

FEBRUARY 2014

JEWISH LIFE

ARIZONA

THE JEWISH LIFESTYLE
MAGAZINE FOR ARIZONA

Special Section:

Weddings

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where to say "I do"**

Max Aaron:

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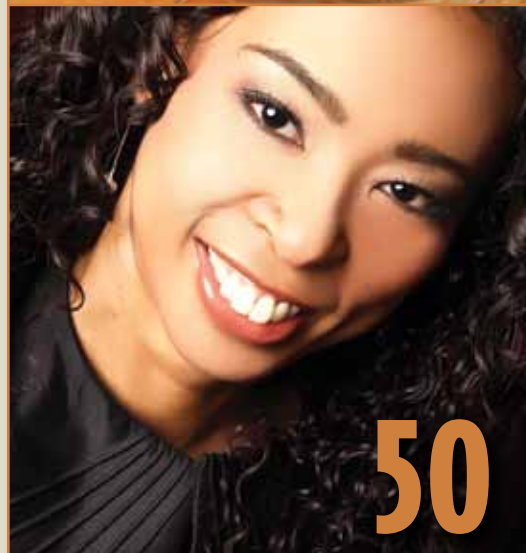
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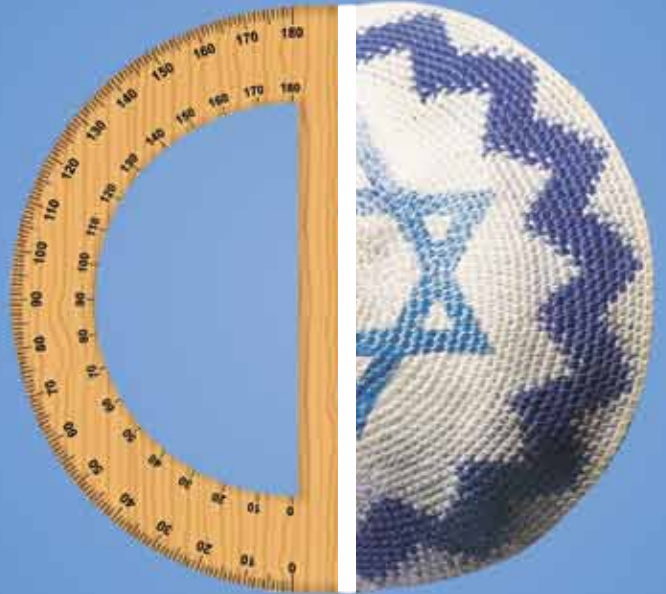


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Editor's Letter



Arizonan and Jewish skating fans – both veterans and neophytes – have had an early taste of “the thrill of victory and the agony of defeat” commonly associated with the Olympics, which begin this month in Sochi.

(Actually the phrase was Jim McKay's introduction on the “Wide World of Sports” for more than 30 years.)

The thrill began almost a year ago when Max Aaron, 21, who grew up attending Temple Chai in Scottsdale, became the Men's U.S. National Champion figure skater. For the past year, skating fans have watched Max. After his U.S. win, he skated to a very respectable seventh in his first world championships. The rest of the year was fun to watch. A physically strong skater who started on the hockey rink, Max soared with the quadruple jump (the most challenging move in men's skating).

The agony culminated in mid-January this year, when Max was unable to repeat his title and just missed an Olympic slot during his first Olympic trials. In his long program at the U.S. Nationals, he solidly landed one quad but briefly brushed the ice with his hand after the other.

Even in defeat, Max was a pleasure to watch. He watched graciously as Jeremy Abbott, 28, and Jason Brown, 19, smoothly

skated into the top spots. In interviews, he said he wanted the U.S. to take the best team, even if that didn't include him. On Facebook a few days later, he expressed both disappointment for himself and continuing support for his teammates, while his comment about this as his *first* Olympic Trials hinted he is still optimistically looking to the future.

Those qualities are also traits that have helped others profiled in this issue.

Our special section on Weddings begins with ideas for a modern Jewish wedding and tips for how and where to say, “I do.” Then our Weddings section looks at another kind of success – couples who find the secrets of making marriage work. A diverse array of couples share their stories and how they make things work. “Happily ever after” only works in fairy tales. Like Max, couples must persevere and navigate bumps in the road. To steal another phrase, “Marriage isn't for sissies.” It takes hard work. Successful couples look out for the good of the team and graciously support their partner knowing their future together will make all the hard work worthwhile.

Deborah

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A Life in Balance

By Deborah Moon



Gastroenterologist, nuclear engineer, archaeology volunteer in Israel, flag football coach, patent examiner and patent holder, rock musician, outdoorsman and family man – these diverse components make up the life of Andrew Weinberg, DO.

In the past six months, Dr. Weinberg received his third patient related to colonoscopies and opened his second Weinberg Gastrointestinal office. But busy as life is, he makes sure he saves time for family.

“If you don’t plan time with family, it’s easy to overlook,” says Weinberg. “We are a tight family,” he says, noting they love to

explore regional wonders such as the Grand Canyon. His wife Suzanne has a Ph.D. in math education and serves as the math coordinator for the Salt River Reservation. His 10-year-old son Brendan has a passion for sports that prompted Weinberg to add flag football coach to his repertoire for the past two years. The family also enjoys long hikes with their new dog, Nike, a 1-year-old rescue.

Weinberg’s well-rounded life meshes well with his training as a doctor of osteopathy, which focuses on holistic, patient-centered medicine. Graduates of osteopathic medical schools, which now enroll about 20% of medical student in the United States, receive a Doctor of Osteopathy degree, while the more common Medical Doctor degree is bestowed on graduates of allopathic medical schools. Both degrees are accepted by licensing agencies in all 50 states.

While Weinberg says he seldom uses osteopathic manipulative treatments in his practice, he did enjoy osteopathy’s extra year of training that enabled him to focus on multiple specialties. Osteopaths learn to manipulate the bones and muscles of a patient to diagnose and treat dysfunction. With his engineering background, Weinberg notes, “I stay more evidence based. My background is a little bit of a hybrid – my residencies and board exams were all allopathy.”

Still, he says his clinic tagline of complete compassionate care for each patient and his effort to get to the root cause of problems rather than treating symptoms is based on his osteopathy training and a “human approach to medicine.”

At his GI clinic, Weinberg performs an unusual procedure called stool transplants, which he uses to re-introduce beneficial bacteria to the GI tract of patients who have developed serious intestinal infections following extended use of antibiotics that kills necessary bacteria.

Weinberg’s concern for health extends to his fellow gastroenterology physicians. In addition to authoring papers about back and musculoskeletal injuries among GIs, he has developed three colonoscope-related mechanisms and methods to help alleviate overuse injuries in doctors who perform thousands of colonoscopies during their career. Though he holds patents for his three inventions, they are not currently in production. He says he hopes to find partners with whom to develop his inventions.

His background as a patent examiner, a job he held for a year

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while applying to medical schools, was very helpful when he applied for his own patents. Since he was very familiar with the process, he says he did not have to hire a patent attorney.

His engineering background has also been instrumental in both his patents and his choice of career.

As an engineering student, he spent one summer working on a Lehigh University grant to develop a wheelchair to lift muscular dystrophy patients to their feet. He says that experience inspired his interest in medicine. So after earning his bachelor's degree in mechanical engineering from Lehigh, he began to take pre-med classes while working as a civilian employee of the Navy refurbishing nuclear submarines and nuclear-powered aircraft carriers. He finished his master's in engineering and his pre-med requirements at the University of Virginia.

When he moved to Pennsylvania to attend medical school at the Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine, he met his wife-to-be. He graduated in 2000 and that same year, Suzanne's

He began to take pre-med classes while working as a civilian employee of the Navy refurbishing nuclear submarines.

brother, Rabbi Dan Levin of Boca Raton, married the couple.

The family moved to Arizona in 2007 for Weinberg's gastrointestinal fellowship at the University of Arizona in Tucson. They intended to return to Florida following the fellowship, but "We fell in love with Arizona and decided to stay." He took a job at a clinic in Gilbert, and after a year and a half decided to open his own practice there. He also moved his mother, Miriam Weinberg, from Connecticut to Arizona and says she, too, quickly fell in love with the state.

The couple belongs to Congregation Beth Israel, where Suzanne is in the sisterhood.

Two years ago the Weinbergs joined Suzanne's family for a trip to Israel. Though Suzanne had visited before, it was the first trip for Weinberg and the young cousins, including Brendan. Fourteen family members spent two weeks in Israel, including time volunteering at an archaeological dig. They found "an oil lamp from 2,000 years ago" that was added to the other artifacts unearthed by the archaeologists. "Looking back in time was wonderful," says Weinberg. He says he was struck both by "how old much of Israel is and at the same time how modern." In Tel Aviv the family passed huge complexes housing high-tech industries.

He says he also enjoyed the religious aspects of the trip, such as visiting the Western Wall in Jerusalem. Visiting Israel's borders also gave him a sense of just how small the country is.

The family has planted roots in Arizona and intends to stay, says Weinberg. With the opening of his second clinic, he is seeking a partner to enable himself to spend more time with family.

He also hopes to spend more time with his music and has built a home studio. In 2011 and 2012 he recorded two songs he wrote. Available on iTunes and other websites, "The Stream" and "Love" feature a full band with whom Weinberg plays acoustic guitar.

"I enjoy being busy and I'm very patient," he says. "If it takes a long time, I just pick away till it gets done."

Noting he still enjoys engineering, he says, "I try to tie all the things I've done together."



A prototype of the colonoscopes de-looping tool for which Dr. Andrew Weinberg holds a patent



Andrew, Suzanne and Brendan Weinberg at the Western Wall in Jerusalem



An oil lamp that the Weinbergs unearthed while volunteering at an archaeology dig in Israel – the lamp is now part of the artifacts collection from the dig.



Toni Robinson joins Temple Solel as executive director

When Toni Robinson was thinking about places she'd like to retire, Scottsdale was one of the top three. She had already often vacationed here and loved the golf courses, the restaurants, the shopping. So when she found out there was a job opening at Temple Solel in Scottsdale, she immediately made a phone call.

"I was the executive director of Congregation Beth Israel in West Hartford, CT, and the idea of not having to shovel snow may have

propelled me to make that call," she says. "I'm not at all ready to retire now, but wanted to be in a place where I felt comfortable and already had a network of friends for when that time comes."

Toni started at Temple Solel in Paradise Valley in September and is very impressed with the cohesive and dedicated staff members, clergy, lay leaders and membership. As executive director, she deals mostly with the business aspects of running the Reform congregation: facilities, supplies, vendors, budget and finances. She is also helping to oversee the ongoing solar project, which will enable the temple to "go green." In addition, she is plugged into the many committees and the work they do at Temple Solel. Toni says if she had one wish it would be to provide a "pathway to membership for the currently unaffiliated."

templesolel.org



Eileen Warshaw, Ph.D., retires from Jewish History Museum

Dr. Eileen Warshaw, executive director of Tucson's Jewish History Museum and the Holocaust History Center, retired at the end of January. Warshaw took over as executive director of the Historic Stone Avenue Temple Project in 2004, completing the restoration of the first Jewish house of worship in Arizona.

The work to save the building had been started by volunteers in 1998 when the nonprofit Stone Avenue Temple was formed. In 2007 Warshaw helped to merge the Stone Avenue Temple nonprofit with the Jewish Historical Society of Southern Arizona, forming the Jewish History Museum. She also was instrumental in creating Arizona's first Holocaust museum, the Holocaust History Center, in partnership with the Jewish Federation of Southern Arizona's Holocaust Education and Commemoration Project. It opened Oct. 20, 2013, in a restored 1880s house next door to the Jewish History Museum.

In 2010 USA Today named Tucson's Jewish History Museum one of the best places in the United States to learn about American Jewish history. In 2013 the museum was named the nation's fifth-best western history museum by True West Magazine.

Warshaw has also helped to restore synagogues and other houses

of worship in Ireland, Haiti, Cuba, Germany, Spain and Africa as well as South Beach, FL; Asheville, NC; and Mason City, IA. Her work has included establishing Jewish history and Holocaust museums in Ireland and Germany and three historic preservation societies in the United States.

The Jewish History Museum has presented a variety of exhibits on Jewish life in the Southwest, as well as hosting lectures and an annual Jewish storytelling festival. Its annual exhibition of wedding gowns and ketubot (Jewish marriage contracts) has featured artifacts on loan from museums around the world.

A published author, Warshaw has contributed numerous articles to Arizona Jewish Life and other Jewish history and preservation publications around the world.

jewishhistorymuseum.org



Foundation Development Director Roberta Scharf retires

After seven years as director of development for the Jewish Community Foundation of Greater Phoenix, Roberta Scharf has retired. Her stint with the foundation was a fulfilling time for her. Roberta says, "I'm most proud of the relationships I was able to build." She found joy

in being able to help funders achieve their goals. "I've been told I'm a patient listener," she remarks, "and that's really what it takes to work in this field. I so enjoyed being able to match a funder with a cause." Roberta and her husband, Rabbi Marty Scharf, are planning two exciting trips in the next few months. The first is a cruise through the Panama Canal. Then, in celebration of their 45th wedding anniversary, they will take the Queen Mary to England and back. "Marty and I honeymooned in England, so we thought it would be great fun to go back, and I'm not much on flying."

Roberta plans to stay busy after her excursions. "I've always envied the people who get to take daytime classes and study groups here at the JCC," she says. "I'm also going to walk a lot and," she adds with a grin, "I get to play mah jongg!" Roberta also plans to help the foundation with its annual fall Tax and Legal Seminar, which provides information to 250-300 professionals in the field each year.

jcphoenix.org



Bill Straus retires as head of Arizona ADL

Bill Straus completed nearly 13 years as executive director of the Arizona office of the Anti-Defamation League before retiring Dec. 31. A Phoenix native, Bill's knowledge of

the issues and his personal relationships with individuals involved in Arizona political and social action agendas made him a perfect fit for the position. Prior to his time with ADL, Bill was a local radio talk show host and had appeared on stage at the Phoenix (Little) Theatre. When he began working with ADL, he spent about 15% of his time doing fund-raising. With the changes in the economy, he found that the percentage increased to nearly 80%.

A search is under way for a new executive director. Bill will be staying on with ADL until May to help the new director make a smooth transition into the position. ADL has been in the Valley for more than 30 years, and the national organization just celebrated its 100th anniversary.

adl.org



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

Buffalo Collection:

A beautiful labor of love

By Carine Nadel



Michael and Laura Levenberg love helping clients create one-of-a-kind buffalo leather furniture in their showroom. The couple just celebrated the second anniversary of their business in downtown Scottsdale. Photo by Tina Celle

For Michael Levenberg, owner of The Buffalo Collection furniture store in Scottsdale, creating a business line that is environmentally correct, beautiful and “made in America” is a dream come true.

“My wife, Laura, and I are thrilled to say that we just celebrated our (business) second anniversary. It’s been a lot of hard work, but we’re growing! We’re finding that our heirloom-quality, custom pieces are finding their way not only throughout Arizona, but all over the country and even overseas!”

Levenberg wants everyone to know that the company originated in Colorado when the founder, Julie Littlefield, a retired botanist, bought a ranch with the intention of bringing back a native grass that needed the help of a herd of 300 bison. The grass came back, the herd thrived and she needed to find a way to thin the herd back to the original number of 300. At first she found that bison meat wasn’t really finding its way into everyday use and started an organic mail-order business. And she used the hides to create furniture for the ranch. Everyone who visited wanted to know how they could buy the pieces – and that’s how she fell into creating handmade furniture of all kinds as a business. That was 15 years ago.

Buffalo (American bison) hide is thicker and more supple than cowhide and is therefore 40% stronger. “We are very exclusive. Our pieces use all reclaimed/fallen-tree hardwoods, hand-tied eight-way springs and come with a 100-year guarantee,” says Levenberg. “We don’t make a thousand pieces of something. There’s one. More often than not, those that visit our store ask us to create something by telling what they love about the pieces they see on the floor. They are built to order. There are not only chairs, sofas, ottomans and other upholstered pieces available, we also have wood lamps and tables and other accessories as well,” says Levenberg.

“We don’t make a thousand pieces of something. There’s one.”

—Michael Levenberg

The couple has high hopes for the growth of the business. Levenberg says they’ve been very successful in reaching out to community designers, architects and commercial property owners and have been able to help several restaurants and hotels give their places that special Buffalo Collection look. Levenberg says they also hope that once their business is well established, they will be able to take time away from the business to be more involved in community. “Our dream is ... we will be truly able to find our place in the Jewish community that so wonderfully surrounds us,” says Levenberg.

Michael studied fine arts with an emphasis in art history at Arizona State University and worked in art galleries across the country. “This was a major influence and provided me with many design inspirations combined with my own creativity,” he explains. Laura worked with her aunt’s interior design business in Michigan and is responsible for creating the vignettes in their showroom. The couple is thrilled to be welcomed “home” to Arizona after a 25-year absence.

“We love meeting interesting people and assisting them in designing the right pieces for their taste and their home, which is the way it should be,” says Levenberg. He adds that this means people don’t have to settle for what’s available – they can have exactly what they want.

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The 10 Critical Issues When Leasing or Buying Commercial Real Estate

By Stephen Cross, CCIM

During my 30 years in the commercial real estate business, I've seen numerous roadblocks and obstacles business owners face when leasing or buying commercial real estate.

Major real estate decisions are typically made every three to five years, which is the length of most commercial leases, so most tenants are not familiar with current market conditions. Databases with up-to-date and reliable information detailing commercial vacancies are not readily available to the public. So where do you start the process? Here are some practical guidelines for business owners to consider when leasing or buying commercial real estate.

1. Commercial real estate is an adversarial process:

Real estate agents who list properties work for landlords or developers, whose goals, wants and needs are the opposite of yours. As de facto employees of property owners, listing agents have a fiduciary duty to protect the interests of their clients. This applies equally to property managers, who are the day-to-day eyes and ears of the landlord. Be aware of the motivations of friends and friendly agents.

2. Never pay the asking price: "Asking price" is to commercial real estate what "sticker price" is to automobiles – merely the negotiation's starting point. The real questions are: "How low can the price go?" and "What incentives and concessions can the tenant or buyer reasonably negotiate?"

3. Cast a wide net: Making fully informed decisions begins with knowledge about every suitable space available, regardless of who lists them, and which property owners have the most urgent needs to sell or lease. Don't be influenced by agents who limit your choices to just their listings and use soft words such as "remarkable," "exciting," "awesome" and "amazing" to describe commercial property. Make your decisions based on the five C's: condition, concessions, comparables, convenience and (overall) cost.

4. Mum's the word: Refrain from discussing your real estate needs and the properties being considered with anyone not directly involved in your decision-making group. The less the landlord, its agents and property managers know about your circumstances and feelings the better off you will be. Generally, it's the seemingly innocent, innocuous disclosures that adversely affect your negotiating leverage the most.

5. Play hard-to-get: Property owners routinely negotiate with multiple tenants or buyers on the same space or property. Therefore, you should identify several suitable properties and simultaneously conduct good-faith negotiations on each. Let each listing agent know you have several viable choices. Nothing whets their appetite more than the prospect of losing your revenue. Remember, when negotiating for anything, perception is reality.

6. Don't overpay for "free" advice: Real estate transactions typically generate commissions that are split between the agents representing each party. Even though the property owner writes the commission check, it's the tenant or buyer who ultimately pays the tab. Be certain you get value from your side of the commission by selecting an experienced, independent and unbiased representative – someone who works exclusively for you. After all, you're paying for it.

7. Beware of undisclosed conflicts of interest: Many agents do their best to persuade tenants and buyers that one agent, or multiple agents from the same company, can effectively represent the interests of both parties in the same transaction. This practice is known as a "dual agency" and *always* favors the property owner ... and the agent who collects both sides of the commission.

8. Reduce it to writing: By "it" I mean every discussion, agreement, verbal promise, representation and warranty. Listing agents and property owners have been known to have selective amnesia after a contract is signed. Make certain everything of importance is included in the lease or purchase document.

9. Use caution when outsourcing: When interviewing potential advisors, discuss possible conflicts of interest and ask for the qualifications of the people who will do the actual work. Allowing your search and negotiations to be delegated to a junior member of a team or used as on-the-job training for a freshly minted associate could cost you thousands of dollars in additional rent and operating costs over the lease term.

10. Choose your advisor carefully: Your choice of advisors determines which properties you are shown and how much you will pay. Agents for property owners focus on getting the highest prices. But your goal is to pay the lowest amount possible. Seek out an expert with significant experience in solving *your* problems. Select an advisor with the CCIM designation, the gold standard of certifications in the commercial real estate industry. While there are numerous other "alphabet soup" designations, none require the level of competency, experience, education and ethical standards of a CCIM (Certified Commercial Investment Member).

Closing Observations: Leasing or buying commercial real estate can be hazardous to your *wealth* – so plan ahead, stay within your budget, make objective decisions, ask questions until you have a thorough understanding of all ramifications and hire an advisor who will protect your interests and those of your business.

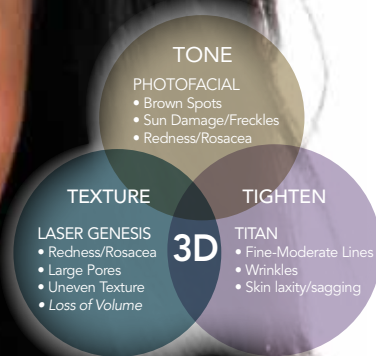


Stephen A. Cross is the owner of CROSS Commercial Realty Advisors in Scottsdale, Arizona. Mr. Cross represents business owners, healthcare professionals, corporate executives, organizations and municipalities in the lease and purchase of commercial real estate. Please contact him at 480-998-7998 or steve@crossrealty.com.

