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A LEGEND IN THE MAKING

Poised to be one of Arizona's premiere attractions, OdySea Aquarium breaks ground this summer. Slated to open winter 2015, it will outshine other aquariums in the United States and will set a new standard for how aquariums are designed. Incorporating theme-park technology, OdySea will be a "Sea World meets Disneyland" experience. With 200,000 square feet built over 16 acres of land, the aquarium will hold over 2 million gallons of water. It will join Butterfly Wonderland and Odysea Mirror Maze as the third destination attraction of the entertainment complex, OdySea in the Desert.

"The OdySea Aquarium in Scottsdale will offer the very latest in technology and will have a futuristic entertainment component that goes far beyond delivering a standard aquarium experience. We are hopeful that visitors from across the country will want to add this to their 'must do' Arizona itinerary," said Amram Knishinsky, lead developer for the project.

UNIQUE EXPERIENCES

From giant aquarium balls filled with sea life that will hang from the ceiling lobby, to the acrylic wall in the restrooms with a view into the shark tank, acrylic tunnels that will take visitors to exhibits, and a 3D theater, touch tanks, and more! One of the unparalleled features will be the SeaTREK experience. Walk along the "ocean floor" inside one of the largest fish tanks on the premises.

INNOVATIVE EXHIBITS

Visitors to the OdySea Aquarium will embark on a journey exploring some of the most fascinating animals of rivers and oceans in the world. Interactive experiences will include Rivers of the World, American Rivers, Amazon Rivers, Shores, Penguin Encounter featuring a penguin parade, the Great Barrier Reef and "the Bizarre & the Beautiful," including jellyfish, octopus, large king crabs and seahorses.

EXPERIENCED MANAGEMENT TEAM

Knishinsky and Martin Pollack are the development and management team behind the hugely successful Butterfly Wonderland and Odysea Mirror Maze/Laser Maze attractions that opened 2013. They were also responsible for the Newport Aquarium in Kentucky that Newsweek and Zagat named the "#4 Best Aquarium in the country," and the OdySea Experience, a highly acclaimed marine-related facility in Mohegan Sun, CT.

INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES

This is a rare opportunity to help build something historic in Arizona. OdySea Aquarium is expected to not only be an attractive financial vehicle but also a meaningful investment in the cultural and economic development of our city and state. For more information on how to become an investor, visit the new Odysea Aquarium Visitor Center (located adjacent to Butterfly Wonderland in Scottsdale) or call (480) 313-8837.

OdySea Aquarium will be located at Via De Ventura and the 101 in Scottsdale at the Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community.



An Oceanic Adventure

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COVER PHOTO: The Geyser Family at the Four Seasons Resort Scottsdale at Troon North.

Photo by Matthew Strauss

Pardes Jewish Day School thanks Arizona Jewish Life magazine for donating the cover of their Staycation issue and helping us raise important dollars for our school. The money raised from the Gala will benefit each and every student. We appreciate your generosity in giving back to the community.

Tami Adelman, Director of Development, Pardes Jewish Day School

Reader's letters

Dear Editor:

Thank you so much for the wonderful article that Leni Reiss wrote about Arizona BookPALS for your May edition of Arizona Jewish Life. I am honored that our literacy program is featured in such a meaningful publication.

It is the first time I have seen your magazine and I love it. There are so many articles of interest. I will be a loyal reader from this time forward.

If any of your readers want to volunteer, they can contact me at 602-750-2923 or edean@bookpals.net.

Ellen Dean

Phoenix

Dear Editor:

In the 1930s, thousands of Jewish professors were kicked out of German universities because they were Jews. Shamefully, today in the United States, Jewish professors are threatened with being thrown out of scholarly conferences, prevented from publishing in scholarly journals and denied research or employment opportunities, simply because they are citizens of the Jewish state.

More than 1,000 scholars on more than 300 U.S. college and university campuses have endorsed an academic boycott of Israel.

The anti-Israel Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions campaign is pure anti-Semitism masquerading in the cloak of academic legitimacy. It was established in response to a call by Palestinian organizations, including terrorist organizations Hamas and the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, to facilitate the elimination of Israel.

The American Studies Association's recent adoption of a resolution boycotting Israeli universities and scholars has been subjected to scathing criticism by several prominent academic associations – including more than 250 university presidents, hundreds of state and federal legislators, and virtually every mainstream Jewish organization. Still, too many professors continue to promote the boycott of Israeli professors, advance lies and

distortions about Israel, and advocate the elimination of the Jewish state. Faculty members' unbridled use of the university for promoting the boycott of Israel has had dangerous consequences:

- Corruption of the academic mission of the university: The political nature of the campaign to promote a boycott of Israel damages the educational endeavor that is at the heart of a university. When the focus is political advocacy, the quality of teaching and research is severely compromised.
- Creation of a hostile environment for Jewish students: Professors who promote campaigns to harm or dismantle Israel and who encourage students to do the same, contribute to the creation of a hostile environment for many Jewish students.
- Giving academic legitimacy to global campaigns to harm Israel: American colleges have become a critical front in the war being waged against the Jewish state. The language and imagery used to demonize Israel and portray it as worthy of destruction... (has) caused significant harm to Israel's reputation.

The problem worsens with each campus-based boycott effort that goes unchallenged. Pressure must be brought from outside of the university. Information about faculty members who endorse BDS should be published and circulated widely. Then, students, prospective students, alumni, parents, donors and taxpayers should express outrage at the university's collusion with an anti-Semitic campaign.

When the behavior violates state or Federal law, legal action may prove effective.

Legislation that would withhold public monies from universities that engage in anti-Israel boycotts has been proposed in five states and in the U.S. Congress. Such legislation could go a long way towards curbing the behavior of academic boycotters.

Boycotts of Israeli universities and scholars are the newest expressions of anti-Semitism. We must commit to fight on every campus where the anti-Semitic boycott rears its ugly head.

Tammi Rossman-Benjamin, co-founder of AMCHA Initiative, a nonprofit organization that combats anti-Semitism on college campuses across the United States



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Editor's Letter



As we head into the lazy days of summer, Arizona Jewish Life features a variety of activities and fun places to keep you entertained. Our combined June/July issue offers staycation and summer fun suggestions to keep you busy this summer.

We look at several resorts around the state that make taking a vacation close to home a real adventure. And there are plenty of destinations near those resorts that make the short journey worth your time.

Did you know that 38 million people visited Arizona in 2012? Do they know something you don't? Sometimes we forget to look in our own backyards for exciting adventures. If you think adventure requires a long plane ride, think again. And read our staycation stories for ideas for fun close to home.

And after you've staycated and relaxed your way through the summer, our August Resource Guide will be just the thing to get you connected with all the organizations, congregations and businesses you need for a productive and meaningful new year.

But before we move on to a new year, this June/July issue of Arizona Jewish Life has all our normal features. We talk to seniors who have beaten the odds and gone on to lead remarkable lives, couples who find commonality across diverse backgrounds, youth leaders finding ways to engage teens and youth who have re-explored the concept of the Ten Commandments. And while border issues divide some, Arizona and Sonora, Mexico, are setting a neighborly example by uniting in an effort to attract Israeli high-tech startups to the region.

We've also taken our usual look at the arts world. Inspired by Star Trek, an Arizona author has created an entire universe that has taken on a life of its own. In a time of shrinking support for the arts, a Scottsdale theater has moved to bigger digs.

Arizona is such a happening place that our publisher, Cindy Saltzman, has decided to relocate here. She's looking forward to the continued expansion of the magazine while enjoying the desert climate she grew to love during 10 years living in Israel.

Deborah

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Keeping Life in Motion

Repairing and healing the world, one patient at a time

By Jane Larson

One of the most valuable concepts in Judaism is that of *tikkun olam* – a responsibility to heal, repair and transform the world.

For several Jewish physicians who specialize in orthopedic care at Phoenix-based The CORE Institute, *tikkun olam* comes into play at many levels – from healing patients' broken bones and aching joints, to raising awareness of musculoskeletal health, to transforming physicians' business model within the American healthcare industry.

"We're currently in a time of transformation in healthcare, and I think as it relates to musculoskeletal care, we're proving that we are leading that transformation from a cultural and quality perspective," says orthopedic surgeon Dr. David Jacofsky, chairman and CEO of The CORE Institute.

Nearly 10 years ago Dr. Jacofsky saw healthcare changing.

"We decided to come up with a creative model that allows physicians to get better control over healthcare, to really allow them to take better care of patients and at the same time create a business structure that allowed them to better monetize their efforts," Dr. Jacofsky says.

The CORE Institute stands for Center for Orthopedic Research and Education, emphasizing that the organization Dr. Jacofsky and fellow physicians started in 2005 does more than specialize in orthopedic care. The CORE Institute's 100+ providers work on patients' shoulders, spines, hips, knees and ankles, from surgery and rehabilitation to musculoskeletal oncology. But The CORE Institute also is built on solid tracking of patient outcomes, where physicians get monthly scorecards and patient treatment is based on medical evidence.

Their Excellence through Evidence platform has led to The CORE Institute's rapid growth and to industry-altering partnerships with hospitals including the Cleveland Clinic and Banner Health.

The CORE Institute includes a management company that manages practices and the orthopedic service lines at hospitals including five Banner Health hospitals. It also owns and manages a malpractice-insurance plan, an international orthopedics consulting business, a real estate company, and intellectual property and patents on its practitioners' innovations.

The combination of healing and transforming has interested Dr. Jacofsky since he was a child on Long Island, NY, where his mother taught school and his father ran electronics-related business. The family celebrated Jewish holidays and special occasions, giving Dr. Jacofsky a sense of tradition, ritual and discipline that he still values today.

By the time he was 8 years old, he was studying martial arts, with its physical and mental discipline, and was interested in the human body's musculoskeletal system. Dr. Jacofsky says he

always wanted to be a surgeon.

By the time he was 11, he was working with his father on weekends and vacations, seeing how to manage people and how to grow a business. With that background, Dr. Jacofsky started his first business, a product marketing company, while an undergraduate at Lehigh University. At the Medical School of Pennsylvania, he and a friend partnered on a title and mortgage company. During his residency at Mayo Clinic in Rochester, MN, he started a real estate development company that built 100 condominiums around the city.

Dr. Jacofsky left his position as a division director at Mayo Clinic to found The CORE Institute, moving to Arizona with two other doctors and two employees. He maintains his longtime interest in martial arts but now spends more of his free time lifting weights, running or hiking with his two sons. How does he do it all?

"You've got to have the right people. The job of a CEO is to surround themselves with people much smarter than they are," the 41-year-old Dr. Jacofsky says. "And I don't sleep much."

His staff includes former hospital executives, consultants to Fortune 500 companies and software entrepreneurs. Dr. Rene Lucas was director of inpatient rehabilitation at Banner Del E. Webb Medical Center before joining The CORE Institute in 2006 for a fellowship on interventional spine techniques.

The importance of healing, repairing and transforming the world resonates with Dr. Lucas, too.

"I saw that The CORE Institute was going to raise the standard of care for orthopedics in Phoenix, and I wanted to be part of that," Dr. Lucas says. A specialist in diagnosing and managing painful conditions of the spine, Dr. Lucas aims to help The CORE Institute develop comprehensive spine centers, treating patients with exercise, some medications and, if needed, surgery.

Dr. Lucas also works to raise awareness of musculoskeletal



Photo by Mark W. Lipczynski



Dr. David Jacofsky



Rene A Lucas MD of The CORE Institute is surrounded by riders on The CORE Institute Cycling Team he created as they prepare to start the Tour de Scottsdale race.

conditions, which he says are a leading cause of disability and chronic pain among U.S. adults but which receive just 2% of federal research dollars.

An avid cyclist since his medical school days at the University of California-San Francisco and a two-time gold medalist at the Grand Canyon State Games, the 54-year-old Dr. Lucas started a cycling team at The CORE Institute last year. They race every weekend from January through April. This summer they plan to race in California and at a national event to raise funds for the team's new nonprofit official sponsor, the MORE (Musculoskeletal Orthopedic Research and Education) Foundation. An observant Jew who does not ride on Shabbat, Dr. Lucas admits the out-of-town races create challenges from a kosher food perspective. Still, he's thrilled to see the team he started thrive.

Dr. Lucas has participated for six years in Wheels of Love, a five-day bicycle ride in Israel that attracts 350 Jews from around the world to raise \$2 million annually for the ALYN pediatric hospital. He is active participant in Phoenix Community Kollel and member of Ohr HaTorah Congregation. He and his wife have three children, who attend Jewish high schools in Los Angeles. Next year, his daughter will go to seminary in Israel.

Both Dr. Jacofsky and Dr. Lucas tap their Jewish backgrounds in their work.

Dr. Jacofsky's leadership includes an emphasis on traditions. "I think the fostering of traditions is a very good way to bring people together and have them focus on a common goal, share common vision and a common belief, whether it's religious or otherwise," he says.

Traditions have been especially important as the company

grows rapidly. The CORE Institute regularly presents awards at staff meetings, hosts holiday parties that include staffers' families and communicates with its workforce through quarterly video newsletters.

"In the world of healthcare especially, but really in the world of any business, there's a significant amount of perceived chaos," Dr. Jacofsky says. "Everything changes extremely rapidly, and I think being able to have traditions that are shared among the group helps to ground and root people and brings some calm to the chaos."

Dr. Lucas sees his work with spine patients and with a cycling team that raises awareness and funds for musculoskeletal health as part of tikkun olam. He says The CORE Institute's culture of innovation and learning is strongly based on ethics.

"Because of our emphasis on doing things that are ethically correct, I think it raises the level of our performance, and everybody believes in everybody else here at The CORE Institute," he says. "We definitely feel like we're doing something that's beneficial, not only for the patients but for us also."

The CORE Institute's focus on culture and quality is paying off.

Last year, The CORE Institute logged more than 250,000 appointments with patients from all 50 states and six countries. Revenue grew 45% from 2012 to 2013, Dr. Jacofsky says, enabling the company to self-fund significant investments in growth and infrastructure. It also opened a 69,251-square-foot national headquarters and north Phoenix clinic near Interstate 17 and Union Hills Drive in Phoenix. Besides its 14 locations in Arizona, it recently added four locations in Michigan, and locations in two more states are planned.

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Robyn Schwager joins Foundation legacy team

Robyn J. Schwager has joined the Jewish Community Foundation of Southern Arizona as a legacy officer. She was the development director for the University of Arizona Hillel Foundation for six years, and prior to that was an active community volunteer for Catalina Foothills School District, Tucson Hebrew Academy, Satori Schools, Congregation Young Israel and Bet Shalom.

"A strong legacy team combined with donor support is central to accomplishing our mission of empowering individuals and families today to invest in a stronger Jewish and global community for tomorrow," said JCF CEO Tracy Salkowitz. "With Robyn's arrival, our dedicated legacy team has grown to four, which translates to even better support for our donors, potential donors and their professional advisors." Founded in 1975, the Jewish community foundation of southern Arizona is an affiliated agency of the Jewish Federation of Southern Arizona. jcftucson.org | 520-577-0388

Donna Sanders, Gail Glazer new co-presidents of Na'Amat chapter

The Hatikvah Chapter of Na'Amat USA, located in Scottsdale, installed its new board leadership on May 20 with new Co-Presidents Donna Sanders and Gail Glazer. Also joining the board are Julia Libling, Luping Perkins, Wendy Blum, Jane Neely, Marcia Solochek and Fredda Simon. Na'Amat USA advocates on behalf of issues relating to women's rights, the children's welfare, education and the U.S. Israel relationship. Donna: 480-299-3888, donnasanders@iglide.net | Gail: 301-440-3303, gjglazer@gmail.com | naamat.org



Anshei Israel hires cantorial soloist

Congregation Anshei Israel has appointed Nichole Chorny as cantorial soloist. In this new role, Nichole will be responsible for conducting congregational services and will coordinate and/or conduct life-cycle events and the b'nai mitzvah program in collaboration with Rabbi Robert Eisen. She also will develop and coordinate educational programs and worship services for CAI's Religious School, youth and

young families.

Nicole has a bachelor's in music education from the U of A. Nichole has been involved at CAI since becoming a bat mitzvah, and has worked in the CAI community since 2006. Nichole will continue as the tefillah (prayer) and music teacher in CAI's Religious School and as director

of the choir. She is the 2012 recipient of the Grinspoon-Steinhardt national award for "Excellence in Jewish Education." Located at 5550 E Fifth St., CIA is the largest Conservative synagogue in Tucson. caiaz.org



Cantor Raina Sinclair to retire from Temple Kol Ami

At Temple Kol Ami of Scottsdale's Annual Meeting May 4, Cantor Raina Sinclair announced her plan to retire on Dec. 31. Cantor Sinclair is the longest serving, active synagogue clergy member in the Valley.

In 1994 Raina joined the congregation to provide music and visual arts programming for students of Gan Yeladeem, the TKA preschool and charter school. Soon thereafter, she

became the congregation's first cantorial soloist.

"Personally, it is impossible to overstate the admiration I have for Raina and her husband Bill, or my debt to them both for their guidance, advice and support since I started three years ago," says Kol Ami Senior Rabbi Jeremy Schneider. "She has been a huge help to me as we shape our vision going forward."

templekolami.org



Attorney Hope Kirsch keynotes teacher awards luncheon

Hope Kirsch, managing partner at Kirsch-Goodwin and Kirsch, was the keynote speaker at the May 12 Fulton Homes Teacher of the Year Award Luncheon. Hope was a New York City special education teacher and administrator for nearly 20 years before becoming a lawyer. In 2006 she founded the firm with her sister; she specializes in education and special education issues as well as insurance

coverage and defense. She is recognized as an expert in school responsibilities and regulations about bullying.

Her keynote talk was entitled "Before I Was in the Courtroom, I Was in the Classroom: An Educational Journey." Attendees included the teachers who received Fulton Homes Teacher of the Week awards during the year. Teachers are nominated by students and/or parents. Teacher recognition resumes in the fall. Nominate teachers at knixcountry.org or fultonhomes.com.



Barton Lee now rabbi emeritus

Long-time rabbi of Arizona State University Hillel, Barton Lee, has spent 42 years as head of the Jewish student center in Tempe. He recently sent out a farewell and blessing to his students past and present as he moves into his position as rabbi emeritus.

Hillel Executive Director Debbie Yunker Kail had much praise for Rabbi Lee. "It has been an honor and a pleasure to have had the opportunity to learn from Barton over the past year. His community connections and dedication to every individual student's story

is a model for me in my work and serves as an inspiration to us all. He'll always have a space here at Hillel."

hillelasu.org



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

Arizona and Sonora focus on business ties with Israel

By Deborah Moon

Business ties are growing between Israel and Arizona, and especially the University of Arizona, due to the convergence of several key factors in recent months.

"The state and university are on board to promote relationships with Israel," says J. Edward Wright, Ph.D., director of the Arizona Center for Judaic Studies, U of A.

In February Arizona Gov. Jan Brewer and Sonora, Mexico, Gov. Guillermo Padrés announced a joint initiative to persuade high-tech industries interested in expanding in North America to base that growth in Arizona and Sonora. In June the two governors will be in Israel meeting with potential transplants.

Companies that locate facilities here will be able to take advantage of the low-cost manufacturing capabilities in Sonora and the high-tech research and development facilities at the U of A Tech Park in south Tucson.

Called Global Advantage, the partnership will target four countries, including Israel. The Israeli market has been targeted

because it is a small nation with a large number of tech startups, including 600 in Tel Aviv alone. Global Advantage is a partnership between the U of A Tech Parks and the Offshore Group, which has manufacturing sites in Sonora.

The governors have scheduled meetings with Israeli companies involved in aerospace defense and renewable and solar energy to take advantage of the expertise in those fields in Arizona and Sonora.

Their governors' visit will overlap with a tour Wright is leading May 24 to June 11 to promote expanding academic connections with Tel Aviv University. U of A already has connections with Tel Aviv University, Hebrew University, Ben-Gurion University and the University of Haifa.

"We are looking to expand the exchange of faculty and students," says Wright, noting they are also working on research and teaching missions.

