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MAGAZINE FOR ARIZONA

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COVER PHOTO: Glass Artist BJ Katz by Matthew Strauss

CORRECTION: A story in the March issue about Arizona Consortium for the Arts founder Elena Thornton misspelled her name as well as her father's. Her father's last name is Tulchinsky.

Eileen Warshaw, z"l, History Columnist

You'll be missed

Eileen R. Warshaw, Ph.D., wrote a history column for every issue of Arizona Jewish Life from our debut issue in September 2012 through March 2104.

Arizona Jewish Life and our readers will miss your wonderful insights and knowledge of Arizona's Jewish history.





Happy Passover from Arizona Jewish Life!

Memory is an integral part of Jewish life – perhaps most viscerally so at Passover when each generation is commanded to remember slavery and liberation as if they were personal experiences. This month both our Passover and JKids & Teens sections reflect how that “memory” inspires the quest for social justice.

Our Passover section also reflects the reality that food is a powerful memory aid. Familiar foods can be a comfortable prompt that sends our minds swirling back to happy childhood seders with extended families. Since so many residents of our state live far from the homes and families where they grew up, we've compiled a list of community seders where you can celebrate the holiday with your extended community family.

This month my memory also is filled with warm thoughts of Eileen Warshaw, z”l. When we launched Arizona Jewish Life, Eileen came on board as one of our first columnists. Every month she took us on a colorful journey of Arizona's Jewish past. When I met her in her role as executive director of the Jewish History Museum in Tucson, a position she held until retiring at the end of January, her enthusiasm for both

the museum and the region's history was infectious. We will miss not only her editorial contributions, but also her insights and introductions to others in the community. Her final column on summer recreation appeared just days before her death. How fitting that her final words looked at how pioneers had fun. While I'm deeply saddened by her death, I can smile remembering her zest for life.

The Jewish History Museum in Tucson will dedicate a stained glass window in her honor at 2 pm, April 6, at the museum.

Another museum covered in this issue is the Musical Instrument Museum, featured in our arts and entertainment section. The sounds and musical memories of the world come alive for visitors as they explore exhibits of instruments from more than 200 countries, including Israel. Listening to that music through headphones amplifies the experience.

Features on musical, visual and performance artists round out our arts section.

This month the people who bring you Arizona Jewish Life share a few memories of our own as we launch “5 things that might surprise you!” Everyone has talents, interests and history that might surprise people who know only the public persona. In this periodic piece, we plan to talk to some movers and shakers in the community about their hidden talents and interests. We thought we'd start by baring our own souls!

Deborah



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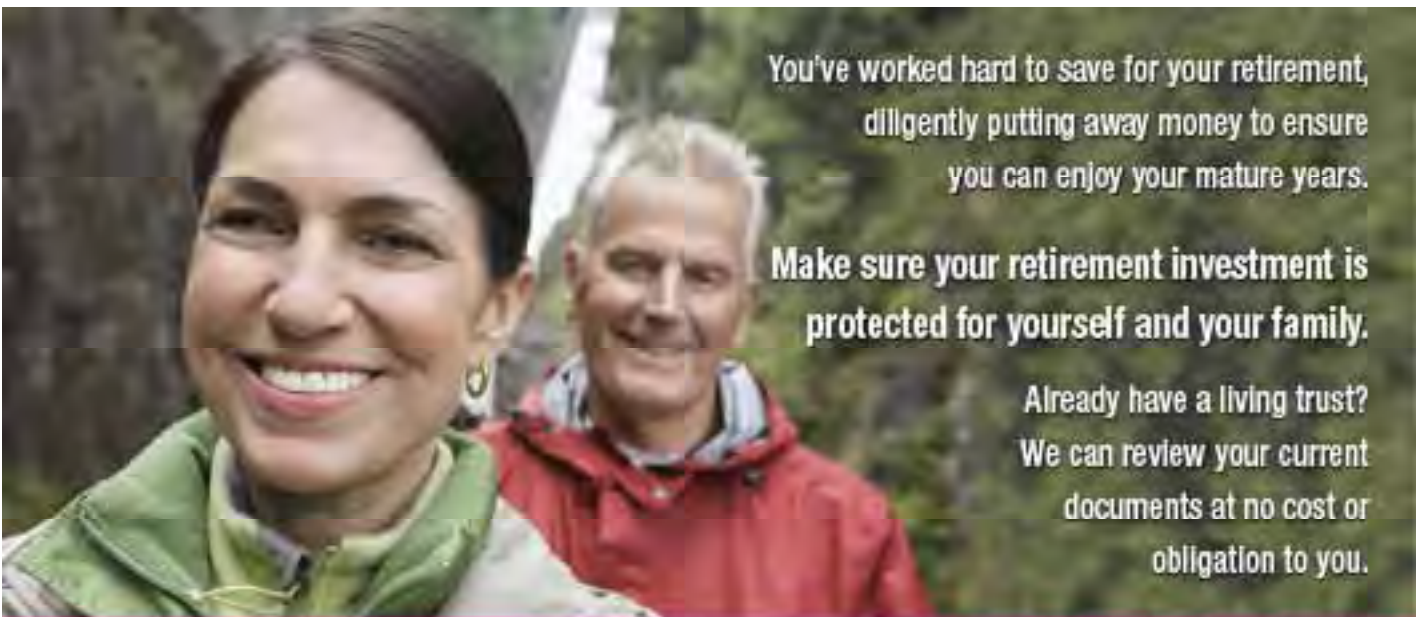


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5

things that might surprise you!

Get to know the people behind Arizona Jewish Life



Cindy Saltzman, Publisher & Editorial Director

I have dual Israeli and U.S. citizenship and raised my children in Israel – one of whom served in the IDF.

My father and cousin were major league baseball players.

I was a finalist in an international rock lyric contest and composed songs with some well-known recording artists.

I am a firm believer that chocolate should be its own food group.

I love Arizona summers (really!) and hope to own a ranch here one day.



Kira Brown, Fashion Columnist and Online Editor

I love singing as much as I love fashion, and I am a country music singer/songwriter with my own band, Honeygirl. Check us out at honeygirlmusic.com.

I am a native of Arizona, and my parents live about 2 miles from where I was born.

I had a French au pair for 6 months that I found on the Internet. After learning that she loved shopping and Starbucks, I brought her into my home! We still keep in touch weekly.

I eat a pack of peanut M&Ms a day (yes, I admit it).

I coached my son's soccer team this year, which went undefeated in the most awesome, exciting championship game ever unrecorded! Seriously, everyone should have been there!!

Bob Philip, Publisher

I have been a business owner and real estate investor in Arizona since the 1980s.

I was an Eagle Scout.

I can speak at least a few words in 15 languages.

I spoke at the White House during George W. Bush's presidency as one of four executives of smaller corporations speaking about economic development.

I rode a camel in the Moroccan desert.



Oolite Photography



Janet Arnold, Associate Editor

My father graduated from Notre Dame.

My first acting role was as Goldilocks in kindergarten.

My most memorable acting role was with Ed Asner.

I was the director of early childhood education at the old Phoenix JCC.

I can wiggle my right ear (without the use of hands!).



Deborah Moon, Editor in Chief

I've been horse crazy since age 3 when I rode my first equine – a donkey from a donkey basketball team that my uncle cared for during the off season.

My husband and I love cycling in Europe. On my first trip we rode an average of 50 miles a day with 5,000 feet of climbing for two weeks.

I've visited an even dozen countries, including Israel.

My singing is so bad that when each of my sons was about 2, they said, "Mom, don't sing."

My mom and both sisters studied art in college – I can't draw a straight line.

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Matt Lehrman draws on all his talents to *boldly go* into consulting

By Janet Arnold



Matt and his Star Trek collection

“Boldly Go” is Matt Lehrman’s catch phrase. You might recognize it from “Star Trek,” the iconic TV show and movie collection that encourages exploration into new, exciting and sometimes dangerous territory.

For about a year Matt wore a yellow elastic bracelet with that phrase to serve as a daily affirmation that he was heading in a positive direction.

Matt admits that age 50 was not a great year for him, but says, “51 is shaping up to be something terrific!”

Matt was the creator, developer and CEO of Alliance for Audience and Showup.com, a website that included the most comprehensive calendar and discount-ticket offerings of cultural happenings in the state. While it was a win-win for the patrons and the companies, after nine years of serving the community, the economy took its toll. Alliance for Audience and Showup.com closed their doors in October of 2012. “It was very painful,” Matt recalls, “but it was the right thing to do at the right time.”

Matt considers himself a problem-solver, and after an appropriate “grieving” period, he had an “unveiling.” He took off the yellow bracelet and set about inventing and honing the next phase of his bold adventure in life.

Born and raised in New York, Matt’s first

career goal was to be a rabbi. He was always a leader, whether as a song leader at Joseph Eisner (URJ) summer camp or in his Jewish youth groups. The arts were also a large part of his life growing up. His father is a water colorist and writer. In fact, Matt’s parents, Lewis and Lola Lehrman of Scottsdale, donated one of Lewis’ paintings to the Scottsdale JCC, where it hangs on the wall.

In college Matt changed his career path and worked for several banks in sales and marketing and was even a lobbyist for bankers in Washington, D.C. But he always kept up his cultural interests, acting as a docent for the Smithsonian museums while there.

He married Toby Rubin, and they immediately set out on their next exploration together moving to the Phoenix area in December of 1988. Matt signed on as a volunteer docent at Scottsdale Center for the Arts, and then heard they were looking for someone to help with marketing. He applied for the job and was hired immediately. He served the Scottsdale Cultural Council as vice president of marketing and communications until he launched Alliance for Audience in late 2003.

His new adventures incorporate many of his interests and strengths. In addition to being an adjunct professor at Arizona State University teaching

His new adventures incorporate many of his interests and strengths. In addition to being an adjunct professor at Arizona State University teaching upper-level seminars on arts entrepreneurship and arts and public policy, he has begun a consulting business, Audience Avenue, LLC.

AUDIENCE AVE

audienceavenue.com

upper-level seminars on arts entrepreneurship and arts and public policy, he has begun a consulting business, Audience Avenue, LLC. "I'm not really an 'arts' expert," Matt explains. "I'm an 'audience' expert." He has been busily traveling around the country offering workshops in strategic planning, leadership coaching and marketing consulting services to arts organizations, cultural destinations and other types of mission-based companies. Matt is also excited to have been hired by the Valley of the Sun Jewish Community Association to research Jewish arts and cultural programming and the feasibility of increasing offerings in Scottsdale.

Matt and Toby are recent empty-nesters with their son, Harrison, at the University of Arizona, and daughter, Marissa, at the University of Vermont. Both students have dabbled in the performing arts and though Harrison is working on a degree in psychology, his real love is in performing live improvisation. The Lehrmans have just adopted a rescue dog, appropriately named Hope.

Matt values his collection of "Star Trek" memorabilia, with his favorite perhaps being the photo of himself sitting on the bridge of the Enterprise, the space vehicle that has boldly taken its passengers to places "where no man has gone before." He's trusting that his new "enterprise," Audience Avenue, will do the same for him.

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Retail mavens run 1st Rate, 2nd Hand thrift shop in Tucson

Story and photos by Sarah Chen



Robyn Kessler and Jane Ash show off merchandise at 1st Rate, 2nd Hand, the thrift store they co-founded with three other Jewish women seven years ago.

Walking into 1st Rate, 2nd Hand thrift shop in central Tucson, you would never suspect it is the only Jewish thrift shop in the state of Arizona. All the familiar trappings of a homey, cheerful thrift store greet you at the door: the welcoming smell of old books, the glint of framed artwork, the clinking of the glassware on the home goods aisle with every step you take. Yet, this thrift shop holds more than the promise of a basement bargain or the allure of the shabby chic movement. The simple plaza façade never hints that this thrift store is a vital source of funding for the local Jewish community.

The shop's five founding members – Tandy Kippur, Patty Valance, Robyn Kessler, Cathy Olswing and Jane Ash – sought to fill the need to keep proceeds from secondhand sales in Tucson's Jewish community when the National Council of Jewish Women ceased to host its annual yard sale benefit. For the first two years, the Jewish Federation of Southern Arizona sponsored the thrift store's operation while the board successfully obtained its 501(c)3 status to operate as a community nonprofit.

Most of the shop's inventory comes from individual donations and estate sales. "It is a blessing to accumulate all this stuff," says board member Jane Ash, as she explains the impetus for the shop. "We wanted to turn it into a dedicated effort to help the Jewish community."

The operators of 1st Rate, 2nd Hand take pride in the shop being exceptionally nimble for its size. "Many organizations

can only pick up items according to a schedule, and it might be two weeks or more, but we can respond within the day or week, even," Ash explains. The shop picks up anywhere in the greater Tucson valley.

Board member Robyn Kessler explains another unique aspect of the shop: its sensitivity in working with the elderly. "For many of our donors, a surviving spouse may be overwhelmed with the transition and with downsizing, and we can help them sort through it and help them give back. It is a huge mitzvah."

After seven years of operation, 1st Rate, 2nd Hand has distributed more than \$110,000 in proceeds to various Tucson Jewish organizations. A special aspect of the shop is the ability of a donor to direct where the contribution goes. Whenever an individual logs volunteer hours in the shop or drops off items to be sold, that individual can choose which of the numerous local Jewish organizations will benefit from his or her contribution at the year's end. The founders created this donor-directed, win-win scenario to avoid picking and choosing between the many needs the Jewish community supports.

The organizations that benefit from 1st Rate, 2nd Hand proceeds range from specific synagogues to the Tucson Jewish Community Center, from childhood education to senior housing, from LGBT to supplemental food programs.

Happily, the nonprofit shop has experienced multifaceted growth. Seeking more space, the operators moved the store to its current location at Speedway and Craycroft in 2009. Its

1st Rate, 2nd Hand: 5851 E Speedway Blvd., Tucson | 520-327-5252 | 1strate2ndhand.org

board has almost doubled in size from the original five. Its volunteer corps has grown over time, and the shop now employs a full-time manager. In addition to the organization's essential volunteers, community partnerships have enabled the shop to bring in Nepalese refugees from the International Rescue Committee and low-income Tucsonans from the Department of Economic Security to volunteer and assimilate into the broader workforce.

When asked of the store's successes, board member Kessler smiles and says, "Just being here!" Ash agrees, "None of us were retail mavens starting out," she explains. "From organizing inventory to keeping the trucks rolling, it's a work in progress."

The shop's clientele runs the gamut from secondhand dealers, antique hunters and theater prop masters to college students and the "water glass for a quarter" crowd. Many customers are regulars, who add to the friendly community vibe. As you browse, a cheerful-sounding volunteer comes on the loudspeaker with helpful hints, sale reminders and upcoming events.

The store's most unique sale? "Probably a little boy mannequin," says Kessler. "The staff would move him around the store from place to place for years until he finally sold." Kessler's favorite item sold was a vintage resort sign from outside New York that had some Yiddish script.

Ash's favorite thrift shop find came from an innocent looking group of bags dropped off one night. "At first, it was a bunch of clay flowerpots, some with rotting plant matter still inside," she explains, "but then I discovered an authentic gold Concord watch! All it needed was a little cleaning up."

The shop partners with local jewelers for advice on rarer finds.

Board members generally handle high-value items personally and assist with online sales. Some tricky regulations on resale items exists, such as legislation monitoring lead content in baby clothes, so those are not sold. Neither are firearms, nor any aspect of Nazi memorabilia or Third Reich artifacts.

The shop acknowledges that for many Tucsonans, this shop is the only interface they will have with the Jewish community. "We are conscious of that," Ash says, "and we want to maintain a welcoming, accepting feeling." She feels that the community has received the store positively as far as discovering its Jewish mission. From the small Star of David on the store's logo to the brightly lit display cases of Judaic tchotchkes, small elements of Judaism permeate the store. The mostly non-Jewish staff can now correctly identify a tallit, a mezuzah or a seder plate. "I love that," says Kessler.

Looking to the future, 1st Rate, 2nd Hand expects to continue its operations. The board has asked the organizations it supports to help get the word out about their location and inventory. "What I want people to get a sense of is that we're part of the Jewish community, and we're here for *all* components of the Jewish community" says Ash.

As a nonprofit, the shop has a wish list of its own. "We always need more volunteers, new ideas," says Kessler, "Better technology for cashiering and inventory tracking would be nice. Eventually, we'll even need a new lighting system."

Most importantly, the board simply wants the shop to be a fun place to shop with good items for Tucson and the Jewish community. "If they want to be a part of us, we will be a part of them," says Kessler.

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Deb Rochford Jewish National Fund's new executive director

Deb Rochford has been named executive director of Jewish National Fund after the retirement of long-time director Ted Kort. Deb previously worked in the for-profit world; she owned a wholesale commercial medical furniture company for 13 years and ran AzTeen magazine for six years before joining JNF as its marketing person in 2013.

"When looking for a job after the magazine, I knew I wanted to work in the Jewish world," Deb says. "I had never been to Israel until June of 2013. What a game changer!" Her enthusiasm and positive attitude shine through. "JNF just had its most successful fundraiser ever, and we are anxious to spread the word to new and younger potential donors."

Deb and her 22-member working board are establishing a Young Donor division with monthly events for those in the 25-35 age group.

Deb lives in Phoenix with Terry, her husband of 25 years. Her son, Alec, 23, is in real estate and her daughter, Anna, 21, is a student at the University of Arizona.

DRochford@jnf.org



Judy Rose Sensibar new executive director of Tucson's Jewish museum

Judy Rose Sensibar has been named executive director of the Jewish History Museum in Tucson. Judy began her new post Feb. 1 following the retirement of Eileen Warshaw, z"l.

"I spent my first two weeks at the museum together with Eileen Warshaw," says Judy. "I was able to digitally record Eileen as she gave some of her final tours of the museum, as most of this information truly is oral history."

Judy says she applied for the position because she had seen Eileen in action. "As an English and history teacher to middle school students, I had taken my classes to the museum, where I first met Eileen three years ago. She shared her knowledge so graciously with the kids."

The museum celebrates the Jewish History of Southern Arizona from 1854 to today. The museum campus includes the original Temple Emanu-El, built in 1910, which houses the museum, and the Carrillo House next door. That building houses the new 400-square-foot Holocaust exhibit that opened recently. The exhibit is in what used to be the beauty parlor addition to the original Territorial building and is the only part of house already refurbished. Judy hopes to raise the funds, estimated at \$250,000-plus, to finish the rehabilitation.

564 South Stone Ave., Tucson | 520-670-9073 | jewishhistorymuseum.org



Chabad opens in Paradise Valley

Rabbi Shlomy and Chaya Levertov, who recently moved to Paradise Valley with their infant son, Mendel, will serve as the new directors of the Chabad Jewish Center of Paradise Valley, the 20th Chabad branch in Arizona.

Rabbi Shlomy grew up in Phoenix helping his parents, Rabbi Zalman and Tzippy Levertov, who direct Chabad of Arizona. He studied in

Yeshiva Ohr Elchonon Chabad in Los Angeles, CA, and graduated and received his rabbinical ordination from Lubavitch World Headquarters in Brooklyn.

Chaya was born in Miami Beach, FL. She studied in Israel and then returned to Florida to co-direct The Friendship Circle, a program for special needs children. While living in Brooklyn with her husband, she taught at the Shulamith School for Girls of Brooklyn.

