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OneTable has its first Phoenix community ambassador

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CAMPS

Tips for sleepaway camp, sowing seeds of peace and what's new at Camp Newman



JEWISH NEWS

1948 75 YEARS 2023

YOUR COMMUNITY WEEKLY SERVING GREATER PHOENIX AND NORTHERN ARIZONA

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A Jewish woman will now hold powerful and prized job in Arizona politics

SHANNON LEVITT | STAFF WRITER

Allie Bones, the Jewish woman who is stepping into Arizona's second most powerful job as the governor's chief of staff, never thought that she would have to concern herself with the Arizona-Mexico border, school vouchers or the dangerously low level of the Colorado River — at least not as anything but a citizen of the state.

Since Jan. 2, when Gov. Katie Hobbs was sworn in, officially taking the reins from outgoing Gov. Doug Ducey, those are the types of things filling her days, and often her nights and weekends.

As Hobbs' right hand, Bones will manage and oversee policy development, coordinate with state agencies and work closely with the governor to pass her agenda.

Arizona's water concerns will be just one of several priorities given that Hobbs "has made it very clear that she does not intend to continue to kick this can down the road — it's been kicked as far as it can be and we need to address it," Bones told Jewish News.

"We'll be bringing all the players together to try to tackle this from a holistic perspective and a statewide perspective," she said, surmising that Hobbs' collaborative leadership style could be the thing to bring people together and find solutions.

Bones respects that style of leadership, especially as it's one she shares, something she developed over her long career in social work. That's where she started — a far cry from where she is now.

Bones' first boots-on-the-

SEE ALLIE BONES, PAGE 2

Jewish News turns 75; still gives 'Jewish perspective' on issues touching the Jewish community

MALA BLOMQUIST | MANAGING EDITOR

On Jan. 15, 1948, The Phoenix Jewish News became the official publication of the Jewish Community Council (the precursor to the Jewish Federation of Greater Phoenix) and the newspaper for the roughly 2,000 members of the Jewish community in the area.

"What the founders may not have anticipated is that the moment each issue is published, it becomes part of a historical record. Our pages are filled with stories not only about our community and its members, but also about our relationships with the many communities with which we interact, the cities, state and nation in which we live, Jews in Israel and throughout the world," wrote Florence "Flo" Newmark Eckstein, publisher of the Jewish News of Greater Phoenix from 1981 to 2013, in an article in the May 16, 2008 issue celebrating the paper's 60th anniversary.

Many of the topics that fill the pages of the Jewish News today are the same as those that Eckstein described 15 years ago — and the same as when the paper launched 75 years ago.

In 1948, the four-page paper was published every month except June, July and August by the Publications Committee of the Phoenix Jewish Community Council. M.B. "Bud" Goldman, Jr. was committee chairman

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The front page of the first issue of the Jewish News in 1948.

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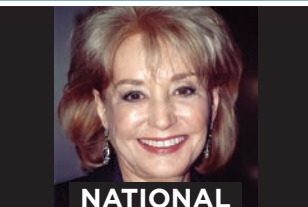


Top scientist

Nancy Eisenberg is on Research.com's list as top female scientists in Arizona — and 133rd globally. See page 19.

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NATIONAL

Barbara Walters, groundbreaking Jewish TV host, dies at 93



INTERNATIONAL

Lithuania passes law allocating nearly \$40 million for Holocaust survivors



ISRAEL

Brad Ausmus and Kevin Youkilis join Team Israel coaching staff for 2023 World Baseball Classic



2023 Phoenix Jewish News Print Dates

January 6	August 18*
January 20	August 25
February 3	September 1
February 17	September 8
March 3	September 15
March 17	October 6
March 24	October 13**
March 31	October 20
April 7	November 3
April 21	November 17
May 5	December 1
May 19	December 15
June 9	
July 14	
August 4	

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ALLIE BONES
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ground job in social work was assisting victims of gender-based violence, which became her specialty. It wasn’t an issue she sought out, however; it was one that found her.

In her second year of a master’s program in social work at Arizona State University, she interned at the Arizona Coalition Against Domestic Violence (it would later change its name to Arizona Coalition to End Sexual & Domestic Violence or AzCADV) and discovered a subject that had “clear-cut answers as to how to actually address the problem” but no political will to do it.

The issue also encapsulated many of the reasons she wanted to be a social worker: women’s and children’s wellbeing, their economic safety and security; the impact of gun violence on the community; poverty and health care.

“It’s all interwoven, interconnected and it just became my life’s work,” she said.

It’s also how she met Hobbs. Bones worked as the Coalition’s lobbyist while Hobbs was the director of government relations for Sojourner Center, Arizona’s largest domestic violence shelter.

“We really learned the legislature together starting in the 2001 session, advocating for more funding for domestic violence programs,” Bones said. Later, they were also part of Emerge, a program that recruits and trains Democratic women to run for political office.

The two developed a friendship and stayed in touch. But their career paths diverged.

Bones became AzCADV’s CEO. (She also served on the Jewish Community Relations Council of Greater Phoenix’s board and is a member of the National Council of Jewish Women of Arizona.)



Allie Bones stands in front of Tres Leches Cafe near the State Capitol.

COURTESY OF JEWISH NEWS

She was happy with her job at the Coalition and assumed she would stay for the rest of her career.

Then she received a call from Hobbs, who had gone from minority leader of the state Senate to Secretary of State. Would she like to become the assistant secretary?

The last few years at the helm of AzCADV, Bones thought a lot about how crucial voting, finding good candidates and democracy are to ending gender-based violence because of how foundational they are in building the political will “to actually do the things that need to be done.”

Equally important was convincing people who worked on issues like gender-based violence and the survivors themselves to see participation in democracy as necessary.

A job at the Secretary of State’s office was a great opportunity to expand those ideas to the state writ large.

“Getting more people engaged in and participating in our democracy, I felt, would have a ripple effect,” she said.

She didn’t know yet just how fragile

democracy could seem.

Then came 2020, and two things shook up elections across the country, and her office, in particular.

The first was the COVID-19 pandemic that panicked a large number of people to request a mail-in ballot rather than risk infection by going to the polls. Helpfully, Arizonans were used to mail-in voting already, but when some politicians began questioning the validity of the process, it created a lot of headaches for Bones and her colleagues.

“Our key words were preparation and partnership, and we felt like we had done everything that we could to prepare. The counties had all the supplies they needed to deal with voters who wanted to vote in person in the middle of the pandemic, all the security measures in place and all of the preparation — we felt really ready in the days leading up to the election,” Bones said.

The second shoe dropped after the November election. Arizona was called early for Joe Biden, much earlier than anyone had anticipated, and media

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JEWISH NEWS

YOUR COMMUNITY WEEKLY SERVING GREATER PHOENIX AND NORTHERN ARIZONA

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DEADLINES
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9 days prior to publication
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3 days prior to publication

Jaime Roberts, Publisher | 2013-2016
Florence Newmark Eckstein, Publisher | 1981-2013
Cecil Newmark, Publisher | 1961-1981
Pearl Newmark, Editor | 1961-1981
M.B. Goldman, Jr., Founder | 1948-1961

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HEADLINES

interest was intense. Hobbs' calendar was packed with media interviews — local and national — from 5 a.m. to 10 p.m. some days. The race came down to four states, including Arizona, that everybody in the country was watching.

"There was a lot of anxiety but I don't think that any of us could have imagined 'SharpieGate' or anything that came about because of it," Bones said.

SharpieGate refers to the 2020 election when a false claim was made stating that ballots filled out with Sharpies could not be read by vote-scanning machines in Maricopa County.

Lawsuits and election denialism followed and the month after the election felt like a decade, she said.

In 2021, her office focused early on issues that would likely come up during the 2022 election, such as the best ways to address misinformation and disinformation. They learned to "pre-bunk" or anticipate misinformation and election conspiracy theories to inoculate against them before they snowballed.

