving, however, that "The Other Son" transcends most intellectual objections.

"The Other Son" screens Tuesday, Jan. 21, in the Tucson International Jewish Film Festival.

Directed by Lorraine Levy (writer/director of the French-Jewish female coming-of-age saga "The First Time I Was Twenty") from a screenplay she wrote with Nathalie Saugeon based on an idea by Noam Fitoussi, "The Other Son" insinuates us into a comfortable Israeli family whose son is about to join the army.

Joseph is an ordinary teenager who's never questioned the privileges that come with being the Ashkenazi son of an Army officer and a French-born doctor. (The Gallic connection, embodied by the sensitive veteran actress Emmanuelle Devos as Joseph's mother Orith, feels a little contrived but was likely necessitated by the film's financing.)

A blood test reveals the shocking truth that Joseph isn't, in fact, his parents' child. A little digging reveals that he was accidentally switched at birth with another baby, who went home with an Arab couple.

So Joseph is actually Palestinian, and Yacine, who's lived his entire life under the occupation, is Jewish. How's that for a mess and a dilemma worthy of King Solomon?

It's not quite as terrible as it could be, for Yacine's family is economically successful and he's been enjoying the fruits of attending a university in Paris for the last year or two. (His fluency in French is both convenient and critical, for it reduces our perception of the gulf between Israelis and Palestinians as well as encouraging us to feel the connection when he and Orith meet for the first time.)



Tucson: 1:30 pm, Jan. 21

But the revelation is nonetheless earthshaking and disorienting for both sets of parents as well as for the two young men whose identities may still be developing but are well established in key ways.

The scenes where Yacine and Joseph visit their respective birth parents are among the best in the film, balancing tension with awkward steps toward common ground. Joseph's visit to the territories is more fraught with uncertainty and danger, however, than Yacine's journey past checkpoints to suburban Tel Aviv.

One of the movie's strengths is its commitment to grounding the drama and advancing the plot in the families, rather than through, say, tabloid media coverage. While there's plenty of sociopolitical commentary, the filmmakers recognize that the characters' responses to this traumatic situation command our attention.

Inevitably, the extroverted Yacine and the reflective Joseph embark on a friendship as part of their individual needs to reformulate and come to terms with their identities. Yacine's knack for selling ice cream on the Tel Aviv beach provides a few chuckles, but also precipitates a turn of events that pushes Joseph as far out of his comfort zone as he's ever been.

And while Yacine discovers the appeal of assimilation, his militant brother begins to see him as a Jew, a Zionist and a traitor.

Glossy rather than gritty, "The Other Son" sidesteps some of the harder truths of life in the territories. That said, it does raise a number of worthy questions about the questionable morality of a two-tiered society.

And to its great credit, it does so without losing sight of the human dimension. "The Other Son" won't change the world – or even, perhaps, French attitudes toward Israelis and Jews – but it comforts us with the possibility that we still may have the capacity to reason, to empathize and to accept.

Precocious bar mitzvah boy propels zigzagging family flick

An unabashed crowd pleaser in a Day-Glo package, "The Zigzag Kid" transports young-at-heart viewers on a magic carpet ride of charming hijinks and manic energy.

Belgian director Vincent Bal has transposed vaunted Israeli novelist David Grossman's beloved 1994 coming-of-age adventure fantasy from the Promised Land to a candy-cane Europe. The result is a confection of a film that dispenses laughs and life lessons en route to a poignant moral about the blood ties that bind.

A family film whose most ardent admirers will be children, "The Zigzag Kid" is fueled by primal adolescent urges. Not the ones you're thinking of, but the pressing need to comprehend the past, navigate the present and manipulate the future.

"The Zigzag Kid" screens Feb. 9, 16 and 23 in the Greater Phoenix Jewish Film Festival.

The opening credits immediately set the tone in smile-inducing style, employing split screens, a full-spectrum palette and a pop score to evoke the spy movies (and parodies) of the 1960s and '70s.

As his 13th birthday approaches, cute-as-a-bug Nono is starting to figure out he can't abide the rules and conventions that most people passively accept. He's not a rebel – he admires his detective father to the extent that he mimics his dad's deductive skills and wants to follow in his gumshoes as a creative thinker and fearless experimenter.

The title comes from Nono's iconoclasm, as well as the gold pin in the shape of a Z that the world's greatest thief, Felix Glick, leaves behind as his signature.

But I'm getting ahead of the story. After one of Nono's bright ideas accidentally sends a cousin's bar mitzvah reception up in smoke, our erstwhile hero is dispatched to boring Uncle Shmuel as punishment. But dad's plan is derailed within moments of Nono boarding the train, launching the lad on a mission that takes him to the south of France and back.

"The Zigzag Kid" is tons of fun as it sets its inspired plot in motion, while Nono is a splendid protagonist who never devolves from endearing to tiresome. It helps that he's aware he's not completely self-sufficient, for that dollop of humility tempers his precociousness.

In fact, Nono relishes the maternal attention and affection of his father's (ahem) live-in secretary, Gaby. The boy never knew his mother, who died when he was an infant, and he'd be very happy if the current domestic arrangement continued ad infinitum. (Or, better yet, was sealed with marriage vows if his father could muster the moxie to propose.)

But I'm getting behind the story. No matter. Suffice to say that Nono crosses paths with the 60-something Felix Glick, who quickly presents himself as an alternate role model with his blend of resourcefulness and suaveness.

At a certain point, especially for those adults who have sussed out the relationships between the characters before Nono does, the pieces start to click into place, dissipating the film's aura of cleverness. Everyone likes a happy ending, sure – although be advised a tragedy is revealed en route – but "The Zigzag Kid" trumpets an allegiance to the primacy of the two-parent family that is downright Spielbergian.

Oddly, I discerned no particular insights into the lives, past or present, of European Jews. In the process of relocating the story from Israel to the Continent, Vincent Bal appears to have focused on preserving the novel's themes and skipped the opportunity to allude to 20th-century history or current events.

One consequence is that "The Zigzag Kid" could be anybody, and not necessarily a fully assimilated Jewish boy whose preparatory, pre-bar mitzvah entry to manhood consists of a unique and remarkable treasure hunt. He finds his mother's identity, and his own, and we get to go along for the ride. Not a bad deal for all concerned, actually.



Phoenix:
Feb. 9, 16 & 23

TALK CINEMA

A different kind of film fest

Talk Cinema is a little different take on the traditional film festival. Scottsdale is one of nine locations around the country where people can see one "Sneak Preview" film a month, sometimes not knowing what the film will be before they arrive. But they're always treated to a knowledgeable speaker at the end of the film.

Scottsdale is the only Talk Cinema location west of the Mississippi. The program came to Arizona about 10 years ago and has found a comfortable home at Scottsdale Center for the Arts' smaller Stage 2 Theater.

New Yorkers Harlan Jacobson and his wife Susan run the company that provides Talk Cinema. The company also offers groups tours to film festivals around the world, including one in Jerusalem. Their website (talkcinema.com) features film reviews and previews.

Harlan grew up in Cincinnati where his father was president of one of the largest Reform temples in the country, the Rockdale Avenue Temple. Not long after the 1967 war, Harlan spent his junior year in college in Israel, where he lived on Kibbutz Hulda and wrote a paper on the sociology of the kibbutz. Harlan says he gained a new connection to Israel and an interest in the future of Judaism. Today he considers himself a secular Jew who pays attention to Jewish and Israeli issues.

Harlan is widely known and respected as an American film critic, literary editor, radio host, film lecturer and author. His work has appeared in *The New York Times*, *The Washington Post*, *The LA Times*, *USA Today*, *The Boston Globe* and many other national news publications. From 1982 to 1990 Harlan was the editor-in-chief of *Film Comment Magazine*. According to Max Nelson, in a piece on the history of the magazine, during Harlan's tenure *Film Comment's* "tone became lighter, its writing fresher and quippier, and its subject matter more timely." Harlan left that position in 1990 and began Talk Cinema in 1992.

"In choosing my films I don't necessarily look for obvious Jewish connections, but I find my favorite films deal with a master culture and how it treats a subculture. I consider that a very Jewish sensibility. I look for films that allow us to peek through the windows at all different types of cultures," Harlan explains.

Harlan led a group of 35 film buffs to the 2010 Jerusalem Film Festival. "It was the 40th anniversary of when I had been on the kibbutz and was a very meaningful time for me. While it brought back many memories, there were changes as well. Hulda had been founded in the early 1900s and had served as a cache to hide armaments. When I returned it was a grape-and-wine privatized kibbutz."

Harlan will be in Scottsdale to lead the post-film discussion for Talk Cinema on Jan. 14 at 7 pm at Scottsdale Center for the Performing Arts, 7380 E Second St. in Scottsdale. A single screening is \$19, a package of 4 is \$60. Future films will be shown Feb. 11, March 11, April 8 and May 6.

For more information, call 480-499-8587 or visit scottsdaleperformingarts.org or talkcinema.com



TUCSON INTERNATIONAL JEWISH FILM FESTIVAL

JANUARY 16-25, 2014

SADDLEBROOKE KICK-OFF
at the DESERT VIEW
PERFORMING ARTS CENTER

38759 S. Mountain View
Blvd., Saddlebrooke

Sun., Jan. 12
2:15 p.m. & 7 p.m., \$5



AKA Doc Pomus

(USA, 2012, English, 90 min.)
Brooklyn-born, polio-stricken Jerome Felder became a blues singer in Greenwich Village. He took the name Doc Pomus, and became one of rock & roll's most brilliant songwriters. His timeless hits infuse this biography, telling the story of a man, his music and our nation. Co-presented by Northwest Division, JFSA.

Thurs., Jan. 16, 7 p.m.



Paris, Manhattan

(France, 2012, French with subtitles, 80 min.)
An idealistic French woman so loves Woody Allen's films that she bases her choices in life and love on his philosophies. The film playfully pokes fun at the French love affair with Woody and highlights some of his best moments.

Fri., Jan. 17, 1:30 p.m.



Hunting Elephants

(USA/Israel, 2013, Eng/Hbrw w/subtitles, 96 min.)
Twelve-year-old Jonathan lost his father in a freak work accident and the company not only denies fault, they threaten to repossess his house! His only hope lies with a trio of eccentric senior citizens (including the hilarious, Shakespearian-trained Sir Patrick Stewart).

FESTIVAL GRAND OPENING
at the LOFT CINEMAS

Sat., Jan. 18, 8 p.m., \$10



Far Out Isn't Far Enough: The Tomi Ungerer Story

(USA, 2012, Eng/Frch with subtitles, 98 min.)
+ Q & A with director Brad Bernstein in attendance.
Tomi Ungerer maintained successful careers as both a renowned children's book author/illustrator and the creator of boundary-breaking, politically-charged erotic art. Ungerer recounts his provocative story in light of the formative social and political changes of the 20th century.
For mature audiences.

Sun. Jan. 19, 1 p.m.



I Bark at Dogs

(USA, 2011, English, 12 min.)
Acclaimed documentary and commercial photographer, Elliott Erwitt, has captured some of the most memorable photographs of the 20th century, portraying everyday life with elegant poetry and a wicked sense of humor.

with



Every Tuesday: A Portrait of the New Yorker Cartoonists

(USA, 2012, English, 21 min.)
The New Yorker is famed for its smart and absurdly off-beat cartoons. Journey into the studios of cartoonists who are on a never-ending quest to pair the perfect drawing with the perfect caption and who face inspiration and rejection on a weekly basis.

and



Sturgeon Queens

(USA, 2013, English, 40 min.)
New York City's Russ and Daughters has been a fixture on the Lower East Side since 1914. Four generations of the Russ family have worked behind the counter to transform the fish store "from pushcart to posh."

Sun. Jan. 19, 3:30 p.m.



Simon and the Oaks

(Sweden/Denmark/Germany/Norway, 2011, Swedish/German/Hebrew/English, 122 min.)
Young Simon lives with his loving, working class family in 1939 Sweden but has always felt out of place. Isak, a Jewish schoolmate whose wealthy family has fled Nazi persecution, invites Simon to live with his family, creating unexpected bonds and conflicts.

Sun. Jan. 19, 7 p.m.



Wagner and Me

(United Kingdom, 2010, English, 89 min.)
British actor Stephen Fry has been a lifelong fan of the music of Richard Wagner. But as a Jew, he is acutely aware of the composer's association with Nazism. Follow Fry's very personal journey to reconcile his aesthetic admiration with Wagner's troublesome legacy. A panel discussion with Dr. Tom Kovach and Conductor George Hanson will follow the film.

Mon. Jan. 20, 1 p.m.



Reporting on the Times

(USA, 2012, English, 18 min.)
During World War II, the New York Times, a Jewish-owned newspaper, buried more than one thousand articles about the Holocaust in its back pages, never once making them headlines. A curious young filmmaker is determined to find out why.

with



Joe Papp in Five Acts

(USA, 2010, English, 82 min.)
The indomitable Joe Papp introduced interracial casting to the stage and brought us free Shakespeare in the Park, inviting New Yorkers to experience great theater for the first time. Many of the young talents he nurtured went on to become our favorite stars.

Mon. Jan. 20, 3:30 p.m.



Under African Skies

(USA, 2012, English, 108 min.)
For the 25th anniversary of Graceland, Paul Simon returns to South Africa to explore its legacy and revisit the artists who helped make it a success. The album helped launch World Music, immortalized Simon as one of America's most important songwriters, and influenced South African Politics.

Mon. Jan. 20, 7 p.m.



The Dandelions

(France, 2012, French with subtitles, 89 min.)
Nine-year-old Rachel is caught between her overly-protective mother, a father trapped by memories of the Shoah, and a near-catatonic grandmother. Her mother thinks she needs a shrink, but what Rachel really needs is a wildly unconventional friend of her own.

Tues. Jan 21, 1:30 p.m.



The Other Son

(France, 2012, French, Hebrew with subtitles, 105 min.)
A moving and provocative story of two teenaged men - one Israeli and one Palestinian - who discover they were inadvertently switched at birth and the complex repercussions that both families must face.

Tues. Jan 21, 7 p.m.



Any Day Now

(United Kingdom, 2012, English, 97 min.)
A teenager with Down syndrome is abandoned by his mother and taken in by a gay couple. The men are forced to fight a biased legal system to save the life of the child they love as their own. Inspired by a true story.

Wed. Jan 22, 5 p.m.



The Lady in No. 6

(USA, 2013, English, 40 min.)
At 110 years of age, Alice Herz Somers is the oldest living Holocaust survivor and an incredibly irrepressible spirit. Twice a day, her neighbors enjoy the melodies wafting from her apartment, as this classically-trained pianist continues a life-long affair with music.



American Jerusalem

(USA, 2013, English, 57 min.)
European Jews, many of whom arrived penniless and alone, emerged as the "machers" of San Francisco, weaving themselves inextricably into the fabric of the City and becoming the first truly American Jews.

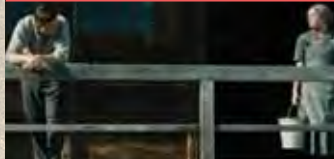
Wed. Jan 22, 7:30 p.m.