The Levertovs are currently exploring various Paradise Valley sites for a permanent home for their programming.

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Rodney Glassman finishes stint as Cave Creek interim town manager

Children's book author and former Tucson City Councilman Dr. Rodney Glassman has wrapped up his seven months of service as the interim town manager of Cave Creek. Rodney was brought in by a newly elected town council to complete a

management turnaround of the Phoenix bedroom community north of Scottsdale. In addition to streamlining its \$22 million operating budget and completing the infrastructure planning for nearly \$100 million in utility assets, Rodney developed a national recruiting process to identify and select a permanent town manager.

The highlight of Rodney's service was the development of the "Cave Creek-Scottsdale Challenge," which pitted the communities in a series of Western duels during Cave Creek's annual Wild West Day's celebration. The promotion was so successful that the Town of Cave Creek was featured in the New York Times, Wall Street Journal, Los Angeles Times, Chicago Tribune and USA Today; attendance for the two-day event doubled from 10,000 to more than 20,000. Using this opportunity to check off items on his bucket list, Rodney rode a "live" bull (for under 8 seconds) and a motorcycle (on the back), and took his first helicopter flight (as a passenger).

Rodney is now Of Counsel at the Valley's third largest law firm, Ryley Carlock & Applewhite, where he is developing the firm's government relations and external affairs practice.

Along with his wife, Sasha, the Glassmans will be releasing their next children's book, *Jeremy Jackrabbit Captures the Sun*, on April 12 at the Arizona Science Center.

Rglassman@rcalaw.com | 602-440-4889 | rcalaw.com



Rob Glaser elected chair of Arizona Theatre Co.

Rob Glaser has been elected chair of the board of trustees of Arizona Theatre Company, the state's regional theater company that produces shows in both Tucson and Phoenix. Rob is an industrial real estate broker with PICOR commercial real estate in Tucson



Business Ins & Outs welcomes submissions of news items about businesses and Jewish organizations including new leadership, retiring leaders and new facilities. Send your business news brief of up to 250 words, along with a photo, to Arizona Jewish Life Associate Editor Janet Arnold at janet.arnold@azjewishlife.com.

and has been on the board for seven years. He also has served on the board of Temple Emanu-El and worked with both the Jewish Federation of Southern Arizona and Jewish Community Foundation of Southern Arizona.

Rob is excited about the future of ATC, which last year “was close to being on life support,” he says. However, he is happy to report they have been able to raise critical monies to stabilize the company, and they look forward to changes yet to come.

Rob lives in Tucson with his wife, Laurie. They have two sons, Andrew, 26, and Steven, 24, who live out of state.

rglaser@picor.com | arizonatheatre.org



Jennifer Jalowiec joins ASU Hillel staff

Jennifer Jalowiec is the new operations manager for Hillel Jewish Student Center at Arizona State University. Prior to her new position, Jennifer worked at Mollen Immunization Clinics for two years developing various lines of business as their premier accounts supervisor.

Born and raised in Arizona, Jennifer attended the University of Arizona, where she earned her bachelor’s degree in communication. She was extremely active at the UA Hillel, serving as a KOACH intern and the student vice president. Jennifer then returned to Phoenix, where she pursued her master of public administration at Arizona State University while working at the Jewish News of Greater Phoenix.

Jennifer also serves the Phoenix Jewish community as the secretary for the board of directors of Beth El Congregation and the social chair for Young Jewish Phoenix. She is extremely excited to continue contributing to the Jewish community through Hillel at ASU.

jennifer@hillelasu.org



Tucson JCC welcomes Susan Frank and Ben Moke

The Tucson Jewish Community Center welcomes two new directors to the leadership team. Susan Frank has been hired as the health and wellness director and Ben Moke as the new director of sports and recreation; they will jointly manage the sports and wellness department. As the JCC prepares for major renovations this spring, including

a completely remodeled fitness facility, Susan and Ben will be charged with reinvigorating programs, leagues and classes.

Susan, a native Tucsonan, most recently owned and operated O2 Modern Fitness in downtown Tucson. At O2, Susan offered hundreds of fitness classes to local teens, trained fitness instructors in the Tohono O’odham Indian nation, co-directed a local cycling team; and created an annual National-Class Pro Bike Race, the Old Pueblo Grand Prix that brings professional athletes from all over country to compete in Tucson. Susan is thrilled to be joining the Tucson JCC and plans to continue her journey of creating dynamic, effective programs to engage and inspire members to embrace active healthy lifestyles.

Born and raised in Denver, CO, Ben Moke grew up attending his local JCC and loves the sense of community it provided. He graduated from the University of Colorado with a degree in elementary education and has more than 10 years of direct JCC experience. He is excited to join the team in Tucson and looks forward to meeting the community.

“I can’t tell you how ecstatic I am to add these incredible directors to an already stellar leadership team,” says CEO Todd Rockoff. “They bring tremendous energy and experience. I’m confident in their ability to help us move forward and transition to the next chapter of the JCC.”

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Photo by Matthew Strauss

BJ Katz is one **HOT** glass artist

Art from the kilns at Meltdown Glass is seen across the country

By Melissa Hirschl

Glass artist BJ Katz possesses an ever-evolving passion for artistic expression and superb craftsmanship. She is the creator and owner of Meltdown Glass Studio in Tempe, a design center that has been specializing in kiln-cast, etched and colored glass since 1993. Her work graces public and private spaces from coast to coast.

Along with Chris Klein (her co-art director and previous assistant) and 10 full-time employees, Katz creates mainly large-scale, kiln-fired works of art that possess a multitude of sought-after qualities. Her pieces range from bold, colorful and dramatic to delicate, beguiling and at times ethereal. Her large studio/gallery exemplifies her demand for excellence and penchant for creativity.

"I have always felt that art and glass were my mission," says the artist, whose studio contains sculptures, water walls, sculptural walls, art screens, windows, textured tabletops and her personal artistic designs. Her pieces have intrinsic beauty as well as versatility – many creations provide dramatic focal points for both businesses and residences.

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Some “wow factor” choices Meltdown Glass offers are artistic decorative privacy windows, kitchen countertops, textured glass walls, custom entry doors, interior doors and partition dividers, skylights, shower enclosures, spa backsplashes, cabinet doors and even stairways. Among the specialty treatments offered are decorative sandblasting, fused dichroic glass, fused metals and fused glass elements. All the creations are customized to fit clients’ needs, and Katz welcomes ideas from her customers. “I think our studio is the nexus for excellence in art combined with adherence to architectural requirements,” says Katz.

“BJ and Meltdown Glass were amazing to work with on our residential project,” says Scott, a customer who preferred not to share his last name. “In addition to helping us find the most aesthetic, functional art for our home, they provided all of the technical assistance needed, and they helped us understand the options and how the final artwork would look installed.”

Competent and comfortable in the camps of decorative glass art as well as monumental art glass, Katz’s portfolio brims with impressive projects. She was just granted a public arts commission at the hub station of the BART (Bay Area Rapid Transit) expansion to San Jose, CA. “This is an enormous station,” says Katz, “I am creating 2,000 square feet of art

several water wall pieces in the Epcot Center” she says. “I’ve also done work for the children’s hospitals in Texas, Colorado and Phoenix.”

Katz’s creative triumphs can be traced back to her early years. The artistic world beckoned to her as a teen when she took a sampling of art classes in high school in Chicago. Eventually she enrolled in the famous Art Institute of Chicago and also Northwestern University, where she honed her skills in painting, sculpture, art history and contemporary art. Her foray into the professional art glass world happened in Stanwood, WA, at an intensive three-week, glass-blowing class founded by the iconic glass-blowing artist Dale Chihuly. “The class was very focused on inspiring creativity, although I ultimately went in the direction of kiln work. What fascinated me was the size of the pieces possible, and how you can integrate it into architecture and work on a monumental scale,” says Katz.

Soon after, the artist moved to Scottsdale and established a studio in her garage.

“My life consisted of the UPS delivery man who delivered my supplies,” she laughs. Desiring to learn more, Katz took a sojourn to Australia to soak up more information and additional techniques. She worked in studios of major artists and



Photos by Melissa Hirschl



BJ Katz tests different photo transfer techniques on glass in this self portrait. Photo by Derek Nadeau.

glass for the building facade. Amy Trachtenberg is the other artist who was also picked for the project, and she is doing the ceramic aspects.”

Katz also completed artwork for the Colorado Judicial Center last year – two art glass walls, one in the lobby and one in the Supreme Court Justice Library. The Monterrey Bay Marine Sanctuary Exploration Center was another major accomplishment in 2012. In addition, Neiman Marcus used Meltdown Glass to fabricate the 4,500-square-foot facade of its Walnut Creek, CA, store. A sampling of other projects includes pieces on Princess Cruise Lines and at Disney World in Orlando. “We have

“What fascinated me was the size of the pieces possible, and how you can integrate it into architecture and work on a monumental scale.”

– BJ Katz

volunteered in a public access glass studio where artists paid by the hour to use facilities. “A surprise six-week stint of being left in charge provided me with experiences ripe with possibilities. The artists were very open to sharing, so I was able to pick their brains,” she says. She adds with a laugh, “I was supposed to be answering the artist’s questions, but I had the most questions!”

Armed with the knowledge she gleaned in Australia and from other artists she networked with, Katz created Meltdown Glass 20 years ago. “Some people are more influenced by other people’s style,” she says. “I have always had a sense of what I want to convey; my work is very reflective of me, and I don’t see anyone doing work similar to mine.”

Some of the artist's personal work pieces include four different series of art glass that are sold to the public, museums and galleries. The four series feature torsos, sea life, the galaxy and facets of womanhood with her own personal philosophical wording embedded into each piece.

When asked what she loves best about her career, she responds, "I love people and also the working relationships with my staff. Everyone is enthusiastic about what we do here. I love the ability to constantly grow and express myself. When I do my own artwork, the sky is the limit in terms of expression. Most of my artwork is nature inspired – beaches, trees, walks and hiking."

Raised as a Reform Jew, the rest of Katz's family is Conservative. "The Jewish philosophy of importance of family



BJ Katz and husband, Derek Nadeau, enjoy downtime together.
Photo by Matthew Strauss

is essential to me," she says. "I put a lot of importance on staying in touch and having Shabbat dinners with them when possible." With most of her parents' generation gone, BJ says she takes the role of ensuring the family gathers for Shabbat or holiday dinners when she and her husband, Derek Nadeau, return to the Chicago area for visits. In Arizona she treasures sharing Shabbat dinners with her cousins.

Meltdown Glass offers 30 unique textures as part of its standard product line.

Custom textures can be made as repeating patterns, full-scale compositional designs or patterns that span several panels of glass. To learn more about creating a custom work of art for your home or business, contact BJ Katz at bjkatz@meltdownglass.com.



Susan Colin

Born to Sing

Susan Colin shares Jewish music from both bimah and website

By Janet Arnold

Susan Colin knew she was born to sing – she just didn't know what that would entail.

She grew up in New York and studied at Boston University as a voice major. While there she figured out that classical or operatic singing was not for her – plus she noticed there were an awful lot of people who were very talented. She wasn't the singled-out shining star she had been in high school.

She always enjoyed listening to liturgical music, but it never occurred to her that the bimah could be a place for her. She didn't see a woman on the bimah until she was 24 years old. Once the lightbulb went off, she knew where she needed to use her talents.

While living in Texas for 18 years, Susan became music director of Congregation Kol Ami in Flower Mound, TX, and knew she had found where she belonged: on a bimah singing cantorial music. She still travels back to Dallas each year to sing for the High Holidays at Adat Chaverim in Plano. Since moving to the Valley two years ago, she has been singing with Rabbi Susan Schanerman at Nefeshsoul, a congregational havurah that meets monthly in Chandler. She has also recorded four CDs and is an award-winning composer.

In addition to her cantorial soloist work, Susan is the owner of the digital Jewish music download site, oySongs.com. She says her mission is "to be the best resource for Jewish music of all kinds." Her site has gathered music from a myriad of sources: liturgical, holiday and secular. "Cantors, educators, religious leaders and music lovers around the world use oySongs.com for finding and adding to their Jewish music libraries," she says. Susan looks forward to the site someday becoming as popular as iTunes but for Jewish music alone. Her goal is to have something for everyone, so individuals can relate to Jewish music and Judaism in the way that is most comfortable for them.

As a distributor, Susan enjoys meeting both new and established Jewish artists. She carries sheet music as well as MP3s and works with more than 260 artists (including local cantorial soloist Todd Herzog).

Digital Jewish music download site: oySongs.com

Jewish teen to play Juliet's father

April 25-May 4

By Janet Arnold

"Romeo and Juliet" is perhaps the most famous love story of all time. It's a story that can be set in a variety of time periods, whether it be the Montagues and Capulets from Shakespeare's time in the late 1590s or the Sharks and the Jets from "West Side Story" in the 1950s. Greasepaint Youtheatre is presenting "Romeo and Juliet" from April 25 to May 4.

Playing Capulet, the patriarch of his family, is local teen Eric Slosky. Eric is 16 and attends the Gary K. Herberger Young Scholars' Academy, a private school located on the ASU West campus. The Academy is a highly academic high school program, so, as Eric explains, "I am a sophomore in high school, but the school is accelerated, so I am technically finishing up my junior/senior requirements this year and attending college the fall of 2015."

Eric began acting around the age of 8 at Desert Stages' summer theater camps. "Since then," he says, "I have participated in many drama events such as Poetry Out Loud, the National Shakespeare Competition and various school performances. ... what keeps pulling me back is the thrill of performing and the opportunity to 'show off' in front of an audience."

Eric is looking forward to his first production with Greasepaint Youtheatre, which is celebrating its 30th anniversary

this year. "Romeo and Juliet" has been cast with 22 teens from across the Valley. While this version doesn't have a definitive designated time period, "the setting and feel of the show is a bit edgy, a bit gritty; it will have an industrial feel to it," explains Director Debra Kay Stevens. "I wanted to find a way to make the piece feel relevant to today's teens."

Eric is particularly excited about playing Capulet. "I would have been happy with any role in the play, but I really enjoy playing fatherly and power figures. The fact that I may get to yell onstage is just icing on the cake! I also really enjoy performing Shakespeare, as I am intrigued by the history of classical theater."

Eric became a bar mitzvah through Temple Solel in Paradise Valley. He lives in Scottsdale with his parents, Jeff and Carlina, and his older sister, Rachael, a student at ASU Barrett's Honor College.

"Romeo and Juliet" is playing April 25-May 4 at Stagebrush Theatre, home to Greasepaint Youtheatre, at 7020 E 2nd Street in Scottsdale. Performances are Friday and Saturday nights at 7 pm and Sundays at 2 pm. Tickets are \$12-15. 480-949-7529, greasepaint.org



Eric Slosky






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Photo courtesy of MIM

MIM visitors move to the World's rhythms

By Deborah Moon

Just four years after being founded, Phoenix's Musical Instrument Museum already has garnered recognition from two national travel resources. USA Today Travel named MIM the fourth best museum for families, and TripAdvisor tagged MIM as its top Phoenix attraction. But the reason I want to add MIM to my itinerary is the curators' enthusiastic description of the exhibits and the visitors' reactions.

"The experience people have here is pretty indescribable," says European Gallery Curator Kathleen Weins. "The smiles they have on their faces ... This is a phenomenal place."

U.S. and Canada Gallery Curator Cullen Strawn concurs: "Video is a huge part of our presentation. In the klezmer exhibit the musical selections grab people and make them feel something."

MIM opened April 24, 2010, with instruments from more than 200 countries, as well as musical genre exhibits such as klezmer, jazz and native music. State-of-the-art audiovisual technology allows visitors to see and hear instruments played in their cultural settings. Visitors can play instruments from around the world in the Experience Gallery and view instruments from

musical icons such as John Lennon, Taylor Swift, Elvis Presley and Carlos Santana in MIM's Artist Gallery. MIM also features a 300-seat theater where it presents nearly 200 concerts annually. Classes and programs for kids are regular features of MIM.

"MIM is a global music museum," says Weins. "We try to represent almost every country in the world."

A 2012 UCLA graduate with a doctorate in ethnomusicology, Weins joined the MIM staff six months ago. Her dissertation was on two Jewish musicians from the Serbian capital of Belgrade, and she says she hopes to use her knowledge of Jewish music to expand its visual presence in the European gallery. She says the Jewish musicians are well integrated into Europe's music history.

"Everywhere you look (in Europe), Jewish musicians would be participants. Jewish musicians have been fundamental in the conservatories of St. Petersburg and Moscow for a couple centuries."

One exhibit in the European gallery focuses specifically on Jewish history. Weins says the exhibit on Jewish Music 1939-45 addresses a sensitive topic simply and effectively. That exhibit has

three themes, two of which deal with “the absence of musical instruments.”

“We know objects and art were stolen from Jewish families,” she says. “I represent stolen Jewish instruments with an empty violin case and inside a reproduction of a stolen instrument certificate.”

“The second theme tells another story of the absence of musical instruments through destruction. This was a story I wanted to tell,” she says. She contacted Beit Hatfutsot in Tel Aviv and was given two pieces of scorched metal that had been part of the organ in Berlin’s Neu Synagogue, which was destroyed by pogroms and bombings. “These scorched items tell a powerful story without a lot of text.”

A third theme in the exhibit involves the musicians who felt playing saved their lives when they were sent to Nazi concentration camps. “We have a violin from a gentleman who felt playing saved his life in Birkenau. ... A pianist felt her playing saved her and her son in Theresienstadt.”



Harrison Arnold, 9, tries out instruments in MIM’s Experience Gallery. Photo courtesy of Arnold family

While most of MIM’s exhibits are uplifting and fun, Weins says she thinks of the 1939-45 display as “an educational moment ... thought-provoking moment.”

In the U.S. and Canada Gallery, the musical fun rings true in the klezmer exhibit, which is presented as an example of immigrant music.

“Through the (migration) gallery we show examples of music that originated elsewhere and traveled to the United States and blended and morphed into something else,” says Strawn, who thinks the popularity of the klezmer exhibit is the combination of the immigrant story and “because the music is so good.”

The evolution of klezmer music in America is a continuation of klezmer’s roots in Europe, explains Strawn. “Early klezmer in Europe was taking the kernel of Jewish music and mixing

MUSEUM HOURS

(Many guests spend nearly four hours at MIM)

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MIM CONCERTS

Upcoming concerts featuring Jewish artists include:

April 3: Joshua Redman

April 5: David Broza (in collaboration with Aviv Productions Inc., aviv2.com).

May 6: Béla Fleck (performing with his wife, Abigail Washburn)

May 17: Bill Frisell

Concert times and ticket prices vary; for information and tickets, visit mimmusictheater.themim.org/concerts

with other musical styles. ... Klezmer has always been open to incorporating surrounding musical styles.”

Strawn says that in the United States, that mixing included adding the louder brass instruments to the softer stringed instruments. He says that evolution can be heard in two recordings in the exhibit: a great film clip of pre-Jazz influenced klezmer featuring the Epstein Brothers playing “Freylich,” and Ziggy Elman and his orchestra bringing the big band sound to the traditional tune “Bublitchki.”

From klezmer to African rhythms, visitors of all ages can tap their toes and move to the beat of sounds from around the globe at MIM!