Wright says he has volunteered to help the governors in their efforts using his department's existing connections.

In addition, the Judaic studies center is adding Israeli faculty. In the fall, Asher Susser, Ph.D., of the Dayan Center will join U of A as the first Professor of Israel Studies, which Wright says is the first step

in creating an Institute for Israel Studies. With the arrival of Susser, Judaic studies will have five Israelis on the department faculty.

"These are fascinating projects all coming together at the same time," says Wright.



J. Edward Wright, Ph.D.

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A man wearing a blue t-shirt and a dark baseball cap is leaning over a large pond, feeding a variety of colorful koi fish. The fish, in shades of orange, white, and black, are gathered around the edge of the pond, some with their mouths open. The water is a vibrant green. In the background, a blue sky is visible. A circular logo in the top left corner contains the word 'Staycation' and lists several Arizona locations: PHOENIX, TUCSON, SEDONA, and PRESCOTT.

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Story and photos by Masada Siegel

Feeding the fish at
The Phoenician

The Valley

Hanging upside down from blue material strung to rafters on the ceiling appeared easy, but looks are deceiving. While the chanting music was reverberating in my head, the situation demanded that I look at the world from a whole new perspective.

This time everything was different. I wasn't on one of my far-flung adventures, I was home in Scottsdale, on a quest. There is a prayer we are supposed to say every day and the words mean: "Happy (content) is the person who stays at home." I decided to find out if I could have the best of both worlds: stay home and have great adventures.

Since Scottsdale is known as a resort town around the rest of the country, I decided to indulge myself at a local spa and try an aerial yoga class.

While my flying yoga was a challenge, relaxing in a spa is easy and Scottsdale has a plethora of top-notch hotels to experience spa treatments and basically the royal treatment.

One place to check out is the Royal Palms, an elegant hotel that opened in 1948. It has catered to celebrities such as Groucho Marx, Helena Rubenstein and U.S. Presidents. Nestled against Camelback Mountain, it boasts stylish rooms tucked between lush gardens and citrus groves, not to mention a spa that always has new inventive treatments.

The Royal Palms is also home to T. Cooks restaurant where the atmosphere is inviting and the menu offers tasty options under Chef Paul McCabe, who has recreated the restaurant's signature offerings. Be sure to stop by the Mix Up Bar, which creates inventive, fun drinks with or without alcohol; be sure to try the ones with fresh fruit.

A real staycation means checking into a hotel in your own hometown. It feels funny packing to drive to stay in a hotel 20 minutes from your home, but the spectacular sunset from my room at the Phoenician Resort convinced me that it's never

a bad thing to pretend you are on an exotic getaway in your hometown. The best part is I didn't feel rushed that I needed to see and do everything.

The Phoenician has a beautiful golf course, a sensational spa and tasty meals; my favorite was the never-ending, delicious Sunday brunch where everything from the smoked salmon to the fruit platters was scrumptious. I relaxed in the luxurious pools and took time out to feed the fish in the pond, which literally eat out of your hands.

Since the summer deals are so reasonable, my adventure continued at the Four Seasons Scottsdale where, on a clear night, the best adventure is a first-class meal in the form of a picnic under the stars where a local astronomer points out the constellations. If stargazing is not your speed, try the Spa Happy Hour where one can pick a few mini treatments either for the body or face. Either way the experience is delightful.

If you are looking for a mini-Las Vegas type of adventure without the five-hour drive, the Talking Stick Resort is worth a visit. It boasts more than 240,000 square feet of gaming space featuring slot machines, poker games and Keno, and it's open 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Every weekend is also a party with DJ entertainment and pool parties. The Talking Stick also hosts performers from all over the world to entertain guests and locals alike.

Another Scottsdale staycation option that is centrally located is the Hilton Scottsdale Resort & Villas. Guests can walk to nearby restaurants or try the Fleming Prime Steakhouse, which serves steaks and seafood. It's great for wine lovers as it features 100 specialty wines by the glass. The Resort's spacious two-bedroom villas offer breathtaking views of Camelback Mountain from your private balcony, or swim in the private pool dedicated solely to the villas. Both the main resort pool and the villa pool feature an Oasis Bar for poolside beverages.



Cathedral Rock

Tucson

I decided to venture south to see more of beautiful Arizona and found myself in the Westin La Paloma Resort and Spa enjoying mountain views and gorgeous relaxing swimming pools. Amazingly I was even able to sit still and relax and enjoy my book.

Staycations allow a person to take it easy. That said, there is an abundance of activities available in Tucson, but my favorite was visiting the Pima Air and Space museum. The museum, which covers 80 acres, consists of planes housed both indoors and a seemingly endless expanse of them retired to the field outside. It was overwhelming and hard to know what to look at first, from the fighter jets to retired Air Force One planes.

Inside there are docents; many are retired Air Force members who are more than happy to explain the planes and the pilots who flew them as well as share their own personal stories.

About 30 miles from Tucson is a quaint artists' village named Tubac, which is a real gem. The town boasts everything from Native American paintings and handmade jewelry to multicolored pots for the garden. I was shocked if not pleasantly surprised to find Elvira's, a gourmet Mexican restaurant with décor straight out of the middle of Manhattan. Glass teardrops hung from the ceiling amidst Moroccan style chandeliers shaped like stars. The food was as much of a treat as the atmosphere.

Another resort to check out in southern Arizona is the Ritz-



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Carlton, Dove Mountain, which is in a dreamy location about 30 miles outside of Tucson. It's a great place for golfers to indulge themselves with the world-class Jack Nicklaus Signature course nestled against the Tortolita Mountain Range.

A fun and romantic option offered by the resort is "splash dinners." Guests are seated in shorts at tables placed into the waters of the night-lighted Turquesa pool. Then they wade to their reserved seats partially submerged in the pool. A customized meal is prepared by the chefs of The Ritz-Carlton and then served by a wading server team. Dessert is personally delivered by a chef wearing the aquatic version of chef's whites.

Another interesting option for the whole family is geocaching, basically a scavenger hunt in the desert that provides expansive views and interesting points of interest to explore. The hotel provides GPS rentals and maps to find hidden geocache boxes.

Sedona

Arizona is filled with magical places, but Sedona might be considered the crown jewel. I couldn't help but marvel as I checked into the luxurious L'Auberge De Sedona.

romantic package is over the top. Imagine seeing this: From the entryway of your suite to the bedroom, red rose petals are sprinkled along a path leading the way to a heart created of petals on a bed. They will concoct special drinks with bites of homemade chocolate as well as fill the bathroom with lit candles and massage oils.

A must is a meal created by Chef Rochelle Daniel of the award-winning L'Auberge Restaurant on Oak Creek. The wine parings are impeccable as are the outrageously delicious courses, which include Scottish salmon and house-made pasta. Every detail is considered, and the desserts are an experience that should not be missed.

The hotel is located beside Oak Creek, which is home to hundreds of playful ducks. These savvy ducks know there is a bucket of food left out for visitors to share with them while relaxing on the lounge chairs or swings.

A great place for a drink or lunch is the Enchantment Resort's Che-Ah-Chi, which features contemporary American cuisine with a Southwest influence. It is set in its own mini-valley surrounded by tall red mountains.



Crafts at Tubac Artist Village



Pima Air & Space Museum

My room was a Vista Suite with an enormous balcony with an unobstructed 180-degree panoramic view of Snoopy Rock, Giants Thumb and Elephant Rock, the glorious surrounding mountains. I marveled at the gorgeous bathroom, which even had an additional outdoor cedar shower. They also have a host of cabins situated by the creek.

L'Auberge has the ultimate concierge service. They will plan gourmet picnic hikes, with a basket filled with a menu created especially to their guests' tastes, and their

Arizona is filled with magical places, but Sedona might be considered the crown jewel.

For the day-tripper, Sedona is simple; see all the sites and when you are ready to relax, take your picnic basket to Red Rock State Park. You can dip your toes in the crystal clear water and even swim in a small lake if you walk up the path toward the mountain. The scenery is extraordinary and for a mere \$10 park fee per car, you can take the whole

family on an Arizona adventure that will really make you believe that the person who stays home is content.

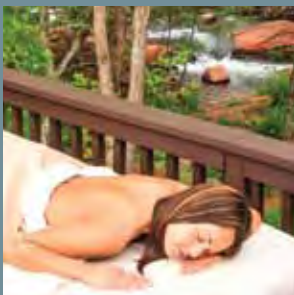


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Arizona activities



Jeff, Alex, Lisa and Jackson Geyser consider the Four Seasons one of the best places in town for a staycation. Photo by Matthew Strauss

By Janet Arnold

True Arizona baseball fans can tell you exactly where they were the night the Diamondbacks won the World Series.

Ask Lisa Geyser and you'll get a very special story.

It was Nov. 4, 2001. Luis Gonzales had just driven in the winning run; fans were a bit stunned and a lot thrilled that the fledgling team had won it all. Lisa and the girlfriends she was watching the game with headed to a special VIP postgame celebration. So did Jeff Geyser, who had been watching the game with a group of his friends. And so they met.

Kismet, fate, beshert!

"Years later," Lisa confides, "we were at a charity event and met Luis Gonzales. We had to thank him. If he hadn't gotten that hit, Jeff and I might never have met!"

The Geysers were married in 2005 after Lisa, who is Latina, had undergone an Orthodox conversion to Judaism. "It was a long process," she admits, "but I wouldn't have it any other way." Jeff had gone to the Hebrew Academy for six years as a youngster, and the couple now splits its formal observance between Beth Joseph Congregation and Chabad of Phoenix, depending on the occasion.

"You don't want to miss Simchat Torah at Chabad," Jeff says with a grin.

The Geysers have two young boys: Alex, 7, is a student at Pardes Jewish Day School, and Jackson, 5, just graduated from the Chanen preschool at Congregation Beth Israel. Jackson will soon be joining his big brother at Pardes at its new location

on the Ina Levine Jewish Community Campus in Scottsdale. "There was never any question in our minds about providing Jewish day school experiences for the boys," Lisa says. "We knew that was the way we wanted to go."

Jeff adds, "We are very pleased with the education that Alex is getting at Pardes and are excited that Jackson will be starting there next year. Jill Kessler is a fantastic head of school who works with a great administration. Alex loves each of his teachers, who are wonderful educators and warm, caring people."

The Geysers won the opportunity to appear on the cover of this issue of Arizona Jewish Life through a generous donation they made at the silent auction at Pardes' spring fundraiser.

Jeff and Lisa are resolute in their desire to make living a Jewish life a comfortable, natural daily setting for their boys. They wanted to be certain that they instill Jewish values by "doing" as well as by "telling." They just weren't sure where they could give the boys an early start to "tikkun olam" (repairing the world).

Lisa and her friend, Alex Sklar, who also has two boys at Chanen Preschool and Pardes Day School, talked about the frustrations they were feeling in trying to find volunteer activities they could participate in with the boys. Many organizations have minimum age requirements and don't offer programs for younger children. So the two women decided to create a nonprofit to address this lack of opportunity.

They founded Families Giving Back, a nonprofit they incorporated in spring of 2012. Their tagline is Caring Kids for a Better Community. "We all want to raise caring and compassionate children. There just weren't many chances for the kids to get involved in a hands-on way," Lisa explains. Through FGB the Geyser and Sklar boys as well as many others in the

community are getting firsthand experience in helping others. FGB has been sponsoring one or two events each month where families can participate together, with additional options listed on the FGB website (familiesgivingback.org).

The mission of FGB is "To inspire and help families volunteer together; and by doing so, help raise compassionate, socially conscious children who understand the importance of giving to others." The hope is also that if a child begins volunteer work early on, it will become a natural part of his/her being and become a way of life. They work with a number of nonprofits and are adding more on a regular basis. They already have provided services for Ronald McDonald House, Phoenix Children's Hospital, Kivel Campus of Care, The Friendship Circle and more.

"Jackson started volunteering at about age 2," Lisa proudly says. "It can be something as simple as coloring pictures on welcome bags we fill with goodies for the families at Ronald McDonald House, helping to stack up books to be delivered or helping to clean up a park site. The children never work more than an hour. We make sure to keep the experience a positive one for all involved."

The website also has ideas for ways to volunteer from your own home, such as a Family Food Drive Tool Kit that can easily be downloaded from the site. "The whole concept is such a win-win," Lisa says.

Lisa was recently named one of four women honored as Mom of the Year by Valle del Sol, a vital organization in the Latino community. Valle del Sol provides medical and behavioral health care, human services, community resources and leadership development. Each year the organization recognizes several women to receive this special acknowledgment. This year's breakfast was May 9 at the Hyatt Regency in downtown Phoenix. "My whole family came in from Utah," Lisa says. "It was a very special event for me."



The Geyser family sorts toys for children in need at a Families Giving Back event.

Though family is paramount to them, Lisa and Jeff recognize the importance of "alone time." "Saturday night is always date night," Lisa says. "We really look forward to that grown-up time together." And they have regularly indulged in staycations around the Valley as well. "When the boys were little, especially," Jeff says, "it was important for us to spend a little time as a couple and also to get a good night's sleep!"

The Four Seasons is one of their favorite getaway places. Jeff remarks, "The Four Seasons is a reasonably close drive, but it feels like we've really left town. The surroundings are beautiful, the staff is

friendly and accommodating and the rooms are well-appointed and very comfortable. It's a perfect place for a staycation."

For family activities they look for a combination of educational and physical opportunities. Among their favorite family places are McCormick Ranch Railroad Park, Phoenix Zoo and the Phoenix Science Center. "Both the boys are quite

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The mission of Families Giving Back is: “To inspire and help families volunteer together; and by doing so, help raise compassionate, socially conscious children who understand the importance of giving to others.”

artistic,” Lisa says, “so we’ve also spent a good deal of time at the Phoenix Art Museum.”

Jeff, who has a B.A. from Harvard and a J.D. from ASU School of Law, is a commercial developer by day, having cofounded Lawrence & Geyser with his friend, Spike Lawrence, in 1993. Jeff and Lisa are involved with many charitable organizations and have endowed the Geyser Family Scholarship at Arizona

State, which provides financial aid to students from local high schools. When out-of-towners come to visit, Jeff says they enjoy taking them to Cave Creek, downtown Tempe and Scottsdale, and to the many pro and college sports events in the Valley.

And they’ll always have a special place in their heart for the Arizona Diamondbacks and that fateful 2001 World Series win!



Lisa Geyser was one of four women honored as Mom of the Year by Valle del Sol on May 9. Photo by Jeff Calbom



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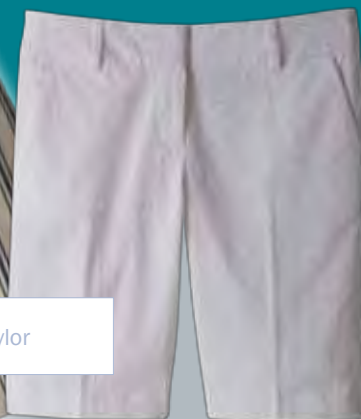
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Figleaves.com

By Kira Brown

There's no shortage of style this summer! As temperatures heat up, so does style with bright summer colors for summer picnics, barbecues, vacations and more.

The past few years we've seen the maxi dress take center stage for summer style. But this year I'm shopping for a great pair of shorts. Shorts, which are a lifelong wardrobe staple, can be dressed up or dressed down depending on the occasion.

We all have our favorite pair of "Saturday" shorts – relaxed, worn, reliable. I've had the same pair for years and I love them. But this summer try a pair of upscale summer shorts with a cropped blazer for a summer wedding or summer soiree. And of course, go bold with bright summer colors for a Fourth of July party, backyard barbecue and more! To pull off the perfect shorts ensemble, be mindful of the length. Choose from short to knee length for the style that is the most flattering on your body and most appropriate for the occasion.



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Easy Stripe Tote

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



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38
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The travel and tourism industry is one of Arizona's most significant economic drivers, bringing millions of visitors to the state annually. According to Kiva Couchon, public information officer for the Arizona Office of Tourism, in 2012 more than 38 million global visitors experienced Arizona as a travel destination, spending \$19.3 billion throughout the state. This equates to nearly \$53 million being injected to our state's economy each and every day.

At the very hub of travel and tourism is Deborah Ostreicher, who is the deputy aviation director of Phoenix Sky Harbor International Airport. Included in her duties are communications and media relationships; customer service; community outreach and events; air services development; and public speaking around the world. In her 18 years with the airport, she has developed and implemented a comprehensive marketing program to encourage new airlines and additional flights to Sky Harbor, created an airport TV show that she also hosts, and organized the extensive array of 450 volunteers and professional service providers into the group that helps the airport earn the title "America's Friendliest Airport."

In addition, Deb is executive board member of the Arizona

Try "visiting" the state you call home;
Tourism expert Deborah Ostreicher does

By Janet Arnold

Lodging & Tourism Association and incoming chair of the Tempe Convention and Visitors Bureau.

She's well aware of the economic impact of tourism, but also enjoys just showing off Arizona!

"I love everything this state has to offer and have made it a priority to see as much of it as I can," Deb says with a smile. "My family and I enjoy beautiful hikes around town most of the winter. The Phoenix Mountain Preserve (in northeast Phoenix) is a wonderland for hiking and picnicking, and it's always fun to try a new area." Acknowledging that summer in the Valley is a bit warm for hiking, Deb says, "We find ourselves heading north or south in the summer to hike in cooler temperatures. Last summer I was fascinated by the caves in Flagstaff and how cool they were. It was hot outside and yet I needed a jacket in the caves!"

And it's not just the hiking that Deb enjoys. "Whatever sporty activity we embark on during the day, we know there's a wonderful meal at the other end. There are so many individual chefs with boutique restaurants throughout the state, it's a joy finding them." Her enthusiasm for her adopted state rings through.

Deb is originally from the Washington, D.C., area. "Everybody in Potomac was Jewish," she says, "or at least it seemed that way to me. I 'lived' at the JCC." With an interest in the performing arts, Deb started playing piano, dancing and acting around age 5. She participated in musical theater in college and is still an actress around the Valley today. Deb spent her junior year abroad at Hebrew University and lived an additional year in Israel after graduating from the University of Maryland. She returned to the D.C. area and earned her MBA in international business and marketing from American University.

With that degree in hand, Deb began her career, which included such assignments as a year in London as a marketing

manager for Prince Charles' nonprofit and several years in Budapest as director of marketing for Microage Computer Centers in central Europe. She came back to the States in 1995 and came on board with Sky Harbor the following year.

About that same time, Deb met her now-husband Jeff



Deb began mentoring Marle when she was just 7 years old through New Pathways for Youth. The organization provides curriculum and support for those wanting to become mentors. npfy.org



From left: Deb, Sergio, Marle and Jeff.

'Giving back' is a natural way of life for the Ostreichers, who both serve as mentors to potentially at-risk youth.

Ostreicher, a personal injury attorney in downtown Phoenix. "He was moving into an apartment in my building. There was a knock on my door; it was his 6-year-old daughter. She and I became friends first, bonding over 'girl things,'" she remembers fondly. The friendship expanded to include Jeff's 12-year-old

son and Jeff himself. They married shortly after and Deb easily integrated into the family. Jeff has four children, now ages 25-41, and grandchildren who attend Temple Solel in Paradise Valley.

Deb and Jeff are actively involved in New Pathways for Youth, a nonprofit organization whose mission is "Making possible new futures for our children and youth through mentoring and value-driven programs." They each have mentored at-risk youth to help them find meaningful and fulfilling lives. Marle, a young native-American woman, came into Deb's life at age 7; she is now graduating from Arizona State University and embarking on her own career. "She's the first in her family to graduate from college and is going to Japan to teach English!" Deb kvells. Jeff is currently mentoring Sergio, a boy who is thriving with the new relationship in his life.

In 2012 Deb was honored with the ATHENA Award from the Phoenix Chamber of Commerce, recognizing her "excellence in business and leadership, exemplary community service and support and mentorship of other women." Deb sits on nearly every tourism board in the Valley and continues a relationship with Temple Solel. Last fall she was the emcee at the Valley's first Jewish Music Festival. When she wasn't on stage introducing musical acts, she was at her booth selling handmade jewelry she learned to make while living in Israel.