Aftermath

(Poland, 2012, Polish with subtitles, 102 min.)
A Polish man returns home and finds himself drawn into his brother's struggles surrounding the massacre of more than 340 Polish Jews at Jedwabne in 1941. Deadly wartime tensions and allegiances haunt and divide neighbors more than 70 years after the war.
Southern Arizona Premiere.

Thurs. Jan. 23, 5 p.m.



Closed Season

(Germany/Israel, 2012, English, German with subtitles, 104 min.)
A childless German peasant couple find themselves in a complicated, unorthodox arrangement with a hidden Jewish refugee. Told through flashbacks, this historical drama is charged with eroticism and unexpected twists.

Thurs. Jan. 23, 7:30 p.m.



Out in the Dark

(USA/Israel/Palestine, 2012, Hebrew & Arabic with subtitles, 96 mins)
A gripping and intensely moving love story between a privileged, gay Israeli lawyer and a Palestinian student. Set against political and personal conflicts, what starts as a tender romance ends as a taut thriller.

Fri. Jan. 24, 1:30 p.m.



Camp Story

(USA, 2013, English, 27 min.)
Animator David B. Levy creates a moving depiction of an older man's youthful memories of the years he worked at a summer camp. The visuals hold us with their beautiful simplicity and his voice conveys how profoundly important these summers were for him.

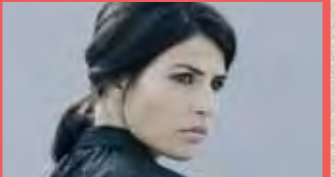
with



Commie Camp

(USA, 2013, English, 68 min.)
Founded in 1924 by Jewish socialists and Communists, Camp Kinderland has survived assaults by McCarthyites and the contemporary political right. Through it all, the idyllic New England camp has stayed true to its Leftist ideals and nurtured four generations of progressive-thinking campers.

Sat. Jan. 25, 7 p.m., \$10



Brave Miss World

(Israel, 2013, English/Hebrew with subtitles, 92 min.)
Two months before being crowned Miss World, Linor Abargil was brutally raped. Over a decade later, she's ready to talk about it - and to encourage others to speak out. Linor now travels the world as a victims' advocate, encouraging others to stand against sexual violence by putting an end to their silence.
Film contains descriptions of sexual violence.



Season Pass: \$100 • General Admission: \$9 • Student/Senior/JCC Member: \$8
Six-Pack: \$40 • Group Sales: \$150 for 25 tickets
Opening Night at the Loft: \$10 • Closing Night (Brave Miss World): \$10

All movies shown at the Tucson Jewish Community Center unless otherwise noted.
tucsonjewishfilmfestival.org
facebook.com/TJCCFilm



18TH ANNUAL GREATER PHOENIX JEWISH FILM FESTIVAL

FEBRUARY 9-23, 2014

Living the Chai Life! 18 Years of Celebrating Jewish Culture through Film



Paris-Manhattan

Comedy/Romance – (France) 77 minutes, French with English subtitles

Screenings:

Sun. Feb. 9, 3 pm: Harkins Chandler Crossroads 12
Sun. Feb. 16, 7 pm: Harkins Camelview 5
Sun. Feb. 23, 3 pm: Harkins Arrowhead 18

Growing up Alice Ovitz falls in love with Woody Allen's films. She converses with a poster of Woody Allen, and he talks back to her through excerpts of dialogue from his films. Now at 30, she is having a hard time choosing from two emerging suitors. When Alice meets Woody Allen on the streets of Paris, the real Woody Allen, not the voice of the poster, gives her personal advice.

Preceded by: Woody Before Allen. Short Film – (France/Russia/Germany/USA) Woody Allen and the Russian city of Kaliningrad share something both used to have the name Konigsberg. When the city honors the comedian with a statue, Allen agrees to be a judge for the design.

Guest Speakers:
Harkins Camelview 5 & Chandler Crossroads 12: Bill Goodykoontz, Gannett Newspapers chief film critic and Arizona Republic film critic. Harkins Arrowhead 18: Max McQueen, East Valley Tribune contributor and film expert.



Igor & The Cranes' Journey

Arizona Premiere
Adventure/Family – (Israel) 90 minutes, Hebrew/Russian, with English subtitles

Screenings:

Mon. Feb 10, 7 pm: Harkins Chandler Crossroads 12, Chandler
Sun. Feb. 16, 3 pm: Harkins Camelview 5, Scottsdale
Mon. Feb 17, 7 pm: Harkins Arrowhead 18, Peoria

Young Igor is deeply upset by the absence in his life of his ornithologist father, and by his divorced mother's decision to emigrate with him from Russia to Israel. He takes solace in tracking a migration of cranes from Eastern Europe to the Middle East, including a special crane from Russia he has named Karl.

A charming fable about migration and the meaning of home. Recommended for ages 11 and up.

Guest Speakers:

Chandler Crossroads 12 & Arrowhead 18: Rabbi Shmuly Yanklowitz, executive director of Valley Beit Midrash
Harkins Camelview 5: Rabbi Dean Shapiro, spiritual leader of Temple Emanuel in Tempe with over a decade of film industry experience



In The Shadow

Drama – (Czech Republic) 106 minutes, Czech, with English subtitles

Screenings:

Tues. Feb. 12, 3 pm: Harkins Camelview 5

Dark and gritty, In the Shadow celebrates the classic 1950s film noir police drama, placing it in the world of post-war Communist Czechoslovakia. Under the ever-watchful eye of State Security, dedicated police Captain Thomas Hakl begins the investigation of a seemingly straightforward jewelry store heist. The investigation leads him onto thin ice and begs the question, can he beat a stronger enemy and save his family and his own life?

Guest Speaker:

Dr. Murray Henner, professor at Embry-Riddle University and ASU School of Law



The Jewish Cardinal

Drama/Biography – (France) 96 minutes, French, with English subtitles

Screenings:

Sun. Feb 9, 7 pm: Harkins Camelview 5
Sun. Feb. 16, 3 pm: Harkins Chandler Crossroads 12
Thurs. Feb 20, 7 pm: Harkins Arrowhead 18

This star-studded historical drama tells the amazing real-life story of Jean-Marie Lustiger, the Jewish-born head of the French Church and close confidant of Pope John Paul II. The son of Polish Jews, Lustiger converted to Catholicism at a young age. Lustiger's struggle against

the construction of a Carmelite convent on the site of the Auschwitz concentration camp, where his own mother was murdered, plays like a crime story.

Guest Speakers:

Harkins Camelview 5 & Arrowhead 18: Father David Thom, current FBI chaplain after having retired from many years of service in various parish ministries in Phoenix
Harkins Crossroads 12: Paul Wieser, noted Holocaust expert and author, 16-year member of the Phoenix Holocaust Survivors Association and Mandel Fellow of the US Holocaust Memorial Museum



There Was Once

Arizona Premiere
Documentary – (Hungary) 103 minutes, Hungarian, with English subtitles

Screenings:

Tues. Feb. 11, 7 pm: Harkins Camelview 5

While doing research in local history, a Catholic high school teacher in Kalocsa, Hungary, discovers the lost Jewish community that once thrived in town. She shares her research with the students, teaching tolerance and fighting prejudice.

Guest Speaker:

There Was Once director/producer and Fullbright Scholar Gabor Kalman



Disobedience: The Sousa Mendes Story

Documentary – (France) 104 minutes, French, with English subtitles

Screenings:

Wed. Feb. 12, 7 pm: Harkins Camelview 5
Sun. Feb 16, 7 pm: Harkins Arrowhead 18
Wed. Feb 19, 7 pm: Harkins Crossroads 12

In 1940, Aristides de Sousa Mendes is the Portuguese consul serving in Bordeaux, France. As Nazi Germany occupies France, the Portuguese government issues orders that visas are not to be granted

to foreigners. Sousa Mendes granted the visas anyway, in huge numbers and many to Jews. This clear thumbing of the nose to the Portuguese government would cost Sousa Mendes dearly, in terms of job, reputation and wealth.

Guest Speakers:

Harkins Camelview 5: Dr. Steven Carol, academic, author, speaker and son of Sousa Mendes visa recipients
Harkins Crossroads 12: Rabbi Kenneth Leitner, spiritual leader of Temple Beth Shalom of the East Valley
Harkins Arrowhead 18: Rabbi Arthur Abrams, spiritual leader of Temple Beth Ami of Paradise Valley.



The Zig Zag Kid

Phoenix Premiere
Adventure/Drama – (Netherlands) 95 minutes, Dutch/French with English subtitles

Screenings:

Sun. Feb 9, 3 pm: Harkins Camelview 5
Sun. Feb. 16, 3 pm: Harkins Arrowhead 18
Sun. Feb. 23, 3 pm: Harkins Chandler Crossroads 12

Remember "coming of age." Ziggling and zagging from childhood. Motherless Nono wants to be like his father – the best police inspector in the world – but he constantly gets in trouble. Two days before his bar mitzvah, he meets master-burglar Felix Glick and enters a world of disguises, chases, French chansons and Zohara, a mysterious woman whose secrets will change Nono's life forever. Recommended for ages 12 and up.



Aftermath

Drama – (Poland) 104 minutes, Polish with English subtitles

Screening:

Tues. Feb. 23, 7 pm: Harkins Camelview 5

Inspired by true events. After living in the United States, Franek returns to his native Polish village to learn that his brother, Jozek, has strong conflicts with his neighbors. The brothers search to get to the truth. The conflict intensifies and results in open hostility. They uncover a dark secret that forces them to confront their family and hometown history.



The World Is Funny

Arizona Premiere
Drama – (Israel) 122 minutes, Hebrew, with English subtitles

Screening:

Thurs, Feb 13, 3 pm: Harkins Camelview 5

Aspiring writer Zafu has trouble composing endings for her stories, but uses her housecleaning job to find interesting tales. Among the accounts she ties together is the story of estranged siblings. Sister Yardenia is shocked to discover she's pregnant, since she hasn't had sex in years. Her brother Meron has to deal with the return of his eldest son, who just woke from a nine-year coma. Youngest brother Gular's girlfriend Natasha is dying of cancer.



Downtown Express

Comedy – (USA) 90 minutes, English

Screening:

Mon. Feb 10, 7 pm: Harkins Camelview 5

Sasha is a young Russian violinist on a scholarship to Julliard, living with his affectionate but overbearing father. While Sasha prepares for a critical recital that will launch him on a path to a glittering future, he is increasingly drawn to the rhythms he hears on the streets of New York. When he meets Ramona, a bohemian singer/songwriter, he begins to lead a double life, careening frantically between two worlds.



Out In The Dark

Phoenix Premiere
Drama – (Israel) 96 minutes, Hebrew with English subtitles

Screenings:

Wed, Feb. 12, 7 pm: Harkins Chandler Crossroads 12
Thurs., Feb. 13, 7 pm: Harkins Camelview 5
Tues, Feb. 18, 7 pm: Harkins Arrowhead 18

Two people meet and fall in love. This is shocking to both of their families because they are not only of the same sex, but one is an Israeli lawyer and the other a Palestinian student. This dramatic film shows the families' reactions to this love affair, with extreme results. This film is appropriate for mature audiences.

Guest Speakers:

Harkins Chandler Crossroads 12: Jack Silver, director of the Jewish counseling program at Jewish Family & Children Services
Harkins Camelview 5: Sharon Silverman, director of the Deutsch Family Shalom Center at Temple Chai
Harkins Arrowhead 18: Dr. Larry Waldman, Phoenix-area licensed clinical, forensic psychologist and certified school psychologist



Road To Eden: Rock and Roll Sukkot

Documentary – (USA) 115 minutes, English

Screening:

Sun. Feb. 23, 3 pm: Harkins Camelview 5

A feature-length documentary that tells the story of the inspirational journey of Dan Nichols, a tour de force of modern Jewish music, who took his show on the road in 2011 for the Jewish fall festival of Sukkot. Nichols' journey into America's Deep South winds through small communities with even smaller Jewish populations.

Guest Speaker:

Road to Eden filmmaker and Valley trial lawyer Doug Passon

VENUES:

Harkins Camelview 5, 7001 E Highland Ave., Scottsdale
Harkins Chandler Crossroads 12, 2980 E Germann Road, Chandler
Harkins Arrowhead 18, 16046 N Arrowhead Fountains Ctr. Dr., Peoria

Ticket Prices: \$11 for adults (\$12 at the door) / \$6 for students (ID required, 25 yrs & under)
For more information about tickets, ticket packages or group discounts, call 602-753-9366, or visit gpjff.org

Modest fashion with Israeli flair

Nava Brief-Fried of Leelach.com is dedicated to connecting women from Israel to women around the world through the fashion and design found on her website. Currently living in Nachlaot, Nava is a college student studying communications and Jewish art at Bar Ilan University. Her husband, Yehoshua, recently finished his army service and now studies computer science and business at Hebrew University. Together the pair operate Leelach.com.

Recently, I was able to ask Nava a few questions about her site and the beautiful Israeli designs and designers found on it. Her answers have been edited for clarity and brevity.

When did the site start?

Leelach started with a trial website in July of 2012, and then after receiving such positive feedback, we launched again on March 28, 2013.

Any inspiration, personal or business, that prompted the site launch?

During my national service (every girl or boy in Israel has the right to decide whether they want to go into the army after high school or do national service for two years), I decided that I would like to do my second year of national service abroad, in St. Louis. I taught in the schools there about Israel and tried in many creative ways to bring a little bit of Israel to their community. I felt like people were interested in me (as one of) the people who live in Israel as opposed to just the sentimental touristy places.

Throughout the year, I noticed that when people returned from their trips to Israel and got complimented for the clothing they returned with, they enjoyed talking about the women and the place they purchased it from – rather than talking about the actual garment. They felt that this was their way of connecting to the people, and a way of bringing a piece of that home.

After I completed my year there, I realized that I could still bring a bit of Israel to people around the world, except I can do it from here.

I wanted to bring that personal connection from one home in Israel to many homes around the world – a personal connection from one designer to many women around the world. Those connections are so important to me, to the Leelach designers, and of course to our amazing customers around the world.

So that's how Leelach began! It started with a few designers and unique Israeli stories and, of course, gorgeous products. Now we have grown to around 25 designers today,

and we are still growing daily with new designs and styles that are exclusive to Leelach and cannot be found anywhere else.

How many designers do you feature?

Right now we have around 25, but we are adding new designers all the time, so that our customers get a much bigger variety.

What are the criteria for designers to be featured on your site?

We specialize in modest apparel and modest solutions. We have over 300 different types of handmade hair-covering – tichels; we have a large selection of modest swimwear, handmade Judaica and jewelry.

What fashion advice would you give to the modern Jewish woman?

In today's modern world, modesty is slowly becoming less and less important, but that doesn't mean that we will let the beauty of modesty in a woman disappear. Leelach promotes femininity and modesty in an artful way and aims to inspire you and the people around you, and to show them the magnificence that contemporary tradition holds.

What are your best-sellers?

Our head-coverings section is extremely popular, many women love our special handmade designs. We have a tichel called the sinar tichel, which is actually apron shaped (sinar in Hebrew), and is a great way for women to cover all their hair, but at the same time look as if they used many different scarfs when they really only used one.

Our modest solutions section is very popular; many women find it hard to shop for modest clothing, but with our modest solutions, they can buy almost anything and wear one of our half shirts or cleavage covers underneath!