MIM Kids Programs:

MIMkids Mini Music Makers

Wednesdays and Saturdays, April 2-26; programs divided by age for children ages 0 to 5 between 9:30 and 11:45 am. Introduce your child to the wide and wonderful world of music through MIM’s early childhood music and movement. Buy 4 for \$40 or \$12 each.

MIMkids Musical Adventures Series

1:30-2:30 pm, Saturdays in April. Participants age 6 to 10 years will discover new cultures by actively participating in music making, creating musical instruments and more. Buy 4 for \$40 or \$12 each.

Instrument Spotlight: Guitars

Noon-3 pm, April 12 and 20. Ever dream of being a rock star? Stop by and learn to play a chord or two on an electric guitar. Volunteer team members will be on hand to help you get some real life experience. Included with paid museum admission; free for Circle of Friends donors.

Homeschool Day: Experience Africa Tour

9 am-5 pm, April 18. Best for grades 3-6. Experience African musical traditions! Docent-led tours at 9:30 and 11 am. \$10 per student and \$10 per chaperone above the 1:5 ratio. Reservations required: 480-245-6919 or grouptours@MIM.org.

Performing artist also crafts beautiful kippot

By Janet Arnold

Valley theatergoers are very familiar with the multi-talented Maria Amoroch. For over 20 years, she has appeared on nearly every stage in the area in comedies, dramas and musicals.

"I can't say I'm exactly a triple threat," she admits with a grin. "I'm known as 'an actor who moves' rather than a true dancer." No matter. With her rich, clear soprano voice and her significant "acting chops," she's a shining star in each production she graces.

Maria is a product of a Baptist missionary nurse and a Catholic Colombian doctor. That fact, in and of itself, might just make her unique. "My parents were married in 1959. My mother came from Eastern Kentucky; marrying a Catholic Latino was unheard of!" Maria grew up in Louisville where she attended church and Sunday school. But the place for social fun was the Jewish Community Center. "My family belonged and we were always at the pool. My friends were all there. I took cooking classes, learning to make kosher pizza and hamantaschen. My sister took pottery and crafts classes and would come home with Purim masks and seder plates."

During and after college at Kenyon College in Ohio, Maria also did some shows at the Cleveland JCC. By that time, her church attendance had tapered off, though she would sing at church events to "make my car payment."

Maria had visited Arizona and saw it as a place of great potential for theater. "It was ground floor time. The theater arts were growing. It was an exciting place to be." She needed a place to stay and friends recommended she contact Earl Weisbrod, who needed a roommate. She did and they were engaged three years later!

Earl was a dentist and a cultural, secular Jew. After the births of their two sons, Elijah and Jeremiah, Earl realized he wanted the boys to have a Jewish education. With Maria's spiritual and social background, she readily agreed. The boys were enrolled at Temple Beth Israel's preschool (now Congregation Beth Israel), and Maria drank in the education along with her sons. The more she learned, the more she realized how her own views fit in perfectly with Jewish values. Prior to Elijah becoming a bar mitzvah in 2007 at Temple Kol Ami, Maria converted to Judaism.



"I have always believed in tikkun olam (repairing the world), and I found the rituals and emphasis on home and family to be very comforting," she says. "I believe that the Jewish people are 'chosen' not for privilege, but for responsibility, and that's how I live my life."

Maria's artistic talents go beyond her performances; she is also extremely crafty. She discovered a way to create female kippot with a combination of wire and jewels. Her beautiful creations are now sold all over the country through temples and Jewish gift shops. You can also order a custom-made kippah directly from Maria: go to [Etsy.com](https://www.etsy.com/search?query=KeepsakekippotAZ) and search for [KeepsakekippotAZ](https://www.etsy.com/search?query=KeepsakekippotAZ).

Maria can next be seen on stage in Actor's Theatre's production of the award-winning "Good Friends," running April 25 through May 11 at the new venue for the Arizona Opera at 1636 N Central Ave., just north of McDowell Road. The play is written by David Lindsay-Abaire and directed by Matthew Wiener. For tickets or more information, call 602-888-0368 or visit actorstheatrephx.org.

Susan Claassen Invisible Theatre

A very visible force in Tucson for over 39 years

By Janet Arnold



The Invisible Theatre takes its name from “the invisible energy that flows between a performer and audience, creating the magic of theatre.” But there is nothing invisible about the charismatic leader of the theater, Susan Claassen. She is a force to be reckoned with as a producer, director, fundraiser, teacher, actor, creative visionary and even as a clown in the annual Macy’s Thanksgiving Day Parade!

Suz, as she is known to all, has been at the helm of Invisible Theatre, a small but mighty theater company in Tucson, since 1975. Performing in an 80-seat converted laundry building, the company is well respected throughout the state for producing an eclectic mix of meaningful plays and musicals with high production values. As managing artistic director, Suz chooses the season, regularly directs shows and occasionally takes roles on stage as well.

Susan Klein was born in New Jersey, where her family joined the migration from Newark to the suburb of Maplewood. “Think ‘Goodbye, Columbus,’” she winks. But she has such fond memories of her early days. Her parents supported the concept of individuality with their two daughters and fostered a great love of the arts. Both girls were encouraged from early ages to explore and develop their talents, so it’s no coincidence that her sister is a visual artist and Suz is in the theater. In the early 1960s not many females were becoming bat mitzvah, but Susan did attend Hebrew school and was confirmed at Congregation Beth El, a Conservative synagogue. After college at the University of Denver (living in the first co-ed dorm there!) and performing at various Denver theaters, Susan arrived in Arizona in 1971.

Suz is a member of Chaverim Congregation and is well known in Tucson for her support of Jewish causes and events. Many of her play selections speak specifically to Jewish audiences while maintaining her dedication to universal themes. Her theater is often filled with groups such as Hadassah.

In 1988, Susan and the board of IT established the “Goldie Award” in honor of her mother, Goldie Klein, who would winter in Tucson. “My mother was such a great role model,” Suz says.

“She supported everything I did.” Over the years, the award has been presented to a diverse range of theatrical dignitaries from Lynn Redgrave to this year’s Sandy Hackett (son of Buddy Hackett).

Suz looks forward to playing the title character in IT’s upcoming production of “Olive and the Bitter Herbs,” a 2011 acerbic comedy written by Charles Busch. “Olive is such a fun role for me. She’s got a New York, bitter exterior with a heart of gold on the inside,” Suz explains. But then, she continued, “I love every part I do. It is such a joy to collaborate in a creative setting!”

The bitter herbs in the title refer to a Passover seder, and during rehearsals Suz will be sharing some Passover history, customs and foods with the rest of the cast and crew at Invisible Theatre. The show previews April 15 and runs through May 4 at 1400 N First Ave. in Tucson. For dates, times and prices, contact 520-882-9721 or invisibletheatre.com.



Susan Claassen (performing as Edith Head) with Joan Rivers

PASSOVER

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Yaakov Kirschen, left, is congratulated by Rabbi Yehoshua Fass of Nefesh B'Nefesh on the Kirschen's receipt of a 2014 Bonei Zion (Builders of Zion) Prize for his contributions to Israeli culture and the arts.

A release from Nefesh B'Nefesh, a private organization that runs Israel's immigration operations in North America and conferred the \$10,000 prize, notes Kirschen's work "has provided a quintessentially Zionist, satirical and unique view of Israel to the world."

Dry Bones Haggadah targets future generations

By Leni Reiss

Yaakov Kirschen followed the haggadah pledge of "Next Year in Jerusalem" when, in 1971, he "schlepped a wife and three kids" with him from New York to Israel. To mark the 40th year of "Dry Bones," his internationally syndicated editorial cartoon peopled (and "dogged") by Mr. Shuldig and Doobie, his irrepressible pet, Kirschen has crafted the traditional yet unique *Dry Bones Passover Haggadah*. The colorful and clever Dry Bones commentaries framing the haggadah text speak to all Jews: the wise, the wicked, the simple and the others, Kirschen says, "who are just waiting for the festive meal and are not even curious."

Kirschen is the 2014 recipient of the \$10,000 Bonei Zion (Builders of Zion) Prize for his contributions to Israel and the arts. He is being recognized for "providing a quintessentially Zionist, satirical and unique view of Israel to the world."

The following is a conversation with Kirschen, with some replies edited for brevity.

What, if anything, do you miss about America?

The America that I miss is the America I once lived in. But that America is the America of 1971 ... an America that no longer exists. To be fair, I also miss the Israel that I came to. The Israel of 1971 ... an Israel that no longer exists.





Yaakov Kirschen is flanked by his wife, Sali Ariel, and Arizonan Leni Reiss, right.

Explain the derivation of “Dry Bones” as the name of the cartoon strip.

In New York in the late '60s I was researching a book on Jewish art and came upon the imagery of the biblical book of Ezekiel. Written some 2,600 years ago, it told the story in a dream/metaphor prophecy called “The Vision of the Dry Bones.” It seemed to me to be an incredibly accurate story of our day. The prophet had it right, but he left out rude bus drivers, “protectzia” (connection to people in power) and a myriad of other details. When I got to Israel and started to create my cartoon to comment on those “details,” I named it “Dry Bones,” sort of as an inside joke to myself.

What is the meaning of “Shuldig?” Who is he based on and what about Doobie, his dog?

Dry Bones is peopled by many characters: King Solomon and his advisor, newscasters and just plain folks talking to each other, but Mr. Shuldig is special. He is my alter ego. When he talks, it is me talking. Doobie represents the more objective, non-emotional me. As a new immigrant many years ago, I noticed that Israelis were really skillful at avoiding blame. So I decided to have a character in the strip who would admit blame, who would say he was guilty. The Yiddish word for guilt is “shuldig.” But in true Israeli style it turned out that Mr. Shuldig has never accepted the blame for anything. Not ever. Not once. Doobie is named for my real dog, and represents the more objective, non-emotional me. We got Doobie as a puppy, and he lived to a ripe old age, seeing all three kids grow into young women. He is missed by all of us.

How has Dry Bones changed though the years?

In the beginning, Dry Bones was printed in the Jerusalem Post and was read by Israelis. Today it speaks to a worldwide audience and has become a part of an international debate about Israel. We’ve got fans in the Mideast, Europe, South America and the English-speaking countries. We are syndicated by politicalcartoons.com. But sometimes I miss the good old days when Dry Bones could talk to people who were sharing a local experience. Maybe that is why I so enjoyed doing the haggadah. It’s Dry Bones talking to a group of people sharing the experience of being at a seder.

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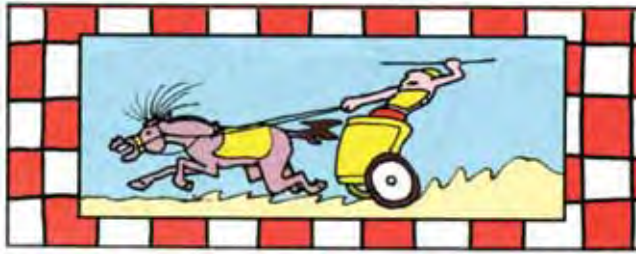
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PASSOVER



What were your seders like growing up?

There were lots of noisy grownups who relished being together, eating good food and not paying a lot of attention to the kids. And I don't remember being bribed by the "money for the Afikomen" deal.

What are your seders like now?

One obvious difference is that I'm the old guy and not the kid, but more to the point, I think that many families look at the seder as a chore, and for the kids it's a chore to sit through them, with the promise of an Afikomen "payoff." Haggadot are being rewritten, the traditional text chopped, shortened and trivialized.

The haggadah is arguably the most published of all Jewish texts. Why another?

We live in a post-literate world of images and icons. For the seder experience to be engaging, entertaining and meaningful, the traditional text should be enhanced and illuminated with the iconography and imagery of our era: the language of cartoons.



Who is your target audience?

Our target audience is the traditional target audience of the haggadah: the generations that follow us, the Jews to whom we will be the people who lived in the past. The haggadah is clear on the makeup of the audience seated at our seder tables: the wise, the wicked, the simple and those who are not even curious. The commentaries framing the Dry Bones Haggadah speak to all four archetypes.

What is your "take-away" message for readers of the Passover story?

I have two answers for Passover's take-away message. The long answer is that many have searched for the "Secret Book of the Jews." South Koreans study the Talmud. Hollywood stars investigate Kabbalah, anti-Semites have made "The Protocols of Zion" a huge bestseller in spite of its being a proven and obvious forgery. The truth is that we do have a secret book. It is the one we read when we are together, as families, in our homes, at Passover. The secret of the Jews is that we are a family. And our guidebook to passing on who we are, who we were and who we will be is the haggadah. The short answer is that a seder can be fun, meaningful and enjoyed by all.

Dry Bones Passover Haggadah is available for purchase at drybones.com or contact Sali Ariel at saliariel@yahoo.com.



Community seders abound across Arizona

Residents of Arizona come from many places and often leave family behind. While Passover is traditionally a "home" holiday, congregations realize there are many who do not have family nearby or who would just like to celebrate with their larger community family. Here are some options:

April 8

Temple Solel's women's seder led by Rabbi Ilana Mills at 6:30 pm at Temple Solel, 6805 E McDonald Dr., Paradise Valley. Appetizers, desserts and wine. \$10 for members; \$12 non-members. Babysitting available with reservation, \$5. Collecting items for Florence Crittenton for women and girls in need. RSVP by April 2 to Chelsi at cjohnson@templesolel.org or 480-991-7414.

April 14

Beth Emeth Congregation seder at 7 pm at 13702 W Meeker Blvd, Sun City West. Led by Rabbi David Rosenberg. Traditional, kosher meal catered by Designs in Food. \$50 members, \$55 non-members, \$20 for children under 13. RSVP with check by April 9 to Beth Emeth at above address. For more info, contact Sandy at 623-584-7210, bethemethaz.org

Chabad of Anthem seder at 7 pm and also on **April 15** at 7:30 pm at the home of Rabbi Yossi Friedman. \$36 adult, \$18 child. RSVP by April 9 to rabbi@jewishanthem.com or 623-349-1770 to get address and directions.

Chabad of the East Valley seder with Rabbi Mendy Deitsch at 7:15 pm at the Pollack Chabad Center for Jewish Life, 875 N McClintock Dr. in Chandler. \$40 adult, \$25 child, if paid by April 8; thereafter \$50/\$40. No one will be turned away for lack of funds. RSVP to 480-855-4333 or rabbi@chabadcenter.com

Chabad of Mesa seder at 6:45 pm at 941 S. Maple, Mesa. Includes dinner. \$30 adult, \$10 students, free under 14. No one will be turned away for lack of funds. RSVP by April 10 to ChabadMesa@aol.com or 480-659-7001.

Chabad of Paradise Valley seder, hosted by Rabbi Shlomo and Chaya Levertov at 6:30 pm. In both Hebrew and English; also on April 15; reserve seats for one or both. \$50 adult, \$36 child. RSVP by April 1 to 480-788-9310 or shlomy@jewishparadisvalley.com

Congregation Or Chadash of Tucson seder at 6 pm at 3939 N Alvernon Way in Tucson. Members: \$35 adult, \$22 child;

non-members \$50/25. RSVP by April 7 to Eileen at 520-512-8500, orchadash-tucson.org

Temple Beth Shalom of Sun City seder at 5:15 pm at 12202 101st Ave. in Sun City. Dinner by Chompie's. \$38 members; \$49 non-members; \$16 children 13 and under. RSVP with payment by April 8. 623-977-3240, templebethshalomaz.org

University of Arizona Hillel Foundation seder is free for students, at 6 pm at Hillel, 1245 E Second St. in Tucson. RSVP to 520-624-656, arizona.hillel.org

April 15

Congregation Anshei Israel seder, Mincha at 6 pm; seder promptly at 6:45 pm, at 5550 E 5th St., Tucson. Traditional four-course dinner by L'Chaim Catering. Members: adult \$45, child \$30; non-members: \$55/\$40; college and military \$37. Reservations due by April 11. Seating limited. RSVP: caiaz.org or call Barb Neuman at 745-5550, ext. 242.

Congregation Chaverim seder at 6:30 pm at Tucson Botanical Gardens Pavilion, 2140 N Alvernon Way, Tucson. \$18 adults, \$10 children (includes admission to gardens prior to event). Desserts by Beyond Bread (the seder does not include dinner). RSVP with payment by April 7 to Congregation Chaverim, 5901 E 2nd St., Tucson, AZ 85718, admin@chaverim.net or chaverim.net

Congregation Beth Hagivot seder at 6:30 pm at Fountain View Village, 16455 E Ave. of the Fountains, Fountain Hills. \$40 per adult, ask about child price. RSVP by April 8 with check to: Congregation Beth Hagivot, PO Box 19498, Fountain Hills, AZ 85269. More information: bethhagivot.com or info@bethhagivot.com

Congregation Beth Israel seder with Rabbis Stephen Kahn and Roni Keller at 5:30 pm at 10460 N 56th Street, Scottsdale. Inquiries can be made by phoning the temple office at 480-951-0323. Open to all. cbiaz.org

Congregation Or Adam seder at 5:30 pm at the Culter-Plotkin Jewish Heritage Center, 122 E Culver St in Phoenix. Humanitarian point of view. \$50 nonmembers, \$40 members, \$20 children under 10. RSVP by April 1: 480-663-7788 or info@oradam.org

Desert Foothills Jewish Community Association seder at 5:45 pm at Carefree Resort & Conference Center, 37220 N Mule Train Road in Carefree. Cost is \$58 per adult

and \$20 for children under 12. RSVP with checks payable to "DFJCA" sent to: PO Box 25068, Scottsdale, AZ 85255. For more information call Vicki Diamond at 480-595-1191 before April 8.

Har Zion Congregation seder at 6:30 pm with Rabbi Judi Ahavah Del Bourgo at 6140 E Thunderbird Road, Scottsdale. Members \$40 for adults, \$25 for children 9 and under, \$10 for under 3; non-members \$50/\$33/\$13. RSVP with payment by April 7. 480-991-0720, harzion@harzion.org

Temple B'rith Shalom seder at the Club at Prescott Lakes, 311 E Smoketree Lane in Prescott. Registration and seating at 5 pm. Members \$40 for adults, \$12 for children; non-members \$50/\$15. RSVP with payment by April 8 to: Temple B'rith Shalom, 2077 Brohner Way, Prescott, AZ 86301. 928-708-0018, brithshalom-az.org

Temple Emanu-El seder at 6 pm at two locations: 225 N Country Club Road in Tucson and Desert Springs Retirement Living, 30 W Lambert Lane in Oro Valley. \$42 for member; \$52 for non-members. RSVP by April 8 to Mila Vasser, 520-327-4501. Templeemanuelutucson.org

Temple Havurat Emet seder at 5:30 pm at Chompie's, 3481 W Frye Road in Chandler. \$35 adult, \$17.50 child. RSVP by April 8 to Gig at gmi18@mac.com or 480-785-7767.

Temple Solel seder at 6 pm, with Rabbi John Linder and cantorial soloist Todd Herzog, at 6805 E McDonald Dr., Paradise Valley. Includes full kosher Passover dinner by Simply Scrumptious. Adults \$59-\$78, children 6-12, \$29-35; children 5 and under, \$9-12. RSVP with payment by April 9 to Edie at ebradt@templesolel.org or 480-991-7414.

April 19

Temple Heichal Baoranim annual potluck community seder at 5:30 pm, Federated Community Church, 400 W Aspen Ave in Flagstaff. Bring your family and friends. More information and a reservation form in April newsletter. heichalbaoranim.org, 928-527-8747 or 928-600-1461.

