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COVER PHOTO: Giovanni Panzetta sounds the shofar to announce that the wedding of Meghan Jenna Newman and Walter Gerald Davies is about to commence. Photo by Molhophotography.com

INSET: Josh Levine. Photo by David Sherman



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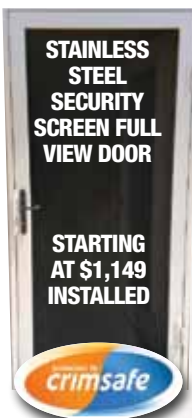
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On December 13, 2014, the Law Offices of Luis P. Guerra lost a doctor, a friend and a father. Gary Mitchell Shapiro was the beloved husband to Laurie Ann Bistrow Shapiro, son of Ellie Shapiro, father of Dorie, David and David's soon to be wife Elizabeth and brother to Sue and Karen Shapiro (and their husbands, Robert Lyle and Ron Nachtwey respectively). Gary embodied the Jewish philosophy of Tikkun Olam. In a world filled with hate, war and divisiveness, Gary brought peace, love and family to this planet. Gary adored his wife, mother, children, sisters and entire family. He also deeply cared about each and every patient he examined in his more than 30 years of his optometric practice. Though he loved his professional practice, Gary also was a devoted husband and father and always made time to travel the world with his wife, play golf with his son and spend many weekends with the apple of his eye - his daughter Dorie. Gary also donated to numerous Jewish and secular causes close to his heart including but not limited to the Jewish Federation of Greater Phoenix, the Council for Jews with Special Needs, Kivel, AIPAC, the Usher 1F Collaborative, and the Central Institute for the Deaf. Gary always extended a few extra dollars to any homeless person he saw on the street. He was a mensch in the truest meaning of the word. He will be deeply missed by all.

LPG

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Spring is a season of new beginnings, and this year seems to be starting anew earlier than usual. Tu B'Shevat, the New Year of the Trees, marks the start of a new season of budding trees in Israel, which coincides with Arizona's season. This year January rains have flowers and trees budding in abundance. But there is more budding than trees – love is in the air.

My old high school friend Leora emailed me this week to announce her engagement. It was a spectacularly romantic proposal. The couple bonded while climbing mountains and are now on a mission to climb to the highest point in every state; they recently summited Mt. Hood, successfully checking Oregon off the list. Jay dropped to one knee and proposed from what seemed the top of the world.

Now they just have to figure out all the logistical aspects of getting married. Fortunately, I have plenty of resources I can share with them – all I have to do is hand Leora a copy of this month's Arizona Jewish Life and tell her to check out our special section on Weddings. It's full of ideas, vendors and venues to ensure the wedding is as romantic as the proposal.

Our cover story this month is about Josh Levine, who has experienced many new beginnings in his life. He started his adult life in a band before discovering the demand for used musical instruments. He got into eBay sales on the ground floor and then learned to become a certified auctioneer in Pennsylvania. When he moved west, he brought that skill to Arizona, where auctioneer training is much less formal. Now he plans to share the skills he has acquired along the way to team up with Arizona Jewish Life for the first Judaica Jackpot. We are inviting our readers to sign up for free verbal appraisals of their family treasures. Even if you don't land an appraisal time, you're invited to join us for an evening of Judaica exploration, wine and nosh.

This month we are also introducing our new JLiving section. The section will feature stories about how communities are facing the future and special programs coming up from our Jewish agencies and congregations. Our FACES & PLACES pages, which feature the photos from those events, are wrapped into this section, as is our calendar.

All in all, plenty of things seem to be getting off to a good start this month.

Deborah

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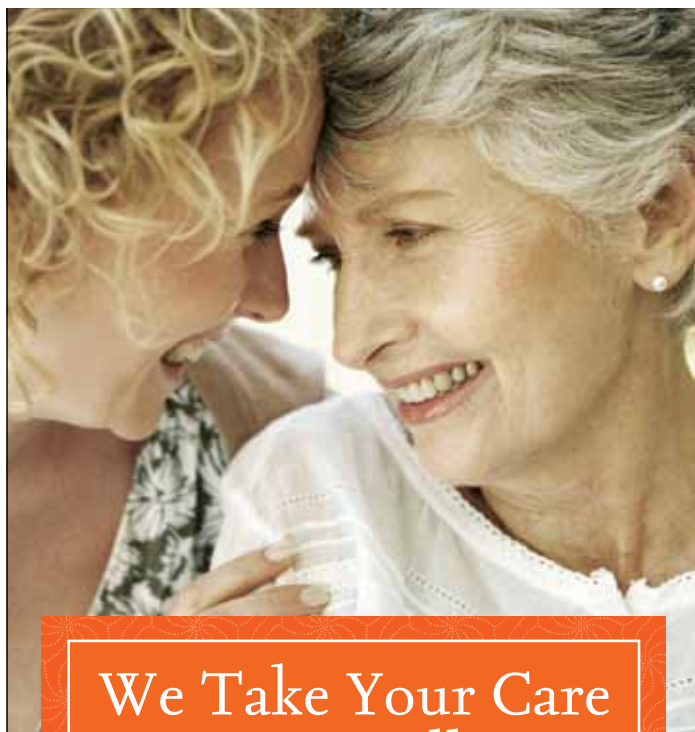
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Kim with her Griddler

Food truck's cuisine is newish Jewish delish

By Janet Arnold

American popular trends often begin in the large population centers on either coast. The ideas then seem to work their way into the middle land. For more than a decade both the New York and Los Angeles areas have been home to the phenomenon of specialty, gourmet food trucks. For about four years Arizona has been part of this mobile gastronomic feast-fest. If you think we're talking about hot dogs, you need to keep reading: You are not up-to-date on what tasty delights are making their way around the streets of Arizona.

Gourmet food trucks run the gamut from Baja tacos to Caribbean food to pizza and barbecue. They include Latin-Caribbean fusion, Russian-Turkish specialties, and Vietnamese and Chinese offerings. The dessert trucks offer items that are greatly upgraded from the old ice cream trucks that roamed our neighborhoods with their bells and repetitive welcoming tunes. What used to be popsicles and drumsticks is now gelato, crepes, frozen yogurt, cupcakes and pies.

One unusual restaurant on wheels is called Griddler on the Roof. OK, so maybe it's not so easy to tell by its name just what you're going to find there, but owner Kim Bayne assures us it's all going to be great!

"In Tucson, we do get a lot of the 'deer in the headlights' look from folks when they see the truck. After all, there's not a tremendously huge Jewish population here. I've even been asked if we're a roofing company!" But as Kim explains on their Facebook page, she came up with the name "In memory of my mother who shared her mother's Jewish recipes with me; in memory of my father who played the violin; in recognition of my family's love for Broadway musicals and all things theater; my business writing career versus my inability to steer clear of wordplay; and my belief that life is nothing without a sense of humor. There was simply no other name better suited."

Kim was born into an Orthodox Jewish family in Washington, D.C. Her maiden name was Miklofsky. When she was a pre-teenager, her family moved to Tucson so her father, Haarlén, could join the faculty of the University of Arizona as a professor of civil engineering and structural dynamics. They joined Congregation Anshei Israel where she became a bat mitzvah.

Her father played violin for the Civic Orchestra of Tucson and also trumpet for the Tucson Concert Band. Kim studied musical theater and music education in college. The musical/theatrical family also includes Kim's sister, Ann, who is a performing arts

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consultant and concert producer and formerly a school choral teacher in Washington, D.C. Kim's brother, Alan Miklofsky, owns Alan's Shoe House and New Balance in Tucson.

After one year at the U of A, Kim spent a summer at a musical theater program in Colorado, where she met Bruce Bayne. "It's so ironic that we met the way we did. We quickly discovered that we had been born in the same hospital in Washington, D.C., and that our families had each moved to Tucson about the same time. Yet we didn't meet until this Colorado opportunity!" Bruce converted to Judaism, and the couple married and began their life together in Colorado.

When their daughter, Kaitlyn, was about 12, they decided to return to Tucson to be closer to family. Kaitlyn became a bat mitzvah at Anshei Israel as her mother had. Now the proud mother of 8-month-old Ryder, Kaitlyn is pursuing a career in theater production, focusing on set design.

Kim and her husband have put their performing days behind them. Kim is a writer and a blogger for Eat St., part of the Food Network (access at eatst.foodnetwork.ca). The more she saw and read about gourmet food trucks, the more the idea of starting her own appealed to her.

"My mother shared my grandmother's recipes, which I had been making for years," Kim explains. "My background was Ashkenazi, mostly Russian. I loved rediscovering my roots and heritage through the foods. Then I started researching, expanding my base and discovering Jewish recipes from all over the world. Must admit, it was hard to imagine olive oil instead of schmaltz," she quips.

The menu alone for Griddler on the Roof will make your mouth water. It begins with "frishtik" morning favorites like cheese blintzes, challah French toast, matzoh brei, and lox and bagels. Then come "shtickles," which Kim describes as "like Jewish tapas – a bissel this, a bissel that" ("bissel" is Yiddish for "little bit"). That section includes lochschen kugel, fried matzoh balls, sweet potato and carrot tzimmes soufflé, kasha varnishkes and an "angry knish," which is made from peppery mashed potatoes, roasted garlic and caramelized onions.

The mitagessen (noon meal) section offers a variety of treats ranging from a lox and shmear quesadilla to borekas (Sephardic hand pies). And you can wash it all down with the "Trinken" (which Kim defines as "L'chaim without the buzz") egg creams and Hansen sodas.

Mostly Kim takes the trucks to events rather than roaming the streets. "We sometimes partner with microbreweries that need food outlets, and we often participate in charity events," Kim says. "Most food truck vendors have other jobs as well, as we do. It's a tough job with long, long hours on your feet. But you have to do something you're passionate about, and I do love it!"

Kim is grateful that Bruce often works the food truck grill while she shmoozes with the patrons.

The saying in the food truck world is "Restaurants have customers, food trucks have followers." The website features a variety of ways you can follow Griddler on the Roof, including a calendar of coming appearances and a wide range of social media including Twitter and Facebook. You can sign up on Facebook as a Loyal Nosh to receive coupons, specials and other surprises.



Abe Foxman, who recently announced his retirement from his post as longtime national director of the Anti-Defamation League, with Arizona Jewish Life Contributing Editor Leni Reiss at the White House Hanukkah Reception.

Lights, latkes and lamb chops at the White House

By Leni Reiss

I lost count of the lavishly lit Christmas trees and the abundant decorations in green, red and gold. But for those of us honored to be invited to a Wednesday evening, Dec. 17, holiday reception at the White House, it was Hanukkah heaven.

I was in great company. Some 500 of us, Jewish religious and lay leaders, politicians, performers, Naval Academy midshipmen, members of the armed forces, journalists and activists, had received a coveted invitation ("The President and Mrs. Obama request the pleasure of your company") to the annual White House Hanukkah Reception. My connection was Matt Nosanchuk, director for outreach on the National Security Council, whom I had met and befriended at a recent conference.

After a long wait on the security line on a cold, windy evening and going through four separate metal detectors (I overheard someone call it a "security cattle call"), we arrived at the southeast entrance and were welcomed into the hallowed halls by staff members and serenaded by The Shabbaton, a Jewish cappella group at the University of Pennsylvania. We checked our coats and were free to meander through at least five warm and welcoming rooms, including the presidential library, to ogle and marvel at the impeccable décor. There were overstuffed couches, bouquets of fresh flowers on the tables and historic presidential portraits on the walls. Once inside the grand foyer, we heard the music of the U.S. Marine Chamber Orchestra

performing a tribute to American-Jewish composers. The splendid buffet, under strict rabbinical supervision, featured lamb chops and latkes. Platters were filled – and refilled.

While some people noshed and schmoozed, others began to gather in the adjoining room behind a velvet rope leading to double doors topped by the presidential seal. It was clear that was where the Obamas would make their entrance. Jockeying for position while playing “Jewish Geography” with new friends was great fun. Case in point: Gwyneth Paltrow was standing close by. I tapped her on the shoulder. She turned and when I told her that growing up in Great Neck, NY, I had known her late father, Bruce Paltrow, I was rewarded with a big smile as she touched her hand to her heart.

When the doors opened and President and Mrs. Obama walked through, there was palpable excitement throughout the large room. (Ladies: she looked stunning in sleeveless blue silk.) The president began his remarks by noting it was an especially momentous day “because after five years, Alan Gross is free.” Gross, who is Jewish, had been arrested in Cuba five years ago for helping ordinary Cubans, including members of a small Cuban Jewish community, to access information on

The Hanukkah, on a stand in front of the Obamas, had been commissioned through the U.S. Embassy in Israel and created from clay, wood and iron by the children of Yemin Orde in Mount Carmel.

the Internet. Gross’s sister-in-law was among the attendees.

The Hanukkah, on a stand in front of the Obamas, had been commissioned through the U.S. Embassy in Israel and created from clay, wood and iron by the children of Yemin Orde in Mount Carmel. Founded in 1953, this youth village first provided a safe haven to Holocaust orphans. Today it is the home of more than 400 children from around the world who have endured hardships ranging from extreme poverty to child neglect. The arms of the Hanukkah represented the Jewish ancestry of Yemin Orde’s residents.

Atakalit Tesfaye, a Yemin Orde graduate, lit a candle and was joined by Dr. Adam Levine, who recently returned from Liberia “where he has been doing heroic work for Ebola patients,” the president said. Levine is among the Ebola Fighters recognized by Time magazine as a Person of the Year for having “risked and persisted, sacrificed and saved.” Manhattan Rabbi Angela Buchdahl led the prayers. She said she was “honored to be among so many machers,” and got an appreciative laugh when she observed that it was a miracle, along with the miracle of Hanukkah, that she, “a female Asian-American rabbi,” was lighting the Hanukkah for an African-American president.

Joining in the chorus to sing the blessings as the candles were lit, I felt a sense of great pride – the highlight of a magical evening I will never forget. Actually I never will forget anything about that magical evening.



Menorah Lighting: From left, Dr. Adam Levine, Atakalit Tesfaye, First Lady Michelle Obama, President Barack Obama and Rabbi Angela Buchdahl.



Leni Reiss, left, connects with Gwyneth Paltrow at the White House. Reiss knew Paltrow’s father, the late Bruce Paltrow, growing up in Great Neck, NY. Actress Emmy Rossum is in background.



Arizona Jewish Life Contributing Editor Leni Reiss at the White House Hanukkah Party on Dec. 17 with Matt Nosanchuk, director for outreach on the National Security Council.

Open enrollment for health insurance closes Feb. 15

By Tony Lehrman

The current open enrollment period for Arizona residents wanting to purchase a health insurance policy began Nov. 15 and ends Feb. 15. People who want a Blue Cross or a United HealthCare plan must pay attention to the open enrollment dates. However, one health insurance company offers a high-quality health insurance plan that meets all Affordable Care Act requirements any time during the year – but only for people who live in Maricopa or Pima counties.

The most popular health insurance plans sold in Arizona during 2014 are plans from Blue Cross Blue Shield of Arizona, Assurant, Health Net and Meritus. Blue Cross is by far the largest health insurance company in Arizona. Meritus is a newcomer, but its plans are proving very popular. United HealthCare, one of the largest health insurance companies in the United States, did not offer plans to Arizona individuals during 2014, but has re-entered the Arizona marketplace for 2015.

There are many different kinds of health insurance plans to choose from for 2015, and you can become quite overwhelmed by visiting the government's health insurance website (healthcare.gov). After you input your family's information into their system, you will be given a list of hundreds of health insurance policies from which to choose. You might think selecting the most expensive plan would be your best choice. We have found that, most of the time, unadvised people choose the wrong plan. If you do select the wrong plan, you could be stuck with that plan for a year.

Usually the most expensive plan is not the best plan for you. For example, Blue Cross Blue Shield of Arizona has a plan for a 40-year-old living in Maricopa County that costs \$410 per month. If you buy that plan and you get very sick more than once during the year, you could have to pay medical bills totaling \$6,350 out of your own pocket. However, Blue Cross has a plan for that same 40-year-old that costs just \$290, and with that plan, no matter how sick you became during the year, your out-of-pocket expenses could not exceed \$3,500.

For most people, the new 2015 plans are more expensive than health insurance plans sold just a couple of years ago, but the U.S. government may help pay a lot of your monthly premium. You can qualify for what the government calls tax credits to help pay your monthly premiums, even if you make a nice income; it all depends on the number of people in your household and how much money you'll make during 2015. Many people find their tax credits pay about half of their monthly premium. If your monthly premium amount is \$400 and the government gives you a monthly tax credit of \$275, the bill that you'll receive from your health insurance carrier each month will be only \$125. The government pays your tax credit amount directly to your health insurance company each month.

