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ARIZONA

THE JEWISH LIFESTYLE MAGAZINE FOR ARIZONA

JANUARY 2015



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### CORRECTION

The December story about senior Sid Brodtkin contained a few errors. Sid is 88 years old. The last name of his friend "Big Sam" is Marcus. Sam's family were Nogales pioneers. Also the correct email address for more information on his two existing books as well as his soon-to-be published The Marker is [sallysid@q.com](mailto:sallysid@q.com).



Scene from  
*For A Woman*

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## Editor's Letter

# May her name be for a blessing

Every day in the United States, three women are murdered by their husbands or boyfriends.

On Thanksgiving Day, a member of our company family, Tonya Dava, was shot and killed by her boyfriend, who then killed himself. Every time I think about her death, I see her sweet face bathed in disbelief. I never saw her in life with anything but a sweet smile, which is perhaps why in my mind I see her facing such a terrifying moment unable to believe that someone she loved could attack her so violently.

Throughout the long Thanksgiving weekend, those of us who worked with her called, cried with and consoled each other. We didn't want Tonya to be just a statistic. We want her to be remembered as a human being who touched many lives. We decided to dedicate this issue to our co-worker and friend.



**Tonya Ann Davis**

Nov. 10, 1972-Nov. 27, 2014

When we heard the news, Publisher Cindy Saltzman posted on Facebook: "To those who are reading this post, I know I don't need to remind you that domestic violence can happen anytime to anyone. Take a closer look at those you work with, family members, neighbors, maybe even your kid's teacher or your bookkeeper ... especially around the holidays. Maybe they need your help but are either afraid or ashamed to ask ... just be more aware. I wish I had been."

So, beyond remembering Tonya, we also want to help others who feel threatened by domestic violence. We wanted to share resources – both for those who need help and those who want to help someone they fear is at risk.

We appreciate both the resources provided and the kind words shared by the staffs at Jewish Family & Children's Services-Phoenix and Jewish Family and Children's Services of Southern Arizona.

*Deborah*

## Domestic Violence Resources

### NATIONAL

**National Coalition Against Domestic Violence**

ncadv.org

Hotline: 800-799-SAFE (7233)

### ARIZONA

**Arizona Coalition To End Sexual and Domestic Violence**

2800 N Central Ave., Suite 1570

Phoenix, AZ 85004

info@acesdv.org

acesdv.org

**Arizona Crime Victim's Compensation**

602-506-4955

### PHOENIX

**Shelter Without Walls JFCS**

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Provides case management, advocacy, domestic violence education and support groups for victims and survivors to assist them in attaining safety, self-sufficiency and empowerment.

**Maricopa County Domestic Violence Shelter Hotline**

480-891-3039

**Fresh Start Women's Resource Center**

1130 E. McDowell Road

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602-252-8494

freshstartwomen.org

Offers a variety of classes, workshops, groups and other services geared toward self-sufficiency and empowerment some of which are specific to domestic violence.

**Domestic Relations of Maricopa County Superior Court**

(for information about Orders of Protection)

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### TUCSON

**Jewish Family and Children's Services of Southern Arizona**

4301 E. 5<sup>th</sup> St.

Tucson, AZ 85711

520-795-0300

jfcstucson.org

### JFCS Offers two programs:

**LEAH** (Let's End Abusive Households) We understand domestic violence and, in response, have developed LEAH, a domestic violence prevention program for Jewish individuals and families affected by domestic abuse. LEAH provides intense therapy and counseling for these families who might otherwise continue to suffer in silence. LEAH also provides education, information and referral, and advocacy for those Jewish individuals and families who experience domestic abuse issues.

Project Safe Place

**Project Safe Place** is a specialized program for youths ages 3-18 who have experienced a trauma in their lives, including sexual and/or physical violence or witnessing domestic violence. Project Safe Place helps victims heal and recover from these traumas with ongoing counseling for their specific needs. Through supportive relationships with their counselors, these young clients begin to develop positive coping skills, the ability to trust and to feel safe – sometimes for the first time in their lives.

*From everyone at Arizona Jewish Life, we wish you and yours  
a peaceful, safe, healthy and happy New Year.*



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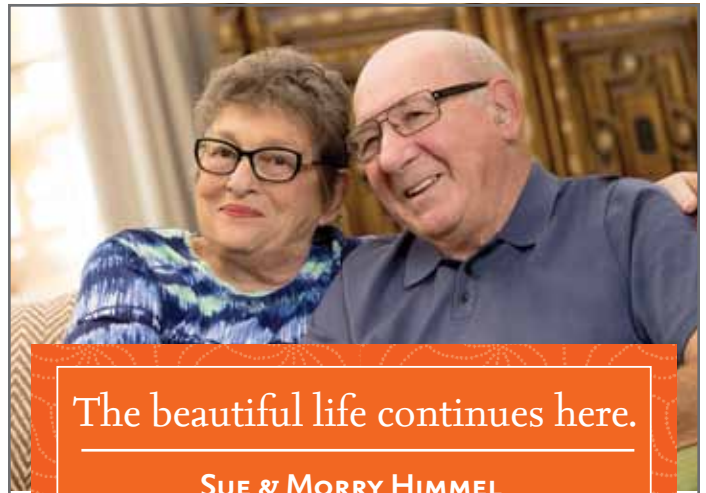
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# Diverse fields unite for international impact

Rabbi Dr. Bennett Blum shows off a small part of his library, which features books on medical, psychiatric and religious topics.

*Photo by Lee Allen*

By Lee Allen

## What you see isn't always what you get.

"When I was born, doctors told my parents the traumatic delivery had caused brain damage from hypoxia and would leave me unable to care for myself," says Bennett Blum.

Wrong. At 6 months old, he started talking in two-word sentences and hasn't slowed down since.

Today, Blum is a medical doctor, an ordained rabbi, University of Arizona Phi Beta Kappa and an internationally acclaimed physician specializing in both forensic and geriatric psychiatry. He has worked on policy development for the White House Conference on Aging, testified before a U.S. Senate subcommittee and was a technical advisor to the Research Triangle Institute.

He also made legal history while consulting in a precedent-setting United Nations trial. While many clients need to remain confidential because of the nature of his work, one of his most public cases involved Slobodan Milosevic, the former Yugoslavian president and convicted war criminal. Dr. Blum's testimony resulted in the conviction of a Yugoslav Army general who went to jail as a result. As a result of this first competency hearing at an International War Crimes Tribunal since Nuremberg, new international competency guidelines were set.

Now a Tucson resident, Blum is a nationally known consulting forensic psychiatrist and elder abuse expert. He continues to give lectures on psychology and psychiatry; present seminars on forensic psychiatry, and serve as a courtroom expert witness in elder abuse cases.

His life has been spent disproving the notion of others that he was not capable of success. "I was the damaged kid with no expectations that I'd be able to achieve anything. I started wearing glasses at an early age, was overweight, had bad asthma and was clumsy to boot, so I was always the last one picked when teams were selected."

He compensated for any shortcomings by excelling in intellect and remembering his parental aphorism that 'everything can be taken away from you except for what you know.'

"In public school, I finished my work before other students and then complained because I didn't have anything to do. So, at age 10, I became a regular visitor to my parents' library and began reading my mother's psychology books – including the complete works of Sigmund Freud. And what I couldn't understand, I did further research on until I did."

Living in the Chicago area before moving to Arizona, he grew up in a secular household with a Holocaust-survivor father who spent years in a slave labor camp before being marched into a gas chamber (at age 11) and being miraculously saved at the last moment by the notorious Dr. Mengele. The horrors and atrocities he witnessed as a young man at Starachowice and Auschwitz-Birkenau left him with a shaken faith and an aversion to religion.

"There wasn't much religious interest on my mother's side of the family either, although we were proud of our heritage," Blum remembers. "We celebrated holidays and on Friday nights lit candles, but we were not a religious home, so my announcement as a young boy that I wanted to become a rabbi came as a complete surprise."

Jewish day school turned into public high school, which morphed into college, and 'become a rabbi' got lost in the shuffle. While proud to be Jewish with his family's collective heritage, he began to challenge ideas. "When I got to college, I moved away from religion and became very proficient at anti-religious arguments and opposition to organized religion. I wanted to learn more, but from a scholarly secular perspective, not the religious aspect."

Blum graduated with a degree in psychology (1984), spent a couple of years in graduate school and then enrolled in the University of Arizona's College of Medicine (Class of 1990) before taking his M.D. to UCLA, where he completed his residency and two fellowships in geriatric and forensic psychiatry.

"My parents had that loving and supportive parental approach of 'don't tell me I can't do it' and had gone out of their way to keep encouraging me that I could achieve whatever I set my mind to, so education, formal or not, became the paramount

thing for me.”

During this studying/rebelling period, love entered the picture, and with it, a return to his religious roots. “The way I grew up, the Sabbath was a day filled with prohibitions and limitations – don’t drive a car, don’t turn on the lights, or as a rabbi once remarked, ‘It was a day filled with oys rather than joys.’

“My wife had grown up in an Orthodox home, but had moved toward more liberal forms of Judaism and was able to help me reconceptualize things, showing me a different way of understanding some of the Jewish rituals. Because I loved my wife and wanted to do things to make her happy, I adapted to her desires, and in that process, the universe with its own weird sense of humor pulled me back into my own religious faith. Once I started to see the various rituals in a different context, things became more meaningful to me.”

The pull to reconnect was a strong one, and it allowed the doctor to continue his long-lasting love of learning with his rekindled joy of Judaism.

“As my identification with my faith increased, I started wearing a yarmulke on a regular basis because I was proud to be Jewish. During this period, the U.S. Attorney’s Office contacted me to consult on a case involving a rabbi, saw the yarmulke and said, ‘Oh, you’re Jewish, so you must know all this Jewish stuff.’ The prosecutors wanted to counter a cultural defense, so they paid me to go back and read through classic rabbinical texts,



Dr. Bennett Blum lecturing on bioethics for the Academy of Psychosomatic Medicine in 2013.

and that meant the Talmud and subsequent writings on the nature of good and evil.

“I spent my days in a premier intellectual exercise involving stimulating debate, not dogma, and for anyone who enjoys studying, there are few things better than that – the pleasure you get learning something difficult and that happens over and over again as you

study Talmud. I threw myself into the project involving not only ancient writings but current opinions, and this went on for six weeks. Ultimately the defense entered a plea agreement and I never testified ... but the fire had been lit, and the more I learned became an impetus to learn even more.”

Following that muse, Blum enrolled in the Academy for Jewish Religion, California, in Los Angeles. “I thought I could learn concepts that would be directly applicable to my secular work, my forensic psychiatry profession, and I found that to be true.” For the next five years, Blum flew to LA on Sunday, took classes for two days and then flew home to continue his forensic practice. He was ordained in 2007.

He hopes to use those studies to help others gain the understanding he encountered: “Judaism is a living religion founded on scripture and rabbinic writings that is relevant to today’s real world problems.”

Lee Allen is a Tucson-based freelance writer.

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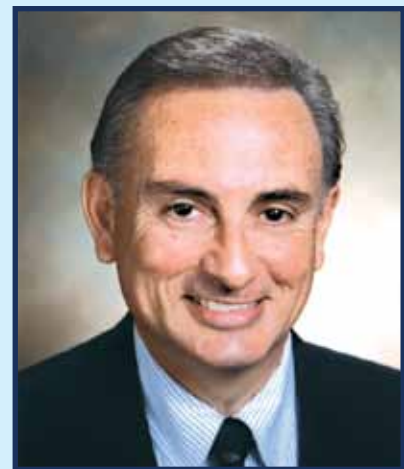
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## Rachel Rabinovich to lead Life & Legacy

The Jewish Community Foundation of Greater Phoenix welcomes Rachel Rabinovich to its staff, Jan. 5. Rachel will join the foundation as director of special projects, with her primary function as the Life & Legacy program director. Rachel also will assume responsibility for the foundation's Tax & Legal Seminar, co-presented annually with the Arizona Community Foundation.

Life & Legacy is a two-year partnership program with the Harold Grinspoon Foundation that assists communities

across North America in promoting after-lifetime giving to benefit Jewish day schools, synagogues, social service organizations and other Jewish entities. Through training, support and monetary incentives, Life & Legacy motivates Jewish organizations to secure legacy gifts, steward donors and integrate legacy giving into the philanthropic culture of the Jewish community. Rachel is a seasoned donor cultivation professional who has lived and worked in Arizona since 1999. Since 2009 she has worked for the Maricopa Community Colleges Foundation, first as senior development officer and more recently as campaign manager. Among Rachel's many accomplishments in these positions, she coordinated all aspects of a \$50-million fundraising campaign. Rachel was previously the Anti-Defamation League's Arizona director of development, where she increased giving by 158% over six years. She started her career at the Jewish Federation of Greater Phoenix and AIPAC.

The mission of the Jewish Community Foundation of Greater Phoenix is to build a permanent source of financial support for a vibrant, enduring Jewish community.

A community meeting to introduce the concept to local agencies and congregations will be held Feb. 5 at 6 pm at the Ina Levine Jewish Community Campus. RSVPs are requested; please contact the foundation.

[jcfphoenix.org](http://jcfphoenix.org) | 480-699-1717



## Terri Swirnoff leaves Jewish Free Loan

Terri Swirnoff recently resigned her position as development director at Jewish Free Loan in Phoenix. During her five years in that job, JFL tripled the dollars raised in its annual campaign.

"I believe in the mission and vision of Jewish Free Loan and have been fortunate to see firsthand its value to our Jewish community," Terri says. Raised in an Arizona mining town of 1,500 people, her observant family comprised the only Jewish people in town. Ironically, Terri has spent the last 45 years in Jewish communal work in the Greater Phoenix area. "I

was blessed with exceptional parents who instilled me with Jewish values, and I grew up being very proud of being Jewish. Perhaps that is why, when we moved to Phoenix after my father passed away, that being a part of the Jewish community was so important to me."

Prior to her work at Jewish Free Loan, Terri was director of the women's department of the Jewish Federation of Greater Phoenix, then federation vice president and general campaign director. She is looking forward to exploring other work options while still having time for her priorities in life, her two adult sons, her partner Dr. Jack Bernstein, and her family and friends.

## Gabby Richman and Lily Behboodi chair Young Jewish Phoenix

Young Jewish Phoenix, a project of the Jewish Federation of Greater Phoenix, has announced its 2015 board, which is composed of Jewish young adults from the community. Chairing Young Jewish Phoenix for 2015 are Gabby Richman and Lily Behboodi, both of whom have served on the board in previous years. Returning board members for a second term are Mitch Cohen, Carly Figman, Dr. Ross Goldberg, Zachary Jaburg and Cory Shapiro. Newcomers Sarah Kader, Chelsey Keller, Ben Leighton, Josh

Morgenstern, Josh Offenhartz and Idan Shtayer join the board this year. Young Jewish Phoenix holds monthly happy hours on the third Thursday of each month to enable young Jewish adults to connect with each other, as well as to gain awareness of other local Jewish organizations. Happy hours may include a collection for donations such as school supplies for JFCS, food for the Just3Things Food Pantry, or clothing and toiletries for Camp Swift. Some meetings include guest speakers from Jewish organizations. [info@youngjewishphoenix.org](mailto:info@youngjewishphoenix.org)



## Rabbi Alicia Magal honored

Rabbi Alicia Magal was honored in November by the Arizona Community Foundation – Sedona. Rabbi Magal, who is the spiritual leader of the Jewish Community of Sedona and the Verde Valley in Northern Arizona, received the Spirit Award for her work to support local nonprofits and assist those in need, epitomizing the concept of philanthropy and earning her the distinction of this year's Philanthropist of the Year. Rabbi Magal organizes a local Mitzvah "Good Deed" Day, a seven-year tradition that engages residents in a day of community service throughout the Verde Valley. In addition to organizing community service activities, Rabbi Magal offers her own financial resources to support those in need and builds community between and among the diversity of faiths represented in the region. The Jewish Community of Sedona and the Verde Valley is an egalitarian, inclusive congregation dedicated to building a link from the past to the future by providing religious, educational, social and cultural experiences. It is unaffiliated "in order to respect and serve the rich diversity of our members and visitors." Rabbi Magal's acceptance speech is on the congregation's website. [jcsvv.org](http://jcsvv.org)



Rabbi A Magal:  
Photo by Jordan Reece of  
Larson Newspapers



## Seth Leibsohn elected Not My Kid vice chair

Local radio host, author and communications consultant Seth Leibsohn was just elected vice-chairman of the board of directors of Not My Kid.

The nonprofit is dedicated to empowering and educating youth, families and communities with the knowledge and courage to identify and prevent negative youth behavior, primarily substance abuse, bullying, unhealthy relationships, internet safety, eating disorders and self-injury.

Leibsohn is the host of "The

Seth Leibsohn Show" on 960 AM KKNT. He is the president of the Leibsohn Group, as well as a writer, editor and policy, political, and communications expert. The former vice president of Empower America, one of the nation's premier think tanks, Leibsohn has counseled and written speeches for and collaborated with candidates for national office and several former Cabinet officials. [notmykid.org](http://notmykid.org) | [960thepatriot.com](http://960thepatriot.com)



## Kaylie Marsh named interim executive director of Camp Swift

Kaylie Marsh has been named interim executive director of the Camp Swift Youth Foundation. A longtime volunteer with the organization, Kaylie was first introduced to Camp Swift as a counselor after her freshman year of high school, and she has been a devoted volunteer with the organization ever since. The Camp Swift board of directors hopes that Kaylie's long history with the

organization, in combination with her educational and professional experience in the nonprofit field, will fortify the organization's growth. Kaylie earned both her bachelor's in ethnic studies and women & gender studies and a master's in public administration and nonprofit management from the University of Colorado. Before joining the Camp Swift staff, Kaylie worked with various nonprofits both internally and on a consulting basis.

The Camp Swift Youth Foundation is a Scottsdale-based nonprofit that fosters positive mentor relationships between economically disadvantaged youth and teenage counselors, who are primarily Jewish. Since 1980 the organization has been offering its signature five-day, four-night overnight camp sessions at Camp Stein in Prescott, and now offers a variety of year-round after-school and weekend programs. [campswift.org](http://campswift.org) | [kaylie@campswift.org](mailto:kaylie@campswift.org)

## Israel Center gets \$20,000 matching grant

The Israeli American Council recently gave a grant of \$20,000 to the Greater Phoenix Israel Center that will be matched by the Jewish Federation of Greater Phoenix, announced Shahar Edry, director of the center.

The first Israelis in Arizona board members, who will be announced shortly, will use these funds to take the Israel Center and the Israelis in Arizona to the next level. This means more presence of Israel in the Valley, stronger relationships with our homeland and enhancing the development of the Israeli American community in the Valley. [shahare@vosjcc.org](mailto:shahare@vosjcc.org)

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## Education

# A lifetime of teachers

By Amy Hirshberg Lederman

As a child, I always dreaded going to Hebrew School. Although it was only a few blocks from my public school, the lonely bike ride felt like miles as I watched my friends walk away in the opposite direction, arms linked together like a human gum wrapper chain. Being Jewish in the small town where I grew up meant being different. It meant missing school in September for a holiday that left me hungry all day long and not having a Christmas tree or colored lights on our house during the dark month of December. And being different was the very last thing I wanted to be as emerging adolescent.

"How come your Jewish books open up backwards and have those funny-looking letters in them?" Cheryl asked me one day.

"Why do you have to go to school *after* school? Are you stupid or something?" Linda asked, giving me elbow digs that hit deeper than the surface.

I didn't have the words or the convictions back then to explain what it took me years to appreciate: that an essential part of being Jewish is the continuing responsibility to learn, study and grow throughout our lifetime.

To learn: from our sacred texts and literature such as the Torah, Talmud and hundreds of other works by Jewish rabbis, authors and educators.

To study: alone, in pairs and in groups, with our children, our parents, our partners and our community, so that our decisions and choices in life can be informed by Jewish knowledge, wisdom and practice.

To grow: into a "mensch," a person who is compassionate, caring, respectful and aware of the responsibilities we have to

"The aim of education must be the training of independently acting and thinking individuals, who, however, see in the service of the community their highest life problem."

~ Albert Einstein

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ourselves, each other and the Source of creation.

Over the years, my teachers have come in different sizes, ages, affiliations and sexes. I have learned from rabbis and professors, therapists and yoga teachers. I have learned much from parents and even more from my children – stretching my mind and opening my heart in ways that challenged and delighted me.

When it comes to my most profound Jewish learning, however, I have to credit some of the finest people I know, who taught me how to love Judaism without even realizing it. My grandmother stands out as one of the greats, a woman with no more than a fifth-grade education who taught me how to light Shabbat candles and make chicken soup sweetened with parsnips. My friend Esther, whose generosity of spirit

**An essential part of being Jewish is the continuing responsibility to learn, study and grow throughout our lifetime.**

and willingness to share her love of Judaism inspired me to be a better Jew and a better person. My colleague Jeffery, who patiently explained Hebrew prayers to me; my sister-in-law, Judy, who helped me keep kosher; and my husband, Ray, who fought to maintain the Sabbath in a home where weekends looked like whirlwinds.

Jewish tradition recognizes that we encounter many teachers in our lifetime and that it is up to us to take what we can from each. Simeon Ben Zoma, a great Talmudic rabbi, answered the question: “Who is wise?” with the following: “He who learns from every person, as it is said: ‘From all my teachers I grew wise.’”

Regardless of whether we choose to study Jewish history or ethics or decide to attend a Jewish cultural series or book club, Jewish learning is an integral part of being Jewish. When we commit to Jewish study, we give ourselves the opportunity to learn how Jewish beliefs and traditions can guide us in our daily decisions and help us make sense of the world. Jewish learning is more than a decision to learn about Judaism. It is a pathway to learning about living a more meaningful life.

It has always been hard to set aside the time for Jewish study. That is why the Talmud cautioned us more than 1,500 years ago: “Do not say, When I have leisure time I will study, for you may never have leisure time.”