We have a large section of modest dresses and skirts, which are also very popular among women who are constantly searching for a place to buy and supply their modest clothing.

Leelach.com



Kira Brown is a certified personal stylist and fashion writer. Kira has interviewed many fashion icons including Tim Gunn, jeweler Neil Lane, international makeup artist Jemma Kidd and Ken Downing of Neiman Marcus. Kira also offers virtual style consultations for women and men. Contact her at kira@fashionphoenix.com.



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Diabetics Listen Up!



Dr. Pnina Levine

By Joni Browne-Walders

"I thought everybody loved going to the dentist!" quips Pnina Levine, her voice warm with amusement as she recalls her childhood naiveté.

As a young girl, Pnina (Hebrew for "Pearl") had a genetic disorder that caused many of her permanent teeth not to develop. Therefore, her parents frequently took her to their dentist for treatment. His was a simple, family practice, his office in his home. "I loved my dentist. He was my hero, my role model," she says.

And so, she decided to become a dentist herself.

Dr. Levine describes her own north Phoenix office as "a simple, family practice." She's been there since 1984, along with staff members who have been with her for many of those years. In 2013 Dr. Levine was voted Top Dentist by Phoenix Magazine. This pleases her greatly because she was chosen by her peers. "Dentists know good dentists," she confides, proudly.

Her father was an engineer, her mother a schoolteacher. Reared in New Jersey with two younger brothers, she and her family "traveled all over Europe in my early years," she says. They especially loved Israel, where they spent a lot of time and have relatives.

She attended yeshiva from second to sixth grade. Judaism has always been a big part of her family life. "I'm very traditional," she says, having been raised Conservative. "To this day, whenever we travel, we find a synagogue and attend Friday night services wherever we can."

Dr. Levine attended Rutgers University and graduated from the University of Michigan Dental School in 1982. She and her husband, Alan Gold, were married that same year. After their honeymoon, they moved to Arizona. They have a grown daughter and son, both University of Arizona graduates.

For more than 25 years, Dr. Levine has volunteered her dental skills to children of migrant farm workers. "I just love the kids. They're so sweet and appreciative, and they really can use this help." She also volunteers at CASS (Central Arizona Shelter Services), where she treats homeless patients.

In addition, Dr. Levine has become passionately involved in another area of dental care. She is adamant about alerting diabetics to the risks of gum disease. She became committed to this cause when one of her patients, a very active member of the American Diabetes Association, asked her to speak to an ADA

group about the importance of good oral health. Since then, Dr. Levine has become a regular lecturer on the subject at the Mayo Clinic and at Paradise Valley Hospital.

"Gum disease (periodontal disease) is the sixth leading complication of diabetes," she explains. "And diabetics are more likely to get gum disease, resulting in a higher rate of infection, gum and tooth loss." What makes it worse is that periodontal disease can affect the diabetic's blood sugar levels and immune system, leaving the patient vulnerable to even more harmful health problems.

"Diabetics have elevated sugar in their saliva," she continues. "Bacteria in the mouth feed on sugar, causing plaque to form on the teeth, irritating the gums and causing them to become red, swollen, tender (gingivitis) and prone to bleeding when brushed. Without proper brushing and flossing, plaque becomes tarter (calculus), which hardens and can be removed only by a dentist or hygienist."

Untreated gingivitis progresses to periodontal disease, wherein the gums recede from the teeth and the bone, and teeth loosen and fall out. Diabetics are also more prone to cavities because bacteria produce more acid, and acid puts holes in teeth.

Saliva cleanses the teeth, but a diabetic's saliva glands produce insufficient saliva, leading to dry mouth. Dry mouth can lead to soreness, ulcers, infections and tooth decay. Thus, it is important for diabetics to use fluoride gel toothpaste. Also, thrush, a fungus that thrives in low-saliva and high-sugar oral environments, can develop. This ailment must be treated with a prescription antifungal medicine.

Sounds hideous, doesn't it? This should put the fear of You-Know-Who into diabetics everywhere!

"Fortunately," Dr. Levine insists, "all of it is *entirely preventable*." With a healthy diet, tooth brushing at least twice a day with fluoride toothpaste, flossing once a day and seeing your dentist regularly at least two to three times a year, diabetic dental disease and its consequences can be avoided. "My particular focus as a dentist," she concludes, "is to help my patients achieve good overall health, dental health and to keep them smiling."

Who wouldn't love going to *this* dentist?!

Joni Browne-Walders is a produced playwright, editor and freelance writer. She can be reached at jonibw@hotmail.com.

■ [TO LIFE]

A Jewish View of Health and Healing

By Amy Hirshberg Lederman

When my husband Ray was diagnosed with lung cancer two years ago, it came as a total shock. We were still basking in the glow of our trip to northern Italy, images of the lush Piedmont countryside and Lake Como still fresh in our minds.

Ray's voice had gotten hoarse during our travels, but we were too busy exploring Florence to give it much thought. When we returned he saw the doctor, who ordered the X-ray that changed our lives forever. Within less than two weeks, we went from drinking wine and eating truffles to waiting for CT scan results and scheduling surgeries. To say we were unprepared for the challenges that followed is an understatement. But then again, I have never met anyone who was.

We faced it like soldiers entering a war zone – determined that we would fight this battle together. But instead of guns, our weapons consisted of love, family, faith and hope, which, when combined, is the most powerful arsenal I know.

From the start, we did everything we could to "tip the scale" in his favor. Ray's intuitive response was both inspiring and very Jewish: He took full responsibility for his physical, emotional and spiritual health.

He met with integrative health specialists, consulted with nutritionists, ate foods and drank sludgy concoctions rich in antioxidants. Regardless of how exhausted he was from chemo, he did some form of exercise every day. He tried acupuncture, listened to meditation tapes and gardened. He spoke to a therapist when things got tough and a rabbi when he needed spiritual guidance. Most of all, he stayed connected – to the people and community he loved and with whom he could talk honestly and openly.

All of these steps were Ray's way of taking charge of his illness and responsibility for his total well-being. Instinctively, he was following the commandment in the Torah to "take utmost care (of your body) and watch your soul scrupulously."

The definition of health in Jewish tradition is inherently holistic. Concern for the person as a whole – for the body, mind and soul – is necessary to achieve optimum health. The very word for health in Hebrew, *breeyut*, is derived from the verb *barah*, which means "to create," implying the continuing regeneration of the body that is required to maintain good health. Medieval Jewish literature uses the word *shlemut*, derived from the word *shalem*, or whole. Good health is an ongoing process of establishing and maintaining wholeness within us.

Jewish tradition elevates the act of taking care of ourselves into a religious duty; it is an extension of the way we acknowledge the sanctity of the life, of the physical body, that God has given us. Our job is to nurture and care for our body and soul as a cherished gift. This is beautifully stated by a 13th century Jewish scholar who said: "A person must care for his body like an artisan cares for his tools for the body is the instrument through which one serves the Creator."

More than 850 years ago, Maimonides, who served as the court physician to the Sultan of Egypt (in addition to being one of the most influential Jewish sages and prolific philosophers) offered six basic rules: maintain a balanced, healthy diet; exercise in moderation; get sufficient sleep; use the bathroom regularly; breathe clean air; and moderate our emotions. Maimonides' counsel suggests that we have always understood what we need to do keep ourselves healthy. Jewish tradition elevates it to a sacred duty.

Our family's efforts thus far have had miraculous results, and there isn't a single day that passes without us appreciating how precious and precarious life is. And while we can never know what our future holds, or what challenges to our health we will face, we do know that Judaism offers us a practical and positive way of responding to illness and maintaining optimal health.



Amy Hirshberg Lederman is an author, Jewish educator, public speaker and attorney. Visit her website at amyhirshberglederman.com.

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Itamar Stern

By Janet Arnold

Eating less and exercising more are probably the top two resolutions on everyone's list. It's not always easy to know how to start – and of course, even harder to stick to it – but there are people and places to help you to find a program that works for you. One such place is Foothills Sports Medicine and Physical Therapy.

Itamar Stern is part owner in a number of the 20 statewide Foothills facilities. Itamar can generally be found at the facility at Seventh Street and Glendale, which he refers to as a "neighborhood" location. The clients come from the surrounding North Central neighborhoods, and the facility has a warm, friendly feel. At least once or twice a week a client will bring in homemade baked goods to share or fresh flowers to display, as a way of thanking the affable and gracious staff. The therapists and assistants have a knack for knowing everyone's name and ailment, whether or not they are assigned to that particular person. There are trivia games put up on the community chalkboard each week, and loud, jovial arguments will sometimes ensue over "correct" answers.

Born and raised in Israel, Itamar received his degree in physical therapy from the University of Tel Aviv, School of Medicine and Asaf Harofe teaching hospital. He began his professional career in an Israeli military clinic. He realized that when working with soldiers, who are highly motivated and fast paced, he was able to develop many creative techniques, a number of which he's been able to incorporate into his ongoing daily work.

He came to the States in 1988 working in Los Angeles and Santa Monica. While there he worked in the entertainment industry and has photos of himself with Ronald Reagan, Joel Grey, Barbra Streisand and others, which are humbly tucked away in his office. The 1994 Northridge, CA, earthquake, plus a new baby, encouraged Itamar and his wife, Jody, to move to Phoenix; they've been here ever since. Jody is also in the fitness business as owner and instructor at The Pilates Body.

Itamar has a booming voice that fills the facility with both warmth and reassurance. Itamar's son Ari, a 17-year-old senior at Sunnyslope High School, played on the U.S. basketball team in the Israeli Maccabi Games in 2011 and brought home a gold medal. His daughter Ellie, 19, attends the University of California-San Diego, majoring in political science and

Raise your hand if one of your New Year's resolutions is to get in shape!

economics, with her eye toward one day becoming the U.S. Ambassador to Israel.

Foothills provides traditional physical therapy for injuries and post-surgery rehabilitation. The therapists adamantly do not believe in the "no pain, no gain" mantra. They guide and assist their clients, encouraging them to take ownership of their own path to wellness.

The rehab center connects to an additional program called FAST: Foothills Acceleration and Sports Training. Generally, young athletes – or athlete wannabes – start with a program like FAST when they're in middle school or junior high. They're looking to get themselves in the best possible shape to be able to participate in team sports when they reach the fiercer competition in high school or club teams. "They're looking to become stronger, faster, better," says Nate Souza, the assistant sports performance director. "We start with basic strengthening skills and work toward the various specific skills associated with their particular sport." Nate says the females they work with are usually interested in volleyball and swimming, and the males are involved with everything from basketball to hockey. They attend the program two or three times a week, working individually or in small groups with a trainer.

FAST is also for adults. A new program is starting Jan. 6, which the Foothills folks are calling a New Year's Revolution. They point out on their website that a revolution is "a forcible overthrow of social order in favor of a new system," and that a new system is just what most people need to break the cycle of starting something new each year, only to drop out within a few weeks. They encourage individuals to sign up for an 8-week course to try a different approach.

Foothills also offers specialized training for seniors. Our population is aging, more people are living longer and they want to live "better." Barbara Kunz is a certified personal trainer at the Foothills facility who specializes in working with seniors. "First I get to know the person," Barb explains. "I listen to what they have to say, what their challenges are during a typical day and how we can work together to make life a little easier." She places the emphasis on safety first, as so many falls and accidents happen within the home. She helps the seniors develop confidence and a positive self-image, which in turn helps them in their daily routines. Barb works one-on-one with those 65 and older. "My oldest client is 94," she says.

Barb loves working for Foothills. "Itamar is such a compassionate person," she says. "I didn't know anything about this business when I started, and he just looked at me and said 'But you can learn' and helped me get the training and education I needed to become a trainer. I've seen him give pro bono therapy to those in need, and I've even seen him give people a lift home if their rides don't show up!"

You can locate a Foothills facility near you at foothillsrehab.com.

Are you an adult at 13 or a child at 26?

By Debra Rich Gettleman

I am thoroughly dumbstruck. I was just informed by our mail-order prescription drug company that I do not have the right, under newly amended HIPAA (Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act) laws, to manage my 13-year-old son's prescriptions. This information was dumped on me after two hours of tech support idiocy as I attempted to set up an online account to streamline the process of ordering prescription refills for my family. Please note the irony here.

After finally being told that it would take three to five more business days to get the online account up and working, I decided to end the call before I dismantled the phone and furiously ingested its portable batteries. Then I remembered the reason for my call in the first place. My son was in need of his allergy medication. I said, "Well, can you at least tell me how to order my son's prescription refills online?"

"That depends," the heavily accented voice on the other end of the phone stated.

"On ... ?" I took the bait.

"On how old he is," she answered.

"He just turned 13." "Oh, well then, no. You cannot manage his account without his direct written permission."

"But he doesn't have an account. He's 13."

"Well, he will have to set up his own account and then he can order his own prescriptions."

"But he doesn't have a credit card. He has no way to pay for them. Wait a minute, is this a gag? You're just joking with me because I sound like I'm about to lose it, right?"

"No ma'am. Once a child is 13, the new HIPAA laws require the child to give written permission to a parental caregiver to have access to any of their prescription drug information."

"That is the most ridiculous thing I have ever heard. Who made that law? Seriously. I really want to know. Because it obviously wasn't someone with a 13-year-old child. Because my kid is a great kid. He's responsible, practical, thoughtful. But I can pretty much guarantee that left to his own devices, the last thing he's gonna be focused on is ordering his allergy meds on a monthly basis."

"Well, if he chooses to set up his own account and grants caregiver access to you, then you will be allowed to order his medications."

At this point, I excused myself and hung up, knowing that no good could come from my continued attempts to reason with the ridiculous automaton voice on the other end.

Let me be clear here. My 13-year-old son requires my assistance to oversee and manage his pharmaceutical needs. And there's no way I'm going to allow him (or his brother in 3 years) to do it themselves. Call me a helicopter parent, but setting 13-year-old kids free to access their own stash of

pharmaceuticals sounds like a pretty big recipe for large-scale disaster. Am I missing something here?

So back off HIPAA. I'm the sheriff in this town. My kid takes the meds I buy him based on his doctor's recommendation, and I am not about to let a 13-year-old boy make his own health care decisions without my express consent and input.

I just have one question. The new Obamacare laws allow kids to stay on their parents' insurance plans until they reach 26, even if they're married and not living at home. HIPAA insists that 13-year-old minors manage their meds on their own. So which is it, are we raising 13-year-old adults or 26-year-old children?



Debra Rich Gettleman is a mother and blogger based in the Phoenix area. For more of her work, visit unmotherlyinsights.com.

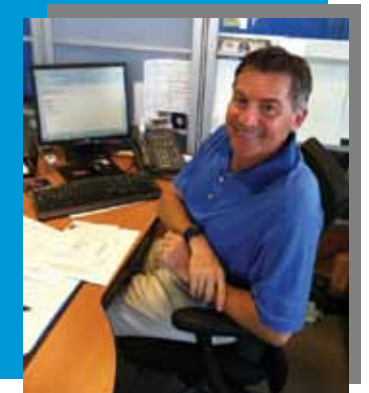


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Bob Kravetz, MD, loves his antique medical tool collection

By Carine Nadel

Ever wonder how medical tools began and how they evolved? If so, you may want to visit Dr. Bob Kravetz's museum collection of antique medical pieces in the lobby of the Phoenix Baptist Hospital.