If you make too much money to qualify for the tax credits, then you'll end up paying the full amount. If you do not have a health insurance policy that meets the Affordable Care Act requirements, you will be fined. You can see how much your fine would amount to by answering a few questions online at healthcare.com/penalty-calculator.



Tony Lehrman is the CEO of Lehrman Group, one of Arizona's largest health insurance brokerages. He became a bar mitzvah in 1964. He has spent more than 25 years offering consultation services as a broker of health insurance programs to individuals, families, the self-employed, and both large and small businesses in Arizona. He has served as an advisor to major nationwide financial brokerage firms and has been a member of broker advisory boards of major Arizona health insurance companies.
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Gary Jaburg named vice chair of autism center

Gary Jaburg, founder and managing partner of the Phoenix business law firm Jaburg-Wilk, has been appointed vice chair of the Southwest Autism Research and Resource Center effective Jan. 1. Gary joined SARRC after attending its annual breakfast seven years ago, where he discovered the large impact SARRC makes on those affected with autism. He has been a member of the board of directors for three years.

"SARRC is a great cause, and I am looking forward to my new role as vice chair," Gary says. Gary is an active member of the Jewish community, having served as board chair of the Valley of the Sun Jewish Community Center and chair of the Young Leadership Cabinet of the Jewish Federation of Greater Phoenix, among other positions.

SARRC is an internationally recognized nonprofit organization dedicated to autism research, education, evidence-based treatment and community outreach. SARRC is one of the only autism organizations in the world that provides a lifetime of services for individuals and their families while also conducting cutting-edge research.

Gary received his B.A. from Vassar and his JD from Boston University. He has been practicing law for more than 30 years.

602-248-1020 | gjj@jaburgwil.com | autismcenter.org



Invisible Theatre's Susan Claassen honored

Susan Claassen, managing artistic director of Invisible Theatre in Tucson, received the 2014 MAC Award for Best Actress in a Comedy for her role in "Olive and the Bitter Herbs," produced by IT last spring.

The MAC awards are sponsored by the Arizona Daily Star. The awards are named for the late Mary MacMurtrie, who spent much of the last century turning Tucson children into actors, directors, stage technicians and audiences that appreciate heart, honesty and intent as well as excellence. Award announcements were made Dec. 28.

Invisible Theatre will present Steve Solomon's "Cannoli, Latkes & Guilt" show on March 7-8.

invisibletheatre.com

JFCS



Gregory Rosenthal named partner at Burch & Cracchiolo

The law firm of Burch & Cracchiolo, P.A., has named Gregory A. Rosenthal as a partner with the firm. He is an AV Preeminent peer review rated attorney with Martindale-Hubbell whose practice focuses on civil litigation matters, representing clients in cases involving serious personal injury, wrongful death, products liability, negligence, premises liability and construction matters.

Rosenthal joined Burch & Cracchiolo after a distinguished career with Rosenthal

Law Offices. He received his JD from the University of Arizona James E. Rogers College of Law in 1989 and his B.A. with distinction in speech communications in 1986, also from the University of Arizona. Rosenthal is admitted to practice law in the United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit and the United States District Court for the District of Arizona and is a member of the Arizona Association of Defense Counsel. Rosenthal also sits on the board of the Anti-Defamation League and assists with its annual Torch of Liberty Dinner.

Burch & Cracchiolo is celebrating its 45th anniversary this year. The firm has offices in three states. The Arizona office is at 702 E Osborn Road in Phoenix. 602-274-7611, bcattorneys.com, info@bcattorneys.com

New Young Israel rabbi opens doors to Judaism

By Deborah Moon

Walls are coming down in the Jewish community – walls that divide people, that is.

“As time goes on, many diverse groups are working together,” says Rabbi Yossi Bryski, who was educated through the Chabad movement and in November became rabbi of the Orthodox congregation Young Israel of Phoenix.

He says Chabad encourages a lifetime of outreach work, a goal that is a good fit for his new role at Young Israel.

“Any person at any level of Jewish involvement can walk in and feel comfortable in Young Israel,” says Rabbi Bryski. “They receive a warm welcome from the congregation, and from me they receive whatever guidance they want at that point in their life. We have Orthodox as an objective, but it’s just an option for the person walking in.”

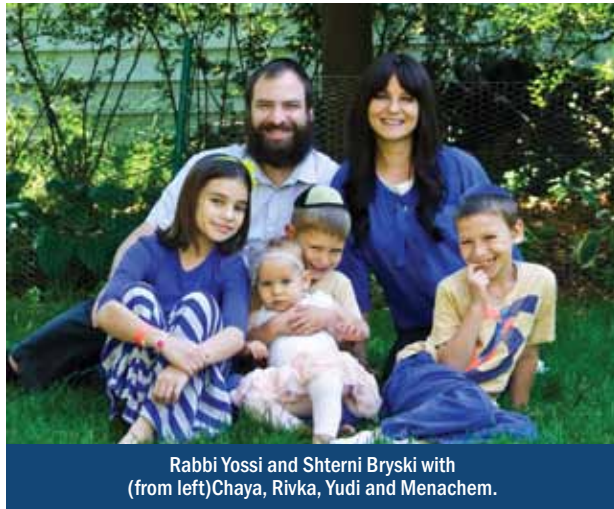
According to Young Israel Vice President in Charge of Outreach Jordan Rockowitz, “The Young Israel of Phoenix mission is to enable any Jew in the Phoenix area to explore their faith at their own pace without judgment, connect with their 3,000-year heritage through exciting classes and events, and know that when they come to Young Israel, as much as we are a house of worship, we’re a community that celebrates with you during times of joy and lifts you up during the difficult times. We want everyone who comes here to consider it as their home away from home.”

The rabbi exudes enthusiasm for outreach and talks warmly about connecting with people on a one-on-one basis.

“I don’t label myself or you,” he says. “I am connecting with you. There is no need to measure. I don’t believe G-d does that or that we need to do that to each other.”

In addition to personal connections, the rabbi and his wife,

Shterni, also offer programs designed to make people feel at ease. For instance Shterni offers a Babyccino program that is similar to Mommy & Me classes but revolves around the moms. “It’s about catering to their comfort level and ensuring this is something they will enjoy,” says Shterni, adding that the important element of Babyccino “is the laid-back, chilled-out attitude. ... this class is about the moms.”



Rabbi Yossi and Shterni Bryski with (from left) Chaya, Rivka, Yudi and Menachem.



Rebbetzin Shterni Bryski entertains a young attendee at the Babyccino class she offers. Though the young kids are entertained with fun activities and toys, the focus of the program is on moms.

Rabbi Yossi and Shterni Bryski married in 2002. They currently have four children: Chaya, 11; Menachem, 8; Yudi, 5; and Rivka, 2.

In March of 2005, the Bryskis tragically lost their first son. Since then Rabbi Bryski has drawn on profound mystical sources, as well as his personal experiences with tragedy and grief, to provide inspiring and motivating insights into Judaism’s fundamental concepts of faith and trust. Prior to becoming the rabbi at Young Israel, he traveled nationally to lecture. He still provides programs and counseling on grief in Arizona and California.

The Bryskis moved to Scottsdale in 2007 as directors of Adult Education at the Jewish Learning Center of Chabad. Rabbi Bryski also has taught at various schools in the community including Shalom Montessori, Shearim Girls High School, Phoenix Hebrew Academy and Pardes Jewish Day School.

Now the Bryskis look forward to welcoming people to their new congregation.

“For us it is a journey,” says Rabbi Bryski. “Our product is Torah – we just put it out where they can taste it. We just need the chance to get together.”

Rockowitz says the Bryskis are a natural fit for Young Israel. “We wanted a rabbi with a demonstrable love for all Jews, a fire in the belly for Judaism and an ability to ignite that spark in others. We were blessed to have found all of those attributes in both Rabbi and Rebbetzin Bryski.”



The bride, Meghan Jenna Newman, in her amazing dress and all her glory before the wedding is about to begin.

Wedding chuppah in the backyard of the Davies' home in Phoenix. Natural settings are very much in vogue.



The bridal party carries out the Renaissance theme and the brides' special colors

Weddings



February Special Section



Inside

- Capturing the Magic
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- Gowns, Ketubot, Stories
- Wedding Checklist
- Blending tastes to decorate your new home
- Soundbites
- Directory



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Capturing the magic

Photographers Pinina Zober and Yaakov Molho capture images of special moments ranging from weddings and bar/bat mitzvahs to family photo sessions, business events and even pet portraits. Since the two teamed up two and a half years ago, Molho Photography has been steadily expanding.

Chicago-born Pinina has an artistic background in design, marketing and photography. Born in Israel, Yaakov came to the United States right after his bar mitzvah in Israel. He has been shooting pictures and developing his own film since age 10. He enjoys dual careers as a teacher and photographer. Yaakov is a Judaic studies and Hebrew teacher at Pardes Jewish Day School and at Or Tzion Congregation. He also tutors students from kindergarten through bar/bat mitzvah.

Their work can be seen in the galleries on their website at: MolhoPhotography.com.

In October they captured these magical images at the wedding of Meghan Jenna Newman to Walter Gerald Davies.

Meghan chose a renaissance/vintage theme for the wedding after she found her dress. She had difficulty finding a dress she felt was modest enough for her and discovered this one on eBay.

Meghan chose the colors purple, representing spiritual insight and renewal, and sage green, representing clarity, freshness, calming and nature. Dresses for the bridesmaids and flower girl were found on Etsy. Her mother hand-made all the headbands and jewelry, and her friend, Rivkah Panzetta, created all the decorations.

Both a computer programmer and musician, Walter composed the music for their special day. Walter wore a Mozart ensemble his mother crafted for him, because he is a classical musician and has composed symphonies.

Meghan works in fitness centers across the Valley, working mostly with seniors. Their wedding took place in October in the couple's backyard.

Molho Photography

Pinina: 602-758-1621

Yaakov: 602-703-6775

2photoforyou@cox.net



Close-up of corner of chuppah by giant tree
in the Davies' backyard.



The groom and his accompaniment. Today's groomsmen often choose colorful vests rather than full tuxedos. From left: Brendon Newman, Vince Ilagan, Walter Gerald Davies, Walter Davies Sr., Giovanni Panzetta and Antonio Panzetta.



The cake table, incorporating flowers and butterflies.

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Weddings

Weddings trend toward “Bohemian Chic”

By Janet Arnold

Something old, something new. The phrase so associated with weddings couldn't be more appropriate today. “Bohemian Chic” is the latest catch phrase, and it truly does combine the best of the past with a new twist from the present.

Amy Simon, a wedding planner who works with Living Energy, says that while most weddings still average \$30,000-35,000, she sees some movement toward economizing and simplifying. “Some couples would rather have extra money to spend on a great honeymoon, or even to use for a down payment on a house. Many couples marrying today are a bit older than even five years ago,” she continues. “Whereas we had been seeing couples around 23-25, today the average age is 28-32.”

Among other things, this change often means the couple



This kid's table was decorated for fall with pumpkins and goodie bags full of activities for the evening. Photo by Amanda Marie Photography

themselves are paying for the wedding, which often leads to a little more practicality. Amy says she's seen more and more couples create a “crowdfunding” type of appeal for help with honeymoon costs.

Of course, some still want an elegant wedding with all the bells and whistles. But even these affairs are taking on a slightly more outdoorsy, warm and homey feel. “There seems to be a movement to more earthy, natural settings. Any location that can show off our Arizona landscape in the background is a big plus,” Amy explains. “And lots of Southwest flowers!” She has seen a move from the large, tight, full bridal bouquets, for example, to loose, hand-picked flowers and herbs enveloped in eucalyptus leaves.

Western themes are quite popular with the “save the date” cards, which are now an accepted necessity. Couples may have their photos taken with a desert sunset background or on a mountaintop. Save the date cards are particularly useful if you have a large out-of-state contingent of people who need to plan their trip well ahead of the intended date. The format can be postcards, cards in envelopes or even magnets that can serve as daily reminders right on recipients' refrigerators!

Bands are always popular as entertainment at the reception, and they range from the big band sound to the smaller, trendier cover bands. But bands can be pricey, so many use deejays instead.

Daytime weddings will sometimes employ a trio or a solo violin or harp.

Photographers are moving with the times as well, taking more black and white shots with just a hint of color or using more natural, soft light in the color photos to give them a vintage kind of feel.

It should be noted that the days of the bride's family paying most of the costs is long gone. It is generally accepted that the financial responsibilities will be pretty evenly divided. Or as mentioned earlier, sometimes the betrothed themselves are able and willing to pick up the costs.

Some people will take a year or more to plan the day and the associated activities. If you're looking to plan your event down to the smallest detail, it is highly recommended that you use the services of a wedding planner. They know all the tricks and where to find the best prices and easiest ways to get things done. You don't want to be stressing as you're walking down the aisle!

Amy encourages looking at sites like stylishweddingideas.com



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to stimulate your creative juices.

Also, Toby Benton, vice president of Living Energy Events, suggests a look at pinterest.com/tobybenton as well as other Pinterest pages. But, she cautions, some of the ideas are extremely costly, so if budget is a concern they may serve best as simply concepts.

Amy can be reached at: amy@livingenergy.com

P.S. Amy said an important thing for wedding attendees to remember is this: Buy gifts from the bridal registry! That's what the couple wants, even if it's something you're not crazy about!

Wedding fashions are getting more personal

By Kira Brown

For brides, grooms and the wedding party-alike, stylish trends are in season this spring 2015. Of course, the bride and her dress is always front and center of wedding fashions, but this year

more than ever, men's trends are increasingly more versatile and important for the overall wedding celebration.

This year, bohemian, light, more organic is the feeling from the runways of bridal shows. Feathers, flowing skirts, beaded headwear and long, sheer and lightweight sleeves are fashionably chic and wedding-ready. Men are skipping the formality of the tux for a stylish and reusable suit in navy or charcoal grey. And no longer are bridesmaids sporting the same hot pink frock, but rather personality and body-type fitting dresses that don't necessarily match each other, but rather are chosen for utility and their ability to be worn again.

The Pantone color of the year is Marsala, which is a soft maroon. It generally takes about a year for the color to make the rounds from the East and West Coasts inland to Arizona. You'll see lots of warm, soft tones, pastels and neutrals and even flowery dresses.

In short, this year brides and weddings are more personal, less formal, and more about the celebration of the couple and the commitment.



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The Power of Love

Amy Hirshberg Lederman

I watched him care for his wife until she passed away. He was very quiet, not prone to conversation, but always had a shy smile and a comfortable way about him. I didn't see him much after she died, except when he would head out of his driveway on his 10-speed bike for one of his long Sunday morning rides.

Several years passed and I watched as my neighbor painted his porch, washed his truck and cut the oleander in his yard. It was a solitary life compared to mine, which was filled with the demands and joys of my growing family, work and friends. Then one day I looked out the window and saw him laughing as he hoisted a young boy on his shoulders. Even from a distance, I could see the light in his eyes.

Slowly, the transformation occurred. There were potted geraniums on the porch and wind chimes on a tree outside the kitchen window, where three people sat down to dinner now instead of one. Happy voices volleyed back and forth across the yard, evidence of a family in the making.

Rachel met Ed at his Western store, when she came in to buy a pair of genuine cowgirl boots. She was visiting from New York and,

not prone to shyness herself, asked him if he would show her around Tucson. Reluctantly, he agreed.

Who would have imagined that less than a year later, Rachel would pack her bags and leave her New York life, job and friends to create a new home with her 6-year-old son Jason in the Sonoran desert? And who would have thought that my lonely neighbor would blossom into a family man, in just a few short months?

I am not a voyeur, but I have to admit that I have loved watching what has happened at the house across the street. Because I have seen something quite special: the remarkable transformation of a man, a woman and a young boy who have come together as a family through the restorative powers of love.

Love, as folk singer Joan Baez so aptly put it, is just a four letter word. But within those four letters are a myriad of feelings, attachments, devotions and passions. There is no end to the types of love that exist. Parental love, erotic love, platonic love, "brotherly" love and spiritual love all may vary in their objects of desire, yet each one has a unique ability and potential to transform and educate, to enlighten and inform those who are lucky enough to experience it.

Although some would suggest that Judaism is a religion defined and dominated by laws and rituals, that is not an accurate depiction. Judaism puts love at the top of its agenda when it comes to how we relate to each other, how we relate to God and how God relates to us. Love is an essential element of Jewish faith and life.

The great Talmudic scholar Rabbi Akiva taught that one of the greatest principles of the Torah is "Love your neighbor as yourself." Why? Because in order to love your neighbor *as yourself*, you must first know who you are and how you want to be loved.

We are taught throughout the Bible that love is transformative. In Genesis Isaac transforms from a grief-stricken boy into a healthy man when he brings Rebecca into the tent of his mother Sarah and takes her as his wife. The *Shema*, the central Jewish prayer that formalizes the belief in one God, commands us to love God with all our heart, soul and might. It is because of this love that we follow God's commandments, which will enable us to become a holy people and a light unto the world. We are changed because of love. Over history, over time, over the years it takes to learn how to become loving and beloved.