The Secular Humanist Jewish Circle (SHJC) seder at 11:30 am at Atria Campana Del Rio, 1550 E River Road, Tucson. Lunch follows seder. \$25 for members, \$35 non-members. RSVP by April 14 to Sandee, 520-232-0226, sandeemb@comcast.net or Becky, 520-296-3762, schulmb@aol.com

PASSOVER

Shorter seders made easy

By Janet Arnold

Passover Haggadot (plural of Haggadah) can be found in many versions, from the old Maxwell House Coffee pamphlets to elaborately decorated and detailed hardbound books. The word Haggadah means “telling,” which comes from the Biblical command: “And you shall *tell* your child on that day, saying: ‘G-d did (miracles) for me when I left Egypt so that I would fulfill the Torah’s commandment.’” The book serves as a guide to the story that is to be handed down from generation to generation.

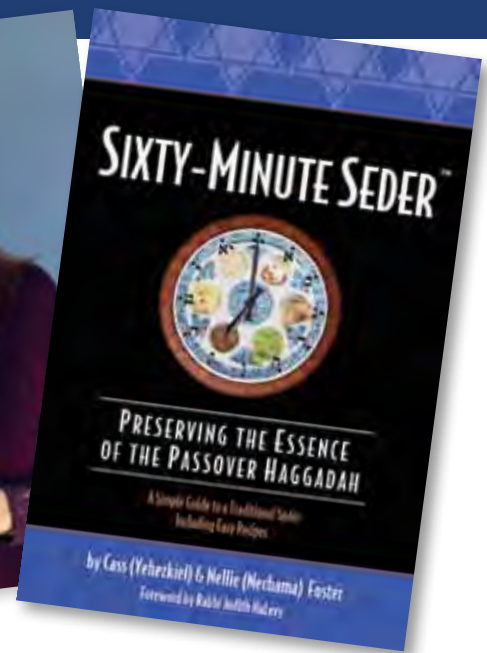
Two Haggadot with Arizona ties are shorter, more concise versions. *The Promise Haggadah* was created by Tucson resident Nanci Freedberg. “We were at a family seder when my children were 3 and 6. I noticed that not only were they restless, but even the adults seemed hungry and hurried,” Nanci says. She wanted to create something that would resonate with all ages. In 2002, she wrote and self-published *The Promise Haggadah*, “incorporating a complete, yet concise family seder.” The 28-page booklet includes lovely illustrations, and minimal Hebrew, all of which is transliterated. Traditions, prayers and blessings are written in modern form and she includes a passage on Miriam’s Cup.

As a unique touch, the front cover is personalized with a first or family name separately on each cover, i.e. “Nanci’s Haggadah” or “The Freedberg Family Haggadah.” Jewish organizations throughout the U S and Canada sell *The Promise Haggadah* as a fundraiser, receiving a percentage of sales. Individuals can purchase them directly online at PersonalizedHaggadahs.com

The Promise Haggadah will be used this year by Congregation Chaverim in Tucson for their community seder at the Tucson Botanical Gardens on April 15. (See seder listings, page 27)



Nanci Freedberg



Nellie and Cass Foster

Cass and Nellie Foster were Valley residents for 20 years. During that time Cass was a theater professor at Central Arizona College and Mesa Community College. Nellie was in the health care field, serving as the director of clinical operations at Southwest College of Naturopathic Medicine in Tempe. They were active at Temple Beth Sholom in Chandler for a number of years, particularly while raising their son. Cass served on the board there and Nellie was president of the sisterhood.

Cass was also writing. A Shakespeare devotee, he wrote 60-minute versions of seven of Shakespeare’s plays. He maintained the essence, the language and the integrity of the three- to five-hour-long plays, but by making judicious cuts, he was able to greatly reduce their length. Popular around the world for middle and high school students, each script includes footnotes to explain archaic words as well as “how-to” hints to the directors and teachers.

Then, forsooth, he thought why not take this condensing concept and apply it to another hours-long story? Cass had been raised in a “predominantly Conservative home with strong Orthodox leanings,” he explains. He and Nellie, who came from a more secular background, hosted annual seders in their Tempe home for 45 to 50 guests. Cass felt that he was “putting even himself to sleep” some years. His family and friends encouraged him to ply his trade at creating a 60-minute version. Cass decided to give it a try as he firmly believes “to seder or not to seder” should not be the question!

He took the template he used in reducing the Bard, and applied it to a Conservative Passover Haggadah. He craftily maintained the essence, integrity and beauty of the story. He included Hebrew with the transliteration. Then he and Nellie added in recipes and games as well as “how-to” hints on setting the table, creating the seder plate and other hands-on activities. The result is *The 60-Minute Seder*, published in February by Linda Radke of Six Point Press in Chandler. The book is available at major book stores or directly from FiveStarPublications.com (the parent company for Six Point Press). More information is available at SixtyMinuteSeder.com.

The Fosters currently live in Kauai, where they are involved in “the local theater scene, the local beach scene and somewhat with both the local Chabad and the small Reform Jewish community.”



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Managing the stress of Passover

By Dvora Entin

And so it begins. That huge tray of hamantaschen in Costco reminds us of the impending holiday filled with candy, costumes and celebration. But the mere notion of a triangle cookie tends to send many a Jewish woman into a full-blown retreat, running through the stages of grief, starting with denial. Because it's not the holiday of Purim we think of, but the immediate reminder of what comes next. Purim means that Pesach is just around the corner.

We begin to count the number of Sundays left and pray for the continued health of our cleaning help (and his or her family). After that the battle cries of women around the world can be heard through open windows: "Do not even think of eating that out of the kitchen! PESACH IS COMING!"

While the holiday of Pesach brings with it special memories as well as dishes, it also tends to lend itself to an increased level of stress in the Jewish home and family. Stress can be a powerful motivator when reacting to sudden danger or trying to meet a deadline, but stress can also rob us of good health in mind, body and spirit. While stress is the body's normal physical reaction that occurs when you feel threatened or overwhelmed when dealing with an unusually large number of responsibilities, it is important to assess how you can decrease and manage stress for increased performance. When all we see are the inner walls of our closets, or the cabinets of our kitchen, it's hard to remember to care for ourselves.

Sometimes, normal stress responses are magnified and develop into something more than normal. For some, stress can transition into anxiety. A person experiencing anxiety has excessive and uncontrollable worry about everyday things, and while Passover preparation is hardly an "everyday" experience, the concern for anxiety during a high-stress time is increased. Common symptoms of anxiety are racing thoughts, excessive worry that keeps you up at night, irritability, difficulty concentrating or your mind going blank. Perhaps you have a decreased appetite or find yourself eating your way through the Purim candy late at night.

During this time of increased stress, pay attention to what your body is telling you! Thinking about and planning ways to decrease the levels of anxiety and stress will translate into a healthier Passover message for your children. So much of the Pesach story is the message and lessons we are transferring to our children and the next generation at the seder and during the entire week. Consider what message your children will receive from your actions and perspective of the holiday. Our children hear the language we use to describe the upcoming holiday; if our "oys" and "kvetches" are louder than our celebration and

appreciation of the holiday, then that is what our children will remember. Finding ways to reduce the tension can increase the joyful anticipation for you and your family!

How do we move from being stressed to being successful in managing our responsibilities? Begin with realistic expectations of what you are intending to accomplish in your home. Let's get practical!

- Do you need to invite guests to every meal? Alternate the meals between quiet ones and those with invited guests. Some meals are lovely served on paper plates with plastic ware!
- Do the hard things first, but in phases. By staggering the layers of responsibility, you can better manage the larger projects. Set up tables and chairs as early as is practical. Using Bubbe's silverware? Polish it now.
- Understand your need for sleep and be realistic about how long you can go with a reduced amount.
- Create a written schedule of your cleaning and cooking needs and check off what you have accomplished.
- Rally the troops! Children and spouses should be included in the preparation and delegation of responsibilities. Ask for and use every available resource of support.
- And finally, plan a break or reward for hours worked to read, listen to music or treat yourself to Starbucks!

A word of caution for the Jewish woman facing the responsibility of Pesach cleaning: In a more observant household this holiday has a significant level of strictness that can heighten anxiety of all involved in preparation. Pay attention to the line between being "strict" and being "obsessive." If you find yourself cleaning areas you have already cleaned, questioning whether you did it right or need to redo it, finding yourself ruminating about whether your standards are high enough, seek rabbinic guidance and professional support – especially if you have a tendency toward obsessive/compulsive personality or behavior.

The celebration of Pesach is one that, while stressful, can and should be a time of joy, creating new memories and cherishing old traditions. Set yourself up for success by creating a preemptive strike against the stress.

And when all else fails in your stress-busting arsenal, there's always chocolate!

Dvora Entin, LCSW, is a clinician and program coordinator for Jewish Family & Children's Service Aleinu. She can be reached at dvora.entin@jfcasaz.org



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To Life To be Jewish is to protest

Amy Hirshberg Lederman

“That’s not fair! She got more than I did! You love him more than me!” How many times have you heard those words from a small child? How many times have you thought them yourself – even as an adult?

We are born with the innate need to alter the things we experience as unjust. A toddler who needs attention drives his parents crazy, whining and needling, just to be heard. A teenager who feels unjustly assessed by parents or teachers will often act out in ways that assert her frustration with not being judged fairly. And as adults, we complain (or kvetch) about things that bother us or that we feel are wrong.

While mere complaining doesn’t necessarily rise to the level of meaningful protest, the continuum often begins with simple injustices. Why do we protest even the smallest unfairness?

Because when something doesn’t feel right, comfortable or just, it is simply human to call out in response.

The Jewish people come from a long line of protesters. The granddaddy of them all is found in the Book of Genesis when Abraham confronts God about His decision to destroy the people of Sodom and Gomorrah. Abraham demands an explanation from God for His decision and boldly protests against it in words that have been described by the Jewish philosopher, Emil Fackenheim, as an incident of “citing God against God.”

With more moxie than Alan Dershowitz, Abraham challenges God by asking: “Will you sweep away the righteous with the wicked? Shall not the Judge of all the earth do justice?” Abraham’s protest set the standard for our moral compass; it is the basis of our legacy that, as Jews, we have both the right and the obligation to challenge injustice.

Jewish history is replete with examples of Jewish men and women who defied leaders and laws when they violated moral conscience. Moses challenged Pharaoh and demanded that he free the Jewish slaves from bondage to serve God. A lesser known but inspiring story is found in the opening chapter of Exodus where the Hebrew midwives, Shifrah and Puah, disobeyed Pharaoh’s order to kill all Hebrew newborn boys using the pretext that the babies were born before the midwives arrived. From Abraham to Rabbi Akiva, from Supreme Court Justice Louis Brandeis to Soviet dissident Natan Sharansky, Jews throughout history have protested vehemently against immoral and unconscionable acts and laws.

The Talmud defines our obligation to protest as follows: “If a person can protest the misdeeds of his household, yet does not, he becomes guilty with them. If he can protest the deeds of his townsmen, and does not, he is guilty with them. If he can protest the deeds of the entire world, and does not, he is guilty with them.”

This quote pretty much did me in when I first encountered

it. I already feel bad about little things – like not calling my mother enough. Add to that my guilt over not doing more to prevent illiteracy, fight poverty, end hunger and put a stop to genocide and inhuman acts around the world, and I’m a mess.

But thankfully, Jewish tradition recognizes that the ability to protest is not the same for everyone, nor is it something we must do 24/7. Some of us are limited by our physical abilities, others by financial, time and family constraints. What is essential is the idea that each one of us has *some* capacity, whether great or small, to stand up to injustice when we see it.

According to traditional Jewish law, the heart of our obligation is found where we live, in our homes. Our primary duty is to protest against the inequities that reside within our own four walls. Our protest may take various forms: It might be

at a family meeting where issues such as sibling rivalry, parental favoritism and perceived abuses are discussed respectfully with the hope of finding meaningful resolutions. It may lie in the conversations we have with our spouses, demanding more respect and appreciation, or arguments with our parents, in an attempt to establish

more trust and better communication. As Jews and as people, it remains our responsibility to protest when things are not fair – within our homes first and then within our community and out into the world.

The beauty of living in a true democracy is that we are not abused, tortured or killed for advocating against our laws or government. The framers of the Constitution knew what they were doing when they drafted the First Amendment to safeguard our freedom of speech. We have the ability to protest because we have a protected voice, one that can be heard through our ballots at election time, through our spoken words (by protesting verbally against those who perpetuate injustice), through our written words (by writing to our state and federal representatives and to newspapers and radio talk shows about issues that are important to us) and through our pocketbooks (by supporting the people and concerns that need our help).

My issues of concern and the injustices I choose to fight against will not be the same as yours. Nor do we have the same capacity to protest. What we do share is an ability, to whatever extent, as well as an obligation and the freedom to do so. How much better a place the world will be when we each respond to that call.

Amy Hirshberg Lederman is an author, Jewish educator, public speaker and attorney. Her columns have won awards from the American Jewish Press Association, The Arizona Newspapers Association and the Arizona Press Club for excellence in commentary. Visit her website at amyhirshberglederman.com.



SOUNDBITES

“What's the most creative thing you've done with matzah?”



Anat Maimon
*Modern Hebrew
Coordinator
at University of Arizona
Arizona Center for Judaic
Studies
Tucson*

My family follows an old, Sephardic tradition where we crush the matzah, add salt, pepper and egg, form that into flattened balls and fry them in oil. We serve them with honey or sweet jasmine sauce. I don't know the English name, but we call them burmulikot.

Judy Gilbert

*Scottsdale (snowbird
from Northbrook, IL)*
Matzo farfel cereal: Combine and mix golden raisins, walnut bits, dried cranberries and small pieces of dried apricots with desired amount of farfel. Spread out on a lightly sprayed cookie sheet and bake until farfel browns. Add honey to taste. Store in container in refrigerator. It will last for a week.



Becca Hornstein
*Temple Chai
Phoenix*

I create a box by glueing together four pieces of matzah to make a square, tying it with a big ribbon and making a bow, putting a vase with flowers inside and using it as a centerpiece.



Judy Katz Esbit
(pictured with Lindsay O'Neill)

*Chabad of Oro Valley
Congregation Anshei
Israel
Tucson*

We remember like it was yesterday celebrating Passover in the Park in 2007 with our Jewish Federation community/family. Lindsay O'Neill and I were so excited to make s'mores out of matzah. The s'mores were yummy and crunchy and enjoyed by kids of all ages.



Marcy Burgis
*Temple Chai
Phoenix*

I use gluten-free matzah (much more expensive) for all my recipes because of my husband's diet. And I really think it tastes better!



Yvette Goldstein
*Or Chadash
Phoenix*

Toasting matzah enhances the flavor and helps it stay crisp. Try it as matzo buttercrunch. Brown 6 matzah sheets at 375 degrees on tray lined with foil and parchment paper. Boil ¼ cup butter, and 1 cup brown sugar 3 minutes, stirring constantly; pour over browned matzah and bake 10 minutes; sprinkle with mini chocolate chips. Cool and refrigerate.

NEXT MONTH

If you could get paid for doing something you love, what would it be?

To share your reply, please send your short answer, name, congregation/organization (if desired), city and photo to editor1@azjewishlife.com by April 7.



CHEF'S CORNER

COMFORT FOODS THAT WILL MAKE YOU SMILE ON PASSOVER

By Lucia Schnitzer

Photos by Matthew Strauss

As I recall the story of our Exodus from Egypt, an image pops into my head of a family similar to mine, with kids running every which way, while the husband and wife gather their coats and valuable bread that didn't rise, with urgency and purpose. It's really how it is in my home the days leading up to Passover, just not so righteous. There is much yelling and stressing over my kids walking through the house with chametz (bread), cleaning the strollers, diaper bags, and finally making it to the car wash, and making everyone eat outside for days! It's really an insane reality for most of us. I often wonder what this looks like to the outside world ... Loco!

The countdown to eating only unleavened bread for eight days and leaving behind all that is familiar to our taste buds can leave us a bit anxious and overwhelmed. Regardless of the pre-holiday stress, Passover can really be exciting once everything is clean, and the Passover kitchen is in full operation for creating delicious dishes that your family will recognize. The big question for me during this time is, "How do I eat healthy and keep it simple?" Beyond the unbearable cravings for familiar foods, a stomach full of matzah, eggs, potatoes and oil is rarely a happy one. However, Passover doesn't have to be so stressful, unfamiliar or unhealthy if you plan your meals in advance. If you eat more vegetables, nuts and proteins, you will find that your tummy will be much happier. To help out with some of the stress this Passover, I've created these special dishes sure to please those observing Passover and even those who are not.

Reuben Latke Sandwiches

Ingredients

- 2 pounds cooked corned beef, sliced
- 12 ounces apple-horseradish mayonnaise (recipe follows)
- 12 ounces sauerkraut (or coleslaw)
- 4 latkes (recipe follows)

Heat the Corned Beef

Preheat oven to 350° F.

Sprinkle the corned beef with a little water, wrap it tightly in aluminum foil and steam it in the oven for 25 minutes.

Apple-Horseradish Mayonnaise

- 1 (2-inch) piece fresh horseradish root, peeled and finely grated
- ½ cup unsweetened applesauce
- 2 teaspoons apple cider vinegar*
- 1 tablespoon mustard (kosher for Passover)
- 1 cup mayonnaise



*You can make kosher for Passover "apple cider vinegar": mix 2 tablespoons lemon juice, ½ tablespoon orange juice and ½ tablespoon apple juice. For other Passover recipe substitutes, visit: ou.org/life/food/best-pesach-recipe-substitute-list/

In a medium bowl, stir together the horseradish, applesauce, vinegar, mustard and mayonnaise. Season with salt and pepper. The sauce can be made and stored in an airtight container in the refrigerator, up to three days.

Latkes

(makes 6-8)

- 3 pounds Yukon gold potatoes, peeled
- 1 pound Jerusalem artichokes, thoroughly washed
- 1 large yellow onion, peeled
- 3 large eggs, beaten
- 2 tablespoons minced fresh flat-leaf parsley
- ¼ cup almond flour, plus more as needed (or matzah meal)
- About 1½ cups grape-seed oil for frying

Line a large bowl with a clean cloth napkin or lint-free kitchen towel.

Use the larger side of a box grater or a food processor fitted with a grater attachment to coarsely grate the potatoes, Jerusalem artichokes and onion. As they're grated, transfer the vegetables to the towel-lined bowl. Gather the corners of the towel and wring as much excess liquid as possible from the vegetables; transfer them to a dry mixing bowl. Add the egg and parsley and stir to combine. While stirring the mixture, gradually

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.

add the almond flour (or matzah meal), stirring well to incorporate.

Line a large baking sheet with paper towels.

In a large sauté pan over moderately high heat, heat 1/4 inch of oil until hot but not smoking. Test the latke batter by frying a small amount of batter in the hot oil – it should hold together and not fall apart when flipped. If necessary, add additional almond flour (or matzah meal), one tablespoon at a time, but try to add as little almond flour (or matzah meal) as possible to create light latkes.

Form latkes to desired size and drop the batter into the hot oil. Season with salt and pepper and fry until golden brown, about 2 minutes. Flip the latkes and continue frying until golden brown, about 2 minutes. As they finish cooking, transfer the latkes to the paper-towel-lined baking sheet. Repeat till all batter is fried.