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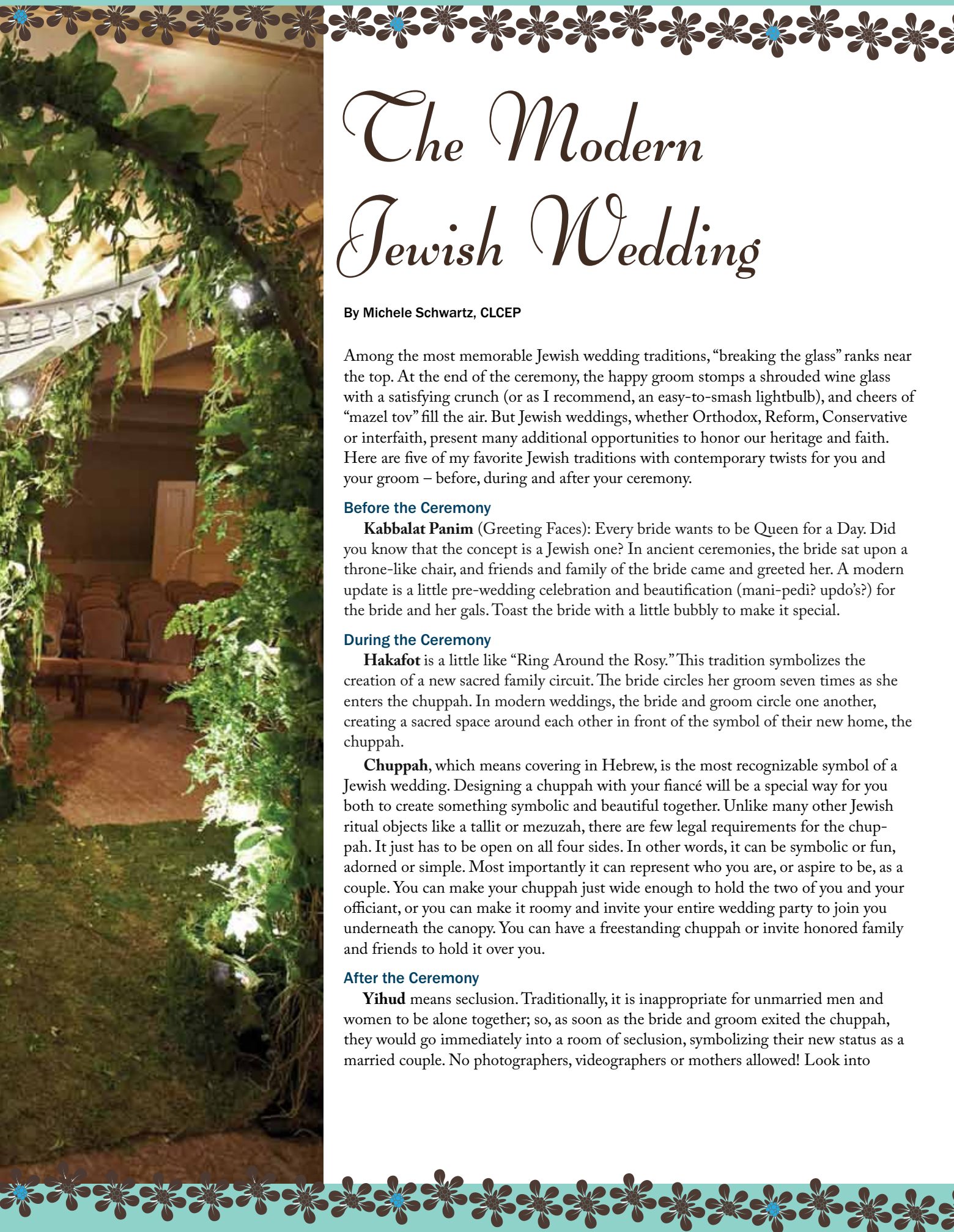
“I am my beloved’s and my beloved is mine.”

— Song of Solomon 6:3

Inside:

- Modern Jewish Wedding
- Where to say “I do”
- Stories of marriage
- Second chance at love
- Couples Soundbites
- Historic wedding gowns
- Are you my beshert?
- Enhance the real you





The Modern Jewish Wedding

By Michele Schwartz, CLCEP

Among the most memorable Jewish wedding traditions, “breaking the glass” ranks near the top. At the end of the ceremony, the happy groom stomps a shrouded wine glass with a satisfying crunch (or as I recommend, an easy-to-smash lightbulb), and cheers of “mazel tov” fill the air. But Jewish weddings, whether Orthodox, Reform, Conservative or interfaith, present many additional opportunities to honor our heritage and faith. Here are five of my favorite Jewish traditions with contemporary twists for you and your groom – before, during and after your ceremony.

Before the Ceremony

Kabbalat Panim (Greeting Faces): Every bride wants to be Queen for a Day. Did you know that the concept is a Jewish one? In ancient ceremonies, the bride sat upon a throne-like chair, and friends and family of the bride came and greeted her. A modern update is a little pre-wedding celebration and beautification (mani-pedi? updo’s?) for the bride and her gals. Toast the bride with a little bubbly to make it special.

During the Ceremony

Hakafot is a little like “Ring Around the Rosy.” This tradition symbolizes the creation of a new sacred family circuit. The bride circles her groom seven times as she enters the chuppah. In modern weddings, the bride and groom circle one another, creating a sacred space around each other in front of the symbol of their new home, the chuppah.

Chuppah, which means covering in Hebrew, is the most recognizable symbol of a Jewish wedding. Designing a chuppah with your fiancé will be a special way for you both to create something symbolic and beautiful together. Unlike many other Jewish ritual objects like a tallit or mezuzah, there are few legal requirements for the chuppah. It just has to be open on all four sides. In other words, it can be symbolic or fun, adorned or simple. Most importantly it can represent who you are, or aspire to be, as a couple. You can make your chuppah just wide enough to hold the two of you and your officiant, or you can make it roomy and invite your entire wedding party to join you underneath the canopy. You can have a freestanding chuppah or invite honored family and friends to hold it over you.

After the Ceremony

Yihud means seclusion. Traditionally, it is inappropriate for unmarried men and women to be alone together; so, as soon as the bride and groom exited the chuppah, they would go immediately into a room of seclusion, symbolizing their new status as a married couple. No photographers, videographers or mothers allowed! Look into

Weddings



one another's eyes, take a deep breath and pause, reveling in the moment. Also consider enjoying some of the food and drinks you won't have time to enjoy once you join your reception, which will already be in full swing when you walk through the doors.

Finally, an important part of the wedding ceremony is the recitation of the **Sheva Brachot** (the seven blessings). In very traditional families the wedding reception is ended with the same recitation of the seven blessings before the departure of the bride and groom. Rather than chant the traditional seven blessings for a second time, have guests give their own verbal blessings to the wedding couple. The blessing I remember the most from this tradition at my wedding: "May you always be happier than you are right now!"

Michele Schwartz is founder and editor of The Modern Jewish Wedding and an event planner in Austin, Texas. She was a 2013 ESPRIT Award Finalist-Best Social Event.



PHOTO BY MARK GLUCKMAN

Breaking the Glass—Then What?

After the glass is broken don't throw away those shards. Instead, have your trusted wedding planner collect them and use them to create a mezuzah for your new home or bedroom door. There are a number of beautiful, modern mezuzot that will complement your style or décor. Just Google "broken wedding glass mezuzah" or "wedding glass keepsakes" for a variety of options.

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Where will you say "I Do?"



Poolside at the Hilton

By Deborah Moon

After you say "Yes!" comes your next big decision: where to say "I do."

But before you can decide where you and your fiancé/fiancée want to celebrate your union, you have a lot of questions to consider. How many guests will you have? What is your budget? Will the ceremony be at your synagogue? Will the wedding and reception be at the same place? If not, how easy will it be for guests to transfer between them? Do you want an elegant or casual setting? Does it have a setting for photos that complements your style?

What about food? Do you want/need your reception to be kosher, vegetarian or gluten-free? Does your venue have its own or preferred caterers? Can liquor be served?

Do you want a site that has everything you need? Or do you want to bring all the elements together yourself or with the aid of a wedding planner?

There is so much to decide before you choose the venue that is just right – the one that lets you bring it all to life on your special day. When you're ready to start looking, Arizona offers a breathtakingly diverse array of venues. Here are just a few that might have the right answers to all your questions:

The Hilton Scottsdale Resort

& Villas' culinary team can create a menu for a formal plated dinner, cocktail hour or bountiful buffet spread – all with kosher options available from the on-site kosher kitchen.

"Our chef is willing to work with budgets; we can customize a menu for the event, or couples can select from our diverse wedding menu, i.e., plated, buffet,

as well as stations," says Catering Sales Manager Leslie Kohler. "We also allow outside catering for religious purposes."

Located in the heart of Scottsdale, the Hilton can assist with special themes, décor, floral arrangements, props, linens and entertainment.

Settings available for the wedding ceremony include the Kiva Patio, poolside, Baja or Sierra Loggia Patio, or the Pavilion. The resort's three ballrooms – Grand, Sonora and Pavilion – range in size from 4,600 to 10,000 square feet, but



Phoenix Zoo

can be modified to the appropriate size for the attendees to feel comfortable, says Kohler.

One highlight of weddings at **The Phoenix Zoo** is the option for a fun atmosphere for photographs. Animal exhibits such as those featuring giraffes and zebras, as well as the lush tropical or desert savannah settings are popular backdrops for couples' photos, says Linda Hardwick, director of communications for the zoo. Zoo staff will also arrange animal encounters including falcon, owl or hedgehog for photos or the reception.

The zoo offers a variety of spaces to host weddings and receptions of varied size, all with bar options available. All

kinds of menus are available from the in-house and preferred caterers, who know the procedures for preparing food near animal exhibits.

Concern and love for animals is one reason couples chose the zoo for their wedding, says Hardwick. "Sometimes they had their first date or got engaged here, or both have a passion for animals."

Created as a couples' desert getaway in 1929, the **Royal Palms Resort and Spa** offers a variety of distinctive indoor and outdoor venues that can accommodate anywhere from two to 180 guests. The diverse settings at Royal Palms are designed to complement the style of couples' individual vision and needs.

Royal Palms is a Mediterranean-inspired resort with a strong sense of history, character and place, explains Catering Manager Jessica Vallone. The resort is an indoor-outdoor collage of intimate vignettes, lush gardens, private nooks and residential-inspired detailing around every corner.

Royal Palms' renowned culinary team crafts award-winning cuisine and is happy to customize menus.

"Royal Palms prides itself on its distinctive, individualized style of guest service," says Vallone. "This translates to more authentic wedding experiences – from the planning to the execution – with events tailored to guests' desires, from recommending special vendors to kosher dining needs for select guests," she adds.

Superstition Mountain Golf and Country Club "is a destination inside of a Phoenician's backyard. We have stunning sunsets and views and a clubhouse that offers a warm, intimate, Tuscan feel," according to Bernadette

Contreras, the country club's wedding coordinator.

Superstition Mountain can accommodate weddings of up to 300 guests, with variety of indoor spaces that will hold 16 to 120 guests.

"Although we have wedding packages, I encourage couples to customize things to suit both their budgets and needs," says Contreras. "I will work with couples one on one from the initial visit to get an idea of their vision and to help them customize their day so that it fits their budget and dream.

"For couples focused on maintaining traditions, we have separate bridal and groom changing rooms to uphold the tradition of the groom not seeing the bride until she joins him at the altar," says Contreras.

The Tucson Jewish Community Center has indoor and outdoor settings for both a ceremony and reception. The 98,000-square-foot facility built in 1989 is situated in a beautiful foothills location.

We also have spaces for large and small weddings, and our price points are very affordable, says Shelley Fitzgerald, rentals event coordinator.

"The JCC has a wonderfully warm and friendly atmosphere," says Fitzgerald. "Our spaces are very versatile, and clients can transform the venue into the setting that is perfect for their own tastes.

"The JCC is the perfect wedding venue for couples who have no direct relation to a synagogue," but who want a Jewish backdrop for their special day. Fitzgerald says, "The JCC is also a great facility for couples of all faiths. Our main goal is to make sure each client has the best experience on their special day."

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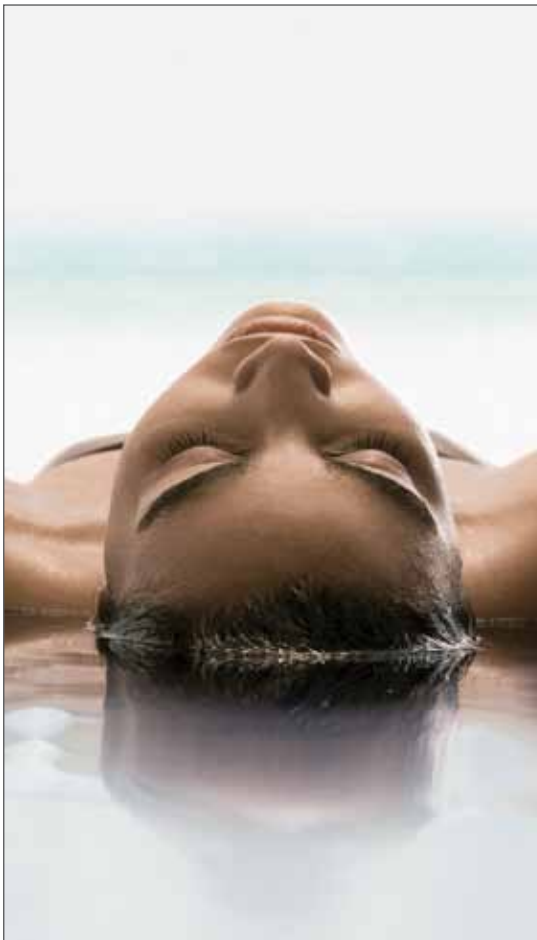
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Every marriage has a special story

By Masada Siegel

The Greek dramatist Aeschylus is famously quoted as saying, “Marriage is a three-ring circus: engagement ring, wedding ring and suffering.” However, from ancient times to today, people keep falling in love and pledging to spend their lives together, regardless of the challenges married couples face.

In celebration of marriage here are three couples, each with their own special stories.

Judy and Marty Solomon

It was the summer of 1962, and a chance meeting changed Judy Kurzer’s world forever. Her future husband, Marty Solomon, did not show up on a white horse, rather in a 1962 burgundy-red Oldsmobile Starfire convertible.

“Marty and my cousin ‘Koooney’ stopped in Phoenix to visit his sister and her family, who had just moved to Phoenix,” says Judy. “One Sunday morning when I was just home from a BBG all-night party, I had just fallen asleep when my 6-year-old sister woke me up with, ‘Judy, Mom says you have to get up! Our cousin is here from New York with his friend, and they are real creeps!’”

It was perhaps not the introduction Marty wished for, but lucky for him Judy did not feel the same as her little sister and saw Marty every day of the week he was in Phoenix. After Marty and Koooney visited Las Vegas and California they returned to Phoenix for another week.

“It was just like a teen romance in the movies,” says Judy, noting that after he returned home they wrote each other often. “He told me his folks wanted to come to Phoenix at Christmas time to see his sister, Harriet Goldhagen, and her family, and he was planning to come out with them. In his next letter, he said they would not be able to make it at that time, but he was going to drive out here with another friend! In his next letter he said he was moving to Phoenix,” Judy exclaims.

They married when Judy was almost 19, two days after she graduated from dental-assistant school so she could help support



Judy and Marty Solomon with daughter Dani



David and Leslie Caplan

20-year-old Marty while he attended law school. They continued working hard so they could accomplish their dreams of having a family.

After being married for 10 years, they adopted a beautiful baby girl in 1974.

“As it turned out our baby, Ilana Michelle, had a genetic disease that caused her to be deaf, developmentally delayed and with a seizure disorder. We didn’t get her full diagnosis until she was 18 months old. Raising her was, to put it mildly, extremely challenging,” Judy says. When Ilana was 11, they found a school where she could excel – ADTEC, a program for multi-challenged children at the AZ School for the Deaf and Blind in Tucson. Ilana’s sign language grew tremendously and she learned living skills.

More than a decade later, the Solomon’s adopted another baby, Danielle Rose.

Tragically Ilana died when Danielle Rose was a freshman in high school. The family was devastated, but pulled together helping one another cope.

“Now, 12 years later, we are all doing well. Dani is in Israel at IDC getting her master’s degree in Counter Terrorism and Homeland Security. And

this June we will be married 50 years. Where did the time go?” Judy wonders.

Leslie and David Caplan

Leslie and David Caplan have been married for more than 20 years. They met at work in Annapolis, MD. While they had many things in common, religion was not one of them.

Leslie explains, “I was raised a Catholic and David is a Reform Jew. I am not, and wasn’t at the time we dated, a practicing Catholic. When we were dating and it was obvious that we were going to become engaged/married, we discussed having children and what religion we would raise them. I was fine with raising them as Reform Jews, as this was important to David and his parents.”

The Caplans celebrate Christmas (as far as putting up lights and a tree) as well as celebrating the Jewish holidays – lighting the menorah, attending services during the High Holy Days and celebrating Passover with friends and family. They also periodically attend regular Friday night services.

Their one daughter, Alexandra, who is now 20 years old, was raised in the Jewish faith and became a bat mitzvah.

“There is no one best thing about our marriage, as there are so many layers to one’s marriage. David and I are very compatible and get along quite well. We both have similar interests. We are foster parents for animal rescues and have been doing fostering since 1997. We currently have two foster puppies and one kitten. Sports, travel, spending time with family and friends, hiking, whitewater rafting and visiting Arizona landmarks are some of our interests.

“It’s important to really know your partner before committing to marriage,” Leslie says. “If religion is a big part of it, iron out any differences you might have. Make sure that the two of you have common interests, whether it is traveling, sports, reading, the love of the outdoors, similar music interests. Our advice for interfaith couples is to discuss your religious differences before you get married. Make sure you are on board with how you will raise your children, should you have any. Don’t wait until after you’re married to discuss this important topic. Also, if your parents are not familiar with the religion of your soon-to-be spouse, invite them to attend services. Ask them if they have any questions about that religion. Make sure that you both are on board with how you will celebrate all the religious holidays.”

“Marriage should be a life-long commitment and shouldn’t be entered into on a whim,” says Leslie. “Having a marriage partner that you love and trust and have fun with is a wonderful thing!”

Rabbi Michael Latz and Michael Simon

Minnesota Rabbi Michael Latz is charismatic, charming and filled with personality, so much so that he often travels to perform weddings, as he did last year for a couple in Scottsdale. He understands the importance of what a wedding means to a couple in love, even though his own marriage was not recognized as legal until recently.

In 2006 Rabbi Michael met his soul mate, Michael Simon, from Toronto on the now defunct website, Gayjews.net. This was back in the day when J-date did not provide resources for gay Jewish singles to meet online.



Michael Simon and Rabbi Michael Latz walk down the aisle to the chuppah with their daughters.

Michael Simon explains, “Rabbi Michael initially sent me a note on the website because he liked my profile, not really thinking anything would come of it, because I lived in Toronto and he lived in Seattle.”

However, after corresponding for six months, they met face to face. They quickly knew they were meant to be with one another. However, since Rabbi Michael has two daughters, he proceeded cautiously.

Michael Simon explains, “In Canada gay people have the same rights as straight people, so this relationship needed to be solid if I was going to live in a country that did not provide me and my relationship with

the same rights as everyone else.”

Rabbi Michael and Michael Simon married in a beautiful ceremony in Toronto, Canada, in June of 2012, not knowing that a whirlwind was soon to take place in the USA regarding gay rights, even though they were actively involved in promoting equal marriage rights for all.

On Aug. 1, 2013, Minnesota signed into law marriage equality, and it completely changed the world for the Simon-Latz family. Their activism has changed the course of history, as well as earning them an invitation to the White House Hanukkah party in December 2013.

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A second chance at love

Widowed or divorced, a new love can bring renewed joy

By Ellen Gerst

Is love sweeter the second time around? It may or may not be as sweet as first love, but it's certainly just as beautiful, as well as wiser.

After losing a partner, it's easy to close off your heart to shield yourself from further pain, though you also deny yourself the absolute joy of experiencing the deliciousness and excitement of new love. Each individual must decide whether it's better to feel safe, albeit alone, or to take a risk on new love. Following are three stories of couples who took the leap and have found renewed joy in a partnership the second time around.

Jay and Alison Bigman

Jay Bigman has always been a romantic at heart. When he met his first wife at a conference, they lived in different states. In a leap of faith and against the advice of family and friends, he quit his job in the Midwest and moved south to pursue her. They married and had two boys. However, after 25 years, Jay missed the romance they once shared. For him, the spark had been doused by complacency, the bane of many relationships. Despite counseling, they couldn't reignite the flame that once burned bright.

But Jay thrives in a relationship, and he wanted to be with a woman who made his heart sing every day. Not long after his divorce, he met Alison via Match.com, and they married within six months. A little quick for some, but Jay let his heart lead him again, and it didn't steer him wrong. Alison and Jay just celebrated their six-year anniversary this past December.

Despite the baggage that Jay and Alison

toted into their new relationship, including aging parents, exes, children and issues from childhood, Jay vows not to let his second marriage follow the same course as his first.

One of the most challenging aspects of this relationship, and one that many couples experience, is blending their families. Each spouse has different ideas on the "right" way to raise children: he's stricter and she's more lenient. The bottom line is that the stepparent usually takes a subordinate role when final

decisions are reached. It's easy to get caught up in the difficulties rather than staying focused on all the good things in your union.