When you first walk in and see the two wall-sized cases that the items call home, you may think you're in the wrong place – but don't stop! Walk over and take a look at the dates and histories that Kravetz has included for your perusal. Kravetz and his wife, Nancy, moved to Phoenix with their three sons in 1962 and joined Beth El Congregation. Currently he serves on the board of the Arizona Jewish Historical Society. His collection combines his love of history and medicine.

Some of the pieces date back to the late 1700s! The stories behind the various tools are as interesting as the story about how the collection came into existence. Kravetz loves to relate that it all started with a trip to his wife Nancy's hometown near Boston in 1970. The town of Newportbury Port was established in the 1600s, and Kravetz stopped by a local hospital to see if they had any of the very old drugs. The staff pointed him in the direction of a nearby drugstore that opened in 1845.

"Believe it or not, in 132 years there had only been three druggists! I walked into a room that had never left the past. I bought it all – 6,000 pounds of medical history! From there it became an endless quest. I even owned an antique store that my father ran for a year that strictly housed some of these pieces," says Kravetz.

When asked if he had any favorites among the gamut of tools, Kravetz says he'd have a hard time narrowing it down from his 1,500 major pieces, but two dozen stood out. The most historical ones though provided the best stories to share: His mother-in-law once stored pencils in a Dutch Delftware medical jar, he has a Revolutionary War era drug chest that belonged to George Washington and he is the proud owner of a jar from Benjamin Rush (a signatory of the



Declaration of Independence) once used to store leeches.

But what about some of the other interesting objects you might see? An ivory doll that is a perfect carving of a well-endowed naked woman was used in China in the days when women could not go to a doctor. Her husband would go and point out the spots on the doll and describe the pain/discomfort his wife had – that's how the woman would be diagnosed. There are also urological instruments dating back more than 2,000 years and delivery forceps from the 1600s.

Today, many of these tools have been refined, but according to Kravetz, "they are basically the same. My main criterion for purchasing was how high was the quality."

Although people might laugh at the thought behind some of these instruments today, "there's a buyer for almost anything now or from the past," says Kravetz. "For a while, it may have been the first Viagra: in quackery, some men bought an electric belt that was supposed to ensure their being more potent."

Of course, Kravetz also has pieces in his museum that may have worked and still have merits in helping people today. "A lot of medicines come

originally from herbs. I have a collection of digitalis teas. Of course, how would you know what was the correct dose? One dunk or two? Once or twice daily? Still herbs are a great source of help in many drugs today."

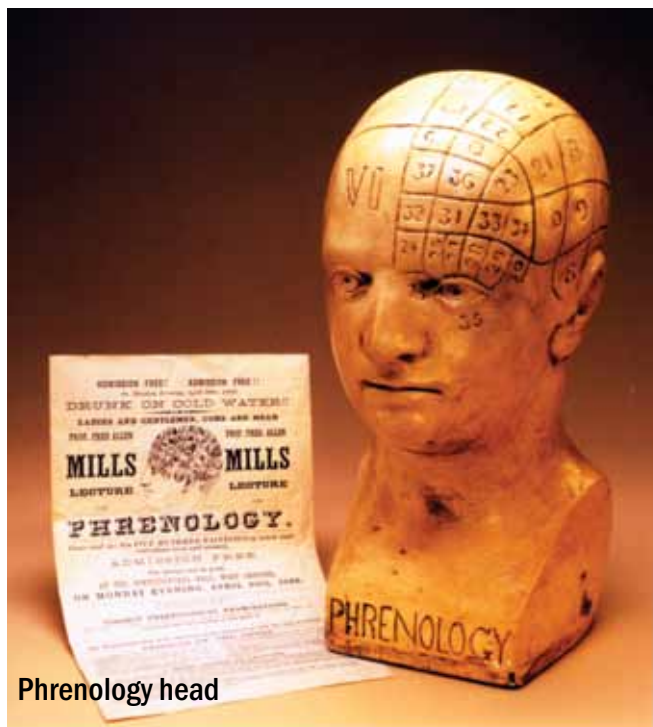
Kravetz found many pieces of his collection in various parts of the world while vacationing with his wife. "I also love flea markets. Europe has some of the most amazing items that I really had to talk my way into being able to carry back home. People will sell anything. I found the most interesting enema device in France. The fun is all in the hunt!"

Kravetz retired from practice 15 years ago at 65, but still teaches and maintains an office at the Phoenix Baptist Hospital. Presently, besides the hospital lobby and a few smaller cabinets on several floors, Kravetz says he has a small grouping of tuberculosis tools at the Heard museum downtown.

"I've long ago stopped buying pieces, but I'm donating them to the medical school. If someone is interested in starting a collection like this, start by searching online. I love being a mentor or even a muse. I love to encourage people to collect and save these items from the past," says Kravetz.

"Remember this, we learn from where we've been. If you don't know about the past, you don't know where you are going. History always repeats itself."

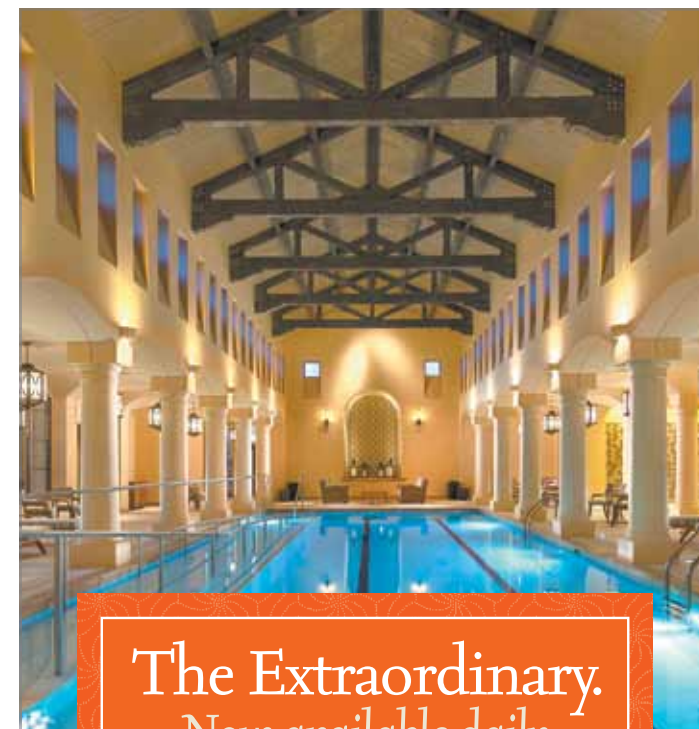
If anyone is interested in finding out more about Kravetz's collection, contact him at bob@brownies.com.



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Valley newsroom includes: Joel Smith, Ann Lebed, Mark Gross, Howard Smigel, Betty Smigel Jack LaBonte, Barbara Gold, Michael Mehlman, Jeff Glosser, Natalie Kane, David Horowitz, Michael Epner, Bonnie Stallone, Fred Schomer, Steve Davis, Howard Wernnick, Jim Dempsey, Harvey Epstein, Larry Cohen, Alan Silberman, Mark Kelman

The Valley Newsroom keeps things stimulating

By Carine Nadel

What happens when you get more than 25 self-proclaimed “news junkies” into the same room? According to retired pediatrician and class leader, Michael Epner, “We create a group of highly educated seniors who enjoy sharing our opinions on a spectrum ranging from ultra-conservative to ultra-liberal with one another, and we feel safe and well-respected in doing so.”

The class began as a senior “emeritus” option at a community college more than 15 years ago. According to Epner, many of

the participants have been with the class since its inception. About seven years ago, the original teacher retired and Epner realized he could lead the group. A few months ago the class was defunded, but the group wanted their weekly discussions to continue.

Epner and a few others decided that they’d restart the group themselves. The Mustang Library, located at 10101 N 90th St. in Scottsdale, rented them a room for a discounted fee. Epner says they all realized that they’d still need to charge a fee to cover the cost of flyers, mailings and other expenses; they decided



Michael Epner

the amount would be the original tuition minus 20%. The group plans to donate any extra funds to worthy causes. They’ve already made the first donation, which was to help send a group of high school “mathletes” in Costa Rica to compete in the Iberoamerican Math contest.

Epner, who has no formal social science training, works hard to prepare for each week’s 10-11:30 Wednesday morning class. Epner says, “It may be hard to believe, but I’ve been a news junkie since I was 6! I read 25 newspapers online daily and listen to insightful information on the media, and then take notes.”

Some of the publications he accesses via computer are The New York and Los Angeles Times, The Wall St. Journal, the China Daily, Le Monde and the Arizona Republic, just as a start. From there Epner writes up a list of possible subjects that lead to some lively and interesting discussions.

“I’ve listed as many as 50 (subjects) on the board. Sometimes we only get through one or two, and other times we might talk over a half dozen,” says Epner of each week’s discussions. “The age range of the group is from 72 to 84, about 90% of our members are Jewish and most have more than one degree.”

Michael Mehlman, a long-time student in the class, says he loves the weekly get-togethers and says they are very important on several levels since his retirement. “I find they help keep me mentally

stimulated. I keep learning. I’ve made lifelong friends – even though we don’t always agree. It’s good for everyone to meet and have relationships with people we may have never met otherwise.”

Mehlman adds that now the class has a couple of dozen people, but that within a few short weeks the snowbirds will arrive and then the gathering will swell to almost triple that number. “But we’re always looking for more people. I was out to dinner with some friends the other night and invited them. No doubt, they’ll join us.”

The group has been known to successfully predict the outcome of many national elections. “In the past we have predicted the national elections and predicted the winner in 49 of the 50 states.

We missed Iowa. We predicted the next pope two weeks before the College of Cardinals elected him,” boasts Epner.

Even though the group has been so successful in the past, when asked if they had a strong feeling as to whom would be the next president of the United States, both leader and students declined to make their choices public. However, they did say they feel that the country is polarized in a way that no one has ever seen before, and therefore it’s hard to predict what will happen in our future.

They do have strong opinions about the survival of Israel and the Jewish population. Mehlman says, “We as a people are incredibly strong and so is the state of Israel. We will survive.” Epner echoes the sentiment and adds, “We will always figure out a way.”

As a guest and observer, I loved the way the group listened to those who talked and everyone was very respectful of the person giving an opinion. One of the hot topics on this occasion was the Affordable Care Act. Everyone was allowed and encouraged to state what they thought and others to disagree, but all seemed to be certain it was safe to share their points of view with everyone in the room. And afterward, they loved the idea of getting together for lunch.

If anyone is interested in learning more about the “Valley Newsroom” sessions, email Epner at EpiePandM@aol.com

Carine Nadel is a recent and happy transplant to Arizona. In a varied career, Carine has done everything from front page features for the Orange County Register and food columns to having recipes published in major magazines and entries on her family life in Chicken Soup for the Soul books.



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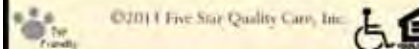
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Descendants of Holocaust survivors sought to provide "Care Across Generations"

members to provide this assistance in a manner that is mindful and sensitive to the experiences and needs of Holocaust survivors.

One powerful aspect of this program is that descendants of survivors – the second and third generations – are specifically being sought to serve as volunteers. Descendants of Holocaust survivors often feel a strong desire to give back, in part to honor the struggles and survival of their own parents and grandparents. Additionally, many survivors feel a special comfort and safety with the children and grandchildren of other survivors.

Organizers hope to have the program operational this winter.

Potential volunteers are asked to register for the required volunteer training at 7 pm, Jan. 15.

"Assisting Holocaust Survivors: Unique Needs and Opportunities" will be the theme of the training program. Training will be provided by Janice Friebaum, MS, MA, chair of Generations After - Descendants of Holocaust Survivors in Greater Phoenix. A light dessert reception is included in the free program.

For location, RSVP at JFCSAZ.org.

Phoenix Holocaust Survivors' Association, Jewish Family & Children's Service Aleinu, and Generations After-Descendants of Holocaust Survivors in Greater Phoenix are launching Care Across Generations, which will train volunteers to help and honor Holocaust survivors.

Many survivors, either living alone or declining in their abilities, may benefit from assistance provided by volunteers. Care Across Generations will provide friendly visits, phone reassurance, transportation to medical appointments and shopping, assistance with paperwork, life history documentation, assistance with using a computer technology, and minor home repairs.

In partnership with community organizations (Duet, Benevilla, Smile on Seniors, and Hospice of the Valley), the program will recruit and train interested Jewish community



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SOUNDBITES

When was the **last time** you did something for the very **first time**?



Rabbi Batsheva Appel

Temple Emanu-El

Tucson

"The last time I did something for the first time was two summers ago at Olin Sang Ruby Union Institute in Oconomoc, WI. The campers were tubing, where a boat drags the tube on the lake, and they invited me to take a turn. I thought it was scary and didn't enjoy it nearly as much as the campers who were with me. But I am glad that I did it."



Dr. Barry Friedman

President of the Board

Jewish History Museum

Tucson

"I shot my first hole in one ... and I had a very momentary feeling of being impressed with myself. ... but that passed quickly as I finished the round with a 95."



Jacki Cohen

Congregation Beth Israel board member

Scottsdale

"I have been a fused glass artist for the past six years and always used other people's kilns and equipment. Today we broke ground on my own studio. I purchased a kiln and power tools! Launching "Jacki Cohen Glass Art Designs" is an exciting way to start the new year!"



Merrill Abeshaus

Flagstaff

"I went bungee jumping off the Kawarau Bridge in New Zealand, a height of over 140 feet. At the time (two years ago), I was one of the oldest to do the jump (at age 73). I would do it again."



Valerie Schlegel

Judaic Studies major

University of Arizona

Tucson

"Last summer I went to Israel and worked on an archeological dig for four weeks at Tel Abel Beth Maacah, in the Hula Valley in northern Israel, as part of their inaugural season. We were investigating how Abel Beth Maacah functioned as a cultural crossroad and how it played a large role as a prominent northern city. I was very excited to take part in my first dig, and my first trip to Israel."



Jodi Bransky

Chabad of Oro Valley

Oro Valley

"I served potato latkes at Thanksgiving this year! What fun! Unfortunately it won't happen again in my lifetime."

NEXT MONTH

Tell us about how you met and/or your proposal.

For our special weddings coverage in February, we'd like to hear from couples. Please send a "couple photo" and your short story (up to 70 words) of how you proposed or met to editor1@azjewishlife.com by Jan. 8.

Storm Clouds on Horizon for Markets in 2014

MONEY MATTERS

By Thomas K. Brueckner

Jim Cramer, host of MAD Money on CNBC, has a problem. The sound-effects specialist and equal-opportunity stock mocker has noticed a compelling trend on Wall Street. It seems those stocks and sectors that tend to do well in a recovery are declining, even as those which advance amid slowdowns are attracting capital. The cantankerous Mr. Cramer has finally tripped over the tip of the iceberg.