I have watched Rachel, Ed and Jason grow into their love as they have grown into a family. From my vantage point, it is a picture that inspires and gives me a sense that love is much more than just a four letter word.



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Amy Hirshberg Lederman has written more than 300 columns and essays that have been published nationwide.
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Wedding exhibit home to stories, dresses, ketubot

Story by Judy Rose Sensibar; Photos by Athol

The best dress of the Seventh Annual Wedding Gown and Ketubah Show was hiding in plain sight.

For years, Jewish History Museum staff had heard rumors that the Drachman family had left artifacts in their original home at the corner of 4th Avenue and University Boulevard. Indeed, among fraternity paddles and sailor suits emblazoned with the Tucson Drachman name, were two wedding dresses nestled in an adorable old suitcase.

The more modern strapless dress, probably from the 1980s, was nice enough, but underneath was an unblemished silk charmeuse gown, slinky and long and decorated with the most understated, darkened lace. Its muff, still just barely scented of lavender, was also intact and stitched of the same creamy silk. The dress likely dates from the 1940s.

We hope by the time the show officially opens Feb. 15 that the rest of the history will be uncovered, and we will have a definite wedding day and courtship story to share with the dress.

Other stunners in the show this year include a full-length – chin to pinky toe – lace dress made for the wedding of Arlene and Howard Brody. It is accompanied by the heaviest, most elaborate veil yet to grace our humble bimah. The veil is a headpiece with a Magen David (Jewish star) made of pearls, rhinestones and lace from the gown. The dress was made by a Mrs. Lisofsky from Paris. She was 92 when she made the dress and veil. All three of Arlene's sisters and her sister-in-law wore the headpiece for their weddings as well.

Arlene first talked of donating her dress over the summer, and it was



1930s Temple Emanu-El wedding Gown



Princess Bride Tiara • Photo by Athol



Drachman Wedding Dress & Luggage

delivered in a driving winter rain late one December evening. We are so thankful to our liaison Anne Lowe, who heads up the federation on the northwest side of town, for shepherding this unusual find to our doorstep. Married to Howard Brody since Aug. 20, 1960, Arlene says the only other unusual part of their wedding was that three rabbis officiated.

"My grandmother had a rabbi whom she supported. He was Orthodox, and the synagogue where we were married was just merging with another temple, so both of those rabbis were there."

Two of the oldest gowns in the exhibit are not white, for it wasn't traditional until after Queen Victoria's era to wear white on one's wedding day. One is a sapphire blue dress from El Paso, circa 1840, complete with parasol; the other is a gold gown with a 14-inch waist!

Seventh Annual Wedding Gown and Ketubah Show

Feb. 15 - March 29

Jewish History Museum, 564 S Stone Ave., Tucson • jewishhistorymuseum.org

The story of the golden gown is that Cordelia Perrine was a mail-order bride from Germany, who converted to Judaism upon marrying Jacob Kaestner in Idaho in 1868. Jacob went on to build the first synagogue in Boise, which is the oldest, continually used Jewish house of worship west of the Mississippi.

Finally, a sisterhood gown belonging to the original Temple Emanuel – where the museum is now housed – was worn by a multitude of brides during the Depression. Many brides could not afford a wedding gown for their special day, so congregation sisterhoods would often purchase a gown to lend to various brides. The way the liquid-satin gown with a cathedral train is gathered at the waist and down the center and has pleats at the hips reveals how it was altered several times to accommodate various figures.

The JHM has over 40 dresses in its permanent collection, and we continue to accept new donations. Our “anchor” piece, a silk chemise from the 1590s with Elizabethan sleeves, never disappoints. This gown was what inspired our original show seven years ago and has been officially traced by the Smithsonian to the mill in Germany where the silk was woven more than 400 years ago.

Judy Rose Sensibar is the former executive director of the Jewish History Museum in Tucson.

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Wedding Checklist

4-6 Months

- Compile guest list including addresses
- Hire vendors (florist, photographer, videographer, musicians, officiant)
- Plan and book honeymoon
- Arrange transportation for wedding
- Order invites; including thank you notes, save-the-dates
- Register
- Purchase wedding rings
- Purchase/order groom's attire
- Select attendants' attire
- Purchase wedding dress and accessories

2-3 Months

- Purchase gifts for wedding party
- Purchase gifts for parents
- Arrange transportation for out of town guests (setup rental car discount)
- Discuss ceremony with officiant
- Write wedding vows (if you choose)
- Schedule rehearsal time
- Make arrangements for rehearsal dinner
- Setup table presentation with florist
- Book makeup artist and hair stylist
- Mail invites
- Select and purchase favors (if having)

1 Month

- Obtain marriage license; request certified copies
- Prepare necessary documents for name change
- Contact local papers for wedding announcement
- Tasting at venue, including wedding cake
- Purchase all miscellaneous items (cake server, guest book, candles, etc.)
- Select music for ceremony, cocktail hour and reception
- Meet with musicians to discuss music selections
- Trial run for hair/makeup
- Purchase bridal accessories (shoes, lingerie, jewelry)

2 Weeks

- Final dress fitting with shoes and lingerie
- Begin seating chart
- Order place cards/seating chart
- Print menus
- Notify venue/caterer of guest count
- Write toasts/thank yous

1 Week

- Finalize seating plan
- Assemble welcome baskets (deliver 2 days prior to wedding)
- Arrange for wedding dress to be picked up
- Final guest count due
- Confirm honeymoon arrangements
- Pack for honeymoon
- Pamper yourself (hair, nails, brows, massage)
- Prepare tip and payment envelopes
- Write vows

1 Day

- Pamper yourself again!
- Wedding rehearsal
- Give tip/payment envelopes to wedding planner
- Rehearsal dinner; give bridal party and parents their gifts
- Practice vows
- Relax

Wedding Day

ENJOY!

Checklist courtesy of Ashley Stone from Something Blue Events (sbe-weddings.com). Ashley can be reached at 602-321-5207 or ashley@sbe-weddings.com.



Marriage means blending tastes to decorate new home

By Barbara Kaplan

Wives frequently ask me, "How can my husband and I agree on decorating decisions and purchases for our home?" When decorating our homes, it is often a reminder that we are all different – and those differences may be what attracted us to each other. They can also cause the greatest conflicts. Not until we understand ourselves and each other are we able to openly communicate to find common ground. Once this happens, we have enough similarities to overlook our differences and decorate a look that is unique as a couple.

Couples can bring strong beliefs into a relationship, often not knowing where they originated. Some beliefs come from our histories, homes of friends and neighbors, or media influences. When this occurs, we must ask ourselves, "Is this how I want to live? Does it have lasting value for me?"

Is it part of your "interior" design (your internal design or feelings), or is it the influence of something you saw and liked but will not last for you? Will you like it tomorrow? Then ask, "Is this a representation of my authentic self?" Is this how you want to live every day? Do you feel good doing so? When you can be honest and discover your true taste, you can talk with your significant other to see where your tastes are similar.

Couples are always amazed at how many things they both like when they strip away the beliefs, tastes and ideas that don't belong to them. They become more open and free to listen to the other person.

Then they can create a look together and build their own history, traditions and memories. Bringing in a religious expression can be an example. As you begin your married life together, select a frame to display your ketubah in your new home. Pick out a mezuzah for each room that represents the look and purpose of the room and combine your personal tastes and feelings. Honesty is key. Remember to speak from your heart. Interior design can be fun and not a battle of the sexes. For

example, his modern and her country French can now be the popular Santa Barbara look. The red he loved and the blue she loved became eggplant, offset by adding burnt orange and gold. The most important thing is that everyone stays open to new discoveries and possibilities.

Three elements are necessary to make design choices: Understanding: Learn about yourself. You must become aware of your needs and wants for your environment. Your environment should serve and support you while giving you the look you love. Acceptance: The ability to accommodate all the things involved in making the project happen, such as budgeting, letting go of old ideas and items, and being open to the new. Allowing: Give yourself permission to proceed, no matter what it takes to see it through.

All three elements constitute a process that I created, the Bajaro Method, which is my method of "interior" design. When you, as an individual, have addressed each element, you can then explore them as a couple. If you have children, they, too, can be brought into the discussion and their ideas combined to create your family's style.

Remember, "Rooms have no feelings, YOU do!"



Interior designer Barbara Kaplan, owner of Design Dimensions, is the creator of the Bajaro Method, author of *Rooms Have No Feelings, YOU Do!*, columnist and teacher. She combines beauty, wellness and lifestyle in her design and decoration of personal spaces. Her interior designs can be seen at Chabad Lubavitch of Arizona and the Mikvah, Temple Beth Israel of Phoenix and homes of several Phoenix rabbis. She is a past board member of American Jewish Committee-Phoenix and the Healing Committee of Temple Chai. She is Arizona past president of International Furnishings and Design Association. 480-998-5088 | BarbaraKaplan.com

SOUNDBITES

If you could relive a moment from your wedding what would it be?



Bea Markowe

Phoenix

I took the train from New York to meet my future husband who was stationed in Phoenix. We got married in 1943 in Rabbi Krohn's house. At the end of the ceremony I was so happy. I said to my husband, "Let's get something to eat!"



Mark Khazanovich

Tempe

Breaking the glass was the culmination of months of planning for our celebration. At that moment I felt the connection to past and future generations of Jews.



Jeanne Fisher

Phoenix

My husband and I got married after World War II in Cleveland. The moment I remember was signing the ketubah in the rabbi's study.

Next month:

If you could be a member of the opposite sex for one day, who would you be?

To share your reply, please send your short answer, name, congregation/organization (if desired), city and photo to editor1@azjewishlife.com by Feb. 9.



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TIKKUN OLAM TOUR

Gennifer Unell and Maia Nagle organize the donation closet at Homebase Youth Services during last year's Jewish Community Foundation's Tikkun Olam Tour. Valley teens in grades 7-12 who want to make our world a better place are invited to participate in this year's tour 10:30 am-3:30 pm, Feb. 12. Teens visit local nonprofits, engage in community service and learn about ways they can contribute to the success of these organizations. This year's tour will focus on organizations meeting the needs of children and addressing food insecurity. Teens will work with organizations helping children with special needs, children in the foster care system and children from low-income, at-risk situations. Teens will take the Food Stamp Challenge; during a supermarket stop, they will get a limited amount of money to purchase groceries for teens in the JFCS Youth In Transition Program. Pre-registration is required. The cost is \$20. Priority given to current B'nai Tzedek Teens. For application or more information, contact Youth Philanthropy Director Andrea Cohen at 480-699-1717 or acohen@jcfphoenix.org.

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Anna Landsman on Baywatch, with Peter Witte (trainer), Hallee Landsman (mom) and Linda Klein (grandmother).

Sisters love showing horses at Scottsdale

60th Annual Scottsdale Arabian Horse Show Feb. 12-22

By Deborah Moon

The 60th Annual Scottsdale Arabian Horse Show, the largest event of its kind in the world, will feature plenty of opportunities to meet horses and to cheer on two local Jewish sisters competing in the show at Westworld Feb. 12-22.

The annual show, benefiting Cox Charities and March of Dimes, is expected to draw nearly 2,400 horses from across North America. Sisters Samantha (Sammi) Alyson Landsman, 17, and Anna Rose Landsman, 12, return to the Scottsdale show ring where they have garnered some top prizes in past years. The girls are the daughters of Dr. Jon and Hallee Landsman.

Sammi began taking riding lessons at Red Vista Ranch when she was 7 years old.

“Her love of horses, especially the Arabian horse, began there,” says Hallee. “Up until this point, she had tried just about every activity (soccer, dance, t-ball), but once she began riding horses, she never looked back.”

Hallee adds that when Anna began riding horses at the age of 5, “I wasn’t sure if her interest was simply a result of her wanting to do what her big sister was doing or if she really had a passion for the horses. Like her sister, she tried other activities, but the only one she wanted to stick with was riding.”

Anna says, “I’ve been around horses since I was 2. Watching her (Sammi) ride made we want to try it. ...”

In 2011 the girls began training with Peter and Susan Witte of Witte Stables located in Scottsdale.

“The Landsman family is very dedicated to the Arabian horse world,” says Susan. “We have had the pleasure of working with Sammi and Anna, in perfecting their skills as pleasure and equitation riders.” She says that both girls have earned national top 10 honors, as well as Scottsdale, regional and local championship awards.

“My sister and I have a lot of fun (at the Scottsdale show),” says Sammi. “The competition is amazing. And since it’s the start of the season, you get to see who your competition will be

for the year and who will be at Youth Nationals.”

Anna says the Scottsdale show is more fun because it is so big. “It’s a Class A show, but it’s way bigger than all the other shows. It’s treated like Nationals.”

In 2013, Anna won the Country English Pleasure championship on Baywatch, a Half-Arabian horse owned by a friend. Anna didn’t show at Scottsdale last year, but is looking forward to riding into the ring on Sir Lancelot, a Half-Arabian she started competing on in walk-trot classes when she was 6. This year she plans to show Lance in Half-Arabian Country Pleasure (judged on the horse’s performance under saddle), equitation classes (judged on the rider) and showmanship (which judges how well a youth presents a horse at halter).

Sammi garnered Top 10 honors in both the 2013 and 2014 shows. She’s also been in the top 10 at Youth Nationals in both show hack and native costume, which is always a crowd favorite.

This year she plans to show her Half-Arabian gelding, Black Tie Affaire, in show hack classes (an English class in which the horse is judged on performance and manners modeled on dressage). The family purchased Tie in July 2013, and Sammi says showing him has been really fun.

Their first show together was the American Cup Championship Arabian Horse Show held at Westworld every November. “We won everything,” says Sammi, mentioning halter and both junior and junior-owner-to-ride country pleasure.

This year she plans to show Tie in show hack at Scottsdale. She also plans to compete on a borrowed horse, Khaarga Escobar Slik, in her new favorite discipline – reining and reining seat equitation.

“Reining is different; you get to compete by yourself,” she says, explaining that each horse and rider enter the arena alone to complete a complex pattern full of sliding stops and quick turns that delight crowds.

Delighting crowds seems to be a theme for Sammi, who also enjoys the “high energy of native costume classes.” Loud applause, oohs and aahs typically welcome costume horses to the arena.

“Sammi specifically wanted to ride in a native costume class,” says Hallee. “We purchased a pure Arabian country horse for the girls to compete on ... His name is Mr. Hallelujah or Mr.

H. Mr. H had a long show record and had won in country English pleasure, driving and was a national champion in native costume.”

Last year Sammi rode Mr. H to fourth in junior native costume. Trainer Peter Witte rode Mr. H to top honors in the open native costume class, before the family retired Mr. H to Tubac, AZ.



Anna and Baywatch.



Scottsdale horse show

The sisters stay very busy with their horse activities, spending at least 12 hours a week at the barn and a lot more time during weeks with horse shows such as Scottsdale.

“I love begin able to hang out with all my friends at the barn and learn what I can about horses,” says Sammi.

During the winter the sisters also enjoy helping out at the “Day at the Stable” camps Witte Stables offers for youth with little or no previous experience with horses.

“I love seeing their faces when they get on a horse for the first time,” says Sammi.

Anna says many of the kids at camp love being around the horses so much that they start taking riding lessons.

Camp is just one way the Wittes introduce youth to horses. Their website (wittestables.com) offers a Kids Corner full of puzzles, book suggestions and pictures of “riders who made us smile over the years.”

“The equine world is a fabulous environment for children to not only develop horsemanship skills,

but learn about trust, respect, tolerance,” says Susan. “Building confidence is gained by teaching young and older riders to become partners with their horses.”

Sammi did take a short break from the horse world to spend part of her winter break from school visiting her three older cousins and aunt and uncle, Rabbi Mark Pomeranz, in Miami. The Pomeranz family is Orthodox, so Sammi was able to celebrate a traditional Shabbat and Hanukkah with them.

Both sisters say they enjoy Shabbat and celebrating the Jewish holidays at home.

“I love all the holidays,” says Sammi. “We always feast!”

Anna agrees, “I like Passover and the Jewish new year – We eat!”

But this month, the girls will be focused on the Scottsdale show.

In addition to cheering for the Landsman sisters, visitors to the show can “Meet an Arabian Horse” (9:30 am, Feb. 15, 16, 17, 19, 20 and 21) or take a “Behind the Scenes Barn Tour” (10 am Feb. 13; and 10 am and 2 pm, Feb. 14, 15, 16, 20 and 21). For more information on these programs, visit scottsdalshow.com and click on the events tab.



Phoenix moms at Masada: (Back from left) Karen Kaplan, Laura Karp, Cindy Landesman, Adriane Keene, Shoshana Putney; and (front from left) Karen Nagle, Carrie Kroop, Sandee Levine, Halle Farber and Lori Miller.