To keep the home fires burning this time around, Jay hones in on the laughter and joy Alison brings to his life. He has also learned to show Alison how he loves her in a way that she recognizes versus simply loving her in the manner that makes him comfortable.

One way Alison lets Jay know how much she cherishes the time they spend together is by preparing an artistic chronicle of each year. As Jay fondly looks upon this presentation, he is reminded daily of all the reasons he loves his wife.

Trudie Camponovo-Barrow and Doug Barrow

Many widows/widowers believe they've already had their "chance" at true love, and it's not in the cards for them to experience it again. Reconciling this thought is part of the process of readjusting the picture of a late spouse and letting go of the preconceived notion (and associated guilt) that there is only one possible romantic partner for each of us. To feel you will never have another opportunity to be in love again is simply putting limitations on what you can want and have. In truth, there are no limits on how many times a person can find love.

Trudie Camponovo-Barrow knows this well. She lost her beloved first husband, Rick, 14 years ago to cancer. Despite Rick's urging for Trudie to seek new love after his demise, she was very content to lead a quiet life raising her two children. However, after three years of widowhood, she began to feel lonely. Even so, if a friend hadn't pushed her to



Trudie and Doug Barrow

attend a Jewish singles party, she wouldn't have met her current husband. The moment she entered the room, she spied Doug. They dated for two years and were engaged for two more.

Doug's younger children, 3 and 7, and Trudie's teenagers, made the mix a bit more complicated than if it had been just the two of them. Trudie had practically finished her day-to-day child-rearing duties. Shared custody with an ex-wife and a minimum of drama made the transition easier, though.

Trudie and Doug are still very much in love after almost 11 years of marriage. They fulfill each other's current needs, and it's a union sans arguments and jockeying for position. Moreover, it's filled with caring support and the knowledge that love can



Jay and Alison Bigman

be snatched away in a minute. Consequently, this couple relishes every moment as it appears.

Although Doug will never replace Rick in Trudie's heart, he has his own place there. The heart is an expansive organ and will stretch to let in new residents without kicking out the old ones.

Ellen and Martin Gerst

Over 18 years ago, I, too, lost my first husband. When I was a young widow of six years, I decided that it was time to look for love again. I dated furiously via the internet for 11 months. It became my full-time job, replete with an Excel database of the men I met. When this frenetic pace became tiresome, I knew I was ready for "the one" to find me. And find me he did.



Ellen and Martin Gerst

Martin, then divorced for several years, also explored online dating. He happened upon my J-Date profile many months before contacting me. Having a highly intuitive nature – and call it destiny or beshert – he knew I was the one for him. He also realized that I wasn't prepared to meet him yet. He was right; I was just starting the dating process and wasn't ready to settle down. He looked at my profile periodically for the next six months. One day, he knew it was the time to strike.

From his email query and profile, he didn't seem to fulfill many of the requirements on my wish list. Our first meeting occurred through a comedy of errors. Between missed and not returned phone calls, I ended up waiting in the dark parking lot of a Starbucks for a half hour for a guy I wasn't even sure I wanted to meet.

After some initial awkwardness, we ended up talking for two hours. Although it was enjoyable, I did not hear any bells or whistles. I consented to a second date, and we had a wonderful time full of laughter and good cheer. We continued to see each other, talk on the phone and email quite often. Each time I saw him, he became more and more attractive to me until I thought him the most adorable, sweetest, nicest man I had ever met. Over the next couple of months, we forged a relationship built on mutual values, respect and admiration. We married on the anniversary of our first date and celebrated 10 years of happy marriage this past fall.

I had a great first marriage, so I was attuned to how to have a healthy relationship. It was an adjustment, though, to learn how to live with someone again after being single for seven years. Furthermore, we both work at home, so we spend an inordinate amount of time together. We've learned to respect each other's boundaries during "office hours," yet we still have plenty of time to commune when we take breaks or eat meals. It's not for everyone, but it works well for us.

Blending our families was not an issue for us. By the time we married, mine were in college and Martin's lived mostly with their mother. All four kids were very accepting of the marriage, and this, too, made the transition easier.

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Whether it's by divorce or by death, experiencing the loss of a partner helps you to understand what is most important in life. These couples learned that love is a rare and precious jewel that must be polished every day to continue to shine. When given a second chance, they're not taking anything for granted. Each loves to the fullest extent every day, and this makes every day a good one!

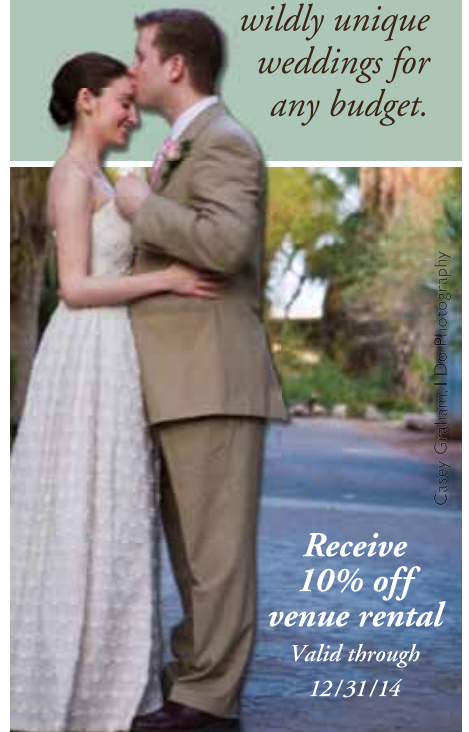
Ellen Gerst is a relationship coach, author and workshop leader. Visit [LNGerst.com](http://LNGerst.com). To ask Ellen a question to be answered in a future column, email her at [LNGerst@LNGerst.com](mailto:LNGerst@LNGerst.com).



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In 1982, I was a camp counselor at the Catskill's Raleigh Hotel. One day, a smiling, angelic, child poured a bowl of soup over another boy's head. I took the "angel" to find his parents, but they were off-site and unreachable (no cell phones). So, we found his sister. In 2014, the sister and I are still together ... and the boy is a New York City Police Officer.

### Doug and Rachel Passon

*Congregation Or Chadash of the NE Valley*

*Scottsdale*

Rachel and I met in 1996 and it was love at first sight. I figured a huge catch deserved a huge proposal, so I decided to "go big" and pop the question onstage at the Herberger Theater at a sold out Arizona Jewish Theatre Company performance of "Fiddler on the Roof." Rachel was in the cast, and I was lucky to have help from the best matchmaker around, Yenta, aka Janet Arnold, who helped me pull off the whole terrifying affair.



### Becky and Martin Schulman

*Board Member Secular Humanist Jewish Circle  
Tucson*

### Bill and Trudi Adler

*Congregation Beth Israel*

*Scottsdale*

The first day I met Trudi I said, "Someday you will either be my wife or my biggest problem." Hearing no objection, eight months later we were married. She always claimed I never officially proposed. At her retirement luncheon, 33 years later, I told the 140 in attendance that story, then got down on one knee, asked her, for the first time, to marry me. She said "yes." We stood under a chuppah to restate our vows.

Married August 15, 1965

1964: Friends suggested that I, new to Tucson, attend High Holiday services at a congregation nearby. Marty was there. Two years earlier on a trip through Tucson I had met him; I had a date with his best friend. At services I said, "Hi, I'm Becky. I met you two years ago when I had a date with Mort. Remember?" He admitted he didn't, but said he'd call. He did...

## NEXT MONTH

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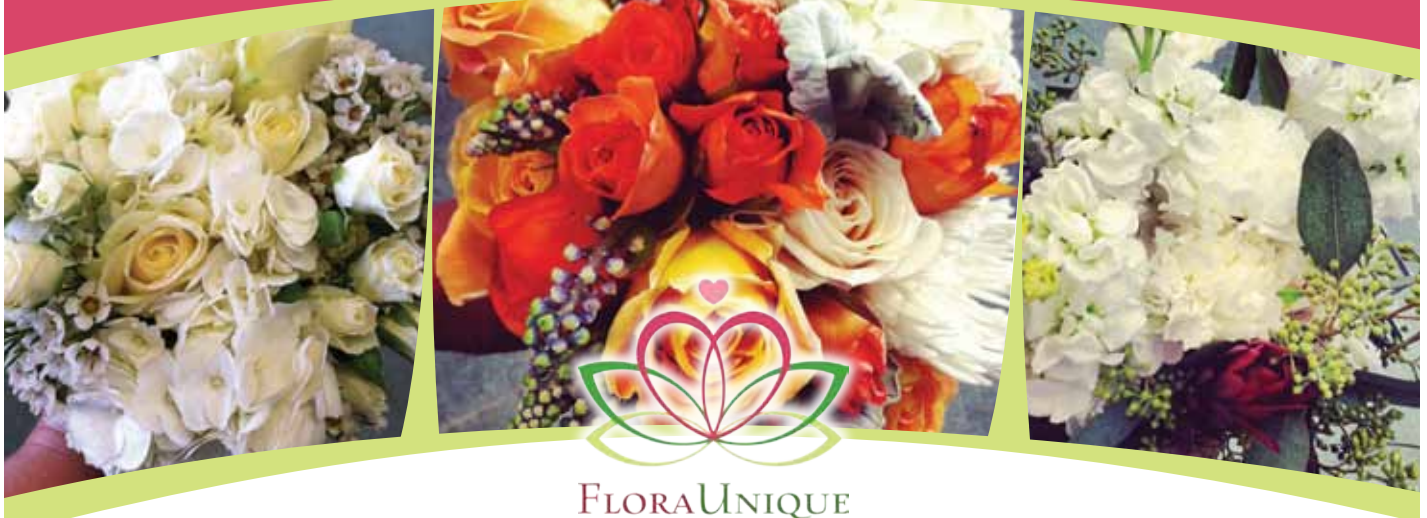
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## Museum exhibit shows variety of Jewish wedding gowns

By Eileen Warshaw  
Photo by Athol Cline

The Jewish History Museum celebrated its sixth anniversary with the museum's traditional start to a new year, the opening of the annual ketubah and antique wedding gown exhibit.

The annual event opened with 13 models wearing gowns dating to the turn of the 20th century. The gowns, gathered from across the United States on loan to the Jewish History Museum, have one thing in common – they were all worn in a Jewish wedding ceremony.

In addition to the modeled gowns, the exhibit includes eight other gowns that are much too fragile to wear, the oldest of which dates to the 1590s. Along with the gowns on display are ketubot (Jewish marriage contracts) and the story of each wedding couple, all unique in their own right.

One of the oldest gowns on exhibit is the gold gown worn by Cordelia Perrine as she married Jacob Kaestner in Idaho in 1868. Cordelia and her sister Helena were Russian immigrants who were converts to the Jewish faith. It is possible that the women immigrated as “mail-order” brides, as so many of the women who immigrated to the northern frontier did in that era.

Descendants of the women have heard family legends over the years about their ancestors “falling in love at the stage stop,” but never asked the questions to learn what originally brought the two single sisters to the frontier in the wild 1860s.

The favorite of the style show was a bright red 1920s flapper gown, worn on April 25, 1920, by Emily Sampliner as she married Rankin Kahn at the Del Coronado Hotel in San Diego. Emily has been described as an “independent freethinker, who did not follow traditional paths in life.” A fierce supporter of a woman's right to vote, Emily took time out from her suffragette work to marry, only because the “battle was won.” Ratification of the 19th amendment was assured, and indeed passed in August 1920, just four months after her wedding day. A lifelong member of the International Alliance of Women for Suffrage and Equal Citizenship, Emily would champion women's rights her entire life, while raising three independent-thinking daughters.

This year the exhibit also includes a mother-of-the-bride gown: an exquisite full-length gown custom-made for Mrs. Annie Rosinsky to wear at her daughter Bella's wedding in 1934. The creation is a work of art with thousands of gold glass beads and sequins meticulously hand-sewn to the garment. The gown is too fragile to have been worn in the style show and much too heavy. The gold-beaded gown weighs in at a hefty 42



pounds. Bella's wedding gown is also in the exhibit. The liquid satin gown features an amazing 14-foot satin train, which is detachable so that Bella could dance with her new husband, Dr. Irving Feigenbaum.

There are more traditional white wedding gowns in the exhibit as well. Among them is a gown worn in 1922 in Buenos Aires, Argentina. Included with the gown are the couple's two wedding documents, both signed by the same rabbi. One is a government-required “marriage license” dated Dec. 16, 1922, and the other is the couple's ketubah dated Dec. 22, 1922.

A 1905 gown worn by a 21-year-old operetta singer from Pescht (the Jewish section of Budapest) when she married Yozsef Eisler Hersch is included in the exhibit. The couple's daughter Jolanka wore her mother's gown in 1930 when she married Janos Brio in Budapest. Jolanka brought her mother's wedding gown and her parent's ketubah with her when she and Janos escaped to the United States in 1938, with the understanding that her parents were to follow in the near future. Her parents did not survive the Holocaust.

The white 1930s-era Sisterhood Gown was worn by a multitude of brides in the Depression era here in Tucson. Many brides could not afford a wedding gown for their special day, so congregation sisterhoods across the nation each purchased a gown that was loaned to various brides. The gown on exhibit at the Jewish History Museum was one of three gowns owned by Tucson's Temple Emanu-El's Sisterhood. The liquid satin gown with a cathedral train has evidence that it was altered several times to accommodate various figures.

The exhibit will be on display through March; general admission is \$5, free for Jewish History Museum members and students. The admission also includes access to Arizona's only Holocaust Museum, which is located next door to the Jewish History Museum.

Eileen R. Warshaw, Ph.D., served as executive director of the Jewish History Museum in Tucson before retiring the end of January 2014.

# Jewish Soul Mates: Are you my Beshert?

By Amy Hirshberg

The night I met my husband was a warm April evening, and the smell of orange blossoms permeated the Tucson air. The date was “arranged” by mutual friends, but I had a lot of doubts about meeting their old college friend, a nice Jewish doctor from Los Angeles.

“If he’s such a great guy, why is he 31 years old and not married?” I asked myself as I pulled into the parking lot, totally missing the irony of my own unmarried situation.

I knew, even before the chips and salsa arrived, that my children would have his eyes. Deep, calm, caring eyes that had me convinced in less than a minute that I had found the man I had traveled 27 years to find.

I didn’t know at the time but according to Jewish tradition, I had found my *beshert*, my true soul mate.

What is a soul mate? Is it a New Age concept to define true love? Is it a catchy phrase used by romance novelists and reality TV show writers to market a product? Or does it mean something deeper and more vital, a spiritual bond between two people that is essential to fulfilling our heart’s destiny?

The Bible gives us a glimpse of the origins of a soul mate in Genesis when God said: “It is not *good* for man to be alone; I will make him a helper corresponding to him.” Loneliness is God’s first concern about us as human beings. There is a sense that we will not be happy alone; that we need to be connected to another human being to experience companionship, love and support if we are to achieve personal fulfillment and reach our highest potential. In the story of Isaac and Rebecca, we watch as God becomes the first matchmaker. Abraham’s servant, Eliazar, prays to God for a sign. He barely finishes his entreaty when Rebecca appears and fulfills the exact hope he had prayed for: she offers him and his camels water. This is seen as more than a lucky coincidence; it is viewed as an act of Divine providence guiding Isaac to his true love.

The idea that heaven plays a part in the destiny of our hearts also appears in the Talmud, which describes a soul mate as someone who is chosen for us even before we are born. “Forty days before a child is born, a voice from heaven announces: ‘The daughter of this person is destined for so-and-so.’”

How do we find our soul mate? Jewish history provides us with several answers. Eliazar is our first example of God working as a matchmaker. During the 12th century in Europe and Asia, it was customary to hire an intermediary (a shadchan in

Hebrew) to find a suitable marriage partner (think of Yente in “Fiddler on the Roof!”). While this custom is no longer widely practiced, it is still followed in Orthodox Jewish communities.

The internet has given us another vehicle to find true love. And while it may not be as romantic as a picnic in the park or as practical as a shadchan arranging marriages, there are countless stories of couples today finding their partners online. JDate.com and SawYouatSinai.com are just two websites that offer matchmaking services for Jewish singles whose observance may vary greatly, but who desire the same thing: finding true love.

Most of us yearn for love in our lives. But not finding our soul mate does not mean that we are destined to live a loveless life. Love takes many forms and there are many types of loving relationships that nourish the heart and elevate the soul. Although different from a soul mate, a “soulful, loving relationship” is born from a deep sense of caring, respect and love for another human being that imbues life with meaning and purpose. Soulful relationships can occur throughout our lives with friends, coworkers, respected teachers and family members as well as in our efforts to know and love God.

My husband and I celebrated our 30th wedding anniversary this year. Some may view ours as a “marriage made in heaven.” But we know how hard we have worked to share and communicate, and how important negotiation and compromise are in order to create a strong and loving relationship here on Earth. When I look into his face and see the tenderness reflected in the eyes that so closely resemble those of my children, I am reminded of a wonderful saying from the Hasidic rabbi the Ba’al Shem Tov:

“From every human being there rises a light that reaches straight to heaven. And when two souls that are destined to be together find each other, their streams of light flow together and a single brighter light goes forth from their united being.”

That light is the one that guides us in our search for love and intimacy. It is the light that keeps us on track as we journey through life together.

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



## *Enhance the real you on your big day*

**By Kira Brown**

Weddings are a blessing – an amazing beginning for a bride and groom as they embark on their life together as a married couple. A wedding, the celebration of the union, is one of the most important days of a person's life, marked by the ceremony, the feast, family and friends. With so much time and money spent, and so many involved in hosting a memorable event, researching, planning, shopping, testing and trying are musts! Here are some of my favorite tips and tricks for wedding day bliss.

Dress by Jennyvi Dizon, bridal and evening gown designer.  
Photo by Sara Johnson Photography.

## The Bride

**The Wedding Dress:** The dress, of course, is the focal point of the wedding celebration. A bride's gown is an expression of her beauty and femininity, and most dream of their dress since before they could drive. However, dress shopping can get overwhelming quickly if one isn't prepared. First, knowing your body type can help eliminate a lot of styles that you may love on a model or mannequin, but that won't accentuate your best assets. For example, if you are heavy on top, minimizing florals, beading and ruffles around the bust and adding volume to your hip area may balance you out, giving you the overall effect of a proportionate body shape. Balancing your body shape is key for perfect pictures and comfort during the day.

A wedding dress is most often the most expensive piece in a wardrobe. Custom dresses are fantastic and personal, but often pricey. If you're on a budget, shop David's Bridal, J. Crew and even Ann Taylor for a memorable dress that won't break the bank.

Overall, when searching for your dress, make an appointment, bring your friends and family and have fun! Even during your first fitting, snap quick pictures of yourself in the dress – don't just trust the mirror. And try on at least three, even if you think you have settled on what you want from the mannequin alone. Try on more than one as you may be surprised that a new fit or a new style may be best on your big day.

**The Party Dress:** On trend for your big day is changing during the reception to a more relaxed party dress. I love drama and I love big dresses. If you do too, for your reception consider a secondary dress that is comfortable for dancing and moving, won't drag or be tripped over and will preserve your wedding dress for years to come.

**Hair and Makeup:** For the big day most of us want to be pampered like a princess with hair, nails and makeup perfectly finished. Be yourself, only enhanced with a natural glow that translates well for photographs. Don't surprise yourself on the big day with a ton of unnatural curls and makeup. Schedule a trial, and again, take pictures for an idea of how you will look photographed on your wedding day.

**Shoes and Accessories:** The perfect shoe is a combo of comfort and glamour on your wedding day. Major retailers offer great deals on beautiful shoes for your big day. But don't forget to consider where you may be walking (e.g., spiked heels in the grass) and how long you may be standing. With this in mind, consider a more comfortable shoe to change into for the reception.

## The Groom

Grooms have a lot of choices these days. In recent years, I have seen grooms attired in full tuxes to suits and ties, to no ties, to beach-side shorts and flip-flops. Of course, for men, comfort is always the key. But on your big day, your man should be encouraged to step up and dress up more than usual to complement the feel and style of your dress and your marital celebration. On trend now is more color! Black is always a classic, but what about navy suits or a tan suit ensemble? When selecting, take into account your man's overall personal color scheme and body shape. Help him maximize his fashion and portraiture

potential with a well-fitting, well-made ensemble. And don't forget or skimp on the details such as cuff links and shoes. If your groom is without a suit, a wedding is a great time to purchase this wardrobe staple. Get more than the one-time wear from the suit by opting for something classic and versatile for wedding and special occasion wear rather than a more formal, tuxedo-type look.

## The Bridal Party

Custom dresses for bridesmaids, flower girls and mothers of the bride can be costly. Consider department store evening wear and major retailers like Ann Taylor, where you can even order swatches to check for color. And the gentlemen in the party should wear complementary ensembles to the groom, yet should not overshadow his style.