One priority was enlisting the media in explaining the election process to the public. Maricopa County election officials held weekly press conferences leading up to Election Day and Bones' office used social media and other outlets to help people understand the time it takes to get results and why not all votes are counted by the end of Election Day.

While media outlets were helpful in disseminating election information, some elected officials and candidates amplified the notion that if results took too long it was evidence that "the fix is in."

Still, most media pushed back on those claims and explained that mail-in ballots are secure and would be counted in a timely manner, Bones said.

Though the races were close, November's results seemed to repudiate many election-denier candidates across the nation, including in Arizona. Hobbs' Republican opponent, Kari Lake, was "kind of the poster child whose loss was a big one for the election-denier community," Bones said.

"A loud message was sent that voters are ready to move on and to focus on the problems that are facing the state — as opposed to continuing to rehash an election that happened over two years ago."

Still, given the makeup of the state legislature, election denialism is not dead in Arizona. Additionally, Lake continues to assert there was fraud in November's election. However, she lost her election lawsuit alleging misconduct with ballot printers and chain of custody in late December and was ordered to pay \$33,000 in Hobbs' legal fees.

To critics who accused her office of vindictively disenfranchising voters, Bones countered that there should be

a conversation about "what it actually means to disenfranchise people — telling your voters that it's not safe to vote early, causing them to go and stand in long lines and telling them that it wasn't safe to put their ballot in a certain box was disenfranchising to voters."

Following the 2020 election, there were "count the votes" protests outside the Maricopa County Tabulation Center that were scary and the staff "definitely felt intimidated," Bones said. She has heard some "really nasty things" this time around about how she belongs in jail, how she'll look good in orange and should be in Gitmo, but the worst of it has been directed solely at Hobbs.

But after surviving all that 2020 threw at her and others, nasty comments aren't enough to keep Bones from vocally defending elections officials' work and integrity on Twitter.

On Nov. 10, she tweeted: "Beyond tired of the disrespect from certain people towards those working 18-hour days to follow laws/procedures that exist to ensure the integrity of our vote. These people are heroes and deserving of our gratitude and appreciation for their service. #accurateresultstaketime"

(Bones also tweets her passionate love for many sports' teams, specifically, the Arizona Wildcats, the Phoenix Suns and the Arizona Cardinals. And as a native

SEE ALLIE BONES, PAGE 4

JN TURNS 75

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and his wife, Bertha, was co-chair.

Goldman and Joseph Stocker, a journalist who had worked on staff at the Oklahoma City Times and Associated Press of Denver before coming to Phoenix, became co-publishers and took over production of the paper as an independent enterprise on Dec. 31, 1948. Bertha and Stocker's wife, Ida M. Stocker, became associate editors.

"The Federation started it for a matter of months and then realized it wasn't something they could effectively take on with whatever tiny staff they had and that's when Bud said, 'I can do it,'" said Eckstein.

With the new management came a new title design. Gone was the heavy block lettering; in its place was a new font and a graphic of a desert scene with mountains, cactus and the sun.

The paper would now be published bi-weekly and, for the first time, its columns would be open to advertisers — both Jewish and non-Jewish. Foodville at Seventh Ave. and McDowell Road advertised "good" roast beef for 39 cents a pound, Carnation milk for 23 cents for "2 tall cans" and "strictly fresh" grade A eggs for 55 cents a dozen.

Goldman created the paper from his garage at 528 W. Granada Road in Phoenix. "My father was very good friends with Bud Goldman and my dad

and I used to visit very often," said Eckstein. "I have vivid memories of them talking about the paper and what his garage looked like, that's where he did all the work — except for the printing."

Eckstein's father, Cecil Newmark, managed the Phoenix branch of the American News Co., a magazine distributing agency. Her mother, Pearl Newmark, worked part-time as a legal secretary while raising the couple's three children: Flo, Diane and Steve.

In 1955, Cecil was transferred to Denver to manage the company's Colorado branch. Eighteen months later, the company was sold and Cecil needed to find a job.

"We came back to Phoenix because that had been our home for many years. Our friend, Bud Goldman, ran Jewish News at that time out of his garage. He encouraged Cecil to buy the paper. So, we thought we'd try it," said the late Pearl Newmark in a piece in the May 16, 2008 issue.

On Oct. 28, 1960, Cecil Newmark was added to the masthead as the managing editor and in 1961, he purchased the paper from his friend Goldman and moved into an office on Roosevelt St. in downtown Phoenix. Pearl became associate editor.

"When my parents ran it — it was really mom and pop — they were the only full-time people," said Eckstein. "Mother was the editor and bookkeeper, and my father was the publisher and ad salesperson.

They had one secretarial person that did support stuff and a few part-time writers including Leni (Reiss)."

Eckstein was working for Jewish Family & Children's Service (JFCS) in Phoenix, starting as a secretary in 1965. She went to part-time after sons Michael and Tim were born and earned her master's in social work at Arizona State University. When she returned full-time to JFCS she worked in geriatrics and immigration, helping refugees, many from the former Soviet Union, to settle into the Greater Phoenix area. "It was very rewarding," she said.

At 75, Newmark was looking to retire, so Eckstein and her husband, Paul, an attorney, decided to buy the paper from her parents in 1981.

"Paul, who was the editor of our high school newspaper, and I decided it would be a fun opportunity for us, so we bought the paper from my parents, and I became the publisher," said Eckstein. The couple were classmates at West High School in Phoenix.

The paper was renamed Jewish News of Greater Phoenix and Eckstein changed the frequency to weekly because "news happens every week." She also started special sections including arts and culture, families, education, weddings, holiday planning, bar/bat mitzvahs and summer camps. In 1988, she published the first community directory — a comprehensive

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ALLIE BONES

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of Cincinnati, she remains a faithful Bengals' fan.)

Both Hobbs and Ducey said they wanted a smooth transition of power, but there are definitely changes on the horizon.

Ducey liked to say he ran the government at the speed of business.

"That's not necessarily a government model that's going to work for the Hobbs' administration," which will develop different methods of measuring progress and success, she said.

With their social work background, Hobbs and Bones will focus on collaboration with the legislature, agencies and the community to find solutions, Bones said.

"We plan to engage with the community and come at things from a perspective of

asking how we solve these problems for people who are kind of at the back end of whatever issues are happening in the state."

And Ducey's large income tax cut that will take effect next year likely makes funding for some of Hobbs' priorities difficult.

"We're going to have to be creative and I think you will find that social workers are really good at being creative and finding solutions and ways of solving problems that other folks don't always think of."

Hobbs is a pragmatist and intends to build a cabinet with both Democrats and Republicans but her philosophy is still centered around interagency collaboration, coordination and looking at the structures to see what will work for the state and for the people who are the ultimate recipients of these services and funds, according to Bones.

In a Dec. 15 interview to Jewish Insider, Hobbs said the rise of antisemitism in the state and country concerns her and cited possible strategies such as "strengthening hate crimes legislation, providing security funds to places of worship and working closely with law enforcement officials to thwart potential attacks."

In mid-December, it was not something Bones and Hobbs had discussed yet, however, as they were still "trying to get to the bottom of all the things that are gonna slam us in the face on day one," Bones said.

Antisemitism is "a huge issue" for Bones and something she's concerned about, both because of her online presence, and the fact that she's a Jewish woman.

Bones is not a Jewish surname (her maiden name is Gorelick) but people wouldn't have to dig too far to discover her Jewishness. Her office has installed safeguards around

her and her family's social media accounts so that they don't become targets of antisemites. She's also asked her 17-year-old son, who is "understandably riled up about antisemitism," to tone down his social media posts.

In terms of issues that Jewish Arizonans might have a special interest in, including maintaining a good relationship with Israel, Bones said the administration will maintain the status quo.

Of course, a lot can change over the course of an administration and priorities shift. Right now, Bones chooses to focus on the good work she will be a big part of.