Final Assembly

Take the corned beef out of the oven and unwrap it. Spread each piece of latke with apple-horseradish mayonnaise. Layer half of the latkes with corned beef and sauerkraut (or coleslaw), then top the sandwiches with the other latke (dressing-side down).

Cut each in half diagonally and serve.



Vegetable Lasagna

Ingredients

1/2 cup + 2 tablespoons olive oil
1 medium onion, finely chopped
4 garlic cloves, minced
1 teaspoon fresh oregano
1 teaspoon fresh basil
1 teaspoon fresh parsley
24 ounces canned crushed tomatoes
1/4 teaspoon salt
1/2 teaspoon fresh thyme
2 medium zucchini, cut lengthwise into 1/4-inch thick slices
1 eggplant, cut into round 1/4-inch thick slices
1 medium yellow squash, cut lengthwise into 1/4-inch thick slices
1 large sweet potato
2 portabella mushrooms, sliced 1/4-inch thick
3 on-the-vine tomatoes, sliced 1/4-inch thick
2 cups fresh spinach
1/2 cup low-fat ricotta cheese
1 cup reduced-fat shredded mozzarella cheese
1/2 cup grated Parmesan
Preheat oven to 350° F.

Prepare Tomato Sauce

Heat 2 tablespoons olive oil in a nonstick saucepan over medium heat. Add chopped onion and sauté until soft and translucent, about 5 minutes. Add 2 tablespoons of minced garlic and sauté until fragrant, about 1 minute. Add fresh oregano, basil and parsley and stir. Add crushed tomatoes and salt and simmer until thickened, about 15 minutes.

Prepare Veggies

Meanwhile, in a small bowl, mix together 1/2 cup olive oil, 1 teaspoon minced garlic and dried thyme. Place zucchini and yellow squash on one sheet pan and eggplant on another and brush with olive oil mixture. Bake until soft, about 5 minutes for the zucchini and squash and 8 to 10 minutes for the eggplant. Remove from the oven and set aside. Meanwhile roast the sweet potato for about 30 to 40 minutes or until soft firm.

Heat 2 tablespoons olive oil in a nonstick skillet over medium heat. Add 2 tablespoons of minced garlic and sauté until fragrant. Add sliced portabella mushrooms and sauté until tender. Set aside. Meanwhile, slice roasted sweet potato in 1/8-inch slices.

Assembly

Line the bottom of a casserole dish with the baked eggplant, sauce and mozzarella. Then repeat with the zucchini slices, portabella mushrooms, yellow squash, tomatoes, spinach. Top with the remaining tomato sauce, spread the ricotta cheese, arrange the sweet potatoes slices and then sprinkle with remaining mozzarella and the rest of the Parmesan. Bake until the cheese is melted and brown, about 40 minutes. Let stand for 5 minutes before cutting and serving. Serves 6.

continued on page 36



CHEF'S CORNER

Cauliflower Crust Cheesy Pizza

Crust Ingredients

- ½ large head cauliflower (about 2 cups shredded)
- 1 egg
- 1 cup (total) shredded cheddar and mozzarella cheese
- 1 clove minced garlic
- ½ teaspoon dried minced onion
- ½ teaspoon dried oregano leaves
- Handful of matzah meal (optional)

Toppings (be creative)

- ½ cup marinara sauce
- ¾ cup shredded cheese
- ½ cup (total) diced orange, yellow and red peppers
- ½ cup of mushrooms
- ½ cup sliced onions
- ½ cup chopped basil

Make the Crust and Assemble Pizza

Preheat the oven to 450° F. Shred the cauliflower into small crumbles using a cheese grater or food processor's grater attachment. Place the cauliflower in the oven for 10 minutes or microwave for 8 minutes to dry it out; cool. Thoroughly mix in the egg, cheese and spices. Spray pizza stone or baking sheet with a good-quality oil cooking spray and sprinkle with a handful of matzah meal (optional). Place the cauliflower dough in the center of the stone and pat it down into a 9- to 12-inch round crust.

Bake the crust for 12 to 15 minutes, until golden brown.

Top the crust with the marinara sauce, leaving a ½-inch border. Sprinkle on ½ cup of the cheese, then the peppers, mushrooms, onions, the rest of the cheese and then the basil. Turn the oven to broil. Broil the pizza for 3 minutes, until the cheese melts and the veggies are hot.



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Internet and Etsy expand fashion options



Nicole Stein NS

As a designer, I have one simple rule ... I only sell what I love. That way I know my customers will love it, too. I've been designing fine jewelry since 2004, working with NYC's top diamond dealers and craftsmen to create unique designs that are timeless and sophisticated, yet easy to wear.

Once I found my footing as a designer, I decided to tackle a niche in the jewelry space, namely Judaic jewelry. From the time I was a little girl, I always had trouble finding something "Jewish" that I loved and wanted to wear.

In my mind there was no reason Judaica couldn't be chic, so I started creating Star of David necklaces in more delicate proportions. The response was amazing. Whenever I would wear them around the city, women would always stop me – I was writing orders in the middle of the street!

I started to add new designs – Chai, Hamsa, Evil Eye – and pretty soon a collection emerged. Binah, taken from my Hebrew name, was born.

With Binah, I try to pay tribute to a rich Jewish heritage by refining the timeless symbols one expects to find in a line of Jewish jewelry – and by adding new designs that reflect a more modern sensibility. For me, it's a perfect way to marry my Jewish center with a love for fine jewelry.

binahjewelry.com



Ely Greenhut EG

Ely was born in Brooklyn, New York. As a young boy, Ely built small wooden models of boats, houses and much more. When he was in his late teens, he started experimenting with cutting and carving miniature models out of metal. Soon thereafter he started cutting personalized jewelry out of precious metals. Ely is self-trained and his jewelry is the result of many years of work that have made him well known in the wholesale jewelry industry as a grand master of personalized jewelry. With over 40 years of professional experience, Ely provides the highest-quality crafted jewelry. He has won world competitions in Europe, Asia and the United States. All jewelry is made of heavy solid gold or silver and is created exclusively by Ely.

elygoldart.com



By Kira Brown

With the Internet, the world has become a marketplace, offering fashion, jewelry, accessories, gifts and more with just a few clicks of a button. One of my favorite sites for the aforementioned is Etsy (etsy.com). This online bazaar features amazing, one-of-a-kind finds from around the globe. A recent search of "Jewish gifts" turned up many amazing ideas and their designers, all with unique stories to share. Here are four Etsy designers and their stories. For another example, read our profile of actress Maria Amorocho, who also creates kippot, which are sold on Etsy (page 22).



NS



RS

Pomegranate pendants on neck rings (copper, some with sterling silver, and etching) by Ruth Shapiro.

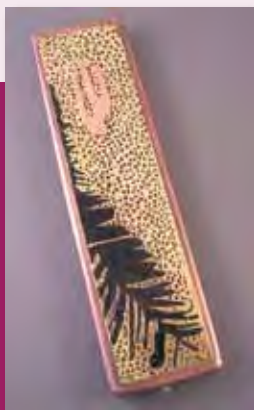
Ruth Shapiro RS

In 1988 I went to Israel to learn techniques from some silver masters and to enhance my spiritual development. My work has taken me to shows and exhibits all over the United States. My mezuzot are in Israel and Canada, as well. A yad of mine even went into space!

I always felt I was somehow supposed to be a Judaic artist. Just as I would start to think about other career directions, a new commission would appear. Just as I think I will never have another fresh idea, a dream supplies me with a new mezuzah and a new technique. Do I think these events are divinely created? Of course I do! In the last year, I have come to believe that I will never be 'barren.' I believe that I am a vessel, and the spirit of God and creativity flow through the vessel. When I feel close to God, I pray. Only in my case, I pray with my hammer, my torch and my sculptor's tools.

I feel it is a very special gift and privilege to be able to create decorations for the Torah. I was moved to tears the first time I saw a yad I had made hung on the Torah. The rabbi talked about the rich tradition of the Torah and the silversmiths who adorned them. (This in no way implies that the adornments are as important as what they adorn.)

growingupjewish.com



RS



Ruth Shapiro created this mezuzah with the tree branch for Congregation Beth Torah in Redwood City.

Ruth Shapiro made the music mezuzah for Temple Beth Shir Shalom in Santa Monica, for its love of music.

Linda Blatchford LB

It all started when I was a little girl making necklaces and bracelets out of pony beads. I loved the feel of them. About 10 years ago, I attended a women's workshop where we made bracelets while listening to a speaker. It was so relaxing and refreshing, I knew I was hooked, or should I say strung?

Each piece is created with love and positive energy. It's all about joy, celebrating holidays and special occasions. My ideas come from color combinations, gemstone combinations and my clients, who teach me how to make my products better.

My favorite items to make are wire kippot for Jewish women. It's a joy to have you choose the colors and size of your kippah for your bar/bat mitzvah or wedding and for you to have a memory of the happy occasion.

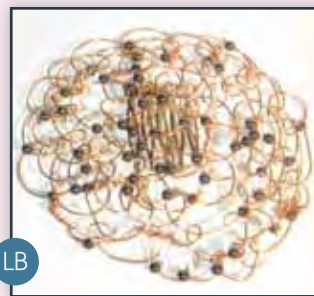
I'm married to my high school sweetheart. We live in the Midwest with our four kitty children.

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LB

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LB

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Jewish residents relish activities at Sierra Pointe

By Carine Nadel

Sierra Pointe Retirement community in Scottsdale is a bit different from many independent senior communities.

According to Peter Lesio, marketing director, the difference at the 14-year-old facility is this: “All our apartments are rentals; people don’t own their own living space. In the independent living industry, there are two different types of communities: all rentals or a required buy-in. Most other facilities require people to buy their apartments or condos.”

Even more important is the level of commitment the staff has to making sure all of the residents are happy, comfortable in their environment and have enough activities to fulfill their needs. The staff members strive to ensure residents are enjoying their time by planning a multitude of events, including many that are Jewish in nature.

Janet Pettycrew, activities director for three of her four years as part of the Sierra Pointe family, has worked diligently with Rabbi Levi Levertov and his wife, Chani (co-founders of Smiles on Seniors, SOS), and Eric Kaye from Jewish Family Services to create an ongoing menu that addresses all the holidays and extra events.

“We have a list of things we offer at Sierra Pointe for anyone who’d like to participate and attend,” says Pettycrew. “We try to represent all of the cultures and religions represented within our community.”

Programs for Jewish residents include:

First Thursday of every month: Jewish services.

Third Thursday of every month: Discussions with Rabbi Levi.

Third Friday of every month: Shabbat services with Eric Kaye (brings his guitar, wine and challah).

Every Friday evening: Transportation to services including those at Congregation Beth Israel, Temple Chai, Congregation Or Chadash and Congregation Kehillah.

Last Friday of every month: Shabbat dinner in the dining room.

“We also provide transportation several times during the year to Shabbat dinners at SOS Center located at 2110 East Lincoln Drive in Phoenix,” says Pettycrew. “We also proudly sponsor the Purim Extravaganza at SOS Center, which we do every year.

“We have an annual Hanukkah Party (includes a craft of some kind) that we do with SOS and Rabbi Levi here at Sierra Pointe.”



Rabbi Levi Levertov blows the shofar at Sierra Pointe

Pettycrew adds that Sierra Pointe has a Shavuot holiday program in May and a High Holiday party in September, both with SOS and Rabbi Levi. She says that families of residents are encouraged to join in on the parties.

“One of our residents contacted Chani, and she comes (I believe) once a month and meets with residents in a meeting room on the second floor,” says Pettycrew. “This group has grown from one or two to several. Since this is something the residents wanted to do on their own, I’m not too plugged in on it, but I’m sure they are enjoying it.”

While the activities staff sees their role as mainly providing a space for SOS and Eric Kaye, Pettycrew says the staff members also love to participate in the lively discussions with the rabbi and find themselves singing right along with everyone during Kaye’s performances.

“In general, the most popular activity here is the Total Body Conditioning class we hold on Monday-Wednesday-Friday, but after that, Rabbi Levi and Eric have the biggest attendance,” she says.

Rabbi Levertov says he and his wife started SOS to reach out to the retirement communities, and Sierra Pointe made it easy for them to come in and find out what the residents wanted and needed.

“I heard from the children of some of the residents first,” says Rabbi Levertov. “Janet and her staff have been welcoming and very helpful. Actually, what I try and do here is not so much hold services, but I want to give everyone something new to think about and have fun!

“It’s so wonderful to start a workshop on the holidays and do something totally different. Such as on the High Holy Days – we do apple-dipping, we have also brought in a shofar and someone from an actual shofar factory (to) come in to show how they are made. Rather than just do a Shabbat, we do a challah-making workshop. I think it’s important to experience things in a new and different way.

“All this adds another dimension to the various events and

Sierra Pointe: 14500 N Frank Lloyd Wright Blvd., Scottsdale | 480-525-8384 | sierrapointe.com

gets some pretty exciting discussions started.”

Rabbi Levertov adds that while he came up with the initial program, he’s always open to hearing new requests from the residents. “We also encourage those outside of our faith to join us and for families to come in as well,” he says.

Some of the most popular programs are the holiday parties, which the rabbi says attract well over 50 people. The discussion groups have grown to between 20 and 30 people.

The best part of SOS’s alliance with Sierra Pointe is that they accommodate everyone who lives there to the best of their



Sierra Pointe residents enjoy an SOS Purim party

ability, according to Rabbi Levertov and three-year resident, Fran Cohen.

“Rabbi Levi keeps us thinking. I love going to almost all the activities that he and his wife provide. Eric is wonderful! He comes with his guitar, and we all just enjoy the singing and music so much. It’s just all so very special! I’m a very active bridge player, and I’m always on the way to one of my matches – but I always make time to hear what Rabbi Levi comes to teach us. His wife is just lovely. Some of us ladies wanted a more intimate discussion group, and she now comes with pastries and we have such a great time,” says Cohen.

Cohen adds that there are many residents at Sierra Pointe who were part of the Holocaust, and that they feel very comfortable and at home here, “which is not always the case at other places.”

Eric Kaye says he loves coming to Sierra Pointe to sing and play for the residents. “I’ve been coming here for a year now. I do go to one other facility; this is my hobby. When the opportunity came about, I honestly wasn’t sure that I’d do it for very long.

“Everyone is so active – I love coming! I host a Shabbat service, I sing old songs that I know the residents will remember and cherish, I do some of my own pieces and then I finish with some of the more modern Jewish musicians. They all have fantastic voices. They’re proud of their heritage; they’re having fun and love interacting during the hour I’m up there with my guitar.

“I love doing it and seeing them have such a great time – and it bringing them so much joy fills me with joy as well. No way would I miss coming here. I consider it to be an amazing blessing to get to know them and that they allow me the honor to perform.”



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Ask Helen



Cancer scare makes senior consider giving to charity

A Nosh of Jewish Wisdom: A wise man understands a hint; a donkey needs a fist.

— Moroccan Jewish saying

Dear Helen:

I'm in my 70s and reasonably well off. I don't have family whom I feel a need to subsidize with my assets after my demise. I'm not a grinch, but the mishpoche are well enough. I've begun thinking about death more lately, after a brush with cancer. I am in remission and according to my doctor I could have a long life. But I could also die a lot sooner, and all the money I have saved could be doing the needy some good. I want to put my money where my mouth and votes have been going for the last 50 years. I know that once I raise this issue with everyone from

my synagogue to nonprofits, I will have to fend off the planned giving managers. Do you have any pointers about how to open the door without inviting a stampede?

Future Donor

Dear Donor:

This is a great time to talk to your attorney. That's the only way your wishes can be legally protected. You can call, ask, get information and indicate your wishes. But a legal document is your best protection that they'll be observed. Even then, unless someone cares enough to monitor and enforce, you have to assume you're giving a gift to an organization you trust. Choosing wisely is an important first step. In a preliminary call to every group you'd consider giving money to, ask for a meeting with a planned giving rep. Ask what minimum makes it worth their time to talk to you regarding possible conditions attached

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to bequests. Explain you're thinking of a donation in the \$10-50K range. (I just made up those numbers; adjust as needed.) Say you have specific opinions about uses – e.g., direct assistance to those in need, a library fund, social justice policy, whatever matters to you. Explain you still need your money now, but that you're happy to share once you're gone. Ask what guarantees they will give that your wishes will be honored and a bequest will not disappear into a general use fund. Ask if they have specific language for you to put into your will. Then narrow the targets to make the money used most effectively. Kudos to you for putting your assets where your heart is.

Dear Helen:

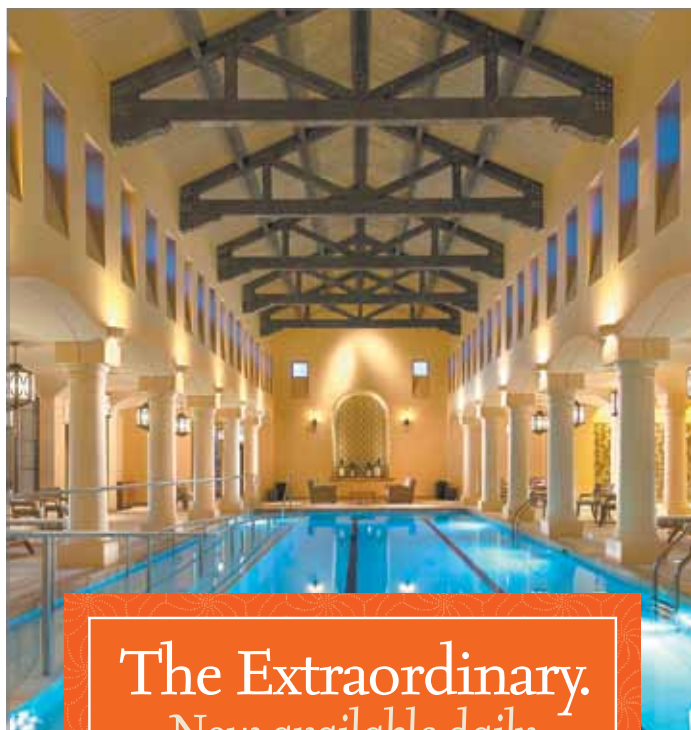
I just volunteered to edit my neighborhood association's quarterly newsletter. I've recently retired and have more time, so thought this might be fun. Wrong! Chasing after people to give information or to write the articles they promised to do is worse than getting paid employees to do their jobs. Everyone gives me their articles late, incomplete, misspelled, with bad grammar and assumes I'll make them look perfect by the city's deadline to print and mail. I want to flee. When I asked the former "editor" how she coped, she laughed and said, "Good luck. Buy yourself a bottle of something strong!"

Drowning

Dear Drowning:

Volunteerism has its own unique rewards and curses. You seem to be drowning in the latter. Below are some tips, but the biggest one is this: clear your calendar for the day (or two) before your deadline. No matter what, you'll end up doing more editing, tracking and cursing than you want. Create a template that includes all the repetitive things: names/contact emails/phone numbers for all relevant folks, from the association board to the public works, police and fire stations, pet patrol, etc. Allocate space and word limits for regular monthly columns. Give the people who write them a deadline that's at least a week ahead of the real one. Send each editing tips: spell check; read your column aloud; ask your spouse or best friend to tell you if it says what you intended. The regulars should know the drill and should be OK. One-timers you will need to harass and likely edit more. Look for more commitments for regular columns on topics from neighborhood safety to recipes or gardening tips of the season. People who are passionate about what they write are much more reliable and produce better products. Two notes: 1) These suggestions work for many related projects that include volunteers. 2) Save the drinking until after you submit the final product.