## Places for Ideas and Inspiration

Here's a short list of websites for online ideas and inspiration:

**Pinterest.com** – Create your own Pinboard for your big day and collect ideas

**TheKnot.com** • **StyleMePretty.com**

**RealSimple.com** • **blogs.nordstrom.com/weddings**

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





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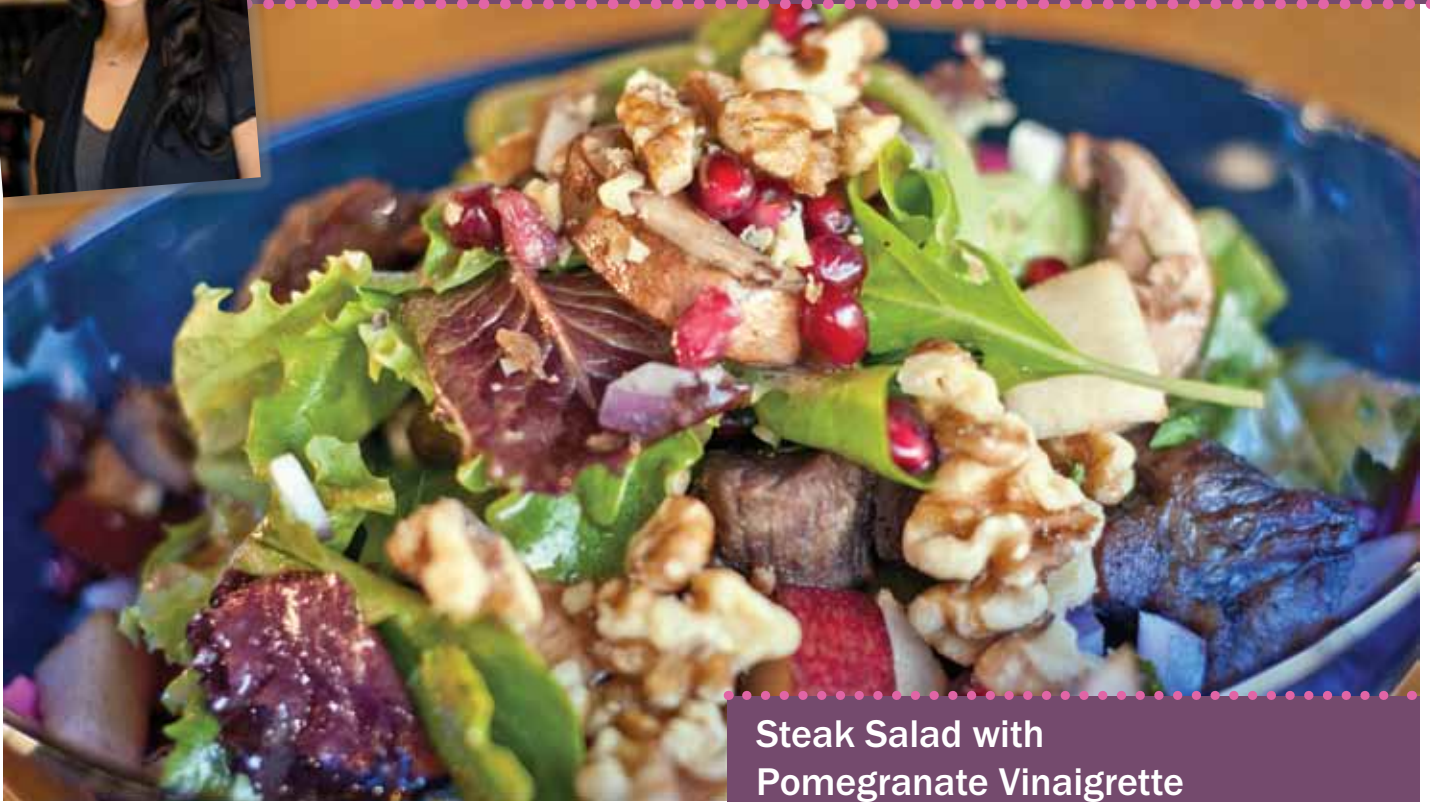
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# CHEF'S CORNER

## KING AND QUEEN FOR SEVEN DAYS

By Lucia Schnitzer

Photos by Matthew Strauss



### Steak Salad with Pomegranate Vinaigrette

My life truly began when I met my husband and best friend under the chuppah. There before our community and before G-d, we made a vow to build a life of Torah, together as one with G-d's help. This happened nine years ago on the 28th of Tevet (Jan. 9), and I couldn't ask for a more loving and committed husband or a more amazing father to our four children.

Jewish and Mexican weddings are both wonderful, but a Jewish-Mexican wedding is a never-ending party! Our wedding consisted of my father serenading me, a full mariachi band playing "Hava Nagila" while marching with my husband as he approached the bedekkah (the veiling ceremony), a beautiful chuppah, and lots of dancing and celebrating with my family in cowboy boots and hats, with rabbis and guests in kippahs, and with shouts of "I'chaim" from all. What a simcha! And the festivities continued for seven more days.

Sheva Brachot means the Seven Blessings or wedding blessings. These are recited under the chuppah and continue as the bride and groom rejoice together for seven days following their wedding. During this time the new couple is treated like a king and queen. Every night for a week the couple is invited

to celebratory dinners at the homes of friends or family. As part of the festive meals, the Seven Blessings are repeated. Among the minimum of 10 guests at each gathering, at least one must be a new face, someone who was not at the wedding (for more Sheva Brachot customs visit: [chabad.org/library/article\\_cdo/aid/476744/jewish/Newlyweds](http://chabad.org/library/article_cdo/aid/476744/jewish/Newlyweds)).

In America it is common to do themed Sheva Brachot with different kinds of foods, desserts and decorations. If you want to host a Sheva Brachot, keep the newlyweds in mind and make it all about them.

Here are a couple of side dishes you can use based on one of the species of Israel, the pomegranate. This fruit symbolizes abundant goodness and represents a high level of blessing, a sign of totality and perfection, 613 seeds representing 613 mitzvahs. The pomegranate is not only a spiritual food to eat, but a healthy one as well, so entice your royal guests with these amazing side dishes.

#### Salad

Mixed greens

Steak or roast beef, thinly sliced and warmed

Sliced mushrooms

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.



Sliced red onions  
Toasted walnuts  
Wedges of ripe red pear  
Pomegranate seeds  
Fill the bowl 3/4 full of greens. Top with the rest of the ingredients as you like. Drizzle with the dressing (below) and enjoy.

#### **Pomegranate Vinaigrette**

2 tablespoons pomegranate concentrate in 1 tablespoon of water

1 tablespoon white vinegar

4 tablespoons olive oil

2 cloves of garlic, crushed

¼ teaspoon black pepper

½ teaspoon powdered mustard

A pinch of cayenne pepper

Add salt to taste

Thoroughly combine all ingredients.

\*This dressing can be used on any salad



**Moroccan Roasted Beets with  
Pomegranate and Balsamic Glaze**

#### **Roasted Beets**

3 pounds beets (scrubbed and cut into wedges not more than ¾-inch thick. If you prefer not to eat the peels, peel with a vegetable peeler before cutting.)

2 tablespoon olive oil

1 tablespoon balsamic vinegar

¾ teaspoon salt

Cracked pepper

½ teaspoon cumin seeds, fennel seeds (optional)

#### **Balsamic Glaze**

½ cup balsamic vinegar

1 teaspoon maple syrup

#### **Garnish**

½ cup pomegranate seeds

¼ cup crushed roasted pistachios

1 tablespoon orange zest

#### **How to make:**

Preheat oven to 425°F. Toss beets, olive oil, 1 tablespoon balsamic vinegar, salt, pepper and seeds (if using) in a bowl to coat well and place on parchment-lined baking sheet; roast, stirring every 15 minutes until fork tender (about 45 minutes).

In the meantime make the balsamic glaze. Cook ½ cup balsamic vinegar and maple syrup in a small pot on medium low heat; reduce for 20 minutes or until you have about 3 tablespoons of glaze.

When beets are done, place in a serving dish and toss with balsamic glaze, pomegranate seeds and pistachios. Garnish with orange zest.

#### **How to cut pomegranate to gather seeds**

1) With a sharp knife, slice ¼ inch off of the stem end of the pomegranate and place the pomegranate cut side down on the cutting board to stabilize it. The pomegranate's blossom end, the one that looks like a crown, should be on top.

2) Using a paring knife, cut a circle, angling in, around the crown of the pomegranate, cutting it out.

3) Notice the gentle ridges along the outside of the pomegranate. Use your knife to cut along those ridges, just through the red part of the pomegranate skin, from blossom end to stem end. You should make about six cuts. If you can't feel the ridges, don't worry about it, just make several gentle cuts (not so deep as to cut any of the seeds underneath) from top to bottom around the pomegranate.

4) Working over a large bowl, open the fruit allowing any loose seeds to fall into the bowl. Use your fingers to gently pry open the pomegranate. It should open easily, exposing the seeds.

5) Use your fingers to pry away the seeds from the peel and membranes. If you fill the bowl part way with water, the seeds will sink to the bottom while pieces of membrane will float to the top.

6) Once you are done stripping the pomegranate seeds from the skin and membranes, skim the membranes from the top of the water, and strain the seeds from the water.

#### **How to freeze pomegranate seeds**

Pat the seeds dry and arrange them in a single layer on a rimmed baking sheet lined with waxed paper. Place in freezer for 2 hours or until frozen. Once frozen, put them into a freezer bag or container and store them in the freezer.

# Where do JEWISH PEOPLE EAT?

Ingo's Tasty Food \$\$

4502 N 40th St.

ingostastyfood.com

By A. Noshman

I am as fascinated by architecture as I am by food. OK, that's not true, but architecture is a close second. When I noticed a unique round structure going up on the northwest corner of Campbell and 40th Streets, I knew it was the work of internationally renowned architect and Valley resident, Will Bruder. Who else can make square concrete blocks curve into a circle? This artistry I have seen before, and there is a Jewish connection here. Will Bruder is the architect of Temple Kol Ami, a Reform congregation in Scottsdale, as well as the Phoenix Public Library and many other wonderful public spaces of learning and culture.

But who would commission Will Bruder to build a hamburger stand? It had to be someone who perceives food as art, who needs to conserve resources (in this case, space, as it is a small lot) and who wants to make a statement that ordinary materials can make beautiful things. Will Bruder can use concrete block, natural light and simple wood to create a sanctuary. This time the sanctuary is for the LGO group (owners of La Grande Orange, Chelsea's Kitchen, et al.) for their newest venture, Ingo's Tasty Food. Like the structure, the restaurant's chefs have taken ordinary materials like burgers, salads and chicken and created their own artistry.

Ingo's Tasty Food is another wildly popular, hard-to-park-at (I counted 13 parking spaces), casual neighborhood spot created by LGO. It features sandwiches, salads, craft beers, homemade lemonade and sangria – all at reasonable prices. There is seating inside or out, a walk-up window for takeout and a beautiful, umbrella-bedecked outdoor space with table service. Inside the round restaurant is a curved dining counter where you are mere feet from the kitchen. It's fun to watch the creativity as you eat. The staff members are very friendly and eager to share samples and talk about the food.

On my first visit, here is what I had:



Fresh Shattered Potato Chips

## Fresh Shattered Potato Chips, \$3.75

*Sea salt, cracked pepper, lebni*

Freshly made and served warm, the chips are a crispy golden brown with a divine crunch. Perched on the side of the paper bowl is a generous dollop of lebni, a soft, sour cream-textured, tangy Mediterranean cheese that tastes a lot like hummus and is garnished with parsley. These are a must try.



Post It Salad



Paris, Texas Burger

### JC's Egg Salad (11 am-noon only), \$5.75

Add toppings for \$1 each

I love egg salad and made sure I was standing at the door at 11 am. I thought I was ordering a sandwich, but what was delivered was a slice of heaven. Laid out in a paper tray were beautifully cooked, still warm, soft-boiled eggs that had been lovingly chopped and lightly tossed in mayo, resting on a panini-pressed English muffin, garnished with parsley. At the last minute, I added a topping of white anchovies. I know anchovies aren't for everyone, but these warm, salty fish really made the dish pop. My eyes grew wide as this was far from the sandwich I was expecting, and I never rested between bites. Another must try.

### Post It Salad, \$6.50

Roasted sunchoke, Bosc pear, radish, ricotta salata, salsa verde

It's called a Post It Salad because the specials of the day are written down on Post-it Notes and stuck to your table when the server comes. It was a very fresh serving of salad with a unique olive oil-based dressing. The ricotta salata is a dry, salted cheese, so everything in this bowl has crunch. There's plenty of it and this salad can be easily shared.

### Ice Cream Sandwich, \$3.25 (not on the menu)

Peanut butter gelato between two chocolate wafer cookies

A lovely ending to a delicious meal. Cold, fresh, not too rich and just the right size. This little dessert did the trick.

On my first visit I did wince at the use of plasticware and paper plates, but I understand that there simply isn't room for a large dishwashing operation. When I returned for another visit to sample the meat dishes, I was concerned about the lack of a knife. But they cut sandwiches for you so you don't need a knife and they do a good job of minimizing waste.

### Paris, Texas Burger, \$7.95

Strauss family grass-fed beef, apple BBQ sauce, lettuce, dill pickle

The best place to start describing this awesome burger is with the bun. Homemade bread that comes from the LGO Bake Shop across the street, fresh and lightly toasted, serves as the foundation (and looks a lot like the round building). Under

the bun is a delicious, juicy patty, cooked to my order, bathed in a sweet smoky sauce, lettuce and a dill pickle that is just tops. It's a burger lover's dream.

### Crispy Chicken Sandwich, \$7.60

Organic chicken schnitzel, dill pickle, Granny Smith apple, spicy aioli

I am a 100% burger lover, but this sandwich was my favorite. It starts again with the bun and works its way to a juicy, delicious, fried white meat chunk of chicken whose texture begs you to take another bite.

The unexpected apple adds a nice fresh balance, and the spicy aioli is a big part of why you won't put this sandwich down. The sandwich is spicy, so for the less adventurous, get the aioli on the side and add to your

heart's content. You will love this.



Crispy Chicken Sandwich

### Fresh Brewed Teas and Lemonade, \$2.75

All made on site and very fresh. The lemonade is tart and is unapologetic about containing pulp and seeds. The teas are served in chilled glass bottles and are simply delightful.

There is a parking lot attendant to point you in the right direction when it gets busy, and quite honestly, the food is worth the hassle. Ingo's Tasty Treats has taken simple foods and made them beautiful, and that theme is carried throughout the building and its people. Food for thought? Definitely!



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

# Do teenagers live in the Twilight Zone?

By Debra Rich Gettleman

“I need a plot! What if I die?” This is the text I received the other night from my 13-year-old son, Levi. Getting a text from your son when he’s sitting across the table from you is a sure sign that you’ve entered (cue weird Twilight Zone music) ... the teenage years.

We were enjoying some post-repast conversation at my mom’s house. One of the guests, a longtime family friend, works at a Jewish cemetery in town. The discourse had shifted to her work, and she was astounding us with stories about elderly people who simply refused to contemplate death, funerals and anything associated with burials. My brother-in-law, an uber-responsible physician, chimes in, “It’s just idiotic not to take care of these things ahead of time. Idiotic and irresponsible.”

Suddenly I look across the table and see Levi, his head in his hands, destined for an anxiety attack. “Why don’t you go play with your cousins,” I suggest.

“No, mom. I want to stay with the adults,” he insists.

“Well, are you sure you can handle this conversation?” I ask gently.

“Yes,” he replies, “I’m sure. But mom, how much is a plot? Because I need to save up and get one.”

Conversation halts and everyone looks at Levi. Several of the adults start to roar with laughter.

“Levi,” I try to explain, “You really don’t need to worry about that right now.”

“But I’m going to die,” he matter-of-factly refutes. “I don’t want to be stupid, or irresponsible.”

Suddenly I am transported into the celluloid world of my all-time favorite Woody Allen movie, “Annie Hall.” I morph into Alvy Singer’s kvetching Jewish mother and insist my 9-year-old son, Alvy, tell the psychiatrist why he is so depressed.

Alvy’s mother: Tell the doctor why you’re depressed, Alvy. It’s something that he read.

Alvy: The universe is expanding.

Doctor: The universe is expanding?

Alvy: Well, the universe is everything, and if it’s expanding, someday it will break apart and that would be the end of everything.

Alvy’s mother: He stopped doing his homework.

Alvy: What’s the point?

Alvy’s mother: What has the universe got to do with it? You’re here in Brooklyn. Brooklyn is not expanding!”

Doctor: It won’t be expanding for billions of years, Alvy. And we’ve gotta try to enjoy ourselves while we’re here.

Why is it that some kids burden themselves with thoughts like these while others are content to race madly through the house immersed in a game of hide-and-seek? I so want to be one of those carefree people who raises easy, playful youngsters who throw spitballs into the unsuspecting heads of classmates and giggle gleefully when the teacher accidentally strings together words like “under” and “where.” But alas, that’s just not who we are.

I actually remember my first 100% sleepless night. I was about my son’s age and was convinced that the angel of death was coming that very night to take me away. My poor father tried everything to get me to go to sleep. Finally, with a tear in his eye, he implored, “Please, Debbie, just close your eyes. I’ll stand guard all night, and I promise not to open the door if he comes. Just go to sleep!”

I guess the sad thing here is that this whole experience just confirms what I’ve known all along: children really are just mirrors showcasing every flaw, fault and foible of our own misguided psyches. Genetics, my friends, is inescapable.

It’s all kind of depressing. In fact, sometimes I find it so disheartening that I relate completely to Annie Hall’s brother, Duane (played eerily by a young Christopher Walken), who behind the wheel of his automobile, confesses to Alvy while speeding down a darkened freeway late at night, “Sometimes I have a sudden impulse to turn the wheel quickly, head-on into an oncoming car. I anticipate the explosion, the sound of shattering glass, the ... flames rising out of the flowing gasoline.”

Alvy is stumped for a reply but spits out, “Right,” just as they pull to a stop, “Well, I have to – I have to go now, Duane, because I’m due back on the planet Earth.”

Sometimes it sucks to be me. I desperately want to see myself as Audrey Hepburn in “Breakfast at Tiffany’s” or Meryl Streep in “Out of Africa.” But no matter how hard I try, my true alter ego won’t let me forget that I’m really just a female version of a Jewish, neurotic, anxiety-ridden Alvy Singer.



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



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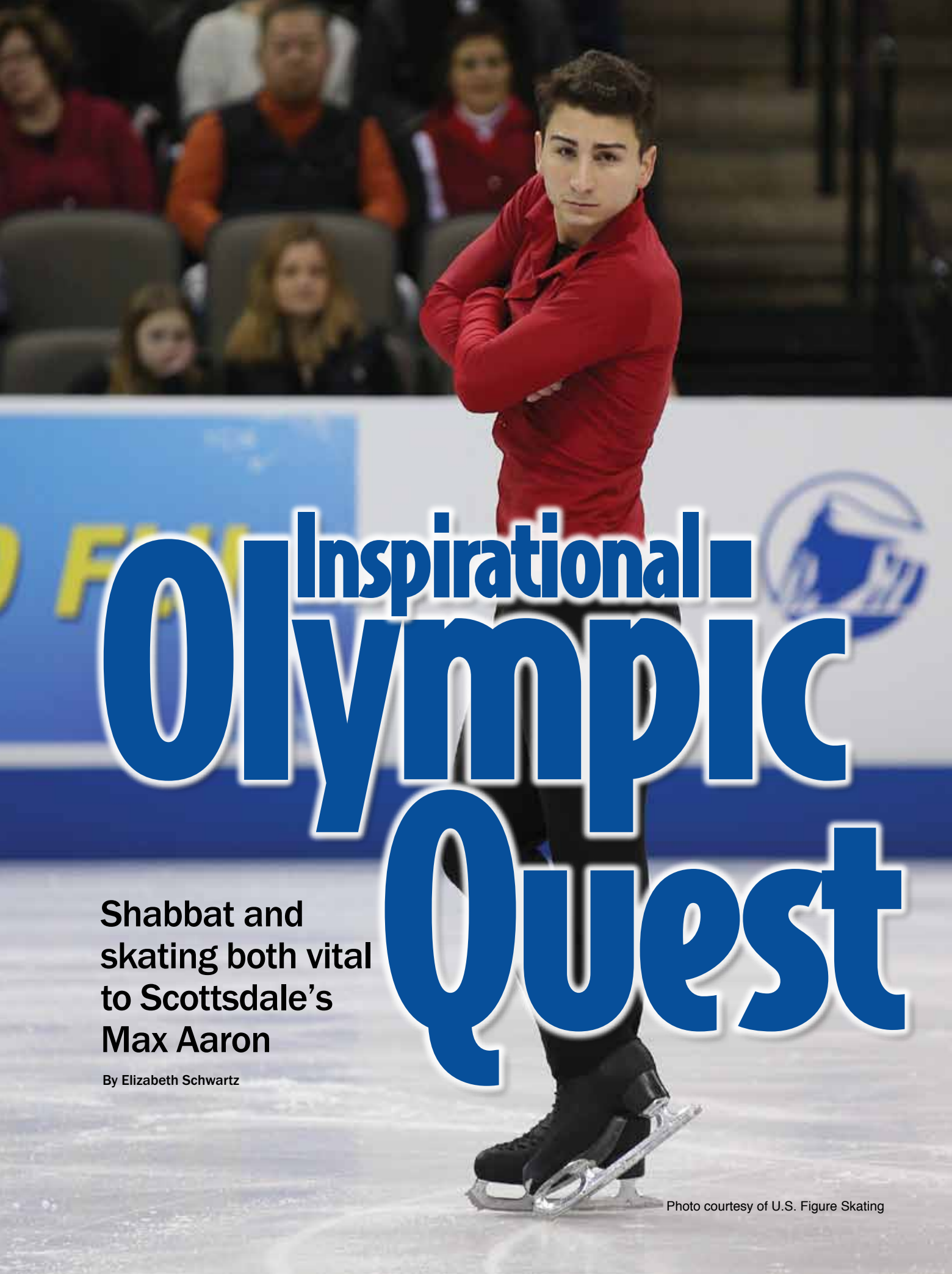
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# Inspirational Olympic Quest

Shabbat and skating both vital to Scottsdale's Max Aaron

By Elizabeth Schwartz

Photo courtesy of U.S. Figure Skating

**When he says he's going to do the quads (quadruple jumps, the hardest elements in men's figure skating), he'll do them. He'll put it together."**

– Neil Aaron

American Jews are well represented in figure skating at this month's Winter Olympic Games, which begin in Sochi, Russia, on Feb. 6. Six-time U.S. ice dancing champion Charlie White (along with partner Meryl Davis) and the newly crowned ladies' champion Gracie Gold and U.S. men's silver medalist Jason Brown will pursue their sport's top honor: an Olympic gold medal.