Moms bring traditions, spirit and friendship home from Israel trip

By Deborah Moon

In October, eight Phoenix-area Jewish moms enjoyed a free tour of Israel and came home with new connections to the land of Israel, to Jewish traditions and to the women who shared the experience.

The Phoenix Community Kollel partnered with the Jewish Women's Renaissance Project to bring this opportunity to Jewish moms in the Valley. Halle Farber, Karen Kaplan, Laura Karp, Adriane Keene, Carrie Kroop, Sandee Levine, Lori Miller and Karen Nagle were accompanied by Phoenix trip leaders Cindy Landesman, director of the women's division of the Phoenix Community Kollel, and Shoshana Putney.

As the kollel plans a second Momentum journey this October, we asked those women to share some of their impressions from the first Phoenix community trip.

"The trip gave us the tools and inspiration to help build and nurture our Jewish world – within ourselves, our own families at home, our group of 10 JWRP 'sisters' and the greater community as well," says Karp.

"For me, and for many others, this was the trip of a lifetime," says Nagle. "I regularly find myself returning to moments that we shared, such as shopping in the outdoor market in Jerusalem in the rain as Shabbos arrived, looking out over the Kotel and the Temple Mount while we were learning at Aish Hatorah, or being in the room with all other women listening to some amazing lesson by (JWRP Founder) Lori Palatnik."

Since creating this journey in 2008, JWRP has brought more

than 4,500 women from 19 countries to Israel in partnership with 113 Jewish organizations and federations, including Israel's Jerusalem and Diaspora Affairs Ministry. The heavily subsidized trip is designed for moms who are not "Shomer Shabbat" (Shabbat observant) and who have children ages 18 or younger still living at home. Women pay only airfare and a small amount for tips, etc.

According to the JWRP website, "Women who participate in this transformational journey, feel inspired to instill strong Jewish values in their children, and actively pass down the 4,000 year old legacy of our nation to the next generation."

Nagle says the trip has had a positive impact on her family. "Our family already has a regular Friday night meal, lighting candles and with fresh-baked challah," says Nagle "But we added to this the mitzvah of giving tzedakah before we light candles. This may seem not such a big deal, but to us, by adding an additional mitzvah, we feel that we are bringing even more meaning to our Shabbos dinners. We also are lighting candles on time (before sundown) rather than when dinner starts – we feel this really ties us to other Jewish women around the world."

Phoenix Community Kollel's new leader, Rabbi Don Bacharach, says the kollel is proud to be a partner in this incredible project, as the foundation of the PCK is to raise the awareness of Jewish identity and education. The PCK does this locally by running events and giving classes to Jews of all backgrounds and affiliations. The kollel prides itself in its ability to share Torah true values and lessons in a warm, nonjudgmental and upbeat environment.

“We met up with approximately 200 other women from around the world,” says Putney. “There are trips six times throughout the year (May, June, July, October, November and December). Recently, the JWPR has started to double up the trips. So instead of having 200 ladies there in October, there were really 400 ladies. On Friday we had a challah bake all together – all 400 participants. Also, we had a pre-Shabbat concert together, and we all (400 ladies) enjoyed a delicious Friday night Shabbat dinner together in a huge banquet hall at the Inbal hotel. It was amazing to be all together.”

Karp called that Shabbat experience the highlight of the trip. “Right before candlelighting, I was able to give my bag (including my cell phone!) to our madrich (educator/leader) for safekeeping until after havdalah. I was able to totally disconnect in a way that I had never done before. No electronics, no distractions. Just wonderful meals, learning, singing, dancing and conversation with 400 other moms!”

Nagle says that having all the details planned for them was a real asset. “This allowed us, mothers who usually worry about whether our kids are happy, or our husbands are enjoying the activities we have planned, to concentrate on the majesty of Jerusalem, seeing sights with professional guides or learning from brilliant women,” says Nagle.

One of the highlights of the trip for Nagle, an attorney, was a lecture by Nitsana Darshan-Leitner, an attorney and founder of the Shurat HaDin – Israel Law Center. Based on the Southern Poverty Law Center’s success in financially crippling hate groups through lawsuits, the Israel Law Center works to bankrupt terrorism, one lawsuit at a time. The group’s lawsuits have resulted in the freezing of more than \$600 million in terror assets, money that would otherwise have made its way to Hamas, Hezbollah, Islamic Jihad and other terror organizations, and has won awards of more than \$20 million for victims of terror attacks.

“Ms. Darshan-Letiner is a true superstar who has, by her own determination and intellect, accomplished what governments cannot,” says Nagle. “There was not a dry eye in the room when she finished speaking, and it is a testament to the status of JWPR founder Lori Palatnik and the group itself that she came to speak to us.”

Nagle notes that experiencing Israel with a group of moms with programming specific to women’s interests was enriching and empowering. “The lessons were geared for women and mothers, such as the value of having strong relationships between husband and wife, setting examples for our children and practical lessons such as providing information to help us respond to issues regarding peer pressure and body image,” says Nagle.

More Phoenix-area moms can have this life-changing experience in October 2015, when the Phoenix Community Kollel Women’s Division will offer a second nine-day JWPR Momentum trip, which is often called “Birthright for moms.”

An informational session will be held at the Ina Levine Jewish Community Campus, 12701 N Scottsdale Road, Scottsdale, on March 1 from 10 am to noon. Applications are being accepted online at jwpr.org. Contact Shoshana Putney, the local city coordinator, at Shoshputney@gmail.com or 480-363-1831 for more information.



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Happy New Year, Trees

By Debra Rich Gettleman

Tu B'Shevat – the New Year for Trees. It begins this year on the eve of Tuesday, Feb. 3, and ends at sundown on the fourth. But why a New Year for trees? I mean, do the trees need to jumpstart their spiritual growth? Atone for their past indiscretions? Have a new beginning? If I'm honest, I've never actually understood this holiday. I've misidentified it for years as the "birthday of the trees." I've even planted trees and participated in various environmental activities and seders on past Tu B'Shevats. But when asked to write about it, I realized I really have no idea about its actual significance.

Turning to the Talmud, I read a fascinating story about a righteous man named Honi the Circle-Drawer who was troubled about the existential concept of life being like a 70-year-long dream. He wondered how anyone could sleep for 70 years. Then one day while walking down the road he saw a man planting a carob tree and asked him how long it will take for the carob tree to bear fruit. The man replied that it would take 70 years.

Then Honi had a meal and, as is often the case with our people, he ate too much and fell asleep. His sleep lasted for 70 years.

When he awoke he saw a man gathering the fruit of the carob tree and asked him, "Are you the man who planted that tree?" The man replied that it was his grandfather who had planted the tree. Honi realized that he had slept for 70 years and was able to draw some deep insights into the passage of time, exile, companionship and existence from this strange Rip Van Winkle experience.

But the part of the story that strikes me most is the notion of planting what we plant today for our children and their children and all the generations that will come. This past Hanukkah, my sister and her family came to visit us from Chicago. We told stories about our lives as children and shared our family memories, both funny and tragic, with our kids. We baked our Aunt Frieda's strudel and toasted egg and cheese sandwiches in our mom's old oven toaster sandwich maker. In our own ways, we planted our carob trees so that our children will have fruits to share with their children and grandchildren one day.

Planting new trees for the New Year seems more important when you look beyond the environmental mitzvah and contemplate the real reason you "plant" in the first place. We plant trees of whose fruit we won't personally ever have the opportunity to enjoy. But we plant them as a show of faith in our future, a belief in human longevity and the hope that something we create will endure over time. We also harvest fruit from trees that our forefathers planted with us in mind, again illustrating an enormous faith in the future that those before us must have maintained.

This cyclical nature of planting and harvesting connects us to our past and our future and links us across generations. Each seed of knowledge and experience we sow today offers our children a taste of sweetness in their future, and one that they, in turn, can share with their children and so on throughout the ages.

The truth is that we may not be here to witness the fruits of our labor. But when you look at your own life, notice the seeds that were planted by your parents and grandparents and how those seeds bear fruit in the important choices you make every day of your life. By consciously planting our own carob trees, we offer a sign of hope for the future and a belief that our lives, however short, endure and have meaning.

During this season of TuB'Shevat, may you be nourished by the roots that strengthen and support you, may you plant heartily for your descendants, and may you enjoy the literal and metaphoric truth that what you plant today gives life, sustenance and abundance to all those who will come after you.

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



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A parent's nightmare



Liza Long

It is perhaps a parent's worst nightmare – to have a child display uncontrollable, violent behavior patterns. Not that any medical problem is easy, but at least with a broken arm or even an infection, you know where to turn. You see your pediatrician and the problem is generally solved. A cast or an antibiotic will do the trick.

But it is so different if the disease affects the child's brain. Then it's considered a mental illness and solutions are much more difficult to obtain.

Liza Long's son Adam had experienced outbreaks and "rage attacks" since a young age, but it wasn't until he was 13 and had been in and out of juvenile detention centers that he was finally diagnosed with bipolar disorder and received proper treatment. Liza is a writer, educator, mental health advocate and mother of four children. She has appeared on numerous TV and radio programs trying to encourage meaningful conversation about how we handle mental illness in the United States.

"Mental illness is treatable if diagnosed properly," Liza says. "My son is not a bad kid. He is a sweet, bright, sensitive child who has a mental illness."

Liza will be the keynote speaker at the Brighter Tomorrow Luncheon sponsored by Jewish Family & Children's Services on Feb. 27 at the Arizona Biltmore.

Dr. Micahel Zent, PhD, president and CEO of JFCS says they are pleased to have Liza speak at the annual fundraiser. "Childhood mental illnesses affect one in five kids and cost \$247 billion a year in medical costs, juvenile crime and other socio-behavioral problems," he says. JFCS provided mental health and social services to more than 20,000 children, teens and adults in Maricopa County last year.

Dr. Zent is especially proud of a relatively new program called the Child Crisis Hospital Team. "The program represents a proactive and innovative way to help families whose children are taken to the emergency room for emotional crises or psychotic episodes," he explains. "In many ways, this is the kind of help that Liza Long was seeking for her son."

Liza recently published a book *The Price of Silence: A Mom's Perspective on Mental Illness*.

Brighter Tomorrow Luncheon

WHAT: Fundraiser for Jewish Family & Children's Services of Greater Phoenix

WHERE: Arizona Biltmore, 2400 E Missouri Ave., Phoenix

WHEN: 11:45 am-1:30 pm, Feb. 27

TICKETS: \$180 at jfcsaz.org/brightertomorrow or 602-567-8334

PJ Library Goes to School



Orli Griver reads a PJ book at Anshei Israel's Preschool.

The Southern Arizona Jewish community has been chosen by the National PJ Library to participate in a special initiative called PJ Goes to School.

Many Arizona families participate in PJ Library, a national program that mails free, high-quality Jewish books and music to families raising Jewish children. Families living near Phoenix, Tucson, Prescott or Flagstaff can sign up at pjlibrary.org.

The program in the Tucson area is coordinated by Mary Ellen Loebel of the Jewish Federation of Southern Arizona's Coalition for Jewish Education. It is funded by local

donors along with the Harold Grinspoon Foundation.

PJ Goes to School is dedicated to "enhancing the Jewish content of the classroom through the use of PJ Library's beautifully illustrated Jewish storybooks to enrich and extend the early childhood curriculum, strengthen bonds between home and school, and spark meaningful Jewish conversations in class, on the playground and at home," says Loebel.

Schools receive PJ books, related resource guides, a monthly eNewsletter and professional development. PJGtS is in approximately 500 classrooms in 18 PJ Library communities, and it is growing. Lisa Litman, national director of the program, led an in-service day for the participating Tucson programs: Congregation Anshei Israel's Esther B. Feldman Preschool and Kindergarten, and the 3- and 4-year-old classrooms in the Tucson JCC's Early Childhood Education program.

Kids & Teen EVENTS February

\$60; \$5 discount on siblings. Overnight option \$25 per child. 480-483-7121 ext. 1275 or youth@vosjcc.org

Parent's Night Out at the East Valley JCC. Crafts, games and fun led by camp staff. Separate movies for preschoolers-second graders and for third-graders on up. Feel free to bring a sleeping bag or blanket to get comfy! 6-11 pm at 908 N Alma School Road in Chandler. \$22 for first child, \$10 for siblings. RSVP by Feb. 11: welnerb@evjcc.org or 480-897-0588

Feb. 22

Kids in the Kitchen features Perfectly Persian Pastries at noon at the Chabad of the East Valley, 875 N McClintock Dr., Chandler. From Hamantaschen to Baklava, sure to satisfy your sweet tooth! Grades 1-6. Bring a sack lunch. \$12. 480-855-4333, chabadcenter.com

Feb. 26-27 Most Tucson schools are closed for Rodeo Days! Have fun with the Tucson JCC! 9 am-4 pm for kindergarten-8th grade. On Thursday, head to the Colossal Caves for a guided tour and fun times exploring and learning the history of the magnificent cave structures. On Friday tour the famous Shamrock Farms! Come face-to-face with cows, chickens and other farm animals. Fresh vanilla ice cream. \$43 members/\$55 nonmembers. Extended care available. 520-299-3000, ext. 256, tucsonjcc.org

ONGOING PROGRAMS

Club J at the Valley of the Sun JCC

Provides afterschool programming including sports, cooking, crafts, Israeli culture and more for those in K-8. Transportation from nearby schools available. 12701 N Scottsdale Road. 480-483-7121 ext. 1275, vosjcc.org or youth@vosjcc.org

J-Care Afterschool Program at the Tucson JCC

Includes activities, help with homework or teens can hang in the Youth Lounge. Bus transportation from schools available for K-12. 3800 E River Road. 520-299-3000, tucsonjcc.org

J-Care at the J – East Valley JCC

School pick-ups, homework club, cooking, dance, sports, community service projects and much more! EVJCC, 908 N Alma School Road in Chandler. Contact: Brandon Welner at 480-897-0588 or welnerb@evjcc.org

Feb. 4

Chandler Jewish Preschool Open House at 10:30 am at 875 N McClintock Dr., Chandler. Tu B'Shevat activity for the children. RSVP: Shternie Deitsch at 480-855-4333 or info@chabadcenter.com

Israeli Sing Along, special for Tu B'shevat at 7 pm at Mozart Cafe, 7116 E Mercer Lane in Scottsdale. Sponsored by the Valley Israel Center. 480-483-7121, ext. 1109 or shahare@vosjcc.org

Feb. 12

Teen Tikkun Olam Tour for Valley teens grades 7-12. A Valley-wide tour of non-profit agencies helping those in need. See page 31

Feb. 14

Parents' Night Out Party at the Tucson JCC: Pajama Party

Parents can enjoy a night to themselves while the J-Care staff provides a fun-filled evening for their children. PNOPs include dinner, snack, games, dessert, field trip for ages 8+ and a movie with popcorn. 6-10 pm at 3800 E River Road, Tucson. Members \$20 for first child, siblings \$15. Nonmembers add \$5. Contact: Aimee Gillard 520-299-3000 ext. 256 or agillard@tucsonjcc.org

Tweens On The Town for grades 5-9. Spend your Saturday night (6-10 pm) hanging with new and old friends! Includes dinner and a trip to a fun location around Tucson. \$25/\$20 member Meet in the Youth Lounge of the Tucson JCC, 3800 E River Road in Tucson. For more information contact Lindsay Migdal at 520-299-3000 ext.175 or lmigdal@tucsonjcc.org

Kids Night Out at the Valley of the Sun JCC: Kabuki Night

For ages 4-12. Activities: Sumo suit wrestling, calligraphy, origami; face painting; and balloon animals. Movie: "Mulan." Food: Fried rice, noodles, green tea, melon soda, green tea ice cream, and Japanese candies. 6-11 pm; overnight available with 8 am pickup at 12701 N Scottsdale Road, Scottsdale. Members \$45, nonmembers

Tesseract earns arts grant

Tesseract School in Paradise Valley recently was awarded a \$1,125 grant from the Arizona Commission on the Arts for teaching and learning opportunities in their arts program.

"We're thrilled that Tesseract School is recognized because of our arts program. Our school, students and community will greatly benefit from the awarding of this grant," said Mark Bistricky, Tesseract head of school.

The grant was awarded for the TesserACTING Tales program, which

focuses on teaching students how to adapt and dramatize written folktales for the stage.

Childplay's Dwayne Hartford, who wrote the script for The Mysterious Adventures of Edward Tulane, visited Tesseract and spent time in the third and fourth grade classroom discussing how he adapted the play from the book. The students also watched the play and worked with Dwayne to create and develop their own variations of the book. Childsplay, a nationally recognized theater company, will be returning at the end of January to do a similar project with the remainder of the lower school.