While Deb's life has taken her around the world, she's very content living in the Valley and being able to tout the wonderful attributes Arizona has for residents and visitors alike. She could borrow a line from *The Wizard of Oz* and sincerely state, "There's no place like home!"

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SOUND BITES

Carol Shucker

Phoenix

Or Chadash of the Northeast Valley Butterfly Wonderland in Scottsdale is great. We took our son and daughter-in-law and two grandsons, ages 3 years and 9 months. The 3-year-old was entranced and fascinated by the butterflies and the cocoons, and we adults loved it too.



Lee Kaminsky

Scottsdale

Tubac is a lovely drive from the Valley. It is a delightful artists' community and we often take our guests there.



Barry Singer

Scottsdale

Temple Chai

Sedona – because it is unique. The red rocks are so beautiful. It's one of the few places that really looks like a picture postcard. We've gone so often that for a while we gave our guests a map and the car and sent them on their way. But now we need to go again!



Lauren Hertz

Flagstaff

Heichal Baoranim

I've taken guests to Wupatki National Monument. There are guided hiking tours (reservations required) and you can check out Pueblo architecture, petroglyphs and lots



of geology. Follow the road through the park (fabulous on a motorcycle) and reach Sunset Crater Volcano National Monument. Camping is available as well.

Stu Krone

Chandler

South Mountain is so beautiful, and you can hike, ride bikes or even take a car all the way to the top.



Laura Bricker

Scottsdale

Congregation Beth Israel

The Desert Botanical Gardens is a really good introduction to the desert. It combines outdoor activity with a beautiful environment and is a great experience for most visitors.



NEXT

SEPTEMBER ISSUE:

"What would you like to cast off (personally or societally) for Tashlich?"

To share your reply, please send your short answer, name, congregation/organization (if desired), city and photo to editor1@azjewishlife.com by Aug. 1.

Plan ahead for A Vacation to Remember

By Ronald G. Wilson

Getting away from their high-stress jobs, a couple spends weekends relaxing in their motor home. When they found their peace and quiet disturbed by well-meaning but unwelcome visits from other campers, they devised a plan to assure themselves some privacy. Now when they set up camp, they place this sign on the door of their motor home: "Insurance Agents. Ask about our term life package."

What do reading, making lists, planning, consulting and prioritizing have in common? They are elements that can lead to an enjoyable and stress-free vacation. However, before leaving for your adventure, you must consider several often-overlooked items.

The most important planning element that is often overlooked is medical planning. When planning a vacation, one typically looks at where, when and how to get there. But you must consider what medical issues are important if this vacation is to be meaningful. First make a list of all of the medicines you are taking and the appropriate doctors' phone numbers to be reached should it be necessary. Make sure you have your insurance medical cards with you and make copies in case they are lost.

Along with specific medical needs, the proper legal documents also need to be in place. It is recommended that everyone have the following documents in place before they take off for that big trip: a medical power of attorney, HIPAA forms, a living will and a mental healthcare power of attorney. Although not truly needed for a vacation, we still educate our clients on the value of having a living trust in place. This spells out to whom, when and how your assets will be distributed if something were to happen unexpectedly. The unexpected does not always happen where we live; we should always be prepared for it regardless of where we are. Further, your will and trust should be reviewed or undertaken at least two months prior to your trip for valuable peace of mind.

For those who have minor children, it is important to have a parental consent form in place that provides for the children's healthcare in the event of an emergency and allows the agent designated to make certain decisions on their behalf. This should be given to the individual(s) responsible for the children while you're away. Be sure to include the proper health insurance information and copies of health cards.

Docubank is a company that can be very helpful in travel as well as in our daily lives. This company acts as storage for your healthcare documents. They issue a card that looks very similar to a credit card with an 800 number on it. If you wind up with a medical emergency, you may call that number, and DocuBank will fax your healthcare documents to any hospital, surgery center or doctor's office at your direction within 30 minutes of the request.

Often a travel agent can help with planning itineraries, local attractions, booking reservations and important services around your destination. Carefully consider the weather conditions before you pack and ensure that important items such as medications, chargers and important documents are with you at all times. Lost luggage still occurs, and not having those items with you could start a stressful situation.

Consider buying travel insurance – it may be one of your best buys. This is particularly true if you're going on an extended trip! If a passport is needed, make sure that yours is up to date well in advance and packed in a safe place. Make copies of your passport and keep them separate from the original.

Finally, consider who is taking care of the alarm on your home while you're gone, or if someone is going to be in your home. Let the alarm company know who might be there or who may be stopping by your home to make sure everything is in order. Remember your mail and newspaper situation – is it being held or is someone coming by on a daily basis to collect it? If no one is going to be in your home on a regular basis, have lights that come on as a safety precaution. Make sure your neighbors are aware of your leaving, and let them know where you can be reached should an emergency develop.

By exercising many of these concepts, your vacation will be stressless and most of all memorable.



Ronald G Wilson is a Partner at Morris, Hall & Kinghorn, PLLC. Ron is a member of the American Academy of Estate Planning Attorneys and an Accredited Estate Planner from the National Association of Estate Planning Councils. He also has served on multiple planned giving committees in the Phoenix area including the Arthritis Foundation, Phoenix Art Museum and the Valley of the Sun YMCA. morristrust.com | 888-222-1328



Home Away from Home

By Beth Jo Zeitzer

As the mercury starts to climb, daydreams inevitably start to turn toward escaping to Arizona's higher elevations or the cool ocean breezes of the coast. If you've graduated beyond camping or racked up enough hotel nights – or if you're eyeing a more moderate climate or rural area for retirement – it can be tempting to consider investing in a vacation home of your own.

If so, you're not alone. According to the recently released *2014 NAR Investment and Vacation Home Buyers Survey*, vacation homes represented 13% of all residential sales last year, well up from the market bottom of 9% in 2009. As demand rose, so did prices: The median purchase was \$168,700, nearly \$19,000 higher than in 2013. (On the other hand, distressed properties – either foreclosures or short sales – were 42% of the purchases, so there are clearly still bargains to be had.) Interestingly enough, the average distance from buyers' primary residences was 180 miles – almost exactly the distance from Phoenix to the popular destination of Pinetop-Lakeside.

Where Daydreams Meet Reality

The attractions of a vacation home are obvious: a home away from home, furnished with your own gear, customized the way you like and no need to pack large amounts of clothing or food when you want to escape for a few days or weeks. If you're a sports enthusiast, it can put you closer to the slopes, lakes and woods. That said, there are a number of important practical and financial considerations you need to address before making the leap.

Climate: Even if you're a transplant from a colder climate, you may have forgotten some of the downsides of true winters, such as frozen or broken pipes and the damage that snow and ice can cause. Winterization can be expensive, but can offer peace of mind; in any case, you'll want to have shutdown procedures in place. In addition, the thinner air in higher altitudes means more UV damage to wood and painted surfaces, so plan on a thorough inspection before you buy and additional maintenance costs afterward.

Expenses: Having a second home likely means having two of everything in your life – from can openers and scissors to TVs and sound systems – which can add up. You'll also have two sets of utility bills and property tax bills. Outside of a gated community or in an area with a large percentage of full-time

residents, your home is likely to be unwatched for significant stretches of time, so it may require a security system if you have valuables.

Mortgages: Unless you're one of the 38% of vacation home buyers who purchases with cash, you're going to be adding a loan to your existing debt load. Obviously, the mortgage company will help you understand how much home you can afford with the additional reserve requirements. The good news is that interest on your second mortgage will be 100% tax deductible, with two caveats: 1) as long as you're using it exclusively for a second home that's rented fewer than 14 days a year, and 2) as long as you don't exceed \$1.1 million of debt between your primary and secondary homes.

Tax Implications: Beyond the mortgage, one of the key considerations is how the house is used, and what happens when it comes time to sell. The government allows you to earn tax-free income if you rent the home for two weeks or less, but anything more than that and it's considered an investment property – and may also be a violation of your mortgage agreement. The rules for selling are somewhat complicated as well. If you only use it as a vacation home, the sale will be subject to a capital gains tax. The other option is to

make it your primary residence for two years to take advantage of the primary-home sales exclusion (\$250,000 for individuals, \$500,000 if you're married or filing jointly). Consult the IRS, a CPA or real estate expert for details on your specific situation.

The Bottom Line: Don't be afraid to make your vacation home a reality, but be realistic about putting down a list of pros, cons and additional expenses that need to be considered. It can be an excellent investment, a way to enjoy time with your spouse and kids, and even an eventual retirement destination. Nonetheless, discussions with a knowledgeable real estate agent and accountant are paramount to understand the big financial picture.

Reasons for Purchasing Vacation Homes

- To use for vacations or as a family retreat – 87%
- To use as principal residence in the future – 31%
- To diversify investments/good investment opportunity – 28%
- To rent to others – 23%
- For a family member, friend or relative – 22%
- Because the buyer had extra money to spend – 13%
- For the tax benefits – 13%
- Other – 2%

SOURCE: 2014 NAR Investment and Vacation Home Buyers Survey



Beth Jo Zeitzer, Esq., is the owner and designated broker of R.O.I. Properties, a full-service real estate brokerage firm focused on working with business owners, investors and property owners regarding the marketing and sale of commercial and residential properties, including retail, office, industrial, multifamily, hospitality and land assets. Beth Jo can be reached at 602-319-1326 or bjz@roiproperties.com.

Lichtenberg's Sime-Gen Universe

Chandler author calls sci-fi 'the quintessential literature of humanity'

By Melissa Hirsch

Like the crew of the Starship Enterprise, Chandler resident Jacqueline Lichtenberg loves to explore strange, dazzling and sometime dangerous new worlds – she revels in creating them as well. The former chemist turned writer has been crafting science fiction professionally since she was 25 and is currently a life member of the Science Fiction and Fantasy Writers of America, Inc.

Her adventurous sagas weave rich tapestries of nefarious villains, romance, angels, space vampires, alien politics, power struggles and interstellar wars.

"I don't write horror stories," says Lichtenberg. "I write psychologically driven adventures. I believe science fiction is the quintessential literature of humanity, and that it is not a genre in itself – it can contain sub-genres of alien romance, mystery and even westerns."

The author readily admits her writing talent is the result of her fascination with just about everything she hears and reads. "It is hard to bore me," she says with a laugh. "As for a connection with Judaism, I tend to weave Judaic themes in my books. For instance, there is no "evil personified" (such as the devil), and there is no evil with a capital "E" in my books. There are just good and bad characters who wrestle with doing the right thing."

One of the overarching themes in her books, she says, is the need for compassion.

According to Lichtenberg, the bits and pieces of everyday life reassemble in her mind – usually when she's relaxing or in the shower. "I try to incorporate the 'what if,' the 'if only' and 'if this goes on' themes in all my stories. If you have one of these themes, you have science fiction," she says. "If you have all three, you have the best science fiction."

She has more than 20 books under her belt (including two award winners), 13 short stories, two nonfiction books and countless short stories in fan magazines called Fanzines. Lichtenberg is also the creator of the "Sime-Gen Universe," a fictional universe consisting of 12 novels, some of which she



co-authored with Jean Lorrh, a business partner and fellow science fiction fan. With a dynamic fan following, Sime-Gen is the backdrop for the majority of the author's stories. The premise is a futuristic history of humanity that starts 1,000 years after the destruction of current civilization. The first published Sime-Gen novel asks the questions: "What if human nature changed? What if Mother Nature declared a lack of compassion to be a capital offense?"

The iconic TV show "Star Trek," which ran for only three seasons in the '60s, had a deep influence on Lichtenberg. She was so intrigued by the provocative "ahead of its time" themes that her first novel, *House of Zeor* (1974), was intended to appeal to the show's fans. Her fascination also became the impetus for a book she co-authored with Jean Lorrh, *Star Trek Lives*. Lichtenberg's excitement is palpable when she discusses the campy TV show that launched a huge cult following. "The book explores the reasons why people were drawn to the show," she says with a huge smile. "It showed the world that the public's idea of who liked science fiction was totally wrong, and that eventually changed the world's perception. Science fiction was always looked at as a genre that appealed only to children. We showed that the people who were ignited by "Star Trek" were mature men and women and highly educated – a different demographic slice than Hollywood moguls previously thought."

To transport yourself into Lichtenberg's universe and discover her eclectic worlds, there are a variety of options: print, Kindle, Apple iBook, Nook, audible.com and audiobook. Visit simegen.net or search for Jacqueline Lichtenberg on amazon.com.



Shell-Photo.com

Attorney Doug Passon wins music award

Doug Passon won the 2014 Arizona Attorney Magazine's Creative Arts Competition in the category of music. Attorney by day, practicing criminal defense at the Federal Public Defender's Office for nearly 17 years, Doug spends his nonwork hours playing guitar, writing songs and creating film projects. His song "No Tomorrow" has been called a "meditation on the joy and pain of living and a call to live more deeply by embracing the uncertainty of the future." The song was inspired in part by the untimely passing of his friend and mentor, attorney Darrow Soll. It is performed by another long-time friend, Dan Nichols. Dan is the featured musician in Doug's recent movie "Road to Eden," which was shown in the fall of 2013 at the Valley of the Sun JCC and in the 2014 Greater Phoenix Jewish Film Festival. "No Tomorrow" can be heard on the soundtrack of the film, and you can hear the song at: tinyurl.com/ArtsMusic2014.

The 2014 winners were named in the May issue of the Arizona Attorney magazine, and include attorneys who submitted in the areas of photography, fiction and nonfiction, painting, poetry, sculpture and music. The magazine is a publication of the State Bar of Arizona.

Azbar.org/AZAttorney | Doug: dmajorfilms.com

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Scottsdale Musical Theater Company moves to bigger Tempe center

By Janet Arnold

Scottsdale Musical Theater Company opened its doors in 2011 and is already making a move to a larger, more prestigious venue. After performing at the Dorrance Auditorium at Phoenix Country Day School with seating for 300, the ambitious community theater is moving to the 600-seat theater in the Tempe Center for the Arts. The move is particularly bold in these days of dwindling art support, but founder David Hock thinks he has all his bases covered.

"After only a year and a half, we were able to increase the number of performances we do from three to five for certain shows," David proudly reports. "We believe there is an audience for the tried-and-true 'old fashioned' Broadway shows, and we're good at delivering those!" He's so confident that he is filling a niche, in fact, that his company's tagline is

"Bringing Broadway's Favorites Back to Life."

A Valley resident since 2001, David began his career as a performer more than 35 years ago. He then moved to directing and producing, including some work as a TV casting director and producer. SMTC's first show was "Carousel," followed by "Guys and Dolls," "A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum," "Fiddler on the Roof," "The Man of La Mancha," "Thoroughly Modern Millie" and "Music Man."

"Millie isn't exactly one of the warhorses," he explains, "but it's great family entertainment, so we stretched a bit to do that one. Besides, we knew we had Michelle Kahn who would do such a tremendous job as Millie!" After also playing Golda in "Fiddler on the Roof," Michelle will be coming back to portray Sally Bowles in "Cabaret," the first show to be done in the new venue. Michelle, who is the wife of Rabbi Stephen Kahn of Congregation Beth Israel in Scottsdale, has Broadway credits from her earlier days on the stage. Cantor Melissa Berman of Congregation Or Chadash of the Northeast Valley appeared as the housekeeper in SMTC's "Man of La Mancha." Though David is currently unaffiliated, he has strong ties to both Beth Israel and Or Chadash.

"Many of our actors come back show after show," David mentions. "We're not quite at the point where we can pay people, but we make sure everyone has a good experience.

"We believe there is an audience for the tried-and-true 'old fashioned' Broadway shows, and we're good at delivering those!"



Scottsdale Musical Theater Company Director David Hock, right, with Emcee Matt Newhard.

Rehearsal times are kept as short and efficient as possible. And the actors love performing with a live 20+ piece orchestra!" David says the musicians receive just a gas stipend, but most enjoy the opportunity to play the great old Broadway tunes. Scottsdale Musical Theater will retain its name even though it will now be performing in Tempe. "We already have a following," says David.

David acknowledges the move to the Tempe Center for the

Arts presents both great opportunities and a few challenges. "We know we have to beef up our sets in particular to match the size of the stage and the grandeur of the facility." To that end, he has partnered with a number of talented individuals from Arizona State University's department of theater to find designers for the productions. His company's budget has suddenly doubled, and he's had to raise ticket prices. "We've made sure to stay within the range of comparable theaters, though," he says. He adds that everyone at TCA has been great to work with. TCA's plan to help market the shows to their own mailing and email

lists will enable SMTC to reach a wider audience. Other pluses include dressing rooms for the actors, a hydraulic orchestra pit, and a full bar and concession area. "We'll be able to offer special receptions to groups," David says.

"Cabaret" will feature Michelle Kahn as Sally Bowles, Petey Swartz as Frau Schneider and Ron Jennings as Herr Schultz, with choreography by Bill Hotaling, founder of Manhattan Dance Project in New York. Matt Newhard will be The Emcee. David is quick to say this is NOT the grittier Sam Mendes

version of "Cabaret," which has been making the rounds since it premiered at Studio 54 in New York 15 years ago. "I love the original version, which fits in much better with my style. That's the version we'll present." The show is scheduled for three performances June 27-29 with the option of adding a fourth if needed. Tempe Center for the Arts is located at 700 W Rio Salado Pkwy. in Tempe.

Special Offer for Cabaret Tickets

Arizona Jewish Life readers: Mention code SMTC2014 and pay just \$30 for any performance (regular prices are \$35-39). For discounted tickets call 602-909-4215. scottsdalemusicaltheater.com



Lee Goldstein and Moe

Prescott senior shares story of a good life

Childhood lessons as a mensch prepared Lee Goldstein for long life in wheelchair

By Deborah Moon

Growing up near the shores of Lake Michigan during World War II, Lee Goldstein says he learned to be a mensch from his father, who invited servicemen from the nearby Army and Navy bases to join the family every Friday night for Shabbat services and dinner.

Lee became a bar mitzvah just as the war ended, and his life and the future seemed bright.

A year later a playful shove from a friend as he was poised to dive into the lake resulted in a broken neck that left him a quadriplegic. Nearly 70 years later, he believes he is the world's longest-living quadriplegic.

Though he has limited use of his arms, which he has maximized with intensive gym workouts, he says most doctors consider him a full quadriplegic due to very poor sensation in the arms and limited finger use. "You would not be able to feel my handshake pressure," he says.

Now living in Prescott, the 81-year-old has shared his amazing existence, full life, humor and struggles in the e-book *So Far, So Good! (the Saga of a Broken Neck and the Good Life that can Follow)*.

In phone and email interviews, Lee's humor is sprinkled throughout his comments: "I was bar mitzvahed just before my accident; 1945 bar mitzvah, 1946 accident. Did the whole thing in Hebrew – the bar mitzvah, not the accident."

He says his father "taught me to cope with life, my injury, my education, friendships and all else."

Lee was active in Hillel while in college, serving as vice president and leading some major fundraisers for Israel. Though after that he says his active involvement in Judaism took a back seat to surviving his ongoing health challenges.



Lee and Ellen Goldstein

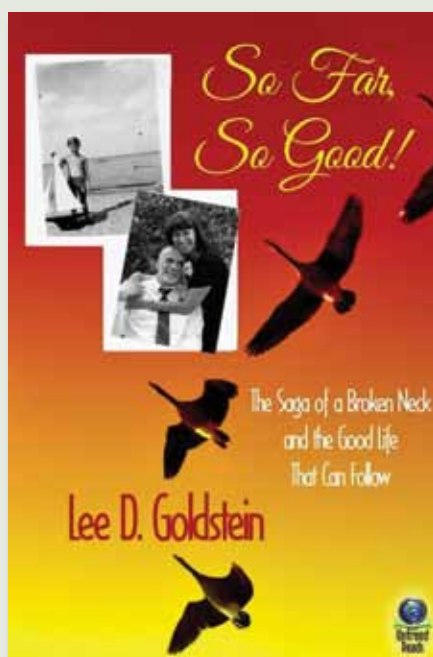


His book chronicles his recovery, college years, 11 years as a systems analyst, his second career as the owner of numerous stores and his two successful marriages. He shares the reality of life for para- and quadriplegics. But talking to the man, though he admits to times of morass, your main sensation is the humor and joy that has filled his life.