"When I started my career it never came to my mind that this would be a job that I would have the opportunity to do. It's humbling and exciting and to have the Governor's trust means the world to me. It's something I take very seriously." **JN**

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guide of Jewish resources that continues to be published annually.

"In 1996, we were one of the first Jewish community newspapers to launch a website. I'm very proud of that," said Eckstein. "One of my goals was to take the paper from a 'mom and pop' to a full-fledged small business and I feel I succeeded in that."

Prior to the website and producing the paper digitally, the typewritten stories would have to be sent to an outside company for typesetting. After the proofed and corrected typeset pages were returned, they would have to be pasted on large boards.

"It was laborious. We had big boards that we pasted the stories on then we would put them in the trunk of our car and drive them to the printer," said Eckstein. "The printer would make a photographic image, make plates from that and put them on the giant press. I would be at the printers every Tuesday morning looking at the pages as they came off the press, making sure everything looked OK."

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Left, Flo and Paul Eckstein. Flo was the publisher of the Jewish News for 32 years; right, Pearl and Cecil Newmark, Flo Eckstein's parents, owned the Jewish News from 1961-1981.

COURTESY OF JEWISH NEWS

Eckstein said that her mother taught her everything she knew about editing and she learned the paste-up process by looking over people's shoulders. Her father taught her how to use a proportion wheel, essentially a circular slide rule used to figure the percentage a photograph needed to be enlarged or reduced to fit the allotted space.

"Mother stayed on as editor for a couple of years after Paul and I bought the paper but then she left to become the first executive director of the Arizona Jewish Historical Society. That was pretty awesome," said Eckstein. "If she could see what came of that today, it would be incredible."

Her father also stayed on with the paper doing ad sales for five years until he developed health problems. "I told him he was the best salesperson we ever had, although I wouldn't tell that to the other salespeople," she said.

Eckstein's brother, Steve, wrote a teen column when he was a teenager, and her

sons and nieces would help during the summers delivering the papers to newsstands around town. Her sister, Diane, who was a social worker, never worked at the paper but at JFCS for several years after Eckstein had left the organization.

"We were a family business from 1961 to 2013, when Jaime bought it," said Eckstein.

Jaime Roberts (then Stern) and Jeffrey Stern bought the newspaper from the Ecksteins on April 1, 2013. Then on July 15, 2016, they donated the entire enterprise to the Jewish Community Foundation of Greater Phoenix, which committed itself to maintaining Jewish News for the community's benefit.

"I have this profound gratitude, first for Jaime and then for Rich [Kasper], Rich [Solomon] and the board of the Foundation for making the commitment to keep it going," said Eckstein. "They expressed to me how they valued it and how important it is for our community."

Kasper is the CEO of the Center for

Jewish Philanthropy of Greater Phoenix (CJP). CJP was created in March 2021 when the Jewish Community Foundation of Greater Phoenix and the Jewish Federation of Greater Phoenix integrated. Solomon is the general manager of the Jewish News.

Eckstein also expressed gratitude for the things she learned over the years from readers and community leaders, especially about viewpoints that were different from her own. She shared that she was much more open minded after 32 years as a community newspaper publisher.

"Every community needs a newspaper," she said. "An effective form of communication that is well researched, accurate and timely and is a cheerleader when it comes to editorial opinion — and offers criticism as necessary. There's a Jewish perspective that only the Jewish News can provide." **JN**

Jewish News is published by the Jewish Community Foundation of Greater Phoenix, a component of the Center for Jewish Philanthropy of Greater Phoenix.

Phoenix hosts 50th anniversary of Lion of Judah conference

SHANNON LEVITT | STAFF WRITER

More than 1,000 women gathered in Greater Phoenix Dec. 11-13, for The Jewish Federations of North America's (JFNA) Lion of Judah conference, which celebrated its 50th anniversary of the Jewish women's philanthropic movement started by the late Norma Kipnis-Wilson and Toby Friedland in Miami, Florida, in 1972.

The group was founded to recognize women who contribute \$5,000 or more annually to their Federation in their own name. At that time, \$5,000 (equivalent to \$27,500 today) was the cost of resettling a family of four from the Former Soviet Union to Israel, according to a JFNA spokesperson.

"This conference is about empowered women who are Jewish philanthropists, the Lions of Judah, of the Jewish Federations of North America. We have not been together since COVID began and we are 1,200 strong who are learning, singing, sharing what it is to be a powerful woman who believes in giving back," Dana Keller, chair of the board of the Jewish Federation of Greater Hartford, told Jewish News.

"Celebrating Women's Empowerment," the opening plenary featured high-powered and celebrity speakers and panelists, including former U.S. Rep. Gabrielle Giffords from

Arizona; U.S. Rep. Kathy Manning from North Carolina; and Katie Couric, journalist and author.

"This year's conference is an opportunity to celebrate this unbelievable cadre of women leaders who are touching countless lives and strengthening Jewish communities around the globe through their collective giving," said Carolyn Gitlin, chair of National Women's Philanthropy of The Jewish Federations of North America.

The conference included sessions and dialogue around issues facing the Jewish community such as justice and equity, communal belonging, responses to antisemitism, access to reproductive health and socially conscious giving.

Sheila Katz, CEO of National Council of Jewish Women (NCJW), was a panelist in a session focusing on the consequences of the U.S. Supreme Court's decision this summer to overturn Roe v. Wade. She also addressed issues facing women and families more generally.

"Some of the negative things happening around the assaults on reproductive rights, around the impact of COVID on moms and families, especially as the world tried to open back up before childcare was accessible, are some of the reasons people turn to NCJW. We are a voice pointing out some of these challenges and what it means to open up a

workforce when it's not quite ready for women and families," she told Jewish News.

Katz arrived in Phoenix soon after attending a Biden administration roundtable on antisemitism led by Douglas Emhoff, the Jewish second gentleman.

"You can't exist as a Jewish organization and not focus on antisemitism. So even though NCJW's priorities tend to be in the space of women, children and families, we also have to focus on antisemitism because we're unable to do our work unless we address the challenge it presents," she said.

Sigal Kanotopsky, Jewish Agency for Israel's Northeast regional director, also spoke at the conference and told attendees a bit about her personal story growing up in Ethiopia and making her way to a Sudanese refugee camp with her family before making aliyah in 1983.

The Jewish Agency's mission is to further Israel's engagement by connecting people of all ages to Israel while simultaneously building Jewish identity.

"Thirty-nine years ago, I was on the other side of the globe and now I am in this position, helping other Jews fulfill their dream of being in Jerusalem," she said.

She found the conference inspiring "as a woman, as a Jew, as an Israeli" because it was an opportunity to meet new friends and spend time with old ones. Being part of a chain of



NCJW CEO Sheila Katz speaks at the NCJW AZ brunch event on Sunday, Dec. 11, ahead of the Lion of Judah Conference's plenary.