Max Aaron, 2013 U.S. men's champion, had hoped to join them. Coming into last month's U.S. National Championships, Max hoped to both defend his U.S. title and secure a spot on the Olympic team. Although he skated well, landing one quadruple jump and coming oh so close to landing a second one in his long program, Max finished third overall. Unlike the ladies, the U.S. men have only two Olympic slots, which went to first- and second-place finishers, 28-year-old Jeremy Abbott and 19-year-old Jason Brown. Max was named first alternate.

Max, who grew up in Scottsdale, came to national attention last year when he won the U.S. Men's Figure Skating Championships, beating out more experienced rivals. "My point of view is that Jews are tough people, and we don't shy away from anything," he says. "That's my attitude in my training." While waiting for the Olympic team announcement, Max commented, "I really want the best men to go, and if it's not me, it's not me."

A few days after Nationals, Max posted on his Facebook page, "Words can't express how thankful I am for everything in life and all the love everyone has given me. I want to thank all my friends, family, fans and sponsors for all the support this year leading up to my first Olympic Trials. It breaks my heart knowing I won't be at the games but I know we have an amazing team. Congratulations to all the team members, especially my friends Jeremy and Jason. My spirit will live through the team, hoping for success in every discipline."

Tough hardly begins to cover Max's attitude, whether toward skating or life in general. From the age of 4 he was training intensively, first as a speed skater and later in hockey, his first

on-ice love.

He competed at the highest level of hockey for under-18 players and went to the U.S. Hockey Nationals in 2006 and 2007. He was simultaneously working his way up the ranks in figure skating, placing 5<sup>th</sup> at the U.S. Nationals in the novice division in 2006 and 13<sup>th</sup> as a junior the following year.

Eventually the intensive training in multiple sports took its toll. During a weight-lifting workout in 2008, Max fractured one of his vertebrae and spent the next four months in a



Photo courtesy of U.S. Figure Skating

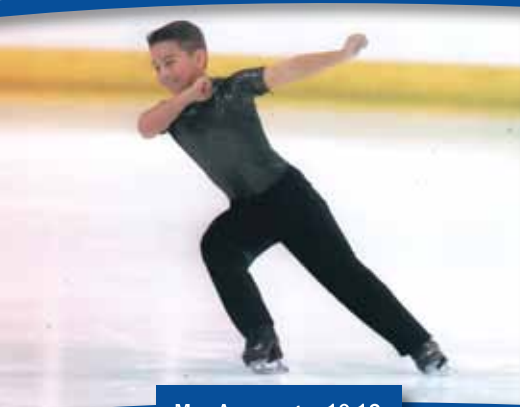
body cast. It would be a year before he could step on the ice again. During his long and painful rehab, Max decided to focus exclusively on figure skating. “Hockey was my first passion, but after I broke my back I realized I wasn’t going to be a big enough athlete for hockey. Anyway, my body is better suited to skating. I use my height – I’m 5’7” – to my advantage. Jumps are easier for shorter guys than the really tall ones.”

The Aaron family is no stranger to figure skating; both his sisters have participated in the sport. His older sister, Molly, retired from pairs a couple years ago and is a student at Arizona State University. His younger sister, Madeline, a sophomore studying nursing at the University of Colorado

“Hockey was my first passion, but after I broke my back I realized I wasn’t going to be a big enough athlete for hockey. Anyway, my body is better suited to skating. I use my height – I’m 5’7” – to my advantage. Jumps are easier for shorter guys than the really tall ones.”

elite Jewish athlete. “I’m representing myself, but I’m also representing American Jews in sports in general. I just love to share my athletic side, and I feel honored when I get asked to a synagogue to talk about what I do.”

As one of the only Jews currently competing at the elite level in figure skating, Max also takes the opportunity to educate his fellow skaters about Jewish holidays and customs. “My skating friends love to hear about the holidays and what they mean, and I get to share that. At Yom Kippur, everyone wondered why I was fasting, so I explained it,” he says. “They were interested and intrigued, and I got to share something of who I am and what I do.” As a minority within a minority, however, being a top-level Jewish figure skater can sometimes be an isolating



Max Aaron ages 10-12



at Colorado Springs, currently competes in the junior pairs division.

It’s easy to see where Max gets his determination. His father Neil, a pediatrician, provides a biological context for the family attitude: “The tougher you are, the more likely your genes are to survive. Over the last year and a half, Max has been trying to soften his edge a bit and be a more artistic skater, but we don’t want him to be too soft. It’s the little guy syndrome; he doesn’t back down. When he says he’s going to do the quads (quadruple jumps, the hardest elements in men’s figure skating), he’ll do them. He’ll put it together.” Both Neil and his wife Mindy attend all their kids’ competitions, which means a lot of international travel. Their daughter Madeline’s competitive season took her and her parents to Belarus and Estonia. “Belarus was interesting,” says Mindy. “We’ve been to a lot of Eastern European countries because of skating, and there’s a lot of history. My husband’s father’s family is from Minsk. All of our grandparents were from Poland, Ukraine, all over that area. Wherever we travel, we seek out whatever Jewish culture is there. In Eastern Europe especially, I always seek out the memorials to Jews who were rounded up and deported.”

Max himself carries a strong awareness of his position as an

experience. “Sometimes it’s a little difficult because people don’t know what to say to me during the winter holidays and that can be frustrating, but of course I tell them that I celebrate Hanukkah,” Max explains.

Max also looks to other Jewish athletes, both inside and outside skating, for inspiration and guidance. “I like Aly Raisman; watching her compete in gymnastics in the 2012 London Olympics was really neat. Sarah Hughes (the 2002 Ladies Figure Skating Olympic Gold Medalist) is a mentor of mine; she’s also Jewish. She’s been helping me out with competing. She goes over the details about how to compete, what to do under pressure.” When Max began winning major competitions, Hughes helped him handle the stress and pressure of high-level events. “She’s helped me know what to expect,” says Max.

As a Jewish American, Max could have chosen to represent Israel’s figure skating team. The strong men’s field in U.S. singles is highly competitive, and with only two places available for Sochi, Max would have a guaranteed spot in the Olympics if he had chosen to skate for Israel. “That came up a couple years ago,” Max remembers. “My parents suggested I think about it. But I grew up in the U.S., and my goal is to skate for the U.S. I don’t





Max Aaron takes a break from skating to visit his family in Scottsdale and light the menorah for Thanksgiving. Photo courtesy of the Aaron family.

family together.” Max uses the phone to bridge time zones and physical distances when he can’t be with his family on Friday nights. “I’m constantly calling family members to connect; they call me to check in, so it’s kind of like I’m always there even when I’m not,” he explains. “There’s also a temple next door to the training center [in Colorado Springs], so I go over there for shul on Shabbat if I get off early. It’s good to have that peace and quiet.”

The back injury that sidelined Max for a year gave him a heightened awareness of life’s unpredictability, and an increased appreciation for every opportunity to skate. “I always say the Shema before I begin an event and again after, thanking God for letting me compete and be in the event and live another day. I’ve been doing that for a long time.” Max also carries a small copy of the Zohar in his skate bag to every event, a present from a long-time friend of his father’s.

Both Neil and Mindy look forward to a time when “the skating ride,” as Mindy calls it, is over, and their family can all gather together for Shabbat every Friday. “I know somewhere down the line we’ll start again,” she says. When Max competed at Skate America in October in Detroit, Mindy and Neil lit Shabbat candles with him at Joe Louis Arena before he took the ice. The Aarons have given all their children a lasting connection to Judaism through the bonds of family, which is why they always attend their children’s competitions, no matter where they compete. “Max likes us there, knowing we’re watching. He likes to make us proud. He always comments to the press, ‘I’m glad my mom and dad were here to see this.’”

want to take the easy way out, even though it’s an option. If I’d gone to Israel more often, that might have made a difference, but I’m not Israeli. I’m an American.”

When Neil and Mindy moved to Arizona from Philadelphia some years ago, they were looking for a Jewish community similar to those they had experienced back East. “There really wasn’t as much Jewish community out here then,” says Mindy. “Judaism is more laid back in Arizona.” Eventually they joined Temple Chai in Phoenix. “It was a very large temple and there were a lot of down-to-earth families, and we loved Rabbi Bill [Berk] especially. Even though it was the furthest away from us geographically, it felt the closest to what we grew up with.” The Aarons raised their three kids at Temple Chai, and Max has fond memories of his experiences there. “I went there every Sunday growing up and Wednesdays for Hebrew school,” Max recalls. “I enjoyed learning trope and Hebrew and had a great time at my bar mitzvah. I invited my whole hockey team; they just love to party. I still remember parts of my Torah portion when I go back for High Holiday services.”

Because of his current intense training regimen and travel schedule, these days Max doesn’t get to spend too many Shabbats with family, and he misses that special time together. “Our family is extremely close and spending Shabbat with them is something I’ve always done. It’s part of what I love about being Jewish, because it brings the



Molly, Madeline and Max Aaron.

# Inspired by Max Aaron's soaring career, the Sherman sisters skate to own highs

By Janet Arnold

Mention Max Aaron's name to Liana and Danya Sherman and they simultaneously exclaim, "We love Max! He is such an inspiration! We've been lucky enough to watch him from stage one to soaring!"

The Sherman sisters have been ice skating since they were barely more than toddlers and have had many opportunities to interact with Max both on and off the ice. The families share a friendship that began years ago at the rink and as members at Temple Chai in north Phoenix.

The talented girls attend Desert Mountain High School in Scottsdale, where Liana, 18, is a senior and Danya, 16, is a junior. Liana was the first on skates at about age 3. Her mother, Hope, thought it would be a nice hobby, especially during the long, hot summers in the Valley. She signed up for a "Parent & Pup" skating class at the Ice Den, the original training center for the Phoenix Coyotes. "I didn't last long," Hope recalls, "but Liana excelled and loved it. So when Danya could stand on skates, she began as well."

Liana has been skating ever since and now competes for the Coyotes Skating Club of Arizona at the Senior level. She excels in freeskating, ice dancing and in artistic theatrical skating. "I love being on the ice and plan to continue competing in college," she says.

Danya took a few years off from skating when she was 11. "I love cooking and acting and wanted to spend some time trying a few different things. I'm not sure I'd make the same decision again, but I did learn a lot during that time, and the acting in particular helped me learn to 'tell the story' in ice dancing." Danya still practices her theatrical skills in the teen improvisational troupe, "All Rights Reserved."

A special treat for the dynamic duo is that Danya, who competes solo as an Open Juvenile skater, is able to "skate up" in the Senior level and pair with her sister to do their ice dancing.



Danya Sherman performs at Mama Rose "Gypsy" to the song is "Rose's Turn."



Liana Sherman skated as Marilyn Monroe to the song "Let Me Be Your Star" from the show Smash.



Danya, left, and Liana Sherman skate to the Beatles song "Hello Goodbye." The sisters skated their joint and individual programs at the United States Figure Skating Association's National Showcase competition in Cape Cod, MA, in August 2013 and in local competitions as well, where they have won awards.

"What a joy to be able to skate with Liana," Danya says, smiling warmly at her sister. And Liana smiles back with "Danya is the perfect partner!"

Their Judaism is intrinsic to their beings. Both girls became b'nai mitzvah at Temple Chai and both are involved at Hebrew High School. Liana chose "Papa Can You Hear Me?" from "Yentl" for one of her skating programs and dedicated it to her grandfather, who is known as Papa. Danya dedicated her "Rose's Turn" from "Gypsy" to her Great Aunt Rose, for whom she is named. When they come home from skating practice on Fridays, they love to have a Shabbat dinner with their parents, Hope and Craig, and sometimes big brother, Adam, is in from college as well. They share their week's adventures as they relax around the Shabbat

table with Great Grandma's candlesticks proudly glowing in the middle.

Liana says, "I need to make it clear that we couldn't do any of this without our wonderful mother's support. She's there at every practice and every competition, even at 6 am, wrapped in her big, black fuzzy coat." When the girls aren't complimenting others, they're praising each other. "I so admire Liana," says Danya. "She's absolutely my best friend. I'm thinking of not letting her go off to college." Liana's eyes well up as she lightly touches Danya's arm. "Aw," Liana replies, "you are so sweet."

The entire Sherman family feels a deep connection to Max and his family. They see him as an incredible role model, not only for themselves, but for all skaters and want-to-be skaters too. "It is so exciting to watch Max and to cheer him on!" Danya says. And Liana adds, "He is a great person as well as a great skater."



Jeff Halpern

## Hockey Schtick Night March 2

The Phoenix Coyotes not only have an annual Jewish Heritage Night, this year they also have a Jewish player. Five games into the National Hockey League season, Jeff Halpern, 37, signed with the Phoenix Coyotes as a fourth-line center. This year's Hockey Schtick Night against the St. Louis Blues will be 6 pm, March 2 at Jobing.com Arena, 9400 W Maryland Ave., Glendale. The special evening includes: Discounts of about 40% off regular prices in both lower level and upper level and free Coyotes kippot for the first 500 ticket buyers ordering through Group Tickets America; free Shane Doan garden gnome to the first 10,000 fans at the game; and pre-game live music played by Todd Herzog, cantorial soloist at Temple Solel, on the Plaza in front of Jobing.com Arena. For tickets: e-mail Dan@GroupTicketsAmerica.com or call Dan Berman at 602-680-5550 ext. 1.

## Interested in Ice Skating?

Here are some Valley facilities for lessons:

**Ice Den** – 9375 E Bell Road, Scottsdale, 480-585-7465, coyotesice.com

**Arcadia Ice Arena** – 3853 E Thomas Road, Phoenix, 602-957-9966, arcadiaice.com

**Oceanside Ice Arena** – 1520 N McClintock Dr., Tempe, 480-941-0944, oceansideicearena.net

**Polar Ice Chandler** – 7225 W Harrison St., 480-598-9400, polaricechandler.com

**Polar Ice Peoria** – 15829 N 83<sup>rd</sup> Ave., 623-334-1200, polaricepeoria.com

**Polar Ice Gilbert** – 2305 E Knox Road, 480-503-7080, polaricegilbert.com

(As of press time, the three Polar Ice rinks were undergoing change of ownership and name changes; All plan to remain open.)

Tucson doesn't currently have a rink.

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# Journey Through Grief

## Barry Kluger:

### A man on a mission

By Debra Rich Gettleman

I've known Barry Kluger for a decade. In all that time, I've never once asked him about the details surrounding the death of his 18-year-old daughter, Erica.

"People are afraid they might catch it," he jokes as we lunch at a local North Scottsdale grill. "I remember your license plate," I tell him. "It was 'Eri's dad,' wasn't it? Will you tell me what happened?"

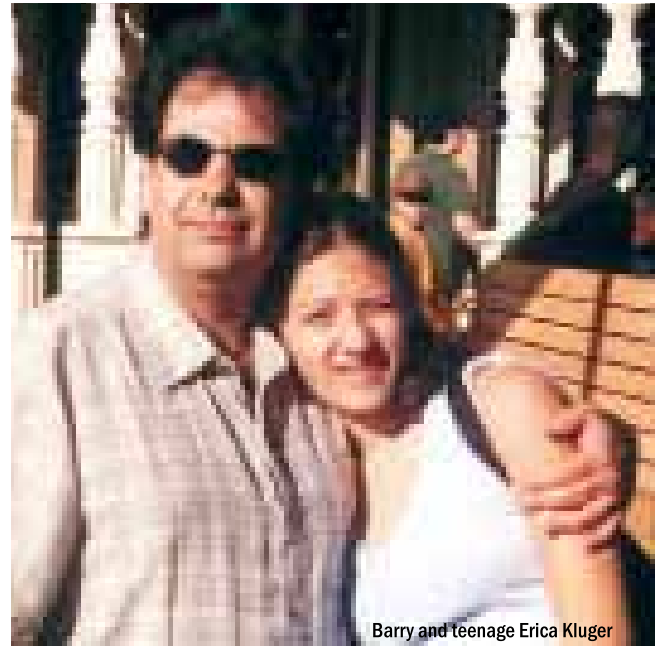
He then proceeds to recreate the scene of the tragic accident that took his daughter's life in 2001. "I know what happened," he recounts in a lighthearted manner. "She was reaching into her Kate Spade handbag for her Bobbi Brown lipstick and never saw the other car coming. That was Erica."

Kluger checked his phone messages during a round of golf on April 6, 2001. Erica had been in a car accident. He raced to the emergency room of Scottsdale Hospital where he was met by a doctor and a priest. Erica had been dead for an hour. Kluger later learned from one of the firefighters who attended the accident that Erica had been killed instantly. But hospital ERs don't like to give that kind of information over the telephone. "Especially if you're getting into a car to rush to the emergency room," Kluger explains.

While the hours and days after the accident must have passed like a blur, Kluger recounts meeting his wife, Hope, and her family in the hospital parking lot and acknowledges, "I was very calm. I had to take care of everyone."

He tells me about his choice to not view his daughter's body at the funeral. "I wanted to remember the last time I had seen her, alive, not dead. I have never regretted that decision." Kluger delivered a eulogy at his daughter's funeral, his ease with words offering him an avenue to honor and celebrate his love for Erica.

At times during our lunch I find myself laughing at his witty responses, most of which are clearly well rehearsed. As the president and CEO of the MISS Foundation, a community of compassion and hope for grieving families, he's become a seasoned orator around issues surrounding the loss of a child. Yet Barry isn't detached or unemotional. Recounting his tragic loss is still deeply haunting and extremely personal. "Do you mind



Barry and teenage Erica Kluger

talking about Erica's death all the time?" I ask, feeling guilty for making him relive the experience.

"That's how I stay connected to her," he tells me, which also explains the beautiful book he published entitled *A Life Undone; a Father's Journey Through Loss*. Kluger's easy-to-read style reflects his genuinely warm, affable personality. He's the kind of man you just want to hang out with. At times I find it hard to believe that this endearing, jovial man has suffered the kind of loss he has. The book chronicles the early days of Erica's life and the agony that followed her death. Through a very personal memoir that includes emails, letters and diary entries, Kluger offers other grieving parents a guide to help cope with similar losses.

In the book he describes the first time he walked into Erica's bedroom after her death and realized that she was never coming back. Thoughtful, poignant and full of wit and humor, Kluger's book has helped countless parents wade through the pain of the loss of a child.

But it would be a mistake to judge Barry's easy-going style as complacency. He's a man on a mission, and he's making great political strides to help other grieving parents. When Erica died,



Erica October 17, 2000

Erica as a child



Kluger was heading up his own marketing company and had the luxury of taking as much time off as he needed to grieve for his beloved daughter. But most Americans don't have that privilege. "We give workers 12 weeks off for the birth of a baby and only three days off for a child's death," Kluger tells me. After hearing so many stories from grieving parents who had to go back to work almost immediately after losing a child, Kluger partnered with Kelly Farley, another grieving father, to draft an amendment to the Family and Medical Leave Act of 1993.

Currently the act allows for three months of paid time off for new parents or for those needing to care for a sick family member. "But a grieving parent," says Kluger, "gets no more than three to five days to bury a dead child." Kluger recounts a story of one woman whose boss came to her child's funeral and insisted she return to work Monday morning. "It just doesn't make sense," Kluger explains. Emotional trauma aside, Kluger insists that the economic impact of grief in the marketplace is staggering. "This is an economic story," he clarifies. "Death of loved ones accounts for a \$52-billion-a-year loss in this country." He's got good, sound arguments to support the Farley-Kluger initiative. He's also gotten more than 60,000 signatures on his parental bereavement petition and a slew of congressional supporters.

"There's a bill in Congress with Erica's name on it," he tells me proudly. "I want to be standing there in the White House behind a hundred other parents, watching the president sign this bill into law." Kluger expects the initiative, now titled the "Sara Grace-Farley-Kluger Act to face a vote in 2014. "This kind of



Barry and Erica Kluger, 1985

We give workers 12 weeks off for the birth of a baby and only three days off for a child's death."

—Barry Kluger

work in Washington is a marathon, not a sprint," he says. But Kluger adds supporters on a daily basis and isn't easily discouraged. "Circumstances brought us in a direction to help people. This is the hand I've been dealt. I'm just trying to win the game."

Barry Kluger is a thoughtful, charming and inspiring man determined to make his life and his daughter's matter. At the end of our lunch he hands me an autographed copy of his book. I open it to read the personal note he's written inside the front cover. "When we can take tragedy and turn it into strength, then we've accomplished something great. As the Talmud says, 'He who saves one life is as if he has saved the entire world.'"

Visit [Farleykluger.com](http://Farleykluger.com) to learn more about the Parental Bereavement Leave

Act and to join the grassroots advocacy effort to petition change and amend the Family and Medical Leave Act.

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

# Trusty typewriter keeps retired lawyer busy

By Deborah Moon



When Leon Gildin closed his law firm in 1996 after practicing for more than 40 years, he gave his secretary the office computer and took the IBM Selectric typewriter home for his own use.

That typewriter has seen a lot of use.