Today we have two contrasting metrics. On the one hand, a recent Forbes survey of asset managers showed that a majority believe that Janet Yellen's Fed will be unable to fully taper their purchases of mortgage-backed securities until the third quarter of 2014. Given what "Quantitative Easing 3" has done for our markets – if not also our economy and jobs – they assume a beneficial environment for stocks could continue well into next year. This is reinforced by a survey of leading advisers whose equity exposure currently stands at a whopping 93.8% – tied for the highest it's been in many years. Another survey predicts this bullishness could be vulnerable to a mild correction lasting little more than a month, perhaps three, after which investors are likely to recover those losses, reapply their rose-colored glasses, and resume their profitability. There is even a rising chorus arguing that Janet Yellen's Fed should reduce its unemployment target to 6, even 5½%, before beginning to taper its \$85 billion in monthly purchases of mortgage-backed securities, an announcement that would clearly cheer U.S. markets well into next year.

But never mind the markets; what about the economy? In a recent column in these pages, I asked a basic question, restated here with updated numbers: "With the economy barely growing at 2%, how is it possible for the 500 companies that supposedly represent that economy (the S&P 500) to already be up 23% year-to-date – seemingly with no end in sight?" As Wall Street Journal columnist Brett Arends recently pointed out on MarketWatch.com, such a disconnect is only possible amid "Irrational Exuberance 3.0," a return to the giddy, devil-may-care euphoria of the late '90s dotcom bubble, revived with updates for your investing enjoyment by a Federal Reserve oblivious to the wide-ranging side-effects of its folly on our posterity.

In the last month, we've seen unemployment *increase* slightly, even as the Labor Participation Rate decreased to historic lows (largely because discouraged job-seekers stopped looking). The National U.S. Retail Federation just predicted the weakest



holiday sales in five years, not a good sign for businesses that make 80% of their annual revenue in the last six weeks of the year. Additionally, the Conference Board just released its latest consumer confidence numbers, which dropped markedly from 80.2 to 71.2, *the lowest reading in 6 months*. And finally, if you thought our recent budget and debt-ceiling impasses in Washington were behind us, think again. All Congress did in November was defer the budget conversation to January, and postpone the debt ceiling debate into February, leading Wells Fargo Securities to warn, "Given that the latest fiscal policy deal only (postpones the debate) until January, we expect consumer confidence to take another hit to start the new year ... and ongoing political disagreement to pose downside risks over the next couple of quarters."

In a truly frightening sign of the Fed having now enabled even the gamblers, margin debt, the amount of money investors have *borrowed* to invest in the market, recently hit record highs. According to a columnist at seekingalpha.com, (See: 5 Reasons Why You Should Sell Stocks Into This Fed-Induced Market Bubble), "...In September 2013, margin debt stood at \$401 billion, which is even higher than where it was before the financial crisis at \$381 billion. *This 2007 peak in margin debt came just three months before the S&P 500 hit an all-time high and then collapsed in the aftermath of the Financial Crisis*. Record levels of margin debt are another sign of pervasive greed in the market and the lack of fear which often come at market tops." (emphasis added).

Sooner or later, the exuberance of the market has to bear some connection to the malaise of our domestic economy. If you haven't benefitted from this euphoria thus far, now may not be the time to come late to the party. And if you have, it may be time to head home before our beloved but ever more tipsy host stumbles embarrassingly into the pool.

Thomas K. Brueckner, CLTC, is President/CEO of Strategic Asset Conservation in Scottsdale, a conservative wealth management firm with clients in 18 states and 6 countries. He is a 2011 Advisor of the Year national finalist, a radio talk show host, and a mentor to other advisors nationally. He may be reached for comment at go2knight.com.

The opinions in this column are those of the author.



Waiting Tables & Acting: Tragedy, comedy or universal truth?

By Janet Arnold

Oy! Twenty-nine years as a waiter? Probably not any Jewish mother's first choice for her son – or ANY mother's for that matter. The money may not be bad, but where's the chance for advancement, the opportunity to make a name for yourself or to help society? That's what Brad Zimmerman kept hearing over and over in his head. He could have just accepted his fate, but instead he got busy and wrote "My Son, the Waiter: A Jewish Tragedy."

Brad will be performing his one-man show from Dec. 25 to Feb. 2 at the Herberger Theater, 222 E Monroe in Phoenix. It's a funny and poignant look at his years serving other people, all the while trying to make it as a comic.

"What makes audiences connect with the story is that it's true," explains Brad, who recently turned 60.

Brad is a Jersey boy, born and raised in Bergen County just outside of New York. He became a bar mitzvah through Temple Emanuel in Westwood, NJ, but by the time he reached Hebrew High, he started shying away from organized Judaism. "I am very proud of being Jewish and in fact, I kind of reek Judaism through my pores! But I'm much more a secular Jew these days."

In his younger days, Brad didn't have much self-esteem, wasn't sure of his abilities as an actor and had chosen not to work for his father. So he followed the path of many who just can't quite make the big time in the entertainment world: he waited on tables and waited for his break. But he finally took a couple of classes and started writing his story in the early 2000s. And his life started to change. By 2004 he was opening for folks like George Carlin and Joan Rivers, and by 2007 he was able to stop waiting tables for good.

"Everything happens the way it's supposed to be," Brad says.

He's been traveling around the country with his show and has nearly all of 2014 booked. "I don't mind the traveling so much, except for long plane flights. But I do know I'll always want to live in the East; I thrive on the intellectual stimulation and culture there." But he's quick to add that he enjoys meeting new types of audiences everywhere he goes.

The show has generated much buzz while delivering an inspirational message: if you can find something in your life that you truly love, that gives your life meaning and you don't give up under any circumstance, it can make for a meaningful and rich life, no matter the outcome. "My Son the Waiter" is a performance for anyone who aspires to get the most out of their talents and is willing to stay the course.

Brad recently added another element to his production. He's written a book that he sells and autographs at the end of the performance. *Atta boy Zimmy!* is based on the cheers his father would yell when Brad was a young athlete. "Plus," he grins, "there's an introduction written by my mother, who is every Jewish mother's Jewish mother!"

"My Son the Waiter: A Jewish Tragedy" is produced by Philip Roger Roy and Dana Matthow, who also produced "My Mother's Italian, my Father's Jewish and I'm in Therapy."

"My Son the Waiter: A Jewish Tragedy"
WHEN: Wednesdays through Sundays until Feb 2 at various times.
TICKETS: \$39.50-49.50 at
herbergertheater.org or 602-252-8497

Performing in Arizona: Itzhak Perlman

By Elizabeth Schwartz

Most musicians tend to reduce their professional engagements as they age. Not Itzhak Perlman. If anything, Perlman has increased his activities. In addition to his 40-plus years as one of the world's premier violinists, in recent years he has returned to his alma mater – Juilliard – to teach. He's also embarked on a second performing career, this time atop the podium as a conductor.

Perlman, who will turn 69 this August, now uses a motorized scooter (he contracted polio at the age of 4) and plays violin while seated, but other than his wheels and a bit more silver in his curly hair, he seems to have made little concession to age.

He will perform at the Tucson Music Hall Jan. 14 and at the Mesa Arts Center in Phoenix on Jan. 16.

Over the years, beginning with his appearances on “The Ed Sullivan Show” and “Sesame Street,” no one else from the classical world since Leonard Bernstein has been so well known and beloved, both on and off the stage. In this country, Perlman is classical music's greatest ambassador. He plays for presidents in the White House, reigning monarchs and aspiring violin students around the world.

Whether he is conducting, soloing with an orchestra or presenting an intimate violin recital with piano, Perlman approaches each event with the same attitude: the music always comes first. “Musically, whatever you do, whether it's conducting or playing, you want to make sure that you are true to the music, and you want the music to really speak to the audience.”

This focus on the music rather than the performer accounts for a large part of Perlman's personal appeal, along with his warmth and genuine devotion to music as a transformative means of communication. Audiences may be coming to see him,

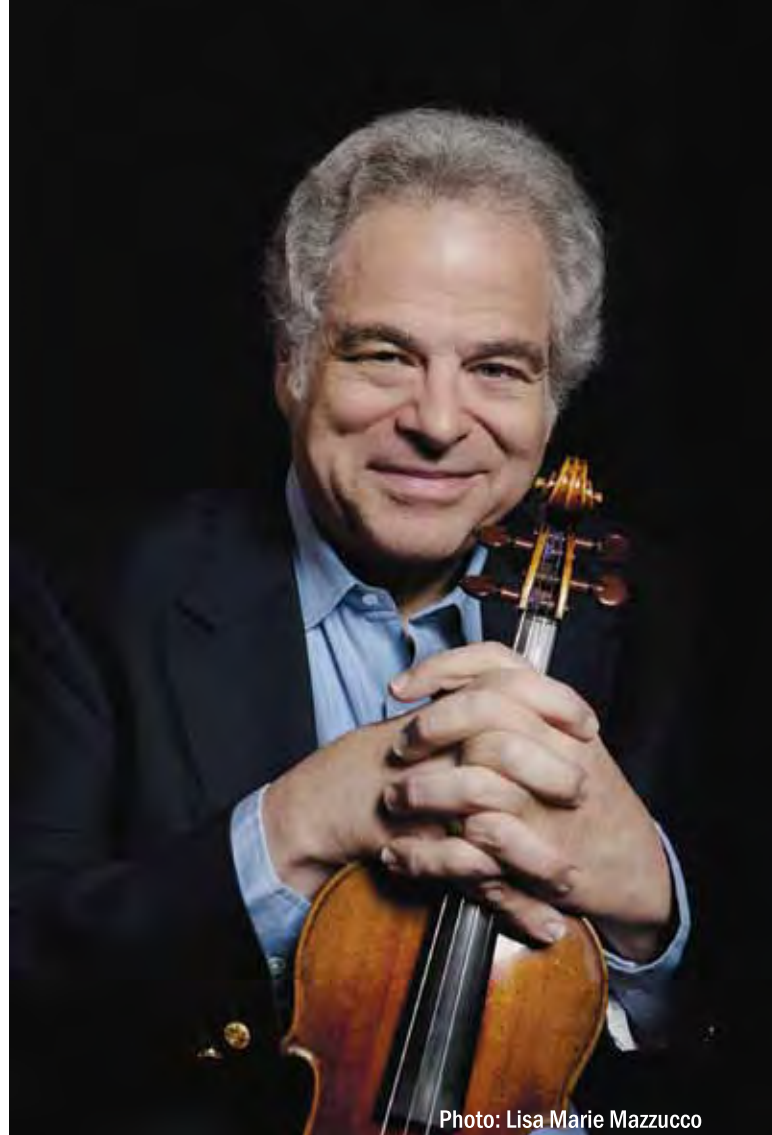


Photo: Lisa Marie Mazzucco

but Perlman doesn't engage with the self-involvement that often accompanies superstar status. For him, the music is what matters – first, last and always.

One factor that colors Perlman's down-to-earth approach to his work is his lifelong engagement in Jewish practice, particularly home-based Judaism. The son of Poles who immigrated to Palestine in the 1930s, Perlman describes his parents as “traditional Jews.” However, synagogue life was not a major part of his childhood. “I don't remember going to synagogue regularly as a kid in Israel,” he says. “We were not members of a synagogue, but sometimes the neighbors would rent communal space for holiday celebrations. The only time I remember going to a proper synagogue was when I was bar mitzvahed.” Today, as then, Perlman's Judaism centers on his family life. He does not perform on Shabbat or Jewish holidays, and whenever he's home in Manhattan, he gathers as many members of his large family as are available for Shabbat dinners in their home. Perlman and his wife Toby, also a classical violinist, have five children and nine grandchildren.

When Perlman is on the road, he sometimes explores

synagogues in the cities he's visiting. “Once I was in South America, and I was invited to one of the [Chabad] Lubavitch shuls there,” he remembers. “That was an interesting experience.”

Perlman and his wife keep a kosher home (they have three dishwashers, for dairy, meat and parve dishes), but for practical reasons he doesn't keep kosher when he travels. “You need to do what you're comfortable with,” he explains. “I remember there was a gentleman who would bring a kosher steak in a brown paper bag to give to the restaurant. He was comfortable with that, even though the

It's because Perlman is so comfortable in his own skin that he is able to share not only his love for music making and teaching, but also his embodiment of *menschlichkeit*.

grill wasn't kasher.”

Perlman applies this same standard of personal comfort to the thorny question of Jewish identity. “I think of Israel as a country, but not a religious country,” he explains. “Within it you have many different forms of belief. In Israel, you have much more of a separation between secular Jews and religious Jews, unlike here,” he explains. “If you go to Jerusalem you have a huge population of very frum Jews, and they would probably look down on people who are not so frum, like in Tel Aviv. I remember speaking to someone who felt that if you were not living in Israel, you were not a good Jew. I think that's ridiculous, but that's what he thought.”

“The thing about being Jewish is it comes in so many variations,” Perlman continues. “You can talk about someone who is extremely religious and then around the corner is someone who is more frum than you are. The important thing is the comfort; how comfortable do you feel doing what you do as a Jew? It's important not to look at anybody with judgment just because they don't do exactly what you do.”

It's because Perlman is so comfortable in his own skin that he is able to share not only his love for music making and teaching, but also his embodiment of *menschlichkeit*. Leo Rostein, author of *The Joys of Yiddish*, defines the word “mensch” as “someone to admire and emulate, someone of noble character. The key to being ‘a real mensch’ is nothing less than character, rectitude, dignity, a sense of what is right, responsible, decorous.”



Photo: Akira Kinoshita

Perlman's essential humanity translates into *menschlichkeit* of a high order, and it's an attitude he brings to everything he does. “Morally, in what you do with your fellow man, how you treat everybody, I don't feel there are such things as gray areas,” he states emphatically. “When something is right, it's right, and when it's wrong, it's wrong.”

Elizabeth Schwartz is a symphony program annotator and freelance writer.

Itzhak Perlman Performances

WHAT: Reigning violin virtuoso Itzhak Perlman performs with the Tucson Symphony Orchestra for the first time in 30 years.

WHEN: 8 pm, Jan. 14

WHERE: Tucson Music Hall
260 S Church Ave., Tucson, AZ 85701

TICKETS: \$45-125, 520-882-8585 (Tucson Symphony)

WHEN: 7:30 pm, Jan. 16

WHERE: Ikeda Theater, Mesa Arts Center
1 E Main St., Mesa, AZ 85201

TICKETS: \$50/\$70/\$90; 480-644-6500

An enchanted evening

By Leah Susman

If three cantors walked into a bar in Tucson, would they sing mariachi? Probably not, but if three cantors walked onto a stage for a concert in Tucson, they would likely sing songs in Yiddish, Ladino, Hebrew and English.

This is what you can expect at “An Enchanted Evening – A Jewish Music Concert,” on Saturday, Feb. 1, at 8 pm at the Berger Performing Arts Center in Tucson.

Special guest, Cantor Ivor Lichterman, will be joined by Cantor Avraham Alpert of Tucson’s Congregation Bet Shalom (Conservative), along with Cantor Janece Cohen of Tucson’s Congregation Or Chadash (Reform). The evening will also feature DJ Sinai, a pianist and vocalist who is the music director at Temple Beth Sholom in Las Vegas, as well as the Tucson Christian Gospel group called The Gatekeepers and the Tucson Girls Chorus.

This promises to be an evening of musical enchantment. Carol Richelson, chair of the event, says Congregation Bet Shalom created the event because, “It is a nice way to get three cantors together to perform in a perfect venue with a huge auditorium. As a fundraiser for our congregation, with a variety of performers, it will be appropriate for the whole family, and we are honoring long-time Tucsonan Cantor Ivor Lichterman, who now lives and works in Toledo, Ohio. We welcome him back to Tucson for this inspirational performance.”