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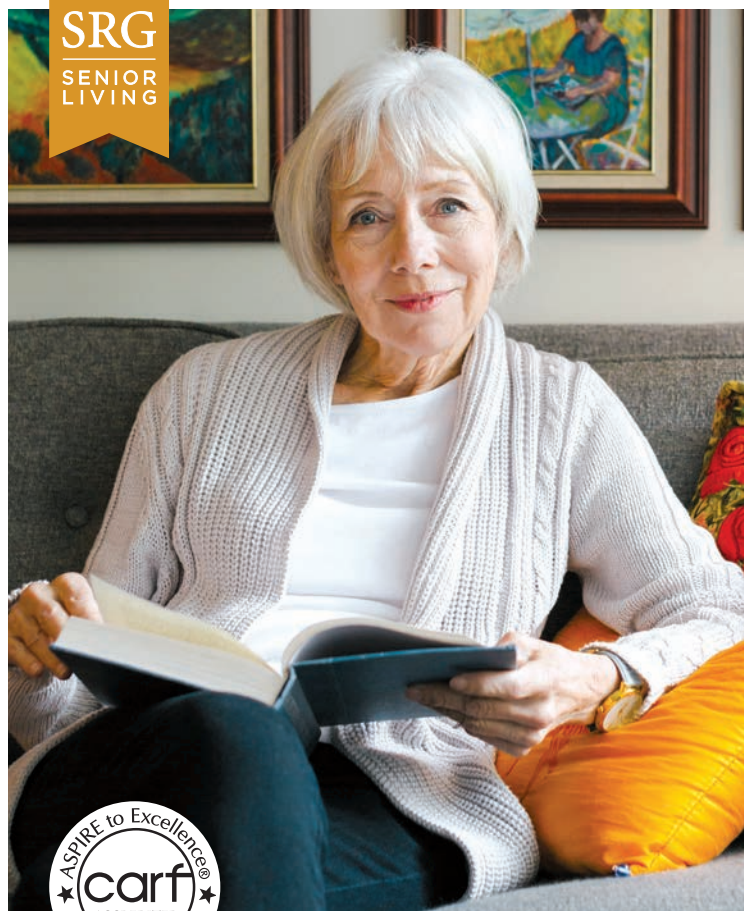
women is a privilege, she said.

"My story is our story."

Fifty-eight women from 58 Federation communities received the 2022 Kipnis-Wilson/Friedland Award, which recognizes female leaders who embody the spirit and vision of Lions of Judah through a commitment to tzedakah, tikkun olam and community service.

Lions of Judah have collectively raised more than one billion dollars to aid vulnerable Jews around the globe, and today over 18,000 "Lions" are making high-impact gifts through their philanthropy. **JN**

For more information, visit jewishfederations.org.



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Sharing Shabbat in Greater Phoenix just became OneTable easier

SHANNON LEVITT | STAFF WRITER

After a serious accident sent Aleeza Kaplan to recuperate in her parents' house in San Diego, she felt completely isolated, far from her home and friends in Phoenix.

"I was lonely, I was sad and I was hurting," she told Jewish News.

When an old friend from Hillel reached out and invited her to Shabbat dinner, she quickly accepted, but giddiness turned to confusion when she discovered it was like no Shabbat she had been to before.

Instead of accepting the invitation by text or phone call, she used a website, OneTable.org.

"There's no way this is real," she told her friend. "What's the catch? What's the agenda?"

She soon found out the "agenda" was merely to share a Shabbat dinner with a group of young adults. Whatever happened next was up for grabs.

OneTable is a national nonprofit that empowers young people in their 20s and 30s to find, share and enjoy Shabbat dinners through its website.

Kaplan overcame any sense of trepidation about using a website when these Shabbatot became her entry into San Diego's Jewish community while she was laid up at her folks'. She's home in Phoenix now, and as of Dec. 5, she is OneTable's first Phoenix community ambassador.

In cities with a relatively large Jewish young adult population, where there is demand for something like OneTable, the organization looks for people to provide dedicated resources that keep it independent of the national infrastructure, said Ely Benhamo, OneTable's director of major gifts.

(Benhamo lives in Phoenix, where she works remotely for the national organization.)

"If a community has its own page on our platform and actual boots on the ground, then we're really able to grow the community with more of a personal touch," she said.

Locals Joshua and Brittany Simon committed to the creation of a Phoenix hub for OneTable and agreed to raise the money, which they did with the assistance of the Center for Jewish Philanthropy of Greater Phoenix (CJP).

In her new part-time position, Kaplan will establish partnerships in the community, review host applicants and all Shabbat dinners posted to the platform in Greater Phoenix. OneTable gives young adult Jews — between the ages of 21 and 39 — money to host a Shabbat dinner (\$300 if it's open to the public; \$100 if it's invitation only).

Additionally, Kaplan will serve as support staff, a kind of "Shabbat coach," so to speak.

"She'll be the connector, the coach, the relationship builder," Benhamo said.

"It's all DIY. It's all peer led. OneTable doesn't create the programs for them — we just give them the tools and resources to do that on their own."

Madeline Dolgin first heard of OneTable in college in New York, and she attended a Shabbat dinner in Phoenix using the national hub before the pandemic. But it wasn't until recently that she saw its real value: a tool for creating Jewish community.

Dolgin once worked at Hillel at Arizona State University, where she had easy access to a Jewish community on campus. Once she left and transitioned to more secular work, she investigated ways to continue her involvement with the Jewish community at large.

OneTable was appealing because of its very low barrier for entry.

"You literally just sign up online and register to be a host and they walk you through the platform," she said.

"The funding piece was huge because I was still in my early career with a fairly small salary and to be able to host Shabbat dinner and host my friends — and afford to pay for all of their food — was hard," she said.

And asking friends to pitch in? That was just too awkward, she said.

When she and her husband joined Congregation Kehillah in Cave Creek, Rabbi Bonnie Sharfman asked for their assistance in making young adults feel more welcome.

In addition to a hiking club and teaching Jewish education classes, the couple has committed to hosting a Shabbat dinner every month — OneTable became a natural resource.

"Our Shabbat dinners are filled up with



Friends gather at Madeline Dolgin's OneTable Shabbat dinner.

COURTESY OF MADELINE DOLGIN



Madeline Dolgin hosted a Shabbat dinner during Sukkot using OneTable.

COURTESY OF MADELINE DOLGIN

an age group we call "post-college, pre-family," Dolgin said.

For a young couple with no kids to send to Hebrew school, the synagogue might not seem the place to go for community. However, people this age still want something beyond just a social engagement with other singles, Dolgin said.

"I have a lot of Jewish friends but they all seemed very disparate, like they didn't have a central hub or place where they all got together," she said.

Her Shabbat dinners are now that place. What's more is that her friends are becoming friends with one another and when she is invited to any get together, she sees many of the same faces from her Shabbat table. That's been gratifying to

watch over the last few months since she made her commitment.

"Young adults haven't been catered to as well as maybe they could have. Hillel does a really incredible job and then you graduate and you think, 'OK, what do I do now? And what does my Jewish identity look like?' We're starting to create something where those young adults can be introduced to the greater Jewish community and feel a part of it," she said. **JN**

To learn more or sign up to host or attend a Shabbat dinner, visit OneTable.org.

Jewish News is published by the Jewish Community Foundation of Greater Phoenix, a component of the Center for Jewish Philanthropy of Greater Phoenix.

New JCRC fellow spotlights serious issues like antisemitism with a touch of humor

SHANNON LEVITT | STAFF WRITER

Zillah al-Kahiya is already bringing a sense of humor to her work with the Jewish Community Relations Council of Greater Phoenix (JCRC) as its latest communications and public diplomacy fellow.

Twitter memes are one of her specialties.

On Dec. 16, she tweeted a meme she created with four human heads showing four different types of headaches: migraine, hypertension, stress and hosting Chanukah Shabbat. Each headache was illustrated with the affected section of head colored in red — the Chanukah Shabbat host’s head was completely red. The tweet included Happy Chanukah and Jewish identity hashtags and #ShineALight, which highlights the rise in antisemitism.

“Zillah brings a fresh lens to our work, especially with the use of humor and memes to share the Jewish story,” said Paul Rockower, JCRC’s executive director.

Humor is a useful tool for advocacy, al-Kahiya said. While antisemitism is no laughing matter, using humor to bring attention to it can disarm people and get them to pay attention when they otherwise might not.

“Jews are the funniest people alive but when

you go to large Jewish organizations, often their outreach is just walls of text — no pictures, no humor, no memes,” she said.

“But if you use a meme, it is repeatable and spreadable and doesn’t require outside intervention.”

Al-Kahiya is “a terrific writer, with a real desire to be part of the next generation of Jewish leadership,” Rockower added.