Helen claims to have black belts in schmoozing, problem-solving and chutzpah. She's a writer and an artist (kabbalahglass.com). Please email your questions to helen@yourjewishfairygodmother.com and check out the blog at kabbalahglass.com/blog/



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Looking for Love

As you explore a relationship, be sure you evaluate potential partner

As you learn more about a potential partner, it's important to constantly evaluate your relationship so that you may determine if he/she is a good fit for you. Keep in mind that relationships take time to develop, and it's only over this time that you can come to truly know a person.

The following includes four areas to help you appraise a continuing relationship. Since it's always helpful to use a mnemonic device to assist you in retaining ideas, I've devised one that will aid in remembering these categories as well as remembering who told you about them!

ELNG: If you say EL-N-G aloud, it's Ellen G (Gerst)! Don't worry; there's a deeper meaning, too, as follows.

E is for Elasticity (or flexibility). Elasticity – or the ability to be flexible and go with the flow – is an attractive personality trait. Similar to when you're disciplining children, in a romantic relationship, it's also important to pick your battles. For example, deciding on how you attend to your finances is important, while whether you will go to an Italian or Chinese restaurant is not. Life is full of the unexpected. Watching how well a person can adapt to a change in plans is very enlightening. If your potential partner can't switch gears without major drama, think about how this person might handle an earth-shattering event.

L is for Lifestyle. You may be attracted to a person's physical and emotional being at the beginning of a relationship, and you naturally start to feel as if this person is on the "same page" as you. However, as the relationship develops, you may also discover that you have completely different lifestyles. For example, one of you is a sports fanatic and the other a museum enthusiast. Studies show that couples who enjoy activities in common have a much better chance of growing together. Be aware that it doesn't count if one partner just suffers an activity to make the other happy! What you'll end up with is a lot of groans, rolled eyes and eventual dissatisfaction. Partners need not be tied at the hip; time apart to enjoy individual passions is healthy. Simply evaluate how wide the berth is between the things done together and those done apart. In most instances, the more leisure activities shared, the stronger the bond grows.

N is for (inherent) Nature. Personalities may match, values may be the same and lifestyle choices are coordinated; however, the partners' basic natures may still not be singing in harmony. That is – the way each of you approaches a situation comes from completely opposite directions. Of course, if you and your partner can be flexible (see above), then all may be well. On the other hand, if tolerance for differences is not a strong suit, problems can arise. For example, if one of you is calm and methodical and the other is hyperactive and rash, this makes it difficult to reach a meeting of the minds. Pay close attention to the rhythm and pacing of your lives; it's easier when they sing in harmony.

G is for Goals. It's important for partners to share similar goals or the same life purpose. No matter how much love is present, it would be very difficult, for example, if one partner were devoutly religious and based all of his/her actions and

activities around that religion, while the other partner desired a more hedonistic and secular lifestyle. It's wonderful to romanticize life and think that love can conquer all, but strong unions are formed when the practicalities of life are considered and discussed as well as the love.

While the world may tell us that opposites attract – and this may be true in the short term – it's very difficult to live with someone who approaches life from the other end of the spectrum. Stay attuned to the preceding four areas to evaluate the long-term potential of your relationship.

Question & Answer

Question: I'm about to join an Internet dating site, and I've heard that there are many who fudge the truth on their profile. I'm 50+. Will posting my real age limit my options?

Answer: If you believe everyone is less than truthful, you may think, "What's the harm in shaving a few years or a few pounds off my profile?" It's easy to get caught in this trap because you want to make yourself attractive to prospective dates. However, just because other people are doing something, does that make it OK for you to do it, too?

Lying is lying, and there's no getting around it. I think it's as important to tell your real age, height and weight as it is to be honest about your personality traits and history. Posting a current picture that is an accurate representation of how you look is imperative. You certainly don't want to start with a lie. There's nowhere to go from there except down!

Accordingly, the basic rule is to tell the truth! Of course, there are exceptions. For example, let's say you just turned 50 and that puts you in an older age category. Energetic and much younger at heart than your biological age, you're more comfortable with the visibility of the 40-49 age group. You may want to keep yourself at 49 or a little less. But be sure to disclose your true age in your profile or, at least, in the first email contact. Here's the link to a short video I made on this workaround: [youtube.com/embed/TcVyFbW1nlc](https://www.youtube.com/embed/TcVyFbW1nlc)

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.



J Kids

& Teens too 
A child friendly resource for parents



Purim in Arizona



Girls learn lifetime lessons as they learn to run

By Debra Rich Gettleman

You gotta love Facebook. For all the junk it brings into your life, it sometimes offers a bridge to your past that can open up a wealth of wondrous memories and remind you that you really were 15 years old once upon a time. That happened to me the other day when I reconnected with the 10 women I shared more than a decade with at Camp Nicolet in Eagle River, WI. It was a magical time for me, and I was elated to reconnect with the girls and join in on planning a summer reunion.

But this afternoon one of my camp-mates posted some photos of all of us, one in bikinis from one of our summer lake swims. It was shocking to see how utterly adorable, uninhibited and skinny we all were. If you'd ever asked me, I would have denied ever being that thin or that apparently comfortable in my body. As I recall, my adolescent years were filled with body image angst, limited self-confidence and a perpetual belief that I didn't belong anywhere.

But that photo belies my memories. Camp was a sacred place for me. With only girls, no makeup and no hair dryers, I learned to be happy with who I was and didn't stress about the normal teenage vanity issues. But not everyone has the opportunity to spend summers in Northern Wisconsin, focusing on building

friendships, riding horses and learning to water ski. So how do we teach our teenage girls to like themselves in body, mind and spirit? Is there a place where young girls can go to learn that who they are inside is what matters, that they are capable of anything and that nurturing relationships with other girls will allow for meaningful friendships that may very well last a lifetime?

Fortunately there is such a place, and it's right here in Phoenix! It's called Girls on the Run, and it inspires girls from third through eighth grades to be joyful, healthy and confident using a fun, experience-based curriculum that creatively integrates running. Girls on the Run teaches girls to believe in their limitless potential and their ability to pursue their own individual dreams.

GOTR started in 1996 in Charlotte, NC, with only a handful of pre-adolescent girls. It's now grown to more than 130,000 girls in 200+ cities in North America. With more than 50,000 volunteers, GOTR, now an official 501(c)3 organization, hosted more than 250 5K running events in 2012 across the United States and Canada.

Cindy Brown, a member of Temple Chai who taught second-grade religious school for eight years there, is the president of the board of directors of GOTR for the Maricopa and Pinal chapters. She initially got involved by forming a team on her school campus in Cave Creek. As head coach for three seasons,

Girls on the Run: girlsontherun.org

Brown declares, “I became more and more excited watching my teams grow both in number and in the sense of a team. The program helps adolescent girls live happy, healthy and joyful lives through lessons that provide positive body image, community participation and building healthy peer relationships.” The running part of it, Brown explains, is a fun way to learn goal setting and experience a huge sense of accomplishment by the end of the 12-week season.

Serving on the board allows Brown to recruit new coaches and start-up sites, to raise funds for scholarships and to build bridges with local businesses to support the end-of-season 5K runs. According to Brown, “Every girl deserves the right to reach her potential and to be given the skills to live confidently and healthy, no matter their circumstance.” On average, the board provides approximately 70% of participants with some financial assistance. “Our board is very proud,” boasts Brown, “that in our 10 years in the Valley, we have never had to turn away a girl due to financial need.”

I asked Brown if she saw any specific crossover between Judaism and the mission and goals of GOTR. She answered emphatically, “I’ve noticed a strong connection between the values and lessons taught in the GOTR curriculum and the daily practices of Jewish life. Making the world a better place through *gemilut chasadim*, acts of loving kindness, is a common theme.” The program also teaches girls to accept themselves and appreciate the differences between one another. These early lessons facilitate empathy and help girls develop compassion for others.

“The practice of *avodah*, working to build connections between oneself and the community, is also evident,” she adds. “As

a way to tie together a semester of lessons, each team collaborates on a community-service project for either their school or a local charity.”

Helen Jacobs, currently a coach at Knox Elementary School in Chandler, agrees that GOTR and Judaism are connected through the teaching of similar values. Jacobs became a “running buddy” in the spring of 2012. A running buddy is an adult, parent, teacher, older sibling or community volunteer who accompanies the girls on the 5K race at the end of the season. She then became a coach in fall of 2012.

Jacobs believes the benefits of this program are myriad. “GOTR provides an opportunity for the girls to express their opinions on topics that are relevant to their age group without being judged on their answers. In addition, they are involved in a healthy, physical activity.”

While girls are encouraged to run during the physical workouts, Jacobs says, “They are not in any way penalized should they decide to walk or skip. As they build up their endurance during the season, they become much more self-confident and realize they can do so much more than they first thought. I have seen many of the girls who were very timid at the beginning of the season blossom by the end of the 12 weeks.”

GOTR is truly a transformational experience for the girls and adults who participate in it. The program teaches valuable life skills in a dynamic and interactive way and prepares girls physically and emotionally to complete a celebratory 5K running event. Their overall goal: “To unleash confidence through accomplishment while establishing a lifetime appreciation of health and fitness.”

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Even when time flies, moms always can find time to cuddle

By Debra Rich Gettleman

My baby, Eli, turned 10 yesterday. It's so easy to see the frantic flurry of time's passage once you're a parent. The milestones fly by like speeding airplanes zooming through the sky. You barely even notice them, and then suddenly a decade is lost.

We have this giant sunflower on the wall outside my office. It's about eight feet tall and serves as our height marker as our kids grow. My elder son, Levi, has already surpassed me in height. Looking at that sunflower delights and terrifies me. They aren't babies anymore. They're turning into real people, with real troubles, real opinions and real characters.

I've never been one to lament the passage of time. But once in a while, I find myself stunned by how quickly a decade can slip away from you. It's hard to notice everything when you're racing through life like a mad juggler trying desperately not to let another spinning plate fall off its perch and shatter into a million pieces.

Eli doesn't much like me to write about him. "But you give me such great material," I tell him. Still he prefers to remain in the background, so I don't get much opportunity to share my thoughts about him with readers. He's about as opposite as can be from Levi, who can't stand me writing about anyone but him. The boys are each such amazing young men. But, boy, the differences between them are stark.

Eli's all boy, rough and tumble to the end. Kissing is gross. Hugging is for babies. And you can just forget about anything resembling cuddling. Except for yesterday. After a weekend of birthday fun, Eli was tired and not feeling terrific. "Will you make me a bath?" he asked. "Of course," I agreed and started the water. After an overflowed toilet and seven (really) loads of towels run through the washer on "sanitation" cycle, two dishwasher loads and the rest of us showering, there was barely enough hot water to make a bath. It was more like a puddle, but Eli splashed around for a few minutes until he felt a bit better and then asked for a towel. I held it out for him and expected him to grab it, dry off quickly and exit the premises with his usual parting phrase, "Peace. I'm out." But instead, he folded himself into the towel and, cocooned in the oversized fluffy towel, sat squarely on top of me. It has been years since he's done that. I had so much stuff to accomplish before going to bed myself, I almost shooed him off to get back to the laundry and dishes. Thank goodness I realized how fleeting these types of moments are nowadays, and instead, I wrapped my arms around him and held him tight, not dismayed one bit that I was now soaked and had mucked up my schedule for the rest of the night.

"I love you so much," he said as he snuggled into me. It was a moment of pure heaven. After I sent him to get ready for bed, he asked, "Will you cuddle with me for five minutes?" It's been quite some time since I'd fielded that request from my youngest. My eldest is nearly six feet tall and would happily plop himself



Eli, 10, looking all grown up at his brother's bar mitzvah.

down on my lap and crawl into my arms for a cuddle session at any opportune moment. But coming from Eli, I was taken aback.

When I climbed the ladder up to his loft bed, he was tired from an eventful weekend. He had already set up his stuffed animals in sleeping formation, pulled his NFL squishy pillow into position and assumed the cuddling pose. He's very particular about cuddling. No rubbing his back. No softly stroking his hair. Just lay next to him with an immobile arm around him for at least five minutes. I don't do it often because of time and his fierce independence. So the opportunity tonight was a gift that I thoroughly enjoyed.

Once I thought he was falling asleep, I snuck out quietly, hoping not to jar him awake. "I love you more than anything," he whispered as I gingerly descended the loft. "I love you more than anything, too," I whispered back.

Moments like these are rare reminders of what we as parents will miss as our children age and mature. But once in awhile, we get a warm, joyful glimpse back to the past that refreshes our soul and assures us that in the midst of daily chores, homework, school drama and adolescent temper tantrums, we maybe did something right along the way.

It also reminds us that if we manage to live long enough, we'll get a second chance to snuggle, cuddle and wrap little ones in fluffy after-bath embraces. I mean, what else are grandchildren for?



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



Artist's rendering of splash pad.

Will Bruder designs splash pad oasis for Kol Ami's kids

World-renowned architect Will Bruder is doing a mitzvah for the children and families of Temple Kol Ami in Scottsdale. Bruder, known for his innovative designs of stunning public spaces like the Phoenix Public Library, is also the architect of Temple Kol Ami.

"I called Will as a courtesy," says Kol Ami Administrator Michael Rosenthal. "I wanted to give him a heads up on our plans to install a splash pad, and ask him if he thought we were locating it in a good place." Instead of answering the question, Bruder told Rosenthal, "I would like to design the splash pad for you." Surprised by the suggestion, because splash pads can be purchased readymade, Rosenthal explained the budget didn't contain funding for an architect of Bruder's stature. "I believe you call it a mitzvah," Bruder offered.

Because of Bruder's personal connection, the splash pad – or Navehsplash! as it's now called – becomes more than a playground to get wet in. It becomes a gathering space that incorporates music, art, theater and water play for a community



From left, Kol Ami Administrator Michael Rosenthal, architect Will Bruder, Kol Ami Early Childhood Center Director Debbie Glassman (holding drawing of splash pad) and splash pad co-chair Marc Beyer talk about the new feature under construction for families at Temple Kol Ami.

of all ages. There are plans to show movies, have dinners and present concerts in the space against a backdrop of colorful splashes of zero-depth water shooting from sculpted shapes. "It will be a sculpture you can get wet in," Rosenthal says. This good news caps a successful fundraising effort held by parents of Kol Ami's Early Childhood Center students. School

Director Debbie Glassman says she "couldn't be more thrilled with everyone who stepped forward to do this for us." Splash pad chairs and temple members Jon Hauer and Marc Beyer are credited with bringing the dream to fruition. "Debbie believed it was important that we offer water play at school during the warmer months," says Hauer. "Not only is it a fantastic activity for the kids, it will be another wonderful benefit we can offer families who are looking for the perfect school for their children."

"Naveh is the Hebrew word for oasis," says Kol Ami Rabbi Jeremy Schneider. "As desert dwellers, the Jewish people relied on the respite and lifesaving resources they found at an oasis. For our congregation, this project symbolizes the growth and life that springs forth at Kol Ami every day. ... This may seem like a small matter to some, but to put this much beauty and meaning into such a simple thing as a splash pad demonstrates the true spirit of Temple Kol Ami." Schneider adds the congregation hopes to have the water irrigate community gardens on the property.

"Our target is to have the Navehsplash! project ready for the ECC's summer camp program," says Beyer, a partner at The Design Element, a local landscape architecture firm, and parent of children in the ECC. "It is an honor for me professionally to be working with Will Bruder and an exciting time for our entire congregation. Summer will be here before you know it, and we will be ready," says Beyer.

Drawings and progress reports will be available on the temple's website: templekolami.org/splashpad.

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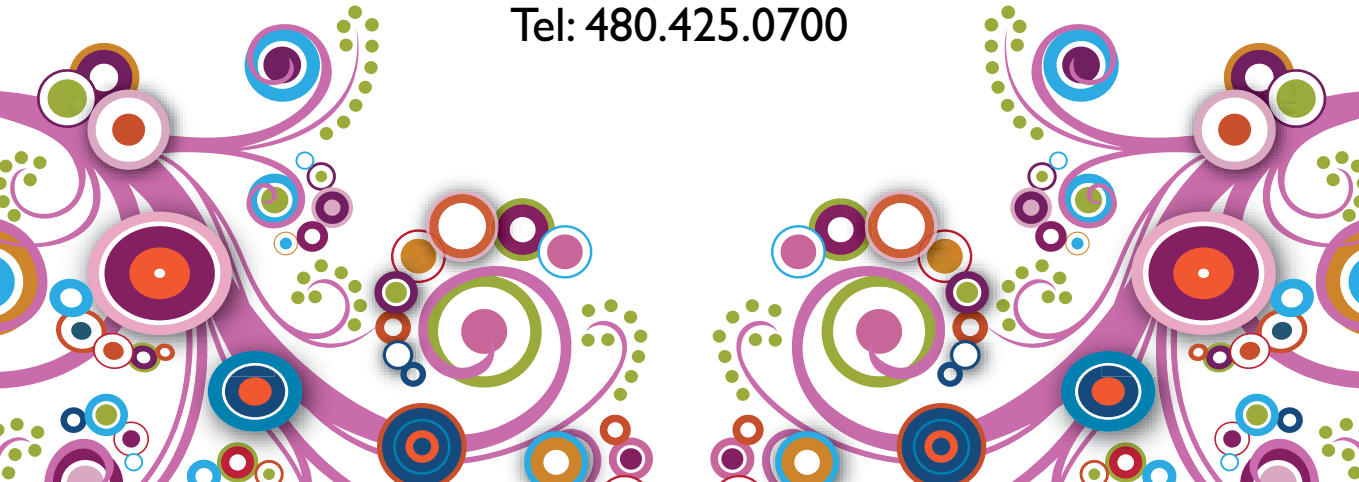
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East Valley JCC Story Time. Mondays at 3 pm. Stories, songs and learning for children 3 and up. EVJCC, 908 N Alma School Road, Chandler, 480-897-0588, evjcc.org

East Valley JCC Parents Night Out. One Saturday evening each month (call for date), 6-11 pm. For infants through 8th grade. Drop the children off for fun and friends in a safe JCC environment with certified JCC caregivers while you go out for your own fun. \$24 for the first child and \$12 for each additional child. East Valley JCC, 908 N Alma School Road, Chandler. 480-897-0588 or contact pam@evjcc.org, evjcc.org

Tot Shabbats

Congregation Anshei Israel. First Fridays at 5:45 pm, optional dinner at 6:15. Reservations required for dinner only, \$25 per family, due the prior Monday. Also, **K'Ton Time**, third Saturdays at 10:30 am. Geared to families with kids ages 1 to 6, but everyone is welcome! 5550 E 5th St. in Tucson. Contact Kim at 520-745-5550 or edasst@caiaz.org

Congregation Beth Israel. One Friday/month. Next one is April 11 at 5:30 pm. 10460 N 56th St., Scottsdale. Reservations required, call the Chanan Preschool: 480-951-3398, cbiaz.org

Congregation Chaverim: Tot to Ten Shabbat. First Friday most months, 5901 E 2nd St., Tucson, 520-320-1015, chaverim.net

Congregation Or Chadash of the Northeast Valley. Second Friday of each month, 10-11 am, 9096 E Bahia Dr., #106, Scottsdale. 480-342-8858, congregationorchadash.org

Congregation Or Chadash-Tucson. Second Friday, September-May. 3939 N Alvernon Way, Tucson, 520-512-8500, orchadash-tucson.org

The New Shul: Munchkin Minyan. Every other Shabbat morning, 11-11:30 am. 7825 E Paradise Lane, Scottsdale. Call 480-515-2272 for dates; thenewshul.org

Infant/Toddler Programs

Congregation Anshei Israel. Parent-tot class every Tuesday, 9-11 am. For children 9 to 24 months and their parents. Special guest for April 8 at 10 am is Nichole Chorny presenting "Making Music." No RSVP. 5550 E 5th St. in Tucson. edasst@caiaz.org, caiaz.org

Congregation Beth Israel. Weekly Shabbat club for infants to 2½ years old. 480-951-3398, cbiaz.org

East Valley JCC. Play group Fridays, 9:30-11 am. Afterward join preschool for Kabbalat Shabbat, EVJCC, 908 N Alma School Road, Chandler. 480-897-0588, evjcc.org

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Karyn Miller brings a wealth of experience to her Cactus Day Camp

By Deborah Moon

Karyn Roseman Miller founded Cactus Day Camp nearly eight years ago in large part because of her own camp experiences beginning with day camp at age 3.