"After my first career as a systems analyst in the defense industry for 11 years, I opened a gift store, The Smuggler, which carried handmade artifacts from all over the world," he says. "By the time I sold the enterprise to retire in 1991, I had developed many such stores, some of which had also morphed into leather, clothing and hat stores.

"I'm proud of those stores, and it was one of the happiest and most fulfilling times of my life. The old saying is, do something you love and you will never work a day in your life. After opening my first store, I never worked again."

Lee and his first wife, Marilyn, were married 26 years and raised five adopted children before she died of breast cancer. For the past 19 years he's been married to Ellen, whom he met after



placing "a very honest personal ad" when he tired of living "a hermit-like existence" in a log cabin in Montana.

Though Ellen grew up in the 1950s in a very Jewish neighborhood in the Bronx, where she felt like "the whole world was Jewish," she never seriously dated anyone who was Jewish before she met Lee. A single mom who put her daughter through private school, Ellen was working as an administrative assistant at a school of nursing when she saw Lee's personal ad in a "cowboy magazine." The two corresponded by mail and phone for two years before meeting.

"Lee's intelligence, wit and caring nature definitely caught my interest," says Ellen. "His perseverance on everything he does continues to astound me, as it does those who meet him."

While not everyone can have the pleasure of meeting Lee in person, anyone can explore his outlook on life in his e-book. *So Far, So Good!* is available at amazon.com, Barnes and Nobel, the Apple Bookstore and on his website at leedgoldstein.com.

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Retired Linda Mushkatel finds Experience Matters

By Janet Arnold

Today's seniors are not the same as those of just a generation ago. Many are simply not ready to completely retire regardless of how many birthdays they have celebrated. Feeling fulfilled and giving back are two important desires expressed by those who contact Experience Matters, an organization making a difference in the Valley by "connecting the skills and talents of experienced adults with the diverse needs of nonprofit organizations to build a stronger, more vibrant community."

It was a natural connection for Linda Mushkatel when she retired earlier than expected from the Maricopa County government. It's not just the tenor of her voice but also the enthusiasm when she speaks that belies Linda Mushkatel's status as a "senior." She knew when she retired in January that she was not done giving of herself or her talents.

Linda's 32-year professional career in Maricopa County government focused on issues and programs addressing special populations, including persons with serious mental illness, Arizonans with indigent health and behavioral healthcare needs, adults experiencing homelessness, and adults and juveniles engaged with the criminal justice system. As the Maricopa County special projects manager, she managed the Justice System Planning and Information Department and also played a county leadership role (planning, programming and capital campaign lead) in the development of the Human Services Campus in downtown Phoenix for adults experiencing homelessness.

Prior to her work with the criminal justice system and Human Services Campus, she served as the vice president for managed care at the Maricopa Integrated Health System, where she was responsible for their Medicaid and Medicare Plans. During her early years with Maricopa County, Linda was responsible for the Health Care Agency's planning, training and contract administration functions and helped develop the initial community support system for adults with serious mental illness.

Upon her retirement, Linda contacted Experience Matters and became an Encore Fellow. She felt extremely fortunate that she was assigned to the Human Services Campus to which she had already become so attached. The campus is in the process of integrating three of their nonprofits into a cohesive unit – combining boards, maintaining and clarifying missions and

generally learning to work cooperatively.

"This is a place for my whole career to come together," Linda says. She plans to use her knowledge and skills to help the groups merge harmoniously.

Linda is a long-time resident of the East Valley, where she has been a member of Temple Emanuel in Tempe for 30+ years. Her daughter, Jessica Burnquist, became a bat mitzvah there. Jessica is an English teacher at Combs High School in the San Tan Valley. She received her MFA as a poet and worked with Rabbi Barton Lee of Hillel on her final presentation,

which encompassed Holocaust poetry.

Linda's son, Zachary, also became a bar mitzvah at Temple Emanuel. Zach is now a partner in Mushkatel, Robbins and Becker law firm in Sun City. Linda served on the Temple Board and taught fourth-grade Hebrew there for 10 years.

With these deep roots, Linda credits her Jewishness in a great degree with her feeling a continuing need to contribute to the good of the whole. "It is such a great experience to be able to help in a meaningful way at this point in my life," she says. "It's a double blessing that I am able to continue some of the work I was doing when I was a county employee and see this great campus become even greater. The goal of the campus, located in downtown Phoenix, is a 'regional approach to ending homelessness,' and I'm proud to be a part of such a noble cause."



Linda Mushkatel

Experience Matters began after a pilot program and financial resources were supplied by the Virginia G. Piper Trust.

Experience Matters, which matches retired individuals with nonprofits in need of their services, seeks additional funding from local corporations. American Express, Bank of America, Intel, PetSmart and Cox Communications are just some of the contributing partners. Encore Fellows is a national program, but is administered by the local Experience Matters. The Encore Fellows are paid a stipend for their time and expertise working on a particular project that will take the nonprofit to the next level. Most Fellows come from the for-profit world; Linda thinks she may be one of the few from the government arena.

Experience Matters also offers regular workshops and discussion groups for Boomers contemplating their "Encore" career moves. For information on Experience Matters, contact experiencemattersaz.org.

Centenarians share thoughts on long life

Many of us dream of living a long and healthy life. But who's to say if we actually will. Is it genetics? Is it clean living? Is it just luck? According to the 2010 Census there were a little more than 830 centenarians in Arizona with the number on the rise as people are living longer. But why are they living longer?

These are questions the Center for Healthy Aging at the Banner Sun Health Research Center is answering. Led by Walter Nieri, MD, the Center for Healthy Aging in Sun City was established to explore the multiple factors contributing to healthy aging to enhance the quality of life for older adults. The center conducts applied science research, The Longevity Study: Learning from our Elders, led by Dr. Nieri and David Coon, PhD, professor of Psychology at Arizona State University. The study's focus is on interviewing those 80+. It has more than 400 active participants.



Abraham Meth (foreground) and other centenarians toast each other at the Century Celebration in Sun City April 21.

On April 21 The Center for Healthy Aging celebrated 15 centenarians, including Holocaust survivor Abraham Meth, as they met each other for the first time. Study participants had a chance to speak face to face about their 100+ years on earth. They also met with volunteers who administer the surveys each year and were entertained by senior a cappella singing group, Lilac Crazies.

Born in Hungary in 1912, Abe has been a participant in the Longevity Study since 2012. His father was from Romania and his mother was from Poland. Married at age of 26, he celebrated 71 years of marriage and raised a son and a daughter before becoming a widower.

Despite his health conditions, Abe continues to push forward every day. He plays the violin, has written an opera as well as an orchestra piece that will be performed this summer. He volunteers at Temple Beth Shalom in Sun City and Beth El Congregation in Phoenix and often teaches Hebrew.

Abe's main contributor to healthy life and longevity is the ability to live a "happy, industrious and very productive life" without wasting time. Leisure activities include reading the newspaper and keeping up with international events.

"I came to this country in 1948 after the war; there was no time for leisure time," says Abe. "Coming here to America, I worked hard to be accepted – to produce something and to become useful to American society. I am still an active member of my Temple and I give lectures about the Holocaust at schools. I am a musician and I love playing in an orchestra. Music is my favorite pastime."



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CANCER? Waste of time!

Brooke Andrews just keeps acting and helping others find jobs

By Janet Arnold

Brooke Andrews is simply too busy to give in to illness. She is a certified professional resume writer who has helped hundreds of people find meaningful work; she's very involved with the American Maltese Rescue Organization; plus she's a working actress about town, both on stage and on film. Illness just gets in her way.

Brooke has always been feisty and resolute. When she was 7, she decided that she wouldn't answer to her given name, Bernice, and insisted everyone call her Bambi – and everyone did! Though she legally changed her name to Brooke in 1977, some people still call her Bambi. "The name change is an example of my philosophy: If you don't like something and you can change it, take whatever action is needed to secure that change. If you can't change something you don't like, accept it as gracefully as possible."

Born to Jewish parents in Brooklyn, Brooke found her performing legs early on. Her first acting role was Miriam in the Story of Moses when she was 8, and she knew that acting would be a major part of her life. In addition to acting on stage, she studied clothing design at Prospect Heights High School and used her talents to costume shows. She and her husband, Don, moved to Phoenix in 1965 sight unseen after Brooke had written his resume and sent it to SRP, from which he has now retired as a vice president. Brooke worked for Channel 12 from 1967-75 and started doing her own film and commercial work. In the '80s she worked with Hope Silvestri z'l to develop a theater-based child abuse prevention program through Jewish Family & Children's Service. The program became known as Project Prevention and increased to include the topics of drug and alcohol prevention, gang membership and teen pregnancy. They provided performances for more than 600,000 students around the state before funding ran out.



1949
"Dancer"

At age 8 in 1949, Brooke was to be a rose in *The Waltz of the Flowers* until the chicken pox decided otherwise.



1978
"Charlie Brown"

Brooke in *You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown* in 1978. As the oldest cast member (37), she played the youngest character.



"Lady Rutherford"

Brooke portrayed Lady Rutherford, nearly two years as understudy and five-plus years as the female lead between 1989 and 1996.



"Aunt Mary"

Brooke as Aunt Mary.

Brooke is anxiously awaiting the premier of the movie "The Dog Wedding," a romantic comedy she filmed at Cosmo Dog Park in Gilbert in the fall of 2013, which is scheduled to open soon. The film was written by Jason B. Hurwitz and James Lefkowitz. Brooke plays Roz, the mother.

"I've played lots of mothers and grandmothers," Brook smiles. "I loved playing Miriam Goldman in James Sherman's 'Beau Jest' and Ma Bailey in 'It's a Wonderful Life.'" She was nominated for a local ariZoni award for her role as Emma Christano, the Italian grandmother in "Over the River and Through the Woods." She has performed with many local theater companies and also appeared in a Super Bowl Doritos commercial.

So you may understand why she feels she just doesn't have time "to spend the rest of my life being sick in bed!"

In 2010 Brooke's "dance with cancer" began. She had already had a hysterectomy to handle uterine cancer in 1971. But she never anticipated what lay ahead. She was first diagnosed with bladder

cancer. "It is not a terrible procedure, so people shouldn't fear it," she says of the surgery to remove tumors and the BCG preventive chemotherapy that followed. To date she has had three such surgeries and chemo treatments, but felt they weren't difficult to handle. They didn't make her sick and she was still able to function.

In 2011 nodes were discovered on her thyroid. She sought a second opinion before having her thyroid removed and instead discovered through a scan that she had a large tumor in her right lung. One-third of her right lung was removed in January of 2012. Though she started a chemo regimen after that surgery, she did

not complete it because her husband had become ill, and she needed her strength to tend to him. "I also realized I didn't want to spend the rest of my life sick and exhausted, unable to live my life."

In May of 2013, in addition to the return of bladder cancer, a tumor was found on the right side of her chest. She chose a high-dose radiation treatment, which successfully eradicated the tumor. While she was in rehearsal for a show in December of 2013, Brooke's doctors found more "trouble spots" that they believe is a return of the adenocarcinoma, the most common form of lung cancer

in nonsmokers. Brooke has made it clear that she will not accept "regular" chemotherapy as an option. She watched her sister and her best friend suffer through their treatments with no change in the outcome. She has agreed, however, to try a new pill for now, as long as the side effects are tolerable.

Brooke is well aware that her outlook on life may seem strange to some, but it works for her. "Maybe if I were 42 instead

of 72 I'd feel differently," she says. She's had a good life and feels comfortable with her relationship with God. "Like Tevye," she grins, "I talk to Him. I thank Him for all the good in my life and rarely ask for anything." Brooke believes she'll be reunited with her loved ones when the time comes.

In the meantime, you will rarely find Brooke without a smile. "I will do my best to enjoy my remaining time, to continue to make audiences laugh, to help my clients get ahead and to do all of this with as much grace as I can muster."

Queen Victoria Donny Brooke



May 2008 Bark Mitzvah

Brooke Andrews crochets a kippah for each of her dogs when they reach 13 and become a Bark Mitzvah.

THREE DECADES OF DEDICATION TO ARIZONA FAMILIES



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CHEF'S CORNER

I SCREAM, YOU SCREAM,
WE ALL SCREAM FOR
"POPSICLES"

By Lucia Schnitzer

Photos by Matthew Strauss



When hot weather rolls around we like to make popsicles, lots and lots of them. They are the treat of choice after a romp in the sprinkler, while reading a book by the pool or just because it's 120 degrees outside. The kids love to make their own variations, and my 8-year-old daughter, Aviva, has gained a following for her famous "Banana Pops."

When we make our homemade treats, we use: Dixie cups, popsicle molds, ice trays and our favorite, a Zozu Quick Freeze Mold, for instant popsicles. You'll also need popsicle sticks if you don't use molds with plastic sticks.

When you make your own popsicles, you're in control of the ingredients, it's cost effective and it's good old-fashioned fun creating a multitude of innovative flavors. Think outside the box and freeze whole fruits and dip them in chocolate, or make creamy popsicles with Greek yogurt; better yet, be daring and make some veggie variations. These four incredible recipes will make your home the coolest spot in the neighborhood this summer!

See story online at azjewishlife.com for two bonus recipes.

Aviva's Banana Pops

- 4 bananas
- 1 cup almond milk
- 1 teaspoon cinnamon
- 1 teaspoon pure vanilla extract

Mash bananas with a masher or your hands. Add almond milk, cinnamon and vanilla extract and continue to mix until blended. Add the fruit mixture to each mold, leaving about 1/4 inch at the top to allow for expansion. Freeze until partially frozen, about 1 hour. Insert sticks and freeze another 4 to 6 hours until fully set.

Rainbow Popsicles

(Makes ten 3 oz. popsicles)

- 1 cup coconut water
- 2 tablespoons Sugar in the Raw Syrup
- 2 cups pomegranate juice
- 3 cups lemonade
- 1 cup orange juice

Food coloring (natural food coloring is available at some health food stores) In a medium sauce pan, heat the coconut water and syrup over medium heat.

Bring to a slight boil, and stir until syrup has dissolved to create a simple syrup. Remove from heat. Set aside to cool.



Aviva with her banana pop

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.

Prepare and chill the liquid layers:

Red: Combine 1 cup pomegranate juice, 2 tablespoons simple syrup and 2 drops red food coloring. **Orange:** Combine 1 cup orange juice, 2 tablespoons simple syrup, and 1 drop red and 1 drop yellow food coloring. **Yellow:** Combine 1 cup lemonade, 2 tablespoons simple syrup and 1-2 drops yellow food coloring. **Green:** Combine 1 cup lemonade, 2 tablespoons simple syrup and 1-2 drops green food coloring. **Blue:** Combine 1 cup lemonade, 2 tablespoons simple syrup and 1-2 drops blue food coloring. **Purple:** Combine 1 cup pomegranate juice, 2 tablespoons simple syrup, and 2 drops blue and 1 drop red food coloring.

Pour the red layer into your Dixie cups (or mold) to about 1/4" thickness and freeze for 30 minutes. Add the orange layer and freeze for another 30 minutes. Place the sticks in the center (the two layers should hold them pretty well), pour in the yellow layer and freeze 30 minutes. Add the green, blue and purple layers in the same fashion. The purple will come very close to the top of the cup, so handle carefully. Allow the popsicles to freeze for at least 3 hours, though for optimal curing, let them freeze overnight.

To serve, simply make a small incision in the rim of the Dixie cup and tear the cup off. For a faster variation, use a Zozu Quick Pop Maker.

Avocado Paletas

(Makes 8 to 10 ice pops)

- 1 cup water
- ½ cup sugar
- 2 small ripe avocados
- Pinch of salt
- 2 tablespoons freshly squeezed lime juice
- 1 cup dark chocolate or semisweet chocolate chips
- ¼ cup coconut oil
- 1 teaspoon vanilla



Combine the water and sugar in a small saucepan and cook over medium-high heat, stirring until the mixture comes to a boil and the sugar has dissolved. Cool to room temperature.

Cut the avocados in half lengthwise. Remove the pit and scoop the flesh into a blender, along with the cooled syrup and salt. Blend until smooth, scraping the sides as needed. Add the lime juice and blend just until combined.

If using conventional molds, divide the mixture among the molds, snap on the lid and freeze until solid, about 5 hours. If using Dixie cups or other molds, freeze until the pops start to set (1½ to 2 hours), then insert the sticks and freeze until solid, 4 to 5 hours. If using an instant ice pop maker, follow the manufacturer's instructions.

If coating in chocolate: Chop chocolate well and place in a glass or metal bowl. Melt the chocolate and the coconut oil over a pan of simmering water, stirring until smooth. Cool to room temperature. Remove popsicles from the freezer and immediately dip in the chocolate. Hold the popsicle for a minute or two until the chocolate hardens, then return to the freezer until ready to serve.

Watermelon Cucumber Popsicles

- 1 small watermelon cut in chunks
- 1 cup cucumbers peeled and diced small
- ¼ cup Sugar in the Raw Syrup
- ½ cup water
- Pinch of kosher salt



Combine the syrup, salt and water in a 2-quart saucepan over medium heat. Bring to a boil and make sure the syrup has dissolved. Let the syrup cool completely. Transfer the syrup to a 1-quart liquid measuring cup.

Puree the watermelon chunks in batches in a blender. Add 2 cups of puree (save any extra for another use) to the syrup.

Distribute the diced cucumber among 10 ½-cup molds. Add the fruit mixture to each mold, leaving about ¼ inch at the top to allow for expansion. Stir gently with a popsicle stick to distribute the diced cucumber. Freeze until partially frozen, about 1 hour. Insert sticks and freeze again until the pops are fully set, 4 to 6 hours more.

Where do JEWISH PEOPLE EAT?

OHSO Eatery + nanoBrewery \$\$\$
4900 E Indian School Road
Phoenix, AZ

By A. Noshman

Tucked against the southern bank of the Arizona Canal, kissing the venerable Arcadia neighborhood, sits a gem of a place, OHSO Eatery + nanoBrewery. Much like its ancestor establishments of that area (remember how fun the Monastery was), OHSO has its own character and characters. Billed as a dog-friendly, bicycle-friendly, beer-friendly oasis, one quickly learns that friendly is the operative word. I believe the initials stand for Outrageous Homebrewer's Social Outpost. I have never left without making a new four-legged or human friend.

Parking is terrible, but do not let this deter you. It's a small lot because of the canal, so just take advantage of the free valet parking. Better yet, ride your bike there; many people do. You can dine inside or on their fabulous back patio with a clear view of Camelback Mountain. Antique bikes decorate this industrial chic microbrewery, and all of the beer making equipment is exposed for you to see and enjoy. Stacks of grain sometimes line the walkways, and OHSO is unapologetic about the fact that beer is being crafted before your eyes.

The beers brewed onsite rotate frequently, changing with the seasons and for fun. There is always a solid lineup of microbrews on tap, as well as a full bar and extensive wine offering. The menu is an eclectic sampling of bar munchies, appetizers, full meals and desserts. There's always a happy hour special on drinks and food. Over the course of several visits, here is what I tried.



OHSO Beer

OHSO RB2 Beer, \$6 Pitcher

Notes of root beer and licorice

This was my first taste of OHSO, and it was a delicious one. This creamy, satisfying dark beer was exactly what the menu said; I could taste hints of root beer and licorice. The alcohol content on their homemade stuff tends to run a little high; this is a good thing, I'm just bringing it to your attention. If you see this on the menu and are a fan of the darks, this is a must.

OHSO Hefeweizen, \$6 Pitcher

Banana and clove

This was a very drinkable Hefeweizen, beautiful in color, with

the trademark murkiness of a good wheat beer. I've discovered the menu descriptions of the beers are quite accurate. You can taste the hints of banana and clove, and this pitcher went down quickly.