Tesseract is grateful to their Parent/Teacher Association and the Arizona Commission on the Arts for making this grant a reality. tesseractschool.org



Josh Levine follows road from band to music store to auctioneer

By Janet Arnold

Josh Levine thinks his love of the “old and unusual” may come from his father, who grew up in Brooklyn as a child of the Depression and was a master at hoarding and collecting. At one time the Levine garage was home to 27 circular saws and 35 gas cans, for example. This early exposure plus other happenings along the way made it serendipitous for Josh to land in the auction business.

Few people actually set out to become auctioneers. Josh was an accountant by education and a guitarist by trade. He

spent a lot of time on the road performing with his band (and doing their books on the side). But when he married, his wife encouraged him to give up the touring.

“We had met on the road,” Josh explained in a recent interview. “She didn’t want another groupie to catch me,” he adds with a grin.

Josh was born in New Jersey but grew up in the small town of Hosensack, PA, where it seemed they were the only family with Jewish roots. His paternal grandmother, who kept a

Josh Levine, left, and Erik Hoyer celebrate the grand opening of the new home of EJ's Auction & Consignment in January 2014. The Big Box location on the northeast corner of 59th Avenue and Bell Road in Glendale is large enough to house three live simultaneous auctions.

Photo by Cliff Gaines.



home would visit and teach the kids songs and customs. “My mother was very ecumenical,” Josh mentions. “We would celebrate all holidays with family gatherings.”

When Josh “hung up his guitar,” he took over the lease of a local music store where folks would often consign their used instruments. It was an area of both interest and familiarity to him, as his band would often get its equipment wholesale from such places. Then Josh was introduced to eBay in 1996, when the online auction site that began in 1994 was still in its infancy. His business quickly grew to include eight employees, and his inventory expanded past just musical instruments to include other vintage items.

“It was terrific. We would buy local items, particularly toys and musical instruments, and sell them on eBay. Not many people were in the game yet, so it was quite lucrative,” Josh says. But he thought there might be a better way to handle certain items. He hired an auctioneer at one point and saw that with the excitement of a live auction, he was able to get even more than he had been asking for some items.

Josh decided to follow the path to becoming a professional auctioneer. He enrolled in the Reading Area Community College Auctioneering Certificate Program, one of the several programs offered around the country to provide the skills and training needed to become an auctioneer. The RACC program covers areas such as communications, procurement and appraisal of personal items and real estate, laws and regulations, and a 60-hour practicum of “hands-on” experience in the auction business under the supervision of the college and an approved Pennsylvania Licensed Auctioneer. Josh then apprenticed for two years with auction houses in Pennsylvania to become

eligible to sit for the PA State Auctioneer Licensing Examination.

After receiving his license, he ran auctions through Pandur and Levine in Pennsylvania for three years. Then “life happened.”

Josh decided he needed a change of pace – and of scenery. He had been divorced for several years, and he and his girlfriend bought an RV (at an auction, of course!) and drove around the country. They took their time and did a little buying and selling along the road, ending up in Prescott in 2005. Josh returned to his earlier practice of buying items and then reselling them on eBay, but it’s a difficult business.

“No matter what you do, the seller thinks he should have gotten more and the buyer thinks he should have paid less,” he explains. To Josh, ethics are supremely important, and he felt the auction business was a better way to deal with the public. In an auction, the auction house works on straight commission, so the

J. Levine Auction & Appraisal: 10345 N Scottsdale Road, Scottsdale | jlevines.com | 480-496-2212
EJ’s Auction & Consignment: 5880 W Bell Road, Suite B, Glendale | ejsauction.com | 623-878-2003

sellers can be confident they will receive the best price possible for their items.

He had come to Phoenix in 2007 to handle an estate auction and started looking around. He determined there were only a handful of auction houses in the Valley, compared to nearly 500 in the Philadelphia area. He also noted that auctioneers didn't need to be licensed in Arizona and felt his Pennsylvania training and certification would help to give him credibility here.

Josh opened his first location in central Scottsdale, but with the staff and events expanding every year, he soon outgrew the facility. In 2010 he was shown his current building, once used as The Windmill Dinner Theatre, which old-timers in the Valley will remember well at Scottsdale Road and Shea. It had been turned into a nightclub and had a purple floor with

black popcorn walls. "It was a real hellhole," Josh recalls with a grin. The landlord completely refurbished the building to Josh's specifications.

The building, on the southeast corner of the busy intersection, is now a lovely facility where J. Levine Auctions are held weekly with comfortable seating for eager customers. The auction area includes a stage with a special area for employees to accept phone bids from customers around the world in real time during the auctions.

The storerooms of the auction house are filled with consigned pieces ranging from jewelry to artwork to artifacts and specialty items. Josh receives items in various ways. Oftentimes he's called in to an estate situation. "Divorce and death can bring out the worst in folks, I'm afraid," he shares. He says that sibling

Judaica Jackpot

Have Judaica appraised or just watch the fun at festive Feb. 17 event

Russia or Woolworth's? That's the kind of question you may have about that special pair of candlesticks your Bubbe told you came over with her parents from the old country (usually sewn into the hem of a skirt!). Now you have a chance to find that out – and more! Arizona Jewish Life magazine is teaming up with J. Levine Auction & Appraisal on Feb. 17 for a special appraisal fair called "Judaica Jackpot? Learn the Worth of Your Antiques."

Individuals can bring up to three items of Judaica for a free verbal assessment 5-8 pm at the Auction House at 10345 N Scottsdale Road, on the southeast corner of Scottsdale Road and Shea Boulevard.

The festive evening will include wine and appetizers as well as education tables featuring several Jewish community organizations. The appraisals will be done in an open room format for everyone to see and learn about the items. The community is invited to come and enjoy, even if you don't have an item to bring. Cindy Saltzman, publisher of Arizona Jewish Life, says that excitement is building about the inaugural event. "We're expecting to see a wide variety of items, and it will be fascinating to see which pieces will be deemed rare or historic."

Judaica in this case can be any ritual object, literature, artifact or even fine art related to the history and culture of the Jewish people. Josh Levine, owner and auctioneer of J. Levine Auction & Appraisal, says that many people don't realize the value of their family heirlooms and that the appraisal process can help them make educated decisions about whether to keep their items in a safe, insure them or sell them.

Those who wish to may consign their items to Josh for a future auction. "We're seeing a renewed interest in Judaica from collectors here in the U.S. and abroad,"

Josh says.

During the event, Josh and his team of appraisers will assess Judaica from ancient to modern times, including art, prayer books, seder plates, menorahs, candlesticks, Kiddush cups, Israeli jewelry, as well as American Jewish ephemera, such as posters and more.

"We compare items to previous auction records, gallery prices, eBay and other sites to be able to tell you what the fair market is bringing for your item, as well as what the insurance value might be. You'd be surprised at what has value, so don't ever throw anything away until an appraiser looks at it," Josh advises.

The event is free. Everyone is welcome to come and watch the fun while you nosh, but if you want items appraised, call 480-496-2212 to set an appointment for your appraisal time during the event.

Jlevines.com | azjewishlife.com



Photo by Cliff Gaines

Bubbe said these wine glasses and Kiddush cup came from Russia.

Now you can finally find out at the Feb. 17 "Judaica Jackpot? Learn the Worth of Your Antiques."

infighting or spousal animosity can make his work with estates less than pleasurable. He recalled for example the time a distant relative of a recently deceased man said, "I'd like something to remember Uncle _____ by: I'll take the four-wheeler!"

Each Thursday morning at 11 am there is an auction, open to the public. Special preview times are set aside on Wednesday evenings to get up close looks at the items. "We had been holding our auctions in the evening, but that eliminated the possibility of East Coast bids.

We've been pleased with the results of moving to morning auctions."

Many of the Thursday auctions are generic, including a range of items. Others are specialty auctions. On Feb. 26 there will be a Fine Art Auction and on March 19 there will be a Sports Memorabilia Auction, to coincide with spring training in the Valley. Other specialty areas include Native American Art on March 5, Luxury Handbag and Accessories on April 2 and Photography & Prints on April 16. You can find a full listing at jlevines.com



Josh Levine examines a painting with Kim and Adam Pace

Each Thursday morning at 11 am there is an auction, open to the public. Special preview times are set aside on Wednesday evenings to get up close looks at the items.

Josh has partnered with Erik Hoyer to open a second site in Glendale called EJ's Auction and Consignment. "It's a little more 'middle class,' a place where you can get everything from kitchenware to artwork." EJ's holds auctions every Saturday at 10 am and is open for previews 9 am-5 pm, Wednesday-Friday. It is open to the public, and Josh feels it's a great place for a first-time auction-goer to experience the fun of an auction.

The 29,000-square-foot facility has a large consignment store as well, and the partners are happy to accept consignments ranging from one item to an entire estate.

Josh touts the auction experience as "one of the oldest and most exciting ways to shop." He also sees antiques as a smart investment. "The older generation has accumulated lots of 'stuff,' and the next generation doesn't necessarily embrace that philosophy. Antiques will continue to rise in value," he explains.

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Steve Solomon captures the universal

By Janet Arnold

Delivering Chinese food in Sheepshead Bay in Brooklyn amidst a wide variety of ethnic communities, Steve Solomon discovered something that would have a great impact on his life. He found that if he simply stated “I’m delivering your Chinese food” into the intercom, folks were hesitant to open the door. But if he disguised his voice to sound like an older Chinese person, mumbling incoherent “Chinese-ish sounding words,” the doors would open freely.

That’s when Steve realized he had a gift for creating different voices. He continued to experiment – he would convince his mother he was any one of a number of his older relatives when he’d talk to her on the phone.

Now he has a slew of voices – perhaps 40-50 ranging in ages, genders and ethnicities. He uses many of them in his one-man shows as he recreates scenes from his life while acting out the parts of his parents, grandparents, aunts, uncles and cousins, as well as folks from the old neighborhood. He’s coming to the Valley Feb. 4-March 1 to perform his latest show, “Cannoli, Latkes & Guilt! the therapy continues...,” at the Herberger Theater in downtown Phoenix.

Born to a Jewish father and an Italian-Catholic mother, Steve uses his heritage as fodder for his shows.

“My father insisted I become a bar mitzvah, and my mother was fine with it,” he said in a recent phone interview. “Course the Italian side of the family kept looking at the Jewish side and saying ‘Why are you wearing those little hats and shawls? It’s not cold in here!’”

Though he always knew he could write, Steve came to performing late in life. He was a physics teacher in Brooklyn and then the assistant superintendent on Long Island. “I loved the kids – who all thought I was a loon – but when I moved to administration, I found the red tape was really overwhelming,” he says. He spent a little time doing stand-up comedy, but again found that wasn’t really what he was looking for. “I was 20 years older than most of the young comics coming up,” he admits.

He created his first show, “My Mother’s Italian, My Father’s

Jewish and I’m in Therapy,” and ran it for two years off Broadway starting in 2002. He followed up that show with “My Mother’s Italian, My Father’s Jewish and I’m STILL in Therapy,” and then used that same title plus “Home for the Holidays” for his third show. Each show has won awards, enjoyed sold-out performances and induced lots of laughter and joyful tears.

Yes, it’s true the characters are a bit stereotypical: “Hey,” Steve says, “in my neighborhood every Italian grandmother really did wear long black dresses! And every Jew gesticulated wildly with his hands. In fact, one day when my Uncle Frankie was walking down the street with his hands in his pocket, my father said ‘Look, Uncle Frankie’s become mute!’” By engaging the familiar, Steve is able to show the universality of all these characters. He’s delighted that his shows resonate with people from all backgrounds.

Several of his shows have been licensed out to different producers, so audiences don’t always see Steve himself performing. “I know I can’t be everywhere, but I insist on approving the actors and their performances,” Steve says. He makes sure to see each one perform, and he keeps up a regular dialogue with all performers

in case they need a few hints or suggestions. Each of them also comes to see Steve perform so they have a better understanding of the material. He even has an ongoing show running in South Africa, starring that country’s equivalent of Billy Crystal.

Now based in Atlanta, Steve looks forward to coming to Arizona. “The audiences are quite sophisticated there and really appreciate a good show,” he says, having played both Phoenix and Tucson in the past. After his four-week run at the Herberger Theater, he’s performing on behalf of the Invisible Theatre in Tucson for a weekend of shows at the Berger Performing Arts Center, 1200 W Speedway Blvd. on March 7 at 7:30 pm and March 8 at 3 pm.

Tickets for the Valley show at the Herberger Theater Center, 222 E Monroe in downtown Phoenix are \$43-\$53 and available at 602-252-8497. Show times vary on Wednesday-Sunday.

Tickets for the Tucson performances are \$40 and available at invisibletheatre.com.



Steve Solomon goes through the items in his parents’ attic as he shares remembrances and anecdotes in “Cannoli, Latkes & Guilt! the therapy continues.”

Photo by Grapek Photography

Paw Prints paintings help pets help kids



Trading cards for Gabriel's Angels therapy dogs have been created for the event.

By Janet Arnold

Paw Prints is the second annual event sponsored by the Young Professionals Division of Gabriel's Angels, a nonprofit that brings healing pet therapy to at-risk children. Guest artists, who are all well-known members of the community (including several from the Jewish community), have been invited to create one-of-a-kind paintings over the course of 30 days. "We gave each a canvas with our logo, which is a paw print and a handprint," says volunteer Sarah Katz, the events committee co-chair. "We didn't give them any limitations, so we're very excited to see the final products! We consider this our 'Dancing with the Stars through Artwork' event," she adds.

The art will be unveiled at 7:30 pm, Feb. 20, at the Allstate Appliance Showroom in Scottsdale. At press time there was still room for a few more artists, but early confirmations were already in for Chelsey Davis, morning traffic anchor for CBS 5; Jennifer Kaplan, owner of Evolve PR; Howler, the Arizona Coyotes mascot; Kyrsten Sinema, U.S. Congresswoman, District 9; Joe Courtney, Phoenix Suns, retired; Andy Izquierdo, VP corporate affairs, PetSmart; Kolbe Granville, Tempe City councilman; Tom Ambrose, community leader; and Phoenix City Councilwoman Thelda Williams.

Jen Kaplan is thrilled to be a part of the program. "I am such a believer in the importance of animals in our lives, especially the unconditional love they provide to kiddos. Gabriel's Angels has found a perfect way to provide love and friendship to the youth that need it the most, and they can truly show the success these relationships have on these kids as they overcome challenges," says the energetic PR maven. She acknowledges she's not an artist, but says, "It is an honor to help create something that will benefit the organization, and I get to use my creative skills. This is a unique way to bring awareness and dollars to the organization. I am excited to see what everyone else puts together, and how we can all interpret our talents into fundraising."

Sarah, whose day job is with PetSmart Charities, is spearheading the event along with Michele Shipitofsky, chief development officer of Gabriel's Angels. The chair of the Young Professionals Board is Nathan Hoffman, who co-founded the board with CEO Pam Gaber. Pam founded the charity in 2000 with the able assistance of Gabriel, her Weimaraner puppy, who served with distinction and countless tail wags as the organization's first therapy dog.

By bringing warm, loving pet therapy to at-risk children, Gabriel's Angels nurtures their emotional development and enhances the quality of their lives. The nonprofit realizes its goals by training and sending in registered therapy teams, made up of an individual and his/her companion pet, generally a dog, to engage the children to develop and improve healthy core behaviors critical to normal development.

Proceeds from Paw Prints 2015 will help Gabriel's Angels continue to serve approximately 14,000 children around Arizona. Attendees will be able to vote for their favorite painting by donating \$10 per vote or \$100 per 20 votes, with the top three paintings earning a People's Choice award. Also taking place during the event will be the Judges' Choice awards, a silent auction and raffle. Tasty human treats are provided by Mitch Katz of Arizona Catering.

Paw Prints

WHAT: A lively evening of art, wine and food with Gabriel's Angels Young Professionals Group

FUNDRAISING: Guest artists' personalized canvases will be auctioned off

WHEN: 7:30-9:30 pm, Feb. 20

WHERE: Allstate Appliance Showroom, 15250 N Hayden Road, Scottsdale

TICKETS: \$25

RSVP: 602-266-0875 or gabrielsangels.org

Putting Passion Into Action

By Melissa Hirschl

Lanny Morrison is more than just a mover and a shaker. He's a driving force at Heichal Baoranim (Temple in the Pines) in Flagstaff. With his relentless enthusiasm and vision, the 70-year-old congregant and past president of six years has made remarkable accomplishments, not only in his professional life but also in the life of the synagogue.

Arriving in the hip and artsy university town in 2006, Morrison hit the ground running and shows no sign of stopping. He still works part-time for Xerox in health policy consulting. Morrison and his wife made the move from Maryland to be near children and grandchildren and be in proximity to a university and synagogue. Finding a welcoming and spiritual home at Heichal Baoranim, Morrison has nurtured and expanded the horizons of this small Reform community that touts a commitment to meeting the needs of a wide range of religious needs as the only egalitarian synagogue in town. As a hub of outdoor recreational activities, the area was also a huge lure for his wife, Lynne Nemeth. "She loves the outdoors," says Morrison, adding she is the executive director of the Flagstaff Arboretum.