After seven years in Fountain Hills, Cactus Day Camp has moved to Paradise Valley. The camp serves children entering kindergarten through entering seventh grade, with leadership programs for teens.

As a child Karyn spent three summers at Surprise Lake Camp, an overnight Jewish camp in upstate New York, before the family moved from Long Island to just outside Chicago when she was 11. She became a bat mitzvah in Northbrook, IL, at Temple Beth Shalom.

"I remember singing a lot of Jewish camp songs. We always had Shabbat walks, and I spent Shabbat with my older brothers on the tween side (of camp)," says Karyn, adding she attended either day camp or overnight camp throughout her childhood.

At age 18 she became a counselor at Banner Day Camp, which wasn't Jewish, but she says it was in such a Jewish area of Chicago that it had a Jewish feel.

"Those experiences made me want to start my own camp," says Karyn, who was the principal of Fountain Hills Charter School for eight years. "The camaraderie of camp, the special friends children see just in summer, is so different from school friends. At camp you can be your true self – people don't judge you at camp; you can be silly or not wear makeup."

Children's relationships with camp counselors is also different from their relationships with teachers (and Karyn should know having spent two decades as a teacher or school administrator during the school years and as a camp assistant or associate director every summer).

"There's a closeness with counselors," she says. "They are young adult role models, not strict disciplinarians."

Karyn earned a bachelor's in Elementary Education from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign and a master of education in curriculum and instruction from National-Louis University.

She was associate director of Lake of the Woods Family of Camps in Decatur, MI, for six summers before she decided to



Karyn Roseman Miller enjoys a frozen treat, which are provided every afternoon at Cactus Day Camp, with camper Adin Roth Roemer. After being a camper for several years, Adin is now a sophomore in high school and is a counselor-in-training.

"At camp you can be your true self – people don't judge you at camp; you can be silly or not wear makeup."

– Karyn Miller

launch her own camp closer to home.

Karyn had moved to Arizona in 1997. She married Gary Miller in Fountain Hills on Oct. 9, 1999, in a ceremony officiated by Rabbi Barry Cohen of Scottsdale's Congregation Beth Israel.

When she launched Cactus Day Camp, she made safety her number one priority, but she also emphasizes fostering friendships and providing unlimited fun. The camp provides a full-day program five days a week for 2, 4, 6 or 8 weeks. The Cactus experience is about trying new things and gaining new skills in an emotionally and physically safe and noncompetitive environment while gaining independence as well as a sense of belonging, according to her camp brochure.

"Cactus Day Camp has real energy and soul," says Congregation Merkaz Ha-Iyr

Rabbi Erica Burech, whose children spend their summers at Cactus. "Karyn Miller, the exceptional director, cares deeply about the safety of each child. Karyn has put together a spectacular program with a great balance of indoor and outdoor activities. My kids came home happy and exhausted from running around, swimming, water play and they could not wait to give me their ... cool art creations. There's a real sense of belonging and loyalty where campers want to return as counselor aides and counselors."

Cactus Day Camp: 6050 N Invergordon Road, ParadiseValley 480-836-CAMP (2267)
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Do you remember the days of slavery?



By Rich Geller

Like most Jewish holidays, Passover demands a certain degree of introspection. As Jews we are required not just to recall the slavery visited upon the ancient Israelites, we are commanded to imagine we have been personally delivered from slavery, and Dayenu, if that were not enough, we must also teach it to our children!

In 1975 Jamaican reggae sensation Burning Spear effectively distilled the festival of Passover to its essence when he posed the musical question, “Do you remember the days of slavery?” In the Torah, Moses instructs the Israelites to “Remember this day, on which you went free from Egypt, the house of bondage, how the Lord freed you from it with a mighty hand.” Exodus 13:3

For parents, the most important part of Passover can be found in Exodus 13:8. “And you shall tell it to your children, saying it is because of what the Lord did for me when I went free from Egypt.” By fulfilling this mitzvah of generational transmission, we become part of the unbroken chain of Jewish collective memory.

As we reflect upon the “peculiar institution” of slavery with our children, we must also ponder its persistence into modern times. We must acknowledge that even today, slavery exists. Slavery, whether an enslavement of the body or of the mind, is an affront to God. Talking with your kids about slavery is not an easy topic, and some younger children may find it upsetting. However, by suggesting ways in which even small children can work toward a more just world, we can demonstrate the awesome power of freedom.

There are many ways that we as Jews can work to combat the scourge of modern-day slavery. One way is with the power of our purchases. Many of us enjoy eating kosher for Passover chocolate during our seder or throughout the holiday. In a week with so many foods off the menu, chocolate treats help keep the little ones (and the not so little ones!) happy. Yet the CNN Freedom Project reports that nearly 40% of the world’s chocolate is derived from cocoa beans harvested in Ivory Coast, a nation where child labor, human trafficking and even child slavery is endemic. (The CNN Freedom Project is a humanitarian news media campaign dedicated to ending slavery.) In Ivory Coast and nations such as Ghana, Cameroon, Guinea and Nigeria, children as young as 5 years old toil in hazardous conditions we can barely begin to imagine, harvesting the cocoa beans that we consume in the form of chocolate. Separated from their parents, forced to use dangerous tools such as machetes and more often than not deprived of an education, these children sacrifice their childhood for our children’s treats. To add insult to injury, it is safe to say these children have never tasted chocolate!

By purchasing fair trade chocolate and other products, we can avoid contributing toward child exploitation and slavery. Fair trade products ensure higher pay, better benefits and decent working conditions for workers involved in their production, and they are slavery free. Additionally, the principles of fair trade happen to dovetail neatly with the values found in the Torah: “You shall not abuse a needy or destitute laborer, whether a

fellow countryman or a stranger in one of the communities of your land. You must pay him his wages on the same day, before the sun sets, for he is needy and his life depends on it; else he will cry to the Lord against you and you will incur guilt.” Deuteronomy 24:14-15

While kosher fair trade chocolates are widely available, kosher for Pesach chocolate is much harder to come by. However, just before Passover last year, a company called Equal Exchange introduced chocolates that are not only kosher for Passover, but are also organic and gluten free! Equal Exchange is a fair trade, worker-owned co-op that sells fair trade products such as chocolates, cocoas and coffees. If you order your chocolate directly from the Equal Exchange website: shop.equalexchange.com/pesach, a portion of the proceeds will go to Fair Trade Judaica and T’ruah. Fair Trade Judaica works to promote fair trade as a Jewish value. T’ruah is a Jewish group that supports human rights throughout the world. When you order chocolate, enter “American Jewish World Service” in the name for denomination.

The symbolic foods and rituals of the seder help us to remember oppression in our own past. Promoting food justice at your seder teaches kids by example that oppression and exploitation anywhere can be challenged.

Numerous social justice-themed haggadot available for free download can help you further explore the concept with your children. The Uri L’Tzedekh (Orthodox Social Justice) Food and Justice Haggadah Supplement is an excellent resource for conducting a seder with an emphasis on social justice. It is available at utzedeck.org. The Equal Exchange website also offers a free Haggadah supplement along with other information on the intersection of Jewish values and fair trade. The Jewish Council on Urban Affairs, a group that has worked for 50 years to fight racism, poverty and anti-Semitism, has assembled a social justice haggadot focusing on food justice and how it ties in to Jewish values. It is available at jcua.org. Or put together your own Haggadah by culling the best pages from multiple sources. Our family uses a “patchwork” Haggadah to great effect as we have made ours very child friendly.

Kids and parents can also fund-raise and volunteer their time for organizations dedicated to helping the victims of human trafficking, slavery and other forms of exploitation. Mercy Corps is a global aid agency that provides assistance in regions experiencing natural disasters or other emergencies and in areas besieged by war. The group also works to rehabilitate children who have been swept up into local conflicts and forced to fight. Information on community fundraising and a “fundraising toolkit” can be found at mercycorps.org/fundraising. The season of Pesach perhaps more than any other time of the Hebrew calendar calls us to pursue social justice (tzedakah) and to engage in tikkun olam or repair of the world. It is also the perfect time to show children that they have the power to change the world. In the Haggadah we acknowledge that not all people are free. We pray that next year there will be no slavery, only freedom for all of humanity. When we put our prayers into action, we are one step closer to that vision of the future.

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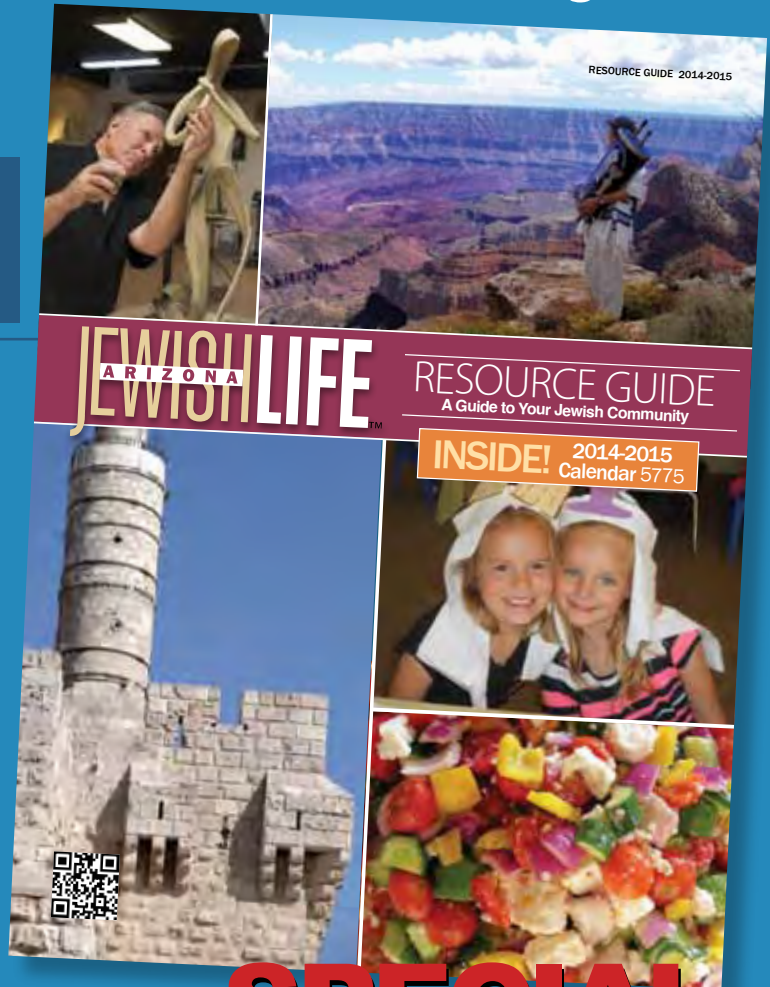
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1 AUDIENCE RESPONSE—Edward Wright, Director of The University of Arizona, Arizona Center for Judaic Studies takes a question from a member of the audience at the Shaol & Louis Pozez Memorial Lectureship Series. The lecture about the voyage of the SS St. Louis featured Robert Krakow, the Executive Director of the SS St Louis Legacy Project Foundation, a nonprofit organization that uses education through drama to enlighten audiences on events in world history, including the story of the voyage of the SS St Louis. The lecture was Feb. 3 at the Tucson Jewish Community Center. The Distinguished Lecture Series began in 1996 with the support of cousins Shaol and Louis Pozez.



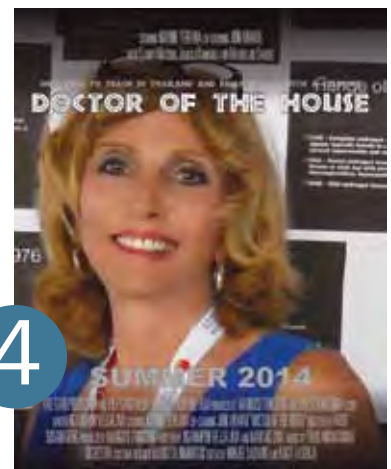
2 MEGA EVENT— The annual Mega Event for the Jewish Community Association of Greater Phoenix held at the Arizona Biltmore on Feb. 25, drew 1,000 attendees and raised approximately \$360,000 for the 2014 Annual Campaign for Jewish Needs. The funds raised will help serve Jews in Greater Phoenix, Israel and more than 65 countries around the world. Top, Mega Event Co-Chairs Donna and Rudy Troisi and Andi and Sherman Minkoff welcome attendees standing in front of the Jewish Community Quilt, which was unveiled at the event. At right, Abe Meth, a 102-year-old Holocaust survivor, accompanied by cantorial soloist Todd Herzog performs the Hatikvah. Bottom, Association President and CEO Stuart Wachs welcomes featured speaker Camryn Manheim, best known for her Emmy and Golden Globe Award-winning role on The Practice.



3 COYOTE HOCKEY SCHTICK NIGHT –The Coyotes lost 4-2, but Jeff Halpern, the team's one Jewish player, scored a goal in the 2nd period. Right, Todd Herzog, cantorial soloist at Temple Solel, entertained at Westgate, outside the Coyotes arena in Glendale. Below, Dr. Jami Kupperman and Chantelle Osman show off their Coyote kippot. Photos by Janet Arnold.



4 FOREIGN FILM STAR— Scottsdale resident Nathine Tereana Goldenthal just completed a movie in Central and Northern Thailand. Nathine plays Sheldira Ramsey, a doctor who is basically lost in her own world of medicine, lecturing and busy life. She learns what it really is to live and falls in love with a country. It is a movie of learning about self and hidden potentials. Filmed in Northern and Central Thailand, the PG movie will be shown in Asia. Nathine is the president of AVIV, the Valley's Jewish LGBT organization.



5 **MAYORAL STORIES** –Tucson Mayor Jonathan Rothschild reads to children at the Tucson Jewish Community Center for Love of Reading Week on Feb. 12. He read an assortment of books including *Pete the Cat* and poems by Shel Silverstein to about 60 children in two different age groups.



5

6 **SCULPTURE GARDEN** – The Tucson Jewish Community Center opening of the Fifth Annual Sculpture Garden Exhibit March 9 drew nearly 80 people for the preview with the artists before the opening. Sculpture Garden Chair Merlin Cohen welcomed attendees.



6

7 **ENCHANTED EVENING** – Marlene and Lanny Lahr were honorary cochairs of Ahaha!, celebrating and benefiting Hospice of the Valley. A crowd of 400-plus supporters were on hand on March 15 at The Arizona Biltmore to dine, dance and bid on auction items. At right, Hospice CEO and Executive Director Susan Levine was joined by daughter Sam (Samara) Hutman, who flew in from Los Angeles where she is executive director of the Los Angeles Museum of the Holocaust. Photo by Leni Reiss.



7

8 **CASINO NIGHT** – Young Israel of Phoenix hosted a successful Casino Night on Feb. 8. Eager players place their “bets” at the roulette table. Professional dealers at five tables kept the action going and even gave helpful tips to novice “gamblers.” Nearly 80 people enjoyed the fun and participated in the exciting raffle at the end of the evening. An active Social Event committee is planning monthly events for the community, and another Casino Night is scheduled for the coming year.



8

9 **PURIM FUN** – Jesse Priestner was The Fiddler on the Roof at Young Israel of Phoenix’s Purim (Seudah) Celebration on Sunday, March 16. Enjoying the Purim festivities were Young Israel President David Schnitzer, left, and Young Israel Vice President Jordan Rockowitz.



9





10



10 BREAKING ATTENDANCE RECORDS – Thanks to the efforts of chairperson Toni Dusik, left, and her hardworking team, attendance at the March 7 Jewish National Fund annual breakfast at the Hilton Scottsdale Resort in Scottsdale broke previous attendance records and raised \$181,000 in 75 minutes. A 550-plus crowd – including (from left) Randi Jablin, Staci Victor and Robin Rubinstein – enjoyed a video that lauded JNF’s efforts with an introduction by Temple Chai Rabbi Emeritus

Bill Berk, who now lives in Jerusalem. Speakers included local residents Beth Jo Zeitzer, a graduate of JNF’s partner program, Alexander Muss High School in Israel, and Shauna Tasa, founder of JNFuture in Arizona and Sun Devils for Israel. It was announced that some \$1.6 million was raised locally this past year for JNF – with a goal for the new year of \$2 million. Photos by Leni Reiss



12



11

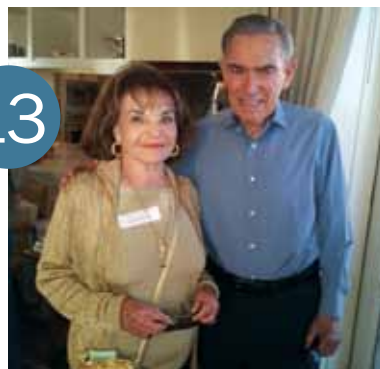
11 PASSAGES LECTURE– Aaron Scholar, left, director of the Bureau of Jewish Education, welcomes Lou Rosenbaum to the Feb. 23 Passages lecture at Temple Chai. Featured guest, the noted author and historian Andrew Roberts, spoke on *The Rising Tide of Anti-Semitism in Britain and Europe: Its Causes and Solutions*. Photo by Leni Reiss

12 SENIOR OLYMPIAN – When David Robbins turned 50 he went out for the Arizona Senior Olympics and won a gold medal in the 50 yard breast stroke and a silver medal in the 50 yard butterfly. For his 70th birthday, he decided it was time to try again. In the state games held Feb. 15-March 9, he won gold again in the 50 yard breast stroke and gold in singles handball. David is an avid handball player, but not a swimmer. He swam to the state championship for breast stroke at age 14 and then quit swimming to focus on other sports at West High School in Phoenix. For the Senior Olympics he started his swim training three weeks before the competition in between handball games!



13

13 AUTHOR, AUTHOR: A cocktail reception at the hilltop home of Susan and Bill Levine (who is pictured below with Ellie Shapiro), on the eve of the 24th annual Brandeis National Committee Phoenix Chapter Book and Author event March 17 at JW Marriott Desert Ridge Resort, featured visits with the authors, elegant cocktail fare and a spectacular sunset. The 130 guests were welcomed by the Levines and event chairs Carol Kern, left, and Merrill Kalman flanking sports agent Leigh Steinberg. Author Alice Hoffman, author of *The Dovekeepers*, was one of the authors at the event. Photos by Leni Reiss



Western Jewish Studies Association Conference 2014

The Arizona Center for Judaic Studies at the University of Arizona is hosting the 2014 Western Jewish Studies Association Conference May 4-5. Early check-in is available on May 3 and includes an evening program: stargazing with renowned UA Astronomer Thomas Fleming.