Amy Hirshberg Lederman has written more than 300 columns and essays that have been published nationwide.  
amyhirshberglederman.com

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## Shalom Center combines learning, support and spirituality

By Melissa Hirschl

For Jews on a journey to wholeness and a deep intellectual connection to the Divine, the path to Temple Chai in Phoenix may help illuminate the way. The Temple's Deutsch Family Shalom Center, created in 1996, is a resource center that promotes education, support groups and spiritual development by fusing Jewish wisdom, tradition and compassion.

At this spiritual oasis in Phoenix, participants grow, learn, grieve and heal while expanding their horizons regarding the many facets of spirituality and Jewish enlightenment. Rabbis, authors and educators lead programs that not only stimulate the intellect and imagination, but also enhance peace of mind, body and soul, as well. Examples of the intriguing fusion of educational and spiritual modalities include Torah study, Jewish wisdom, songs, poetry, psalms, support networks, meditation, relaxation techniques, yoga and liturgy.

A particularly bright star in the center's educational galaxy is the study of Mussar, a Jewish ethical, educational and cultural movement that began in 19<sup>th</sup> century Eastern Europe. The courses, which are central to the educational dynamic of the center, use material based on the book *Everyday Holiness* by Alan Morinis. Struggling to fully comprehend and navigate the moral complexities of life, participants study in small groups, and use meditation and journaling to expand the experience. Classes last 13 weeks, during which participants meet every other week in small groups and with study partners.

"The center is a premier and nationally recognized trendsetter in the field of Jewish healing initiatives," says Rabbi Bonnie Koppell, one of the temple's two rabbis. "It is the heartbeat of the temple. I am incredibly proud of the work of the center and also feel incredibly blessed to be part of the community that supports this holy work."

The Shalom Center was the brainchild of Rabbi Bill Berk, the rabbi emeritus of Temple Chai, and congregant Sharona Sharona. In the late 1980s, Berk concluded the temple needed to be more responsive to congregants who were experiencing issues of loneliness, parenting difficulties, bereavement and challenging life transitions. Sharing his concerns with Sharona, the two

Examples of the intriguing fusion of educational and spiritual modalities include Torah study, Jewish wisdom, songs, poetry, psalms, support networks, meditation, relaxation techniques, yoga and liturgy.

initiated the Beit Tikkun (house of healing) committee, a group consisting of social workers, psychotherapists, physicians and health care providers. The group included bereavement support groups as well as a few educational programs.

The small but committed group eventually grew wings and took flight. The catalyst was Sharona. With a master's in public health and a strong interest in helping others, she attended a conference on Jewish healing in 1996. Soon her ideas started percolating.

"I envisioned the possibilities of creating similar educational experiences at Temple Chai that embraced the physical, emotional, mental and spiritual realms," she relates. Fortunately Berk was equally enthusiastic about expanding the breadth and scope of the committee, and the Shalom Center was born. Currently, Sharona relates she receives calls from congregations all over the country that want to emulate the dynamics of the Shalom Center.

Trained by The Mussar Institute, Sharona is currently teaching Seasons of Mussar I and II, which explore the soul traits (middot) of gratitude, trust, anger, honor, alacrity, patience, forgiveness, simplicity, strength, faith and loving kindness. "I believe it is one of the best tools to bring balance into your life, no matter what level of Judaism you practice," says Sharona.

At the Shalom Center, education is synonymous with cultivating Jewish wisdom and practice. Gatherings throughout the year deepen participants' understanding of Jewish healing practices, and the many mitzvot of healing are the building blocks to achieve this end. A healing series of lectures and workshops is ongoing and continually evolving. Prior events included classes about Shabbat, book groups, gatherings of congregants to prepare food for those in need, shiva training, knitting items of comfort for members in need, and classes on aging, cancer and care for older parents. The center also hosts learned individuals to teach and guide participants with traditional and contemporary Jewish approaches to healing and growth. Parenting education workshops help parents raise healthy, ethical and self-reliant children.

Life transition support classes are also an integral part of



Sharona Silverman

**Shalom Center: Temple Chai, 4645 E Marilyn Road, Phoenix  
602-971-1234 templechai.com**



the Shalom Center. Classes have included: Caring for Loved Ones – a Jewish support and resource group for families and caregivers; JACS – a support group for Jewish alcoholics and chemically dependent persons and their loved ones; (note: co-sponsored by the Shalom Center, Jewish Family and Children's Service, and the Valley of the Sun Jewish Community Center. The meetings are held at the Valley of the Sun Jewish Community Center); Life after Death of a Child; Living through Loss bereavement support group; and Rebuilding Your Life support group for widowed, separated or divorced men and women. Past conferences have included: Celebrating Aging, Job Transitions, Substance Abuse, Mental Health, Dementia Care and Conscious Living and Dying.

"Labor of love" tactile creations create healing energy at the center. Members gather to work on projects such as knitted shawls and the Mi Shebeirach Tapestries. Smaller squares, created in various media such as embroidery, beading, rhinestones, photo transfers and fabric paint, are sewn together to create large and colorful tapestries. The result is a symbolic collection of positive thoughts, images, and/or symbols of healing, love, peace and well-being.

"The tapestries are brought into the sanctuary at Yom Kippur and positioned around the room," says Sharona. This gives those in need of healing an opportunity to be enveloped in their comforting warmth. We had 100 people use them during our last Yom Kippur service."

All of these projects combined with the cornucopia of educational opportunities keep the center flourishing.

"The caring community at the Shalom Center is a core value at Temple Chai," says member Alan Zeichick. "If you are looking for healing and dealing with people in need or pain, I have never seen another temple that focuses on it as much as Temple Chai."

Temple member Beth Isaacs echoes Zeichick's sentiments. "The temple has so many programs," she says. "I have had a death in my family, and my daughter has been in need. The temple and Shalom Center have come through more than expected. It is a community that reaches out to everybody."

All programs at Temple Chai are open to everyone in the community. There is a charge for Mussar and an occasional minimal charge for workshops. In January Temple Chai will partner with the New Shul and Valley Beit Midrash to sponsor "The Spiritual Journey of Daily Living; A Mussar and Meditation Retreat."

Shacharit Meditation Services are held on the third Saturday of each month from 11:15 am-12:30 pm with Howard Silverman, M.D. No prior experience is necessary.

## Meditation and Mussar Retreat

Sunday, Jan. 18: 10 am-5 pm at New Shul,  
7825 E Paradise Lane, Scottsdale

Monday, Jan. 19: 10 am-1 pm at Temple Chai,  
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## How do I motivate students?



**Bonnie Cohen**  
3's teacher and  
drama specialist  
Temple Kol Ami Early  
Childhood Center  
Infants-PreK  
templekolami.org

I greet my kids each day with a smile, high energy and a positive attitude. Whether they're learning a new song, doing an art projector practicing for a play, when they see how excited I am to be a part of something so wonderful, my enthusiasm surges through them like a bolt of lightning— it's infectious and contagious. Every child needs to feel special and be praised. I evaluate the personal strengths of the less motivated children and tap into these talents, which make them feel extra needed, as if the project or performance can't go on without them!



**Jennifer Lehrfeld**  
Science Dept. Head &  
Middle School  
Science Teacher  
Tucson Hebrew  
Academy K-8  
thaaz.org

There's an old cliché, that children are like sponges soaking up information, but I don't know of any sponge that can soak up anything without getting wet. In my classroom, we dive headfirst into everything we do and often make a mess doing it! I don't worry about noise or movement in the classroom because when the kids are actively engaged, they are learning! I judge my success by the mess we typically have to clean up at the end of a period. If we were only cleaning up books and pencils, I'd call that a bad day!



**Rabbi Elana Kanter**  
Limmud team co-leader  
LimmudAZ  
Newborns-120  
limmudaz.org

Limmud motivates participation in three ways. First, we offer an enormous variety of sessions so there is something for everybody: Talmudic Ethics, Jews and Chocolate, Jewish Pirates, Israeli Wines, Kabbalah – an incredible array of offerings. Secondly, we offer a diversity of teachers. You can learn from an Orthodox scholar, a humanist Jew, a gay rabbi – the entire spectrum of community together. Lastly, we motivate by recognizing that each of us is both a learner and a teacher. Who is wise? asks Pirkei Avot. The person who learns from everyone. That's what we do at Limmud.



**Amber Groskreutz**  
SIRRI Developmental  
Rehabilitation &  
Learning Center  
2½ years through  
adult  
sirriaz.com

As an educator, the most important aspect to motivating unmotivated students is to get to know each client one-on-one and create a personal relationship with them. I find this makes the clients feel more comfortable and willing to participate. I also try to make each session fun and interact with each of them, while still maintaining a productive and organized environment. Another thing that I have found works is a sticker reward system that I use when clients are trying their hardest each session.



**Shternie Deitsch**  
Director  
Chandler Jewish  
Preschool  
12 months-5 years  
chabadcenter.com/preschool

To create an optimal learning environment children need to have a sense of belonging, a sense of significance and they need to have fun. Children are natural explorers and

researchers, we simply need to give them more opportunities and time to learn and discover on their own. Providing children with stimulating provocations and time to analyze and work with them encourages deeper, more meaningful learning. Once a child is engaged in an activity that interests, stimulates and challenges them, they will remain motivated and eager to learn ... we need to make sure materials don't dictate the play.

## Why are you passionate about education?



**Beth Alpert Nakhai, Ph.D.**  
Associate professor  
Arizona Center for  
Judaic Studies,  
University of  
Arizona  
Undergraduates and  
graduate students  
judaic.arizona.edu

My parents were both the first in their families to get a university degree. My father became a physician; my mother a family therapist; my daughter is in graduate school. Higher education – and hard work – freed my family from the tenements so I know first-hand the transformative power of a university education. Now, I teach subjects I love in a department with fabulous faculty, staff and students. It is a privilege and an honor to share what I am passionate about with people who are motivated to reach their best in our large and very complicated world.



**Jill Kessler**  
Head of school  
Pardes Jewish Day  
School  
K-8  
pardesschool.org

Education gives children the opportunity to dream, to open doors to new horizons and to shape identity. Powerful practices in education inspire new thinking, new ideas and creativity. As

a result, education is responsible for how we live our lives, how we behave in groups and how we treat each other. Education is all around us. It's paying attention to the inferences in what we read. It's watching people's expressions and understanding nuances. It's interpreting the world around us to find meaning and to make a difference.



**Rabbi Robert Eisen**  
**Congregation Anshei Israel**  
**Religious School, Preschool/**  
**Kindergarten**  
**and Adult Ed**  
**caiaz.org**

My passion for Jewish education comes from my personal experience regarding how much more meaningful life becomes when living Jewishly – the more I learn, the more significant life becomes. Jewish education helps us learn to take advantage of the opportunities God has provided to ensure our lives are more than simply long. A sense of wonder emerges with every page I turn, every experience I am afforded. The more I learn, the more I want to share, not just through teaching, but through “the doing” as well. Passion for Jewish education is passion for life itself.



**Ori Parnaby**  
**JETCO board member & Jewish**  
**Tucson's concierge**  
**jetco.org**

I'm grateful my kids are enrolled in a school where they are getting a fabulous education while learning Jewish values, culture and the importance of community. Organizations such as JETCO make this possible for our family and many others. Having a Jewish day school in a city is vital to the health, strength and success of a Jewish community. JETCO is the reason this is possible in Tucson. As the Jewish community concierge, I meet with many families who are new to Tucson; a Jewish day school is often part of their decision making process when choosing a home.



**Linda Zell**  
**Executive director**  
**Jewish Tuition Organization**  
**K-12**  
**jtophoenix.org**

The mission of the Jewish Tuition Organization is to provide need-based scholarships to Arizona students to attend participating K-12 Jewish day schools in Metropolitan Phoenix. We want to make sure that cost is never a factor in the decision to send your child to a Jewish day school. We serve students at Desert Jewish Academy, Pardes Jewish Day School, Phoenix Hebrew Academy, Shalom Montessori, Shearim Torah High School, Torah Day School of Phoenix and Yeshiva High School of Arizona.



**Megan Baskerville**  
**General manager, Scottsdale/**  
**Gilbert/Ahwatukee**  
**School of Rock**  
**Ages 4-100**  
**schoolofrock.com**

I am passionate about education because it gives our kids the tools to make the world a better place. When our students have many tools in their toolbelt, they become confident and supportive young people. They also think about things differently and can come up with creative solutions to things. In music education specifically, we see many “ah-ha” moments and nothing compares to that!



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# Limmud comes to The Valley

By Janet Arnold

Limmud's promise to you is both simple and hopeful: Wherever you find yourself, Limmud will take you one step further on your Jewish journey.

Limmud (from the Hebrew word meaning "to learn") was originally a conference for educators in Great Britain. During the 1990s there was a significant change as Limmud reinvented itself as a community gathering, opening its reach to include the greater Jewish population. It adopted a volunteer ethos, not paying presenters and not using titles. The Limmud model quickly spread to many other countries.

Now for the first time, the greater Phoenix area will have an opportunity to experience Limmud.

Thanks to the foresight, energy and hard work of three local women, Sandy Adler, Suzanne Swift and Rabbi Elana Kanter, Limmud is being presented for a full day on Feb. 8 at the Arizona State University main campus in Tempe. Registration begins at 8:15 am, with programs scheduled from 9 am to 5 pm.

The day literally will include something for everyone. From talks on Jewish cowboys to Israeli wines to Talmudic ethics,

more than 40 sessions will be presented.

"We have an amazing array of offerings," says Sandy. "Our objective is to bring together Jews from all over the spectrum of Judaism for a day of community and learning. Some presenters are coming from other parts of the country, others are local. No one receives a stipend, though we can help with airfare and housing costs."

The program is for all ages as well. Babysitting and children's activities are offered at Camp Limmud for the nominal fee of \$15, which includes lunch. Teens are invited to actively participate in the sessions, and there will be a session presented by the teen board of B'nai Tzedek, the teen philanthropy group.

The consummate volunteer, Sandy founded the Book Fair at the Valley of the Sun Jewish Community Center and has also served on the board of the JCC.

"I'm a strong cultural Jew," Sandy says. "I'm deeply entrenched in and fascinated by the culture and history of Judaism. Rabbi Elana of course has the text-based knowledge, and Suzanne has both a religious and community background. It's a good team!"

They have gathered a strong committee to help with areas of hospitality, marketing, programming and the overall logistics.

"Ilene Singer from the ASU Jewish Studies Department has been a huge help with logistics, which in and of themselves are daunting," says Sandy. For example, special free parking areas have been designated near the Memorial Union Building where the conference and child care will take place.

Rabbi Elana adds, "Because Limmud is an entirely volunteer-run effort, this conference is truly 'of the community, by the community and for the community.' ... Limmud invites Jews of all backgrounds to learn side-by-side. We have teachers from Reform, Conservative, Orthodox, Reconstructionist, Humanist and secular streams of Judaism, reflecting the diversity of the Limmud leadership team, as well as community participants. Limmud has been a game-changer in communities across the country and around the world, and I believe it will be one in ours, too."

With support from the Jewish Community Foundation of Greater Phoenix, the Jewish Federation of Greater Phoenix and the Jewish Studies Department at ASU, as well as some personal contributions, the entire day is being offered for the low fee of \$36, which includes a kosher lunch and snacks. Limmud is a 501(c)3 not-for-profit corporation under the auspices of the Women's Jewish Learning Center and is actively seeking donors to the program. Since it is a volunteer-run organization, 100% of donations are directly applied to the programming and scholarships.

In addition, Limmud is offering a free table and listing on its website to any congregation or organization that promotes the day to its members.

For further information and to sign up, visit [limmudaz.org](http://limmudaz.org).

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**FOR MORE INFORMATION:**  
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## Pardes students flourish like Rabbi Akiva

By Bethany Spector

A story is told of a man named Akiva who could neither read nor write at the age of 40. He was bothered by the fact that people viewed him as ignorant and unlearned. His wife, Rachel, who was disowned by her father when she married him, and Akiva's teacher, Rabbi Eliezier ben Hyrkanos, recognized his potential and supported him in reaching his educational goals. He went on to become one of the most learned Torah scholars. It is said that Rabbi Akiva was able to raise himself to a very special place in heaven where he could see G-d and angels. This special level in heaven was an orchard called Pardes.

It is not a coincidence that Pardes Jewish Day School in Scottsdale bears the same name as the mystical orchard in heaven. Rabbi Akiva's teacher and his wife supported, encouraged and challenged him to reach his goals, which led him to become a sage and a great educator. Nearly 2,000 years



Second-grade students work on MacBooks during technology class.



The fifth- and sixth-grade Pardes flag football team placed first in the Mountain Valley Athletic League.

later, the faculty and staff of Pardes Jewish Day School have dedicated themselves to teaching students a rich and rigorous curriculum while considering the individual needs of each child. Pardes students are asked to become critical thinkers as they explore their learning through both a secular and Jewish lens.

Just as Rabbi Akiva's success was impacted by his surroundings, students at all grade levels are inspired to embrace the Jewish values and heritage that surround them on a daily basis, enabling them to develop a true depth of character as to how they treat peers and other people in the world.

Founded by Rabbi Bonnie Sharfman, Pardes Jewish Day School was born from two compelling desires. The vision was for Pardes to provide an outstanding general educational experience integrated with Jewish studies and to build a strong foundation in Jewish and Hebrew language learning that would help children develop a positive sense of their Jewish selves as well as the knowledge base to be comfortable and confident in their place in the world.

"I wanted something different for my children. I wanted a different environment with top-notch academics and where children could live and breathe Jewish values. Children don't compartmentalize their lives like adults, so the opportunity to integrate Jewish learning with the general-studies learning made sense," explained Sharfman, who at the time was the director of education at Temple Solel.

Over the past 21 years, Pardes has grown from a single kindergarten class of 12 students at the Solel School on the campus of Temple Solel to 290 students on a new, beautifully renovated facility on the Ina Levine Jewish Community

Pardes Jewish Day School: 12753 N Scottsdale Road, Scottsdale  
480-991-9141 | [pardesschool.org](http://pardesschool.org)



Kindergarteners enjoy a ceremony in which the entire Pardes student body comes together to welcome them at the start of the school year.

Campus. It was early in the creation of the school that the name was changed from the Solel School to Pardes Jewish Day School.

Pardes' Middle School was established in 2002 on the campus of Temple Kol Ami, while kindergarten through grade four remained at Temple Solel. In 2003 Bonnie Sharfman stepped down as head of school to attend rabbinical school, and the board of directors selected Jill Kessler to become the new head of school, a position she holds today. Enrollment continued to grow, necessitating a move to Congregation Beth Israel and then to a five-acre campus on Paradise Lane in Phoenix, where the school enjoyed eight wonderful years.

The opportunity to relocate to a permanent home on the Ina Levine Jewish Community Campus led to a capital campaign in 2013-2014 and the construction of a new middle school building, a third kindergarten classroom, five additional offices and a beautiful playscape with outdoor learning opportunities.

"Our new campus provides unlimited possibilities for our students, whether learning inside our state-of-the-art middle school rooms or in our new outdoor amphitheater. The campus design intentionally supports student learning," says Jill.

Pardes' new location also enables students and families to take advantage of the amenities at the JCC. Students use the indoor basketball courts during PE, especially during the hottest parts of the school year. Additionally, many Pardes students enjoy the after-school programming options through the JCC's Club J.

"Our new location provides a myriad of opportunities for our students to take advantage of all of the amenities on the Ina Levine Jewish Community Campus. It's wonderful that our kindergarten through grade-four students can be walked over by counselors from the Jewish Community Center and spend time in fun and meaningful activities after school. Our students in grades five through eight enjoy the freedom of walking to the JCC after school to have a snack at the cafe, have some social time and work on homework. The sense of independence gained by being with friends in a safe environment is important for adolescent development," Kessler says.

While the physical campus is important and adds to the overall learning environment, it is the in-depth learning,

discussing, questioning and analyzing taking place daily in every classroom that is the hallmark of a Pardes education. Dedicated and experienced teachers challenge students to become critical readers, writers and thinkers while applying best practices of differentiated learning in both secular and Jewish studies. Pardes' academic excellence has been recognized nationally both in the Jewish day school and independent school communities. Pardes has been the recipient of grants from The Avi Chai Foundation in New York, The Legacy Heritage Foundation in New York and The Jewish Community Foundation in Scottsdale.

"Grants from national and local funding sources are a result of their confidence in both the lay and professional leadership of the school. Each grant is implemented with the utmost dedication to advancing the mission and vision of the school," says Kessler.

There is nothing more exciting than knowing we are helping to cultivate the next generation of Jewish leaders in our community," she adds. "We are grateful for the support we have been given and will continue to provide excellence to our students."

Bethany Spector is director of admissions and marketing at Pardes Jewish Day School. She can be reached at 480-991-9141 or [bspector@pardesschool.org](mailto:bspector@pardesschool.org).

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## Jewish day schools grow nationally and locally

The recently released census of Jewish day schools in the United States sponsored by the Avi Chai Foundation demonstrates an overall increase in day school enrollment since the surveys began in the 1998-99 school year.

Conducted at five-year intervals, this research provides a clear picture of trends in the day school system over an extended period of time. The statistics were self-reported by every known Jewish day school in the United States.

The fourth census of Jewish day schools in the United States was conducted by Dr. Marvin Schick and was released late in 2014.

"The participation rate of 100% for known schools is a remarkable accomplishment," says Yossi Prager, North American executive director of the Avi Chai Foundation. "Anyone interested in the Jewish day school field benefits from this

achievement. We are indebted to Dr. Schick for his dedication to this project."

This census demonstrates an overall increase in day school enrollment nationwide, as well as in Arizona. There were nearly 255,000 students enrolled nationally from the 4-year-old level through 12<sup>th</sup> grade in Jewish elementary and secondary schools in the 2013-14 school year. This represents an increase of 12% since the previous census in 2008-9 and 37% since 1998-99. Enrollment has grown by 70,000 students in this span of 15 years.

### ARIZONA SCHOOLS

In Arizona, day school enrollment has grown 33.79% during that same period. In 1998 enrollment in Arizona day schools was 589. By 2013 that number had grown to 788.

Arizona has eight Jewish day schools, one in Tucson and the remainder in The Valley.