A lifelong New Yorker, he and his second wife, Gloria, moved to Sedona, where he wrote his first book. In 2000 Hippocrene Books published *You Can't Do Business (or most anything else) Without Yiddish*. After the couple moved to Scottsdale in 2002, he wrote two novels. In 2009 he published his first novel, *The Polski Affair*, which won the International Book Award for Historic Fiction in 2010. Its sequel, *The Family Affair*, was published in 2011.

Though he has lately learned to use a computer to submit letters and opinion pieces to various publications, he continues to use his dependable typewriter for any major projects, including a translation of Yiddish poetry for which he is seeking a publisher.

“Generally for articles and letters to the editor, I am becoming more 21<sup>st</sup> century and doing them on the computer,” says Leon. “But lengthy writing, I do on the typewriter and then I edit and cut and paste. I’m always afraid if I push the wrong button, I’ll lose what I wrote, and I know I won’t lose it if I’ve done it on the typewriter.”

His two novels deal with the real-life Polski Hotel and its bizarre place in Holocaust history. Leon learned of the little-known story of the Warsaw hotel, which was either an escape route or a trap for Warsaw’s wealthy Jews, from a client. More than 30 years ago Abraham Shulman gave him an autographed copy of *The Case of the Polski Hotel*, which detailed the confusing facts of the Nazi operation that lured many Jews out of hiding with the promise of escape to other countries. While many were instead transported to death camps, others did receive visas and new lives elsewhere.

“I saw in his research the elements of a good story,” says Leon. “He did a lot of research and it was quite interesting.”

Initially Leon intended to write a play. As a lawyer he had been deeply involved in show business representing many actors, writers and composers. He’d used that experience to write a short story that became the play “Appear and Show Cause,” which he co-produced off Broadway in New York winning the Audelco Award. He went on to produce other plays both on and off Broadway during his legal career. But when he began writing *The Polski Affair*, he soon realized it was more suited to novel form. His son, Ken, a former actor and model, has since adapted both books into scripts for possible production as a miniseries. Leon also has a daughter, Joan, who is a pediatric psychiatrist in California.

The first novel alternates between present-day Israel and flashbacks to World War II-era Warsaw. Holocaust survivor Anna Adler and her husband Chaim are raising a family in Israel when the announcement of a reunion at the Hotel Polski sends Anna back to Poland, in both flashbacks and reality, seeking closure on the loss of her first husband and sons. Having to testify at the war crimes’ trial of the hotel’s commandant, who chose her as his personal servant, causes Anna to confront her past.

In the sequel two years later after the reunion, Anna faces both joyous and devastating revelations from her past. As silence gives way to truth, families struggle to come to grips with what they thought they knew. The horrors of the Holocaust continue to inflict pain long after the Nazis lost the war.

For Leon, now 85, the two books have generated numerous speaking invitations.

“I have lectured and have had book signings on numerous occasions here in the Valley before Temple groups, organizations, Barnes & Noble, etc., as well as in New York and at the Skirball in LA,” says Leon. Two years ago he was the opening speaker at the Jewish Book Month celebration at the Valley of the Sun Jewish Community Center. He continues to receive requests to speak at other Jewish Book Month and Yom HaShoah

(Holocaust remembrance) programs.

Yet he finds that his thoughts have turned more and more to another kind of remembrance – the role of the Yiddish secular movement in the first half of 20<sup>th</sup> century America.

He says the roles of those Jewish immigrants from Eastern Europe as founders of the labor movement in America and as founders of the concept of cooperative housing have been largely forgotten. He sees the impact of Yiddish culture on newspapers and theater as important elements in our culture.

He grew up in that world of Yiddish-speaking immigrants in New York; his mother emigrated from the Ukraine in 1905, and his father arrived from the same region in 1912. He grew up speaking English and Yiddish at home and attending Yiddish schools and camps.

“Unfortunately, in my opinion, it is a movement that has been completely overlooked except by certain scholarly people as to



its effects on American culture and American sociology,” says Leon.

Recently, he has turned his writing skills to try and remedy that oversight. He also has devoted his time to submitting to various publications opinion pieces about the importance of Yiddish culture.

This current work is perhaps a more serious exploration than his first book, *You Can't Do Business Without Yiddish*. That book provides a humorous look at the Yiddish phrases that have become an integral part of American culture, as well as a glimpse of the Jewish experience in contemporary America.

“I’m a strong believer of the effect the Yiddish secular movement had on America from the early 1900s to the 1960s. I’ve written a number of articles about that and about Jewish education,” he says. “Without an education that includes the profane as well as the religious, you are not giving your kid a Jewish education. Those things that had an impact on Jewish life in America and Jewish continuity are not spoken about. ... Famous Yiddish writers and the great accomplishments of those people over 50 to 60 years – without that, to my way of thinking, a kid isn’t getting a Jewish education.”

The lack of interest in Yiddish writers is also reflected in the small market he has found for his most recent manuscript – a translation of Yiddish poetry.

“It’s a small market, practically nonexistent,” he laments. “I feel my only choice is an academic press.”

But market or no, he intends to keep busy writing and speaking on his passion for Yiddish.



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# Senior's adventure to Italy hones skill to write veterans' stories here

By Janet Arnold

After years of penning scientific writing in her work as a psychologist, Sandra Harris felt the need to stretch.

She had always enjoyed the writing process and knew she had stories to tell, but needed a little more background and support before taking the plunge into the world of writing fiction. In 2008 she retired to Scottsdale – after she had spent eight years “retiring” in California.

After decades as a Los Angeles psychologist, Sandra felt it was time to take down her shingle. But instead, she somehow became a psychologist for the Veterans Administration in Bakersfield. Her work with veterans, mostly from Vietnam, was both invigorating and intense. She finally made the complete break from her vocation and settled into a quieter type of life in Scottsdale.

But Sandra knew she wasn't “done.” An energetic and inquisitive woman, she wanted to explore, among other things, her ability to write.

Sandra found the Scottsdale Society of Women Writers, a group of local writers that meets monthly at Chaparral Suites in Scottsdale to listen to established writers from the area and draw strength and support from each other. Through this group, Sandra gained confidence as well as camaraderie. And when the opportunity presented itself to join a “writing and photography” trip to Italy, she jumped at the chance to enhance her skills and have a new adventure.

Sandra, who earned her Ph.D. from the University of Oregon, has been on her own for more than 17 years. “There's nothing I won't do because I'm single,” Sandra says. “I didn't know anyone else going on the trip, but it was something I really wanted to do. I don't think of it as a particularly brave decision, just one I needed to make.”

The group spent eight nights in a 200-year-old villa in Nervi, a suburb of Genoa. From there, they took day trips to nearby villages such as Portofino, Santa Margherita and Camogli. One of her favorite stops was in the hillside town of Leivi, where the group had a demonstration and lesson on making pasta. Lunch and wine lasted until 4 pm.

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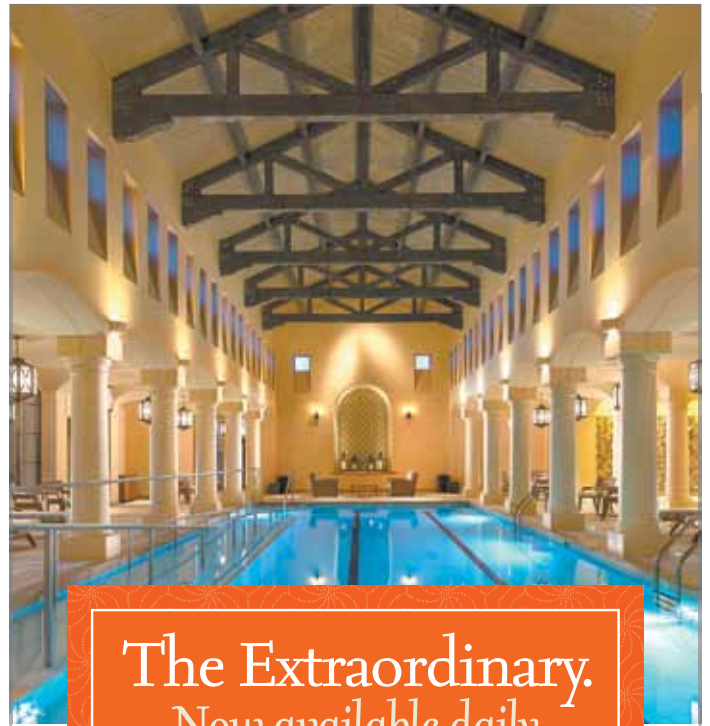


Sandra Harris learns to make pasta during a writing and photography retreat in Italy.

Sandra enjoyed the company of her travel-mates and the discussions with the tour leaders, one a talented writer and the other a gifted photographer. She was less enamored of the twin-engine prop plane flying low over the Alps, with the pristine little villages and streams and “the endless ‘white’ that goes on and on and on.” As the oldest woman on the trip, she had some concerns about all the foot travel as well, but managed to keep up. “I must admit, everyone kind of kept an eye on me – just in case!” She smiles and adds, “I’m ready to do it again!”

Sandra had a specific reason for wanting to hone her writing skills. While working with veterans in California, she became invested in their stories. She started writing about their experiences, their emotions, their struggles to fit back into society. She is scrupulously careful to mask the stories, of course, in respect for confidentiality. “There are some things I am purposely omitting, even though it might help sell books. The incidents would be too revealing of particular individuals.”

You can find Sandra most mornings at the Coffee Bean, her “writing office.” She totes her laptop and notes and sits at the same table, where she laughs and cries along with the characters she is creating. In her non-writing hours, Sandra donates time to two synagogues she belongs to and to the Greater Phoenix Jewish Film Festival, where as a vice president, she was in charge of lining up all of the post-film speakers for the 2014 Festival. She still meets monthly on the last Wednesday of each month with the Scottsdale Society of Women Writers.



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# Music (and Judaism) are in her blood

By Kerry Politzer

**A**claimed violist Nokuthula Ngwenyama knew she wanted to be a musician at the tender age of 4. When she told her mother she wanted to learn to play the violin, her mother advised her to start with the piano.

“I just kept asking for violin lessons,” laughs Ngwenyama. “Finally, for my sixth birthday, she got them for me.” After developing a facility on the piano and violin over the next few years, Ngwenyama had an epiphany at the age of 12: she was destined to play the viola. She explains: “I heard a recording of Music from Marlboro: Mendelssohn Octet in E-Flat for Strings. There was an incredible solo in the third movement, which was a scherzo – the notes sounded like pearls. I tried to recreate the sound on the violin until I thought, that might be a viola! I strung a violin like a viola, and it was very close to the sonority. Once I heard that recording, I decided I love that sound, I love the instrument that makes that sound and I want to make music on that level.”

According to Ngwenyama, many of the finest European classical composers have played the viola. Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart, Antonín Dvořák and Felix Mendelssohn were accomplished violists; the instrument fine-tuned their ability to hear the inner voices of a composition. “They

While Nokuthula Ngwenyama discovered her calling early in life, her Judaism was a much later discovery.

could hear things from the inside out, how things are constructed, how to construct both harmonically and melodically.”

After Ngwenyama found her calling, she quickly became a leading figure in the classical music world. At the age of 17, she won both the Primrose International Viola Competition and the Young Concert Artists International Auditions. After graduating from the elite Curtis Institute of Music and the Conservatoire National Supérieur de Musique de Paris, she went on to establish an international performing career. Her appearances in the United States have included concerts at the Kennedy Center, Merkin Hall and the White House; she has also toured Europe, Japan and China. Her musicianship has been praised by such publications as the Los Angeles Times, Gramophone and the Washington Post.

Today the violist wears many hats. While maintaining a busy performance schedule, she functions as an educator, arts advocate and arts administrator. She has taught at Indiana University and the University of Notre Dame; currently, she directs the Primrose International Viola Competition and serves as president of the American Viola Society. When asked how she juggles all of these responsibilities with her career as an artist, Ngwenyama

## Nokuthula Ngwenyama in concert

WHEN: 7 pm, Feb. 14  
 WHERE: Arizona Jewish Historical Society,  
 Cutler-Plotkin Jewish Heritage  
 Center (122 E Culver St, Phoenix)  
 PRESENTED BY: AZJHS and Or Adam  
 Congregation  
 COST: Free  
 RESERVATIONS: 480-663-7788  
 or [info@oradam.org](mailto:info@oradam.org)

Nokuthula Ngwenyama: [visit ngwenyama.com](http://visitngwenyama.com)

says, “You just don’t think about it; you do what has to be done every day. With the American Viola Society and the Primrose International Viola Composition, I’m working with a really great board, so they do help me a lot. As far as playing and performing, those concerts and those commitments keep me on my instrument. You have to spend time with your instrument; you have to continue to grow. I just do my best and hope that it all works out.”

While Ngwenyama discovered her calling early in life, her Judaism was a much later discovery. She explains: “My mother is from Japan and my father was from Zimbabwe. What’s

of the Or Adam Congregation in Phoenix. Says Ngwenyama, “We’ve belonged to them for a little over a year, and we just love it. They are a wonderful group of people – everything they do is so thoughtful. I love their programs for the children; we’re very happy.”

It is under the auspices of Or Adam Congregation that Ngwenyama will be holding a lecture/performance at the Arizona Jewish Historical Society on Feb. 14. The idea for the presentation arose after the violist was invited to play in Kraków with the Sinfonietta Cracovia. She stayed in the Kazimierz, which still bears traces of its origin as the main Jewish neighborhood in the city. “I got to go around and see the incredible synagogues that are still there; they are maintained by the city,” remarks Ngwenyama. “But what was amazing is to see all of the Hebrew lettering on the buildings that still exist. You can still feel that there was a very vibrant and incredible Jewish community, and that’s something that even time and history have not been able to take away.”

While in Poland, Ngwenyama performed an ambitious program of music that included the Penderecki Viola Concerto. She is excited to play excerpts from this program at the Arizona Jewish Historical Society. Says the violist, “I was thinking of looking for other music by composers who perished in the Holocaust, like Gideon Klein; I thought it would be fitting to play some of these composers’ works in between talking about my experiences. We lost multiple generations of brilliant minds; we are lucky that there is a trace left from these people. What’s left is really quite amazing.”



## Nokuthula Ngwenyama Discography

All releases are from EDI Records and are available on iTunes and Amazon:

Partitas: J. S. Bach with guitarist Michael Long

CHE! A Musical Biography with guitarist Michael Long

27th & Grand with vocalist Vome, guitarist Michael Long, and drummer Dan Tomlinson

Ballade with pianist Mihae Lee

Rubinstein Sonatas with pianist Jennifer Lim

interesting about my father’s background is that he came from a group of Ndebele but also Lemba, who are the Jews of southern Africa. I didn’t know much about this growing up because my father was extremely secular.”

It was only after Ngwenyama’s father passed away that her heritage was revealed to her. “I went to visit my relatives, and there I was in the middle of the bush in Zimbabwe and this cousin says, ‘You know we’re Jewish, right?’ I was like, ‘What?’ I’m sitting there in shock because my father had never told me about this.”

At the time, Ngwenyama was involved in theological studies at Harvard University, and she began to research the story of the Lemba. “This is not only my hypothesis,” she says, “the working consensus is that the Lemba really came from the Arabian Peninsula, down through the trade routes on the Indian Ocean. You have Jewish communities along the Malabar Coast in India. This predates the rise of Islam and coincides with the time when there actually was a Jewish kingdom in modern-day Yemen.” The Lemba people now reside in South Africa, Malawi, Mozambique and Zimbabwe.

Interestingly, the Lemba tradition is patrilineal. So, when Ngwenyama married a Ukrainian-Lithuanian Jew in Arizona, the rabbi said, “As far as I’m concerned, you don’t need to convert.” The couple, who now have two children, are members



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# Take a Detour to a MAGICAL PERFORMANCE



Coach Jessie Deasey with actor Jessie Lefco in "The Little Mermaid." Photo by Christine Keith/ Detour Company Theatre

By Janet Arnold

When you're driving and see a detour sign, you know you may have to go out of your way a bit, maybe go over a few bumps and perhaps take a little longer than you anticipated. But you still arrive at your destination. And sometimes you find remarkable surprises along the way.

The same might be said of Detour Company Theatre, founded in 2000, which provides theater arts programming for adults with physical and mental challenges. The road may be a little harder and a little longer, but for those involved, it is worth all the extra time and energy – and the journey couldn't be more beautiful or satisfying.

Joyce Lefco is the board president of this nonprofit and the proud parent of Jessie, one of the company's actors. "When Jessie was 3 and had already been diagnosed as having special needs, I noticed she loved watching 'Mary Poppins,' over and over again. Then it was 'Wizard of Oz.' She enjoyed moving to the music and was fascinated by the stories. She loved all musicals, related to them and learned from them."

The Lefco family was living in Milwaukee, but they would visit the Valley regularly. Joyce had attended the University of Arizona and always loved the area. She and her husband, Bruce, learned of an integrated program available for Jessie at Chaparral High School. They were also



Joyce Lefco

impressed with the offerings from the city of Scottsdale and the Council for Jews with Special Needs in the Valley. They wanted Jessie to have opportunities that were not available in Milwaukee, and Bruce was able to make arrangements with his company to commute on a regular basis. The family moved to Scottsdale in 2001.

Through an adapted recreation after-school program, Jessie went to see a performance of Detour Company Theatre. Jessie was hooked – she wanted to do that too! Jessie had to wait until she was 21, the age when young people "age out" of specialized programs for children, since Detour is for adults. Jessie is now 27 and has participated in Detour shows each year.

Theater is a collaborative art. It depends on casts and crews coming together as a family to achieve its outcome. And that's what Detour is all about: being as inclusive as possible. In fact, Joyce is reluctant to list the types of disabilities the actors have. "We emphasize abilities," she explains. "We allow and encourage our actors to utilize their strengths and talents to make our shows wonderful experiences for the actors and audiences alike. We become a family working together for a common goal."

Joyce helps the organization to raise awareness and funding. Bruce is one of the vice presidents as well as Detour webmaster. The family belongs to Congregation Beth Israel. Joyce is a past president of the National Council of Jewish Women in Milwaukee, and they are both past board members of the Council for Jews with Special Needs.

Detour Company Theatre: [detourcompanytheatre.org](http://detourcompanytheatre.org) | 480-538-0874

Detour recently partnered with the education department of the Scottsdale Center for the Performing Arts, enabling them to produce their shows in the lovely Virginia G. Piper Theater. Joyce sings the praises of Detour's founder, a multi-talented woman named Sam. Sam has a master's degree in theater from Arizona State University and is the former coordinator of the theater arts program at Phoenix Day School for the Deaf, as well as a certified ASL interpreter for many theater companies. She started the company in 2000 with a few actors and assistants. More than 25 shows later she is still directing and inspiring, but now the shows include 40 to 45 actors at a time.

Working alongside the actors are "coaches," volunteers from the community who work one-on-one to assist and guide the actors on stage as needed. They are costumed as part of the show and add vocal support during the big musical numbers. Miki Safadi, administrator for Or Adam Congregation, has been a coach for four years. After seeing the company's performance of "Seussical," Miki says, "I was amazed and enchanted by their

## Detour Performances

On March 6, Detour Theater will stage a different kind of show. For the first time, Musical Director Stephen Schermitzler and Detour Theater Coaches will be in the spotlight as Detour presents a concert version of Tarzan. Some of the Detour actors and family members will be in the chorus. Joyce Lefco will appear with her daughter Jessie.

The show is at 7 pm at Scottsdale Center for the Performing Arts.

Detour actors will perform a full musical May 30 and 31.

stagecraft. I was working for STARS, where many of the actors either attend the day treatment program or work in the work center. I'm continually amazed at the high caliber of acting Sam, the other directors, musicians and coaches draw out of people usually dismissed as 'disabled.' I treasure keeping up my relationships with the actors and being part of this wondrous company."

There is no charge to attend Detour performances, though donations are welcome. Chick Arnold is a local attorney whose practice encompasses areas of mental health and disabled adults. "I have four clients who perform with Detour. I don't miss a performance. It's truly amazing what they do, and I feel enriched for attending," he says. His office put together a group of 20 to see Detour's January presentation of "Hairspray."

Jessie, who performed in "Hairspray,"

loves all Broadway musicals and can sing along with them all. She really enjoyed singing "Our Sister Ariel" in "The Little Mermaid," but calls "South Pacific" her favorite show "because of the costumes!"

The company invites the community to take a little detour with them along the road to a magical, theatrical ending!

## Pastime Players puts special needs actors on Tucson stage

By Janet Arnold

The Invisible Theatre in Tucson is anything but invisible. Thanks to its founder and artistic director, Susan Claassen, the theater is small in size, but large in its outreach and impact in the Tucson community.

In 1984 Susan volunteered her time and talents to help with an Arts Festival aimed at those with special needs. She offered the same type of introductory theater class she would offer with any group, and was immediately taken by the way the participants responded. "There was an instant connection," Susan remembers. "I knew there was much more that could be done."

Since that day she and other volunteer artists from Invisible Theatre have been committed to Pastime Players, an innovative theater program offered to those 12 and older who have special needs. Classes are held twice a week during the school day at Doolen Middle School in the Tucson Unified School District. With the help of a supportive principal and teachers, the theater artists provide a program of theater,

music and dance to 25 students each year. The culmination is a program in April where each participant gets to shine: "The Me Inside of Me." This year's performance will be Monday, April 28, at 7 pm at Doolen.

"A particular treat for me," says Susan, "is that when some of the members age out, we've been able to hire them on as assistants. We currently have five teaching assistants who have gone through the program. It's a win-win!"