Al-Kahiya started her career in technology, but in 2019, she took a bit of a detour. After volunteering with Colorado Rep. Brianna Titone’s communications team, she realized researching legislation and writing communications for a legislator was something she really enjoyed, though she ultimately parted ways with Titone.

“I found out I really loved researching bills, writing copy for town hall meetings and learning how people were thinking about voting,” she said.

Working in politics showed her firsthand how difficult it is for disenfranchised groups to navigate government red tape to access certain types of assistance. She started a private fundraising group to help marginalized people develop skills, like self-defense.

She used social media to find instructors and

had a significant response from people eager to help with training. The groups met in public parks and learned some valuable skills, both for unhoused people and those at risk of being targeted by hate crimes. As a Jewish lesbian, protecting minorities is a priority for al-Kahiya.

“If you can use social media in intelligent ways, and if the local community is good, then people step up because they genuinely want to help,” she said.

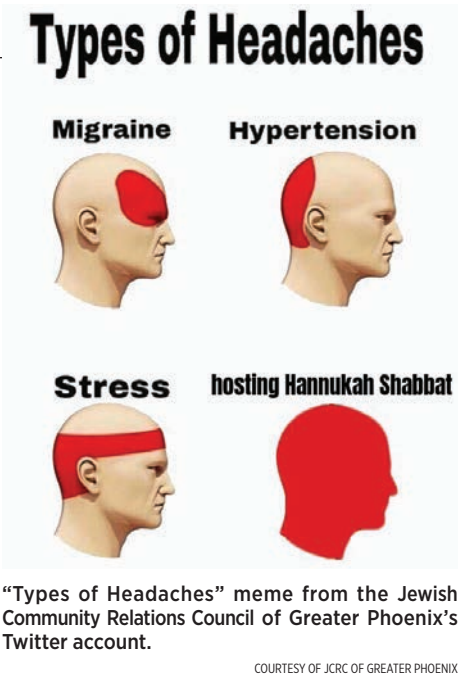
In 2020, she moved from Colorado to Louisiana and sought ways to involve herself in Jewish community outreach. She studied history and kept apprised of current events. She looked for ways to be active in the community.

Scrolling for job opportunities on Indeed and Jewish Jobs, she happened across a position at JCRC. She was used to working remotely, so the fact that she wouldn’t physically be in Phoenix didn’t deter her, though she has visited Arizona and thinks it’s a beautiful place.

She researched the JCRC and its mission and knew it was the right fit. She was also impressed by Rockower.

“I feel like I’m learning from someone who’s doing what I’d like to do,” she said.

Al-Kahiyah also loves cooking, especially spicy foods, and will be contributing entries



to a food blog for JCRC. Her ancestry is Moroccan and one special Chanukah treat she’s currently making and will blog about is *sfenj*, a fritter-like Moroccan doughnut made from a sticky, unsweetened, leavened dough and shaped like a plum.

She’s hopeful that this fellowship, which is funded in part by the Center for Jewish Philanthropy of Greater Phoenix, will introduce her to interesting new people and lead to other opportunities working in Jewish community outreach. **JN**

Jewish News is published by the Jewish Community Foundation of Greater Phoenix, a component of the Center for Jewish Philanthropy of Greater Phoenix.

Mazel Tov to the Jewish News on 75 years!



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The Jewish Community Foundation and the Jewish Federation have integrated to form the Center for Jewish Philanthropy of Greater Phoenix			

Editorials

Where is the progress on immigration reform?

In a 5-4 ruling last week, the U.S. Supreme Court blocked the lifting of a Trump-era Title 42 order on immigration, which left in place the federal directive that has been used to prevent the entry of millions of asylum seekers at the southern border.

The Biden administration promised to lift Title 42 — a public-health-based order implemented at the beginning of the COVID pandemic, which has been used by both the Trump and the Biden administrations to expel more than 2 million migrants on public health grounds. While the Biden administration outwardly sought to terminate the rule, it is actually breathing a grateful sigh of relief at the Supreme Court's Title 42 extension. That's because the administration hasn't yet developed a plan to handle the mounting mass of migrants gathering along the U.S.-Mexican border and seeking asylum or other grounds to enter America.

The United States is the destination of choice for tens of thousands of people from Latin America who are fleeing violence, gangs, poverty, corruption and the depravity of their

own governments. But we have no comprehensive plan in place to deal with the ever-growing immigration demands. And, even with Title 42 in place, the migration wave has overwhelmed border states.

The last time this country made a serious effort at immigration reform

in the Senate. Eighteen years later, as the demand for entry from the south has increased many-fold, there is still no answer. Everyone acknowledges the problem.

The most affected states in this mess are Republican-led. And the stunts from those states — like Florida Gov.

Christmas — are offensive. But the off-putting moves by Southern governors are driven by genuine frustration. Their states are unable to cope with the many challenges presented by rising migrant numbers, and there is no federal plan to help.

Nearly two years ago, President Joe Biden appointed Vice President Kamala Harris as his “border czar” to tackle the immigration crisis. We don't know what the vice president has done regarding that assignment. But we do know that since Biden took office in 2021, we have seen increasing levels of migrant crossings, further inundating a border already heavily strained by irregular migration and an overwhelmed asylum-processing system. It is clear that the longer the problem is not addressed with a comprehensive plan, the worse it is going to get.

The Supreme Court bought the administration some additional time to get its immigration act together. We call on the administration to develop an updated, comprehensive and realistic immigration policy. **JN**

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was in 2005, in a bill co-sponsored by Republican Sen. John McCain and Democratic Sen. Ted Kennedy. Their effort was supported by President George W. Bush. But the bill never got a vote

Ron DeSantis sending two planeloads of migrants to Martha's Vineyard in Massachusetts in September and Texas Gov. Greg Abbott sending three busloads of migrants to Washington, D.C., on

George Santos should resign

Before and during his recent campaign for office, incoming Republican Rep. George Santos of Long Island, N.Y., claimed to be “half-Jewish.” He also claimed to be a “Latino Jew.” He said that his maternal grandfather was originally from Ukraine and fled to Brazil to escape the Nazis. He also said that his grandparents converted to Catholicism during the rise of Nazism in Belgium after fleeing Joseph Stalin and the Soviet Union. “It's a story of survival, of tenacity, of grit, as we like to call it,” he said, and he told prospective voters how proud he was of it.

On Monday, Dec. 26, as Santos backtracked on numerous other claims he has made regarding his educational background, employment history and involvement in charitable work, he clarified his connection to Judaism: He now says that he is Jew-ish. And he says, “I never claimed to be Jewish. I am Catholic.” But since he believed that his maternal family had some kind of a Jewish connection, he felt that he was entitled to say he is “Jew-ish.” And he can't understand why anyone

would think such a claim is worthy of criticism.

Last month's concessions by Santos were prompted by numerous reports — bolstered by detailed analyses from several genealogists and historians — that Santos' campaign claims of Jewish lineage were

York City, he was a “seasoned Wall Street financier and investor” (having worked for Citigroup and Goldman Sachs) and achieved success in his family-owned real estate business and leadership in a successful animal-rescue charity. None of that was true. And

WHEN VOTERS WENT TO THE POLLS IN
NOVEMBER TO ELECT A REPRESENTATIVE IN NEW
YORK'S REDRAWN 3RD CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT,
WHICH IS HOME TO A SIZEABLE JEWISH POPULATION,
THEY ELECTED A MAN WHO IS CLEARLY NOT THE
PERSON HE REPEATEDLY CLAIMED TO BE.

not true. They also say he fabricated his family's history with the Nazis. He now admits that he lied about several aspects of his own history.

In Santos' fabricated resume, he graduated from Baruch College in New

York City, he was a “seasoned Wall Street financier and investor” (having worked for Citigroup and Goldman Sachs) and achieved success in his family-owned real estate business and leadership in a successful animal-rescue charity. None of that was true. And

prosecutors say is unresolved. Santos is also being investigated by federal prosecutors from the Eastern District of New York, the Nassau County district attorney and the New York attorney general's office.