Now in its 41<sup>st</sup> year, Tucson Hebrew Academy ([thaaz.org](http://thaaz.org)) is a pluralistic kindergarten through eighth grade Jewish day school. The school's permanent campus was built from the ground up and opened in September of 1994 on the Tucson Jewish Community Campus, which also houses the Jewish Community Center and The Jewish Federation of Southern Arizona.

This fall Pardes Jewish Day School ([pardesschool.org](http://pardesschool.org)) moved to the Ina Levine Jewish Community Campus (see story page 22).

The Desert Jewish Academy ([desertja.org](http://desertja.org)) in Chandler has classes for children in kindergarten through sixth grade.

The Phoenix Hebrew Academy ([phoenixhebrewacademy.org](http://phoenixhebrewacademy.org)) is an Orthodox Jewish day school in north central Phoenix founded in 1965. The school offers classes for kindergarten through middle school. Other Phoenix-area Jewish day schools for elementary age students are Shalom Montessori at McCormick Ranch ([shalommontessori.com](http://shalommontessori.com)) and Torah Day School of Phoenix ([torahdayschoolofphoenix.org](http://torahdayschoolofphoenix.org)).

Phoenix-area high schools are Yeshiva High School of Arizona ([azyeshiva.org](http://azyeshiva.org)) and Shearim Torah High School for Girls ([shearimhighschool.org](http://shearimhighschool.org)).

### NATIONAL TRENDS

Students are enrolled in 861 day schools nationally, significantly more than the 802 schools reported in the previous census and the 676 accounted for in 1998-99.

RAVSAK or community schools have fared rather well, gaining 4,500 students and 16 schools across the 15-year period. This represents enrollment growth of nearly a third.

Chabad schools have also done well, growing by about 2,200 students, or more than 60%. In 2013, there were 15 more

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Chabad day schools than operated in 1998. The statistics also provide a sense of the relative smallness of Chabad schools. There were an equal number of Chabad and Modern Orthodox schools, but the latter category had many more students.

Among the Orthodox schools, where enrollment in Chassidic and Yeshiva World schools has grown by nearly 110% and 60%, respectively, another communal challenge arises. As Dr. Schick explains, this challenge is “whether there will be sufficient resources to provide adequately for the growth in these two sectors.”

In the non-Orthodox sector, community school enrollment has increased, whereas enrollment has declined in non-Orthodox schools overall. Non-Orthodox enrollment now constitutes 13% of all day school enrollment, a decrease from 20% as reported in 1998-99. These data, explains Dr. Schick, present “the community with an enormous challenge: will day school continue to be a principal instrument for Judaic strengthening among those segments of American Jewish life for whom day school education is a critical determinant of

young people’s future Judaic commitment?”

Now in its 41<sup>st</sup> year, Tucson Hebrew Academy (thaaz.org) is a pluralistic kindergarten through eighth grade Jewish day school.

Small school size is a consistent feature of the Jewish day school world. In each of the four censuses, approximately 40% of day schools have fewer than 100 students. “The existence of so many small schools raises educational, financial and communal concerns,” explains Dr. Schick.

“Many of these schools will not survive, while others will continue to struggle with their small enrollments. This has been a phenomenon we continue to see over the last 15 years.”

There are Jewish day schools in 37 states and the District of Columbia. In 10 of these states, enrollment is below 100, and in 16 states, there has been a decline in number of students during the course of the four censuses. New York and New Jersey are, to a great extent, the center of the day school world, with enrollment growing by 47,000 or 45% in New York and by nearly 21,000 or 116% in New Jersey between 1998 and 2013.

“As Avi Chai plans to sunset in 2020, this fourth census is the last one that will directly inform our grantmaking,” says Avi Chai Foundation Chair Mem Bernstein. “These censuses have provided our trustees and staff with data-rich perspectives on our work. Where it foretold challenges facing the community, it offered us, and others dedicated to the day school field, rich opportunities to make a difference through our grantmaking. We hope that this census and the next, which will be the last Avi Chai-sponsored census, will provide useful information as the day school field continues to evolve and grow.”

Founded in 1984 by Zalman Chaim Bernstein z”l, Avi Chai’s mission is to further the perpetuation of the Jewish people, Judaism and the centrality of the State of Israel to the Jewish people. Avi Chai’s goal for its remaining years is to nurture and grow the strength and influence of institutions, people and ideas that serve the day school and overnight camp fields.



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## Chandler Jewish Preschool embraces the Reggio philosophy

Pre-kindergartners, from left, Rivkah Bedrick, Max Saltzman and Bayla Bedrick peel and grate potatoes for latkes.

By Janet Arnold

In just its second year of operation, the Chandler Jewish Preschool at the Pollack Chabad Center for Jewish Life is thriving. The beautiful and spacious facility located just off the 101 and Ray Road is home to 16 curious, wide-eyed and adorable tots from 12 months through pre-kindergarten.

The Reggio Emilia approach (named after the town in Italy in which it started) considers the environment as the third teacher, after the child and the adult leader. To that end, each classroom is outfitted with play structures and materials set to inspire and encourage exploration. Walls are decorated with photos of the children at “work,” with their own explanatory quotes written nearby.

“You’ll hear a lot of ‘I wonder what ...,’ ‘What will happen if ...’ and ‘Let’s try this’ in each classroom,” Preschool Director Shternie Deitsch proudly explains. “Our teachers encourage our children to be independent, creative thinkers ... those who can think outside the box. We help them develop healthy social and emotional growth. We believe those skills will help them succeed not only in school but in life.”



From left: Leah Welner, Imogen Van Horn and Bayla Deitsch get ready for Hanukkah.

The Reggio vision of the child as a competent learner produces a strong child-directed curriculum model. Teachers follow the children’s interests and do not provide focused instruction in reading and writing.

“We don’t consider the young child an empty vessel that needs to be filled. We think they are already filled with the wonderful elements of childhood. We give them space to explore learning, to learn about natural consequences and to problem solve,” says Shternie, who has been involved with preschools and Hebrew school education since 1995.

She says that when establishing the new Chandler Jewish Preschool, “It was a natural decision to implement the Reggio Emilia philosophy and become a Reggio-inspired school. My older sister had been teaching in a Reggio-inspired Jewish preschool in Mequon, WI, for seven years, and as she shared her amazing

experiences with me, it quickly became apparent that that is the direction we would take. It is so closely aligned with the way Judaism views early childhood development and education that it was a natural choice.”

The children also have the experience of going into the full kitchen at the Chabad Center to help with cooking for special

Chabad Center: 875 N McClintock Dr., Chandler | 480-945-2026 | [chabadcenter.com](http://chabadcenter.com)

## Thinking about your child's education

Shternie Deitsch, director of the Chandler Jewish Preschool, is married to Rabbi Mendy Deitsch, who runs the Pollack Center for Jewish Life. Together they are blessed with nine children, ranging in ages from 21 months to 17 years.

Shternie calls her life as a mom "a privilege, hectic and dare I say fun! The Lubavitcher Rebbe maintains that as parents we must think about our children's education for at least one hour each day. To that end we try to match each of our children with the environment that best suits them. It's quite humorous, but we have our family currently enrolled in seven different schools!"

Their oldest daughter attends a Chabad high school in Toronto, their 15-year-old son is in a Chabad high school in Chicago and their 13-year-old daughter is enrolled in a global online Chabad school. The two youngest attend the preschool at the Chabad center.

And here's what happens each day with the other four:

Traveling the busy freeways from Chandler to Phoenix (fortunately there are HOV lanes!) "our fourth- and sixth-graders get dropped off at the Phoenix Hebrew Academy at 8 am, our third-grader starts at Torah Day School at 8:15 am and our kindergartner starts at 8:30 am at Aleph Bet Preschool and Kindergarten at Chabad of Phoenix."

The routine goes something like this: "We leave at 7:28 most mornings and take three other children with us, dropping one off at a fourth school, Shearim Torah High School for Girls. ... We usually return by 9:15. Typically my husband does the morning drive, loving that time to talk to the kids.

"The afternoons have me leaving at 2:30 (with my two preschoolers while my eighth-grader has her math lesson) in order to get to the kindergarten dismissal at 3, with the other pickups staggered at 3:30, 3:40 and 3:50! Typically we get home at 4:30."

The Deitsches take it all in stride. As Shternie says, "It really isn't a big deal. Honestly it's our routine ... and as long as I'm organized, it all works out!"

The Reggio vision of the child as a competent learner produces a strong child-directed curriculum model. Teachers follow the children's interests and do not provide focused instruction in reading and writing.

events. They bake their weekly challahs and assist with events such as their Thanksgiving "feast." The pre-K kids learned to carefully peel potatoes for their Hanukkah latkes and then explored what happens to potato peels when mixed with a variety of elements.





The school has room for expansion. "Though we love the small teacher-student ratio (there are currently six teachers for the 16 children), we still have room for more children. We are open to the entire community and believe that anyone would feel comfortable in our setting."

Shternie is grateful for their beautiful facility and hopes to find support to build a natural playscape in the outdoor area. "Why would we want to put up plastic and metal when we could use natural elements to allow for play and exploration?" she asks with a grin.

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Teens at Alexander Muss High School in Israel pose in front of a sculpture outside the Israel Museum in Jerusalem.

## New grants help Arizona teens have life-changing experiences in Israel

By Masada Siegel

International travel always makes one look at the world in a different way. However, a young woman from Arizona, Sheeri A., found that attending the Alexander Muss High School in Israel program in 2003 helped her change the world around her after she returned to Arizona.

“I remember coming back from Israel and having a substitute teacher at my public school make anti-Israel remarks in class. She had no idea I just returned from AMHSI and was a vault of information. I raised my hand and combatted her disgusting remarks. The entire class was surprised, especially the Jewish students who knew what she said was wrong, but had no idea how to respond. I think the substitute teacher was also surprised that at 17 a student would know so much about Israel and current events. I was able to give concrete facts and information to those who didn't understand current events in Israel, and it has played an important role every day of my life.”

AMHSI is a high school program in Israel that provides high school or college credit for English-speaking teenagers

from throughout the United States, Canada, Australia, Latin America and Europe. Students live on a campus, attend classes daily and experience 5,000 years of Jewish history using historical sites all over Israel as the classroom.

AMHSI, now a part of Jewish National Fund, has rolled out a new program for Arizona students thanks to a generous donation of \$150,000 from the Schwartz-Hammer Foundation.

The Impact Fellowship Program is being launched in Arizona. It is the first of its kind and will be rolled out nationally. Over the next three summers, it will provide a total of 15 Arizona high school Jewish teens an opportunity to attend the program all expenses paid – from tuition to housing costs to trip costs to airfare – with the expectation that these fellows will return to make an impact on their communities.

The Schwartz-Hammer Alexander Muss High School in Israel Impact Fellowship Program was established to provide Jewish teens in Arizona an extraordinary opportunity to discover their connection to the land, people, history and culture of Israel.



Teens at Alexander Muss High School in Israel enjoy a variety of experiences including camel rides in the desert.

AMHSI Co-Executive Director Rabbi Leor Sinai explains, “We provide the vehicle for students to explore their own identity as Jews, in the Jewish state, while simultaneously providing them the highest academic standard available. A student’s high school years are his/her most formidable. It is a time of self-reflection and realization in the world. “Who am I? What do I want to do when I grow up? What are my interests?”

Sinead McIntyre participated in the program when she was a high school student in Arizona. The experience changed her life. “I would say that HSI was the gateway to me finding my place in the world, because it gave me my first and deepest impression of Israel and set me on my path to making aliyah and creating a life here, for which I am so incredibly grateful.”

Sinead is not alone. Many students return home having had a life-changing experience in Israel and a greater understanding of their heritage, which provides them with lifelong tools.

AMHSI Director of Marketing and Communications Yael Tamar says, “Our students arrive from all kinds of backgrounds, but we take pride in inspiring our students to become active in their communities as well as advocates for Israel on their future college campuses and communities. It has been proven via an alumni study we conducted in the past that AMHSI alumni are much more likely to marry a Jewish partner, donate to Jewish causes and be involved in Jewish communities and Jewish and Zionist organizations.”

Arizona alumni Sheeri A. proves that point: “Recently, during Operation Protective Edge, the social media wars were intense, but I was able to articulate myself and use a lot of the information from AMHSI to support Israel on the web.”

The program, which runs year round, is open to students of all denominations and faiths and is one of the leading Israel

programs in existence. The study-abroad program for high school sophomores, juniors and seniors offers full semester and eight-week academic programs, six-week summer programs and an eight-week trip with the International March of the Living that starts in Poland and continues in Israel.

“We have been around for 42 years, 23,000 alumni later, making us the pioneer of academic-abroad programs in Israel. We are the only pluralistic international high school study-

abroad program in Israel geared for all teenagers of different Jewish backgrounds,” Sinai says.

The board of Jewish Education in Arizona has offered a variety of scholarships for decades to students wishing to attend a program in Israel, including the Harold and Jean Grossman Israel Experience Scholarship Fund, which provides grants of up to \$1,000 to area teens wishing to travel to Israel.

This new fellowship is open to Arizona residents entering their senior year of high school at the time of travel. Applicants must be nominated by a rabbi, teacher, coach or community leader and will have certain obligations. For more information on the Impact Fellowships, contact [drochford@jnf.org](mailto:drochford@jnf.org) or 480-447-8100, ext. 980. For information about the Alexander Muss High School in Israel program, contact Elaine Hirsch at the Bureau of Jewish Education at 480-634-8050 or visit [amhsi.org](http://amhsi.org).

“I would say that HSI was the gateway to me finding my place in the world.”

– Sinead McIntyre



Sinead McIntyre

Masada Siegel is an international correspondent based in Phoenix. She has traveled to more than 40 countries, often solo. She has spent about two years in Israel over the course of 18 visits of various durations. [masadasiegel.com](http://masadasiegel.com)

## "Books for Bambinos" promotes literacy while providing comfort



Judy Laufer



Hayley, a caseworker at East Anglia's Children's Hospices in Ipswich, England, holds up donations from "Books for Bambinos."

By Deborah Moon

For children facing stressful situations, the gift of a book can be a comforting reminder that someone cares. Local Jewish author Judy Laufer has teamed up with companies and individuals to give her two award-winning books to kids in need through her "Books for Bambinos" program.

"I started this program as a way to help young children," says Laufer, who especially wants to help children in a hospital, hospice or shelter. "I strongly believe in building literacy at a young age and reaching out to children and families in need. I identified a population of kids who experience loss often and certainly could use an anti-nightmare book!"

Laufer's two books, published by her Little Egg Publishing Company, are certainly appropriate for children in stressful situations. *Last Night I Had a Laughmare* is the story of a topsy-turvy world that will make bedtime a magical time for children as they take a romp through "Gigglyville." It turns nightmares into laughmares. *Where Did Papa Go?* is about a special relationship and grieving for a loved one who dies, exploring emotions that a young child may experience after the loss of a loved one. Both books are written for ages 3 to 7.

"I wanted to reach lots of children, so I needed help," says Laufer. "I thought of all the companies and personal foundations

that are looking for charitable giving opportunities."

She piloted the program during the winter holidays in 2013 and gave out more than 100 books to different organizations.

"This year, with a more organized strategy and starting earlier, we are looking at donating 500 books or more," says Laufer of the 2014 holiday project. She adds that "We are planning to continue throughout the year, since there are so many children we won't reach during the holidays."

Donors may designate any nonprofit benefitting children to receive books.

"I have always felt that giving back to my community was the right thing to do," says Laufer, who was born in Budapest, Hungary, to parents who not only survived the concentration camps, but who also escaped during the Hungarian revolution. The family was aided by many Jewish organizations as they built a new life in Montreal, Canada.

Now Laufer and her husband, Dr. Nathan Laufer, sponsor a Friends of the Israeli Defense Forces lone soldier, contribute to several synagogues in town and are co-chairs of the Major Fundraising AIPAC Dinner Jan. 22. Laufer is also the Southwest regional lay leader for Birthright Israel.

"I have always felt that one person really can make a difference in this world, but if you can inspire others to join you ... then that just multiplies the good," says Laufer.

For more information on "Books for Bambinos," visit [LittleEggPublishing.com](http://LittleEggPublishing.com) or email Judy Laufer at [littleegg@cox.net](mailto:littleegg@cox.net).



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# Be careful what you wish for

By Debra Rich Gettleman

"Mom, have you ever read that short story *The Monkey's Paw*, by W.W. Jacobs?" my 14-year-old son, Levi, asked one day after school. "It sounds really familiar," I said, "What's it about?"

He quickly summarized the story, and about 30 seconds into his synopsis I remembered the tale all too well. It's one of those English literature standards most everyone has read, or at least read about, at some point during grade school, high school or college. Its haunting theme is one that, while many of us might try to forget, remains present in the forefront of our minds decades after the initial exposure.

I need to confess something at this point: I have a bad habit of wishing things were different when stuff doesn't go my way. It's a cross between fantasizing about impossible outcomes and living in denial of things over which I truly have no control. While I realize I'm not the only person who suffers from this ailment, it is something I need to work on so that I can better roll with the punches, go with the flow and accept life as it unfolds. My

son's mention of *The Monkey's Paw* couldn't have come at a more opportune moment, as I was contemplating my upcoming New Year's resolution options.

The infamous *Monkey's Paw* was written in England in 1902. Mr. and Mrs. White are struggling financially when they encounter a British army sergeant who tells them about the mystical power of the monkey paw to grant three wishes. The sergeant, having experienced a bad outcome with the paw, tosses it into the fire to destroy it. But Mr. White quickly retrieves it and immediately wishes for 200 pounds to cover the final payment on his house. The next day the Whites receive notice that their adult son, Herbert, who had been working at a nearby factory, was killed in a tragic machinery accident. While the factory owner disavowed any responsibility for the accident, he presented the Whites a goodwill offering of 200 pounds for their loss.

The story goes on. Mrs. White is mad with grief and wishes for her son back. But just as she hears his knock at the door, Mr. White wishes away the young man's mangled presence, and the devastated wife opens the door to find no one. Mr. White has learned his lesson. One cannot manipulate fate, and any attempt to do so will lead to tragic outcome. But Mrs. White hasn't quite gotten the message. She continues to wish for impossible events and to live in a world where she can magically shape her fate and interfere with her family's destiny.

Sometimes bad stuff happens to us. We lose loved ones. We face painful betrayals. We find ourselves overcome by grief, sorrow or financial woes. Life isn't always so easy. But the message in the story couldn't be clearer. Whatever we're busy wishing for may come at a price much higher than expected. So maybe it makes sense to live in the present and appreciate the gifts we do have. Maybe spending our lives wishing for things to be different will only lead to misery and loss at a level we can't even imagine. Maybe we really do have everything we need right now, right here.

It's a simple New Year's resolution for me this time around. Appreciate the treasures in my life. Acknowledge the gifts of friends, family and circumstance that compose my sometimes messy, sometimes melancholy world. I hope you will, too. Because in truth, now is all we have, and like famed cartoonist Bill Keane said, "Yesterday's the past, tomorrow's the future, but today is a gift. That's why it's called the present."



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Debra Rich Gettleman is a mother and blogger based in the Phoenix area. For more of her work, visit [unmotherlyinsights.com](http://unmotherlyinsights.com).



# Kids & Teen EVENTS JANUARY

## Happenings in January

### Club J at the Valley of the Sun JCC

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

### J-Care Afterschool Program at the Tucson JCC

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

### J-Care at the J – East Valley JCC

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

### Jan. 8

**Girls Night Out** for girls ages 9-13. Scavenger Hunt at the Mall. Sometimes all you need is a night out with the girls! Come join us for a meaningful & exciting scavenger hunt at the Chandler Fashion Mall. Meet at 5:30 pm. Drop off and pick up at the Pollack Chabad Center for Jewish Life, 875 N McClintock Dr., Chandler. 480-855-4333 or youth@chabadcenter.com

### Jan. 10

**Parents' Night Out Party** at the Tucson JCC: Hollywood at the J. Parents can enjoy a night to themselves while the J-Care staff provides a fun-filled evening for their children. PNOPs include dinner, snack, games, dessert, field trip for ages 8+ and a movie with popcorn. 6-10 pm at 3800 E River Road in Tucson. Members \$20 for first child, siblings \$15. Nonmembers add \$5. Contact Aimee Gillard 520-299-3000 x256 or agillard@tucsonjcc.org

### Kids' Night Out at the Valley of the Sun JCC:

#### A Night at the Parthenon

Calling all gods and demigods ages 4-12: Get your togas ready for a night of fun activities like catapult making and launching, chariot decorating and races, head wreath crafts, balloons animals, face painting, Greek god photo booth and watching "Hercules" the movie. Kids will enjoy thematic food including pita sandwiches, hummus, Greek yogurt and fruit, tomato salad, frozen yogurt sundaes, popcorn during the movie. 6-11 pm at 12701 N Scottsdale Road. No overnight option. \$40 members/\$60 nonmembers. RSVP: 480-483-7121, ext. 1275, or vosjcc.org

### Jan. 13

**Second Semester Hebrew High** in the Valley begins. Exciting new classes offered. New students welcome! Registration requested by Jan. 6. 480-634-8050 or myras@bjephoenix.org. Students are eligible to submit Holocaust-related essays for consideration in the Bronia and Sam Bronkesh Jewish Spirit Prize honoring physical and spiritual resistance during the Holocaust. Deadline Jan. 28.