Describing Lichterman, Alpert says, “I studied with him for five years when he was at Congregation Anshei Israel. He was a vital part of this Tucson community for over 20 years, and he left without a send-off. Many people miss him and want to share a special time with him.”

Cantor Avi, as Alpert is affectionately called by congregants, went on to talk about his close friend, DJ Sinai, who will also perform that evening. “He is a virtuoso. He can play anything in any key in any style at any moment, with or without music. Plus, he’s an outstanding vocalist.”

Rounding out the exciting program will be The Gatekeepers, a vocal and instrumental group that has performed at many Jewish events in Tucson. They sing in Hebrew and English including a moving rendition of “Hatikvah.” An added plus will be the Tucson Girls Chorus directed by Dr. Marcela Molina, who is a member of Congregation Bet Shalom.

Tickets are \$36 in advance, \$45 at the door and \$36 for an after-concert party, to be held on the stage. Reserved seats are \$54. For additional information or sponsorship opportunities, contact Carol Richelson, chair of the event, 520-548-0772, or Cantor Avraham Alpert, 520-577-1171 ext. 2. Tickets may be purchased through the website at cbsaz.org/concert, or by calling Congregation Bet Shalom, 520-577-1171 ext. 1.

The Berger Performing Arts Center is located at the Arizona State Schools for the Deaf and Blind-Tucson Campus, 1200 W Speedway – West Parking.



Mysterious Images Jewish History Museum wants answers

By Eileen Warshaw

In 2008 the Jewish History Museum combined with the Jewish Historical Society of Southern Arizona. The venerable society had been diligently recording and collecting the bits and pieces of the Jewish history of the region for more than a decade. The hundreds of items collected were stored in various boxes and envelopes and, with the merger, those items made their way into the archives of the Jewish History Museum.

Thus was born a mystery of biblical proportion! Thousands of photos from eras gone by had no identification. Objects that once were common and identifiable are now relics of the past with a hidden meaning. Volunteer archivists, history detectives and historians have devoted hundreds of hours to researching the photos, letters and artifacts – only to hit the proverbial brick wall.

The ribbon and metal pin shown in photo number 1 is a story waiting to be discovered. Is this a fraternal, fraternity or ceremonial object?

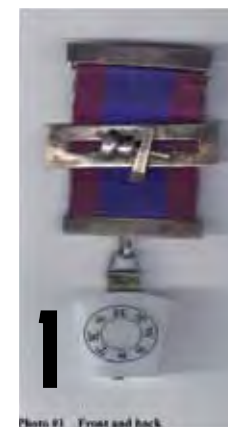
We know by the clothing that the photo of the women (photo 2) is from the early 1900s, but what are they doing dressed as a wedding party? Are they dressed for Purim – is that queen Esther in the center of the group?

The unidentified photos span generational periods. Photo number 3 has a different, more contemporary, group, possibly from the 1950s – their identity and reason for gathering just as hidden in time as the group from the 1900s.

The B’nai B’rith Lodge 763 was chartered in 1914 in Tucson. Photo 4 shows a gathering of the lodge in the original synagogue, Temple Emanu-El, and looks to be in the 1920s. What are the names of these men and women who helped to lay the foundation for the modern Jewish community in Southern Arizona?

Any information or possible clues are most welcome. You may email the museum at jhmtucson@gmail.com or call 520-670-9073.

As we enter a new year, we here at the Jewish History Museum would like to suggest one of your 2014 resolutions should be to get that box of old photos out and write names on the back, or label the photos you have digitally. One of our missions is to attempt to eliminate history mysteries for future generations!



Looking for Love

Proper Pacing for New Relationships

By Ellen Gerst

Choosing the right pace, as well as developing momentum, is an important facet of new relationships. It's important to take it neither too fast nor too slow.

If you're taking it *too fast*, this could mean that after one interaction you decide that you've met your soul mate and you're already hearing wedding bells ringing in the distance. Consequently, you begin to shower this prospective mate with gifts and also feel the need to be in constant communication when you're apart. Although your actions might simply be the result of unbridled enthusiasm, it probably will be viewed as overbearing. This is the one of the very best ways to scare away a possible romantic connection that could have bloomed slowly.

Conversely, if you're taking it *too slow*, this could mean that, even though both parties initially felt some sort of connection, a couple of weeks go by before you interact again. Without a sturdy base of shared memories to build on, this lack of momentum can make the relationship fizzle before it even starts. When too much time elapses between the first few interactions, you are basically starting anew on each date.

So what is the correct timing to get a new relationship off the ground?

What is important to keep in mind is that men and women harbor very diverse ideas about the meaning of the early days of dating. Women often read too much into every nuance or comment and may assume an exclusive relationship is starting because three to four dates in a row have taken place. On the other hand, men, in the same time frame, are usually still in the get-to-know-you phase and don't want to feel locked up quite yet. Thus, when a woman starts making demands and having unrealistic expectations of the man, he gets the itch to run and unhook the yoke he feels being tightened around his neck.

The following true story about a prospective couple exemplifies how differently men and women see beginning interactions. It illustrates how this couple could not find the correct balance or momentum, which eventually caused the budding romance to come to a screeching halt.

Getting Scared

A man and a woman connect through an Internet dating site and set a first meeting at a restaurant. They haven't had much communication beforehand and, when he goes to kiss her hello, she is caught off guard and a little taken aback. To her, the usual order of things is a handshake in the beginning or *maybe* a hug and a little peck if she feels really comfortable.

As the meal progresses, they seem to really hit it off. An hour into the conversation, they are discussing a comedian who will be in town a month away. He asks her if she wants him to purchase tickets for this show. Again, she is a little taken aback by his aggressiveness and also his assumption that they will be seeing each other in what seems to be so far in the future; however, she's also flattered and agrees to this advance date. After all, she always has the option of cancelling it if things

don't work out. After a three-hour lunch, they get ready to say goodbye. Now it's time for the hug!

Throughout the week, they see each other four more times, at the gentleman's request. A little over the top, but they are thoroughly enjoying each other's company.

With the facts I've provided, a natural assumption would be that they are going to continue this relationship. *Think again!*

In the meantime, the woman has sent the gentleman some thought-provoking emails and, perhaps, reveals a little too much about her inner psyche. Picking up on his aggressive pursuit of her, she thinks to herself, "*How can we know if we want to continue to see each other without letting the other see who we truly are?*" Although a valid question, this is a rookie dating mistake and backfires horribly on her. *The lesson is to refrain from revealing too much, too soon.*

The following week she calls him and leaves a message on his answering machine asking him if he wants to go see a movie the next day. He doesn't return the phone call to say yes or no. She leaves another message two days later, which asks him to let her know one way or the other if he wishes to continue seeing her. *Still no reply.* One more try on her part – an email that states her confusion over his lack of courtesy. *Still no reply.*

A few weeks later they run into each other. The gentleman admits the reason he didn't return the phone calls or reply to her email was that he was feeling "penned in." However, let's review the scenario. He asked her out five times in one week, as well as for one month away. Who was trying to pen whom in? And who closed the door when a touch of emotional intimacy entered the scene?

The truth is that no one was to blame. These were simply two people who didn't know each other very well. They went too fast, too soon, which resulted in both of them overreacting due to their own inherent fears and insecurities. The woman, who was very hurt by his lack of response to her various emails and phone calls, mistakenly made it all about her. In reality, the gentleman had his own personal issues with which he was dealing, and his reversal of attitude was more about *him* than anything to do with the woman.

What's the lesson to be learned? Try to place yourself in the other person's position and figure out how he or she might interpret seemingly innocent comments and actions. With strangers, it's very easy to take both actions and words in a different manner than which they were intended. Most importantly, try to avoid taking things personally, because it's not always about YOU!

Ellen Gerst is a relationship coach, author and workshop leader. Visit LNGerst.com. To ask Ellen a question to be answered in a future column, email her at LNGerst@LNGerst.com.



Carmi Gillon, left, the former director of Israel's Shin Bet Security Agency, with J Street founder and President Jeremy Ben-Ami.

Jeremy Ben-Ami speaks on the two-state solution

By Carine Nadel

First and foremost, J Street founder and President Jeremy Ben-Ami wants everyone to know that "We believe in the right of the Jewish people to a national homeland in Israel, in the Jewish and democratic values on which Israel was founded, and in the necessity of a two-state solution."

Ben-Ami and Carmi Gillon, the former director of Israel's Shin Bet Security Agency featured in the Oscar-nominated film, "The Gatekeepers," spoke at Temple Chai in Phoenix. They discussed the challenges and opportunities Israel faces in the years ahead as it balances the risks of a negotiated peace in order to secure its future.

Ben-Ami sat down and talked about J Street being the political home for pro-Israel, pro-peace Americans fighting for the future of Israel as the democratic homeland of the Jewish people. His replies have been edited for brevity and clarity.

CN: J Street has been experiencing a growing acceptance among America's mainstream Jewish organizations. To what do you attribute this rise?

JBA: It's natural for it to take awhile to get comfortable to new voices in the community. There are some pretty deep emotional feelings out there, and we are finally able to see that everyone is learning that we are clearly a pro-Israel organization. We may disagree on some matters of policy, but I'm sure what

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jhmtucson@gmail.com

www.jewishhistorymuseum.org

Israel must now focus on U.N.'s final agreement with Iran

By Mylan Tanzer

My mother-in-law, Tamar, was born in Shiraz, Iran. Along with her parents and siblings, she made the long and dangerous journey to Israel in 1951, arriving at the age of 12. Although she rarely has the opportunity to speak her native Farsi, she is still fluent and follows Iranian events closely, both in the mainstream Israeli media and on the local radio stations that broadcast in Farsi for the sizable community of Israelis of Persian origin.

Last summer when Hassan Rouhani was elected prime minister of Iran, replacing Mahmoud Ahmenijad, the person she loved to hate, I asked her opinion. She said she would miss “Little Haman” as she called him. Surprised, I asked her why. She said that Rouhani was just as extreme in his hatred of Israel, but was much more sophisticated and cunning than Ahmenijad and the world would be deceived by him. She always said that Little Haman was a crass simpleton and thankfully wasn’t blessed with the characteristic Persian cleverness needed to hide the Supreme Leader Khamenei’s bigotry and anti-Semitism. Rouhani would be a different story she said. Now that is Persian cleverness! My own mother advised me that I should always agree with my mother-in-law. Tamar foresaw the charm offensive before it happened.

Nov. 23 brought the expected and inevitable interim agreement between Iran and the five permanent members of the UN Security Council and Germany (P5+1), and the reaction here was dramatic. Headlines the next morning included: “How Rouhani succeeded in fooling Obama & Kerry” (Ha’aretz), “Agreement, No Matter What” (Yisrael Hayom) and Yediot’s “Historical Agreement? Historical Mistake!”

The overwhelming official and unofficial reaction was that the agreement was bad and dangerous for many reasons, the main one being that Iran did not retreat one millimeter from its nuclear program. At best, they are running in place; yet the world sanctioned Iran’s illegal enrichment program and tore down part of the wall of sanctions. The danger is clear. While Iran retains the ability to break out to produce a nuclear weapon, the tired P5+1 nations will find it difficult if not impossible to resume the aggressive sanctions regime and put all options back on the table.

Respected veteran journalist Eitan Haber wrote: “Don’t be misled; today Israel finds itself at one of the most decisive and fateful junctions in its history. The agreement leaves Iran with the ability to build a nuclear weapon in a short time. ... this is frightening but it is the truth. No declaration or condemnation are of any use when almost the entire world, and mainly the U.S., close their eyes and deny the truth. We have a major problem.” Yediot’s Alex Fishman wrote “one of the sides is either

naïve or stupid or both, and it isn’t the Iranians.”

Netanyahu has been outspoken in his unprecedented condemnation of the interim agreement, his declaration that Israel does not recognize it and his thinly veiled personal criticism of Barack Obama and John Kerry. Much of the world wondered if his fierce criticism has been useful or damaging to Israel’s cause. Although this is only the interim agreement, the ability to develop the most dangerous weapon on the planet has been granted de facto to the most dangerous regime on the planet. We and our children will be in the terrifying shadow of this existential threat, paying the price even if Iran never deploys a nuclear weapon.

It is easy to forget that Israel and the United States have the same aim of preventing Iran from military nuclear capability. But the noisy divergence in this common goal is where Bibi going ballistic has its roots. Netanyahu, like most of us, is convinced that an interim agreement was a mistake and increases the chance a final agreement will sweep the problem under the carpet. Netanyahu’s feeling of betrayal is profound because this issue has been his personal crusade since he became prime minister, and the robust sanctions that brought Iran to Geneva are in large part the result of his rhetoric, threats and warnings. He warned that even “moderate sanction relief,” as Kerry defined it, will be like a small puncture in a tire, which is all that is needed for all of the air to disappear. To prove this, scores of international companies eagerly waiting for this moment already have delegations in Teheran discussing terms with Iranian officials. Only an idiot would say this process can be reversed.

Netanyahu’s bellicosity reflects our extreme apprehension about a future in Israel in the shadow of a nuclear Iran, which would create unavoidable nuclear proliferation in an already anarchic Middle East. The only reason the Iranians are at the table is because of the economic sanctions. Relieving sanctions with no clear demand that the Iranians dismantle the components of their nuclear weapons program is giving away the West’s leverage. It is a recipe for disaster. No one here wants military action. But the dangers in this agreement make the possibility of eventual war more likely. An interim agreement that makes no mention of removing a single centrifuge or stopping construction of the Arak plutonium reactor is a bluff. If, as Iran states, their intentions are peaceful, then why a plutonium reactor in the first place? Why not demand that it be dismantled? And why build peaceful nuclear installations buried deep under mountains?

Iran has deceived and played the international community for the last decade. Now Iran is one turn of the screw away from having a nuclear bomb as well as intercontinental ballistic missile delivery ability – all because the West just doesn’t get it.

we all want is the same long-term goal, which is a safe and secure democracy. Once people saw that was truly our aim, the acceptance began to follow.

CN: What are you doing to overcome continuing reluctance of some to engage with J Street?

JBA: We continue to reiterate our basic principles and mission for one and try to reassure them. The other part we are doing is to share our personal stories and let the public get to know us as people. I want everyone to know that I come from a family that has been in Israel for over 130 years. My grandparents helped to found Tel Aviv. My parents fought for independence. My great-grandparents were among the first settlers in Petah Tikva and the first aliyah. My father was an activist and leader in the Irgun, working for Israel’s independence and on the rescue of European Jews before and during World War II.

Letting people in on our backgrounds helps to break down the remaining oppositions. It’s so important for us to answer any and all questions that people may have for us. Hopefully this will help erase any misimpressions that happened at the very beginning.

CN: What was the message of J Street’s 2013 conference theme “Our Time to Lead”?

JBA: It had several layers. The first is that as Americans, we want to be strong and have strong American leadership in the effort to reach the two-state solution. It’s wonderful that the two sides are talking, but (it is) without a strong mediator in the room working with both sides. It’s our time to lead in the peace process.

Layer two is that in the American Jewish community, J Street feels that this is a very important moment for those of us who do believe in the two-state solution, that it’s our time to step forward and make our case.