The first things Morrison tackled at the synagogue were the aesthetics of the building – the lackluster classrooms, outdated kitchen, dark wood paneling, the not-so-stellar carpeting and old chairs.

"None of these things were conducive to creating a welcoming environment, and the congregation was ready for a change," he explains. Becoming part of the board and eventually president, Morrison led Torah study, adding a new layer of depth to the evolving congregation. "My wife, who has a master's degree in vocal performance, became the cantorial soloist after members in the congregation heard her voice," he relates. "She's also been instrumental in forming the choir."

Of paramount importance was the fact the congregation had no ordained rabbi; lay people and student rabbis filled the

void. Realizing that an ordained spiritual leader would provide continuity and have a major positive impact, Morrison once again stepped up to the plate. He and the congregation engaged Rabbi Nina Perlmutter, a denizen of Prescott, to be the student rabbi. Following her graduation from the Academy for Jewish Religion California in 2009, she became the congregation's rabbi, commuting back and forth part-time between Prescott and Flagstaff.

"Lanny's been a great synagogue president, because he's a knowledgeable Jew who brings Jewish values to whatever he does," says Perlmutter. "He models *menschlichkeit* for all ages with his love of Torah study, willingness to help in ways big and small, and care for the Jewish and larger community. He's also a member of the board of directors for the Flagstaff Symphony Orchestra and has been active with the local food bank."

A strong advocate for progressive social causes, Morrison helped partner the congregation with the Northern Arizona Interfaith Council, an organization that works on social action issues such as public education funding, health care, immigration and housing. "In addition, we work with the Shared

Earth Network that focuses on environmental issues such as energy efficiency. We're kind of a blue dot in a sea of red," he jokes.

Social issues are an integral part of the temple's dynamic as well, and to that end, Morrison helped spearhead the Men's Club. The group typically meets over food and drinks to decide what projects to address. The group's first philanthropic act was to provide aid to families affected by the typhoon in Japan. The second was building up a scholarship fund at the synagogue for lower income people to attend Camp Stein. Currently the group plans to build an outdoor patio for a variety of celebrations.

"Every community needs a vibrant and honorable leader if it is to thrive and grow," says Bob Braudy, president of the Men's



Lanny Morrison
with Rabbi Nina

Congregation Heichal Baoranim: 2609 N Patterson Blvd., Flagstaff
928-527-8747 | heichalbaoranim.org

Club. "Since Lanny and Lynne arrived in Flagstaff eight years ago, Lanny has exemplified Judaism in our mountain community. As president of Heichal Baoranim for six years, he strongly advocated and improved the quality of Jewish education for children, represented our temple at interfaith meetings, increased Jewish outreach programs into the community and pushed the community to explore potential anti-Semitic incidents. My wife, Judi, and I would not be as involved in Heichal Baoranim if it were not for Lanny's efforts on behalf of Judaism."

While still absorbed in a number of temple events, Morrison did something "outside the box" last August that perplexed, surprised and mystified many congregants ... he became a bar mitzvah for a second time. "For his mitzvah project, we counted



Lanny Morrison
Photo by K.D.I.

all things Lanny has done for the temple," says Perlmutter. The after party was held at the venerable Little America, replete with a string quartet from the Flagstaff Symphony Orchestra. The impetus, according to Morrison, was a disparaging comment made to him by his rabbi at his original bar mitzvah. "He told me I had a 'mess-mitzvah,'" says Morrison. "I asked him repeatedly what he meant, but he would never tell me. He repeated the phrase until my adult years, and it always stuck with me."

Morrison related a humorous story from his son's bar mitzvah rehearsal. "While at the bimah, I literally froze. I couldn't get the words to come out," he says. "The rabbi asked me what was going on, and I explained what happened years ago with my rabbi's unkind remarks. My son's rabbi assured me he and my father-in-law would support me if I got stuck. 'All your son is going to remember is that you were up there,' he said. I got on such a roll I ended up doing 17 more lines than I was supposed to and that I never practiced. They physically had to take the yad out of my hand to give it to the next person."

While having a bar mitzvah at age 70 is certainly something to marvel at, Morrison amazed the congregants even more by upping the ante. While studying for his bar mitzvah, he decided to run for the Arizona House of Representatives in Legislative District 6. "SB1062 was the impetus. It would have promoted



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SUN, MAY 03: The Art Of Pizza Making

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SUN, JUN 14: Make A Bad Ass Delicious Burger

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SUN, JUL 12: Gourmet Sandwiches American Style

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SUN, AUG 02: Make Tasty Tacos

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SUN, SEP 20: Spanish Tapas With Love

Make traditional small plates, tapas, and antipasta.

SUN, OCT 18: The Art Of Pizza Making

Make handmade Neapolitan pizzas and sauce from scratch.

SUN, NOV 15: Make Delicious Italian Bruschettas

Make several different gourmet Bruschettas from scratch, and let your imagination run wild with your own original creation.

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discrimination based on seriously held religious beliefs, and that was the last straw for me,” says Morrison. “I faced discrimination growing up, and I wasn’t going back there.”

Morrison lost the election, but he still maintains his trademark gusto and resolve.

Before embracing Flagstaff, Morrison had what he calls a “checkered background.” A consultant in the health policy arena for many years, his first job was with the mental health department in Illinois. “My educational background includes bio statistics, epidemiology and mathematical economics,” he explains. “As a program evaluator and clinical therapist, I worked with groups such as the Peace Corps volunteers to get patients out of institutions who had been in for a very long time. Some of them had been in hospitals since Prohibition. We worked hard

A strong advocate for progressive social causes, Morrison helped partner the congregation with the Northern Arizona Interfaith Council, an organization that works on social action issues such as public education funding, health care, immigration and housing.

to get people placed in the community in apartments and with family. We built a network of community facilities and organized to establish local mental health boards to set up community mental health centers. In the new facility we built, patients were in no more than 30 days – a lot shorter than the 11 years averaged by patients leaving the institutions.”

Morrison has also taught at Northern Arizona University, worked as a strategic planner for a Fortune 500 company (Tenet Healthcare), was involved in a health policy think tank in Minnesota and worked for health-care reform advocating for the Health Maintenance Organization Act of 1973.

Morrison says of his future: “I will continue to be involved in volunteer activities, both Jewish and secular, and have not ruled out running for public office again. In addition, I will spend more time with Lynne and visiting the children and grandchildren.”

Melissa Hirschl is a Gilbert-based freelance writer and multi-media artist. She has written for a variety of publications in the Phoenix area as well as in New York.

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CHEF'S CORNER

HAPPY NEW YEAR, TREES!

Tu B'Shevat: Feb. 3-4, 2015

By Lucia Schnitzer

Photos by Matthew Strauss

We mark the day of Tu B'Shevat by eating a new fruit, or eating from the shivat haminim (seven species) of the land of Israel: wheat, barley, grapes, figs, pomegranates, olives and dates (Deut. 8:8). On this day we remember that "man is a tree of the field" (Deut. 20:19) and reflect on the lessons we can derive from our botanical analogue. As the trees move from a place of paucity to a place of abundance, so too can we move from being a receiver to being a giver.

This Tu B'Shevat invite friends and family to a pizza-making party with sample recipes cards ready for your guests to use. Have all the seven species as toppings along with other fruits, vegetables and sauces. You can also request donations so that a tree can be planted in the beautiful land of Israel (jnf.org/support/tree-planting-center). It's a fun and meaningful way to celebrate each other and the trees that give so much to all of us.



Champagne Grape Pizza

Each pizza serves 1-2 people

Dough for 4 pizzas (do ahead of time):

1½ cups all-purpose flour
1½ cups bread flour
1½ tablespoons oil
1 teaspoon salt
1 cup water
Cornmeal for rolling out dough
Pulse 1½ cups all-purpose flour, bread flour, oil, salt and water in a food processor until dough forms. Divide into four pieces. Wrap each in plastic and let rest until soft, 2-3 hours.

Toppings (for 1 pizza):

1 tablespoon black truffle oil
1 cup Karoun Labne yogurt cheese
1 cup champagne grapes or regular grapes cut in half
¼ cup gorgonzola or blue cheese crumbles

1 ounce, or ¼ cup, pine nuts
1 tablespoon fresh thyme leaves
1 tablespoon lemon zest

Assembly and Baking:

Preheat oven to 450 degrees F. Preheat pizza stone or baking sheet in oven. Sprinkle pastry sheet or large cutting board with cornmeal. Roll out the dough to roughly a 10" to 12" circle. Brush with truffle oil. Spread yogurt cheese onto pizza shell using a knife or frosting spatula. Sprinkle with champagne grapes, followed by the gorgonzola crumbles, pine nuts, thyme and lemon zest. Carefully transfer to pizza stone or baking sheet. Bake for 20-30 minutes or until pizza crust is lightly browned. Remove from oven and garnish with fresh thyme sprig (optional). Let the pizza set for 5 minutes, then slice and serve.



For Tu B'Shevat invite friends to create their own pizza. Set out all the ingredients and sample recipe cards and let them innovate.

Photo by Cindy Saltzman

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.



Fig and Goat Cheese Pizza with Pomegranate and Basil

Each pizza serves 1-2 people

Dough for 4 pizzas (use recipe given above)

Fig Jam:

- ½ tablespoon plus 1 teaspoon olive oil
- 1 tablespoon minced shallot
- 1 cup dried figs, stemmed, sliced thinly
- ½ cup Marsala
- 1 tablespoon minced fresh rosemary
- 1 cup water
- 1 teaspoon kosher salt plus more to taste
- Freshly ground black pepper

Toppings:

- 8 ounces fresh goat cheese
- ½ cup thinly sliced dried figs
- 1 pear, cored, thinly sliced
- 1 cup basil
- ⅓ cup pomegranate seeds

Making Jam:

Heat oil in a small saucepan over medium heat. Add shallot; stir until soft, about 5 minutes. Add figs, Marsala and rosemary. Increase heat, bring to a boil and add 1 cup water. Reduce heat to medium-low; simmer, stirring often. Add water by tablespoonfuls if too thick, until figs are soft and jam measures 1¼ cups, about 20 minutes. Season with salt and pepper.

Assembly and Baking:

Preheat oven to 450 degrees F. Sprinkle pastry sheet or large cutting board with cornmeal. Roll out the dough to roughly a 10" to 12" circle. Place rolled out dough onto parchment-lined pan or pizza stone. Drizzle dough with a little olive oil and rub it over the surface to coat evenly.

Spread 3-4 tablespoons fig jam over each crust; scatter 2 ounces goat cheese over each; add sliced figs and pears throughout. Bake in batches until crust is crisp, 10-20 minutes.

Add pomegranate and fresh basil, slice and serve.

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Where do JEWISH PEOPLE EAT?

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texazgrill.com

I have been coming to TexAZ Grill since the mid-1980s, but I learned something new on my last visit. The owner, Steve Freidkin, is Jewish. Maybe this article should be called “Where Do Jewish People Cook?” The answer to that is the northeast corner of 16th Street and Bethany Home Road for 30 years. Tucked into a strip mall with difficult parking (like all the good restaurants) sits a windowless local gem decorated with truckers’ hats and license plates – and reverberating to the tunes of Lyle Lovett on the jukebox. What you are going to get here is great food and great hospitality – and I guarantee at some point, someone will call you “hon.”

Folks who have lived here awhile may remember that this restaurant started out as Lone Star Steaks, and for years they quietly churned out down-home favorites to an adoring crowd. Along came a national chain with the name Lone Star in it and threatened to sue this little homegrown restaurant. Rather than fight the corporate behemoth, the hero of the story simply chose to change the name and focus on food. I can tell you, while the national chain may have repeat customers, it can’t command the loyalty of those at TexAZ Grill. It is full of diners whom the staff know by name, and who feel like they are sitting in a friend’s kitchen. Every condiment known to man, from honey to jalapeños, resides on your table. Though I have been there hundreds of times, here’s what I had over several recent visits:

Grilled Prime Rib, \$10.50 (with complimentary cala)

7-ounce smoked prime rib, sautéed mushroom gravy, Texas fried potatoes

There’s no doubt that I like my prime rib medium rare. Knowing that is hard to accomplish when prime rib is grilled, I went for it anyway and am I glad I did. The smoky, well-seasoned char on the outside made up for everything. They still managed to keep it pink, but at this point I didn’t care. The prime rib is swimming in rich, savory gravy loaded with sautéed mushrooms, all with a hint of Cabernet. The potatoes were a hot, crispy, golden-brown side dish of love. This was a special item during Sunday brunch. It came with a wonderful complimentary cala, which is similar to a beignet except calas have much more

character and texture. Made from rice, egg and sugar and formed into a ball, this fried treat was dusted in powdered sugar and served hot. As I savored this appetizer, I detected a hint of cinnamon and citrus zest in this decadently crunchy treat. Lucky me.



Brisket Sandwich, \$13.50

Sliced lean smoked brisket served on a toasted French roll topped with homemade BBQ sauce, with a pickle and onion on the side

The menu description says, “We smoke our award-winning brisket over hickory and oak wood for 14 hours so availability is limited,” and I believe it. I picked out pieces of brisket that didn’t have sauce on them, and it was handsomely smoked and tender. It is a generous sandwich, a knife-and-fork affair. The sauce is tasty, but I think next time I will order it on the side because I like the brisket so much. I want to eat half with sauce and half without, I’m sure you know what I mean. Believe it or not, what really makes this dish is the toasted roll. The crunch of the charred bread is a delightful complement to the sauce-drenched brisket.

Most entrees are served with TexAZ’s famous biscuits and a salad. Now you know what the honey is for on your table. The salads are simple but fresh teasers for what is about to come. A note to the olive adverse (like me): the salad comes smothered in olives, so ask to have them held if you are so inclined. Olive lovers, however, will rejoice!

TexAZ Grill is as rich in history as it is rich in good food. If memory serves, this strip mall also housed the beloved Aaron Scholar’s store a few doors down back in the day. There are dozens of menu items to choose from, and everything I’ve ever had was terrific. The staff know their stuff and magically combine down-home charm with efficient service. It’s a small place, and worth the wait if there’s a line. Portions are Texas-sized at reasonable prices, and its kid friendly too. Kids can color their own armadillo; where else can you do that?



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

Looking for Love

Are You in Love or in Love With Love?

By Ellen Gerst

Has your status read “single” for quite some time? Now that the new year has started, you may be ready to look for new love.

Stepping into the dating arena can reawaken senses that have remained dormant while you were without a special someone. After a long hiatus, upon connecting with a prospective partner, you start to remember what it feels like to be *in love* – or at least *in like*. And it feels great!

The object of your affection may be showering you with attention – telling you how wonderful you are and very soon professing his/her love.

It's very tempting to get caught up in this whirlwind of good feelings. However, when you're in the midst of a cyclone, your vision can become blurred. Red flags may be flying, but either you can't see them or you're ignoring them.

It feels like the sweet smell of love is in the air, and you want to breathe it in. For the first time in a long time, you allow yourself to be vulnerable to another. There's a whole lot of sharing and caring going on, and the two of you are in constant contact.

Perhaps after a few months, or it might even be weeks, the “winds” die down. Contact is a little less frequent. Affirmations of love are a little slower in coming. In general, there's a pullback.

You might wonder, “*What did I do?*” or “*When and how did things change?*” You're confused and probably a little hurt, too.

So, what happened? Well, if this was a first foray into dating after the end of a former relationship, you may have been infatuated with the idea of love versus truly loving a prospective partner.

When you're able to look past your emotions and reflect on the situation, you might come to the following conclusion. You actually *loved the way you were being loved* because this made you feel so great about yourself – and this was a way you haven't felt in a long time, romantically speaking.

When the loving interactions stopped, consider whether you really missed the other person or only the good feelings you derived by being the recipient of love and desire.

This is one of the reasons why it's important to take your time before making lifetime commitments. Chemistry is terrific, but real love takes time to develop. Budding relationships are experiments until they metamorphose into something real. Consequently, here's my best advice that I give to daters: Take It Slow – Take It Slow – Take It Slow!

Question and Answer

Q: I haven't dated in a long time, and I'm having first date anxiety. Do you have any suggestions on how to overcome this queasy feeling?

A: Two common concerns you may be harboring are: (1) you won't have enough about which to talk, or (2) your date could find you boring.

In truth, keeping a conversation going isn't as hard as starting the ball rolling. Consequently, keep in mind that a good majority

of people like to talk about themselves. So, if you're nervous, forget about being interesting. Just be interested in what your date has to say.

Although you don't want your time together to turn into a question-and-answer drill, you can still pose questions to spark conversation. Here are some sample questions to keep on hand.