### Jan. 14

**Kindergarten Open House** at Anshei Israel in Tucson. Make an informed decision about your child's kindergarten experience! Meet Director Lynne Falkow-Strauss and classroom teacher Ronnie Miller to learn about the curriculum in CAI's full-day kindergarten. Low student-teacher ratio; programs designed to enhance the physical, social and emotional growth of your child;

secure facility with park-like playground and much more! Contact Lynne at 520-745-5550, ext. 229 or lynne@caiaz.org

### Jan. 18

**Kids in the Kitchen** at Chandler Chabad. This session's theme is Am Yisrael Chai! Eat like a Sabra: Pita, Falafel & Bourekas! Noon at the Pollack Chabad Center for Jewish Life, 875 N McClintock Dr., Chandler. For kids grades 1-6, \$12. 480-855-4333 or youth@chabadcenter.com

### Jan. 19

**MLK Day Camp** from 9 am to 4 pm at the Valley of the Sun JCC, 12701 N Scottsdale Road. Ages K-8th grade: Kids will enjoy their day off doing art and science projects, a drama and jam session, playground time and group sport play. \$50 members/\$75 nonmembers. 480-483-7121, ext. 1275, or vosjcc.org

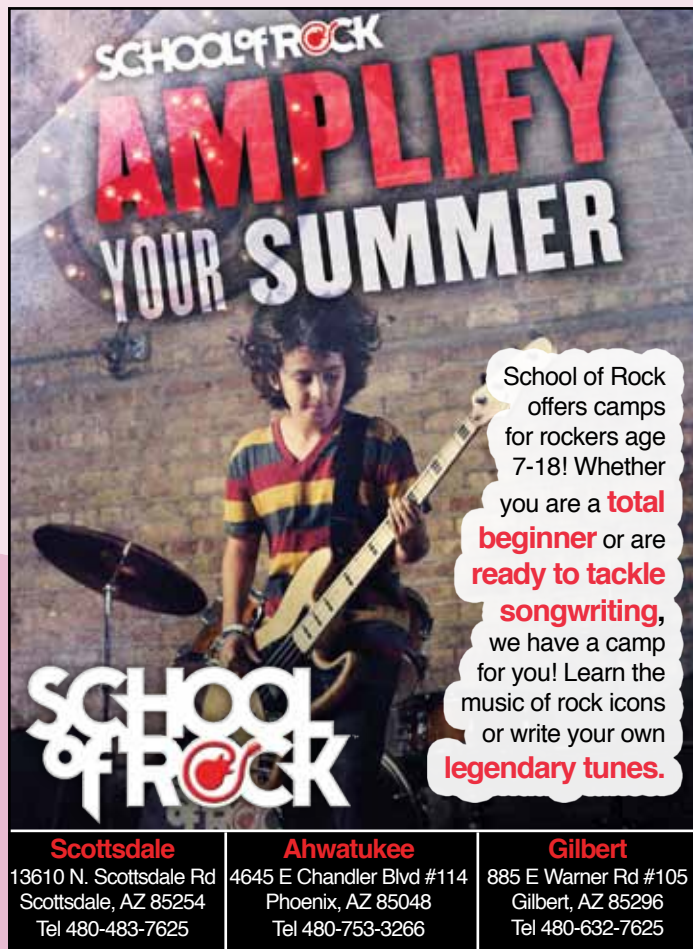
### Jan. 30

**Tu B'Shevat for the Birds Potluck.** Make recycled bird feeders to take home and hang in your favorite tree. Sing with Scott and Julie, and share the Shabbat blessings together. Bring a vegetarian/dairy dish for 10 to share and a milk carton/jug per child to use for your bird feeder. \$3 prepaid, \$5 at the door. 6 pm at the Tucson JCC, 3800 E River Road in Tucson. Contact Julie Zorn for more info: 520-299-3000 ext. 236 or jzorn@tucsonjcc.org

### Feb. 4

**Tu B'Shevat** is known as the Birthday of the Trees and celebrates the first signs of spring.

**Celebrate Tu B'Shevat at the J.** We'll be decorating pots in the hallway, and to make it even better we'll send you home with seeds and soil. Join us in the hallway for a fantastic afternoon. All ages are welcome. 4-7 pm at VOS JCC, 12701 N Scottsdale Road in Scottsdale. \$5 members; \$10 nonmembers. 480-483-7121, ext. 1275, or vosjcc.org



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### SUN, JUN 14: Make A Bad Ass Delicious Burger

Make gourmet hamburgers from scratch – from the patty to toppings using a wide variety of ingredients.

### SUN, JUL 12: Gourmet Sandwiches American Style

Make gourmet sandwiches from scratch, along with several delicious sides, dressings using a wide variety of ingredients.

### SUN, AUG 02: Make Tasty Tacos

Make gourmet tacos and tortillas from scratch using deliciously fresh ingredients. And, enjoy chips and salsa – no charge!

### SUN, SEP 20: Spanish Tapas With Love

Make traditional small plates, tapas, and antipasta.

### SUN, OCT 18: The Art Of Pizza Making

Make handmade Neapolitan pizzas and sauce from scratch.

### SUN, NOV 15: Make Delicious Italian Bruschettas

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### SUN, DEC 13: The Hidden Art Of Cheese Making

An intro to Latticini, a family of fresh-milk products including Mozzarella, Burrata, and Ricotta.

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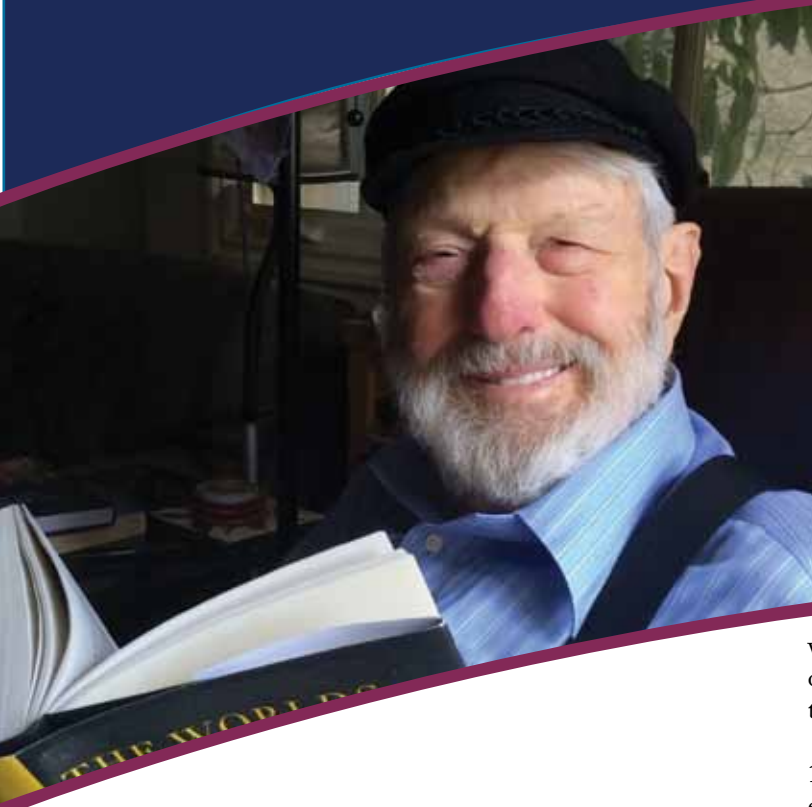


# Jewish Film Festivals 2015

TUCSON INTERNATIONAL  
JEWISH FILM FESTIVAL  
JAN. 15-24, 2015

19TH ANNUAL GREATER  
PHOENIX JEWISH FILM FESTIVAL  
FEB. 8-22, 2015

WEST VALLEY JEWISH FILM FESTIVAL JAN. 24-26, 2015



## Theodore Bikel: Front and center at Greater Phoenix Jewish Film Festival

By Janet Arnold

The special **Centerpiece Event** of the Greater Phoenix Jewish Film Festival's 19th annual event is the recognition and honoring of Theodore Bikel in person as the first recipient of the Lifetime Artistic Achievement Award. Scottsdale Mayor Jim Lane will be on hand to present the city's official proclamation of "Theodore Bikel Day" on Feb. 15 at Harkins Theatre Camelview 5 in Scottsdale.

Theo (as he insists on being called) has had a long relationship with Arizona, having appeared here several times in his iconic role as Tevye in "Fiddler on the Roof" as well as for special events and concerts. GPJFF is bringing him to Scottsdale to honor him in conjunction with the showing of his film, "Theodore Bikel: In the Shoes of Sholom Aleichem."

Sholom Aleichem is the author of the Tevye the Dairyman stories, which serve as the basis for "Fiddler on the Roof." Theo seems to have a nearly symbiotic relationship with Aleichem, having portrayed Tevye more than 2,000 times, in addition to recording the Tevye stories, and creating and starring in two other celebrated musical plays based on Aleichem's life and

works. As the National Center for Jewish Film website points out, these two men "have much in common: wit, wisdom and talent, all shot through with deep humanity and Yiddishkeit."

Born in Vienna in 1924, Theo's family moved to Palestine in 1936, where he helped start the Israeli Chamber Theatre. He entered London's Royal Academy of Dramatic Art in 1946, graduating with honors two years later. He began his career on both the London and Broadway stages.

Though he's often identified as Tevye, Theo's long and varied career encompasses much more. He was the original Baron Von Trapp in Broadway's "Sound of Music" and helped found the Newport Folk Festival.

Theo also has had a notable film career, beginning with "The African Queen" in 1951 and encompassing more than 40 films, including "The Defiant Ones," for which he received an Academy Award nomination. Leaving no medium unturned, Theo's Emmy-winning television career spans some 60 years and 80 TV shows, movies and specials.

The 90-minute documentary film being shown by GPJFF "combines Bikel's charismatic storytelling and masterful performances with a broader exploration of Aleichem's remarkable life and work, and in the process, immortalizes both men," according to the festival's press release. Narrated by Alan Alda, it explores the various characters that Aleichem immortalized in the Yiddish language: "...shtetl Jews for whom



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humor and pathos were two sides of the same Yiddish coin; (and who) remain invaluable windows into pre-war Eastern European Jewish life, real and imagined." The film is distributed by the National Center for Jewish Film ([jewishfilm.org](http://jewishfilm.org)).

In addition to his extensive performance career, Theo is known as a mensch. Active for many years in the civil rights movement, he was an elected delegate to the 1968 Democratic Convention in Chicago. He is a former senior vice president of the American Jewish Congress as well as president of the Actors' Equity Association. He received a presidential appointment to the National Council on the Arts, on which he served from 1977 to 1982. Now 90 years old, Bikel is the president of the Associated Actors and Artistes of America (4As).

Bob Segelbaum, executive director of the volunteer-run festival, shares the board's sentiments: "We are very excited to bring Theodore Bikel to our festival and especially to bestow upon him our first Lifetime Achievement Award recognizing his enormous contributions to the preservation and enhancement of Jewish culture and the arts. It is a unique opportunity for our community to thank him for entertaining us for 65 years with his memorable performances."

Mayor Lane declared Feb. 15 as "a joyous day to honor a man who is a great example of dedication to his community, state and country as well as for his enhancement of Jewish culture through film, theater and song."

Tickets for the special event are \$18 and on sale through GPJFF's website: [gpjff.org](http://gpjff.org).

The film showing is at 3 pm at Harkins Camelview 5, 7001 E Highland Ave. in Scottsdale. Theo will also participate in a Q&A at the conclusion of the film.

## Phoenix film festival turns 19

By Janet Arnold

This year marks the 19th year of the Greater Phoenix Jewish Film Festival, which offers international films of Jewish interest in three Valley locations: Scottsdale, Chandler and Peoria over a two-week period from Feb. 8 to 22. Films are chosen through a screening process that began in March of 2014 and includes weekly viewings by three separate panels of 8-10 volunteers each.

"Having screening committees in each of our geographic areas gives us a broad range of opinions and tastes," states Walter Berkey, who, along with Jules Rossman, is the artistic director of the festival. The two men scour all resources available to bring in the best of contemporary Jewish comedies, dramas and documentaries to make sure the festival is both intriguing and diverse.

The Chandler location has moved this year to Harkins Chandler Fashion 20, 3159 W Chandler Blvd., in an effort to be more centrally located for East Valley patrons.

"The quality of our film slate is very strong this year," says GPJFF Executive Director Bob Segelbaum. "I'm very excited that during this time of heightened tension in the Middle East, we can present films reflective of the rich and diverse Jewish people, culture and faith to so many people of all beliefs throughout the Valley. Our intention is threefold: to entertain, to foster meaningful discourse and to provide a cinematic experience that affects both heart and mind."

Festival passes and individual show tickets are available at [gpjff.org](http://gpjff.org) or by calling 602-753-9366.

# 10<sup>th</sup> Annual West Valley Jewish Film Festival 2015

The 10th Annual West Valley Jewish Film Festival will be held Jan. 24-26 at Beth Emeth Congregation, 13702 W Meeker Blvd. in Sun City West. The three films to be shown are "Hava Nagilah," "Sturgeon Queens" and "I Shall Not Be Silent – The Story of Rabbi Joachim Prinz."

Festival Chair Carol Loewith invites the community to attend. "These films promise to evoke a melody, an aroma and a call to action. Each one confronts culture and traditions in ways that are moving and memorable," she says.

A brief commentary of each film will precede its screening, and complimentary refreshments will be served afterward.

Tickets for each film are \$10 if purchased at the door.

Tickets bought in advance are \$9 per film or three films for \$25. For additional information, call Lori at Beth Emeth Congregation, 623-584-7210.



Nancy Spielberg

## The local side of "Above and Beyond"

Despite having an extensive Jewish background, Jeffrey Weiss had to learn academic-level Hebrew in a hurry when he attended Hebrew University for his junior year in college and again for law school. When he came back to the states to finish law school at Arizona State University, he wanted to maintain his fluency in Hebrew.

So he read books in Hebrew.

One of these books was about Israel's War for Independence, where he learned that the official language for the Israeli Air Force at that time was actually English, because so many of the pilots were American and Canadian. Jeffrey was surprised to hear this and thought more attention should be paid to these men and their brave and valiant efforts.

He recruited one of his younger brothers, Craig, to work on a book with him. Together they interviewed hundreds of participants and chronicled their findings in the book *I am My Brother's Keeper*, which was published in 1998 to coincide with the 50th Anniversary of the State of Israel.

About two years ago, Craig received a call from Nancy Spielberg. Nancy was doing research for a documentary she wanted to make on the topic of the North Americans who served Israel during the war and asked if she could interview Craig and Jeffrey. They were only too happy to help. Their families had known each other somewhat in Phoenix – in fact, Nancy was the "yenta" who introduced the oldest Weiss brother, Farley, to his wife Jessica.

"We went over to Chino, CA, to an old airplane hangar with vintage World War II airplanes all around," says Craig. "She interviewed us for four hours." Craig adds one of the best things about this whole project was getting to know Nancy better. "She is an incredibly wonderful human being – a real sweetheart – and I couldn't be prouder to be a part of this project," he says. "This is the story of remarkable human beings doing incredible things – and nobody knows about them."

Craig and Jeffrey will be speakers after each of the "Above and Beyond" showings during the film festival.

### HAVA NAGILAH • Jan. 24 at 6:30 pm

Anyone who's ever been to a Jewish wedding or bar/bat mitzvah has heard the lively melody of "Hava Nagilah." It encourages us to hum, to snap our fingers, to dance. It taps into a universal theme of joy, and it identifies the resilient spirit of a people. But why are two families quarreling over its origin? How has it become the music that accompanies life events? Why does it resonate with performers of all religions? Here is a film that answers these questions while leaving you hopeful and uplifted.

### STURGEON QUEENS • Jan. 25 at 6:30 pm

Four generations of a Jewish immigrant family created Russ & Daughters, a New York City Lower East Side emporium. Think about ethnic foods. If bagels, lox, sturgeon, herring and ruggalach come to mind, this tribute to a venerable New York City appetizing market completes the picture. This film has been produced to coincide with the 100th anniversary of the store. Two of the daughters, aged 100 and 92, reflect on their lives behind the counter to present a delicious documentary.

### I SHALL NOT BE SILENT The Story of Rabbi Joachim Prinz

Jan. 26 at 7 pm

In 1930s' Berlin, the civil rights of Jews were being systematically stripped away. A young rabbi named Joachim Prinz saved many lives by encouraging Jews to emigrate from Germany. Thus began his lifelong fight against racism and bigotry. Expelled from his homeland, Rabbi Prinz arrived in the United States in 1937 and began an inspiring career as a leader of the civil rights movement. He worked alongside Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. to organize the 1964 March on Washington, and his address that day was eloquent and powerful. Throughout his career, he spoke out for justice, whether from the rabbi's pulpit or at a rally or march. He simply would not "be silent."

# Tucson Jewish Film Festival



## Tucson's film festival is a "jewel"

By Janet Arnold

The Tucson International Jewish Film Festival is celebrating its 24<sup>th</sup> season this year from Jan. 15 to 24 at several locations around the Old Pueblo. The Tucson Festival is sponsored by the Tucson Jewish Community Center.

"We proudly consider it a jewel in the mosaic of our arts and culture programming," says Lynn Davis, director of arts and culture at the JCC.

A committee of volunteers meets weekly from February through August to screen films. Lynn says they're always looking for additional volunteers who have the time, dedication and open-mindedness to serve on the committee.

"Our festival is quite diverse in its themes. We like to look at both the retention and the transition of Jewish values, and sometimes our choices may deviate from what some consider traditional cultural norms," Lynn adds.

The TIJFF is proud of the fact, for example, that it has incorporated films of particular interest to the LGBT community that used to be separated. "We want to be as inclusive as possible," states Lynn. "We feel we have films that offer something for everyone."

Each year's festival "unofficially" kicks off with a repeat of a popular film from the previous year. For 2015 that film is "The Other Son," which will be shown at 3 pm on Jan. 11 at the Desert View Performing Arts Center, 38759 S Mountain View Blvd. in Saddlebrooke, with a ticket price of just \$5. The film is a moving and provocative story of an Israeli and Palestinian, who discover they were inadvertently switched at birth. "The film was a big favorite last year, so we're bringing it back again," Lynn says.

Official Opening Night of the 2015 Festival will be Jan. 15 at 7 pm at The Loft Cinemas, 3233 E Speedway Blvd. in Tucson. The opening film is the Arizona premier of "Little White Lie" (see review, page 37). Filmmaker Lacey Schwartz will be in attendance.

The remainder of the 12 feature-length films and six shorts will be shown at the Tucson JCC Ballroom, 3800 E River

Road in Tucson. Lynn says, "We're fortunate to have a lovely, comfortable venue to show the films."

One of the shorter films, the 34-minute "Raquel: A Marked Woman," is a hybrid, according to filmmaker Gabriela Bohm, who will be in Tucson for the showing on Jan. 18. "Some people call it a docudrama, in that it's based on a real person in a factual situation, but the elements are re-enacted," Gabriela said in a recent phone interview from her home in Los Angeles.

Gabriela is an Argentinean-Israeli-American documentary filmmaker. A second-generation Holocaust survivor of Hungarian and Transylvanian lineage, she was born in Buenos Aires. Her family immigrated to Israel when she was 12; at age 20, Gabriela came to the United States to attend film school at NYU. She sees her calling as a documentarian as an opportunity to focus on "Jewish identity and the legacy of trauma."

"Raquel: A Marked Woman" has won awards at film festivals across the county mostly as a documentary, but also as "Best Latino Film" at the Santa Fe Film Festival. Last year it was featured at the Skirball Museum as part of its Latin Jewish Film Festival, called Translantino.

"Raquel" recounts the remarkable tale of Raquel Liberman, who was born in Lodz, Poland, and in 1922 immigrated to Argentina to join her husband, who was a tailor. Soon after he died of tuberculosis, and Liberman became one of thousands of Eastern European migrant women lured into prostitution by white-slavery syndicates that promised them seamstress jobs.

But after enduring this harsh and degrading life for several years (and hiding it from her two young sons, who were being raised elsewhere), Liberman one day courageously marched into the Buenos Aires police headquarters. To the astonished officers, she offered up personal testimony that would lead to the downfall of the Jewish mafia, Zwi Migdal.

Gabriela began to research sex trafficking in South America in general but decided to focus on Liberman because she prefers character-based documentaries to conceptual ones. The affront existed from about 1890 to 1930. She explains, "There was a lot of development going on in Argentina during that time. Men were coming over from Europe for the good jobs. They wanted

women. It was a condition ripe for the Zwi Migdal to move in and lure poor, young women from the Polish territories to South America, even though they would be denied their basic freedoms.

"I felt that Raquel's story, following her dramatic arc, would give viewers a sense of her ordeal and the heroic aspect of her journey, as well as give us a historical context. She showed remarkable courage," says the director, who will give a talk and take part in a Q&A following the screening. The showing of this film is being co-presented by Women's Philanthropy, Jewish Federation of Southern Arizona.

Also in attendance will be the filmmakers of "The Outrageous Sophie Tucker" at 7 pm on Jan. 17. Susan and Lloyd Ecker spent seven years tracing Tucker's 60-year career, using her 400-plus recently found personal scrapbooks. It's a rags-to-riches story of the life of the bold, brash and beloved "Last of the Red Hot Mamas." The Eckers will participate in a Q&A following the showing.

The Tucson International Jewish Film Festival, through the magic and power of cinema, promotes the preservation of Jewish culture and encourages cultural diversity. Contributions to ensure the sustainability of the festival are gratefully accepted. Tickets are available at [tucsonjcc.org](http://tucsonjcc.org) or 520-618-5026.



# Review

## Once happy family stumbles over "Little White Lie"

By Michael Fox

From Hollywood films like "Next Stop Greenwich Village" and "Reversal of Fortune" to documentaries like "The Times of Harvey Milk," hyper-verbal Jews are practically a movie cliché.

Name the last film that featured a Jewish person at a loss for words. It's a stumper, because the silver screen stereotype of Jews is emotionally candid, unabashedly frank and unflinchingly articulate.

As a rare exception to that rule, Lacey Schwartz's "Little White Lie" deserves a place in the record books for that reason alone.

The first-person documentary follows the 30-something filmmaker's effort to learn the identity of her biological father and, more importantly, force her parents to acknowledge and confront their painful secret.

At the critical juncture, however, they become unexpectedly tongue-tied.

A fascinating modern mystery that paradoxically chooses not to explore the most interesting aspects of identity and race, "Little White Lie" is the opening night film of the Tucson International Jewish Film Festival. The filmmaker is slated to attend, ahead of the PBS broadcast later in 2015.

Schwartz grew up in Woodstock, NY, with doting parents. Her mother, Peggy, was married at 21, sticking to a path her parents had instilled.

"We didn't think outside of the box," Peggy recalls. "And sometimes it was easier that way."