Santos is a colorful figure. He says of himself: “I'm a free thinker. I'm Latino. I'm gay. I'm Jewish. I do what I want. I don't fit in the boxes that they want me to fit in.” But when voters went to the polls in November to elect a representative in New York's redrawn 3rd Congressional District, which is home to a sizeable Jewish population, they elected a man who is clearly not the person he repeatedly claimed to be.

Santos' victory helped deliver a narrow Republican majority in the House, and his success was celebrated as “the full embodiment of the American dream.” Santos now admits to being a fraud. His American dream has become an expanding nightmare. He will do himself and the voters in New York's 3rd Congressional District a service by resigning from office. **JN**

A NOTE ON OPINION

We are a diverse community. The views expressed in these opinion pieces do not necessarily reflect the views of the officers and boards of the Jewish Community Foundation, Center for Jewish Philanthropy, Jewish Federation of Greater Phoenix, Mid-Atlantic Media or the staff of the Jewish News. Letters must respond to content published by the Jewish News and should be a maximum of 200 words. They may be edited for space and clarity. Unsigned letters will not be published. Letters and op-ed submissions should be sent to editor@jewishaz.com.

Commentary

Book bans, Ukraine and the end of Roe: The year 2022 in Jewish ideas

ANDREW SILOW-CARROLL | JTA

Jewish eras can be defined by events (the fall of the Second Temple, the Inquisition, the founding of Israel) and by ideas (the rabbinic era, emancipation, post-denominationalism). A community reveals itself in the things it argues about most passionately.

It's too early to tell what ideas will define this era, although a look back at the big debates of 2022 suggests Jews in North America will be discussing a few issues for a long time: the resurgence of antisemitism, the boundaries of free speech, the red/blue culture wars.

Below are eight of some of the key debates of the past year as (mostly) reflected in the Jewish Telegraphic Agency's opinion section (which I have a hand in editing). They suggest, above all, a community anxious about its standing in the American body politic despite its strength and self-confidence.

Antisemitism and the Black-Jewish alliance

The rapper Kanye West spread canards about Jews and power. Brooklyn Nets star Kyrie Irving shared an antisemitic film on Twitter. And comedian Dave Chappelle made light of both incidents on "Saturday Night Live,"

suggesting comics like him had more to fear from cancellation than Jews did from rising antisemitism. The central roles played in these controversies by three African American celebrities revived longstanding tensions between two communities who haven't been able to count on their historic ties since the end of the civil rights era. The war of words was particularly vexing for Jews of color, like the rabbi known as MaNishtana and Rabbi Kendell Pinkney — who wondered whether "my mixed Jewish child will grow up in an America where she feels compelled to closet aspects of her identity because society cannot hold the wonder of her complexity."

Jewish attitudes toward Ukraine

Russia's war on Ukraine stirred up complex feelings among Jews. It led to an outpouring of support for the innocents caught up in or sent fleeing by Russia's invasion, and the Jewish president who became their symbol of defiance. It reinvigorated a Jewish rescue apparatus that seemed to have been in hibernation for years. And it probed Jews' memories of their own historic suffering in Ukraine, often at the hands of the ancestors of those now under attack.



An image created by the AI site Dall-E for this article from the following prompt: "Collage featuring Jews, robots, books and Ukraine." COURTESY OF JTA

Jews and the end of Roe v. Wade

In June the U.S. Supreme Court voted 5-4 to overturn Roe v. Wade. It was an unthinkable outcome for liberal Jewish activists, women especially, who for 50 years and more had regarded the right to an abortion as integral to their Jewish identity and political worldview. Before the decision came down, Jewish studies scholar Michal Raucher questioned long-held Jewish organizational views that justified abortion only on the narrowest of religious grounds without acknowledging that women "have the bodily autonomy to

make that decision on their own." Conversely, Avi Shafran of Agudath Israel of America welcomed the end of Roe on behalf of his Haredi Orthodox organization, writing that the rabbis "who guide us indisputably hold that, absent extraordinary circumstances, terminating a pregnancy is a grave sin." Responding to Shafran, Daphne Lazar Price, an Orthodox Jewish feminist, argued that even in her stringently religious community, getting an abortion is a "conscious choice by women to

SEE SILOW-CARROLL, PAGE 10

Why we'll fight Israel's new extremist political agenda with the determination of the Maccabees



RABBI RICK JACOBS | JTA

The Book of Exodus tells us that the penultimate plague inflicted on Egypt, the plague of darkness, was one of the worst. The

16th-century Italian commentator Sforino, who lived in the aftermath of the Inquisition in Spain, wrote that the darkness went beyond the mere absence of light: It was a tangible darkness, a darkness you could feel. We can empathize as we feel the darkness of intolerance, hate, bigotry and zealotry today.

We kindled our lights during the eight days of Chanukah to remember a time of darkness so bleak that the Maccabees, cruelly oppressed by Antiochus IV, could feel it. The Jews were a tiny minority in the expansive, ancient Greco-Syrian Empire. The Maccabees fought one of the earliest battles for religious freedom. Though they were vastly outnumbered, our ancient heroes remained courageous and determined.

Today, we recognize that no nation is immune to our era's autocratic repression of democracy, human rights and civil rights. Battles against bigotry, hate and religious intolerance are being fought in too many places around the world, including in our beloved Israel. With the same determination

as the Maccabees, we must fight for religious pluralism and equality in Israel with law and democracy as our weapons and drive out the darkness by bringing the light of equity, compassion and justice.

Loud voices within the new Israeli government are distinguished by their hatred for those who are not like them: non-Orthodox Jews, LGBTQ+ individuals, Palestinian-Israeli citizens, Palestinians, immigrants and others. The extremist political agenda of this new government is profoundly distressing, representing radical policy shifts that are antithetical to the core values of liberal Jews. We North American Jews can either walk away or lean in with all our might.

Some maintain that because the values that used to bind Jews in the Diaspora to the Jewish State are being replaced with extreme ultra-nationalist and ultra-Orthodox policies, it is time for liberal Jews to walk away from the Zionist project. This would be a terrible mistake: Zionism is more than what Israeli politicians say or do. Authentic Judaism is much more diverse and expansive than the restrictive definitions of the ultra-Orthodox Chief Rabbinate.

This is the moment for liberal Jews to fight even harder for the Jewish State envisioned in Israel's Declaration of Independence.

Leaders of the new Israeli government are hoping that we will abandon Israel and allow them to create a new Israel that is divisive, tyrannical and tribalistic. This is why they fight us so bitterly at the Western Wall, and why they stymied the agreement that would have created an equitable prayer space at that holiest of Jewish sites.

We will not stand idly by while the most important project of contemporary Jewish life, the State of Israel, is led down the road of autocracy by extremists. Instead, we will renew our dedication to the State of Israel as a safe home for all her citizens and the democratic, pluralistic homeland of all Jewish people. We refuse to allow extremists to subvert religious equality in Israel.

The Reform and Conservative Jewish movements are growing in Israel, showing that Israel is yearning for a Judaism that is egalitarian, relevant, evolving and morally rigorous.

The progressive Zionism we embody is not reliant on the politicians or parties in power; rather, it is tied to the diverse people of Israel and the bedrock values of "freedom, justice and peace" upon which Israel was built and are enshrined in its Declaration of Independence. This is a critical time to invest our energy and resources in growing the pluralistic Jewish communities in Israel. The

Israel Religious Action Center, our Reform movement's social justice arm in Israel, is one such institution that is lighting the way for that just, secure and pluralistic Israel we envision and hold in our hearts.

Over the coming months, our Reform movement will bring thousands of North American Jews — teens, families, and adults — to experience the beauty and miracle of modern Israel while visiting and strengthening our allies throughout the land. The unity and security of the Jewish people matter immensely to us, and the well-being of the Jewish State is also our responsibility. These are two profound reasons why we will not stop standing up and fighting for the Israel we love.