What are some things that make you laugh or just go hmmm? What was the best thing about your family life when you were a young child? What is one thing about you that would surprise me? Do you have a special talent? What's your favorite movie, TV show, band, etc.? What's your favorite way to spend your free time? If you could live anywhere in the world, where would that be and why?

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.



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Panel explores community's future with young leaders

By Masada Siegel

Recognizing that the young hold the key to “The Future of our Community,” Valley Beit Midrash hosted a panel discussion with that very title in mid-December at Mozart Café in Scottsdale.

The event, one of a series of discussions coordinated by Valley Beit Midrash, was facilitated by Arizona Jewish Life Contributing Editor Leni Reiss. Panelists were Eddie Lange, the founding president of Congregation Or Tzion; Josh Werlieb, founding member of the Young Jewish Funders of Arizona; and Debbie Yunker Kail, executive director of Hillel at Arizona State University.

VBM Executive Director Rabbi Dr. Shmuly Yanklowitz explains that the mission of Valley Beit Midrash is to improve the quality of Jewish life here by facilitating conversation and collaboration and cultivating the next generation of Jewish leaders in a variety of Valley-wide programs.

“Rabbi Shmuly deserves a lot of credit for recognizing we need to rely on the younger cohort,” says Reiss. “He is trying to give them every opportunity to assume leadership. “All of the young people on the panel have assumed leadership in professional and volunteer roles.”

The panelists discussed the current state of affairs in their respective Jewish communities and focused on sharing ideas on how everyone can better understand one another's needs as well as finding ways to work together.

“People are searching for guidance, spirituality,” says Lange. “They are looking for meaningful opportunities to get involved. They want to make a difference – they want to feel their donations and money are well spent.”

“It was important for the three of us to come together with our community on the issue of college age through people in their 40s and young families, because the people represented in these age demographics are truly the future of our community,” says Kail. “If we could actually find ways to bridge these transitions – from high school to college, from college to the professional or graduate school world, and from being single to having a young family, our community will be closer knit and higher functioning.”

Bringing people together is a pathway to building a brighter tomorrow for everyone involved and is a much needed outlet to facilitate discussion and possible change.

“The young leaders in our community have not always felt heard, and this evening was another attempt to broaden our collective perspectives on what matters most in our community,” says Rabbi Shmuly. “Young Jews in our community are starving for community that will search for meaning and flourish in life.”

During his panel presentation, Werlieb spoke passionately about projects he is involved with. He talked about Moishe House, which, since its June 2013 opening, continues to connect Jewish young

Living



Panelists, from left, Eddie Lange, Debbie Yunker Kail and Josh Werlieb join moderator Leni Reiss and Rabbi Dr. Shmuly Yanklowitz at a discussion on "The Future of our Community." Photo by Masada Siegel

adults through monthly social and educational programming. "Attracting people to events is one of the keys to a vibrant Jewish community," he says. "If people get to know each other through their diverse interests," he says the community will benefit from resulting relationships.

Werlieb says one of the most important things a person can do is to be present. "Make connections. This has not been this community's strong suit, but it's easy, free and can pay huge dividends. This applies to both professionals and laypeople."

Having been involved in the local and national Jewish organizational world for many years, Reiss was encouraged by the impressive turnout for the event, but she emphasizes that creating a vibrant community for the future requires engagement and education.

"It is one thing for the Pew Study to report that 92% of American Jewry is proud to be Jewish. But the goal for all of us who care is to commit to the growth of an educated, flourishing, meaningful Jewish life," she says. Referring to American Jews who are not knowledgeable about either religion or Jewish practices, she adds, "Making inroads to that population in all age groups would make all the difference, not only locally but worldwide. That is the challenge."

Rabbi Shmuly says Valley Beit Midrash will continue to sponsor conversations that target different populations and issues. He hopes those conversations will provide both the energy and clarity to move the community forward.


"There is a lot to be optimistic about," says Rabbi Shmuly. "Together we can make Greater Phoenix the strongest Jewish community in the country."

What's Cooking in Your Genes?

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GUEST SPEAKER: Rabbi Aaron Melman

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Ina Levine Jewish Community Campus



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Diseases Center*
of Greater Phoenix

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jewishgeneticsphx.org
Or call 480-668-3347

1 **KNOWLEDGEABLE VISITOR** – Alon Ben David visited the Valley of the Sun Jewish Community Center on Dec. 22 to share his insights with more than 300 Valley residents. David is a nationally known journalist who frequently lectures throughout the world, specializing in defense and military issues. He is currently senior defense correspondent for Israel Channel 10 and a contributor to several international publications.



FROM LEFT: MICKEY LANDKOFF
SHAHAR EDRY, ALON BEN DAVID

1

2 **ELEGANT EVENT** - Barry Briskman, shown with his 1931 LaSalle, served as a judge at the annual Arizona Concours D'Elegance car show on the grounds of the Arizona Biltmore Hotel. Funds realized at the event are earmarked for the Make-A-Wish Foundation. Photo by Leni Reiss



ALON BEN DAVID



2



4

3 COHON HONOREES – Temple Emanu-El in Tucson presented the 2014 Cohon Memorial Foundation Awards Jan. 9 to two inspirational leaders. Emanu-El Rabbi Samuel M. Cohon presents the award to Rabbi Benji Levene. Rabbi Cohon and his father, Rabbi Baruch J. Cohon, pose with Jonathan Ornstein as he displays his award. Established by their children and grandchildren, the Rabbi Samuel S. and A. Irma Cohon Foundation presents awards to individuals for accomplishments that benefit klal yisroel – the entire Jewish people. Rabbi Levene is the vice president and educational director of Geshet, which brings religious and secular Israelis together in a common cause. His one-man show “The Four Faces of Israel” transforms the theater into a safe place for discussion and healing. He eases his audience into seeing beyond stereotypes to build mutual respect and unity between Jews. Ornstein is the founding executive director of the Jewish Community Center of Krakow, Poland. His open, pluralistic JCC welcomes everyone, regardless of mixed parentage or local politics and provides them with courses in Judaism, Hebrew and a host of secular and religious subjects, as well as weekly Shabbat dinners with guests joining them from all over the world. Photos by Joe Steiner



3



4

4 FIDDLER'S DETOUR – The Detour Theatre Co. presented “Fiddler on the Roof Jr.” at the Scottsdale Center for the Performing Arts Jan. 2-4. Pictured (from left): Christopher Forrest (Fiddler) interacts with Steve Schwartz (Tevye); and Rebecca Abele-Dibiase (Hodel) dances with Kelly Janssen (Chava). Detour produces two full musical productions each year, providing opportunities to adults with developmental and other challenges. The actors work with volunteer coaches in addition to their director, and rehearse for several months. For Fiddler they learned about Jewish tradition along with their lines and songs. Their four performances brought in more than 1,000 patrons. Copyright Christine Keith/Detour Company Theatre. detourcompanytheatre.org

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Celebrate 51st Anniversary of liberation of Czech Torahs

The Arizona Jewish Historical Society will commemorate the 51st anniversary of more than 1,400 Torah scrolls that were rediscovered in a warehouse in Prague in 1964. The scrolls had been placed in the warehouse for safe keeping in 1942 but were captured by the Nazis in 1944. Many were restored by a sofer (scribe) in Britain after their recovery.



More than 1,000 scrolls are now in the United States, with 22 in Arizona. Congregations and organizations from Sierra Vista to Sedona have been invited to bring their Czech Torah for display.

Led by Rabbi Barton Lee, Hillel ASU rabbi emeritus, the commemoration begins at 7 pm, Feb. 9 at the Cutler-Plotkin Jewish Heritage Center, 122 E Culver St., Phoenix. Distinguished guests include Jeffrey Ohrenstein, CEO of Westminster Synagogue and the Memorial Scroll Trust in London; Michael Heppner, trust research director (2005-2010), London; Elaine Page, trust associate Toronto, Canada; Susan Boyer, US director of the trust, Los Angeles; and Lee Shedroff, of the trust in Phoenix.

A workshop led by Michael Heppner from 1 to 5 pm that day will trace the origins of the scrolls, their age, the original scribe, the synagogues and the people of those synagogues who were lost to the Holocaust.

Free, but reservations required: 602-241-7870 | lbell@azjhs.org.

Wisdom of Jewish Tucson

The Wisdom of Jewish Tucson is a three-week adult education program designed to provide opportunities for local members of the Jewish community to share their "passion and purpose as Jews." Sponsored

by Congregation Anshei Israel, the program meets 7-9:30 pm, Feb. 4, 11 and 18 at CAI, 5550 E Fifth St., Tucson. Each session begins with a keynote speaker, followed by two, one-hour classes.

The keynote speakers are Dr. Sharon Megdel, from the University of Arizona Water Resources Research Center; Boris Kozolchyk, an attorney and international banking expert; and Barbara Levy, an arts development director.

Participants can choose from a variety of classes to round out the evening. Topics range from Torah study to Jews in sports and most things in between.

Cost is \$18 plus a monetary donation for the Community Food Bank.

Register: 520-745-5550 | caiaz.org.

Greater Phoenix Jewish Film Festival in its 19th year

The Centerpiece Event of the Greater Phoenix Jewish Film Festival – the honoring of Theodore Bikel – sold out in record time.

"We are looking forward to honoring Theo with the Festival's first Lifetime Artistic Achievement Award and to welcome Scottsdale Mayor Jim Lane who will proclaim 'Theodore Bikel Day,'" says GPJFF's Executive Director Bob Segelbaum.

While the Feb. 15 event is sold out, the festival offers many diverse and exciting films during its run Feb. 8-22. Films are offered at three Harkins Theatre locations in Scottsdale, Peoria and Chandler. Ranging from comedies to dramas to documentaries, the films come from a variety of countries; foreign language films are sub-titled.

In light of the recent events in France, of particular interest may be the French film "24 Days," based on the 2006 kidnapping of Ilan Halimi, billed as a gripping and shocking tale of modern-day anti-Semitism. All 13 films, times, locations and tickets are available at gpjff.org.

Metro Y to honor Dana Wolfe Naimark and Shelley Cohn

Dana Wolfe Naimark and Shelley Cohn are among the 10 honorees this year at the Metropolitan Phoenix YWCA 2015 Tribute

to Leadership at 6 pm, Feb. 14, at the Ritz-Carlton in Phoenix. Both have been



Dana Wolfe Naimark

heavily involved in the general and Jewish communities for many years. Dana is president and CEO of Children's Action Alliance. Through her involvement in community development,

children's health care, Head Start and Child Protective Services, Dana has built consensus and coalitions to create smarter strategies and develop strong leadership, sustained commitment and real resources. Dana is one of the founders of Or Adam Congregation for Humanistic Judaism. Dana is being recognized for her work in advocacy.

Shelley served as executive director of the Arizona Commission on the Arts for 20 years. After "retiring" she finds herself busy with a number of nonprofit boards, including Childsplay, Desert Botanical Garden, Arizona Community Foundation and the Flinn Foundation. She has also served on the boards of Hillel and the Jewish Federation of Greater Phoenix. Shelley recently consulted on a Jewish Community Association mandate on Jewish Cultural Arts. She is being honored in the category of community service nonprofit.

This 21st annual event honoring top leadership in the community is "Black Tie and Valentine Red" optional. Tickets are \$350 and include dinner and dancing. ywcaaz.org

Luncheon benefits Jewish Genetic Diseases Center

What's Cooking in Your Genes?, this year's fundraising luncheon for the Jewish Genetic Diseases Center, brings in a new twist on Feb. 25. Chef Craig Leeser, Arizona Catering's chef for seven years, will demonstrate a dish that will be featured on the lunch menu – and it promises to become one of your favorites. Having worked in the culinary industry since he was



Shelley Cohn

15, Chef Leeser trained at the Scottsdale Culinary Institute.

Keynote speaker will be Rabbi Aaron Melman from Northbrook, IL. Rabbi Melman is a board member of the Chicago Center for Jewish Genetic Disorders. He is also the creator of "Jewish Genetics Shabbat," a program that provides rabbis with resources, print materials and even sermon suggestions to encourage discussion within congregations about genetic diseases and testing. According to JUF News of Chicago, both Rabbi Melman and his wife are carriers of the mutation for Tay-Sachs disease. They learned of their carrier status through a community screening program, and were able to make informed decisions. Today they are the parents of two nonaffected children.

The Jewish Genetic Diseases Center of Greater Phoenix raises awareness regarding 18 genetic diseases that disproportionately affect the Ashkenazic population and also provides affordable carrier testing through screening events twice a year.

Michele Abrams and Gail Glazer chair the lunch set for 11 am-1 pm at the Ina Levine Jewish Community Campus. Dietary laws observed. In keeping with the theme of genes/jeans, attendees are asked to dress casually and bring gently used jeans to donate to Jewish Family and Children's Services. Tickets are \$46, double the 23 chromosome pairs that store the human genome.
RSVP: 480-668-3347 | jewishgeneticsphx.org

Limmud comes to Phoenix Feb. 8

Limmud – a day of learning – is coming to the Phoenix area for the first time on Feb. 8.

Based on a national program, Limmud AZ promises to "take you one step further on your Jewish journey." The 9 am-5 pm program at the ASU Conference Center in the Memorial Union Building offers speakers on a wide range of topics to reflect the wide spectrum of thinking and beliefs within the Jewish community itself.

Limmud is an all-volunteer run program; local organizers are Sandy Adler, Suzanne Swift and Rabbi Elana Kanter. "It's a conference 'of the community, by the community and for the community,'" Rabbi Kanter says.

Cost for the day is \$25-\$50 depending on age, which includes a kosher lunch.

limmudaz.org

Feb. 7 talk looks at therapeutic uses of medical marijuana

The Secular Humanist Jewish Circle will present a lecture and discussion about the therapeutic uses of medical marijuana 1:30-4 pm, Feb. 7 at the Murphy-Wilmot Library,



Glenn Ozalan

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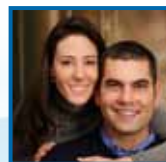
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Table Captain Co-Chairs: Jaime & Jeff Stern

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530 N Wilmot Road in Tucson.

Dr. Glenn Ozalan, who is a naturopathic physician and medical director of the Catalina Hills Dispensary, will discuss some of the practical and positive uses of medical marijuana.

Refreshments will be served. Participants are asked to bring a snack to share and a cash donation for the Community Food Bank.

Free, but RSVP by Feb. 4: Becky, 520-296-3762, schulmb@aol.com | Susan, 520-577-7718, srubinaz@comcast.net.

Arizona MusicFest: 15 concerts Jan. 29-March 5

Arizona Musicfest Executive Director Allan Naplan says concerts from Jan. 29 to March 5 feature top artists of classical, chamber, jazz, rock and roll, country, bluegrass and pop. The 2015 festival offers 15 concerts at venues in Scottsdale and Phoenix.



Orion Weiss

Highlights of this musical experience, regarded as “America’s premier winter music festival,” include performances by two of the world’s leading Jewish concert pianists, Orli Shaham and Orion Weiss.



Orli Shaham

Arizona Musicfest returns to Temple Chai (4645 E Marilyn Road in north Phoenix) for one concert featuring the Israeli-American pianist Orli Shaham. Orli’s Arizona Musicfest debut begins at 7:30 pm, Feb. 17, and features a repertoire by Bach, Brahms and a new work by Israeli composer Avner Dorman.

Orion Weiss will be showcased as concerto soloist with the acclaimed Arizona Musicfest Festival Orchestra in Beethoven’s “Emperor” Piano Concerto. The Festival Orchestra – which is comprised of players from some of the nation’s finest orchestras – performs this work as part of Festival Orchestra Week concert #2, titled “Beethoven, Bach and The Blue Danube” on Feb. 26 at 7:30 pm at Pinnacle Presbyterian Church, 25150 N Pima Road in Scottsdale.

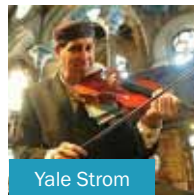
The festival headliner is Grammy-award winner Roseanne Cash. She’ll be performing songs from her latest hit album, “The River and the Thread” on Feb. 20 at 7:30 pm at Highlands Church, 9050 E Pinnacle Peak Road in Scottsdale. azmusicfest.org

Statewide Holocaust Conference for Educators

The 2015 Carolyn and Herb Nathan Educators Conference on the Holocaust will be 7:45 am-3:30 pm, March 2, at the Ina Levine Jewish Community Campus, 12701 N Scottsdale Road, Scottsdale.

Sessions range from stories from survivors and children of survivors to methodology in teaching the Holocaust to children and teens. The conference is sponsored by the Phoenix Bureau of Jewish Education, the Holocaust Survivors Association and Generations After and several other partners. Hundreds of educators from throughout the state are expected to attend.