Going with the flow seems to have been the credo of Peggy and husband, Robert. After Lacey was born in 1977, and relatives or friends would observe that she was darker skinned than her parents, Robert would point to a photograph of his swarthy, Sicilian grandfather by way of explanation.

Schwartz offers numerous childhood pictures of herself, and it's obvious that one of her parents is black. Was she adopted? That would make sense, and certainly wouldn't be a *shanda*, but no, there's a photo of a very pregnant Peggy.

Did Peggy have an affair? If so, neither she nor Robert ever said a word about it while they raised Lacey like any other Jewish girl.

"I wasn't passing," Schwartz tells us. "I actually grew up believing I was white."

One of the odder aspects of this bizarre saga is that Peggy and Robert seemingly never anticipated that one day Lacey would have questions and demand answers.

It wasn't until Lacey started high school – in a neighboring town with African-American students – that she began to experience serious cognitive dissonance. The black kids assumed she was black, though she thought she was white.

Schwartz gives the impression that in the ensuing years, through college and into adulthood, she had to work out her identity issues on her own with little to no help from her parents.

The perfectly titled "Little White Lie" eventually clears up the paternity mystery, but along the way the emphasis shifts to Schwartz's ongoing confusion, frustration and insecurity. In its weaker moments, the film becomes a therapeutic record of, and a vehicle for, her rocky process of acceptance.

Peggy's and Robert's inability to take responsibility for the messy secret at the family core deprives Lacey of the catharsis she seeks, and likewise deprives "Little White Lie" of a poignant climax.

More regrettable, though, is Schwartz's disinterest in pursuing a deeper discussion of identity and the comparative influences of genetics and upbringing. The film operates on a relentlessly personal level that perhaps precludes a broader perspective, but it is therefore baffling that Schwartz never talks about which Jewish and African-American practices and traits she maintains and cherishes.

Schwartz's wedding partially addresses this oversight. The filmmaker joins in the hora circle and is lifted with her husband on chairs; a bit later she dances to an African-American rhythm. The scene doesn't have the feel-good power it aspires to, but that's a minor quibble.

The greater disappointment is that "Little White Lie" squanders a unique opportunity to bring Jewish values to a wide audience – and African-American culture and principles to a Jewish audience.

Michael Fox is a film critic based in San Francisco.



# TUCSON INTERNATIONAL JEWISH FILM FESTIVAL

JAN. 15-24, 2015

**SUNDAY, JAN. 11, 3 PM, \$5**  
Saddlebrooke kick-off for the Tucson International Jewish Film Festival  
Co-presented by Northwest Division, JFSA  
Desert View Performing Arts Center  
- 39900 S Clubhouse Dr., Tucson



### *The Other Son*

(France, 2012, 105 min., French, Hebrew with subtitles)  
A moving and provocative story of two teenaged men – one Israeli and one Palestinian – whose families face complex repercussions after discovering that their babies were switched at birth.

**THURSDAY, JAN. 15, 7 PM**  
Opening Night at the Loft Cinemas – \$10  
Arizona premiere of *Little White Lie* with director Lacey Schwartz in attendance  
(USA, 2014, 65 min., E)



Filmmaker Lacey Schwartz has always known that she looked different from the rest of her family, but accepted her parents' explanation. In this engrossing and deeply personal documentary, she shares the intense yet delicate process of peeling away the layers of denial that, for years, clouded her true identity.



### *The Pleasures of Being/Out of Step: Notes on the Life of Nat Hentoff*

(USA, 2013, 87 min., English)  
Pleasures profiles legendary jazz writer and civil libertarian Nat Hentoff, whose career tracks the greatest cultural and political movements of the last 65 years. Hentoff was a fixture at the Village Voice where he tackled anything related to the First Amendment. He was a jazz critic who raised jazz to an art form and took part in the birth of alternative journalism. At 90 years old his is still sharing his sometimes surprising opinions.



### *The Outrageous Sophie Tucker*

\$10 • (USA, 2014, 96 min., English)  
Sophie Tucker, superstar of vaudeville, ruled the flapper era of the 1920s, reigning as both the Marilyn Monroe and the Bette Midler of her time. Hers was the first female act that was bold, brassy, and bawdy and audiences adored her. Lucinda Holliday, one of Tucson's most colorful personalities, hosts the evening!



### *Broken Branches (Anafim Shvurim)*

(Israel, 2014, 25 min., Hebrew with subtitles)  
In this tender documentary, filmmaker Ayala Sharot uses a combination of beautiful animation and contemporary interviews to tell the story of her grandmother's solo journey to Palestine as a child.



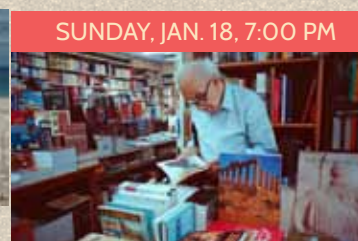
### *The Longest Journey: Last Days of the Jews of Rhodes*

(Italy, 2013, 50 min., Italian with subtitles)  
In 1944, the Jews of Rhodes enjoyed an idyllic existence, but one which left them isolated from the rest of Europe and totally unprepared when the Nazis swept in and ordered their deportation to Auschwitz. The Italian authorities to whom they had pledged allegiance did nothing to protect them, even though Hitler's defeat was imminent. Stunning scenery and cinematography set the stage for three survivors' recollections.



### *Cupcakes (Bananot)*

(Israel, 2013, 90 min., Hebrew with subtitles)  
A charming comedy, Cupcakes revolves around a diverse group of Israeli friends who gather to watch a Eurovision-type song contest, dislike the winner and decide they can write a better song. To their surprise it becomes Israel's next entry!



### *Renee Molho: A bookstore in six chapters*

(Greece, 2013, 25 min., English)  
Renee Saltiel and Solon Molho grew up in the thriving Sephardic Jewish community of Salonika (Thessaloniki), in what is now Greece. But the Nazis emptied the city of most of its 90,000 Jews, and very few returned after the war. The Molho family did manage to survive and thrive, thanks to a Spanish diplomat and some very brave Greek citizens.



### *Raquel: A marked woman - with filmmaker Gabriela Bohm in attendance*

(USA/Argentina, 2013, 34 min., English)  
Raquel Lieberman's story hails from an earlier time but still resonates today. In the early 20th



century thousands of Eastern European Jewish women were lured to Argentina and forced into prostitution. Many gave up, but the thought of her sons gave Raquel the courage to fight back and expose the Jewish mobsters who thought they owned her.

MONDAY, JAN. 19, 5 PM



### Orange People

#### (Anashim Ketumim)

(Israel, 2013, 93 min., Hebrew & Moroccan Arabic with subtitles) For many years, Grandma Zohara's fortune-telling abilities have given her a special role within Israel's Moroccan community, but now she's growing tired. In her search for a successor, she discovers that the only other person endowed with the power of dreaming is her daughter, Simone. Simone, however, has different ideas, and wages a fierce battle for her independence.

MONDAY, JAN. 19, 7:30 PM



### The Last Dance

(Australia, 2012, 100 min., English) This intelligent, slow-burning psychological thriller finds an aging Holocaust survivor held captive in her Melbourne home by a wounded Islamic terrorist. As they share their stories over the course of a couple days, fear and hatred turn into sympathy. She nurses his wounds and learns his terrifying secret.

WEDNESDAY, JAN. 21, 5 PM



### The Last Mentsch (Der Letzte Mentsch)

(Germany, 2013, 93 min., German with subtitles)

Since surviving the horrors of Auschwitz, Martin Schwartz, born Mena'hem Teitelbaum, has kept his Judaism a deeply buried secret. Now, in his old age, he wants to be buried in a Jewish cemetery. As he journeys to Ukraine to prove his identity he is befriended by a young woman who joins his amusing and touching search for identity and home.

WEDNESDAY, JAN. 21, 7:30 PM



### God's Slave

(Argentina/Uruguay/USA/Venezuela, 2013, 90 min., Arabic/Hebrew/French/Spanish with subtitles)

A finely crafted thriller with taut performances and complex characters. Ahmed is a respected doctor and family man but also part of a terrorist sleeper cell. In 1994 he is called to attack a Jewish community center in Argentina. Israeli intelligence learns of terrorist activity and they send David, a steely, efficient Mossad agent to stop him.

THURSDAY, JAN. 22, 5:00 PM



### Reverence

(USA, 2013, 12 min., English)

Batman, Homer Simpson, the New York Yankees...you're likely to see logos and many more on the yarmulkes of today. Reverence examines the meaning and context behind these branded kippot, the concept of faith in our modern world, the messages people might want to convey by wearing them and the norms that could be challenged by doing so.



### Glickman

(USA, 2013, 84 min., English) Before Howard Cosell, before Roy Firestone and Al Michaels, there was Marty Glickman. A gifted Jewish athlete, Glickman was sent to the 1936 Olympics in Berlin but, under suspicious circumstances, was denied the chance to compete. He went on to become one of the most revered sportscasters in history, and his techniques, phrasing and program style are still being used today.

THURSDAY, JAN. 22, 7:30 PM



### Hannah Cohen's Holy Communion

(UK, 2012, 10 min., English) Meet Hannah Cohen, a spirited 7-year-old growing up in Dublin in the 1970s. Hannah can't wait to make her Holy Communion. The only problem is, she's Jewish!



### The Jewish Cardinal

(France, 2012, 90 min., French with subtitles) Jean-Marie Lustiger was the son

of Polish-Jewish immigrants who, even after converting to Catholicism and then becoming a priest, always maintained his cultural identity as a Jew. He quickly rose through the ranks of the church and was named Archbishop of Paris. When Carmelite nuns wanted to build a convent inside the walls of Auschwitz, Lustiger made both friends and enemies as mediator between the two communities.

FRIDAY, JAN. 23, 1:30 PM



### Operation Sunflower

(Israel, 2014, 105 min., Hebrew/French/English/German with subtitles)

Based on true events, *Operation Sunflower* explores Israel's quest to obtain nuclear power and national security. This political, personal and scientific drama flashes back to the 1950s and 60s, when the head of Mossad's determination to create this weapon conflicted with the moral qualms of the physicists.

SATURDAY, JAN. 24, 7 PM



### The Best of Men

(UK, 2012, 90 min., English) In 1944, Ludwig Guttman, a talented neurologist and German Jewish refugee, turned Britain's Stoke Mandeville Hospital on its ear. Rejecting the general view that paralysis was a terminal condition, Guttman threw out the old care regime and brought in a new, unorthodox philosophy, transforming its spinal injuries unit into a place of miracles. He urged wounded soldiers out of bed and into life, even into sport, resulting in the founding of the Paralympics.

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# 19TH ANNUAL GREATER PHOENIX JEWISH FILM FESTIVAL

## FEB. 8-22, 2015



### Run Boy Run

*Phoenix Premiere*

Drama – (Germany/France) 107 minutes, German, Polish and Russian with English subtitles

#### Screenings:

Scottsdale – Sunday, Feb. 15, 7 pm  
Peoria – Tuesday, Feb. 17, 7 pm

At the urging of his father, 8-year-old Strulik flees the Warsaw ghetto to the woods, where he learns to hide from SS patrols and scrounge for food. Taught by a kindhearted farmer's wife to pass himself off as Jurek, a Christian war orphan, the intrepid boy travels from village to village, growing up literally overnight in order to survive. Just when it seems his childhood memories and identity might be lost forever, Jurek's harrowing journey culminates in a powerhouse ending. Directed by Academy Award-winner Pepe Danquart.

#### Guest Speaker:

Rabbi Arthur Abrams, spiritual leader of Temple Beth Ami of Paradise Valley.



### 24 Days

*Phoenix Premiere*

Drama – (France) 110 minutes, French with English subtitles

#### Screenings:

Scottsdale – Sunday, Feb. 8, 3 pm  
Chandler – Wednesday, Feb. 11, 7 pm

Ilan Halimi, a young Parisian Jew, was abducted by the "Gang of Barbarians," who believed all Jews have money and either Ilan's family or the Jewish community would pay a large ransom for his release. Unfolding over 24 harrowing days in 2006, most French people considered it a freak occurrence. But with the rise of anti-Semitic sentiment and violence convulsing France over the past years, many have come to view the Halimi murder as a watershed moment. This suspenseful drama shines a light on contemporary European anti-Semitism and the consequences when violence is ignored and racist stereotypes are accepted.

#### Guest Speakers:

Scottsdale: Miriam Weisman, Anti-Defamation League board member, who serves on the national executive committee and holds national positions as a vice chair of both regional operations and education.

Chandler: Rabbi Dean Shapiro, spiritual leader of Temple Emanuel in Tempe, with more than a decade of film industry experience.



### Above and Beyond

Documentary – (USA) 86 minutes, English

#### Screenings:

Chandler – Sunday, Feb. 8, 3 pm  
Peoria – Sunday, Feb. 15, 7 pm  
Scottsdale – Sunday, Feb. 22, 3 pm

"Above and Beyond" is the true wartime adventure story of a group of World War II pilots who volunteered to fight for Israel in the War of Independence in 1948. The bravery of these volunteers was incredible, as the only aircraft available were American and German fighter jets junked after the war that were prone to mechanical failure. Features archival footage, interviews with the surviving pilots and recreations of some daring exploits. Produced by Nancy Spielberg, Steven Spielberg's younger sister.

#### Guest Speakers:

Jeffrey and Craig Weiss, authors of *I Am My Brother's Keeper: American Volunteers in Israel's War for Independence 1947-1949*.



### God's Slave

*Phoenix Premiere*

Drama – (Argentina) 90 minutes, Spanish with English subtitles

#### Screenings:

Scottsdale – Wednesday, Feb. 11, 7 pm  
Peoria – Thursday, Feb. 19, 7 pm

Set against the backdrop of the 1994 bombing of the Jewish Community Center in Buenos Aires, "God's Slave" follows Ahmed, trained since childhood as an Islamic terrorist, now assigned to execute a suicide bombing at a synagogue, and David, the determined Israeli special agent who will stop at nothing to prevent the attack. But the film walks a tightrope of sympathies, as neither man is defined solely by his extremist views ingrained since childhood. The film explores the lives of two men embarking on parallel paths to martyrdom, blinded by hatred born of childhood trauma and prepared to sacrifice everything for their beliefs.

#### Guest Speakers:

Scottsdale: Rabbi Dr. Shmuly Yanklowitz, executive director of Valley Beit Midrash.  
Peoria: Rabbi Tracee Rosen, rabbi at Temple Gan Elohim in Sun City West.



### Closed Season

Drama – (Germany) 100 minutes, German and English with English subtitles

#### Screening:

Scottsdale – Thursday, Feb. 12, 3 pm

Bruno, a young German student, arrives in Israel in the early 1970s with a letter from his recently deceased mother to Avi, a German-Jewish kibbutznik, whom Bruno believes to be his father, Albert. Hesitant at first, the father soon reveals the dramatic circumstances leading to Bruno's birth just after World War II. "Closed Season" is a quiet yet intense psychological drama filled with passion, betrayal and jealousy.

#### Guest Speaker:

Sharon Silverman, director of Temple Chai's Deutsch Family Shalom Center, which provides educational programs, support groups and spiritual development.



### It Happened in Saint-Tropez

*Arizona Premiere*

Comedy – (France) 100 minutes, French with English subtitles

#### Screenings:

Scottsdale – Sunday, Feb. 8, 7 pm  
Peoria – Monday, Feb. 16, 7 pm  
Chandler – Sunday, Feb. 22, 3 pm

The film opens with a wedding and a funeral, in addition to an extreme case of sibling rivalry between austere and observant violinist Zef and his semi-estranged brother, Roni, a lapsed Jew and self-indulgent diamond mogul. Flitting from one scenic locale to another, the showdowns, betrayals and a fair helping of faux pas conspire to destroy the tenuous family bonds. The dysfunctional family is held together only by its aging patriarch and the love between the two brothers' daughters, but is that enough?



## Quality Balls: The David Steinberg Story

Phoenix Premiere

Documentary/Comedy - (Canada) 85 minutes, English

### Screenings:

Peoria - Sunday, Feb. 8, 3 pm

Scottsdale - Wednesday, Feb. 11, 3 pm

Americans have long counted on Canada for three things: oil, maple syrup and comedians. As "Quality Balls: The David Steinberg Story" proves, David Steinberg stands as one of our northern neighbor's biggest comedic exports whose name you might not recognize. Born into a strict Jewish household in Winnipeg, Steinberg abandoned his yeshiva studies to join the legendary Second City improv troupe in Chicago. This captivating documentary attests to Steinberg's incredible career and entertainment influence, cementing his place in the comedy pantheon, and finally earning one of the godfathers of comedy his due respect.

### Preceded by *Hannah Cohen's Holy Communion*

- Short film (Ireland)

In 1970's Dublin, spirited 7-year-old Hannah Cohen is determined to take Holy Communion, just like her neighborhood friends.



## The Last Mentsch

Phoenix Premiere

Drama - (Germany) 95 minutes, German with English subtitles

### Screening:

Scottsdale - Monday, Feb. 9, 7 pm

After surviving the horrors of Auschwitz, Marcus Schwartz, born Mena'hem Teitelbaum, tries to forget his anguish by creating a new identity for himself in Germany, devoid of all Jewish ties. Now that Marcus senses his time on this Earth is nearing its end, he wants a Jewish burial, but the rabbis don't believe he's Jewish. Needing to get to his childhood Hungarian village to find proof, Marcus enlists a young Turkish woman to drive him, and the unlikely duo set out on a road trip across Eastern Europe that will end up irrevocably changing them both.

### Guest Speaker:

Dr. Murray Henner, professor of international law and intelligence at Embry Riddle University, author of more than 50 books, Fulbright Scholar and the Brandeis International Legal Scholar.



## 5 to 7

Drama - (USA) 97 minutes, English

### Screenings:

Peoria - Tuesday, Feb. 10, 7 pm

Scottsdale - Thursday, Feb. 12, 7 pm

Chandler - Wednesday, Feb. 18, 7 pm

Brian, an aspiring young American writer, first encounters the sophisticated wife of a French diplomat outside of Manhattan's St. Regis Hotel. Charmed by Brian's tireless pursuit, Arielle, the more mature, married and mother of two, suggests a "cinq-à-sept" affair, a reference to the time of day that Frenchmen traditionally see their mistresses before heading home to their families. When Brian and Arielle fall deeply in love, they must face meaningful life decisions head on.



## Bethlehem

Drama/Thriller - (Israel) 99 minutes, Hebrew with English subtitles

### Screenings:

Chandler - Monday, Feb. 9, 7 pm

Scottsdale - Wednesday, Feb. 18, 7 pm

Sanfur is a hotheaded Palestinian teenager living in the shadow of his older brother, Ibrahim, a militant local hero wanted for orchestrating suicide bombings in Israel. Shin Bet intelligence agent Razi recruited the Bethlehem native when he was just 15, investing all his energy in the conflicted and vulnerable boy and developing an almost fatherly relationship with him. Co-written by a former member of the Israeli military intelligence and a Palestinian journalist, the movie transcends perspectives, revealing the impossible situations and moral dilemmas associated with the dark and fascinating world of human intelligence.

### Guest Speakers:

Scottsdale: Dr. Lawrence Bell, executive director of the Arizona Jewish Historical Society.

Chandler: Rabbi Kenneth Leitner, spiritual leader of Temple Beth Shalom of the East Valley.



## Marvin Hamlisch: What He Did For Love

Phoenix Premiere

Documentary - (USA) 83 minutes, English

### Screenings:

Chandler - Sunday, Feb. 15, 7 pm

Peoria - Sunday, Feb. 22, 3 pm

Coming from humble beginnings as a Manhattan boy and son of Viennese Jews, Marvin Hamlisch was a child piano prodigy destined for greatness. He quickly, but not surprisingly, achieved great success with hit after hit - "The Way We Were," "Nobody Does It Better" and scores for "The Sting," "Sophie's Choice" and "A Chorus Line." By the age of 31, this modern day "music man" had won every major award: four Grammys, an Emmy, three Oscars, a Tony and a Pulitzer Prize.

### Guest Speaker:

Chandler: Bill Goodykoontz, chief film critic, Gannett Newspapers, and film critic, Arizona Republic.



## For A Woman

Arizona Premiere

Drama - (French) 115 minutes, French with English subtitles

### Screenings:

Chandler - Sunday, Feb. 8, 7 pm

Scottsdale - Tuesday, Feb. 10, 7 pm

Inspired by the director's own family memoir, this time-shifting melodrama opens in 1980's France as writer Anne discovers old photos and letters that trigger an investigation into her shadowy past. Flash back to postwar France, where young newlywed Léna and Jewish husband Michel, a Ukrainian-born tailor and loyal Communist, are settling into a new life in Lyon. Secrets - both familial and political - are revealed amidst swirling domestic drama and a manhunt for Nazi war criminals.

### Guest Speakers:

Chandler: Jack Silver, director of the Jewish counseling program at Jewish Family & Children's Service.

Scottsdale: Dr. Larry Waldman, Phoenix-area licensed clinical, forensic psychologist and certified school psychologist.



## Theodore Bikel: In the Shoes of Sholom Aleichem

Phoenix Premiere

Documentary - (USA) 90 minutes, English

Special Centerpiece Event: Scottsdale - Sunday, Feb. 15, 3 pm

Theodore Bikel and Sholom Aleichem have much in common: wit, wisdom and immense talent, all shot through with deep humanity and Yiddishkeit. Bikel, the indefatigable Oscar-nominated performer whose career spans more than 150 screen roles and countless stage and musical productions, is also the foremost interpreter of Aleichem's work. "Theodore Bikel: In the Shoes of Sholom Aleichem" combines Bikel's charismatic storytelling and masterful performances with a broader exploration of Aleichem's remarkable life and work, and in the process immortalizes both men.

### Special Appearance:

Legendary actor Theodore Bikel will introduce the film, provide a brief talk afterward and take audience questions about his 65-year career on stage and screen. The actor, troubadour, social activist, playwright and now - at age 90 - film producer also will receive the Greater Phoenix Jewish Film Festival's inaugural Lifetime

Achievement Award.