We will not let the darkness overtake the light. The light shines brightly when we celebrate the many authentic ways our people live out their Jewish commitment. The light shines brightly whenever we are partisans for justice and compassion. As inaugural poet Amanda Gorman said, "There is always light. If only we're brave enough to see it. If only we're brave enough to be it."

Let this be said of us — Chanukah and every day. **JN**

The views and opinions expressed in this article are those of the author and do not necessarily reflect the views of JTA or its parent company, 70 Faces Media.

Sustainability away from home



Rabbi Dovber Dechter
COURTESY OF RABBI DOVBER DECHTER

PARSHAH VAYECHI:

GENESIS 47:28 - 50:26

RABBI DOVBER DECHTER

Abraham, Isaac and Jacob; Sara, Rivkah, Rochel and Leah.

Ask someone for the names of our forefathers and mothers, and you'll usually walk away satisfied. Ask for the names of the forefathers' children and likewise you should be able to get a pretty quick answer. Ask for the names of the grandchildren, and now you will be hard pressed to get the correct answers.

Out of all the grandchildren, the ones you would likely hear about would be Menashe and Ephraim. These are Yosef's two sons who were born to him and his wife, Asnat, in Egypt. They were not educated in the land of their people, nor with their family, yet they merited to have a special place in our tradition for all time.

As Jacob said in his blessing to them, "with your names shall the people bless." Many a tear has been shed by hopeful and

praying parents bestowing their heartfelt wishes on their children before Shabbat or Yom Kippur; "*Hamalach bagoel oisi* ... may you be as Menashe and Ephraim (and as Sara, Rivkah, Rachel and Leah)."

They were the hope of the people. In their migration away from the Holy Land, there was the vast unknown in front of them. How would they fare, and would they continue to inspire the next generation in these more challenging circumstances? Menashe and Ephraim were all the proof and assurance they needed. Here was a family that was torn away from their land, from their family and people, and these are their products. Sons who held strong to their values and traditions while in the bedazzled halls of Pharaoh's palace and the depravity of Egypt. "You see," the brothers whispered to each other, "it can be done even here." We can still instill our families with our beloved Judaism, while we engage successfully with different cultures. There is nothing to fear.

The secret to this success story is that Yosef employed two tactics. Firstly, he held strong to his family memory and tradition. He made space for that to be the founding blocks of his home and the

environment he created. Then, he got active by impacting the environment around him. Instead of being threatened by what was around him, cowering and hiding his secret background, his family became influencers. Not the TikTok type, but the leading by example type. Displaying how a true Jewish home operates, they shone their light all over a dark Egypt. This was his weapon to maintain connection with his heritage even though he was so far away and alone. To train his young family in the ways of his father. And more importantly, to thrive there as well.

And they did a fine job indeed. Still today, we bless our families — be like them! We are not in ancient Israel of old. We are dispersed throughout the world, and here in Arizona and downtown Phoenix, of course as well. But if we mimic that model, we can be assured that our own families will be proud of their identities, protect it, and proudly display it for all to see. So, make Jewish practice a bedrock of your home. Let your family see you lay tefillin, gather them as you light the Shabbat candles before sundown, make kiddush out loud (don't forget to serve the matzah balls, the most

SHABBAT CANDLE LIGHTING

JAN. 6 - 5:17 P.M.

JAN. 13 - 5:24 P.M.

SHABBAT ENDS

JAN. 7 - 6:16 P.M.

JAN. 14 - 6:22 P.M.

Find area congregations at jewishaz.com, where you can also find our 2023 Community Directory.

important element in this all), study Torah often, give charity generously, display your menorah for all to see and so on. Let's proudly display our pride and our connection to our Judaism — happily, and with joy.

And then let's change the world around us. Lead by example. Do good and you will be noticed. Do good and you will be emulated. That is how we continue the legacy. That is how we live as Menashe and Ephraim. That is how we become worthy of carrying that blessing forward.

Hamalach bagoel oisi — may G-d's angel deliver us from all harm and may we truly be blessed, among all our brethren, Amen! **JN**

Rabbi Dovber Dechter is the co-director of Chabad of Downtown Phoenix.

SILOW-CARROLL

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 9

follow their religious convictions and maintain their human dignity."

Colleyville and synagogue safety

After a gunman held a rabbi and three congregants hostage at a Colleyville, Texas synagogue in January, Jewish institutions called for even tighter security at buildings that had already been hardened after the Pittsburgh synagogue massacre in 2018. And yet for some, the sight of armed guards and locked doors undermines the spirit of a house of worship. Raphael Magarik of the University of Illinois Chicago argued that the Colleyville incident shouldn't lead to an overreaction, especially when congregations are struggling to come back together after the pandemic. Rabbi Joshua Ladon warned about the "impulse to allow fear to define our actions." Meanwhile, Jews of color said armed guards and police patrols can make them feel unsafe. In a powerful response, Mijal Bitton and Rabbi Isaiah Rothstein of the Shalom Hartman Center wrote that Jewish institutions must think in "expansive and creative ways about how to fight for our combined safety in a way that takes into account the rich ethnic and racial diversity of our communities."

Anti-Zionism, antisemitism and "Jew-free zones"

When nine student groups at UC Berkeley's law school adopted by-laws saying that they

will not invite speakers who support Zionism, the Jewish Journal in Los Angeles ran an op-ed with the provocative headline, "Berkeley Develops Jewish Free Zones." In the essay, Kenneth L. Marcus, who heads the Brandeis Center for Human Rights Under Law, argued that "Zionism is an integral aspect of the identity of many Jews," and that the bylaws act as "racially restrictive covenants," precluding Jewish participation. Defenders of the pro-Palestinian students countered that groups often invite only like-minded speakers, and that while being Jewish is an identity, Zionism is a political viewpoint. Faculty, politicians and activists weighed in on both sides of what has become a central debate on campuses and beyond: When does anti-Zionism become antisemitism, and how do you balance free speech rights against the claims by some students that their personal safety hangs in the balance?

"Maus" and school book bans

Caught up in an epidemic of book-banning were Jewish books for children and young adults, a list that includes "The Purim Superhero," "Family Fletcher" and "Chik Chak Shabbat." A Texas school board removed a 2018 graphic novel adaptation of Anne Frank's diary. But perhaps the highest profile case of a Jewish-interest book being banned came when a Tennessee school board voted to remove "Maus" — Art Spiegelman's epic cartoon memoir about the Holocaust — from middle-school classrooms, citing its use of profanity, nudity and depictions of "killing

kids." Coverage of the ban misleadingly depicted "Maus" as an introduction to the Shoah for young adults, while Spiegelman recently noted that he had become a reluctant "metonym" for the book-banning issue. Jennifer Caplan explained why the book is indispensable: "'Maus' forces the reader to bear witness in a way no written account can, and the [illustrations] are especially good at forcing the eye to see what the mind prefers to glide past."