Finding funding for the arts in the current economy is more challenging than ever. All funding for this program is obtained through grant requests written by the dedicated members of IT. "We work hard to find funding sources for the program from the greater community so that it is outside the school budget and not subject to cuts."

The program developed by Susan and her colleagues is also the subject of a documentary film, "Such Good Friends," developed by the creative collaborative group from IT, award-winning filmmaker Cyndee Wing, and songwriters Amanda McBroom and Michele Brouman. The film has been shown at several film festivals as well as at the Phoenix Festival for the Arts in December of 2013. As can be seen in the film, the project is "an unforgettable journey from heart to art."

Much like the Detour Company Theatre in the Valley, Pastime defines itself not by disabilities, but by abilities instead. As Susan Claassen says, "It has been my dream to ... show the world that we are only limited by limited expectations. Expect the most and that is what you will get." For information about the program, the film and Invisible Theatre, contact 520-884-0672 or invisibletheatre.com.



Allan Naplan

# Allan Naplan brings Arizona Musicfest to Temple Chai

By Debra Rich Gittleman

What do John Denver, Dave Brubeck, Abba, Judy Collins and the world-renowned classical pianist Jonathan Biss all have in common? Their music will be played and celebrated this year at Arizona Musicfest, America's premier winter music festival.

Arizona Musicfest presents top artists of classical, chamber, opera, jazz, blues, pop, folk, Broadway and even country-western music for six weeks beginning in February every year. From a 2,000-seat church in North Scottsdale, to the Grayhawk Fairway, to the sanctuary at Temple Chai, Arizona Musicfest uses a variety of unique venues to showcase some of the most exciting musical artists in the world.

"We embrace all different kinds of music," says Executive Director Allan Naplan, an opera singer turned arts administrator, who has run heavy-hitter opera companies from Houston to Pittsburgh to Minnesota. Naplan was tapped to run Arizona Musicfest in February of 2013 when he and his wife, Christina, also an opera singer, and their two boys, Jonah and Elliot, moved to Phoenix. "In one year," Naplan tells me, "we have already more than doubled last year's ticket sales."

When the Naplans moved to Phoenix last year, they ended up buying a home five minutes from Temple Chai. Naplan introduced himself to Temple Chai Executive Director Joe Miller and offered his services as a cantorial soloist. Miller jumped on the opportunity, and now you can enjoy Naplan's amazing voice most Friday nights at Temple Chai's Kabbalat Shabbat service. And on the "it's kind of weird scale," without them knowing it, the house the Naplans bought used to be owned by the temple's

former cantor. Talk about "beshert."

As for Musicfest, one of the first things Naplan did upon arriving in the Valley was to expand Musicfest's venues. For example, with Jewish pianist Jonathan Biss, widely considered one of the world's finest virtuosos, coming to town, Naplan thought why not house the Feb. 11 concert in a synagogue? "It just makes sense," offers Naplan. Biss, who will have just played Carnegie Hall a month prior to his Arizona debut, comes from a family of esteemed musicians. His mother, Israeli-born violinist Miriam Fried, was the daughter of Holocaust survivors, just one of the reasons Biss believes his Jewish identity is a vital part of who he is. His father is the well-known conductor and violist Paul Biss, and his grandmother was the famous Russian cellist, Raya Garbousova.

In an interview with the Jewish Chronicle, Biss talked about his Jewish identity. "I think it oozes from my every pore," he affirmed. "I regard the importance that the arts, music especially, had in our household as a Jewish-related quality and, because that's so central to my life, that's big." He's even including a work entitled "Játékok" by contemporary Hungarian Jewish composer, Gyorgy Kurtag, in his upcoming recital. Kurtag is best known for his work "Kafka Fragments," which includes movements titled "Hasidic Dance" and "Penetrant Judisch."

Arizona Musicfest:  
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# A Farewell to Two Ariks

By Mylan Tanzer

The recent death of Ariel “Arik” Sharon after eight mostly comatose years took from us arguably the most colorful, courageous and controversial personality in Israeli history. A month earlier, Arieh “Arik” Einstein, the most revered and iconic singer/songwriter in Israel’s history, died suddenly. These two larger than life characters had been almost a daily part of my life even before my 1981 Aliyah.

Sharon was a manifestation of the rebirth of Israel: born into a farming family and who, at age 12, was required to take up arms to defend his family and land against marauding Arabs. By age 20 he was a company commander in the paratroopers and was seriously wounded at the battle of Latrun in the War of Independence. At 25 he established and commanded the famed 101<sup>st</sup> paratroop brigade, which performed daring missions including the surprise parachute jump deep in the Sinai desert in the 1956 war. He is justifiably credited as the catalyst in turning what threatened to be a defeat with existential implications in the 1973 Yom Kippur War to a decisive military victory, ending Arab aspirations of defeating Israel militarily. After having retired just prior to the war breaking out, he was recalled and personally mustered the remnants of the IDF in Sinai and audaciously crossed the Suez Canal to surround and threaten the Egyptian army with annihilation.

Like his military career, Sharon’s entry into politics, first on the independent “Shlomzion” list and then as a Likud minister, showed his characteristic energy, vision, leadership and ability to get anything done. This inspired the moniker “Arik the Bulldozer,” further strengthening the controversial persona he established in the army. He transformed the low-profile Ministry of Agriculture into the main arm of Likud’s settlement expansion policy in the West Bank; the settlements are to be included in Israel’s borders in any peace agreement to provide needed security.

Sharon’s boldness in the second Likud government came close to ruining his political career; if it had been anybody but Arik, it would have. As defense minister and architect of the 1982 invasion of Lebanon, he was forced to resign after the Phalangist massacre in the Palestinian refugee camps of Sabra and Shatilla in Israeli-controlled areas of Beirut as retribution for the assassination of the Christian leader, Bashir Gemayel. The Kahan commission asserted Sharon did not order the IDF to take the necessary precautions to prevent a revenge attack and recommended that he resign as defense minister, which Arik refused to do.

I remember taking part in demonstrations demanding his resignation. Even though it was Lebanese and Palestinians killing each other, something which is routine, we were ashamed we were even remotely implicated.



Ariel “Arik” Sharon

Due to this pressure, the government voted to demote him to minister without portfolio, prompting political pundits in later years to say, “Those who didn’t want him as defense minister, got him as prime minister.”

Sharon filed a \$50-million libel suit against Time magazine, which implied he had encouraged the Phalangists to carry out the revenge attacks. Since he could not prove intentional malice, he did not win the case, but the U.S. court asserted that Time’s entire article was “false and malicious.”

With this and other political developments acting as a kind of unofficial exoneration, Sharon began his political comeback. As housing minister in the late ‘90s, the “Bulldozer” became a steamroller by flattening the formidable housing and construction bureaucracy to miraculously build hundreds of

thousands of housing units for the one million new immigrants from the former Soviet Union. A friend who worked for a time as a supervisor at construction sites recalled Sharon’s visits and how he personally would rally the workers to get the job done, just as he used to do with the troops in battle. As Udi Segal of Channel 2 said, “Sharon was a genius at understanding processes and organizations, which along with his leadership allowed to him to accomplish anything.”

After Netanyahu’s disastrous first term as PM, followed by an equally disappointing stint by Ehud Barak of Labor, Ariel Sharon became the 10th prime minister of Israel. Amidst the trepidation of moderate and liberal Israelis like myself, Sharon underwent the same transformation of many leaders who preceded him when he radically changed his long-established views and declared Israel cannot continue to rule over 1.5 million Palestinians.

As PM, Sharon created the doctrine of “hitkansut,” which can be roughly translated as disengagement and regrouping. Believing we can no longer wait for the Palestinians to accept our existence, nor tolerate their terror, he implemented unilateral measures to disentangle ourselves from them – thus the withdrawal from Gaza and the construction of the security barrier. This was an amazing turnaround for someone who only years earlier had based his beliefs and actions on the premise that Jordan is the Palestinian state. Following his reassessment, Sharon left the intransigent and rebellious Likud behind and formed Kadima, which virtually disappeared after the stroke that ended Sharon’s career at the peak of his power eight years ago.

The abrupt and tragic end to his term leaves so many unanswered questions. I am confident that Sharon would not have allowed the unending missile barrages from Gaza following the disengagement. Because of his courageous leadership and how he was perceived by his enemies, I believe with Sharon we would be closer to an accord with the Palestinians. When Anwar Sadat landed in Israel for his historic 1977 visit, the first person he requested to meet was Sharon. When Sharon suffered his stroke and was replaced by Ehud Olmert, Hezbollah leader Hassan Nasrallah publicly rejoiced and declared a holiday. Not coincidentally, Hezbollah provoked the second Lebanon war six months later.

Sharon also courted other forms of controversy. Beginning in 2001, there were several investigations into possible corruption. Although the attorney general chose not to charge Sharon and



his sons in the cases of using their influence in the “Greek Island” scandal or of illegal loans from South African billionaire Cyril Keren, many questionable backroom transactions, deals and appointments occurred during Sharon’s tenure, including one that resulted in a jail sentence for his son Omri.

Sharon’s reputation for not respecting authority or heeding superiors created animosity, tainting his many achievements and deeds and creating constant controversy. But it is a testament to his tremendous abilities that despite this, no one succeeded in stopping him. He was convinced he knew best how to ensure the security of Israel on both a conceptual and practical level. His formidable presence at every historical junction from 1948 until 2006 is testament to this.

Sharon was a born fighter and deserves credit as one of a handful of individuals responsible for Israel surviving the uncertainty of its early years. He continued his uncompromising character in politics, and his final legacy will be judged in future years.

Not since Ben Gurion, and perhaps Rabin, has there been a feeling of the prime minister as a father figure for Israelis. In the years preceding his stroke, Sharon was perceived in this manner. Personally, I disliked him, often intensely, over most of his political career and feared the day that he might ascend to the prime minister’s office. Once he did, like Sharon, I too changed my opinion. I had not allowed myself to see him as a visionary and a leader who was in the end a pragmatist. These characteristics have been sorely lacking since his departure.

He fought when injured, he fought when healthy, he fought when ill. Sharon never stopped fighting, and continued to struggle when it seemed no longer humanly possible. It was the only way Arik knew.

The other Arik we lost recently, Arik Einstein, was not only the most iconic singer in Israel’s history, he was a cultural giant who touched almost every Israeli at some point in their lives – primarily through his music, but also through TV shows and movies, and through his extremely modest and self-deprecating personality. He was never comfortable with adoration and would have disapproved of the massive, widespread and almost unprecedented spontaneous national mourning that took place following his sudden death from an aneurism at the age of 74.

He was Israel’s Elvis, Sinatra and Springsteen rolled into one, but the similarities end here. Einstein was a product of Israeli society’s informal and irreverent early years. He was modest (“I’m not some musical giant, just a guy who sings ballads”), humorous (in TV shows and movies he was considered an expert, and hilariously funny, impersonator), unassuming and self-deprecating. He wrote and sang the songs that have become the soundtrack of Israel. He never spoke about his political views, instead expressing strong opinions through his music. He brought to life the lyrics of Israel’s greatest writers and poets such as Bialik, Rachel and Leah Goldberg in pop and rock songs, exposing Israel’s literary giants to younger generations.

He was born and raised in the Tel Aviv he loved. His first love was sports. He was the national Israeli youth champion in the high jump and shot put and played basketball for Hapoel Tel Aviv. He was rumored to be the first Israeli to dunk, and when



Arieh “Arik” Einstein

he was passed up for the national team, decided to forego sports and spend all his time on music. He remained a sports freak until his death. I had the pleasure of talking to him several times when I was with the Sports Channel. His passion was the Hapoel Tel Aviv soccer team, whose players will wear a black band on their uniforms in his memory for the remainder of the season.

Yair Nitzani of the successful ‘80s rock band “Tislam” wrote, “Arik for me was my hero, the ultimate Israeli rascal, the guy who invented rock and roll in Hebrew, the first who sang the Beatles in the language of the bible, who taught me that you can be a musician and also do nonsensical

comedy on TV and in movies. He was a professional who took his work in the most serious way possible yet took himself in the least serious way possible.”

With the news of his death, the main television channels pre-empted their regular programming. Thousands of Israelis from all walks of life descended upon the hospital and gathered outside his apartment singing his hit songs, the words of which everyone knows by heart. The following day, a memorial service at Tel Aviv’s Rabin Square was held with tens of thousands in attendance. Prime Minister Netanyahu ended his eulogy saying, “Arik, you were the greatest of them all.” The radio stations played only his music in the days following his death. The Walla website calculated that in two days, his songs were played more than 6,200 times. This is even more stunning when taking into account that he was reclusive in the final 20 years of his life. He still wrote and released new songs and gave periodic interviews, but due to deteriorating vision, and a keen displeasure with the vanity and superficiality of today’s music industry, he performed no concerts and was essentially unseen by anyone outside of his close friends, who regularly visited him in his central Tel Aviv apartment.

Einstein released 48 albums of original material, and his songs dominate the pantheon of Israeli music. All of them have meaning and significance, and almost every Israeli has at least one Einstein song that stirs strong emotions and memories. The 1978 song “San Francisco on the Water” became my Aliyah theme song. Einstein described the beauty and wonder of San Francisco and America in general, yet how badly he missed Israel. This song expressed my mixed emotions about leaving the America which had given me so much, yet felt the need to fulfill my Jewish destiny through Aliyah.

Arieh means lion. Ariel means lion of god. Both Ariks were lions in their own vastly different ways. Israel is not the same without them. I appreciate what they have done and miss them both. *Yiyeh zichronchem baruch.*

Born in the United States, Mylan Tanzer moved to Israel in 1981. 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](mailto:mylantanz@gmail.com).



**1 TREE OF LIFE** – Jewish National Fund hosted its annual Tree of Life Award Gala at the Arizona Biltmore Resort on Saturday, Jan. 11. The event honored Ted and Bryan Kort, father and son, who have a combined involvement of more than 60 years with the Jewish Community of Phoenix and a shared love for the State of Israel. Before a crowd of 440, they received the Tree of Life Award, a humanitarian award given in recognition of outstanding community involvement, dedication to the cause of American-Israeli friendship, and devotion to peace and security of human life. The event raised \$250,000 for JNF.



**2 MAZELPALOOZA**, the Young Jewish Phoenix party, attracted more than 700 attendees to the Maya Day & Night Club in Scottsdale on Dec. 23. The party was for those ages 22-40, married and single. Mazelpalooza raised \$20,000, which will be used to help fund future projects for the organization. Attendees included Paul Cohen and Allison Mehr, and Brandon Welner and David Gordon. Photo credit to Lin Monas.



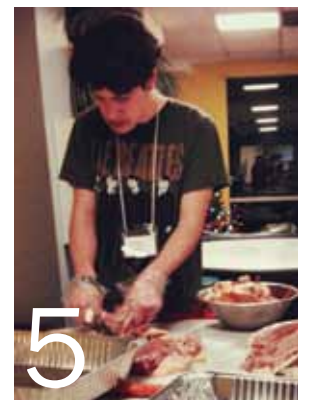
**3 SUN CITY WEST INSTALLATION** – Congregation Beth Chaverim installs 2014 officers at Jan. 3 services. From left, Rabbi Irwin Wiener at the installation of Treasurer Elaine Derman, Vice President Esther Federman, Secretary Zoe Schreiberman and President Marlene Gershaw as they light the Sabbath candles. CBC is an unaffiliated Reform congregation founded in 2008 that meets for Shabbat services the first and third Fridays of each month from September through May. Services are typically held in the Quail Room of the Sun City West Foundation, 14465 R. H. Johnson Blvd.



**4 40th BIRTHDAY** – A couple hundred of Jennifer Kaplan's best friends turned out to shares her 40th birthday at El Dorado Park in Scottsdale on Jan. 4. Elan Wetterschneider joined Jennifer in front of the Sesame Street play area for kids. Jen, who owns Evolve PR and Marketing, brought in a zipline, sumo wrestling, jousting, a bungee run, human gerbil balls and more. "I thought it would be a great way to enjoy the gorgeous day and truly value all that we have and are blessed with in our lives," Jen says.



**5 ALTERNATE WINTER BREAK** – Aodhan Lyons, an 11th Grader at Tucson High Magnet School, was one of more than 100 Jewish high school students from across the United States, Canada and Puerto Rico who spent their winter vacation lending a hand toward rebuilding and community development projects on Alternative Winter Break, Young Judaea's transformative community service in Los Angeles and New Orleans. "I've been on AWB before, and it's really just a great experience to go and help people who can't help themselves that much. It's really a great feeling to get do these things. That's why I keep coming back," says Aodhan, who was joined in Los Angeles by Tucson teens Michaela Davenport and Ezra Lyons. The teens volunteered at LA Regional Foodbank, Midnight Mission, People Assisting the Homeless (aka PATH) and the Jewish Big Brothers and Sisters of LA. Established by Young Judaea following Hurricane Katrina, Alternative Winter Break is designed to challenge students by immersing them in an unfamiliar, hopefully life-changing environment. The program aspires to further develop the Jewish values of activism and social justice in young people.





**6 REFORM BIENNIAL** – 19 representatives from Temple Emanuel of Tempe joined some 5,000 attendees at the Union of Reform Judaism Biennial in San Diego Dec.11-15. (Photo by Keith Belden).

**7 STORY HOUR ACADEMY** – Ellen Kaye, Director of BookPALS, a volunteer program of Screen Actors’ Guild, performing a story for Winter Vacation Children’s Story Hour sponsored by the Jewish Enrichment Center and held at the Phoenix Hebrew Academy on Dec. 23.



**8 HOLOCAUST SURVIVORS** – Thomas Blatt and Philip Bialowitz shared their experiences at the Nazi death camp Sobibor, where a group of Jewish prisoners overpowered the guards and freed 200 of the 600 slave laborers. A sold out crowd, below, at the Chandler Center for the Arts heard their tale of survival and escape from the death camp. The event, called Take a Stand: Resistance & Survival, was produced through a collaboration with the Center for Holocaust Education and Human Dignity, the East Valley Jewish Community Center, the Phoenix Holocaust Survivors Association, Generations After, the City of Chandler, the Greater Phoenix Jewish Film Festival and J2 Media. More than 1,100 people attended. Proceeds were shared between the Museum, PHSA, and GA. Photo Courtesy of the East Valley JCC.





Shemuel Katz

## Israeli Art Show & Sale Feb. 13-16

Israeli art showcasing a diverse group of talented artists as well as a variety of sizes and prices will be presented by the Safrai Fine Art Gallery of Israel, Feb. 13-16, to benefit the Education Department of Tucson's Congregation Anshei Israel.

"We look forward to assisting Israeli artists in spreading their beautiful works to this side of the globe," says Jami Gan, Festival of Israeli Art Show and Sale co-chair with fellow Anshei Israel members Hedy Seuer and Dani Bregman. "We are so happy to be extending the show over several days and opening it communitywide, offering special events for both adults and children." The Safrai Gallery in Jerusalem ([safrai.com](http://safrai.com)) has been representing Israeli artists since 1935, even before Israel became a state.

An Exclusive Preview Gala will be 7-10 pm, Thursday, Feb. 13 for patrons who have made a minimum \$75 contribution. The remaining three days are free. On Friday the exhibit will be open from 11 am to 2 pm, with a speaker from the University of Arizona Museum of Art at 11 am. Saturday evening the exhibit is open 7:30-10 pm and includes a dessert reception. Sunday hours are 9 am-2 pm with special art projects for children at 9:30 am and 12:30 pm. All events are at Anshei Israel, 5550 E 5th St., Tucson.

For more information: 520-745-5550 or [caiaz.org](http://caiaz.org).

## Author of Rashi's Daughters series speaks Feb. 17

Brandeis National Committee-Phoenix Chapter presents author Maggie Anton at the Arizona Authors' Speaker Series on Monday, Feb. 17, at 12:30 pm at the Valley of the Sun Jewish Community Center, 12701 N Scottsdale Road, Scottsdale.



Anton was a chemist in a genetics laboratory for most of her professional life – hardly the type to become known as a creative novelist. Raised in a secular, socialist family, it seems unlikely she would

write about women from the Talmud.

But that's exactly what happened.

After Maggie married her husband, David Parkhurst, they joined a synagogue and then joined multiple study groups. Maggie recalls, "Though I didn't go to a religious shul as a youngster, I went to the Kindershul run by the Socialist Workmen's Circle. I learned Yiddish and Jewish history. So, as an adult, I felt I was reconnecting more than learning from scratch."

Maggie's Talmudic studies began in depth in 1992, and by 1997 she began concentrating on Rashi, one of the greatest Jewish scholars ever. The culmination is her stunning series *Rashi's Daughters*, which includes a novel named after each of Rashi's three daughters, plus a prequel entitled *Rashi's Daughter, Secret Scholar*, which she wrote for the 9- to 14-year-old audience.

Her newest book (for which she already has planned a sequel) is *Rav Hisda's Daughter*, also historical fiction. "I know enough people now that I can find help in finding various, obscure sources I need. I really enjoy the research. I used to research for science, now it's for my novels."

Maggie spends time in the Valley visiting her son's family. Ari and Tamar Parkhurst are active at Ahavas Torah in Scottsdale.

Maggie's talk is open to the public, with a \$5 fee for non-members. RSVPs are required: 480-296-3355 or [mskbfl@aol.com](mailto:m skbfl@aol.com).

## Educators' Conference on the Holocaust

For 22 years the Bureau of Jewish Education in the greater Phoenix area has spearheaded a statewide conference to present information to educators about how to teach concepts of the Holocaust. The Carolyn and Herb Nathan 2014 Educators' Conference on the Holocaust will take place Monday, March 3, from 7:45 am to 3:30 pm at the Ina Levine Jewish Community Campus, 12701 N Scottsdale Road, Scottsdale. The conference draws between 125-150 educators, mostly high school and college teachers in the social studies and English disciplines, from all over Arizona.