Adults: \$11 (\$13 at the door)/Students (ID required, 25 and younger): \$7

# TICKET PRICES:

VIP Festival Pass: \$110 unlimited films, unlimited venues Theodore Bikel Special Event Patron Tickets: \$18

For more information about tickets, ticket packages or group discounts: 602-753-9366 or [gpjff.org](http://gpjff.org)

January 10-18



# Car-ismatic January in Arizona

By David M. Brown

The Phoenix area is a moving experience every New Year.

The Valley of the Sun actually features seven automotive experiences in January: six unique collector car auctions and the Arizona Concours d'Elegance, Jan. 11, at the landmark Arizona Biltmore in Phoenix.

Because of the robustness of the collector car market, this year could set the mark for Arizona Auction Week's highest dollar sales in history, and possibly with many records also set for individual car models, with prices exceeding \$1 million.

The second annual Arizona Concours d'Elegance will showcase approximately 90 collector cars owned by collectors throughout the United States, such as a 1933 Pierce-Arrow Silver Arrow, one of just five built and one of the three known survivors. The car was part of the late William F. Harrah's extensive automobile collection in Reno, NV, and is now owned by the Academy of Art University Automobile Museum in San Francisco.

In addition, the event will celebrate the automotive passion

of Frank Lloyd Wright, who saw the car as mobile architecture. Wright is credited with consulting on the design of the Biltmore, which opened in 1929, so the venue is ideal.

The show will also welcome two cars from the famous Turin, Italy, designer and coachbuilder, Carrozzeria Ghia, which will celebrate its 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2015. The custom-bodied 1953 Cadillac, once owned by Hollywood actress Rita Hayworth, and a 1954 Plymouth Explorer dream car are owned by the world-famous Petersen Automotive Museum in Los Angeles.

Also at the Biltmore later that week, RM Auctions will hold its 16<sup>th</sup> annual two-day sale, Jan. 15 and 16. Approximately 120 blue chip automobiles will be offered: prewar classics, important sports and racing cars, great cars of the 1970s and 1980s and late-model supercars.

These include two supercars that should fetch more than \$1 million each from the bidders: a 1988 Porsche 959 'Komfort' capable of 197 mph and Ferrari's quick response, a 1990 Ferrari F40, which does 201.4 mph.

In general, the car shows are adult oriented, but the annual Barrett-Jackson Scottsdale Auction offers lifestyle events such

as country music concerts and other family activities. This year's automotive event, The World's Greatest Collector Car Auctions, the largest in Arizona and one of the world's car mega-shows, is Jan. 10 through 18 at WestWorld in Scottsdale.

This year Ron Pratte's world-renowned collection of more than 140 cars, trucks and motorcycles, as well as more than 1,500 pieces of automotive memorabilia, will be sold. Pratte is a Phoenix-area businessman who acquired many of his stellar vehicles at previous Barrett-Jackson auctions.

The collection includes the only remaining 1966 Shelby Cobra 427 Super Snake, signed by motoring legend Carroll Shelby, and a 1954 Pontiac Bonneville Special Motorama concept car, one of two designed by GM styling great Harley Earl.

Pratt has directed that his collection's very rare 1950 GM Futurliner (one of only 12 built) be auctioned off with 100% of the proceeds benefiting the Armed Forces Foundation, a 501(c)3 nonprofit dedicated to supporting and advocating for active-duty military personnel, National Guardsmen, Reservists, military families and veterans. If you remember the '50s, Futurliners were mobile museums of the future, which traveled the country celebrating the future that all of us have lived in for the past six decades.

The 15<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Russo and Steele Scottsdale Collector Automotive Auction is Jan. 14-18 at the white tents on the corner of the Loop 101 and North Scottsdale Road.

Founded in 2001 by Drew Alcazar and wife, Josephine, Russo and Steele will offer 750-plus collector automobiles in its unique famous coliseum style "Auctions in the Round" experience. Among these will be a 1957 Porsche 356 speedster, a 1959 Ferrari Testarossa Sport Speciale by Creative Workshop and American muscle cars such as a 1970 Ford Mustang Boss 429 Fastback and a 1970 Plymouth Hemi Superbird.

This week as well, Silver Auctions will hold its 18<sup>th</sup> Arizona auction at the Fort McDowell Casino east of Scottsdale and north of Fountain Hills. Approximately 400 cars are expected for the Jan. 15-17 event.

The fourth Bonhams Scottsdale Auction, Jan. 15, at the Westin Kierland Resort & Spa, Scottsdale, is led by a 1966 Ferrari 275 GTB Competizione, the 11th of just 12 built and winner in class at 1967 Le Mans, the 1969 Spa-Francorchamps and 1969 Imola 500 Km. Also docketed is a 1938 Bugatti Type 57 Roadster; a 1972 Ferrari 365 GTS/4 Daytona Spider, just one of the highly desirable 123 factory convertibles made; and a 1964 Aston Martin DB5 convertible, built by then-owner David Brown, sadly no relation to the writer.

Finally, the Gooding & Company auction, Jan. 16 and 17, at Scottsdale Fashion Square, will offer a diverse group of outstanding cars, including a 1990 Ferrari 641/2 F1, a magnificent classic bodied by the great house of Zagato, and a 1960 Alfa Romeo Giulietta Sprint Zagato, which competed in a variety of signature events such as the 1961, 1962 and 1963 editions of the Targa Florio, the legendary Sicilian road race.

"We are particularly excited about the wide variety of vehicles we have to offer in Scottsdale this year," says David Gooding, president and founder of Gooding & Company. From barn finds and on-trend collectibles to American muscle cars, there is something special for every collector and hobbyist."

David Brown is an Arizona-based freelancer and car lover (azwriter.com).



The Waste Management Phoenix 72-hole PGA Tour event will be held Jan. 29-Feb. 1 at the TPC Scottsdale. First played in 1932, this 80<sup>th</sup> annual event is part of the PGA Tour's FedEx Cup.

Tour pros will be on the course for practice rounds Jan. 26 and 27. Other pre-tournament activities include a military career event in conjunction with "Birdies for the Brave" featuring over 30 Arizona companies with hundreds of career openings, two Pro-Am events, the Special Olympics Open, a junior golf clinic, motivational speeches by PGA Tour pros and a performance by Capital Cities.

In all, a field of 132 players will vie for the \$6.3 million purse. The first two rounds Jan. 29 and 30 are scheduled to be televised live in Phoenix on The Golf Channel from 1:30 to 4:30 pm MST. Rounds three and four will be televised on The Golf Channel from 11 am to 12:30 pm MST, and then on CBS from 1 to 4 pm MST.

The Waste Management Phoenix Open and the tournament host Thunderbirds raise money for charities, most of which provide programs that benefit youth. Recent beneficiaries include Phoenix Children's Hospital, First Tee of Phoenix, Special Olympics Arizona, Homeward Bound, Audubon Arizona, Boys & Girls Clubs, YMCA, Be A Leader Foundation, Teach for America, Waste Not and Junior Golf Association of Arizona. In the tournament's 80-year history, The Thunderbirds have raised over \$93 million for charity.

Daily general admission is \$30. Children ages 17 and under are free when accompanied by an adult. The Waste Management Phoenix Open is never sold out and tickets will be available at the gate during tournament week. Advance daily general admission tickets will be available until Jan. 23 at all Ticketmaster ticket centers, by phone at 800-745-3000 and online via [wmphoenixopen.com](http://wmphoenixopen.com) or [ticketmaster.com](http://ticketmaster.com).

For a complete schedule of activities, visit [wmphoenixopen.com](http://wmphoenixopen.com).

# February 1

# CHEF'S CORNER

## SUPER EDIBLES FOR SUPER BOWL XLIX

By Lucia Schnitzer

Photos by Matthew Strauss



Super Bowl XLIX will be happening right here in our beautiful Grand Canyon State where the sun shines 300 days a year. It's no wonder the NFL chose our state for 2015 considering New York hosted last year in 49-degree weather.

Super Bowl Sunday is considered an unofficial American holiday, with viewing parties held in homes, taverns and restaurants throughout the country. Create your own elaborate pregame and halftime food spread to entertain and impress your guest with these amazing food ideas. Your edibles maybe eclipse the game itself as the main interest of conversation on this year's "holiday," Feb. 1. Enjoy!



## Football Helmet Fruit Salad

### Materials

- 1 round watermelon
- Fruit salad (your choice)
- Knife
- Sharp pencil or thin marker

### Carving football helmet:

Using a round watermelon, slice off a piece approximately 4 inches down on the stem end. Set cut piece aside to use later for mouth guard. Make a curved cut from one side of the melon to the other to cut out the face portion of the helmet. Hollow out the entire melon. Take the piece that was set aside in first step and place cut side down. Place knife at the center of stem end and cut in half. Take one half of cut piece and draw mouth guard grid with a sharp pencil or thin marker as shown in picture. Remove flesh and using a small knife, cut out grid design. To assemble, place mouth guard on a plate. Place the helmet piece on top, pushing the mouth guard ends toward the inside of the helmet. You may need to carve a little out of the helmet ends to fit the mouth guard comfortably. Fill with fruit salad, including watermelon pieces or balls.

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.



## “Smeaches” S’mores

### Ingredients

- 1 peach, sliced into 6-8 slices and halved horizontally
- 6-8 marshmallows
- ½ cup brown sugar
- ½ teaspoon cayenne pepper
- 4 graham crackers

### Instructions

- Mix the cayenne and sugar; toss peaches in mix.
- Place half of a peach slice on a stick, add the marshmallow, then the other half of peach.
- Toast over a medium-low flame until caramelized and browned.
- Slide heated peaches and marshmallow on a graham cracker, then top with another cracker.

## DIY Indoor S’more Station

### What you need:

- Long, low nonflammable container
- Stones
- Sterno cans
- Stick holders

### What to do:

- Put a bed of stones in container.
- Add Sterno cans and place equally apart.
- Fill remaining space with stones.

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# Where do JEWISH PEOPLE EAT?

## Bad Water Brewing \$\$

4216 N Brown Ave.  
Scottsdale, AZ 85251  
480-748-4460  
badwaterbrewing.com

By A. Noshman

The name of this place alone was enough to draw me in and the location was convenient, but knowing that it is a Jewish-owned establishment sealed the deal. Though Bad Water Brewing has been crafting and distributing beer for a couple of years, its taproom opened only recently. They feature “Beers and Boards,” and who doesn’t love that?

So I find myself near Old Town one evening, and I know Bad Water Brewing is only blocks away. I’m not super hungry at this point, but a cold beer and a nosh feels like it would be a nice way to end the day. Owner Lewis Kubitz is there talking with customers and keeping an eye on his new project. You can tell he enjoys his work.

Though the building has been on Brown Avenue since the beginning of time, the interior space is brand new. The taproom’s sleek, modern design reflects the same careful thought that goes into its craft beers and its boards. Bad Water Brewing is just off the beaten path in Old Town Scottsdale, but it is easy to find. So easy in fact, that I have found it twice so far. Over the course of a couple of visits, I tasted the following:

### Bad Water IPA, \$5

*India Pale Ale (Draft)*

Though I am an admitted fan of the darks, I chose this India Pale Ale as my first beer at Bad Water. They had a nice selection of drafts, but this seemed to be their signature drink, so I ordered one up before the bartender could even finish explaining what’s on tap. To my delightful surprise, this clean, very floral and fruity glass of cold beer made its way down my parched throat smoothly. This is the only draft beer produced by Bad Water; the rest of their product line comes in bottles, which I determine to try next.

### Bad Water Western Lager, \$5

*Lager Beer (Bottled)*

This beer is so fresh that if I didn’t know it was bottled, I would never have been able to tell. Again, a very clean beer, but this one is inherently sweet with a caramel essence and color. Definitely my favorite so far, and I know this because it went down quickly. That’s always a good sign, but it’s time for some food, too.



### The Noble Stave, \$15

*Double Cream Brie, Drunken Goat Wine Cheese, Gorgonzola Dolce, Boschetto di Tartufo, Blueberry Goat Cheese, Pistachios, Smoked Almonds, Golden and Red Peppadew Peppers, Cerignolla Olives, Spanish Artichokes, Mostarda di Fruta, Caper Berries, Lavash.*

With 12 items to try plus lavash and bread sticks, this is going to be tricky to describe, so I will hit the highlights. Most importantly, this board captured every single flavor

and texture known on Earth. In this one serving you could find sweet, salty, crunchy, soft, smoky, pickled, mild, tangy, jellied, crispy goodness. My absolute favorites were the drunken goat cheese, Spanish artichokes, pistachios (of course) and the mostarda di fruta. I am guessing what made the artichokes Spanish is that they came from Spain, and I’m glad they made

the trip to Scottsdale. Slightly pickled and flavorful, this generous portion of vegetable offered a great counterbalance to all the delicious cheeses. The mostarda di fruta may sound like mustard, but it really is a sweet fruit jelly. I am going to guess that this one was made with pear. You’re supposed to spread this on the lavash and eat it with the brie, which I did once, but mostly I used the little fork and ate it straight, it was that good. Although I thoroughly enjoyed each cheese selection, and tried a first bite of each one as I went around the board, I noticed that I had saved the drunken goat cheese to finish last, to savor.

The staffers at Bad Water Brewery were very friendly and knowledgeable, even the time I went when Lewis wasn’t there watching the place. The boards are made right at the bar, and

the bartender cheerfully answers all your questions about beer and boards. Other customers talk about beer and food with each other, and the piped in music is pretty good. With a name like Bad Water you might expect a biker bar, but if you think of how the cool kids use “bad” to mean “good,” that would be more like it. This place is so bad it’s sick! The cool kids know what I mean.



Contact A. Noshman at [a.noshman@azjewishlife.com](mailto:a.noshman@azjewishlife.com)



# Seniors



## Senior *Adventuress*

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# Grizzlies in the Mist

By Mary Levy Peachin

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Danger doesn't come from the direction of the water. So Big Mama, when not nursing her yearling cub, hungrily chews on long stalks of sedge grass just 10 feet from our zodiac. Dan Wakeman's 20 years of observing yearly life cycles in British Columbia's Khutzeymateen, North America's largest grizzly bear sanctuary, has provided him the opportunity to visually bond with many of its grizzlies. Those decades of experience have enabled Dan to share his intimate knowledge of grizzly habits and many of their individual personalities with wildlife lovers – especially photographers.

After a 30-minute flight from Prince Rupert, the single-engine de Havilland Beaver float plane touched down in Khutzeymateen Inlet. Before we finished unpacking our cameras, a blonde-colored bear sauntered along the nearby shore. Jumping into the zodiac, we noticed that the young male's back was covered with bite scars. "She is one of Lucy's," the Khutzeymateen's great matriarch offspring, explains Dan as he narrates our experience.

It's early June and still mating season. This male is on the prowl for a female. Not being the dominant male (Barney is the Valley's "stud") he'll have to "get lucky" to find an eligible female, one without a cub, one who is also in estrus. He might kill her cub, but he won't mate with her until her hormones make her fertile.

"I've known these bears since they were cubs," Dan says, adding that summers in the Khutzeymateen have been a "labor of love." Life on the 40-foot sloop, Sunchaser, typically moored in Cedar Creek, is planned around the tide, when the water is deep enough to navigate up the estuary. High tide affords the best opportunity to view bears. Dan is dependent on Inland Charters to fly in his clients and many of his supplies.

That evening, Dungeness crab pulled from Dan's trap were cleaned and boiled for dinner. Between the various food allergies and taste preferences, only three members of the group enjoy the seafood delicacy. The others eat chicken breasts, mashed potatoes and vegetables.

High tide arrives around twilight. Dan shepherds the five of us into the zodiac to head up Khutzeymateen estuary. In about an hour, we see nine bears. One large male, a sizable scar on its back, stomped on a dead log and hissed. "He's warning us to back off." The bear repeats this action a second time. Throttling the boat into reverse, Dan comments, "If we'd been on land, we'd be dead. This is HIS sanctuary."

A cub swims across the estuary, another runs through the sedge and a large grungy male lumbers out of the woods. Dan surmises that he is coming to mate with the female on the beach. Seeing us, he growls angrily and lopes back into the trees. We continue to hear him in the forest growling. Obviously we have interfered with a romantic interlude.

Sun doesn't set until after 10 pm in Northern British Columbia, but by 9 pm we were ready to crawl into our bunks for the night. Rain pounds on the skylight of our cabin.

We awoke to a day of viewing "grizzlies in the mist." By noon, we've observed 11 different bears: a mating pair, several shy "runners," a few yearlings, sub-adults, cubs, and both male and female adults. After the short June mating season, females will come out of winter hibernation with up to four recently born

cubs. Later in the summer, the grizzlies' coats darken in color when they start feeding on spawning salmon.

Weather again interferes with the rest of the day's viewing plans. A torrential afternoon rain remains steady throughout the night. Layering in long underwear and fleece, I'm so happy that I brought lots of layers. All of us cozy up under blankets and quilts. The temperature is a mild 59°, but rainforest dampness is penetrating.

Our third and final day brings equally productive viewing. High tide allows us to explore further up the estuary. Blue lupine is in bloom, several odiferous chocolate lilies are just opening. Bald and golden eagles ruffle their wet feathers.

Again we see a variety of bears and cubs. We are alone in one of the world's most spectacular settings ... in the rain. Our intimate experience enabled us to photograph more than 20 different grizzlies.

This season, Barney, the Khutzeymateen's dominant male, had not been sighted yet. Motoring up the Khutzeymateen Inlet to search for him was unsuccessful, but we were rewarded with the sighting of a female with two cubs feeding on sedge. We felt that it was a perfect ending to a world class adventure.

Our third and final night Dan prepared barbecued steak and potatoes. Boarding the zodiac for a short evening tour, we returned for a closer view of the sow with two cubs. On our return, we spotted a dark-colored head in the grass near the forest. It was Barney! He was too far away to photograph, but close enough to wish us farewell.

Drifting off to sleep, the distinctive call of the loon reminds us that this spectacular place was in Canada.

## If you go:

Take layers of warm clothing including long underwear and fleece. Dan provides rain gear and rubber boots. I wish I had taken my own rubber boots.

Be prepared to overnight (in both directions) in Prince Rupert. My preference is Eagle Bluff Bed and Breakfast, [eaglebluff.ca](http://eaglebluff.ca). Hawk Air and Air Canada fly nonstop from the gateway, Vancouver, British Columbia. If the stars align and there is no fog, it is possible to make a close connection on Hawk Air with no outgoing overnight.

Physical requirements include being able to climb in and out of the zodiac, over the sloop transom and down three steep ladder-type stairs to the cabin. There is little privacy, a marine head and a basic shower that was not offered to us.

While viewing is 10 to 20 feet from the bears, Dan can sense, and he backs off, when the bears feel threatened. Many hours are spent, sometimes in the rain, on the pontoon of the zodiac without back rest. Dan can accommodate some dietary requests. The food is good, but basic. We took fresh fruit, chocolate and cheese. Take your favorite treats. Sunchaser Charters Grizzly Tours, [grizzlytour.com](http://grizzlytour.com)



Mary Levy Peachin is the granddaughter of an Arizona Jewish pioneer family that migrated to the boom town of Douglas in 1903. Their dry goods store would evolve into Levy's Department Store (now Macy's). She divides her nontravel time between Vancouver, BC, and Tucson. Mary is an award-winning adventure travel writer and photographer. She has authored seven books featuring sharks and her adventures diving with them and Caribbean books on sport fishing and scuba diving ([Amazon.com](http://Amazon.com)). [peachin.com](http://peachin.com)



## Serving as police chaplain keeps rabbi's eyes wide open

By Leni Reiss

He still sleeps “with one eye and one ear open – always waiting for the pager to go off.” That’s not necessarily typical for a rabbi – but Robert (Bob) Kravitz isn’t a typical rabbi.

Kravitz recently retired his Phoenix Police Department badge “with recognition and appreciation of faithful service and loyalty,” following 20 years as a volunteer police chaplain. Along the way he assumed a similar volunteer post for the Scottsdale Department of Public Safety, a role he still holds, along with serving as Scottsdale’s police chaplain. Consequently he is on constant alert to provide pastoral counseling and, in conjunction with highway patrol officers, take part in next of kin notifications.

He recalls his first law enforcement connection in 1993 during his tenure here as area director of the American Jewish Committee. It was in the context of membership on the Human Relations Committee where he got to know then-Phoenix Police Chief Dennis Garrett. When a chaplain at a committee meeting delivered an invocation, Kravitz asked Garrett whether there were any Jewish chaplains.

The answer: “No.”  
“Do you want one?”  
“Yes.”

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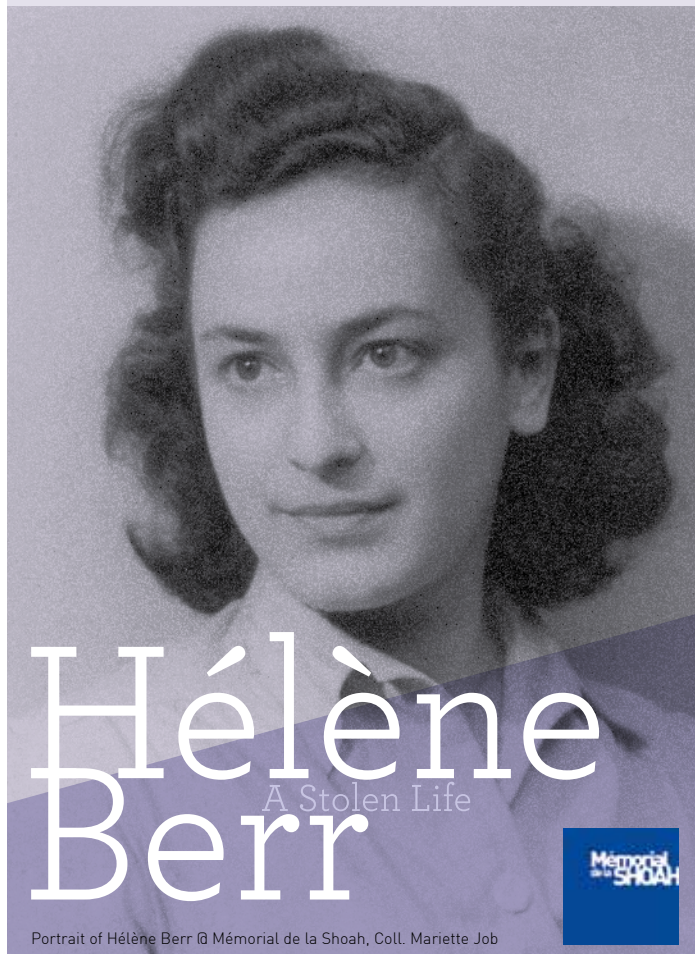
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# Jewish History Museum

Celebrating the Jewish History of Southern Arizona



Portrait of Hélène Berr @ Mémorial de la Shoah, Coll. Mariette Job

Designed, created, and distributed by the  
Mémorial de la Shoah, Paris, France

This exhibition will be on view  
November 9, 2014–February 1, 2015

This exhibition was designed, created, and distributed by the Mémorial de la Shoah in Paris, France (curators Karen Taieb and Sophie Nagiscarde), with the guidance of Mariette Job (niece of Hélène Berr), and made possible through the generous support of SNCF.