The keynote speaker during lunch is Yale Strom. A violinist, composer, filmmaker, writer, photographer and playwright, Yale was a pioneer among revivalists in conducting extensive field research in



Yale Strom

Central and Eastern Europe and the Balkans among the Jewish and Roma communities since 1981. Through 75 research expeditions, Yale has become one of the world’s leading scholars, ethnographers and artists of klezmer music, history and culture.

Teachers can receive up to 6 hours of continuing education credit. Cost is \$68; \$35/college students. Register by Feb. 20: 480-634-8050 | jewished@bjephoenix.org

Yale will also perform at 7:30 pm, March 2 at the same location, sponsored by Generations After, the organization of children and grandchildren of Holocaust survivors. Free, but \$5 donation suggested. 480-792-6736 | Phx2G3G@gmail.com

Trace your family roots

Tracing your family’s roots has become significantly easier with the internet. “What used to take hours, months or even years, is now often available with a few clicks,” says Emily Garber, who will teach two classes in Jewish genealogy through the Life and Learning Classes of the Bureau of Jewish Education in Scottsdale.

“It’s not true that all records from Eastern Europe have been destroyed or lost,” Emily says. “Poland and Austria, for example, still have files that can be accessed. And after the fall of the Soviet Union, some of those records became available.” Emily has visited the Ukraine and traced her family back to about 1820. “I discovered my great-grandmother’s sister’s death notice from the Austrian empire, and even the birth record of her daughter,” she says.

The four-week classes begin Feb. 18 at the Ina Levine Jewish Community Campus. Jewish Genealogy 101 (9:30-10:30 am) will introduce “the issues, challenges and pleasures of not only building one’s family tree, but also collecting the family stories that help make us who we are.” Take it Online: Jewish Genealogy in Your Jammies! (11 am-noon) will explore best strategies for finding sources and websites.

Emily also chairs the Jewish genealogy group of the Arizona Jewish Historical Society (azjhs.org), which meets monthly.

Each class is \$56. They can be taken separately or in tandem; one complements the other. Sign up: bjephoenix.org.

Sign up now for free summer Birthright trip

Fun and sun seeking Phoenix young adults can get the most out of their free Taglit-Birthright Israel trip with a dynamic community bus. This free Phoenix Community Trip for those 18-26 who have never been on a peer trip to Israel departs from Los Angeles on July 12.

The trip features the classic experiences including Jerusalem's Old City and the Western Wall, Masada at sunrise, the Dead Sea, a desert camel ride, a kibbutz visit, Yad Vashem Holocaust Memorial, mystical Tsfat, unbeatable nightlife, Tel Aviv's sun-drenched Mediterranean beaches ... and everything in between.

For more information, contact Israel Center Director Shahar Edry at Shahare@vosjcc.org.

Register at birthrightisrael.com/visitingisrael/Pages/Kenes-Tours.aspx.

Journalist Masha Gessen speaks in Tucson

Russian-American journalist and author Masha Gessen is the featured speaker at three major events in Tucson Feb. 2. Known as a chronicler for the voiceless, she is an outspoken critic of Vladimir Putin and a supporter of LGBT rights around the world.

"A Day with Masha Gessen" includes a luncheon, afternoon discussion and an evening lecture.

The day kicks off with an innovative "Book Read and Author Luncheon," 11:30 am-1 pm at the Tucson Jewish Community Center, 3800 E River Road. The book selection is Ester and Ruzya: How My Grandmothers Survived Hitler's War and Stalin's Peace. Masha will discuss how her two Jewish grandmothers survived in Russia. She will sign books after lunch. Tickets are \$20. Reservations required: jfsa.org/masha-gessen or 577-9393, ext. 121.

The two additional presentations are free and no reservations are required. Masha will discuss "What is it about the gays?" at 4 pm at the University of Arizona Hillel Foundation, 1245 E Second St. Book selection is Words Will Break Cement: the Passion of Pussy Riot.

"Putin's war against the West" will be Masha's topic at 7 pm at the Tucson JCC. Book selection is The Man Without a Face: the Unlikely Rise of Vladimir Putin.

Book signings will follow each program. The events are presented by the Jewish Federation of Southern Arizona's LGBT Jewish Inclusion Project and The Arizona Center for Judaic Studies, along with community partners.

Information: Sharon Glassberg at 520-577-9393, ext.128 | sglassberg@jfsa.org.

Feb. 2

[Masha Gessen](#), known as a chronicler for the voiceless, will speak on topics of global importance at three major events in Tucson throughout the day. See page 61

Feb. 4

[Tu B'Shevat](#) is the New Year of the Trees, celebrating the first beginnings of spring. Plant a tree!

[The Wisdom of Jewish Tucson](#) is a three-week class that starts today at Congregation Anshei Israel. See page 58

[Scottsdale K kosher Restaurant Tour](#) starts at 9:15 am at the VOS JCC, 12701 N Scottsdale Road. Board Ollie the Trolley for a taste-treat delight at kosher restaurants in the area. Led by Michael Ross. \$72. RSVP to 480-483-7121, ext. 1213, or harrieto@vosjcc.org

Feb. 4-March 1

[Cannoli, Latkes & GUILT!](#) with Steve Solomon, plays at the Herberger Theater. See page 44

Feb. 7

[Therapeutic Uses of Medical Marijuana](#), talk in Tucson. See page 59

Feb. 8

[Limmud](#), a day of learning, celebrating Jewish life and study. 9 am-5 pm at ASU Memorial Union Building in Tempe. See page 59

[The Phoenix Effect](#), a documentary about children of Holocaust survivors. Edith Hirshtal, co-creative collaborator on this film, will discuss. 2 pm at the Ina Levine Jewish Community Campus, 12701 N Scottsdale Road, Scottsdale. \$10 if paid by Feb. 2 or \$12 at the door. Sponsored by Generations After. 480-792-6736, Phx2G3G@gmail.com

[Chabad Lubavitch 38th Anniversary Dinner](#) honoring Lisa and Jeffrey Geysler at 5 pm at Chaparral Suites Resort, 5001 N Scottsdale Road, Scottsdale.

Entertainment and silent auction. Black tie optional. \$250. RSVP: chabadaz.com

[FDR and the Saving of the Jews of Europe](#), a talk by Rafael Medoff, PhD, part of the Passages Lecture Series presented by the Bureau of Jewish Education. 7:30 pm at Congregation Or Tzion, 6140 E Thunderbird Road, Scottsdale. \$18. 480-634-8050, bjephoenix.org

Feb. 8-22

[Greater Phoenix Jewish Film Festival](#) presented at three Harkins Theatres around the Valley: Scottsdale, Peoria and Chandler. See page 58

Feb. 9

[Concerts and Conversations](#) final performance includes Lan Qiu, violinist with the Phoenix Symphony, and violinist Joy Pan. Presented by Brandeis National Committee-Phoenix Chapter at 12:30 pm at Palo Cristi Church, 3535 E Lincoln Dr., Paradise Valley. \$5. 602-971-0012, brandeisphoenix.com

[Czech Torahs 51st Liberation Anniversary Celebration](#). See page 58

[Finding G-d in Hawaii](#) is the topic of the talk by Allison Josephs, author of the blog JewintheCity.com. Presented by Phoenix Community Kollel at 7 pm at Chaparral Suites, 5001 N Scottsdale Road. For women only. \$10. RSVP: clandesman@aztorah.com

Feb. 10

[Together: A Community Event with Abraham Infeld](#). 7 pm at the Tucson JCC, 3800 E River Road. One of the most compelling teachers and leaders in the Jewish world today. Sponsored by Jewish Federation of Southern Arizona. Free, but RSVP required by Feb. 6: 520-577-9393 or jfsa.org

[Keyboard Conversations](#). Jeffrey Siegel plays and discusses: Torment and Triumph: Franz Liszt, Satan or Saint? Back for his 36th season. 7:30 pm at Scottsdale Center for the Performing Arts, 7380 E Second St., Scottsdale.

\$29-49. 480-499-8587 or scottsdaleperformingarts.org

Feb. 12

[Tikkun Olam Bus tour for Valley teens](#). See page 31

Feb. 13

[Shabbat celebration](#) followed by dialogue with Prof. Bob Fine: "On Doing Secularism in the Service of Human Dignity." Or Adam Congregation for Humanistic Judaism at 7 pm at the Cutler-Plotkin Jewish Heritage Center, 122 E Culver St., Phoenix. oradam.org

Feb. 15

[Artist's reception for L'Chayim, to Life!](#) Mixed media artwork by Lisa Mishler. Symbolic, abstract paintings retrace the journey taken by Lisa's parents, both Holocaust survivors. 2-4 pm at the Tucson JCC, 3800 E River Road, Tucson. Exhibit continues through March 24. tucsonjcc.org

[The Heartbeat of Israel](#) a talk by Leonard Hammer, PhD, the Andrea and David Stein Visiting Professor in Modern Israel Studies at The Arizona Center for Judaic Studies. 7 pm at the Tucson JCC, 3800 E River Road. This year's Gertrude and Fred Rosen Memorial Lecture. Sponsored by the Jewish Federation of Southern Arizona and the Weintraub Israel Center. Free. jfsa.org, 520-577-9393, israelcenter@jfsa.org

[Mah Jongg Tournament](#) sponsored by Hadassah-Southern Arizona beginning at 9:30 am at the Skyline Country Club, 5200 E St. Andrews Dr., Tucson. \$40 entry fee includes lunch, cash prizes. Also a silent auction. Proceeds to Hadassah Hospital in Israel. RSVP to Phyllis Harris: 520-797-5519 or montague1@comcast.net.

Feb. 17

[Judaica Jackpot!](#) Bring in your Judaica heirlooms and treasures for free appraisals! Arizona Jewish Life partners with J. Levine Auction & Appraisal, 5-8 pm, 10345 N Scottsdale Road in Scottsdale. Call 480-496-2212 for appraisal reservation; all welcome to observe and nosh. See page 40

[Arizona MusicFest](#) returns to Temple Chai for concert. See page 60

Feb. 18

[Jewish Genealogy](#) classes begin in Scottsdale. See page 60

Feb. 19

[Hamentashen Bakeoff](#) sponsored by Chabad of the East Valley Jewish Women's Circle. 7:30 pm at 875 N McClintock Dr., Chandler. \$15. RSVP to Rachel: 480-855-4333 or rywelder@gmail.com

[Young Jewish Phoenix Happy Hour](#). 6-8 pm. YJP is a project of the Jewish Federation of Greater Phoenix engaging Jewish young adults in their 20s-40s. Happy Hours will be on the third Thursday of each month at varying locations. For location email info@youngjewishphoenix.org

[Celebrating Israel](#) at the Valley of the Sun JCC with both the Jewish and Christian communities. Sponsored by the Israel Center of Greater Phoenix. 7 pm at the VOS JCC, 12701 N Scottsdale Road, Scottsdale. Free, but registration requested: Jewish-Phoenix.org

Feb. 20

[Desert Foothills Jewish Community Association](#) offers services and a presentation by Deborah Robin entitled "The Stein's Collect." Gertrude and Leo Stein moved to Paris and collected and promoted avant-garde modern art. 7:30 pm. First attendance is free; membership is \$60 per year. Call to find north Scottsdale location: Arlene, 480-585-4437, dfjca.org

[Paw Prints](#), fundraiser for Gabriel's Angels in Scottsdale. See page 45

Feb. 20-22

"Guys and Dolls," the iconic Frank Loesser musical, is presented by Theater League at the Orpheum Theatre, 203 W Adams St. in downtown Phoenix. Friday at 8 pm, Saturday at 2 and 8 pm, Sunday at 2 and 7 pm. Prices vary. 602-262-7272, theaterleague.com

Feb. 22

[Pardes Jewish Day School](#) dedicates its newly renovated campus at 1 pm at 12753 N Scottsdale Road, Scottsdale. The dedication is open to the entire community and will feature brief remarks, food and entertainment. Bring the family. 480-991-9141, pardesschool.org

Feb. 24

[Maggie Anton](#), award-winning author of the Rashi's Daughters series, will be speaking about her latest book, *Enchantress*. Sponsored by Devorah Chapter of Hadassah. 7 pm at the Village at Ocotillo Theater, 990 W Ocotillo Road, Chandler. Free to members; \$5 for non-members. 480-318-7568, hadassah.evinform@cox.net

[From Church to Chulent: Michele Sankar's Journey](#) from Roman Catholicism to Judaism. 7 pm at Pollack Chabad Center for Jewish Life, 875 N McClintock Dr., Chandler. Free. RSVP: 480-855-4333 or info@chabadcenter.com

Feb. 25

[What's Cooking in Your Genes?](#) See page 58

[Joshua Bell](#), internationally recognized violinist, performs at 7:30 pm at the Mesa Arts Center, 1 E Main St., Mesa. \$40-70. 480-644-6500, mesaartscenter.com

Feb. 27

[JFCS Brighter Tomorrow luncheon](#). See page 38

March 1

[Rural Street Klezmer Band](#) plays at 2 pm at Beth Emeth Congregation, 13702 W Meeker Blvd., Sun City West. Includes hors d'oeuvres. Groups (10 plus people) \$18 per person prepaid; \$20 per person prepaid; or \$25 at door. RSVP required by Feb. 25: 623-584-7210

[High Tea and Fashion Show](#) presented by Temple Havurat Emet. Fashions by Draper's and Damon's. 3:30 pm at the Arizona Room of the Sun Lakes Country Club, 25425 N Sunlakes Blvd., Chandler. \$25. Includes finger sandwiches and desserts, plus door prizes and raffle. Contact Margo: 480-895-3226

[Jewish Women's Renaissance Project](#) is sponsoring a second trip to Israel. See page 34

March 2

[2015 Educator's Conference on the Holocaust](#). See page 60

[Klezmer: The Soundtrack of the Jewish People](#) with world-renowned Klezmer expert Yale Strom. A memorable evening of music at 7 pm at the Ina Levine Jewish Community Campus, 12701 N Scottsdale Road, Scottsdale. \$5 suggested donation at the door. Phx2G3G@gmail.com, 480-792-6736

EVENT LISTINGS:

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

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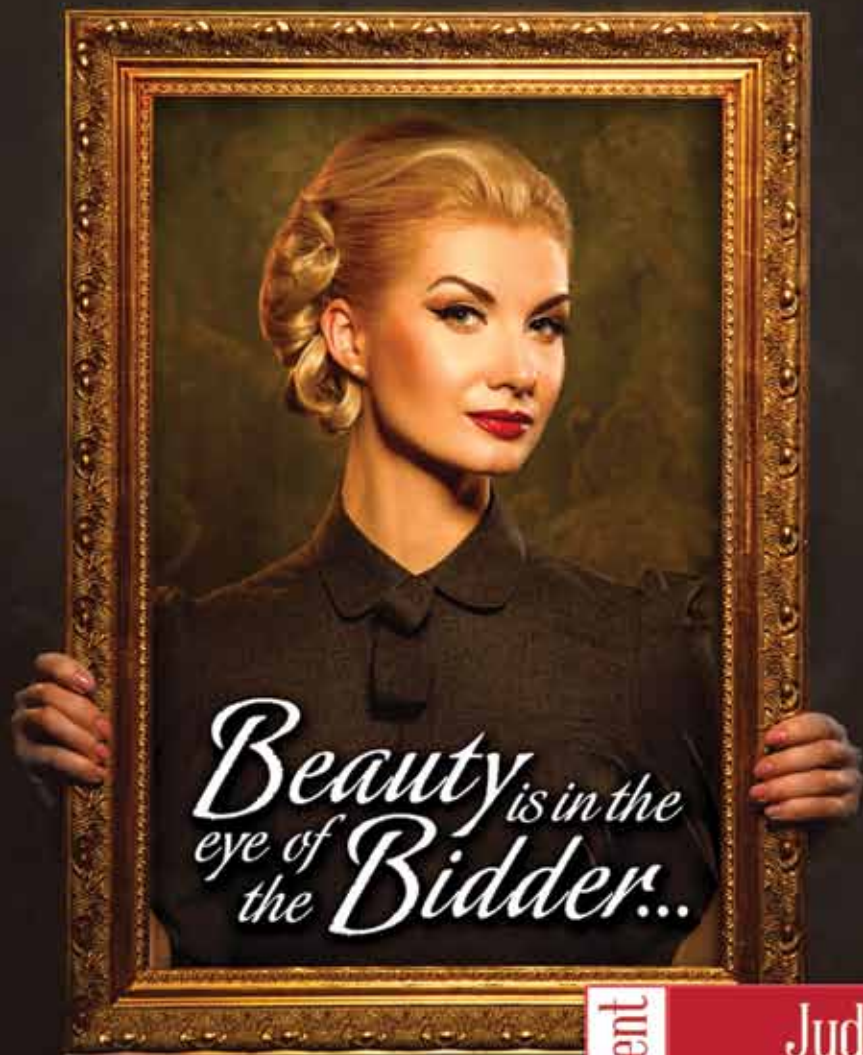


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Reservations are requested

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