The Brisket, \$12

House-smoked beef brisket with homemade OHSO tangy Q sauce, green chile sauce topped with delicious crunchy onion straws on a sweet bun, served with fries

Who doesn't love a BBQ brisket sandwich? This one arrives piled high on tempting artisan bread. The shredded beef is tender, smoky and sweet. There's a slight bit of heat from the green chile sauce, but overall it's the sweet smoke that dominates. The fries are fresh and crispy, and there's a nice pickle on the side. It's a little messy to eat, but every bite is just as good as the first.

Skirt Steak + Fries, \$14

Charbroiled skirt steak, onions, peppers with a tomatillo sauce, poblano aioli, and pico de gallo all together tossed with fries



The Brisket

This menu described this dish prepared with a sprinkle of cojita cheese (a tangy Mexican white cheese), which I asked to be held to avoid mixing milk with meat, and this scrumptious dish was delivered to my order. Like a giant steak salad with garlicky, crisp fries instead of lettuce, this steaming stack of comfort was just the right combination of flavors and textures. A perfect complement to a cold beer.

With all that wonderful meat to choose from, I had to return to try their creamy dip and pie served with ice cream. I rounded out this meal with fish tacos.

OHSO Green Chile Dip, \$9

Creamy blend of white beans, garlic, cream cheese and more served with warm flatbread and veggie chips

A beautifully presented appetizer arrives with a bowl of dip, chips and lightly toasted pita-like flatbread. The first bite makes you go "Yum," and it's obvious early that this appetizer is going to completely disappear. Poking through the dip to investigate

what the “and more” means in the menu description, I find small chunks of pineapple. This dip has just the right amount of heat and lots of flavor. Another good thing, the ratio of flatbread to dip is perfect – you don’t have to ask for more. A pet peeve of mine is running out of chips or bread before the dip is gone. I’m not a veggie chip guy, but these were colorful and crisp.

Mahi Mahi Tacos, \$12

Served street style with honey jalapeno slaw, fresh guacamole, roasted tomato salsa, hand-pressed flour tortillas and lime

All of the fixings to build your own fish taco are beautifully arranged on a very full plate. The fish is crisp but most likely frozen, not fresh. The guacamole looked a little dark, probably because it was premade and beginning to darken, as guacamole does quickly. The tortillas were nice and warm. Overall, this dish was tasty – far from the fish tacos served on the beaches of Mexico, but pretty good for the banks of an urban canal.

Carmel Apple Pie, \$7

Served with vanilla ice cream, made in Arcadia by Pie Snob

The menu description included the line “It’s amazing,” and it’s true. From the first bite I knew none would be left over. It’s gooey, warm and sweet, and despite the gooey texture, the crust was flaky and the apples had a little crunch. The cold ice cream is a classic addition. No matter how full you are, use that extra “dessert stomach” we are all born with and order this slice of heaven.

OHSO is an oasis of beer, food and friendship. It’s a destination point for bicyclists, pets and thirsty people. While

they linger over beer, delicious food comes and goes. Ultimately, everyone has to head home, but you leave knowing that you will be back. Yes, you will be back!



SMILE Biscotti \$\$
(available only by mail order)
smilebiscotti.com

These crunchy morsels derive their name from a Latin word meaning “twice baked.” That’s why they are so crisp,

so brown and stand up to a dunking in coffee or milk, as I like to do.

SMILE Biscotti are amazingly delicious, but what makes them so special isn’t how they are made, it is by whom they are made. The baker, Matt Resnick, is a young man with autism who has started a business under the guidance of his loving parents. SMILE was created as a solution for Matt’s long-term living needs.

For lovers of biscotti this is an ideal situation. Picture being only a few steps away from an almondy sweetness whenever you want, as the distance to these treats is the number of steps you have to take from your front door to your mailbox. They come in a variety of flavors including Ceylon Vanilla, Double Chip (chocolate) and Citrus Almond. I always order the variety pack because I can’t name a favorite. All are excellent.

Doing a mitzvah never tasted so good. I highly recommend SMILE Biscotti. You will love them, and knowing that the proceeds support Matt only makes them better.



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

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Oleg Bortman



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"Transplants" with a common

Story and photos by Leni Reiss

They hail from New York, New Jersey and New Mexico – from Philly and Pittsburgh and points north, south, east and west. And they live in North Phoenix and Chandler, Sun Lakes and Gilbert and Tempe. They are members of the East Valley Jewish Couples' Club, a mixture of transplants with a common cause: meeting and making new friends. Under a starry Arizona sky on a recent Saturday night some 40 people, including a few singles, met to socialize, schmooze and enjoy artisan pizzas at The Olive Mill in Queen Creek. The perennial popularity of Jewish geography was going full blast, second only to the serious discussions on the superiority of "back east" pizza, with major kudos for Chicago deep dish.

The club originated years ago at the JCC in Tempe, disbanded and was restarted with a boost from Melissa Hirsch, who "got it off to a great start" about five years ago, says Eileen Shapiro, who now serves as coordinator.

"As the coordinator I maintain the email distribution list, club directory and annual calendar," says Eileen.

"I work with the volunteering couple to organize their event for the month, and I then publicize it to the membership. Additionally I serve as the 'welcoming committee' to potential new members, fielding their questions, introducing them to the club and making sure they do not feel left out."

Lisa Krone, a Valley resident for 20- plus years, says, "It's always fun to add to the repertoire of people I know."

On a summer Sunday, interested parties gather for a kick-off brunch and sign up to plan an event for the coming season. This year's planning party will be Aug. 17. Open slots fill up through the year, and friendships are formed and fostered.

"Our August planning meeting and our Hanukkah party are the two most attended events," says Eileen. "Most of our members want to be involved and come to the planning meeting with ideas on how to improve the club and to sign up to 'host' an upcoming monthly event."

The calendar fills up with outings, which in the past have featured hikes and visits to local points of pride including the Musical Instrument Museum; comedy clubs, theater, dinner and a movie, potlucks; and a field trip to the Jewish History Museum in Tucson. A highlight of the annual Hanukkah party, held at a Chinese restaurant, is a gift exchange and, one time, a collection of stuffed animals to donate to Phoenix Children's Hospital. "There usually is food involved," Eileen adds. "After all, we are Jewish!"

For information about upcoming events or to be added to the membership list, contact Eileen Shapiro at 480-370-6520.

From left, Eileen and Wes Shapiro from Chicago, live in Sun Lakes; Linda and Bob Brooks, from Connecticut, live in Sun Lakes.



Lisa Krone from Philadelphia lives in Chandler.



From left, Margo and Sandy Blumenfeld moved to Arizona from New York; Donna and Harry Zegerson, from New York and Pittsburgh, now live in Tempe.

A Deeper Way to Honor Our Parents and Ourselves

By Amy Hirshberg Lederman

America is big on holidays, especially those that relate to family members. There's a holiday for mothers in May, a special day for dads in June and a grandparent's day in September that usually includes a pancake breakfast at preschool. But what inspires these holidays goes beyond a positive earnings statement for Hallmark. The reason we honor our parents and grandparents is no great mystery: it is because they have given us life.

The Jewish tradition teaches that there are three partners in the creation of a human being: God, a father and a mother. Parents are part of a holy relationship with God as the co-parent. In this way, Jewish thinking offers great comfort to us as parents, because, in a sense, we share the struggle of raising our children with the Creator of all.

It also implies that the way we treat our parents is a reflection of the way we feel about God. Simply put, when we love and honor our parents, we love and honor God.

Judaism is clear about the duties children owe their parents. The Fifth Commandment requires that we *honor* our father and mother, and Leviticus 19:3 commands us to *revere* our mother and father. The positive commandment to honor requires us to provide food, shelter, clothing and the type of support and care that our parents gave us when we were young. The commandment to revere our parents is one of restraint and forbids us to disrespect, disgrace or degrade our parents, especially in public.

Jewish wisdom offers an amazing insight about the parent/child relationship. While we are commanded to *love* God, our neighbors and even the stranger among us, nowhere in the Torah are we commanded to love our parents.

I am incredibly lucky. Both of my parents are still living, and I love them very much. But 20 years ago, when I was trying to determine "what I want to be when I grow up," I unconsciously did something to dishonor them.

At the age of 40, I realized that I wanted to give up the practice of law – to seriously study Judaism. I had no clue at the time where it would lead me, but my heart told me it was what I needed to do to live a more meaningful life.

I was sure that my parents, especially my father, would have a really hard time understanding my decision. I could hear their questions in my head even before they asked them.

Dad would ask: "Why would you give up a lucrative legal career to study something that probably won't amount to anything?"

And Mom would follow with: "Why can't you just get a facelift or remodel your kitchen like other woman having a midlife crisis?"

Truth be known, I struggled with those questions myself but knew, deep down, that I had to make the change. I avoided telling them about my plans for months, quietly rearranging my life under their radar.

Then one night I had a terrible thought: *Do I have to wait for my parents to die before I can live my life the way I want to?*

That question plagued me because I hated what it suggested about our relationship. Did I really give my parents so little credit that I thought they couldn't handle my decision to change careers? As a parent, I dearly hope that my children will pursue meaningful life choices and be happy. Didn't all parents want that, including my own?

My struggle helped me understand a deeper truth: If I didn't believe in my parents, I couldn't expect them to believe in me. If I didn't trust their ability to respect my need for change, I wouldn't trust my own judgment in making that change. And if I didn't respect them enough to tell them, I would never respect myself as an individual.

It's true that they had certain legitimate concerns about my choice at the time. Yet, within weeks, my father began to send me articles from the New York Times about women lawyers who were leaving the profession in search of more meaningful work. And over the past two decades, my relationship with my parents has become stronger and more authentic because of my decision. I no longer wonder if their love for me is so fragile or conditional that it can't sustain the truth of who I am or what I want to be.

Loving our parents is not commanded in the Torah; neither is believing in them. But when we have faith in their capacity to accept our decisions and honor our truths, we take a necessary step in honoring them as well.

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



Temple Emanu-El Hosts Freedom Seder

By Janet Arnold

Honoring the spirit of the ancient story of the Jews' exodus from Egypt, and the struggles of all peoples who have fought and died for freedom, Temple Emanu-El and Humane Borders co-sponsored a Freedom Seder led by actor and activist Ed Asner. The seder was held on April 21 at Temple Emanu-El in Tucson, with more than 200 people in attendance. Participants at the head table included Rabbis Samuel Cohon and Batsheva Appel, Tucson Mayor Jonathan Rothschild, representatives from the U.S. Border Patrol, clergy from Episcopal and Catholic dioceses, and volunteers from Humane

The first Freedom Seder was celebrated April 4, 1969, on the one-year anniversary of the death of Martin Luther King Jr. Since that time, Freedom Seders have embraced the stories of people of color, refugees and others who have fought for basic human dignity.

Borders. The Four Questions were recited in English, Hebrew, Spanish, Yiddish and Hungarian.

The first Freedom Seder was celebrated April 4, 1969, on the one-year anniversary of the death of Martin Luther King Jr. Since that time, Freedom Seders have embraced the stories of people of color, refugees and others who have fought for basic human dignity.

Humane Borders offers humanitarian assistance to those in need through the deployment of emergency water stations on



Mayor Jonathan Rothschild and Rabbi Batsheva Appel



Ed Asner

“Who should know the suffering of wandering in the desert better than us, after following Moses for 40 years?”

– Bob Feinman, Humane Borders board member

routes known to be used by migrants coming north through the Arizona desert. The water tanks are on a combination of private and public lands. In all cases they have permission to locate the water stations on these lands in writing from the landowners.

Bob Feinman became a board member of Humane Borders three years ago and found that he was one of only two members of the Jewish community actively involved. He is currently the vice chairperson of the organization and has set about spreading the word in an effort to get the Jewish community more engaged.

“Who should know the suffering of wandering in the desert better than us, after following Moses for 40 years?” he asks. “We should be at the front of this charge to help prevent others from going through a similar path today as was ours thousands of years ago. We are a humanitarian organization with no political agenda. We don't debate the right or wrong of people crossing the border;

working with the border patrol, we just try to prevent death from being part of this equation.”

Humane Borders was founded in June 2000 to create a safe and death-free border environment. It is a 501C-3 nonprofit organization with membership of more than 1,500 volunteers and 100 affiliated organizations from all walks of life. Humaneborders.org

Change takes time and small steps

By Dvora Entin

With Pesach behind us, our house has remained spotlessly cleaned and organized in the wake of our pre-Pesach cleaning. Right? Of course right! Most of us will drag that word out to sound like *riiiiight*.

How is it that all our well-intentioned plans to keep the house neat, organized and in order have failed so miserably? Changing a behavior related to a pattern or habit is difficult to achieve and even more difficult to maintain. It's not usually that you lack motivation to make a change, or that you don't want it badly enough. It's that making a change in life and our lifestyle requires thought and planning.

My favorite example that I use in therapy sessions relates to my sunglasses. I wear a prescription pair in our blinding Arizona sun and usually leave them in the car. Most of the time I tossed them on the seat next to me, and sometimes had to dig through the ever-growing pile of Coffee Bean cups to find them, or perform complicated gymnastic routines in an attempt to fish them out from under or behind the seats where they had cleverly hidden themselves.

I decided that I wanted to make a change. I wanted to know where the sunglasses were going to be every time I got into the car. Changing a behavior that has developed out of habit requires planning and forethought. Behavioral changes come in small steps, with planning and a clear assessment of what is keeping you from making a successful change.

I decided that the glasses would go into the pocket in the car (which was actually brilliantly made for sunglasses!). Most importantly, I decided that I would put them there every single time I got out of the car. Even if I was only going into a store for a minute, the glasses went into the pocket. I wasn't perfect. The solution wasn't perfect. But the problem slowly got better with a daily adherence to a small, manageable change in behavior.

How often are we faced with attending a great workshop, program or class and coming away feeling inspired to be amazing parents, people, spouses, leaders? We are fired up to be more patient, more understanding, more generous, and then within a few weeks we feel disappointed in ourselves and our lack of "follow through." What does it take for us to establish changes in our lives?

And dare I mention the dreaded diet? Each morning saying that today is the day that you will be "perfect" and focused and drink your eight cups of water and exercise, and count the calories, and not eat sugar, and lower the carbs, and, and, and. Does that sound familiar to you? Makes you want to just start tomorrow, right?

As a therapist, I often see this with clients who are inspired to make changes after developing a self-improvement plan. One client continues to walk out the door saying "This is the week I will look for a job!" And yet, week after week she returns with no progress or effort expended. It's not from lack of motivation or interest. But "looking for a job" is a frighteningly BIG activity or behavior to change. We get bogged down by the enormity of a task, and we just get in our own way. When we attempt to make a major change without the proper steps to make it last, we set

ourselves up for failure.

So what are some strategies to make change a reality, not an exercise in frustration? You may want to try the following:

- Choose one piece of a big picture to change. Don't fall into the trap of trying to fix everything at once.
- Identify the specific steps that are going to be needed to make a change. Don't just brush with one broad stroke. Be specific to be successful.
- Bring in a support system once the goal is established. Ask a friend to be your cheerleader or guide. Don't try going it alone.
- Be compassionate with yourself. Part of life is falling down. Know how to fall and how to recover.

The days after Pesach are the days of Sefirah, the counting of the days that led up to Shavuot, when the Jewish people received the Torah on Mount Sinai. Each day the Jewish people took one step further away from the pagan culture of Egypt and one step closer to Sinai and an event that would reshape the world. It took 49 specific, incremental steps for success, not just one giant leap. Take the lessons of the Sefirah to remind yourself that change is possible and go for it – in small achievable pieces.



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

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Looking for Love

How To Organize Your Dating Life

By Ellen Gerst

Looking for love in a focused manner can be a laborious undertaking. Accordingly, it's possible that you're encountering obstacles because of time constraints due to other responsibilities. But remember, it's vital to devote enough concentrated effort to this important endeavor to be successful in your search for a partner.

When I entered the online dating world more than a decade ago, I took a gigantic leap of faith because I knew nothing about how to date. What I did know, however, was how to have a relationship AND how to be systematic and set goals – two qualities that served me well.

For those who have never dated via the Internet, upon posting a profile, you immediately become a target for a tremendous amount of email contact. You're the "new kid on the block" and everyone is anxious to meet you – at least in cyberspace. It can actually be overwhelming, unless you're prepared for the onslaught.

Thinking logistically, I decided to use tools that could provide the most expedient results. First, I created a new email address that I used only for dating sites. This kept my dating queries segregated from my personal and business email. I was able to scan my mailbox with ease and avoid overlooking any messages. Furthermore, if I started receiving too many unwanted emails, I could easily delete the address and update my profile with a new one.

Next, I decided to use both Word and Excel as follows:

Through dating sites, members send out "feeler" emails to prospective dates. Having received many, I noticed they all said basically the same thing, and I was responding in a similar manner. This seemed tedious and repetitive; using Word, I created a master file with various stock responses. When I did respond to an email, this afforded me extra moments to personalize the salutation and add a few lines at the end, which showed I actually read the person's profile!

For usage in correspondence past the initial contact, I also penned some personal anecdotes, which I thought were suitable and engaging. When needed, I simply copied and pasted the appropriate one into my email. I would also personalize my response, so it answered questions my prospective date had posed.

In addition, my Word document included the standard rejection note. Since cyberspace is a cruel place, it's always nice to acknowledge a person's contact, even if you're not interested in pursuing it further. Everyone deserves a bit of courtesy and kindness, and it only takes seconds to respond – especially if you're just copying and pasting!

Using a "stock" answer for a reply or a rejection may seem cold, but when your mailbox is filled with queries, you need to save minutes. I'm not suggesting that you use this procedure for long – only at the inception of the contact. You can also review your correspondence and figure out which ones spark your interest enough to continue communicating.

Since dating is a numbers game, I interacted online with many potential dates at the same time. Consequently, an issue for me was figuring out how to keep track of which stage I was at with each man. For example, which information about me had I already emailed? I certainly didn't want to repeat the same old stories before I even met my date!

Creating another master file in Excel became invaluable. This one included a list of all those with whom I had some sort of contact. Along with recording some pertinent information about each potential date and keeping track of what tidbits I had shared, I copied and pasted the dating site profile picture of each into the file. This helped me to link names and faces. This is important because many people are on multiple sites and sometimes use different "handles" as a user name. You want to make sure you're not contacting the same person more than once or they you. If one rejection is hard enough, two from the same person is certainly not twice as much fun!

You can also collect and keep track of valuable data on the multiple tabs feature of Excel. If you're feeling generous, you can share this information with your friends. Just because someone isn't right for you, it doesn't mean that he/she isn't perfect for someone you know. In this situation, you can play mini-matchmaker within your own circle of friends, and they can do the same for you. This pooling of efforts and information exponentially increases the people you can meet while reducing the amount of time needed to filter through dating-site profiles to find appropriate matches.

If a relationship progresses past the third date, it's time to discard the spreadsheet for this person. However, you may want to copy and paste all the emails exchanged into a new Word document. This lets you remember what you said and the response you received. Reading these more than once can provide added insight into a person whom you don't know well. Furthermore, it's easier to have them in one place rather than having to search through old emails.

Using both Word and Excel in the preceding manner let's you stay organized, which provides more time for fun. It worked for me, and it can work for you! I met my current husband online after 11 months of fast and furious Internet dating, and we've been happily married for 11 years. I still have my Word file that contains every email the two of us exchanged during our yearlong courtship (and he does too!). To me, it's simply the modern-day version of a box of love letters that you can keep tucked away. Over the years, I've reread them many times, and this makes me fall in love all over again.

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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Youth groups collaborate to get teens involved

By Janet Arnold

We probably didn't need the recent Pew study on Jewish practice and behaviors to know that many Jewish youngsters end their Jewish education with a bar/bat mitzvah. Some pick up again when they go to college; many more wait until they have children of their own before they re-engage. Others never return to the Jewish community.

Jewish educators and communal service workers know that if they can keep children and teens involved, there is a much better chance these young people will retain their Jewish connections and, in turn, pass on the heritage to their offspring. "This is an area we need to work on as a community," says Rebekah Rubenstein, the Mountain Region BBYO director housed in Scottsdale. "BBYO is the largest pluralistic organization for tweens and teens, but there are a number of other organizations working with those ages groups as well. We are making a conscious effort to cooperate, rather than compete." To this end, Rebekah, who has been in the position here for three years, is working with Lynne Butner, regional director of NFTY (North American Federation of Temple Youth), which is under the umbrella of United Reform Judaism.