Jewish History Museum  
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[www.jewishhistorymuseum.org](http://www.jewishhistorymuseum.org)

So began an extensive and elaborate process. Kravitz had to supply details about every school and seminary he attended, his training, job history and family background. He passed a polygraph test and oral boards, and took a class in critical stress management “that offered input as to what to do, how to help. It was different from rabbinic training,” he notes. “Basically it was helpful in learning how to diffuse crisis situations.”

When Garrett segued from the police department to become director of the Department of Public Safety for Scottsdale, he invited Kravitz to come along as DPS chaplain.

For civic functions, funerals “or when the Scottsdale police chief requires it,” Kravitz wears a Class A ceremonial uniform,

A native of New Haven, CT, the rabbi came to the Valley with his wife, Helen, and two children in 1987 to assume the AJC post. Ordained at Hebrew Union College in Cincinnati, OH, he had led congregations in upstate New York (where he met and married his wife of 39 years), Georgia (where their son and daughter were born) and North Dakota.

“but for calls that come in the middle of the night,” he says, “it’s a bulletproof vest, shirt and badge.”

A native of New Haven, CT, the rabbi came to the Valley with his wife, Helen, and two children in 1987 to assume the AJC post. Ordained at Hebrew Union College in Cincinnati, OH, he had led congregations in upstate New York (where he met and married his wife of 39 years), Georgia (where their son and daughter were born) and North Dakota. In the latter two posts he also served as a U.S. Air Force contract chaplain.

He describes the AJC job, which he held from 1987 until mid-2005, as an ideal extension of his desire to combine rabbinic training with community involvement. AJC’s mission is to enhance the well-being of the Jewish people and Israel and to advance democratic values worldwide. His efforts, Kravitz says, “were mainly concentrated on bringing together disparate groups from all ethnic and religious backgrounds and developing coalitions and relationships that ultimately would result in positive support for Jewish and Israeli issues.

“Marty Shultz, who is a corporate leader and communal and Jewish activist, and I were the only Jewish members on the Martin Luther King Jr. civil rights holiday committee,” Kravitz recalls. “I believed that the state had to go forward and recognize his significance to all of us. Dr. King was always supportive of Israel, and I was able to convey that message to people who really didn’t know.”

Once the holiday was approved, Kravitz joined the board of Harmony Alliance, “which was an outcome and extension of



the MLK Jr. effort to bring together people across the board to expand the concept of intergroup harmony in the Valley of the Sun," he says.

During his AJC tenure he also chaired the city of Phoenix Human Relations Commission under two mayors and fostered the creation within the police department of a commendation/complaint document enabling people "to express themselves without fear of retaliation." The document allowed for both the filing of complaints and follow-up investigations by the city's equal opportunity department to judge their validity. "This provided a positive entrée into what had been perceived as hostile communities," Kravitz says.

Additional commission accomplishments include work on the passage of an ordinance banning discrimination in rental housing based on ethnicity, sexual orientation and religion. He says his goal and focus throughout his tenure was "to connect the Jewish community with others." He is especially proud of having worked with Latino leadership to arrange for information about Israel to be disseminated in both Spanish and English, and initiating such programs as Latino-Jewish seders.

Kravitz presently is a hospital chaplain for Jewish Family and Children's Service, a job he shares with Rabbi Michael Dubitsky. The two divide the Valley in geographic segments, with Kravitz responsible for 11 facilities in Scottsdale and the southeast Valley. "If patients identify as Jews and are willing to see a clergy person, I visit them," he explains. "The majority aren't affiliated with anything Jewish, but they adamantly affirm their Jewishness." It also is an opportunity, the rabbi adds, to spent time with and support and comfort family members.

Kravitz says his religion never has been an issue. "In my law enforcement capacity, I am referred to as 'Rabbi,' and that opens the door for me to explain Judaism when appropriate and to talk about Israel. So in a good way I see myself also as a teacher."



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# Haunting beauty of H el ene Berr's voice illuminates Nazi evil in traveling exhibit

By Bryan Davis

Two remarkable acts of intergenerational memory were highlighted in Tucson in November 2014.

“H el ene Berr: A Stolen Life,” a traveling exhibition of the Memorial de la Shoah (Paris), opened at the Jewish History Museum on Nov. 9. The exhibition features the published journal of a young woman in occupied Paris that illuminates the precarious and ultimately cataclysmic situation for Jews in wartime Paris. The exhibition will remain on display through January 2015 at the Jewish History Museum (564 S Stone Ave., Tucson; jewishhistorymuseum.org).

On Nov. 13, the Jewish Federation of Southern Arizona sponsored a one-night only production of “No Way Out: Letters and Lessons of the Holocaust,” a theatrical production that juxtaposes deeply personal family letters written across generations, countries and continents against the harsh language of the Nuremberg Laws to provide a poignant response to the question: “Why didn’t the Jews just leave?”

What ties these two projects together is the fact that in both cases nieces rescued the aunts they never knew from the anonymity that pervades genocide.

Susan Shear collected more than 500 family letters that document her Aunt Gerda Schotlander’s attempts to flee Breslau, Germany, in the 1930s and early ’40s. Susan used the letters as source material for the theatrical memorial she composed for her family and then donated the letters to the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum.

Mariette Job tracked down the original manuscript of her Aunt H el ene’s diary (which sat for nearly half a century on a shelf in the closet of H el ene’s former fianc e, Jean Morawiecki) and ultimately donated it to the Memorial de la Shoah. The journal has been published in numerous languages and inspired the traveling exhibition that has toured the United States for nearly three years.

H el ene Berr was a 21-year-old student in the English studies department at the Sorbonne when, in 1942, she began

keeping a diary in her home on Avenue Elisee-Reclus in German-occupied Paris. H el ene came from an affluent family, was well read in British literature, especially the Romantic poets, and was a gifted amateur violinist. H el ene’s diary served shifting and overlapping purposes for her during the time she kept it from April 1942 through February 1944. At times H el ene hoped the diary would provide a message to her fianc e

Jean, who fled France to join the resistance, while increasingly, as the persecutions around her grew closer and more brutal, she hoped to use the diary to “tell the story.” On Oct. 10, 1943, she wrote:

“I have a duty to write because other people must know. Every hour of every day there is another painful realization that other folk do not know, do not even imagine, the suffering of other men, the evil that some of them inflict. And I am still trying to make the effort to tell the story. Because it is a duty, it is maybe the only one I can fulfill.

“For how will humanity ever be healed unless all its rottenness is exposed? How will the world be cleansed unless it is made to understand the full extent of the evil it is doing? Everything comes down to understanding. That truth fills me with anguish and torment.”

Three weeks later, on Nov. 1, 1943, she wrote, “I had the stressful sensation of being the only survivor of a shipwreck, and a phrase kept jogging and banging around inside me. It took hold of me without me looking for it; it haunted me, it’s the line from the Book of Job at the end of *Moby Dick*: “And I alone am escaped to tell thee.” Later that day she wrote, “It is raining death on earth.”

H el ene did not escape. She was arrested with her parents on March 27, 1944, her 23rd birthday, and sent to Auschwitz. She survived Auschwitz and the death march to Bergen-Belsen before she was beaten to

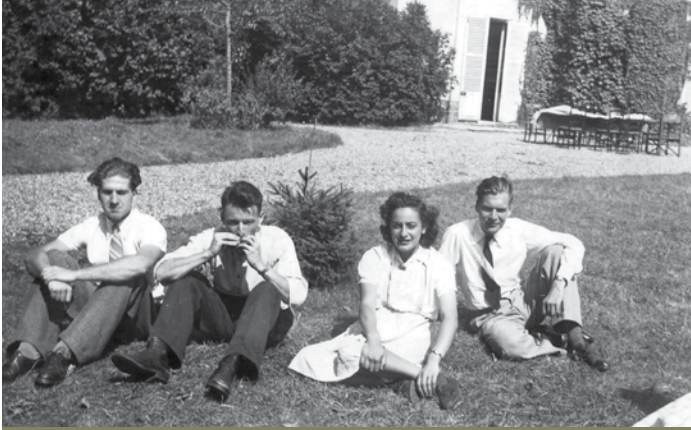
death five days before liberation.

H el ene did not escape, but she did tell. “H el ene Berr: A Stolen Life” is a potent testimonial that alters the way we



H el ene Berr

“H el ene Berr: A Stolen Life” is a potent testimonial that alters the way we understand the deportation of 76,000 Jews from France and transforms the way we view photographed piles of corpses at Bergen-Belsen.



From left: Jean Morawiecki, François Job, H el ene Berr and Jean Pineau enjoy a peaceful interlude in Aubergenville, a village approximately 30 miles west of Paris in 1942.  
  M emorial de la Shoah – Coll. Mariette Job

understand the deportation of 76,000 Jews from France and transforms the way we view photographed piles of corpses at Bergen-Belsen.

With this exhibition the rottenness of the Nazi regime is exposed, and those who view it will understand something more about the evil that was perpetrated. Further, the haunting beauty of H el ene’s voice makes painfully present the senseless loss of so many who could have accomplished so much.

Bryan Davis is director of the Jewish Community Relations Council and director of Holocaust Education & Commemoration Project of the Jewish Federation of Southern Arizona. He also is adjunct faculty, Arizona Center for Judaic Studies at the University of Arizona.

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# Defending Netanyahu no more

By Mylan Tanzer

Elazar Shtern is a colorful and sometimes controversial character. Religious, a former IDF general and a Knesset member in Tzipi Livni's "Hatnuah" (The Movement) party, he defies the typical religious Zionist stereotype. Unlike many of his colleagues, he has been a staunch defender of Israeli democracy, declaring in both words and actions that for Israel to exist as a Jewish country, it must be first and foremost a democratic one.

As commander of the IDF manpower division (which he renamed the human resources division), he invoked the "Israeli people build the army which builds the country" philosophy, re-emphasizing the importance for all to serve in the IDF. He is one of the few figures that allow me to keep faith that the growing political rift between the secular Zionist sector and the religious Zionist movement can be bridged.

In the aftermath of Benjamin Netanyahu's dispersal of the Knesset spurred by his stupefying dismissal of Yair Lapid and Tzipi Livni, reactions and opinions came in from every politician, journalist and panelist the media could get its hands on. It became impossible to get any clarity, not to mention sincerity. That is until I heard Shtern's reaction. In a radio interview, he said, "I was raised and educated in a household that, regardless of party and ideology, not only respected the prime minister because he was prime minister, but trusted him. In many cases we did not agree with him, but we always knew that what he did, right or wrong, was for the good of the country. ... Sadly, Netanyahu's actions have utterly shattered this confidence, because he is motivated only by his own political survival."

Over the years in this column, I have tried to explain Netanyahu's decisions and actions. While I do not always agree with Netanyahu's decisions, I can understand many of them because I live here. If you live here and deal with our reality, you can put this in the proper context, something not possible if you live in the relative safety of North America or Europe.

One consistent criticism I have had of Netanyahu, and have written about in past columns, is my feeling that unlike many of Israel's past prime ministers, for Bibi, the PM's office is the end and not the means. Most prime ministers since David Ben-Gurion ended up being prime minister not as a "career decision," but from circumstances, as a logical and inevitable evolution. These include Ben Gurion, Eshkol, Meir, Begin and Shamir from their positions as ideological leaders of the Zionist movement; Yitzhak Rabin from the position of IDF chief of staff; and Ariel Sharon also from a senior IDF rank. Even these leaders' controversial or partisan decisions were almost never made for their own political survival, but rather for the survival of Israel.

Netanyahu's Dec. 2 press conference to explain his firing of Lapid and Livni was Bibi at his worst. As someone who feels his and his family's well-being is in the hands of his prime minister, seeing him like this was pretty scary. His inane accusation of

a Lapid/Livni putsch against the government in collaboration with the Ultra-Orthodox was bewildering. These are the reasons that Netanyahu dissolved the government after only 20 months of a four-year term? Elections, in addition to being expensive, also mean that no decisions are made until a new government is formed. With elections slated for March 17, it is reasonable to assume a new government will not be formed until well into May. With all of the urgent and fateful security, diplomatic, economic and social issues on the agenda, most of which were being dealt with, a seven-month freeze for elections is tantamount to abandoning the people that you represent. In our splintered multi-party coalition governments, when has a government been harmonious? This government was no exception. But this government actually succeeded in setting out an agenda, or more correctly a collection of agendas based on each of the major parties' priorities. Major infrastructure projects and the economic and social legislation being advanced made this coalition more proactive than all recent governments. In a full term, it might have been able to follow through on at least some of these initiatives.

In his press conference, Netanyahu shamelessly praised his previous government as strong and stable, advancing a positive social agenda while improving security. Shortly afterward, Amnon Abramovitch of Channel 2 commented, "How the memory plays tricks. The previous government ignited the largest social protests in the history of the country and did not solve any of those issues and in fact presided over the largest rise in housing prices. It was the most bloated government in history, with 38 ministers and deputy ministers, it's 'success' in Operation Pillar of Defense led to Operation Protective Edge, and the government ended its term with the largest deficit in three decades, in turn creating the current coalition."

What is most striking is that Netanyahu placed the blame not only on Lapid and Livni, but essentially on us, for not giving him a broad mandate.

Nahum Barnea, also of Yediot wrote, "The people are guilty according to Netanyahu. He said that the results of the elections two years ago did not give his party enough seats, forcing him to build a coalition with ministers trying to plot against him." Barnea also questions Netanyahu's judgment in thinking that snap elections will strengthen him in any way. "Netanyahu knows that Israelis do not want these elections. Not because they are satisfied with government or the current situation, but because people assume that the situation will not improve following the elections, and will perhaps worsen."

Indeed the initial polls show another splintered election result, and that Netanyahu's move has further lowered his popularity and he might not even form the next government, sparking the question why did he take this step? Why did Netanyahu do this now? Netanyahu is always looking over his shoulder at the other right-wing parties cannibalizing his power base. Perhaps he believed that firing Lapid and Livni would give him needed momentum amongst his natural right-wing and Ultra-Orthodox



allies to jumpstart his campaign and attempt to re-assert himself as undisputed leader of the right wing, and carry him to a good election result.

In my opinion the trigger for all of this lies elsewhere. In November a law called the "Israel Today law" passed the initial vote (new laws must pass three votes to become law). Israel Today is a free daily newspaper launched several years ago by Netanyahu's chief patron, Sheldon Adelson, the casino mogul and Republican activist and financier, to glorify Netanyahu. Israel Today treats Bibi like "Romania Libera" treated Dictator Nicolae Ceaucescu at the peak of the Communist era. Handed out daily on street corners, bus and train stops, and cafes, Israel Today recently overtook Yediot as the highest-circulated paper in the country. The phenomenon of a foreign billionaire underwriting a media outlet with such a blatant political agenda spurred several opposition MKs to propose the "Israel Today law," which would require readers to purchase daily newspapers. Several coalition partners such as Lapid's Yesh Atid and Livni's Tnuah allowed their MKs freedom to choose how to vote. Netanyahu was uncharacteristically and visibly angry when the law passed the initial reading and has been on the warpath against Lapid and Livni ever since. His aggressive handling of the controversial Nationality law was just one example of how he tried to force a crisis, which did not materialize until Netanyahu's dismissal of them both.

I am personally convinced this was the catalyst for Netanyahu's step. If Netanyahu did this on his own or if he did it at the behest of Adelson, both are frightening possibilities. I don't know which worries me more. It strengthens my fear that while perhaps Netanyahu is the CEO of the country, Adelson is the chairman of the board. During Netanyahu's tenure, Israel has lost much of its nonpartisan appeal and support in the United States. I fear this due is in part to the Adelson-Netanyahu connection.

So, astonishingly, we are heading to elections. The pollsters are going wild. In initial polls, Netanyahu's lead has been reduced significantly due to the election move. The center-left is uniting for the first time in decades, as seen with the agreement between Livni and the Labor Party. Recent talk about a possible agreement between popular ex-Likud Minister Moshe Kachlon and his new party with Avigdor Liberman's Israel Beitenu party and possibly Lapid and Yesh Atid is likely to be the bigger threat for Netanyahu. But for we Israelis, will things change after these unnecessary elections?

Sima Kadmon wrote, "In his speech, on two things, Netanyahu was right: that this was a bad government forced on him and that Israelis are deserving of a better government. On the first, we need to ask what responsibility Bibi has for this, and on the second, yes, we do deserve better."

I am hopeful, but doubtful that we will get it. The question is this: Will it be with or without Bibi, and if it is without Bibi, will he be missed? Now there is a scary question. We will find out soon enough.

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.



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**1 FEDERATION ENCHANTED EVENING** – Jewish Federation of Greater Phoenix held an Enchanted Evening for major donors Dec. 4 at the Musical Instrument Museum. Event chairs Jennifer and Steven Schwarz greet Russian-American concert violinist Yevgeny Kutik, who entertained guests at the event. Herschel and Valerie Richter enjoy the private viewing of the MIM’s Artist Gallery 5.



1

**2 ANNUAL ARTS EVENT** – Peoria-based earthenware artisan Paula Weiss is holding a one-of-a-kind, made-to-order seder plate. Weiss was one of 180 artists participating in November’s Hidden in the Hills, the 18th annual artist studio tour and sale in Cave Creek, Carefree and North Scottsdale. Photo by Leni Reiss



2

**3 BETH AMI FAMILY** – On Nov. 2 members of Beth Ami Temple of Paradise Valley welcomed Lan Qiu and Joy Pan and their family as honorary members of the Beth Ami congregation. Lan Qiu, who plays with the Phoenix Symphony, performs Kol Nidre each year and the couple has performed their violin duets for the temple on a number of special occasions. Nearly 100 members and friends enjoyed the evening of prayer and magical music.



3

**4 NCJW SALON** – At a Nov. 17 gathering Phoenix, members of the National Council of Jewish Women explored an idea rooted in our Jewish culture: “Leaving a Legacy: Does What We Do Really Matter?” Participants included standing: Ann Spector; row two: Sheila Samalin, Ilene Kornblue, Jan Avers, Francine Ebersman, Roz Mandel, Claire Bickel and Norma Agranoff; and seated: Ellen Widoff (salon leader), Susan Schesnol and Bunny Tarquinio.



4

**5 EAST VALLEY HANUKKAH FUN** – Temple Beth Sholom of the East Valley’s religious school Hanukkah celebration on Dec. 14 included student families. Each family brought a hanukkiyah to light, followed by shira (singing) lead by Sean Sam Samitt and Rabbi Leitner. Then everyone enjoyed some serious gambling, better known as dreidel, with each person getting 10 pennies to start. While enjoying the latkes prepared by the Men’s Club, families enjoyed Hanukkah Q&A. The party ended with kids trading in their dreidel winnings for candy and giving their parents hand-decorated presents.



5

**6 AVIV LEADERS** – AVIV of Arizona leadership team for 2015 includes seated from left: Elaine Goldenthal; James Lowbrera, vice president; Sandy Lubisch, president; Karen Roth, secretary; Jose’ Olagues, treasurer; and standing Roni Keeton, Jeff Eldot, Kathy Mickle and Nathine Goldenthal. AVIV of Arizona is a religious and social organization fulfilling the needs of the LGBT Jewish community of the Greater Phoenix area. For more information, visit [avivaz.com](http://avivaz.com).



6

**7 SPECIAL DAY AT KOL AMI** – Temple Kol Ami's Early Education Department welcomed Grandparents and other Special Persons to their annual Grandparents Day on Nov. 26. Pictured are Cassidy Cohen from the 3's class enjoying the morning's activities with her grandmother, Ester Ofman, and Micah Schneider from the Pre-K Class showing off his grandfather, Bruce Tucker. The adults had breakfast with the youngsters, met their teachers and created special art projects as well as special memories. Temple Kol Ami is a Reform congregation in Scottsdale.



**8 ENCORE PERFORMANCE**—Proud grandmothers Paula Dubnow, left, and Joyce Cohen Smith, flank their talented granddaughter Shoshanna at Scottsdale's Avery Lane following a holiday performance by the Encore Show choir. Shoshanna is a longtime member of the ensemble. Photo by Leni Reiss



**9 RAVES FOR RABBI** – Plaudits poured in for recently retired Rabbi Barton Lee, seated with his wife Marcie at a celebration honoring his 42 years of exemplary service as Hillel rabbi at Arizona State University in Tempe. A crowd of well-wishers, including Bill Straus and Barry Zemel, enjoyed schmoozing, brunch and tributes in the Arizona sunshine on the grounds of the Arizona Jewish Historical Society. Photos by Leni Reiss



**10 YESHIVA CONSTITUTION TEAM** – Students of Yeshiva High School of Arizona participated for the first time in the "We the People" program, which tests students' knowledge of the Constitution and the philosophical and historical foundations and implications of American citizenship. From left are students Netanel Ravkin, Benjamin Kikirov and Yakov Perlov in front of teacher and coach Jeremy Rovinsky. The competition is organized as a congressional hearing that involves recitation of a prepared statement and follow up questions from the panel of judges. The students participated in a courtroom at the Phoenix Municipal Court on Dec. 1.