"We have partners from Flagstaff to Tucson and from both the Jewish and non-Jewish worlds," says Elaine Hirsch, who coordinates the conference on behalf of BJE. "For many young teachers, this will be their first introduction to the Holocaust. It gives us pause to reflect and remember that where evil goes unchecked, horrendous events can occur."

The keynote speaker this year is Joanie Schirm, author of the award-winning book *Adventurers Against Their Will*, which is based on more than 400 of her father's letters. The conference costs \$68, which includes materials and lunch. Full-time

students may attend for \$35. Up to 6 hours of Continuing Education Units can be earned. Register by Feb. 21 at 480-634-8050 or [bjephoenix.org](http://bjephoenix.org).

## Temple B'rith Shalom celebrates 30 years with SignatureEvent March 1

Prescott's Temple B'rith Shalom is celebrating its 30th Anniversary on March 1, with dinner, entertainment, and exciting silent and live auctions, featuring an extraordinary range of items, dinners and getaways.

The event will support the work of B'rith Shalom. The Reform synagogue also has many members and associate members from the Valley.

Among its projects in Prescott, B'rith Shalom:

- Hosts volunteers for "From Home with Love," which has sent more than 3,000 packages of treats, pillows, toiletries and clothing to service men and women deployed abroad.
- Puts together "Toys for Tots," collecting and distributing toys that delight needy youngsters.
- Donates hundreds of pounds of food annually to Quad City food banks.
- Offers interesting and provocative adult education programs, free to the public.
- Participates in bringing Days of Remembrance programs to the community each year.

The gala event will be Saturday, March 1, at The Club at Prescott Lakes, in Prescott. Registration and silent auction begin at 5 pm. Dinner, entertainment and live auction will follow. Donation is \$75 per person. For reservations call Temple B'rith Shalom at 928-708-0018. [brithshalom-az.org](http://brithshalom-az.org)

## Teens invited to NYC Shabbaton

This year's CTeen Shabbaton is planned for Feb. 28-March 2 in New York City. For the past three years, hundreds of teens have forged new friendships while experiencing a meaningful Shabbat and enjoying the thrills of the Big Apple.

"Dare to be surprised. Prepare for the unimaginable," says Rabbi Mendy Deitsch from the Chandler Chabad, who is organizing the teen group from the Valley. Manhattan shopping, visiting tourists' hot spots and Brooklyn's Jewish attractions are some of this year's Shabbaton features.

The CTeen International Shabbaton is open to all Jewish teens in the community in grades 9-12 regardless of affiliation.

Registration must be in by Feb. 15. The cost is \$200 plus the plane fare to New York. Contact [rabbid@chabadcenter.com](mailto:rabbid@chabadcenter.com) or 480-

855-4333. More info and registration form at [chabadcenter.com](http://chabadcenter.com).

## Jewish Community Association of Greater Phoenix's Mega Event Feb. 25

Acclaimed actress and social activist Camryn Manheim will be the guest speaker at the Jewish Community Association's Mega Event to support the 2014 Campaign for Jewish Needs. Manheim is known for her Emmy and Golden Globe Award-winning role on *The Practice*.

This year's event will be Feb. 25 at 7 pm at the Arizona Biltmore. Attendees will learn how the Association makes an impact in the community and be the first to view the Jewish community quilt. The community quilt will symbolically tie together the community's many Jewish organizations and synagogues, all of whom were invited to participate by creating a cloth square. After its introduction at the event, the quilt will be displayed in the Valley of the Sun Jewish Community Center.

"There are so many congregations and Jewish organizations that have different missions and provide different services that create the doorways to enter and connect into our Jewish community," says Mega Event Co-Chair Andi Minkoff. "And all of the organizations, no matter how big or small, contribute to the fabric of who we are. The community quilt will exemplify that the whole of our community is truly greater than the sum of all of its parts."

Register online at [2014megaevent.org](http://2014megaevent.org).

## FEBRUARY CALENDAR

Through Feb. 8 (in Tucson)

**Feb. 13-March 2 (in Phoenix)**

*Other Desert Cities*, a witty drama by Jon Robin Baitz plays in Tucson at Arizona Theatre Company's Temple of Music and Art, 330 S Scott Ave., Tucson. Named Outstanding New Off-Broadway Play in 2011. Prices and times vary. 520-622-2823. Phoenix shows at Herberger Theater Center, 222 E Monroe, 602-256-6995. [arizonatheatre.org](http://arizonatheatre.org)

**Feb. 1**

*An Enchanted Evening: A Jewish Music Concert* featuring Cantors Ivor Lichterman, Avraham Alpert and Janece Cohen, as well as pianist/vocalist D. J. Sinai, The Gatekeepers and Tucson Girls Chorus. At 8 pm at the Berger Center for the Performing Arts on the Tucson Campus of the Arizona State Schools for the Deaf and the Blind, 1200 W Speedway, Tucson. Concert tickets \$36-\$54; after party \$36. Proceeds to Congregation Bet Shalom. 520-577-1171, [sarah@cbsaz.org](mailto:sarah@cbsaz.org), [cbsaz.org/concert](http://cbsaz.org/concert)

**Feb. 2**

1st Israeli American Arts and Crafts Fair provides a stage for all artists from all spectrums of Israeli arts.

Noon-4 pm at the Valley of the Sun JCC, 12701 N Scottsdale Road, Scottsdale.

Meet Adisa, who was born in Ethiopia and made Aliyah with her family through Operation Moses at 4 pm at the JCC. Free. Info: Yamit at the Israel Center, 480-800-9007

14th Annual World Wide Wrap will enable you to join in the mitzvah of putting on tefillin, at 9:30 am at Congregation Anshei Israel, 5550 E 5th St. in Tucson. Breakfast buffet available. RSVP to Mark at 520-886-8825 or [mcms1@msn.com](mailto:mcms1@msn.com)

**Feb. 3**

*The Holiness of Israel: Land for Peace in the Jewish Tradition*, a talk by Rabbi Chaim Seidler-Feller at 7 pm at Temple Chai, 4645 E Marilyn Road, Phoenix. Free. Presented by Valley Beit Midrash. RSVP: 602-445-3112 or [valleybeitmidrash.org](http://valleybeitmidrash.org)

To Be a Jew in the Free World: Jewish Identity Through the Lens of Modern History, presented by the Rohr Jewish Learning Institute for six Mondays at 7:30 pm at Pollack Chabad Center for Jewish Life, 875 N McClintock Dr., Chandler, \$99 for series, RSVP: 480-855-4333 or [Faiga@chabadcenter.com](mailto:Faiga@chabadcenter.com)

*Complicit: The Story of the SS St. Louis*, a video presentation by Robert Krakow, author and playwright. Part of the Shaol & Louis Pozec Memorial Lecture Series. At 7 pm at the Tucson JCC, 3800 E River Road, Tucson. 520-626-5758, [Judaic.arizona.edu](http://Judaic.arizona.edu)

**Feb. 5-Mar.2**

*Respect: a Musical Celebration of Women*, is back at the Herberger Theater Center for a tuneful, fun-filled for weeks. Wed-Sun; times vary, \$53-\$61. At 222 E Monroe in downtown Phoenix. 602-252-8497 or [playhouseinfo.com](http://playhouseinfo.com)

**Feb. 5**

Generations After's monthly discussion group for children and grandchildren of Holocaust survivors. Speakers Pennie Aragon and Fern Asallas will present at 7 pm at VOSJCC, 12701 N Scottsdale Road. RSVP: [hgold52@aol.com](mailto:hgold52@aol.com)

**Feb. 7**

Janice Friebaum, Holocaust educator and daughter of survivors, will share her knowledge and insights into the effects of the Holocaust on the next generations, at 7:30 at Shabbat services at Beth Ami Temple, 3535 E Lincoln Dr. (Palo Cristi Church) in Paradise Valley. Info: Arnold at 602-956-6749 or [aschwartz31@gmail.com](mailto:aschwartz31@gmail.com)

5th Annual Brighter Tomorrow Luncheon for Jewish Family and Children's Services at 11:45 am at Arizona Biltmore, 2800 E Missouri in Phoenix. Keynote Speaker Eldridge Broussard. \$180, proceeds to JFCS programming. RSVP: 602-279-7655 or [jfcsaz.org](http://jfcsaz.org)

**Feb. 8**

3rd Annual Hava Tequila, sponsored by the Young Leadership Division of the Jewish Federation of Southern Arizona at 8 pm at Hotel Congress, 311 E Congress St. in Tucson. Roaring '20s party with DJ, hors d'oeuvres and drinks. Proceeds benefit the Jewish-Latino Teen Coalition. Must be 21. \$25 by Feb. 5, \$35 after, includes two drink tickets. Free Party Bus from JCC. Info: [kgraham@jfsa.org](mailto:kgraham@jfsa.org), 520-577-9393; RSVP: [JewishTucson.org/havatequila](http://JewishTucson.org/havatequila)

Casino Night Social for Young Israel of Phoenix at 8 pm at Simcha Hall, 6516 N 7th St., Phoenix. Appetizers, fabulous prizes, open bar. Before Feb. 5: \$50 per person, \$100 per couple; after, \$75/\$125. RSVP: 602-314-4587 or [YIPhoenix.org](http://YIPhoenix.org)

**Feb. 9-23**

Greater Phoenix Jewish Film Festival celebrates its 18th year of bringing the best in international Jewish films to the Valley. 3 Harkins Theatres locations: Scottsdale, Peoria and Chandler. For schedule see January issue of Arizona Jewish Life or go to [gjfff.org](http://gjfff.org)

**Feb. 9**

Meet the Authors at Beth Emeth Congregation at 13702 W Meeker Blvd., Sun City West at 1 pm. Author Ann Goldfarb will share insight about her *Time Travel and Suspense* mysteries and Richard Baran will talk about the inspiration for his novels. Free. RSVP: Geri at 623-214-7721

Educational Mini-Mester is offered by the Northwest Division of Jewish Federation of Southern Arizona at 6:30 pm each week at 190 W Magee Road, Ste 162, in Tucson. Topics include: Social media, Afterlife, Sexual Ethics, etc. \$54. Register with Suzanne at 520-577-9393 ext 121 or [samador@jfsa.org](mailto:samador@jfsa.org)

Passages Lecture Series: Hank Pellister: Why is the IQ of Ashkenazi Jews so high? 7:30 at Har Zion Congregation, 6140 E Thunderbird, Scottsdale, \$18 (free to students), 480-480-634-8050. [bjephoenix.org](http://bjephoenix.org)

The Battle Between Faith and Logic, a 6-week class for teens begins tonight at 7:30 pm, at Chabad of Scottsdale (location subject to change). "Do I have to believe in God to be a good person?" Program of Jewish Learning Institute Teens. \$72 for course, \$18 book fee. Register: [CTeen@ChabadAZ.com](mailto:CTeen@ChabadAZ.com) or 602-793-0152

**Feb. 10**

Our Jewish Cultural Mosaic, a talk by David Graizbord from the Arizona Center for Judaic Studies, as part of The Buzz, a series of adult educational programs. 7 pm at the Tucson JCC, 3800 E River Road, Tucson. \$15. 520-577-9393 or [jewishtucson.org/thebuzzis](http://jewishtucson.org/thebuzzis) a former

**Feb. 11**

Jonathan Biss, hailed as "one of the most thoughtful and technically accomplished pianists of the younger generation," performs at 7:30 at Temple Chai, 4645 E Marilyn Road, Phoenix. Presented by Arizona Music Fest. Tickets \$34-\$50, 480-488-0806, [azmusicfest.org](http://azmusicfest.org)

**Feb. 12**

Rabbi David Wolpe, named by Newsweek as the most influential Rabbi in America, speaks at a free community campaign event for the Jewish Federation of Southern Arizona at 7 pm at the Tucson JCC, 3800 E River Road, Tucson. RSVP required: 520-577-9393 or [jewishtucson.org](http://jewishtucson.org)

Weekly Kabbalah Class explores meaning and depth in Jewish topics. For men and women. Sponsored by Oro Valley Chabad, at 7 pm at private home in Oro Valley. Free. RSVP to Anne Lowe, 520-505-4161, [alowea@jfsa.org](mailto:alowea@jfsa.org)

# FEBRUARY CALENDAR

## Feb. 13-16

**Festival of Israeli Art Show & Sale**  
(see page 60)

## Feb. 13

**Tesseract School Open House** for Preschool through 4th grades is 5-8:30 pm at the Doubletree Campus, 4800 E Doubletree Ranch Road in Paradise Valley. Student artwork will be on display and early applications for the 2014-15 year will be available. 480-991-1770 or tesseractschool.org

## Feb. 14

**Nokothula Ngwenyama**  
(see story, page 52)

## Feb. 14-22

**Children of Eden**, a musical by composer Stephen Schwartz, based on the stories of Adam, Eve and Noah. Presented by Copperstar Repertory Co. at Tempe Center for the Arts, 700 W Rio Salado Pkwy., Tempe, \$20-25, 480-699-1655, copperstarrep.org

## Feb. 14-23

**How I Became a Pirate**, a musical by Janet Yates Vogt and Mark Friedman, is presented by Greasepaint Youththeatre, 7020 E 2nd St., Scottsdale. Adapted from the best-selling book following Jeremy Jacobs' adventures on the High Seas. Feb. 14, 15, 21 & 22 at 7 pm, Feb. 16 & 23 at 2 pm. \$12-15. 480-330-5918, greasepaint.org

## Feb. 16

**A Torah of Human Dignity and Justice**, a talk with Rabbi Bradley Artson from American Jewish University in Los Angeles at 10 am at Congregation Or Chadash of the Northeast Valley, 9096 E Bahia Dr., #106, Scottsdale. Presented by Valley Beit Midrash. Free. RSVP: 602-445-3112 or valleybeitmidrash.org

**Passages Lecture Series with Paul Mitchell, Ph.D.** First the Saturday People, then the Sunday People: The Flight of Jews & Christians from Muslim Countries. 7:30 pm at the Ina Levine Jewish Community Campus, 12701 N Scottsdale Road, Scottsdale. \$18 (free to students). 480-634-8050, bjephoenix.org

## Feb. 17

**Brandeis Arizona Authors presents Maggie Anton**  
(See page 60)

## Feb. 18

**Keyboard Conversations with Jeffrey Siegel** celebrates the 35th anniversary of his piano concerts in the Valley, at 7:30 pm at Scottsdale Center for the Performing Arts, 7380 E 2nd St., Scottsdale, \$29-49. 480-499-8587, scottsdaleperformingarts.org

**Jewish Theological and Practical Approaches to Relationships with Other Religions**, a rabbinic panel facilitated by Rabbi Dr. Shmuly Yanklowitz, executive director of Valley Beit Midrash, with Rabbis John Lindner, Temple Solel; Elana Kanter, Women's Jewish Learning Center; and Robert Kravitz, JFCS Hospital Chaplain, at 7 pm at Temple Solel, 6805 E McDonald Dr., Paradise Valley, \$18. 602-445-3112 or valleybeitmidrash.org

**National Council for Jewish Women** meets 6:30 pm at Temple Solel, 6805 E McDonald, Paradise Valley. Jackie Shore RN speaks on hospital safety: Practical tips to help you stay safe. Free. RSVP: ncjwclaire@cox.net

## Feb. 19

**To Whom Are We Responsible: The Tensions of Global Jewish Citizens in the 21st Century**, a 3-part series with Rabbi Dr. Shmuly Yanklowitz of Valley Beit Midrash. 7 pm at Temple Chai, 4645 E Marilyn Road, Phoenix. Future sessions on March 5 & 19, \$18 per session/\$54 for series. Register at 602-445-3112 or valleybeitmidrash.org

## Feb. 20

**A Letter in the Scroll** by Rabbi Jonathan Sacks will be discussed with Rabbi Dr. Shmuly Yanklowitz. 7 pm at the Cutler-Plotkin Jewish Heritage Center, 122 E Culver St. in Phoenix. Free. RSVP: azjhs@aol.com or 602-241-7870

## Feb. 22

**The Storyteller** by Jodi Picoult will be discussed after Shabbat services at Har Zion Congregation, 6140 E Thunderbird, Scottsdale. Free. 480-991-0720, harzion.org

## Feb. 23

**Calling all Valley Teens!** The Jewish Community Foundation presents an opportunity to meet and learn about a wide variety of nonprofits for volunteer and philanthropic connections to those 12-17. Noon-3:30 pm at Temple Emanuel of Tempe, 5801 S Rural Road, Tempe. No charge, but donations of food are encouraged. 480-699-1717, acohen@jcfphoenix.org

**Passages Lecture Series: Andrew Roberts, Ph.D.:** DeJa-Vu: The Rising Tide Of Anti-Semitism in Britain & Europe: Its Causes & Solutions. 7:30 pm at Temple Chai, 4645 E Marilyn Road, Phoenix. \$18 (free to students). 480-634-8050. bjephoenix.org

**Mah Jongg Tournament** with prizes, raffles, lunch and fun! 2013 card will be used. Play begins promptly at 10:30 am at the VOSJCC, 12701 N Scottsdale Road, Scottsdale, \$36-47 includes lunch. Co-sponsored by Valley of the Sun Hadassah. Register by Feb.14: 480-483-7121 x1230, vosjcc.org

**Annual Fashion Show**, with fashions from Macy's presented by Temple Havurat Emet at 3 pm at the Palo Verde Country Clubhouse, 10801 E San Tan Blvd, Sun Lakes. \$24.50, includes meal. Call Jean at 480-802-0185 or visit templehavuratemet.org

**Klezmer Concert with the Rural Street Klezmer Band.** 1 pm at Beth Emeth Congregation, 13702 W Meeker Blvd., Sun City West. Dancing and singing along encouraged! Refreshments. \$20. Reservations required: Yetta at 623-544-3665 or the synagogue at 623-584-7210

**Hadassah Southern Arizona's 3rd Annual Mah Jongg Tournament & Raffle** is from 9:30 am to 3:00 pm at McMahon's Restaurant, 2959 N Swan Road, Tucson. \$36 includes buffet lunch. Register by Feb. 14 to Cathy at 520-268-8687 or colswing@hadassah.org

**Chabad Lubavitch of Arizona's 37th Anniversary Dinner** honors Allyn & Bonnie Kluger, Dr. & Mrs. Stuart Turnansky and Mrs. Mindy Wolfe. Cocktails and auction begin at 5 pm at Chaparral Suites Resort, 5001 N Scottsdale Road, followed by dinner and entertainment. Black tie optional, \$250. RSVP by Feb. 13: 602-944-2753 or info@chabadaz.com

## Feb. 24

**Archaeology and the Bible: Two Witnesses to Ancient Israel**, presented by Elizabeth Bloch Smith, St. Joseph's University in Philadelphia. Part of the Shaol & Louis Pozez Memorial Lecture Series. 7 pm at the Tucson JCC, 3800 E River Road, Tucson. 520-626-5758, Judaic.arizona.edu

## Feb. 25

**2014 Mega Event**  
(see page 60)

## Feb. 26

**Israel's Nature Defense Force** is the topic of a talk by Eran Levin, Ph.D. in Zoology and Ecological Physiology from Tel-Aviv University and Post Doctoral candidate at University of Arizona Dept. of Entomology. Israel Center's Gertrude and Fred Rosen Memorial Lecture. 7 pm, Tucson JCC, 3800 E River Road, Tucson. Free. 520-577-9393, jewishtucson.org

## March 1

**Temple B'rith Shalom's 30th Anniversary Signature Event**  
(see page 60)

## March 2

**Cabaret and Cabernet**, a sparkling evening of song and surprises. 5 pm at Valley of the Sun Jewish Community Campus, 12701 N Scottsdale Road in Scottsdale. \$72 includes entertainment, wine, hors d'oeuvres, desserts, auction. Proceeds to Congregation Kehillah, RSVP: 602-369-7667 or administrator@congregationkehillah.org

**Hockey Schtick Night at the Phoenix Coyotes.**  
(see page 41)

## March 3

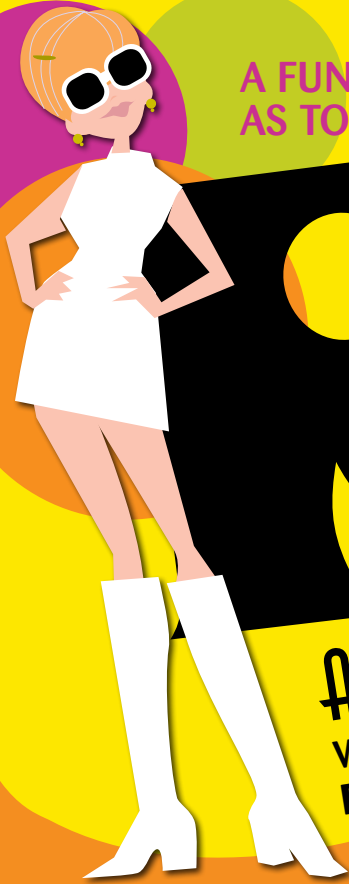
**2014 Educators' Conference on the Holocaust**  
(see page 60)

## 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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Pictured with her oldest daughter, Sasha Glassman is a member of the Madison Elementary School District Governing Board, an attorney, children's book author, and champion of the Extraordinary Educators' License Plate. With the tremendous support of Arizona State Representative Jeff Dial (LD 18), HB 2217 the "Extraordinary Educators" bill was signed into law April 2013.