As the president and secretary of state pursue peace, they’ll need political and communal support, and we need to step forward and provide that. President Obama was in Israel in March and spoke to groups of young people to let them know that sometimes they need to be on the cutting edge and get out there and let their leaders know what they want and start the groundswell of letting everyone know what it is they want and take risks.

CN: You just mentioned the president. What are your thoughts on his views toward Israel?

JBA: The president has been a tremendous advocate of Americans’ interest in a peaceful solution in the Palestinian/Israeli conflict. His vision is persuasive that it’s necessary to make these changes and the path we’re on is not advantageous to anyone. He has three more years, and we’re all going to be working to get to the finish line together.

CN: Is it acceptable for us to criticize Israeli politics, as the Israelis do?

JBA: Absolutely, this is one of the fundamental arguments of J Street. It is healthy for us to open up and have a vibrant debate on what is essential in Jewish life. Argument is an essential and important way of life for the American Jews and the community in Israel. Some of our greatest learnings come from the debates

of the scholars.

Obviously the final choices have to be made in Israel, but we should definitely be talking about what’s going on and how to make the changes. It’s terrible for us to remain silent.

CN: When you see the media describing you as a “dovish” group, how do you feel about it?

JBA: I personally disagree vehemently with the label, because the positions that J Street takes are the same as the security chiefs and prime ministers of Israel take – as well as the members of Knesset – all right-of-center parties. In fact I’m here with Carmi Gillon. The reasons we take these positions are out of a realistic assessment of what’s in the best interest of both Israel and the United States. The label of either hawkish or dovish clouds more clear-eyed decisions.

Ending the conflict and creating two states for two peoples

is the only way for Israel to remain a Jewish state and democratic in the long run. That is simply a statement of our analysis and where the future is headed.

CN: Do you think the two-state solution will come to fruition?

JBA: Well, there are only two choices: ongoing conflict or the two-state solution. I truly do believe that one day we will see two lands for two people. It will take a lot of compromise and sacrifice.

This is actually a moment of opportunity. The Arab world is deeply distracted with their own problems. There is a confluence of force that gives (us) another go at making this happen.

Carmi Gillon (as shown in “The Gatekeepers”) supports J Street’s position on the peace process. A two-state solution is the only pragmatic resolution to the Israeli/Palestinian conflict and the only solution that will ensure Israel’s long-term security and interests in the region. The U.S. needs to push both sides to achieve a negotiated agreement. J Street is the only American advocacy organization solely focused on achieving this goal.

Carine Nadel is a recent and happy transplant to Arizona. In a varied career, Carine has done everything from front page features for the Orange County Register and food columns to having recipes published in major magazines and entries on her family life in Chicken Soup for the Soul books.

We may disagree on some matters of policy, but I’m sure what we all want is the same long-term goal, which is a safe and secure democracy. Once people saw that was truly our aim, the acceptance began to follow.

Amos Harel of Ha'aretz writes: "The American announcement (of the interim agreement) shouldn't surprise Israelis. ... The cultural cliché is correct. These are the classic Iranian tactics. They possess extreme expertise at conducting long and tiring negotiations. Then the final conclusions agreed in previous rounds are in turn used by them as opening positions in the next round and the international community goes along with this."

This seeming willingness to be deceived is the reason that the vast majority of the Israeli public, including Netanyahu's fiercest critics in the Knesset and the media, are in agreement with his message. There has been strong criticism about his style, but in the days following the agreement, a Channel 2 news survey analyzed the public's reaction to the agreement and to Netanyahu's actions. To the question if the agreement endangered Israel, 60% answered yes, 25% not yet and 15% were undecided. To the question if Netanyahu had exaggerated in his criticism, 58% percent responded no, 28% yes and 14% were undecided.

There are other reasons for Netanyahu's behavior. The lack of any clear American reaction to the supreme leader's labeling of Netanyahu as a "rabid dog" and Israelis as "creatures that are not human" a few days after the agreement added fuel to the fire. But the straw that caused Netanyahu to toss diplomatic protocol to the wind happened in his last meeting with Kerry, when the latter informed him of the softening of the American position. At the end of this meeting, the joint press conference was canceled, and instead Netanyahu fired the opening salvo in his offensive against what he and most of us perceive to be capitulation to Iran.

It was astounding to see the administration seeming to be more eager than Iran to sign the agreement. Ben Caspit writes: "Obama is sprinting faster and stronger to an agreement than Rouhani. The Americans are eager. The agreement cleans the books. The Syrian chemical weapons problem is closed, as is the Iranian nuclear problem, all without bloodshed. Obama retroactively justifies his Nobel Prize, and after his presidency comes the flood. In 2016 the Iranian bomb will appear? So what? It didn't happen during his term just as he promised."

The Iranian issue is actually a symptom, albeit a potentially fateful one, of the real problem. Netanyahu and most of our leaders do not understand what appears to be a paradigm shift in American policy. Alon Pinkus, a former Israeli diplomat and expert in American affairs, says that the U.S. is on the verge of a significant strategic shift regarding its place and role in the region. "The attention is on the Israeli confrontation with Washington. ... In fact, at this time a deep and fundamental change in American Middle-East policy is occurring. ... This stems from economic factors, the U.S. is on the verge of energy self-reliance, and will no longer be dependent on Middle-East oil ... and also stems from fatigue and intellectual laziness. ... The U.S. is scarred, bleeding, tired and has no more patience to continue to deal with the abundant conflicts, uncertainty and instability that the Middle-East offers in abundance."

Pinkus adds the United States has basically seen the Arab world as hopeless and will rely on the three non-Arab regional powers – Turkey, Iran, Israel – but with no involvement. If Netanyahu recognized this, his efforts to strengthen the final agreement would be more effective. Pinkus continues: "The existential threat posed by Iran perceived by Netanyahu is

justified. He is reading the Iranian map correctly. The problem is that he is not reading the American map correctly."

It might be nice to know that Israel is in America's future plans, but if, or more likely when, Iran has a bomb, this strategy will go up in a mushroom cloud. I am not even taking into account that Saudi Arabia, who gave us 15 of the 19 Sept. 11 terrorists, will acquire nuclear weapons by receiving the 30 or so existing nuclear bombs from Pakistan.

Many in the media here have drawn similarities to Munich 1938. Dan Margalit in Yisrael Hayom wrote: "The more apt parallel is to the silence of the West when Hitler invaded the Sudetenland in 1936. Then the enlightened world could have stopped the Nazi regime and perhaps even caused its collapse but the Obamas and the Kerrys of the '30s wanted quiet and their eyes clouded over."

Unlike Israel, Iran was required to offer nothing concrete, not even lip service, like "we are sorry for the American embassy siege, or blowing up hundreds of Marines in Beirut," or "No, we do not want to annihilate Israel." The West, not only Obama, simply does not know how to handle Islamic dictators like Khamenei, who abide by no rules. They continue to brutally oppress their own citizens, slaughter Syrian civilians, launch rockets against Israeli civilians and attempt to kill Israelis abroad – which occasionally succeeds as it did in Bulgaria last year. To give them the benefit of the doubt, as the interim agreement has done, is unfathomable to us.

Where does this leave us? The initial fight has been lost. The battleground moves to the final agreement. Former Chief of Military Intelligence Amos Yadlin reminded us that this is the first stage and, as bad as it might be, Israel must move on and concentrate on the challenge ahead. He said the first priority must be for the two sides to stop the blame game and thrash out their differences. He asserts Netanyahu will comply if Washington can assure the following conditions: Iran will not use the interim agreement to solidify gains to their nuclear program; if the talks fail, new sanctions will be imposed; clarify the interim agreement is valid for six months only; and for the U.S. to rehabilitate its military option by reasserting "all options are on the table." He writes "The art of war is the attainment of strategic goals with a minimum of resources and time and minimizing losses."

The U.S. and international community do not need to do this for Bibi or Israel. It is necessary for the world's future. Will the P5+1 make these demands and will it be enough to prevent Israel from taking matters into its own hands? I hope so, but I remember Elie Wiesel once said, "Always believe the threats of your enemies more than the promises of your friends."

Born in America, Mylan Tanzer moved to Israel in 1981. He was the founding CEO of the first Israeli cable and satellite sports channel. Since 2005, he has launched, managed and consulted for channels and companies in Israel and Europe. Tanzer lives in Tel Aviv with his wife and five children. He can be reached at mylantanz@gmail.com.



[HAPPENINGS]



Gabby Giffords honored

The ballroom at the Marriott University Park in Tucson was filled with more than 250 well-wishers on Nov. 3, 2013, as the Jewish History Museum honored former U.S. Rep. Gabrielle (Gabby) Giffords with the 2013 Jewish Heritage Award. The prestigious annual award is presented to the individual in the Southern Arizona Jewish region who has made a profound difference in the community.

Dr. Barry Friedman presented Gabby with the Jewish Heritage Award and then spoke about the past year's activities of the Jewish History Museum, including the opening of Arizona's first permanent exhibit space dedicated to teaching the story of the Holocaust through the stories of the Southern Arizona survivors.

Phil Tygiel acted as master of ceremonies for the event and serenaded Gabby and those present with his rendition of "Shalom." Rabbi Stephanie Aaron spoke to Gabby's influence on the community nurtured by her Jewish ancestry. Gabby's husband Mark Kelly told the audience about Gabby's great-grandfather, a Russian rabbi, and spoke warmly about marrying a "Jewish cowgirl" and how her drive and perseverance has not only helped her recovery but has set the direction for her work today in the couple's nonprofit "Americans for Responsible Solutions."

Gabby spoke very briefly thanking everyone for the Jewish Heritage Award and said "I am getting stronger and better every day."

JHM Executive Director Eileen Warshaw then presented the volunteers of the year awards to Leonard Stenberg and Edith Makler.

West Valley Film Festival: Jan. 25, 26 and 27

The ninth annual West Valley Jewish Film Festival will be Jan. 25-27 at Beth Emeth Congregation, 13702 W Meeker Blvd., Sun City West. A brief commentary precedes each screening, and complimentary refreshments are served after each film. Tickets are \$10 at the door.

Jan. 25, 6:30 pm: "Broadway Musicals – A Jewish Legacy" traces 50 years of the development of music and lyrics.

Jan. 26, 6:30 pm: "David" is about one boy and the collision of two faiths: Daud is the son of a Brooklyn imam. Mistaken for a Jewish boy, he is befriended by youngsters in a yeshiva.

Jan. 27, 7 pm: "50 Children – The Rescue Mission of Mr. and Mrs. Kraus" tells the true story of an American couple risked everything to save Jewish children in Germany.

For more information, contact Beth Emeth Congregation at 623-584-7210.

Passages lecture series resumes in January

Passages is the name of the 35-year-old lecture series sponsored by the Valley's Bureau of Jewish Education. Seven lectures are planned at various locations from January to March that cover a broad spectrum of topics of Jewish interest. The 2014 schedule promises intriguing offerings ranging from music and movies to social concerns and politics.

Coming up in January:

Sunday, Jan. 19, 7:30 pm at Temple Chai, 4645 E Marilyn Road, Phoenix

Jack Levin, PhD: Sociology of Violence and Hate As It Affects Anti-Semitism and the State of Israel.

Dr. Levin is the Irving and Betty Brudnick Professor of Sociology and Criminology at Northeastern University in Boston, where he teaches courses in prejudice and violence. He specializes in criminology, prejudice, and social psychology and is considered an authority on serial killers, mass murderers and hate crimes. He is also the co-director of the Brudnick Center on Conflict and Violence at Northeastern University. Levin has authored or co-authored 28 books and appears frequently on national television programs.

Sunday, Jan. 26, 7:30 pm at Ina Levine Jewish Community Campus, 12701 N Scottsdale Road, Scottsdale

Robin Helzner Trio: The Music That Touches Our Soul in Hebrew, Ladino, Yiddish and English.

A stunning vocalist and vivid storyteller, Robyn Helzner brings a lifelong appreciation of the power of folk music to resonate across cultural boundaries. She performed underground concerts for Jews and refuseniks in the Soviet Union. During the period of Glasnost, she was the only American artist invited to appear in sold-out concerts in Moscow and St. Petersburg.

Helzner officiated at the first bar mitzvah ever held in Beijing, China. She served for six years as the cantor for the United Jewish Congregation of Hong Kong and has worked with congregations in Shanghai and Tokyo. The Trio performs music that reaches into



the hearts and souls of its listeners.

The series continues with programs on Feb. 9, 16 and 23 as well as March 9 and 16. Cost of each lecture separately is \$18, or \$105 for the seven-program series. Students are free. BJE offers support packages as well. For the complete listing of lectures, call 480-634-8050 or visit bjephoenix.org

Award-winning "4000 Miles" comes to Phoenix

From Jan. 10 to 26, Actors Theatre of Phoenix presents "4000 Miles," an award-winning play by Amy Herzog. Herzog draws upon her Marxist, Jewish grandmother, Leepee Joseph, to create the role of Vera, a 91-year-old who receives an unannounced visit from her 21-year-old grandson. According to Actors Theatre, this compassionate and unsentimental play explores the funny, frustrating and ultimately life-changing relationship between a grandson learning to face his life and a grandmother who is starting to forget hers.

Herzog is a graduate of the Yale School of Drama and is considered one of America's finest young playwrights today. "4000 Miles" received the 2012 Obie Award, for the Best New Off-Broadway Play, and was a finalist for the 2013 Pulitzer Prize for Drama. Herzog received the 2012 New York Times Outstanding Playwright Award.

Herzog's grandfather was songwriter Arthur Herzog Jr., who worked with Billie Holiday; her father was Arthur Herzog, a novelist, non-fiction writer and journalist, known for his works of science fiction and true crime books. She lives in Brooklyn with her director husband, Sam Gold.

The show is directed by Matthew Wiener, producing artistic director of Actors Theatre, and will be produced at Black Theatre Troupe's new Helen K. Mason Performing Arts Center at 1333 E Washington St. in Phoenix. Times and prices vary. For more information, contact the theater at 602-888-0368 or visit actorstheatrepdx.org.

1 TUCSON CLOWN IN NYC

– Susan Claassen, the artistic director of Invisible Theatre in Tucson, clowns around in the Macy’s Thanksgiving Day Parade. She has traveled to New York for the past several years to participate in the parade.



1

2 TEAM KATE CELEBRATES

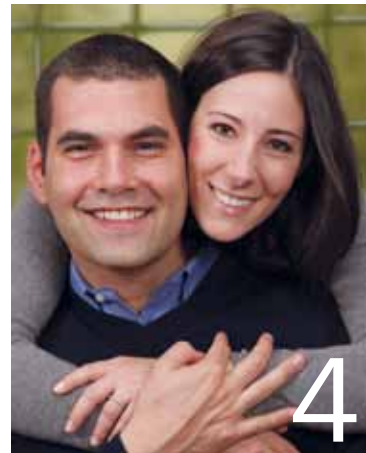
HER WIN! Kate Gallego (center in black suit) with some of her supporters on election night, when she became the City Councilwoman from District 8 in Phoenix.