## Passages lecture series returns

For 35 years the Bureau of Jewish Education of Greater Phoenix has proudly presented renowned speakers lecturing on a wide range of important subjects. With seven outstanding lectures each year, there is always something to delight, educate and challenge.

Jan. 18: Steven Emerson – Radical Islam: Are They In America? What Should Our Response Be? 7:30 pm at Beth El Congregation, 1118 W Glendale Ave. in Phoenix.

Jan. 25: Robyn Helzner Trio – The Music That Touches Our Soul in Hebrew, Ladino, Yiddish & English. 7:30 pm at Pardes (East Bldg.) on the Campus of the Ina Levine Jewish Community Campus, 12701 N Scottsdale Road in Scottsdale.

Feb 8: Rafael Medoff – Where There Is A Will, There is a Way ... FDR & Saving the Jews of Europe, No Way Was There a Will. Is the West Repeating History Vis A Vis the Current Genocides in Syria, Iraq & Nigeria? Is Never Again an Empty Pledge? 7:30 pm at Congregation Or Tzion, 6140 E Thunderbird Road in Scottsdale.

Feb. 15: Jeffrey Gurock, PhD – Take Me Out To The Ballgame ... A Look At Jewish Participation in Sports as a Metaphor for Modern Jewish Religious Conflict and Accommodation to America. 7:30 pm at Temple Chai, 4645 E Marilyn Road in Phoenix.

March 1: Abigail Esman – The Flourishing of Radical Islam in Democratic Western Societies...How Do We Prevent Jihad's Victory Over Way of Life? 7:30 pm at the Ina Levine Jewish Community Campus, 12701 N Scottsdale Road in Scottsdale.

March 8: Joshua Muravchik, PhD – Making David into Goliath: How the World turned Against Israel ... The Influence of the Moslem World, The Radical Right & Leftist Orthodoxy Turning it into the Most Reviled Nation on Earth. 7:30 pm at Temple Chai, 4645 E Marilyn Road in Phoenix .

March 22: Eric Goldman, PhD – The American Jewish Experience, A Journey Through Cinema: An In-depth Look at the Work & Life of Woody Allen & Other Jewish Actors, Writers & Directors. 7:30 pm at Congregation Or Tzion, 6140 E Thunderbird Road in Scottsdale. Individual tickets begin at \$18. Free for students. 480-634-8050, bjephoenix.org

## Jewish Identity & Creativity symposium and concert

The Arizona Center for Judaic Studies presents the second Shaol and Louis Pozez Fine Arts Symposium at the University of Arizona School of Music on Jan. 12. The symposium will explore the lives and music of various European composers of Jewish descent – Mendelssohn, Mahler, Bloch, Schoenberg and others – who lived and created their works in a predominantly Christian society. Their music comprises a living, breathing Jewish heritage that has carried over powerfully into the 21st century. The public is invited to celebrate the survival and vitality of Jewish themes and features in the works of these great artists.

The symposium will be held from 3 to 6 pm in the UA Music Building, Room 146, 1017 N Olive Road in Tucson. Featured speakers include music scholars Matthew Mugmon, Jay Rosenblatt, Thomas Kovach, Alexander Tenster and Louis Epstein.

A concert will follow in Holsclaw Hall at 7 pm featuring the famed Israeli cellist Amit Peled playing the late Pablo Casals' cello and accompanied by pianist Alexander Tentser. Amit received the cello directly from Casals' widow and is well aware of both the honor and the responsibility the gift imparts: "Growing up in a small Israeli kibbutz, I fell in love with the sound of the cello through listening to the famous recordings of Pablo Casals. Now, thanks to the generosity of Mrs. Casals Istomin and the Casals Foundation, a dream has come true. I'm overwhelmed with excitement. The smell of the maestro's pipe is still there!" The magnificent 1733 Goffriller cello was acquired by Pablo Casals in 1913.

Suggested parking is in Park Ave Garage on the North East corner of Park Ave. and Speedway Blvd.

[judaic.arizona.edu/events/](http://judaic.arizona.edu/events/)

## Scottsdale kosher restaurant tasting tour

On Feb. 4 the Valley of the Sun JCC is offering the first ever Scottsdale Kosher Restaurant Tasting Tour.

Participants will meet at 9:15 am at the JCC, 12701 N Scottsdale Road in Scottsdale, to board Ollie the Trolley, Scottsdale's famous luxury trolley, for a taste-treat delight. Led by professional tour host Michael Ross, author of the *Phoenix-Scottsdale Jewish Friendship Tour Guidebook*, participants will sample breakfast at the Mozart Café, watch bagel-making at New York Bagels and Bialys, and lunch at Kitchen 18. Along the way, Michael will point out historical Jewish landmarks, such as the Orange Tree Country Club, which was once known as Century Country Club, created for the Jewish community. The tour finishes off with dessert and coffee at Levi Catering and Bakery on the JCC campus. Guidebooks will be available for purchase at a discount. The tour is \$72.

RSVP: 480-483-7121, ext. 1213, or [harrietc@vosjcc.org](mailto:harrietc@vosjcc.org)

## Herberger Theater hosts hilarious memoir

*You Say Tomato, I Say Shut Up!* plays through Jan. 25 at the Herberger Theater Center in downtown Phoenix. It is the stage adaptation of the hilarious, often moving, memoir of 17 years of marriage of writers-actors and real-life-married-couple Annabelle Gurwitch (*Dinner and a Movie, Fired!*) and Emmy Award winner Jeff Kahn (*The Ben Stiller Show, The 40-Year-Old Virgin.*)

This 80-minute tour de force takes a humorous look at a relationship that seems challenged from the start by powerful, opposing personalities. After trials and tribulations, they learn to navigate the conflicts that come with romance, money and children by embracing each other's differences, taking on parenting as a competitive sport and dropping out of couple's therapy.

*You Say Tomato, I Say Shut Up!*, directed by Van Kaplan and starring Kate Dulcich and Mike Greer, is touring the country.

The show is presented by Philip Roger Roy and Dana Matthow, who also brought *RESPECT: A Musical Journey of Women; My Mother's Italian, My Father's Jewish & I'm in Therapy; and My Son the Waiter, A Jewish Tragedy* to the Valley. This Arizona premier is labeled "PG-13" for adult content.



Amit Peled

Coming in February from the same producers will be *Cannoli, Latkes & Guilt ... the Therapy Continues*, the next installment of the angst of Steve Solomon!

The Herberger Theater Center is located at 222 E. Monroe in Phoenix. Performance times vary for Wednesday-Sunday shows. Tickets are \$43-\$53. 602-254-7399 or herbergertheater.org

## Hear "Unexpected Affinities" Jan. 11

On Jan. 11 MusicaNova Orchestra and Arizona-based Paradise Winds will perform a new work composed by Graham Cohen, a 15-year-old prodigy studying at the Julliard pre-college division and the youngest winner of the Morton Gould Young Composer Competition. The piece, "Unexpected Affinities" was commissioned by the Selznick Tikkun Olam Foundation in memory of Holocaust survivors Max and Nina Gurin.

The concert features a guest appearance by Martin Goldsmith, noted author and classical music radio host on SiriusXM and former host of Performance Today on NPR. Goldsmith is the American-born son of two German-Jewish musicians who escaped the Holocaust, who speaks and writes extensively on his own family's experiences in the Jewish Kulturbund's orchestra in Frankfurt. The Kulturbund was an organization that performed at the pleasure of Joseph Goebbels's Nazi Ministry of Information and Propaganda and used Jewish artists (forbidden to play in German orchestras) to present concerts solely for



Jewish audiences from 1933 to 1941. Goldsmith will discuss his family's history as well as his recent books on the topic, *The Inextinguishable Symphony* and *Alex's Wake*.

"Unexpected Affinities" is a Concerto Grosso for reed quintet and string orchestra. Paradise Winds and the MusicaNova Orchestra will be led by Music Director Warren Cohen. Also on the program is the Chamber Symphony of Franz Schreker, a composer whose works were dubbed "Entartete Kunst" (degenerate art) and banned by the Nazis in the 1930s.

The performance is at 4 pm at Central United Methodist Church, 1875 N Central Ave. in Phoenix.

Tickets are \$60 (includes VIP seating and post concert reception with Martin Goldsmith) \$20 general admission, \$15 seniors and students.

musicanovaaz.com

## Through Jan. 25

*You Say Tomato, I Say Shut Up* playing at the Herberger Theater Center. See story page 60

## Jan. 2-4

*Fiddler on the Roof Jr.* presented by Detour Company Theatre at the Scottsdale Center for the Performing Arts, 7380 E Second St., Scottsdale. Friday at 7 pm, Saturday at 3 & 7 pm and Sunday at 3 pm. No charge but donations are appreciated. detourcompanytheatre.org

## Jan. 2-5

*The Producers*, The Mel Brooks Musical, presented by Scottsdale Musical Theater Company at Tempe Center for the Arts, 700 Rio Salado Parkway in Tempe. Jan. 2, 3 and 5 at 7:30 pm; Jan. 4 at 2:30 pm. Tickets \$32-42. 602-909-4215 or scottsdalemusicaltheatre.com

## Jan. 5

*Hebrew classes* by the Bureau of Jewish Education six consecutive Mondays. Beginning to advanced. 6:30 pm at the Ina Levine Jewish Community Campus, 12701 N Scottsdale Road, Scottsdale. \$70. Variety of educational courses offered by BJE begin Jan. 5. 480-634-8050, jewished@bjephoenix.org

*It's Not Just Lunch*, sponsored by Smile on Seniors. A scrumptious kosher lunch plus an activity. Where food and fun come together to create the unforgettable. First Monday each month at noon at Phoenix Chabad Center, 2110 E Lincoln Dr., Suggested donation \$5. RSVP to 602-492-7670 or email chani@sosaz.org

*Living through Loss: A Jewish Bereavement Group* hosted by the Deutsch Family Shalom Center at 4:30 pm on Jan. 5 and 12 in the "House" located off the south parking lot at Temple Chai, 4645 E Marilyn Ave. in Phoenix. Facilitated by a certified bereavement counselor. Donations welcome. 602-971-1234, ext. 211, or mbeliak@templechai.com

## Jan. 8

*Jewish Baby University for Expectant Parents* sponsored by the Bureau of Jewish Education. Six Thursdays at Temple Chai, 4645 E Marilyn Road in Phoenix. \$115. Call Linda Feldman at the BJE for info and to register, 480-634-8050, bjephoenix.org

*When Good Proteins Go Bad*, a talk by Melissa Kosinski-Collins, PhD, associate professor of biology at Brandeis University. Sponsored by Tucson Chapter of the Brandeis National Committee and the Tucson Jewish Community Center. \$10 includes continental breakfast at 9 am in the Heritage Room of the Tucson JCC, 3800 E River Road in Tucson. \$12 at the door. RSVP by Jan. 6: zuck4@juno.com or 520-577-1457

## Jan. 9

*Brandeis University on Wheels* presented by the Phoenix Chapter. Melissa Kosinski-Collins (see above) will speak at 9:30 am at Starfire Golf Club, 11500 N Hayden Road in Scottsdale. \$40 includes breakfast. RSVP: nanlarry@cox.net

*Jewish Music Traditions of Europe* will be discussed by Kathleen Wiens, Ph.D., curator for Europe from the Musical Instrument Museum. Presented by Congregation Or Adam following Shabbat celebration at 7 pm at the Cutler-Plotkin Jewish Heritage Center, 122 E Culver St. in Phoenix. oradam.org

# JANUARY CALENDAR

## Jan. 10

**Hava Tequila** Event sponsored by Jewish Federation of Southern Arizona Young Leadership. Annual event for 21+ at 8 pm at the Historic Z Mansion, 288 N Church Ave in Tucson. This year's theme is Sequins and Bowties. \$25 by Jan. 2, \$35 after. 520-577-9393, [jfsa.org/havatequila](http://jfsa.org/havatequila)

**Howie Mandel**, actor and comedian, performs his stand-up act at Scottsdale Center for Performing Arts, 7380 E Second St., at 5 and 8 pm. Tickets start at \$49. 480-499-8587 or [ScottsdalePerformingArts.org](http://ScottsdalePerformingArts.org)

## Jan. 11

**MusicaNova Orchestra** 4 pm concert in Phoenix. See story page 61

**Alternative Process Photography** by Dr. Gary Auerbach, one of fewer than 50 photographers in the world working with platinum and palladium to print large-format portraits and cityscapes. Artist's reception 2-4 pm at the Tucson JCC, 3800 E River Road in Tucson. Exhibit continues through Feb. 9. [tucsonjcc.org](http://tucsonjcc.org)

**Tom Wolf, the Wolfman**, popular vocal impressionist performs at 3 pm at the Arizona Room at the Sun Lakes Country Club Phase I, Arizona Room, 25601 Sun Lakes Blvd in Sun Lakes. Sponsored by Temple Havurat Emet. \$15. Tickets: 480-802-0185. [templehavuratemet.org](http://templehavuratemet.org)

**Hadassah Southern Arizona Luncheon and Program.** Noon at Skyline Country Club, 5200 E Saint Andrews Dr., Tucson. Author James Deem speaks on a little-known German concentration camp called Breendonk in Belgium. \$25 members, \$27 nonmembers. RSVP: 520-505-4500 or [hsa.hadasah.org](mailto:hsa.hadasah.org)

**Golden Age of Baseball: Talk by Shirley Mullin Rhodes**, whose father, Willard Mullin, was a sports cartoonist for the New York World Telegram from the 1930s to 1960s. Sponsored by Beth Emeth Congregation Men's Club at 10 am at 13702 W Meeker Blvd. in Sun City West. \$7 includes brunch. RSVP required by Jan. 6: 623-584-7210, [bethemethaz.org](mailto:bethemethaz.org)

## Jan. 12

**Jewish Identity and Creativity: A Symposium and Concert** presented by the Arizona Center for Judaic Studies in Tucson. See story page 60

**Concerts and Conversations** continues with a program by The Joseph Wytko Saxophone Quartet. Presented by Brandeis National Committee-Phoenix Chapter at 12:30 pm at Palo Cristi Church, 3535 E Lincoln Dr. in Paradise Valley. \$5. 602-971-0012, [brandeisphoenix.org](mailto:brandeisphoenix.org)

[isphoenix.com](http://isphoenix.com)

## Jan. 13

**Orchestra of Exiles**, a film by Academy-Award Nominated Director Josh Aronson. The thrilling story of how one man helped save Europe's premiere Jewish musicians from obliteration by the Nazis. Free. 7 pm at the Cutler-Plotkin Jewish Heritage Center, 122 E Culver St. in Phoenix. RSVP: [lbell@azjhs.org](mailto:lbell@azjhs.org) or 602-241-7870

## Jan. 15-24

**24th Annual Tucson International Jewish Film Festival.** See schedule page 40

## Jan. 16

**Celebration Strings**, a classical chamber music quartet with Dagmara Hobbs and Danica Terzic on violin, Dwight Lear on viola and Li Ma on cello, presented by Desert Foothills Jewish Community Association after Shabbat services in the north Scottsdale area. 7:30 pm. First attendance free; membership \$60 per year. RSVP: 480-585-4437, [dfjca.org](http://dfjca.org)

**Women Only Shabbat Dinner** sponsored by Chandler Jewish Women's Circle. 5:30 pm at the Pollack Chabad Center for Jewish Life, 875 N McClintock Dr., Chandler. Usher in the Shabbat lights and Shabbat dinner in the company of wonderful women. RSVP: 480-855-4333 or [info@chabadcenter.com](mailto:info@chabadcenter.com)

## Jan. 16-Feb. 1

**Rapture, Blister, Burn**, a new comedy/drama, is presented by Theatre Artists Studio, featuring Arizona Jewish Life columnist Debra Rich in a cast of five. An Arizona premiere of a sizzling new work. Thurs-Sat at 7:30 pm, Sun at 2 pm. 4848 E Cactus Road in Scottsdale. \$10-20. 602-765-0120 or [thestudiophx.org](http://thestudiophx.org)

## Jan. 17

**Tree of Life Gala** for Jewish National Fund honoring the Fran and Al Sachs family. Entertainment by comedian Elon Gold. 7 pm at the Arizona Biltmore, 2400 E Missouri Ave., Phoenix. \$300 or \$150 for under 40. Cocktail attire. RSVP by Jan. 6: [jnf.org/aztol](mailto:jnf.org/aztol) or [kgarrison@jnf.org](mailto:kgarrison@jnf.org) or 602-277-4800, ext. 967

## Jan. 18

**Passages Lecture Series** begins in Phoenix and continues with seven programs through March. See story page 60

**Shalom Tucson Bagel Brunch** for Newcomers. 10 am at the Tucson JCC, 3800 E River Road, Tucson. Sponsored by Jewish Federation of Southern Arizona and the Tucson JCC. Learn all about the Tucson Jewish community. No RSVP. 520-577-9393, ext. 130, [jfsa.org](http://jfsa.org)

## Jan. 18-19

**The Spiritual Journey of Daily Living: A Mussar and Meditation Retreat** - See story page 16

## Jan. 19

**The Art of Parenting**, a six-week course six Monday evenings on navigating the stormy waters of child-rearing. Sponsored by the Rohr Jewish Learning Institute, taught by Rabbi Mendy Deitsch. 7:30 pm at the Pollack Chabad Center for Jewish Life, 875 N McClintock Dr. in Chandler. \$99 includes textbook. 480-855-4333, [myJLI.com](mailto:myJLI.com)

## Jan. 20

**NCJW Arizona Section** welcomes Arizona business-woman Susan Brooks, founder of Life Solutions for Professional Women. Learn to identify priorities and responsibilities, make the best use of your time and accomplish more without more effort. 6:30 pm at Pueblo Norte Retirement Village, 7090 E Mescal, Scottsdale. Information: [ncjwclaire@cox.net](mailto:ncjwclaire@cox.net)

## Jan. 23

**Shabbat Dinner for Seniors.** Sponsored by Smile on Seniors. Celebrate Shabbat like never before! Enjoy a four-course home-cooked Shabbat dinner. At 4:45 pm at the Phoenix Chabad Center, 2110 E Lincoln Dr., Phoenix. Suggested donation \$5, RSVP: 602-492-7670 or [chani@sosaz.org](mailto:chani@sosaz.org)

## Jan. 24-26

**10th Annual West Valley Jewish Film Festival.** See story page 37

## Jan. 25

**A Brief History of Chutzpah: The Jewish Tradition's Conception of the Human Being and the Purposes of Human Life**, lecture by Rabbi Ed Feinstein. 7 pm at Congregation Or Tzion, 6140 E Thunderbird Road, Scottsdale. Co-sponsored by Valley Beit Midrash and Or Tzion. No cost. Register: [valleybeitmidrash.org](http://valleybeitmidrash.org)

**Cabaret and Cabernet**, an evening of entertainment and wine, kosher dinner, scrumptious desserts plus silent auction and raffle. Benefits Congregation Kehillah. 5 pm at the Valley of the Sun JCC, 12701 N Scottsdale Road, Scottsdale. \$85. 602-369-7667, [congregationkehillah.org](http://congregationkehillah.org)

## Feb. 4

**Scottsdale Kosher Restaurant Tour**, see story page 60

## EVENT LISTINGS:

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

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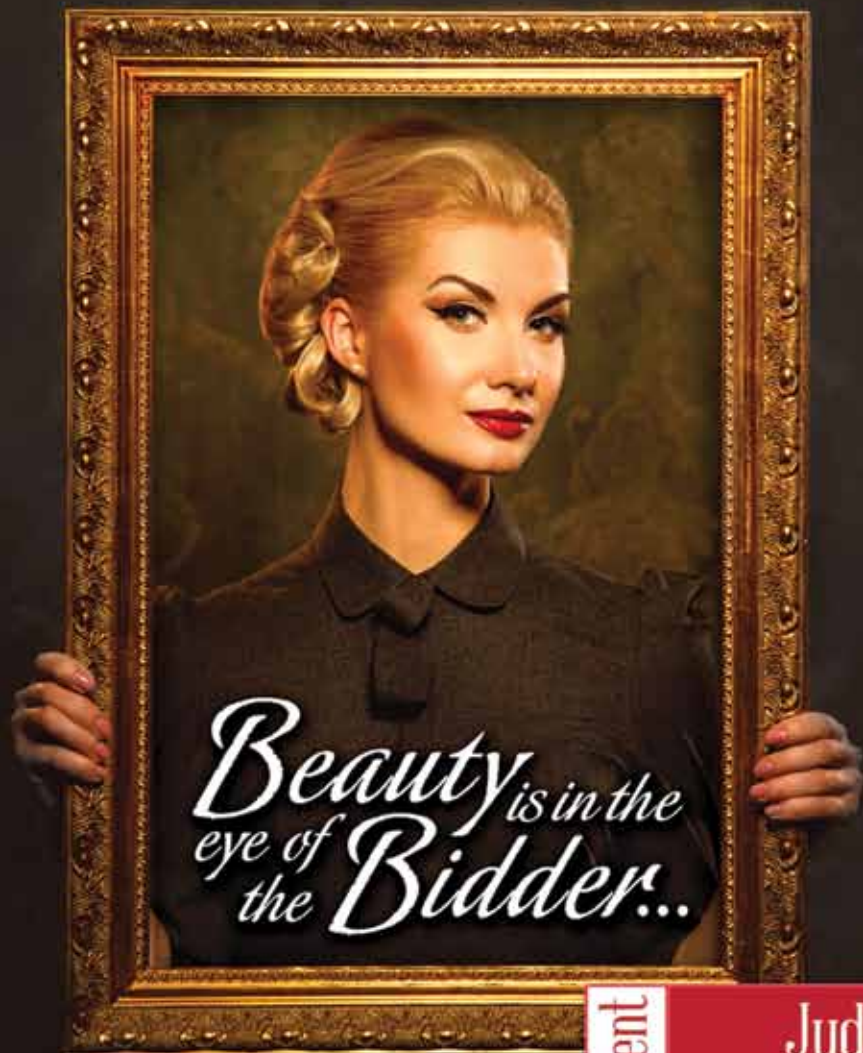
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January 15th, 2015

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January 22, 2015

Special Event

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**Feb. 17, 2015 from 5 pm to 8 pm**

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