Lynne, who lives in Salt Lake City where she has been involved with NFTY for 13 years, says nearly three years ago at the URJ Biennial their staff initiated a campaign to strengthen youth engagement. They started to look at the relationship NFTY had with BBYO, realizing that the organizations were competing for a small group of youngsters, while the majority was not at all engaged. (Recent studies show less than 4% of Jewish teens are involved with Jewish organizations.) Believing it is imperative to get Jewish teens involved, Lynne and Rebekah started a conversation, which then included the advisors and now has led to cooperative programming.

The first joint program was a Hanukkah Dance held at Temple Chai in northeast Phoenix in December of 2012. Knowing there was significant competition between the members of the organizations as to "which was the best," Rebekah was a little nervous at first. But she was thrilled with the outcome! The dance was a big success and led to another dance, this time for Purim at the JCC this spring, as well as a cooperative J-Serve Day: A Day of Jewish Youth Service

to the Community. More than 200 youth from across the Valley participated in the day to reach out and assist others in need. Participants from USY (United Synagogue Youth, the Conservative teen group) and NCSY (the teen organization of the Orthodox Union) joined with those from BBYO and NFTY.

"For awhile there was a Jewish Youth Alliance in the Valley," says Rebekah. "It was a great opportunity for all of us who work with youth to get to know each other and devise ways to work together. But that organization isn't around anymore, so it's up to the individual leaders and organizations to spearhead cooperative events on their own."

A historic first took place when representatives from NFTY

attended the first two days of the BBYO International Convention in Dallas over Presidents Day weekend in February 2014. There they were all treated to taped greetings from President Barack Obama, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Sheryl Sandberg, COO of Facebook and a BBYO alum. This was the first time teen leaders of the two youth groups had gathered together in such a setting. As they worked as a unit, they began to see that they were not so different after all. Both youth



BBYO Director
Rebekah Rubenstein



NFTY Director Lynne Butner

groups were committed to social action and to living Jewish lives. By the end of their time together, they began to see that, as one NFTY member put it, he was "a Jewish teen first, a NFTYite second." They agreed that it is more important to get other teens involved in some aspect of Jewish life than to tout one organization over the other. Options are key to a young person trying to decide where he or she best fits. In fact, some teens enjoy membership in more than one Jewish organization.

Getting the young people to join is only half the battle. "It's difficult to keep teens involved; they have so many demands on their time," says Rebekah. "Yet we know that colleges, perhaps more than ever, want young people who are not only good students but also involved in their communities, who have spent time 'giving back,' who have embraced what the Jewish community calls tikkun olam, repairing the world. Plus BBYO and the other groups are heavily involved in teaching and developing leadership skills, which help teens in whatever direction they go."



BBYO Connect at the Valley of the Sun JCC and the Or Chadash of the Northeast Valley's USY tween group teamed up for a chocolate seder in April.

Rebekah has been planning events outside of the traditional weeknight meeting times in an effort to attract more teens. "We just had a dodgeball tournament on a Sunday afternoon, for example," she explains, "and held a parent information session at the same time."

Aware of how "tweens" can fall through the cracks, Rebekah also oversees an active BBYO Connect program at the Valley of the Sun JCC, aimed at those in 6th to 8th grades. It is open to all and has 40 members. The group held a chocolate seder in April in collaboration with Or Chadash of the Northeast Valley's USY tween group.

For years, BBYO was the teen organization under the B'nai B'rith banner. But over the years, B'nai B'rith has gone through significant changes, and in 2002, BBYO became an independent organization. It no longer receives funds from B'nai B'rith. The Mountain Region includes greater Phoenix, Tucson, Salt Lake City, Las Vegas and the beginnings of a chapter in the Tahoe/Reno area. About 300 teens are involved in Arizona, with the majority of those in the Valley. There are five chapters that meet in Scottsdale and two in the East Valley. There have been chapters in the West Valley before, but none is currently active. Tucson is in a regrowing mode right now with two chapters.

Since B'nai B'rith no longer provides funding, BBYO has launched local Friends and Alumni Networks. These FAN groups are responsible for raising money to support local programs, raising awareness about BBYO and supporting the teens when needed. All money raised for a local region stays in the region and directly impacts the local community. To become involved in FAN throughout Mountain Region, connect with Jayme David, director of community engagement, at jddavid@bbyo.org.

To find out more about BBYO, contact Rebekah at rbrubenstein@bbyo.org. You can also check with any of the Reform temples about NFTY (nfty.org); Conservative synagogues for info on USY (usy.org); and Orthodox synagogues for NSCY (ncsy.org). Chabad also runs CTeenPhoenix (chabadaz.com).

The leaders agree: it's less important where Jewish teens are involved than it is that they are involved somewhere.



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Teacher of the Year semifinalist didn't set out to become a teacher

By Deborah Moon

A Top 10 semifinalist for 2014 Arizona Teacher of the Year, Amy Furman never even intended to be a teacher until she encountered the 1990s evolution of teaching theory to focus on meeting the needs of all students.

Since 2001 Amy has taught 7th grade language arts at Aprende Middle School in the Kyrene Elementary School District, an “A” rated district comprising 25 schools (19 elementary and six middle schools). Amy has been chosen to serve on several district committees, has held many leadership roles and has mentored many student teachers. She was the Tempe Diablos Excellence in Education Teacher of the Year for her district in 2012.

Of being honored as a Top 10 recipient in this year's Arizona Teacher of the Year, Amy says, “I was very proud and humbled to represent my school, the staff and the district. It drives me to be a better teacher every day.”

But how did she get here? Growing up as the daughter of a high school teacher in a Jewish family that placed a high value on education, Amy had no interest in teaching.

An Arizona native, she was very involved at Beth Israel, where she became a bat mitzvah. She spent several summers at Camp Charles Perlstein (now Camp Harry and Daisy Stein) and went to Israel with Hebrew High for the summer after her junior year.

She graduated magna cum laude from the University of Arizona with a bachelor's degree in English literature, with a minor in marketing. “I ended up working at a small educational publishing company,” she says. “I was working with teachers and reading about new ways to teach and meet the needs of all students. It was so exciting. In the '90s there was a lot of talk about multiple intelligence. I hadn't thought about that before, though I suppose good teachers have always thought about how to make something interesting to students. I was drawn to

the creativity of teaching and the personal interaction and the interactive lessons in those theories.”

So she earned her secondary teaching certificate and began teaching junior high school in the Gilbert School District, where she also served as English department chair for three years before moving to the Kyrene District. The Kyrene Elementary School District (kyrene.org) enrolls approximately 18,000 students in K-8 grades and more than 400 preschool children.

She says that one of the most meaningful parts of her job is mentoring new teachers and working with her colleagues

through the new demands and expectations in the teaching profession.

“I really am interested in keeping the profession strong,” Amy says. “It is difficult to be a teacher these days. They (new teachers) need to see they can meet the challenges. And they come in with so much new information, I keep current as well.”

She and her husband, Mike, who teaches at the same school, have two children, Melanie,

13, and Zach, 11. Melanie became a bat mitzvah at Sun Lakes Congregation, where Amy's mom, Phyllis Novy, is a member. Zach is studying for his bar mitzvah with the congregation's cantor, Ronda Polesky.

“Judaism is part of our lives even though we are not formally affiliated,” says Amy. “The traditions are important and we honor them in our home.”

She carries her commitment to tikkun olam (healing the world) to her professional life as well. As co-adviser for the school's National Junior Honor Society chapter, Amy gives back through volunteering and organizing group service projects. Her chapter was recognized nationally as one of the Top 10 Service Projects of 2012 by making and donating fleece blankets to patients at Phoenix Children's Hospital.



Amy Furman works with two of the seventh graders in her first period language arts class.



Family Time

Stumbling into the “birth-order pit”

By Debra Rich Gettleman

“Personal accountability!” my husband, Mark, and I chimed out in sync at a Saturday morning family school session at our synagogue. “Taking responsibility for one’s actions.” We’d been asked by our rabbi to name something we’d learned from our parents and hoped to pass along to our kids.

Lots of parents had good answers: “work hard,” “be kind,” “give to charity.” But we liked ours best. It was, after all, the central theme of our parenting philosophy. Having both been raised in families that harped on us to “make your own breaks” and “pull yourself up by your bootstraps,” we were committed to passing those tenets on to our own offspring.

After we’d finished, our kids were invited back into the room and the rabbi asked them to go and pick out which value on the list their parents had written. Oh, this was gonna be easy. We snickered to ourselves silently as we waited for Eli, who was 8 at the time, to ace this assignment.

“Accept everyone?” he questioned, proudly pointing to the third value listed on the white board.

“Well, that’s certainly a good one,” I answered. “But that’s not the one Daddy and I wrote. Why don’t you try again, sweetie.”

“Treat others as you would like to be treated?” he confidently corrected.

“Um ... no, honey,” I stammered a bit, surprised by his error. “Guess again. It’s something that Daddy and I make you think about all the time.”

“Be kind!” he shouted with a victorious lilt.

I shook my head impatiently. Now I was officially irked. This pattern continued from “keep Shabbat,” to “eat dinner together,” to “always tell the truth.” Each mistaken answer was met with more parental frustration. He was down to the final two. I was actually appalled by this point. How could he not understand how deeply we valued this idea of taking responsibility for who you are and everything you do? I felt like a colossal failure.

When he cautiously pointed to “ride bicycles together,” I lost it.

“Eli,” I said in a voice much louder than I’d meant to use, “none of our bicycles even have tires. We haven’t ridden bicycles since last Halloween. Really?”

Then I pointed to our all-capped “PERSONAL RESPONSIBILITY.” “Oh,” he calmly voiced, “I didn’t see that one.”

I was furious – at him, at myself, at my husband. What did all our work add up to if he couldn’t even pick the right parental value out of a lineup of usual suspects that seemed blatantly obvious to us?

I tossed and turned over this all night. Then I woke up and recreated the list on a small poster board and asked our older son, Levi, who was 11 and wasn’t at the family school event, to peruse the list of parental values and tell us which one we had listed.

“That’s easy, mom,” he answered in less than a nanosecond. “Personal Accountability.”

I breathed a heavy sigh of relief. “That’s what you’re always saying,” he went on. “That’s pretty much the whole premise of how you parent.”

I wondered if Mark had tipped Levi off and prepped him for my experiment. But my husband firmly denied providing our eldest with any pre-test coaching. The bigger question became why Eli hadn’t been able to identify our parenting platform.

After much deliberation, we realized that subconsciously we’ve been giving Eli a pass on a lot of things, in large part due to his younger sibling status. It’s just easier and less of a struggle to ask his older brother to help out. This was a textbook birth-order pit and we’d stumbled right into it.

As parents, it’s easy to declare loving all of your children equally. But that doesn’t mean we treat them all the same way. Finding those inequalities and managing them is a critical challenge that every parent needs to face. It’s not a pleasant reality. Maybe you do expect more from one child. Maybe you coddle the second. Maybe one’s easier to manage, so you rely on him or her as more of a helper.

It’s not a simple issue, but it is one that’s worth exploring. Are your parental expectations equitable? If not, maybe it’s time to readjust your thinking related to expecting more from some children and less from others. As author of *The 7 Habits of Highly Effective People*, Stephen Covey wrote, “Treat a man as he is and he will remain as he is. Treat a man as he can and should be and he will become as he can and should be.”



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



When the Israeli Scouts performed at the Phoenix Children's Hospital last year, Steve Rosenbaum says, "This was an unbelievable performance. Everyone was crying. One boy told us this was the best day of his life. Nobody wanted to leave."

Israeli Scouts inspire goodwill and love for Israel

By Leni Reiss

After 49 very happily married years to his wife, Ellen, Steve Rosenbaum has fallen in love again – and Ellen is all for it.

This time Steve's love affair is with Arizona Friends of Israeli Scouts, a program he chairs and enjoys with Ellen's heartfelt support, commitment and dedication.

The Rosenbaums' back story in the Valley begins some 15 years ago when they made the move from New York. Retired school teachers and self-described ardent Zionists, they wasted no time in volunteering within the Jewish community. Steve credits Sherman Minkoff with "welcoming us into community activism and introducing us to the great people who were working on behalf of Israel."

Within a short time the Rosenbaums had signed on to coordinate and schedule placement for 1,200 volunteers for the 2001 Maccabi Games. They co-chaired three consecutive Israel Independence Day programs (2002, 03 and 04) with thousands in attendance on the grounds of the Ina Levine Jewish Community Campus. They coordinated scheduling and responsibilities for 620 volunteers when the Ben Yehudah Mall project took place here to raise much-needed monies for the Jewish state. They chaired the Israel Center on the campus, and Ellen chaired the center's Birthright Israel campaign for two years.

But it was Eitan Ben-Ami, a former JCC-based shaliach (ambassador), who encouraged Steve to join the Israeli Scouts committee. "He was right," Steve says. At the time, Irwin Harris had been at the helm for 30-plus years. "When Irwin stepped

down he asked me to step in. By then my heart – and Ellen's heart – were in it, because we fell in love with the program. Now the scouts ("tzofim" in Hebrew) have our hearts and souls."

The Friendship Caravan program, now in its 41st year, is made up of male and female 16- and 17-year-old Israeli scout leaders who are chosen through an intensive and competitive selection process. They travel throughout the U.S. each summer teaching about Israel through a unique blend of song, dance and story at venues including camps, synagogues, senior citizen centers, inner city middle schools and some churches.

"They are the best goodwill ambassadors the Jewish state could have," Steve says. "They are bright, beautiful, charismatic, talented and entertaining emissaries." Steve says that tears often flow when the scouts leave a community. "It is eight days of joy for host families," he says. "The connection is magical – especially since we are all aware that within the next year they likely will be in army – on the Golan or in Hebron – defending their nation." Adult family members often take time off from work to feed, entertain and fuss over their Israeli guests. A "day off," culminating in a pool party for all scouts and host families, allows for special outings and might involve trips to Sedona, Bartlett Lake, Wickenburg, shopping malls, movies

and more.

It is not unusual for long-term relationships to evolve from hosting a scout. When Deena Lerner, daughter of Valley residents Michelle and Eric, participated in Birthright Israel, she spent two additional days in the Jewish state with Daniel Galiki and his family. Daniel had stayed with the Lerner when he visited here as part of the Scout Caravan. "The hosting experience has been so positive for our family," says Eric Lerner,



Steve Rosenbaum

adding that his daughter hopes to return to Israel before long for another visit.

Planning for the Caravan, “to make it happen,” takes a full year, Steve says. Board members have to secure locations, choose and guide host families, arrange publicity, coordinate scheduling and raise money. Steve explains that the national organization bills local communities \$1,200 a day. Venues are asked to pitch



Israeli Scouts perform in Arizona during a previous visit.

in \$550, and at the conclusion of each performance, Steve or a board member makes a pitch in the hopes of raising necessary dollars. There also is an annual fundraising effort through the mail.

Admission is free for performances, and several of them, including those at Phoenix Children's Hospital, Ronald MacDonald House and Kivel Campus of Care, fall into the category of mitzvot. “No money comes in on these days,” Steve says, “so we need that much more in the way of donations to cover our expenses.”

For additional information or to make a donation, Steve welcomes phone calls at 480-216-4280 or write Arizona Friends of Israeli Scouts, PO Box 28982, Scottsdale, AZ 85255-0166.

Schedule for 2014 Israeli Scouts Friendship Caravan

Monday, June 16: Tucson JCC; Details: Jennifer Ferrel at 520-577-9393

Tuesday, June 17: 7 pm, Beth El Congregation

Wednesday, June 18: 10 am, Kivel; 7 pm, Or Chadash/Har Zion at Har Zion

Thursday, June 19: 6:30 pm, Camp Daisy Stein, Prescott

Friday, June 20: 7 pm, Temple B'rith Shalom, Prescott

Sunday, June 22: 11 am, Beth Shalom; 4 pm, Temple Chai

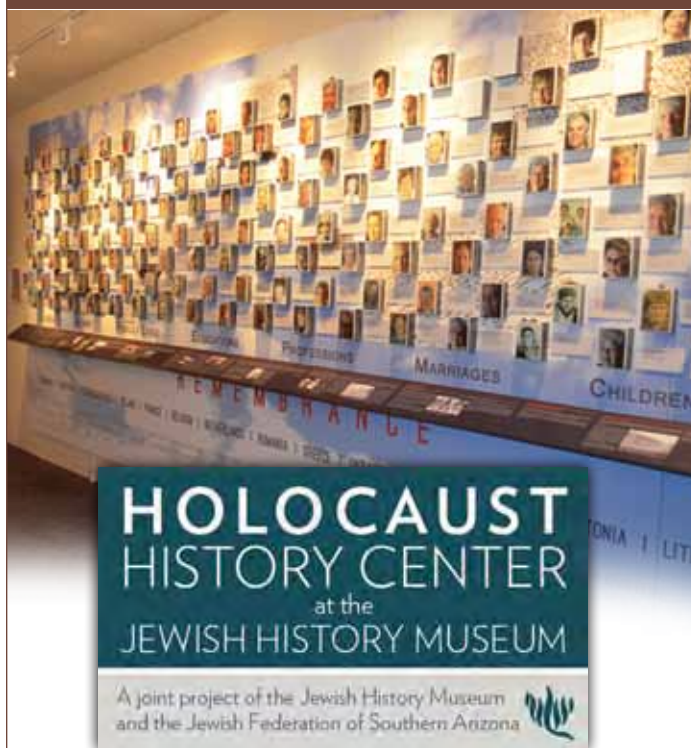
Monday, June 23: VOS JCC all day; 7 pm, Arizona Jewish Historical Society

Tuesday, June 24: 1 pm, The Terraces; 7 pm, Temple Solel

Wednesday, June 25: 11 am, Phoenix Children's Hospital

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www.jewishhistorymuseum.org

Command Performance

Temple Chai youth create Ten Commandments for varied occasions

By Leni Reiss

This year's bar and bat mitzvah cohort at Temple Chai was challenged by Rabbi Bonnie Koppell to choose topics and then craft Ten Commandments related to their choice.

The rabbi explains, "On Shabbat one of the members of the clergy sits with the group and studies Torah. When it was my turn the Torah dealt with the Ten Commandments, and I had the privilege of proposing this project to them."

The students took the charge very seriously, she says, and even helped each other to focus on appropriate and meaningful topics.

What was especially heartwarming – and "the very best thing for a teacher to hear," the rabbi says – is that the students actually asked if they could stay in class longer, so that they could complete the commandments to their satisfaction."

Here are the "thou shalts" from youngsters with (mostly) serious ideas of how to care about others and improve themselves and the world they live in.

Rabbi Jake Singer-Beilin, director of education at Temple Chai, with Jory Weiss and Seth Stein.



From left, Julia Schulman, Shai Maron and Eric Hollander communing on commandments. Photos by Leni Reiss



10 Commandments for Animals

By Shai Maron and Eric Hollander

1. Feed your animal twice a day
2. Respect your pet
3. Don't play with wild animals
4. Help an animal in need
5. Don't torment an animal
6. Don't make animals suffer
7. Give animals treats/rewards for doing good
8. Walk your dog, tarantula and lizards, depending on your pet
9. Adopt a pet in need
10. Pets are family

10 Commandments of Good Manners

By Julia Schulman, Seth Stein and Alyssa Unell

1. Chew with your mouth closed
2. Don't smack your lips
3. Say please and thank you
4. Don't barge in on someone while they are getting changed
5. Be nice
6. Don't blow your nose on your shirt
7. Don't be gross
8. Use napkins
9. Respect your elders
10. Open doors for people

10 Commandments of School

By Jory Weiss, Isaac Weiss and Brooke Weiss

1. Be prepared every day, have your supplies ready
2. Respect thy teachers – listen and pay attention
3. Raise thy hand
4. Eat only during thy lunch
5. Do not disturb thy class
6. Ask before leaving thy classroom
7. Be on time
8. Be open to other people's thoughts
9. Don't use other people's property without permission
10. No bullying!