2

3 MUSIC FEST A HIT

– More than 2,000 people, from babes in arms to those with walkers, attended the inaugural Jewish Music Fest on Nov. 17 at Steel Indian School Park in Phoenix. The event was the brain child of Todd Herzog, pictured here, the cantorial soloist at Temple Solel in Scottsdale, and was partially funded by the Start Me Up project of Valley Beit Midrash. The second annual Fest is already scheduled for Nov. 2, 2014. Photo by Joel Zolondek



4

4 EDUCATION PLATES

– During the 2013 Arizona State legislative session Sasha Glassman, a member of the Madison Elementary School District Governing Board in Central Phoenix, and her husband Rodney, former Tucson city councilman and interim town Manager of Cave Creek, wrote and supported legislation for a new “Extraordinary Educators” Arizona license plate. For \$25 per year, Arizonans can purchase the new license plate. If just 2% of Arizona drivers purchase the “Extraordinary Educators” plate it will raise more than \$1 million annually. The license plate is available at servicearizona.com.

5 HUNDREDS OF PEOPLE GATHERED

on Dec. 8 to witness the dedication of Congregation Anshei Israel’s new Torah, the culmination of a year-long celebration of the synagogue’s 83rd anniversary. From left, Sara Borin, Tom Borin, CAI President Richard Fink, Immediate Past President Madeline Friedman (in green) and others watch as scribe Zerach Greenfield finishes the last letters of the Torah, which was then escorted into the sanctuary by members of the Borin, Kahn, Kivel and Spitzer families, who were major donors for the project. The project allowed everyone the opportunity to fulfill the 613th Commandment of sharing in the creation of a new Torah. Photos courtesy of Congregation Anshei Israel & Marty Johnston



3



5



6

6 FAN MEETS ‘60s STAR – Local attorney, Chick Arnold (right) talks to Peter Yarrow, from the original Peter, Paul and Mary group. Peter and Paul (Noel Paul Stookey) were in the Valley in November, performing at the Mesa Arts Center. Chick is a long-time fan who took along his photos of his meeting of the trio in the 1960s when he was a Sammy at University of New York in Buffalo.

7 GREATEST HANUKKAH ON EARTH! XV – The festivities started with the lighting of the giant outdoor menorah Nov. 24 at Temple Emanu-El in Tucson. Then about 500 people attended the Greatest Hanukkah show, which included lots of Hanukkah songs, hilarious parodies (such as “Oil” as a parody of the popular song “Royals”), the story of Hanukkah told through a drama production of “Judah Wars, Part IV: A New Mechaieh,” the Strauss ECE Dreidel Dancers and Singers, Youth and Teen Choirs, Israeli Dance, and other performances.



7

8 NCJW HOSTS LGBT PANEL – A capacity crowd heard a panel discussion titled “Weaving the LGBT Welcome Mat” at Temple Soleil on Nov. 19. The event, which focused on the Jewish LGBT community, was sponsored by the National Council of Jewish Women-Arizona Section. Pictured (from left) are moderator Ellen Widoff, NCJW; Bunny Tarquinio, past president of Phoenix PFLAG; Roni Keeton, AVIV, the Valley’s religious and social organization dedicated to the LGBT Jewish community;; and Rabbi Elana Kanter, co-rabbi of The New Shul and director of the Women’s Jewish Learning Center. Panelists told personal stories of discrimination and acceptance in the Jewish community. Rabbi Kanter spoke about why religion is not a reason for discrimination. NCJW believes that safeguarding individual rights and freedoms ultimately improves the quality of life for women, children and families. NCJW is working in coalitions to ensure legal equality for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender Americans, including freedom from economic discrimination and the freedom to marry.



8

9 HANUKKAH FESTIVAL – At the Chabad Jewish Community Center of Flagstaff’s annual Pre-Hanukkah Family Festival on Nov. 24, 2013, guests enjoyed exciting holiday crafts (including candle making), lively Hanukkah music, a free raffle, and a delicious dinner buffet and Hanukkah desserts. This year’s event also featured Earl the Magician, a treat that both the children and adults enjoyed.



9

10 ARIZONANS IN ISRAEL FOR GA – The Valley contingent at the November General Assembly of the Jewish Federations of North America included (from left) Leni Reiss, Stuart Wachs, Esther and Don Schon, David Weiner, Jennifer Jalowiec and Jonny Basha. This year’s General Assembly was held in Israel (as it is every five years). It opened with a speech by Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and closed with an egalitarian service at the Western Wall. The Nov. 10-13, 2013, event attracted more than 3,000 participants from North America, Israel and Europe. Photo courtesy of Leni Reiss



10

JANUARY CALENDAR

Through Jan. 19

Xanadu, the award-winning, rollicking 80's musical is being produced by Arizona Theatre Company at the Herberger Theater Center, 222 E Monroe in Phoenix. Perfect for the whole family. Times and prices vary. 602-256-6995, arizonatheatre.org

Jan. 6

It's Not Just Lunch, food and fun for seniors and active adults! Sponsored by Phoenix Chabad. Noon at 2110 E Lincoln Dr., Phoenix. Suggested donation \$5. RSVP: 602-492-7670 or chani@sosaz.org

Jan. 7

Winter Classes at the Bureau of Jewish Education in Scottsdale begin this week on the Ina Levine Jewish Community Campus, 12701 N. Scottsdale Road in Scottsdale. 480-634-8050, bjephoenix.org

Jan. 8

2013-2014 Business Leaders Forum sponsored by Jewish Free Loan. An evening with Steve Hilton, CEO of Meritage Homes. Networking and kosher hors d'oeuvres at 5:30 pm. Free. RSVP for location: 602-230-7983 or info@jewishfreeloan.org

Jan. 10

Shabbat Dinner for Seniors is hosted by Phoenix Chabad. Open to Jewish seniors and their families and Smile On Seniors volunteers and families. 4:45 pm at 2110 E Lincoln Dr., Phoenix. Suggested minimum donation \$5, RSVP: 602-492-7670 or chani@sosaz.org

Not Business as Usual: How Changes in the Global Economy will Impact our Lives. Phoenix Chapter of Brandeis National Committee hosts guest speaker Dr. Bruce Magid, dean of Brandeis International School. Brunch at 9:30 am at Grayhawk Golf Club's Fairway House, 8620 E Thompson Peak Parkway, Scottsdale. \$40-50. RSVP: 480-359-7262

Jan. 10-26

4000 Miles, an award-winning comic drama by Amy Herzog, is produced at Actors Theatre (see page 59). 602-888-0368 or actorstheatrephx.org

Jan. 11

Tree of Life Gala of Jewish National Fund honors Ted and Bryan Kort and lifetime achievement honorees Monroe and Peggy Wingate at 7 pm at the Arizona Biltmore Resort, 2400 E Missouri Ave., Phoenix. 602-277-4800 or kventura@jnf.org

Jan. 12

Hannah G. Solomon Award Luncheon for National Council of Jewish Women honors Lynn Schmelzer at 11 am at Starfire Country Club, 11500 N Hayden Road in Scottsdale, \$50. e-mail: ncjwclaire@cox.net

Tu B'Shevat in the Park. 9:30 am at McDonald Park (Catalina Hwy./Harrison in Tucson). Includes planting, a nature walk and Israeli dancing. Free. RSVP: 520-745-5550 or edasst@caiaz.org

Jan. 13

Judaism and the Contemporary Pursuit of Happiness, a talk by Hava Tirosh-Samuelson, director of Jewish Studies at ASU, at 7 pm at Tucson JCC, 3800 E River Road, Tucson. 520-626-5758, judaic.arizona.edu

Jan. 14

Itzhak Perlman performs with the Tucson Symphony Orchestra (see page 50). 520-882-8585, or tucson-symphony.org

Talk Cinema presents a sneak preview movie with guest speaker Founder Harlan Jacobson, New York film critic (see story page 31). 7 pm at Scottsdale Center for the Performing Arts, 7380 E Second St. in Scottsdale. \$19. 480-499-8587, scottsdaleperformingarts.org or talkcinema.com

Jan. 15

How do we Change? Different Approaches to the Evolution of Jewish Tradition. A rabbinic panel presented by Valley Beit Midrash at 7 pm at Congregation Or Chadash of the Northeast Valley, 9096 E Bahia Dr., #106, Scottsdale. \$18. Register at valleybeitmidrash.org or call Joan Neer at 602-971-1234

Assisting Holocaust Survivors: Unique Needs and Opportunities is a program for descendants of Holocaust survivors and other members of the Jewish community who would like to assist local survivors. Speaker Janice Friebaum from Generations After. At 7 pm at the home of Sheila Schwartz. Light dessert, no fee. For location, RSVP to Dvora Entin at 602-567-8306 or jfcsaz.org/jan15

Jan. 16

Itzhak Perlman returns to Mesa Arts Center, 1 E Main St. in Mesa (see page 50). \$50-\$90. 7:30 pm. 480-644-6500, mesaartscenter.com

Jewish Baby University begins six-week winter session at Temple Chai, 4645 E Marilyn Road in Phoenix for expectant parents, 6:30-9 pm Thursdays. Combines preparation for childbirth plus parenting for the Jewish family. \$110. RSVP to Linda Feldman: 480-634-8050, lindaf@bjephoenix.org

The Storyteller by Jodi Picoult to be discussed at 7 pm at the Cutler-Plotkin Jewish Heritage Center, 122 E Culver St., Phoenix. Discussion led by Michael and Jennie Kronenfeld. Free. RSVP to 602-241-7870 or azjhs@aol.com

Tu B'Shevat - Festival of the Trees

Jan. 16-25

23rd Annual Tucson International Jewish Film Festival (see schedule pages 32-33).

Jan. 18-Feb. 8

Other Desert Cities, a searing comedy by Jon Robin Baitz, is on stage in Tucson from Arizona Theatre Company at the Temple of Music & Art. Times and prices vary. 330 S Scott Ave., 520-622-2823, arizonatheatre.org (plays in Phoenix Feb. 13-March 2)

Jan. 19

Judaism in the Time of Jesus, is a two-part series taught by Rabbi Bonnie Sharfman of Congregation Kehillah. 10 am at Har Zion Congregation, 6140 E Thunderbird Road, Scottsdale. Free for members of Kehillah and Har Zion with pre-registration; \$100 for non-members. 602-369-7667, congregationkehillah.org

Passages Lecture Series kicks off with Jack Levin, PhD: Sociology of Violence & Hate as it Affects Anti-Semi-

tism & The State of Israel at 7:30pm at Temple Chai, 4645 E Marilyn Road, Phoenix. (See page 59.)

Jan. 21

Shalom Y'all is the critically acclaimed documentary film about the Jewish experience in the American South. 7 pm at the Cutler-Plotkin Jewish Heritage Center, 122 E Culver St. in Phoenix. Free. RSVP: 602-241-7870 or azjhs@aol.com

Jan. 22

The Wisdom of Jewish Tucson, a 3-week series with distinguished speakers, study sessions and refreshments. \$18 and food donation. At 7 pm at Congregation Anshei Israel, 5550 E 5th St, Tucson. Also Jan. 29 and Feb. 5. RSVP by Jan. 17 to 520-745-5550 or clergyssecretary@caiaz.org

Jan. 25

Live Saturday Night at CBI with Richard Lewis, at Congregation Beth Israel, 10460 N 56th St., Scottsdale. Dinner, wine, auction and laughter. \$90 or \$150 for premier seating. 480-951-0323 or cbiaz.org

SOLEbrate on Broadway! with musical entertainment, dinner and auction (online bidding starts Jan. 10). Proceeds to Temple Solel. 6 pm at Chaparral Suites, 5001 N Scottsdale Road. \$136. RSVP: 480-991-7414 or templesolel.org

Jan. 26

Robin Helzner Trio: The Music that Touches our Soul in Hebrew, Ladino, Yiddish & English, part of Passages Lecture Series. 7:30 pm at the Ina Levine Jewish Community Campus, 12701 N Scottsdale Road, Scottsdale. (See page 59.)

The Wolfman is Back! Vocal impressionist Tom Wolf sings all your old favorites at Sun Lakes Country Club, 3-6 pm, 25425 S Sun Lakes Blvd., Chandler. \$10 to benefit Temple Havurat Emet. Cash bar and complimentary snacks. 480-802-5676, templehavuratemet.org

Jan. 30

Talmudic Law and the Modern American Jew: Divorce American Style, is part of the new The Buzz, a series of adult educational programs. 7 pm at the Tucson JCC, 3800 E River Road, Tucson. \$15. 520-577-9393 or jewishtucson.org/

Feb. 3

Beth Emeth Men's Club hosts a casino trip to Wild Horse Pass Casino. Bus leaves Beth Emeth (13702 W Meeker Blvd., Sun City West) at 9:30 am sharp. \$10 (includes voucher for \$10 bonus play; plus seniors get \$5 food credit). Call Norman Kurtz, 623-455-9303, for details to RSVP with payment by Jan. 27.

EVENT LISTINGS:

Add your event to our online calendar: Go to azjewishlife.com; at bottom right of home page, click on "add an event" and fill out the form. Be sure to click submit. For inclusion in the print calendar, email event listings to Janet.arnold@azjewishlife.com.

LIMITED ENGAGEMENT! DEC 25, 2013-FEB 2, 2014

From the Producers of MY MOTHER'S ITALIAN, MY FATHER'S JEWISH & I'M IN THERAPY!, RESPECT, & YOU SAY TOMATO, I SAY SHUT UP!

Philip Roger Roy and Dana Matthow present



Ninety minutes of nonstop laughter! If you ever longed for something, If you ever desired it with all your heart, If you were willing to wait tables for 29 years to pursue your dream then My Son The Waiter will give meaning to your Life!

"A MUST SEE. IT'S HYSTERICAL, HEARTFELT, TIMELY AND POIGNANT. I CRIED, I LAUGHED, I FORGOT WHERE I PARKED."

-- Brad Garrett

"I'VE HAD THREE GREAT OPENING ACTS IN MY LIFETIME: BILLY CRYSTAL, GARRY SHANDLING, AND BRAD ZIMMERMAN."

-- Joan Rivers

"AN ABSOLUTE MUST-SEE. YOU'LL LAUGH, AND YOU'LL WALK OUT OF THEATER WITH A LESSON: IF YOU CAN FIND SOMETHING THAT YOU TRULY LOVE, IT GIVES YOUR LIFE MEANING."

-- Palm Beach Arts

Wed 2 & 7pm; Thur 7pm; Fri 8pm; Sat 2 & 8pm; Sun 2 & 5:30pm

Wed & Thur \$45.50 (orch/mezz) & \$39.50 (balc); Fri, Sat, Sun \$49.50 (orch/mezz) & \$43.50 (balc) (plus theater service fees)

Herberger Theater Center 222 E. Monroe, Phoenix, AZ 85004
Box Office: 602-252-8497 • Group Sales: 888-264-1788
PlayhouseInfo.com

4000 MILES

By Amy Herzog | Directed by Matthew Wiener

January 10 – 26

At the end of his cross-country bike trip, 21-year old Leo arrives unannounced at the Greenwich Village apartment of his 91-year old Jewish grandmother Vera. As an overnight couch-surf turns into an extended stay, this compassionate and unsentimental play explores the funny, frustrating, and ultimately life-changing relationship between a grandson learning to face his life and a grandmother who is starting to forget hers.

*"A funny, moving,
altogether
wonderful drama"
- The New York Times*



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PERFORMING ARTS CENTER**
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