The keynote speaker at the Scholar's Dinner on May 4 is Theodore Sasson. Sasson is a senior research scientist at the Cohen Center for Modern Jewish Studies and the Steinhardt Social Research Institute, Brandeis University. He is also a professor of international studies at Middlebury College, a visiting research professor of sociology at Brandeis and a consultant for the Mandel Foundation.

The WJSA is a nonprofit organization founded in 1995 to organize a Jewish studies conference every spring at alternating sites in the western United States and Canada. The conference serves as a forum for Jewish studies scholars in this region to present their research, discuss pedagogical issues, network with colleagues and share information about the funding and organization of Jewish studies programs. Dues are used to fund travel stipends for graduate students and foreign scholars presenting papers.

Attendees do not have to be WJSA members to participate in the conference, but members receive a discount.

Hotel accommodations are available at the nearby Tucson Marriot University Park Hotel.

To register: Jeanne Davenport, 520-626-5759 or davenportj@email.arizona.edu

Online Arizona Gives Day returns April 9

Presented by FirstBank, Arizona Gives Day is back April 9. The 24-hour online giving initiative – which raised nearly \$1 million in 2013 – encourages Arizonans to recognize and financially support the efforts of various nonprofits from across the state. Jewish nonprofits including the Tucson Jewish Community Center, Valley of the Sun Jewish Community Center, Arizona Jewish Historical Society, Jewish Community Foundation of Greater Phoenix, Jewish Family & Children's Service, Jewish Free Loan and Jewish Genetic Diseases Center of Greater Phoenix will all be taking part.

"After seeing the success of this event last year we are excited to have this event return in Arizona, and raise more than before," said Patrick McWhortor, president and CEO of the Alliance of Arizona Nonprofits. "We hope to have as many as 10,000 Arizonans support our nonprofit community that day, raising much-needed dollars for these worthwhile organizations." Beginning at midnight on April 9 and continuing until 11:59 pm, go online at azgives.org and pledge your financial support to the nonprofit of your choice – or click "schedule my donation" to give now.

Acclaimed Nazi-era play comes to Arizona – in Hebrew!

The play "Address Unknown" first appeared as a novel written by Katherine Kressman Taylor, published in 1938. It is set between 1932 and 1934 and formatted as letters exchanged between Max, a Jewish bookseller in San Francisco, and Martin, his non-Jewish partner in Germany.



Tzvika Schwartzberg & Rafi Kalmar in *Address Unknown*

The story chronicles the Nazi rise to power and serves as a powerful accounting of the destructive forces of anti-Semitism and fascism. The book was made into a movie in 1944 and adapted for the stage in 2002. Since then it has been performed around the world in a variety of languages.

On April 5 the Israel Center at the Valley of the Sun JCC will be presenting two noted Israeli actors, Tzvika Schwartzberg as Max Eisenstein and Rafi Kalmar as Martin Schulze, to perform the play. The actors will perform in Hebrew, with English surtitles (on a screen above the action on the stage). "This is believed to be the first time Israeli actors have presented a play in Hebrew in Arizona," says Israel Center Director Shahar Edry, who collaborated with Tzvika to bring this important work to the Valley.

Show time is 8:15 pm at the Valley of the Sun JCC, 12701 N Scottsdale Road. Recommended for mature students. Tickets are \$10 for adults and \$5 for students. To order, call 480-843-7121.

Online study guide: addressunknown.info/files/Address_Unknown_Study_Guide.pdf



Graphic courtesy of David Vigari & Elizabeth Bella Schauer

Genocide Awareness Week at Scottsdale Community College

Scottsdale Community College is hosting a series of speakers, exhibits and programs to raise awareness of genocide past and present April 7-12. Exhibits are open 9 am-9 pm Monday through Friday and 9 am-5 pm Saturday, at 9000 E Chaparral Road in Scottsdale.

Speakers include Holocaust survivor Oskar Knoblauch, Dr. Bjorn Krondorfer from the Martin-Springer Holocaust Institute at NAU, Jennifer Twitchell from the Anti-Defamation League and Dr. Stephen Luckert from the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum. Other sessions explore peace-building as well as genocide in other groups such as Native American, Armenian, Guatemalan and Rwandan.

Theater department students, under the direction of Randy Messersmith, will perform "I Never Saw Another Butterfly," about children in Terezin/Theresienstadt, the so-called "model concentration camp" and transit center to the labor and death camps. "This play has impacted the acting class from the first day we did a read-through," Randy says. "They were moved to tears often in rehearsals, but they also connected to the hope in the determination to survive." Performances are April 11 and 12 at 7:30 pm at Two Waters Circle Amphitheatre, an outdoor venue behind the campus library. Chairs are provided, but it's suggested to bring a blanket. There is no charge.

The theater department is hosting a shoe drive called the Sole Survivor Project. They hope to collect 500 pairs of shoes for Soles4souls, Operation Homefront and Tumbleweed Center for Youth Development. Shoe donations can be sent or dropped off to Randy, Theatre Arts, SCC, 9000 E Chaparral Road, Scottsdale, AZ 85256. For more information on the shoe drive or the show call 480-423-6356.

Visual exhibits include:

Robert Sutz Exhibit. Sutz creates life masks of Holocaust survivors and Holocaust scenes as a tribute to his father, whose family died in Nazi camps. Copper Room, west side of Student Center.

One Million Bones Project. Visitors can create a plaster cast of a bone to represent genocide. Two Waters Circle, east side of Student Center.

Sonja's Legacy Exhibit. Watercolors created by Sonja Fischerova while she was at Terezin. She died at age 13 in Auschwitz, but her paintings were later discovered by a family member in a Prague museum. Turquoise Room inside the Student Center.

Darfur Photography Exhibit. Location pending.

"Before I Die" Public Art Walls. This interactive public art project invites people to share their personal aspirations in a public space. Language & Communications and Student Center buildings. Sponsored by the SCC Student Leadership Forum. For a listing of all speakers, events and campus map, visit: scottsdalecc.edu/promo/genocide-awareness-week

This month at the Phoenix Library

The U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum's traveling exhibit, "State of Deception: The Power of Nazi Propaganda," is at the Burton Barr Branch of the Phoenix Public Library through June 1. The exhibit is open the hours of the library; tours available Tuesdays and Thursdays; call 602-262-7939 to schedule.

Free April programs in conjunction with the exhibit take place in the library's Pulliam Auditorium, 1221 N Central Ave. Register at: ushmm.org/events/propagandaspeakerseries

The Jewish Experience. April 10, 6:30 pm. Join Dr. Larry Bell (director of the Cutler Plotkin Jewish Heritage Center) for a book talk related to the Holocaust and the aftermath for survivors.

Reflections of My Father. April 17, 6:30 pm. Dr. Bjorn Krondorfer (director of the Martin-Springer Institute at Northern Arizona University) reflects on his father's involvement in the Nazi youth during World War II and his journey of Holocaust awareness.

The Image of the Enemy. April 24, 6:30 pm. Dr. David Welch (director of the Center for the Study of War, Propaganda and Society at the University of Kent) will discuss how different countries have targeted enemies (both within and without) in the 20th century using film and television.

Yom Hashoah Commemoration April 27

The Phoenix Holocaust Survivors Association's annual Yom Hashoah Commemoration will take place Sunday, April 27, at 3 pm at Beth El Synagogue, 1118 W Glendale Ave. in Phoenix. The event is free.

Keynote speaker is Mark Curtis, Channel 12 News anchor and long-time member of the Valley's Jewish community. Rabbi Arthur Lavinsky of Congregation Beth El will give the d'var Torah. Jewish war veterans will present the colors, followed by a procession of local survivors.

This year the Shofar Zachor award will go to two recipients: Robert Sutz for his "We Remember Project" and the East Valley JCC for its "Railcar Restoration Project."

In 2000, as a tribute to his father, Sutz began devoting his artistic

talents to subjects of the Holocaust, including face masks of survivors and paintings of Holocaust themes. The items are not for sale, but have been on display around the Valley as educational tools (robertsutz.com).

The East Valley JCC in Chandler is working on a Holocaust and Tolerance Museum, and obtained the railcar in 2012 from Macedonia. The railcar will serve as the cornerstone of the museum (evjcc.org).

"The Shofar Zachor award is the very prestigious award that the Phoenix Holocaust Survivors' Association board gives to someone who has done exemplary work in teaching or promoting the lessons of the Holocaust," says Joan Sitver, co-chair of the event with Dr. Anna Scherzer. "The Shofar represents the idea of a calling of attention. The Hebrew word zachor means 'to remember,' so this award signifies the calling out to remember the Holocaust."

The winners of the Bronia and Sam Bronkesh Jewish Spirit Award, given to local teens in Hebrew High based on essays, will also be recognized. This year's winner is Chloe Carriere, a 10th grader who attends Desert Mountain High School in Scottsdale. In second place is Devin Roth, with honorable mentions going to Liana Sherman, Danya Sherman and William Marhoffer. The Jewish Spirit Award was established three years ago by the Bronkesh family in honor of Bronia's 90th birthday. Also speaking at the event are Helen Handler, who will give closing remarks, and Abe Meth, 102-year-old survivor, who will speak and lead the singing of Hatikvah. phoenixphsa.org, 602-788-7003

Yom Ha'Shoah at EVJCC

Our Story, an award-winning film documenting eight local individuals' stories during the Holocaust, now includes "the next chapter" of the Center for Holocaust Education & Human Dignity. The movie will be presented at the April 8 commemorative event, From Memory to Hope: Our Story at 6:30 pm at the Chandler Center for the Arts, 250 N Arizona Ave. in Chandler.

Stories told in the movie are: Helen Handler, Auschwitz survivor; Fred Greenwood, hidden child; Dr. Alexander B. White, on Schindler's List; Magda Weisberger, Auschwitz survivor; George Kalman, survivor of the Neudorf camp in Austria; Jack Nemerov, liberator; Harry Adler (deceased), one of the first soldiers at Buchenwald death camp; and Charlie French (deceased), liberator.

The movie's next chapter is the acquisition of the Center for Holocaust Education & Human Dignity's signature artifact, a Holocaust era railcar, which can be toured free from 4 to 6:30 pm.

Two American liberators will be interviewed before the movie screening about their roles in the Holocaust: Leo Hymas, who was among the first to enter the Buchenwald Concentration Camp as a young machine gunner tasked with taking down the barbed wire fence; and Fletcher Thorne-Thomsen, who was among the first to enter Dachau as a young photographer for the Army. Tickets are \$10 or \$7 for veterans and active military. Advance tickets is highly recommended: evjcc.org or 480-897-0588.

APRIL CALENDAR

Through April 13

Around the World in 80 Days, a whirlwind journey filled with exotic locales and great fun, based on the book by Jules Verne. Varying times and prices. Produced by Arizona Theatre Company at the Herberger Theater Center, 222 E Monroe, downtown Phoenix. 602-256-6995, arizonatheatre.org

April 1 & 8

Inside Israel is a 2-week class offered by the Bureau of Jewish Education presenting an in-depth look at current internal and external issues facing Israel. 11 am-12:15 pm at the Ina Levine Jewish Community Campus, 12701 N Scottsdale Road, Scottsdale. Taught by Andre Ivory, \$25. 480-634-8050, jewished@bjephoenix.org

April 2

Cindy Wool Memorial Seminar on Humanism in Medicine at the Marriot University Park Hotel, 880 E 2nd St. in Tucson. Keynote speakers are Dr Jerome Groopman and Dr Pamela Hartzband, authors of *Your Medical Mind: How to Decide What is Right for You*, 5 pm cocktails, 5:45 pm dinner and seminar. \$50 per person. Sponsored by the Maimonides Society of the Jewish Federation of Southern AZ in conjunction with the University of Arizona College of Medicine. 520-577-9393, jewishtucson.org

April 4

Shabbat for Healing, offering blessings for the healing of both body and soul. 7:30 pm with Temple Havurat Emet at the Lecky Center of the Robson Library on Riggs Road in Chandler. 480-802-5676, templehavuratemet.org

April 5-26

Venus in Fur, Arizona premier of "One of the sexiest, intelligent, most acclaimed new plays in recent Broadway history." Written by David Ives. Varying times and prices. Produced by Arizona Theatre Company at the Temple of Music and Art, 330 S Scott Ave., Tucson. 520-622-2823, arizonatheatre.org (In Phoenix in May)

April 5

Address Unknown, live stage performance from Israel, presented by the Israel Center. 8:15 pm at the Ina Levine Jewish Community Campus, 12701 N Scottsdale Road. See story page 60

April 6

Moral Conundrum Ahead with Rabbi Sharon Brous from Los Angeles. Rabbi Brous was named #1 US Rabbi by Newsweek. Presented by Valley Beit Midrash at 5 pm at Ina Levine Jewish Community Campus, 12701 N Scottsdale Road, Free. RSVP 602-445-3112, valleybeitmidrash.org

The Jewish History Museum in Tucson will dedicate a stained glass window honoring the museum's founding director Eileen Warshaw, z"l. The window features Eileen's name in English and "Woman of Valor" in Hebrew. 2-4 pm at museum, 564 S Stone Ave., Tucson. 520-670-9073

April 8

From Memory to Hope: Our Story, the Award-winning documentary of eight local people's stories during the Holocaust is being shown at the Chandler Center for the Arts, 250 N Arizona Ave. at 6:30 pm to benefit the Center for Holocaust Education & Human Dignity. \$10 for public, \$7 for veterans and active military, 480-897-0588, evjcc.org

April 9

Spiritually Preparing for Passover with Rav Shmuly Yanklowitz at 7 pm at Temple Chai, 4645 E Marilyn Road. \$18. Register with Valley Beit Midrash, 602-445-3112, valleybeitmidrash.org

April 10

The Jewish Experience with speaker Dr. Larry Bell. US Holocaust Museum program. See page 61

The Power of Happiness with guest speaker Jennifer Serlin, PhD. Based on latest research from the field of positive psychology, presented by Jewish Family and Children's Services. 10 am at Paradise Valley residence. Free. RSVP to Jayne at 602-567-8334 or jfcsaz.org

Evening of Learning with Rabbi Dr. Shmuly Yanklowitz. Rav Shmuly will discuss Passover messages of social justice. Presented by JGrad, ASU's Jewish graduate student association. 5:30 pm at Hillel, 1012 S Mill Ave., Tempe. Free. RSVP to melissa.framer@asu.edu

Men's Night Out with special guest comedian, MYQ Kaplan, a 2010 Last Comic Standing Finalist who has appeared on the Tonight Show, the Late Show with David Letterman, Comedy Central Presents, and more. Dinner and beer at 6 pm at the Tucson JCC, 3800 E River Road. \$36., 520-577-9393, jewishtucson.org

April 11-27

And Miss Reardon Drinks a Little, award-winning dark comedy by Paul Zindel, at Theatre Artists Studio, 4848 E. Cactus Road, #406, Scottsdale. Fridays and Saturdays at 7:30 pm, Sundays at 2:00 pm, \$15-20. 602-765-0120 or thestudiophx.org

April 14-22

Passover: Eight-day observance commemorating the freedom and exodus of the Israelites from slavery in Egypt. First seder is Monday night, April 14. See seder listings, page 27

April 17

Reflections of my Father, with speaker Dr. Bjorn Krorndorfer. US Holocaust Museum program. See page 61

April 18

Desert Foothills Jewish Community Association Shabbat Service and entertainment. 7:30 pm. Sharon Friendly, accompanied on key board by Deb Offenhauser, will perform opera arias, Broadway show tunes and more. First attendance free. Membership is \$60 per year. Arlene, 480-585-4437

April 22

Never Forget to Lie: Children of the Holocaust Recount Extraordinary Tales of Survival. Documentary showing at Arizona Jewish Historical Society at 7 pm at the Cutler-Plotkin Jewish Heritage Center, 122 E Culver St.,

Phoenix. Free. RSVP to azjhs@aol.com or 602-241-7870

April 24

The Image of the Enemy with speaker Dr. David Welch. US Holocaust Museum program. See page 61

April 25-May 4

Romeo and Juliet by William Shakespeare, produced by Greasepaint Theatre. See page 61

April 25-May 11

Good People, award-winning play by David Lindsay-Abaire, produced by Actors Theatre. Varying times and prices at Arizona Opera Center, 1636 N Central Ave. 602-888-0368, actorstheatrephx.org

April 26

Rural Street Klezmer Band is featured at the Beth Ami Temple annual fundraiser. 7 pm at Palo Cristi Church, 3535 E Lincoln Dr. in Paradise Valley. Light refreshments follow entertainment. Tickets \$20 in advance; \$25 at the door. Contact Blossom at 480-657-0888 or Donna at 602-997-5623. bethamitemple.org

April 27-28

Yom Hashoah – Holiday to remember and honor those who perished in the Holocaust.

April 27

Phoenix Holocaust Survivors Yom Ha'Shoah Commemoration. 3 pm at Congregation Beth El. See page 61

2nd Annual Dance-a-Thon and Cycling Event at 1 pm is sponsored by the Special Needs Services and Sports and Wellness Dept. of the Tucson JCC, 3800 E River Road. Dancing in the ballroom; cycling is for "Wheelchair Athletes Sports Worldwide." Either event \$10. Proceeds to benefit the TJCC Taglit programs. 520-299-3000, tucsonjcc.org

April 28

Yom Hashoah Commemoration at 9:30 am at the Ina Levine Jewish Community Campus, 12701 N Scottsdale Road. Contact the Israel Center at 480-634-4900, ext. 1109 or jewishphoenix.org

April 30

What's in your Genes? Annual brunch and fashion show for Jewish Genetic Diseases Center. 11 am at Ancala Country Club, 11700 E Via Linda, Scottsdale. Fashions from Scottsdale Jean Co and Moda Fina Jewelers, \$46. RSVP to jewishgeneticsphx.org or 480-668-3347

May 6-27

Israel Defense Forces, a 4-week class taught by Marci Lee, MSW. Includes texts and stories about ancient and contemporary struggles and celebrations of fighters for the State, world Jewry and democracy, \$60. Presented by Bureau of Jewish Education, at 5:30-6:50 pm at the Ina Levine Jewish Community Campus. 12701 N Scottsdale Road in Scottsdale. Register by April 25 to 480-634-8050, jewished@bjephoenix.org



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Welcome to Southie, a Boston neighborhood where a night on the town means a few rounds of bingo, where this month's paycheck covers last month's bill, and where Margie Walsh has just been let go from her job at the Dollar Store. With his signature humorous glow, David Lindsay-Abaire explores the struggles, shifting loyalties and unshakable hope that come with having next to nothing in America.

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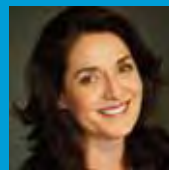
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Katie McFadzen



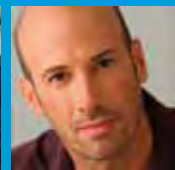
Cathy Dresbach



Maria Amorocho



Shanique S. Scott



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