Shavuot: June 4-5, 2014

Shavuot is the third of the Biblical pilgrimage or harvest festivals (the other two are Sukkot and Pesach). It commemorates G-d giving the Torah to Moses on Mount Sinai more than 3,300 years ago. The word Shavuot means "weeks," and the holiday marks the completion of the seven-week counting of the omer between Passover and Shavuot. Traditions on Shavuot include all-night study of the Torah on the first night and hearing the Ten Commandments in synagogue. It's also traditional to eat dairy meals. The thought behind this custom is that the Jewish people had just received the laws of kashrut and had not yet had time to apply them to their animal slaughter.

Sages have compared the holiday to a wedding between G-d and the Jewish people, with each renewing vows: G-d re-gives the Torah and swears eternal devotion to the Jews, and the Jews pledge everlasting loyalty to G-d.

With acknowledgment to chabad.org

Kids & Teen EVENTS



JUNE/JULY



June 2

I Am AZ Music: Young Sounds of Arizona- Called “the best young talent in the Valley,” Young Sounds of Arizona consists of 40 young jazz musicians aged 14 to 19 chosen annually by audition from Phoenix area schools. Concert at 7 pm at the MIM, 4725 E Mayo Blvd, Phoenix. \$12.50 students, \$17.50 adults, 480-478-6000, mim.org

MIMKids in June

Featuring Jazz and Americana at the Musical Instrument Museum, 4725 E Mayo Blvd, Phoenix. Contact Katherine Palmer at programs@MIM.org or 480-245-6962. Space is limited; reservations are required. \$12 per class, or 4 for \$40.

MIMkids: Mini Music Makers Series: Wednesdays, June 4, 11, 18, 25 at 9:30-10:15 am.

Thursdays, June 5, 12, 19, 26 at 11-11:45 am. Introduce your child (ages 12 months to 4 years) to the wide and wonderful world of music through MIM’s early childhood music and movement courses. Explore music from around the globe while singing, dancing and playing instruments.

MIMkids: Mini Music Makers Series: Saturdays, June 7, 14, 21, 28 – 9:30-10 am for children ages 0-18 months; 10:15-10:50 am for children 18 months to 3 years; 11-11:45 am for children ages 3 to 5.

June 2-26

Summer Community Theatre: Aladdin Jr. for kids entering grades 4-9, Mondays-Thursdays, 12:45-4:45 pm. Performances June 24 and 25 at 7 pm. Sponsored by Kyrene School District at Aprende Middle School, 777 N Desert Breeze Blvd., East in Chandler. 480-541-1500, kyrene.org/communityed

June 15

Beat It! Family Drumming Workshop for Dads and Kids – and Moms, Too!

Catch the rhythm and learn the basics of African, Latin and pop-music hand drumming with master instructor Frank Thompson. Bring your own drum or use one of ours. 11 am-12:30 pm and 1:30-3 pm at the MIM, 4725 E Mayo Blvd, Phoenix, \$12. To register contact Katherine Palmer at programs@MIM.org or 480-245-6962

June 20

World’s Largest Swim Lesson is a drowning prevention initiative created by the World Waterpark Association in 2010 as a platform to help aquatic facilities and water safety organizations work together to communicate the importance of teaching children to swim. Those interested in participating in this event at the Valley of the Sun JCC, 12701 N Scottsdale Road can sign up at vosjcc.org. For more information on the World’s Largest Swim lesson visit wsl.org

June 30-July 17

Summer Academy for 3-year-olds to incoming 8th graders at Kyrene de la Colina School, 13612 S 36 St. in Phoenix. One to four-hour classes, 8 am-12 pm, Mondays-Thursdays. Fun classes for 3- and 4-year-olds including Alphabet Soup, Spanish and more! Incoming Kindergartners can register for Getting Ready for Kindergarten. Elementary students have many new options like Planet Hunters, Jump Back in Time, Kid Top Chef and Sea Life Explorer. Middle School classes include Lacrosse/Soccer, Mixed Media Art Studio, Cut it Up and Fantasy Baseball Stats. Kids Club and After Hours offer extended day programs. 480-541-1500, kyrene.org/communityed



Why didn't John Kerry approach peace process creatively?

By Mylan Tanzer

I am an optimist by nature, but 33 years in Israel have taught me not to be when it comes to subjects like politics or the short-term prospects for the Middle East. Unfortunately for my family, myself and my country, this pessimism proves me right most of the time.

April 29 was the end of the nine-month period of the American-brokered negotiations between Israel and the Palestinians. I hate to be right about things of this nature, and I dislike even more saying “I told you so.” But in my October column, “Seeking peace in the shadow of war,” which I wrote when this current round of negotiations began, I sadly had it figured out. Why didn't John Kerry and the rest of his team? Trying is commendable, but if you take a stab at a problem so elusive, then analyze why it hasn't been solved and go with a creative approach.

There are numerous and complex reasons for another failure to break through the 20-year impasse. Unfortunately Kerry intimated pretty clearly that Israel is to blame for the breakdown due to not releasing the final batch of Palestinian prisoners, raising the demand that Israel be recognized as the homeland for the Jewish people and announcing housing starts in East Jerusalem in the future. It is sad to see a seemingly dedicated and good man, who has a long record of support for Israel, covering up his personal failure in such a superficial blame game. Kerry hardly mentioned the Palestinians' violation of their promise not to submit membership applications to UN institutions, the official PA incitement against Israelis during the negotiations or the lack of Palestinian flexibility or their refusal to commit to continue negotiations beyond April 29 as the reasons for the Israeli steps. I really do not want to write about the tit-for-tat nature of the final weeks of the negotiation charade. It is more important to look at why this failed, the results of the failure (including the unity agreement between the PA and Hamas) and where this leaves us.

As usual, Israel is getting the blame for this, so it's worthwhile to look at the accusations and understand our version.

New Israeli settlement plans derailed the negotiations:

As much as the international media tries to make of settlements, they are not the core issue. Israel has proven on many occasions that for real peace, settlements will be dismantled, settlers evacuated (by force if necessary) and land will be turned over to our former enemies. Settlements give the Palestinians the excuse to continue to avoid making real gestures toward peace. I would have preferred that during the negotiations Israel not engage in settlement rhetoric, which was largely bombastic statements by right-wing elements in the coalition who would like to derail the negotiations. In essence this was mostly planning for construction that won't begin for several years, and all of which is in areas proposed to become part of Israel as part of territorial

swaps. If Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas were serious about peace, the settlement issue would not be an obstacle.

As Times of Israeli blogger Paul Gross writes: “There may well be a future Israeli prime minister more willing to confront the West Bank settlers' expansionist plans than Netanyahu – and that would be both a practical and a moral step forward – but he did freeze settlement building for 10 months in 2009/10, and Abbas waited until the 10th month to restart negotiations then ended them when that month was over. Yes, settlements are a problem, but – contrary to popular assertion – they are not the problem. That remains a Palestinian unwillingness – or, perhaps, a psychological inability – to accept the legitimacy of a Jewish state.”

Abbas is a true partner who can deliver peace, and therefore Israel is to blame for the breakdown of talks:

Abbas' record over the last 20 years clearly illustrates a repeating trend. While for many years he voiced opposition to terror, claiming that it no longer serves the Palestinian cause, he has not once in the 19 years since Oslo made any concession or retreated from the demands of an Israeli withdrawal to 1967 “Auschwitz” borders (as the late Abba Eban called them), repatriation of refugees (a multigenerational definition of “refugee” that applies to no people other than the Palestinians) and East Jerusalem as the Palestinian capital.

In his recent column “Abbas continues to fool with us,” Ha'aretz columnist Ari Shavit criticized Abbas and many Israelis who do not recognize his strategy. He details how Abbas repeatedly has avoided accepting any Israeli overtures, then writes, “(A)fter all of this, did we open our eyes? Not at all. We again blamed the Likud and Netanyahu and had expectations that in 2014 Abbas will not dare to say no to Kerry. Oops, surprise: In his polite and clever way, Abbas said no to both Kerry and Obama. Again it was clear that the line toed by the President from Ramallah is clear and consistent. No flexibility. Instead a sophisticated game of squeezing more and more out of Israel without any clear Palestinian compromise.”

Abbas is almost a figurehead who rules over little more than his immediate vicinity. If elections were held in the West Bank, Hamas would sweep him out of power as they did in Gaza in 2005. He has never responded with counterproposals to Israeli peace offerings. Yediot's Nahum Barnea wrote, “Despite his battle against terror as a tool in the struggle, he is frightened to sign any agreement with Israel. He has had a signature phobia since 1995 until today.”

Netanyahu's demand that Israel be recognized as the homeland for the Jewish People helped sabotage the negotiations:

While Abbas' unwillingness to show any flexibility has gone largely unnoticed, much criticism has been leveled at this demand by Netanyahu. Many have tried to imply that this was an Israeli attempt to add a final proverbial straw to break the back of the negotiations, including Toronto University Professor Robert Fulford who writes, “They know that Israel is surrounded by neighbors who will likely never recognize its existence as the Jewish homeland, much less sign a treaty developed in a ‘peace process’ quarterbacked by Washington.”

Israeli centrists and moderates who desire a two-state solution believe if Israel is expected to recognize the homeland of the Palestinian people, the Palestinians should unequivocally

recognize Israel as the homeland of the Jewish people. Contrary to perception, this step is not intended to derail the peace process. The intention of this demand is a creative way to try to overcome the obstacle of the untenable and inflexible Palestinian demands.

Pre-67 borders and refugee return obviously negate our existence. Despite American pressure, the Palestinians have not softened their position on these issues; so to create some hope for a breakthrough, Israel's strategy has been to demand that concessions to these harsh Palestinian demands will be based on the condition that the final agreement will be an end-of-conflict and end-of-mutual-claims agreement. Isn't that the goal of negotiating a solution?

But even on this basic tenet, Abbas will not or cannot commit. So Netanyahu proposes mutual recognition of each other's homeland; if Abbas accepts it will show he is not in this just to get more prisoners released. This would give Netanyahu the tool necessary to stand up to the strong right wing pro-settlement bloc and take the next steps in the peace process. If Abbas agrees to reciprocity on the mutual recognition of Jewish and Palestinian homelands, then Netanyahu will have space to negotiate the border and other issues in good faith, something that cannot be done as long as Abbas does not give an inch on the core issues.

But Abbas immediately saw this as a threat to the Palestinian narrative of the conflict that denies any Jewish connection to the land. Abbas has used this myth as an important weapon in delegitimizing Israel, and immediately sought backing for its rejection from the Arab League, where political courage and vision are as accepted as women's equality in Saudi Arabia. To Kerry and the world, it should be clear that while this ostensibly moderate Palestinian leadership claims to support "two states for two peoples," it continues to deny any historical Jewish connection to the land. Not good for trying to end the conflict.

As long as the Palestinians did not even hint at some flexibility on their core issues, then the homeland of the Jewish people issue was the last option that would allow Netanyahu the space to take a bold stance and perhaps initiate a second freeze of settlements during the negotiation period.

Like Abbas, Netanyahu is in a weak position; he leads a party of only 20 seats, and many of these Likud Knesset members will not allow any flexibility in negotiations with Abbas unwilling to stray from his positions. Netanyahu will not do what Sharon did, i.e., leave a rebellious and reactionary Likud to set up a new party. The survival of the coalition is his highest priority, even at the cost of a continued stalemate.

Against this backdrop, Kerry insisted the negotiation process would be one that would settle all issues. He insisted on grand negotiations meant to resolve refugees, borders and Jerusalem. What was he thinking? How would he succeed where his predecessors, who worked in a less hostile environment when the gaps were less extreme, had failed? Had Kerry bothered to look at the situation as it is and not been swept up by dreams that are currently unattainable, he actually might have been able to make a contribution. Israeli Defense Minister Moshe "Bogy" Ya'alon was severely and justifiably chastised for saying that Kerry has a messianic obsession with the Israeli-Palestinian issue and is driven by his desire to win a Nobel Peace Prize. As tasteless and disrespectful as these comments were, they are understandable.

The U.S. administration was delusional to think all of the issues could be solved in the immediate future. If Kerry really wanted to make a lasting contribution to solving this conflict, he should have looked at what smaller and intermediate steps could be implemented on a practical level to lower tensions and lay a cornerstone of future willingness to tackle the core issues.

We realize most Palestinians have not given up hope of eliminating us, and most of us do not want to wait until the Palestinians understand the futility of this. We prefer to separate from the Palestinians, the sooner the better, by agreement if possible but unilaterally if necessary, without the mistakes of the Gaza withdrawal. We must allow for additional safety valves due to the upheaval in the Arab world. If, as Kerry maintains, the Israeli-Palestinian conflict is the inspiration for conflicts in different regions, and at the heart of our conflict with the Palestinians is our control over them, then why didn't he latch on to this concept? Why didn't he see that in the absence of a peace process, separation has become a legitimate and acceptable strategic option with advantages for both sides?

A number of public figures and writers have proposed this option, most recently former Israeli Ambassador to the United States Michael Oren as well as prestigious think tanks such as the Reut Institute and the Institute for National Security Studies in Tel Aviv, which have formulated strategies for such a move.

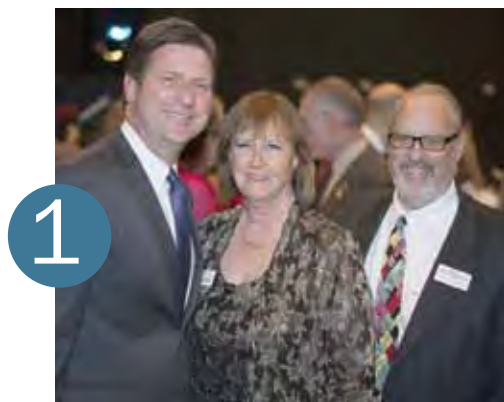
Channel Two's Ehud Ya'ari, Israel's most prominent Arab-affairs journalist, has proposed an "armistice agreement" with the Palestinians; Israel would evacuate settlers and soldiers from the vast majority of the West Bank, keeping enough territory to thicken Israel at its most vulnerable points, but leaving contiguous territory for the Palestinians to establish a state with provisional borders. The question of final borders, as well as the thorny issues of the refugees and Jerusalem, would be left until the Palestinians are ready and willing to seriously negotiate. If Kerry had adopted this realistic approach, the United States and the quartet would have abandoned their cherished peace process. They would have had to use their bankrolling clout with the Palestinian Authority to pressure the leadership in Ramallah to agree to these efforts, simultaneously offering generous support to build up the economy and infrastructure of the Palestinian state that would gradually emerge.

Paul Gross sums this up best when he writes: "It's high time this reality was acknowledged by those countries that purport to back the two-state agenda. There will be no handshakes on the White House Lawn, no Nobel Peace Prizes. Instead of focusing on peace, Israel, the Palestinians, the U.S. and any other would-be interlocutors must simply look for the best way to help us end the occupation by establishing secure borders for Israel. That is now the only game in town."

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



1 CURTAIN UP – Arizona Theatre Company’s annual Curtain Up Gala on May 4 at the Herberger Theater Center in downtown Phoenix began with a cocktail reception backstage for 200 guests. Pictured are Phoenix Mayor Greg Stanton, Managing Director Jessica Andrews and Artistic Director David Ira Goldstein. Attendees were treated to a performance in the theater by Mark Anders and Carl Danielsen, an auction and presentation of the Standing Ovation Award to Linda “Mac” Perlich of ON Media. Arizona Theatre Company is Arizona’s state theater and the only regional theater in the country to have a two-city base, performing in both Tucson and Phoenix. arizonatheatre.org



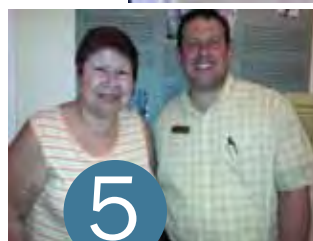
2 ISRAEL CENTER DEDICATION – On May 4 Temple B'rith Shalom in Prescott dedicated the Northern Arizona Israel Center housed at the Reform temple. Jay Bycer, Prescott and Scottsdale resident; Bob Casden, past president; and Temple President Alan Exler were among about 100 people of all ages who enjoyed the Israel Center Kiosk on the computer, which includes educational information, special children’s sections and a live feed to the Western Wall in Jerusalem. Of particular interest were the books about the lives and interests of children in Israel as well as a pictorial book about the IDF. Bob says the key objectives of the center are “to bring Israel to all of the area to strengthen the northern Arizona Jewish community and to create pride and identity with Israel as a means to keep the next generation of Jewish families engaged.”



3 TUCSON SHOAH REMEMBRANCE – The Jewish Federation of Southern Arizona, the Office of the Mexican Consulate, and the Arizona Center for Judaic Studies hosted events for Yom Hashoah, a community-wide Holocaust commemoration. Marie Turim (Holocaust survivor from Paris, France) lights a candle in memory of those who perished as Ricardo Pineda (Consul, Tucson’s Mexican Consulate) and others look on. Temple Emanu-El in Tucson hosted the commemorative service that included a procession and candle lighting ceremony with local Holocaust survivors. The Loft Cinema hosted a private screening of the documentary film “Visa to Paradise” about the Mexican diplomat Gilberto Bosques and filmmaker Lillian Liberman traveled from Mexico City to personally present her film.



4 HOLOCAUST SURVIVORS REMEMBER – An overflow crowd commemorated Yom Hashoah at Beth El Congregation in Phoenix on April 27. Mark Curtis from Channel 12 was the keynote speaker. Bronia Bronkesh poses with 10th grader Chloe Carriere, who won the Bronia and Sam Bronkesh Jewish Spirit Prize. The prize, which honors physical and spiritual resistance during the Holocaust, is open to all students enrolled in Hebrew High. Robert Sutz was awarded the Shofar Zakhor award for his artistic work related to the Holocaust as was the East Valley JCC for its Railcar Restoration Project. The day’s events were sponsored by the Phoenix Holocaust Survivors Association. phoenixphsa.org



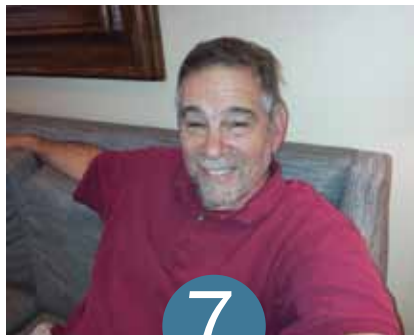
5 NEVER FORGET – A capacity crowd at Arizona Jewish Historical Society on April 22 was on hand for a screening of “Never Forget to Lie – The Children of the Holocaust Recount Tales of Survival.” Larry Bell, the society’s executive director, welcomed and thanked Shirley Silverman, who sponsored the showing. Audience members Alyne Perkal and Stephanie Hoffman checked out a recent issue of Arizona Jewish Life prior to lights out. Photos by Leni Reiss

6 A NEW WAY – The Heard Museum was the unique setting for the 45th anniversary celebration of New Way Learning Academy, a nonprofit independent school specializing in children with language-based learning differences. New Way recently has moved to a new campus at 5048 E Oak St. in Phoenix. Guests included Harvey, Sandy, Julie and Todd Belfer and Scott and Andi Weiss and Jodi and Joe McKenzie. Todd Belfer and Scott Weiss both serve on New Way's board of directors. Photos by Leni Reiss

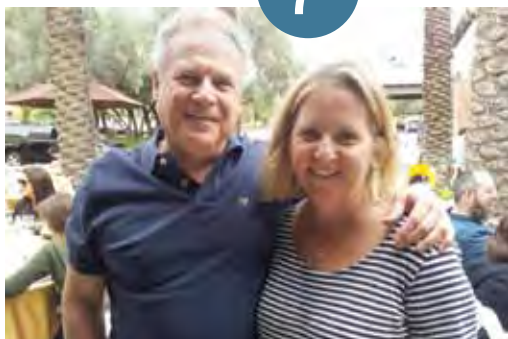


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7 PERFECT PASSOVER – Among those enjoying a Passover vacation coordinated by Presidential Kosher Holidays at the Fairmont Scottsdale Princess were Valley residents Arlynn and Dan Bock, pictured. Holocaust scholar and past director of the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum Michael Berenbaum, also pictured, was a featured guest lecturer. Hundreds of guests from New York, Florida, California and more enjoyed the hotel's elegant facilities, celebrated Passover and experienced the American Southwest. Jeep tours, river rafting and outings to Sedona and the Grand Canyon were available. Photos by Leni Reiss



7



8

8 THE VALLEY NEWSROOM - a current events class comprised of 30 to 40 senior citizens, is taking a summer hiatus from its weekly gatherings at the Mustang Library in Scottsdale. In honor of a successful year, the group made contributions to three charities. Valley Newsroom leader and facilitator Michael Epner (blue shirt) says that class participants selected the charities, each of which received a check for \$1,000. Recipients were Arizona Brain Food, which provides weekend meals for more than 2,000 children at over 50 schools; Hospice of the Valley, a charity dedicated to giving end of life care to terminally ill patients; and Veterans Transportation, which provides transportation to VA facilities for veterans who have no transportation.

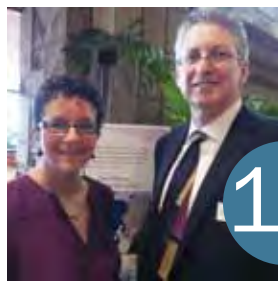
9 WHAT'S IN YOUR GENES – On April 30 more than 130 people gathered at Ancala Country Club for the second annual "What's in Your Genes?" luncheon sponsored by the Jewish Genetics Diseases Center. Chairwomen Michelle Abrams, left, and Susan Silver flank (from left) Sherman Minkoff, guest speaker Lois Victor, and Andi Minkoff; the Minkoffs founded JGDC (photo by Chuck Abrams). Lois Victor of the Victor Centers shared her personal story of losing two children to Familial Dysautonomia, one of the 19 diseases now covered in the genetic screening panel. The committee also organized a fashion show featuring fashions from Scottsdale Jean Company and Moda Fina Jewelers with local community "models," including Rabbi John Linder and Seymour Rife (photo by Randee Pri-Tal). More than \$10,000 was raised for the organization to provide low-cost screening to all Jewish young adults. Attendees also contributed new and gently worn jeans, placed in the "gene pool" (a child's wading pool) to be donated to Jewish Family and Children's Services job programs participants.



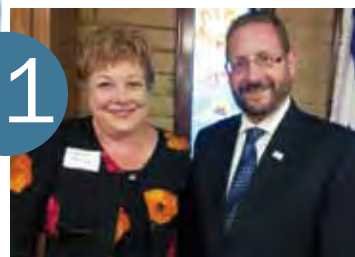
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10 CARING FOR KIDS – With its mission of providing respite and palliative care to children with life-threatening conditions and, as needed, end-of-life care, Ryan House welcomed several hundred supporters to its sixth annual community breakfast on May 7 at The Arizona Biltmore. Among attendees were Cindy and Paul Weiser (a board member), and Beth Reisman and Jill Pleasant. Photos by Leni Reiss



11 KNESSET MEMBER SPEAKS – Temple Chai was the site for the May 7 Valley Beit Midrash event featuring Rabbi Dov Lipman, the American-born member of the Israeli Knesset. VBM director Rabbi Shmuly Yanklowitz introduced the speaker, describing him as “an ambassador for tolerance and respect.” Among the attendees were Dr. Kenneth and Debby Harris; Suzanne Swift, director of the Jewish Book Council Networks and cochair of Limmud Az (pictured with Rabbi Lipman), who divides her time between Phoenix and New York. Photos by Leni Reiss



12 CONFIRMATION CLASS – Members of Temple Chai’s 2014/5774 confirmation class led friends and family in a Havdalah service and program on Saturday evening May 3 in the temple sanctuary. Among the 22 celebrants were (from left) Ethan Weiss, Emily Greenfeld and Jay Kline. Photo by Leni Reiss



13 LOANS ENHANCE LIFE –The social hall at the Ina Levine Jewish Community Campus was filled to capacity on Thursday evening, May 8, for Jewish Free Loan’s annual meeting and dessert reception. Under the leadership of President Barrett Silver, JFL celebrated a successful year of providing interest-free loans to Jewish Arizonans to enhance their quality of life. Among the honored donors who have established named loan funds during the past year are Jean Grossman, Debbie and Jay Schechter and Max and Marcia Weisberg. Suanne Neuman was recognized for many years of outstanding volunteer service. Scholar and author Dr. Steven Windmueller was the keynote speaker. Attendees included Max and Marcia Weisberg; and Sharon and Allan Bulman. Photos by Leni Reiss



14 ADL RETIREMENT – The ballroom at the downtown Phoenix Sheraton was brimming with a who’s who of Phoenix life for the retirement luncheon for ADL Executive Director Bill Straus on May 9. Radio and TV personality Pat McMahon served as emcee, with appearances by Mayor Greg Stanton, police officials, the firefighter’s bagpipe band and even Sparky, the Arizona State University mascot. Straus led ADL for 13 years before retiring recently. Four past ADL board chairs pose with Strauss (from left): David Bodney, Miriam Weisman, Bill Straus, Larry Lazarus, Steve Hammel. Photo by Red Mountain Photography



15 BEIT MIDRASH HOSTS TOP RABBI – Valley Beit Midrash and Congregation Or Chadash co-sponsored the Tuesday evening, May 13 appearance at the Valley of the Sun JCC of Rabbi Sharon Brous (pictured between Stan and Cheryl Hammerman). Named the most influential rabbi in the United States by Newsweek magazine, she addressed an audience that packed the social hall. Rabbi Brous is the spiritual leader of IKAR, an independent congregation in Los Angeles. She was introduced and lauded by VBM board chair Stan Hammerman, VBM director Rabbi Shmuly Yanklowitz and Or Chadash Rabbi Micah Caplan. Photo by Leni Reiss



June 25 deadline for new scholarship in memory of Daniel Abromovitz

The Danny A. Foundation has been established to provide scholarships at Arizona Summit Law School in memory of Daniel I. Abromovitz, son of Dr. Alan and Lorin Abromovitz. Danny, who passed away unexpectedly on July 17, 2012, was a student at the school.

"We are very proud to announce this award for academic excellence, which will be given once per year in Danny's honor to assist a promising future lawyer in meeting the high financial demands of a legal education," says Josh Abromovitz, one of Danny's older brothers.



Daniel I. Abromovitz, z"l

Josh says they are looking for students who demonstrate both academic excellence and leadership through extracurricular activities such as publication, moot court competitions and pro bono work.

The Abromovitz family has been in the Valley since the 1940s, when Saul and Esther Abromovitz, Alan's parents, moved from the Pittsburgh area. The family has been connected to Beth El Congregation, where Saul was president in the early 1960s.

Danny, his brothers Michael and Josh and

his sister Stacie all received their formal Jewish educations from Beth El.

Danny, who passed away at age 32, worked as an artist and musician in New York, Los Angeles and Portland before returning to Phoenix to be near his family and study law. He was an exemplary law school student with an honors scholarship and two academic honors in his first two years.

Applications for the \$3,500 fall scholarship are due June 25. For information, visit dannyaafoundation.org.

Unger sculptures to be featured at Santa Fe show

Tucson sculptor David Unger will have a one-man show at Bill Hester Fine Art in Santa Fe, during July. The opening of the show will be July 4, which coincidentally is the 49th wedding anniversary of the sculptor and his wife, Kathryn.

Unger has a long history with Bill Hester whom he met in the late '80s when Hester sold Unger's sculptures at a gallery in Santa Fe before Hester moved to North Carolina to open a gallery there, where he also displayed Unger's work.

Several years later, Hester closed his gallery in North Carolina and returned to Santa Fe where he opened his own gallery and again asked Unger if he could represent his sculptures.

Unger's life-size Storyteller will be delivered to the Santa Fe gallery for the opening.

Unger often uses Jewish themes in his work, and Storyteller is such an example. Unger explains he intended for children to sit in the sculpture's arms and listen to the Storyteller tell the stories of the Holocaust – so the loss, struggle and survival will never be forgotten. Unger's sculptures can also be seen at art gallery H in Tubac.

davidungersculptures.com



"Storyteller" (the sculpture)

Interested in a little Summer School?

Summer classes begin the week of June 9 at the Bureau of Jewish Education in Scottsdale. A wide variety of classes are available in the daytime and one is offered on Monday evenings. All classes take place at the Ina Levine Jewish Community Campus, 12701 N

Scottsdale Road.

Monday morning classes include "Finding God," "Comparative Religions" and "The Journey of Life." Tuesday morning classes include "Modern Medicine & Jewish Ethics," "Dead Sea Scrolls" and "Broadway & Hollywood Sing: Jewish Composers." On Wednesday mornings, classes are "Violence and Injustice in the Hebrew Bible" and "Ethics of our Fathers." Thursday mornings include "Understanding Islam through Film," "Islam and the Holy Qur'an" and "The Skeptics Guide to Judaism." On Monday evenings, the "Broadway & Hollywood Sing" class is repeated.

Most classes, taught by Aaron Scholar and Rabbi Laib Blotner, cost \$70 for the six-week session. The Broadway class, taught by Cantor Baruch Koritan, is 1½ hours each time and has a \$100 fee. For a brochure with class descriptions and details, contact BJE at 480-634-8051 or e-mail jewished@bjephoenix.org

Actors Theatre Summer Fare

Most major performing arts companies shut down in the hot summer months in Arizona, but Actors Theatre is offering two new fun shows to help fill the void. The two comedies will be performed in repertory, i.e. they will have the same casts and will alternate each week. The Book Club Play will open on June 21. It's a hilarious comedy about life, love and literature written by Karen Zacarias, playwright in residence at Arena Stage in Washington D.C. The play was so popular at Horizon Stage in Atlanta that it was brought back for an additional run to accommodate audience demand.

The same 6-person cast will open The Cottage on June 28. Written by Sandy Rustin, this British farce contrasts with the very American setting of The Book Club Play. "It's basically an English bedroom farce without all the slamming doors. But lots of the wrong people sleeping with the wrong people and lots of fun," explains Artistic Director Matthew Wiener.

After July 4, the plays will alternate weekends at the Helen K. Mason Performing Arts Center, 1333 E Washington in Phoenix. "We produced three shows in three different venues this year and our patrons let us know that this venue was their favorite. It's new and has great seating with comfortable chairs and wide aisles," Matthew states. Times and prices vary.

Actors Theatre is one of the Valley's few professional, locally-produced theatre companies. In residence at the Herberger Theater Center for over 20 years, the company is known for producing edgy, off-Broadway types of shows.

602-888-0368 | actorstheatrephx.org

Desert Foothills Summer Film Festival

Desert Foothills Jewish Community Association announces its summer movies to be shown in north Scottsdale at 7:30 pm on each movie night.

June 20: Tijuana Jews, documentary by Isaac Artenstein, providing a personal exploration of this community that blended Jewish and Mexican cultures and customs

July 18: Finding Leah Tickotsky, a documentary exploring Polish-Jewish relations and the young director, Sarah Golabek-Goldman's own journey to discover her roots.

Aug. 15: The Echoes That Remain, documentary tracing pre-Holocaust Jewish communities in Czechoslovakia, Hungary, Poland, and Romania.

Desert Foothills' mission is to provide an organization for Jewish community, fellowship, cultural development and spiritual enhancement. First visit no charge, \$60 per year membership required thereafter. Call for location.

480-585-4437 | dfjca.org

SUMMER CALENDAR

Through June 22

Young Frankenstein, the Mel Brooks' musical based on his movie, is playing at Arizona Broadway Theatre, the West Valley's premier dinner theater. Times and prices vary. 7701 W Paradise Lane in Peoria. 623-776-8400, azbroadwaytheatre.com

June 3-8

The Gershwins' Porgy and Bess, winner of the 2012 TONY Award for Best Revival of a Musical, with award-winning members of the Broadway cast in this stunning and stirring new staging. Prices and times vary. At Grady Gamage Auditorium in Tempe. 480-965-3434, asugamage.com/shows

June 3-4

Tikkun Leyl Shavuot (all night learning): Examine, Scrutinize, Debate and Discover. It's exciting and fast moving. 11 pm-5 am at Pollack Chabad Center for Jewish Life, 875 N McClintock Dr. in Chandler. Free. Adults only. RSVP suggested. 480-855-4333 or info@chabadcenter.com

June 3

Tikkun Leyl Shavuot "Black Fire on White Fire: Ignite Your Passion for Torah" and Cheesecake Bake-Off, 8-11 pm at Temple Emanu-El, 225 N Country Club Road in Tucson. Bring your favorite cheesecake or dairy dessert to share. No fee. 520-327-4501, templeemanuelutucson.org

June 4-5

Shavuot commemorates the anniversary of the day G-d gave the Torah to Moses and the Israelites at Mount Sinai. It is one of the three Biblical pilgrimage festivals, the Shalosh Regalim.

June 4

Shavuot Holiday Ice Cream Party. Hear the Ten Commandments read from the Torah, then create your own ice cream delicacy to celebrate the holiday in a cool fashion. 5:30 pm at Pollack Chabad Center for Jewish Life, 875 N McClintock Dr. in Chandler. Free. 480-855-4333 or info@chabadcenter.com

June 5

Ester Rada draws on her Israeli birthplace and Ethiopian heritage to create a unique, cross-cultural sound. 7:30 pm at the Musical Instrument Museum, 4725 E Mayo Blvd., Phoenix. \$22.50-\$32.50. 480-478-6000, mim.org

June 8

Jewish Women's Circle 2nd Annual Summer Garden Party honoring Mrs. Jackie Oliver at 11 am at Pollack Chabad Center for Jewish Life, 875 N McClintock Dr. in Chandler. \$36. RSVP: 480-606-8868 or rywelner@gmail.com

June 9

Summer classes begin this week at the Bureau of Jewish Education in Scottsdale. See story page 61

June 10

Operation Thunderbolt: The Israeli Raid on Entebbe, documentary screening at 7 pm at the Cutler-Plotkin Jewish Heritage Center, 122 E Culver St., Phoenix. Presented by Arizona Jewish Historical Society. Free but RSVP: lbell@azjhs.org or 602-241-7870

Dining Out with Hadassah Southern Arizona, an informal get together to meet and eat dinner at 6 pm at Wild Garlic Grill, 2530 N First Ave. in Tucson. Pay for meal plus \$5 to Hadassah. RSVP to Sally: 520-298-6662

June 11

Complaints of a Dutiful Daughter, a film chronicling the various stages of a mother with Alzheimer's disease and the evolution of her daughter's response to the illness. By filmmaker Deborah Hoffman, presented by JFCS Aleinu and Jewish Family Home Care with guest presenter, Susan Favaro from Banner Alzheimer's Institute. 7 pm at Scottsdale Hilton Resort, 6333 N Scottsdale Road. \$10. Includes light kosher refreshments. Register at jfcsaz.org

June 12-22

2014 New Summer Shorts is Theatre Artists Studio's annual 10-minute play festival featuring new works written and directed by Studio members. Selections include works by Debra Rich Gittleman and Les Leiter among others. Thursdays-Saturdays at 7:30 pm, Sundays at 2 pm at the Studio, 4848 E Cactus Road #406, Scottsdale. \$10-20. 602-765-0120 or thestudiophx.org

June 15 - Father's Day

June 16 & 17

Hadassah Southern Arizona hosts a special event to learn about skin care and Hadassah's stem cell research to renew and repair skin. 6:30 pm both evenings at L'Visage Luxury Cosmetics at La Encantada Mall, Tucson. \$5. RSVP: Phyllis Harris 520-797-5519 or montague1@comcast.net

June 17

Israel: The Royal Tour, featuring veteran reporter and CBS News Travel Editor Peter Greenberg getting a personal tour of Israeli points of pride from Benjamin Netanyahu at 7 pm on Eight HD in the Phoenix area. Check your local PBS listings.

June 16-25

Look for performances by the **Israeli Scouts!** See story page 52

June 18

Evening of Inspiration: 20 years of the passing of the Lubavitcher Rebbe. 7 pm at Hilton Scottsdale Resort, 6333 N Scottsdale Road, Scottsdale. Suggested donation \$10. 480-855-4333 or info@chabadcenter.com

June 19

Like Dreamers, book by Yossi Klein Halevy. Discussion led by Lawrence Bell, Ph.D. 7 pm at the Cutler-Plotkin Jewish Heritage Center (Leverant-Firestone Learning Center) 122 E Culver St., Phoenix. Free. RSVP: lbell@azjhs.org or 602-241-7870

June 20

Monthly movie at Desert Foothills Jewish Community Association (Also July 18 and Aug. 15). See story page 61

June 20 - Aug. 17

Two summer comedies by Actors Theatre. See story page 61

June 23

Book Club Meeting of Hadassah Southern Arizona and NW Division of Jewish Federation. 3:30 pm at The Fountains (La Cholla and Rudaill) and 6:45 pm at the Jewish Federation Northwest, 190 W Magee Road, Oro Valley.

Discussing *The Round House* by Louise Erdrich. Discussion led by Meli Horowitz and chaired by Janet Arffa. Free. Contact Anne Lowe alowef@jfsa.org or 520-577-9393, ext. 130

Cactus Chapter of ORT America fundraiser. 5-8 pm at Sweet Tomatoes Desert Ridge to raise money for ORT's international schools. Call Ellen at 602-953-9307 to have a flyer mailed or faxed to you. (flyer must be attached to your bill.)

June 26

Financial Times @ the JCC: Safe Money Options. Find out how to use safe money alternatives to create a worry-free retirement. Presenter: Mark A. Silverman, CFP. 1:30 pm in the JCC Board Room, 3800 E River Road in Tucson. 520-299-3000, ext. 147, hmeador@tucsonjcc.org

The Most of Lit Lounge brings you the most engaging story-performers and musicians in the nation to share true stories fused by live music! A program of the Scottsdale Museum for Contemporary Art. 7 pm at Scottsdale Center for the Arts, 7380 E Second St., Scottsdale. \$13-15. 480-499-8587, smoca.org

June 27-28

Chatting with the Tea Party, a new documentary-style play by Rich Orloff, will have readings both nights at 7:30 at Theatre Artists Studio, 4848 E Cactus #406, Scottsdale. Free. Post-show discussions with the playwright. 602-765-0120, thestudiophx.org

July 1

Dining Out with Hadassah Southern Arizona, an informal get together to meet and eat lunch at 11:30 am at The Hub, 266 E Congress St. in Tucson. Pay for your meal plus \$5 to Hadassah. RSVP to Sally, 520-298-6662

July 3

Art Garfunkel, the iconic singer performs at 8 pm in the Showroom at Talking Stick Resort, 101 and Indian Bend in Scottsdale. \$35-175. 480-850-7734, talkingstickresort.com

July 4

Happy Birthday U.S.A!

Temple B'rith Shalom invites all to a July 4th Celebration from 5 to 10 pm at Hilltop Ramada at Willow Lake, 1497 Heritage Park Road in Prescott. Picnic Potluck dinner and Shabbat service followed by fireworks. No cost (\$2 parking). 928-708-0018, brithshalom-az.org

July 20

Meet, Greet and Eat Sunday Potluck Brunch for singles, couples and families, chaired by Wendy and Mike Jacobson at 10:30 am at 190 W Magee Road, Suite 162, Oro Valley. Sponsored by Jewish Federation Northwest. Free, with a veggie or dairy dish to share. RSVP to Anne Lowe, alowef@jfsa.org or 520-577-9393, ext. 130

July 28

Book Club Meeting of Hadassah Southern Arizona and NW Division of Jewish Federation. 3:30 pm at The Fountains (La Cholla and Rudaill) and 6:45 pm at the Jewish Federation Northwest, 190 W Magee Road, Oro Valley. Discussing *The Tin Horse* by Janice Steinberg. Discussion led by Meli Horowitz and chaired by Janet Arffa. No cost. Contact Anne Lowe alowef@jfsa.org or 520-577-9393 ext. 130



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