Artificial intelligence and real-life dilemmas

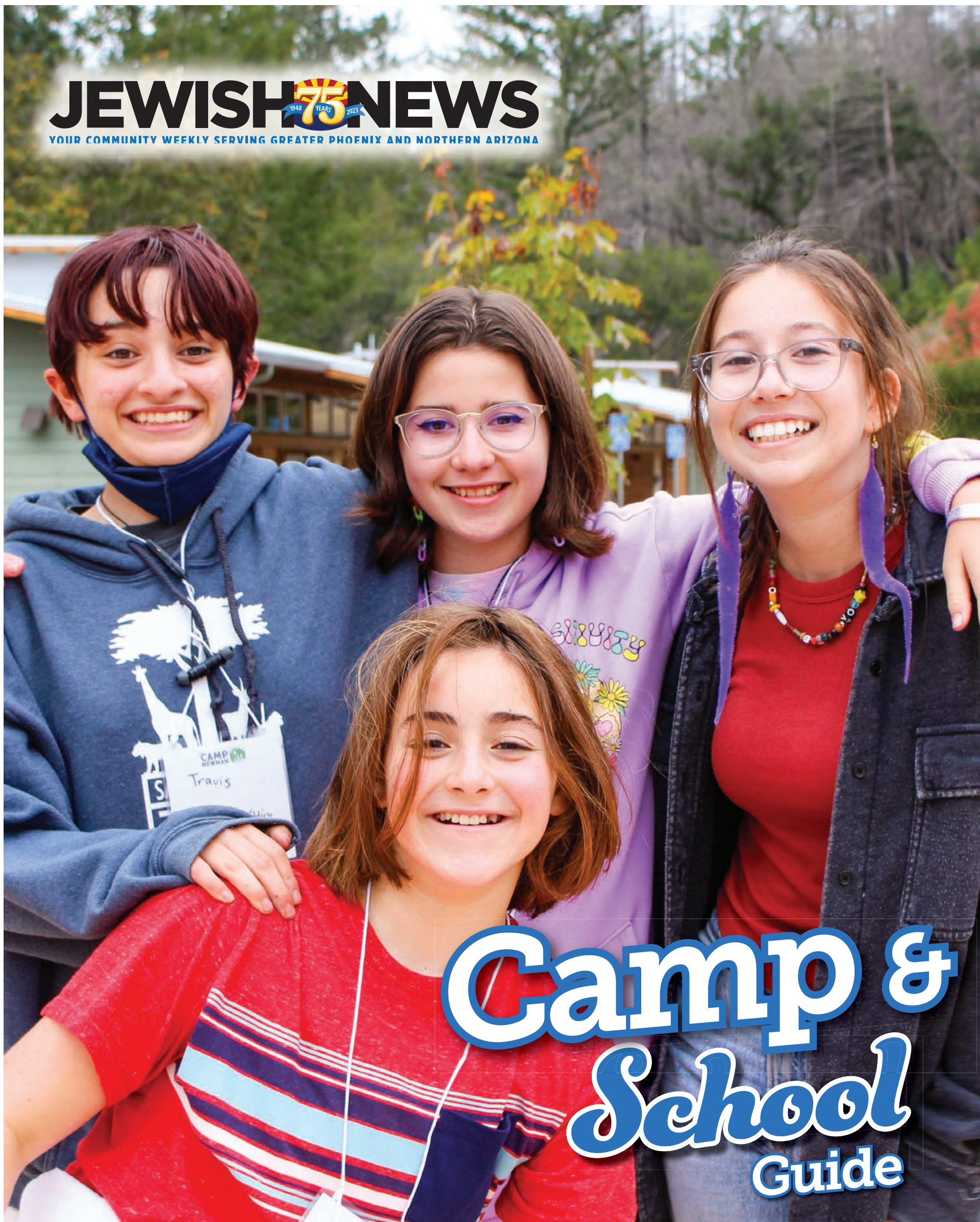
Artificial intelligence, or AI, has become a fact of corporate life, with computing advances that power robotic automation, computer vision and natural-language text generation. But what captured the public imagination — and dread — this year were sites like Dall-E, which threatened the livelihood of graphic designers by generating original, credible illustrations with no more than a simple prompt, and ChatGPT, which is able to expound cogently and humanly on practically any topic. Beyond everyday ethical dilemmas ("Can I write my book report using ChatGPT?") AI raised profound questions about what it means to be human. "Rabbis have historically been very open to the idea of nonhuman sentience and have tended to see parallels between humans and nonhumans as an excuse to treat nonhumans better," wrote David Zvi Kalman in an essay on the prospect of creating artificial life. Similarly, Mois Navon suggested in JTA that "if a machine is sentient, it is no longer an inanimate object with no moral status or

'rights' ... but rather an animate being with the status of a 'moral patient' to whom we owe consideration."

A Pulitzer for "The Netanyahus"

Joshua Cohen was the somewhat surprising winner of the Pulitzer Prize in Fiction for his novel "The Netanyahus: An Account of a Minor and Ultimately Even Negligible Episode in the History of a Very Famous Family." Or maybe not so surprising: The book is a fictionalized treatment of a real-life visit in the late 1950s by the Israeli historian Benzion Netanyahu for a job interview at a university very much like Cornell. With Benzion's son Benjamin angling for an ultimately successful return to office in real life, a satire about Jewish power, right-wing Zionism and Israeli self-regard might have seemed to the judges very much of the moment. As critic Adam Kirsch wrote in a JTA essay, Cohen concludes that both American and Israeli Jewish identities "are absurd, crying out for the kind of satire that can only come from intimate knowledge." Others weren't amused. Jewish Currents criticized the novel for being derivative of both Philip Roth and Saul Bellow, and the Jewish Review of Books said that the novel includes "a capsule history of Zionism that is so blatant a distortion that I just gave up." **JN**

The views and opinions expressed in this article are those of the author and do not necessarily reflect the views of JTA or its parent company, 70 Faces Media.



Camp & School Guide

Photo credit URJ Camp Newman

Tips for a successful sleepaway camp experience

JODI WOODNICK | GUEST CONTRIBUTOR

As holiday decorations come down all around us and we settle into frigid mornings and shorter days, most people are thinking about getting back to “real” life. Me? I’m thinking about next summer and the millions of kids who will be attending sleepaway camp, many for the first time.

I think (and talk) about camp all year, to anyone willing to listen. I am a therapist who works with kids and families, and I have a front-row seat to the struggles that kids face today: too anxious to try something new, struggling with friendships, with self-confidence, turning into puddles in the face of adversity... the list goes on. But don’t worry, there’s good news. I am also the director of community care at Wilshire Boulevard Temple Camps in California, and I have a front-row seat to the myriad ways in which sleepaway camp has the potential to help children fight against these struggles... if we allow it.

Allowing a sleepaway camp experience to work for your child will take some mental and emotional preparation. It starts with asking, “What do I want my child to get out of a sleepaway camp experience?” Most people say, “gain independence,” “make friends” and “have fun.” I am going to challenge you to hope for more. Camp has the potential to provide vital social and emotional skills that can benefit your child for life. My favorites are practicing problem-solving, flexibility and empathy, learning how to fail and discovering what matters in a friendship. All these things, and more, are possible.

Here are some things you can do to help:

1. Pick the right camp for your child

Does the camp have a clear mission? Do the camp’s mission and culture align with your values? (For example, if the camp is religious, but your child hasn’t had much exposure to religion, will they feel comfortable? If the camp’s programming is heavily sports oriented but your child doesn’t like competition, will they find common ground with other campers? Will your LGBTQ+ child feel accepted and valued?) Is the camp team responsive and communicative? Does the camp have programming to address your child’s unique needs? These questions and more are what you should consider as you search for the perfect camp.

Also, while it can be helpful to talk to others to gather information, please do not base your decision on who else



Jodi Woodnick at camp last summer with her sons Adrian, left, and Ean.

COURTESY OF THE JODI WOODNICK

is going. If you can find a program that meets your child’s needs, they will thrive. Sending your child to a camp that is not a good fit just because a specific friend or neighbor is doing the same is a set-up for failure.

2. Consider your child’s age

For a typical child, starting camp at age 8-10 is ideal but kids can be successful starting at any age. If you end up starting your child at age 11 or older, just prepare for a slightly longer adjustment period than for that of a younger child. Also, older children tend to be more self-conscious about feelings associated with adjusting to camp and may therefore be less likely to open up to cabin mates or counselors.

3. If you want your child to go, just sign them up

When asked, most of us (especially kids) will reject the unfamiliar. If sending your child to sleepaway camp is important to you, it’s ok to simply tell your child they’re going. Just like you wouldn’t give them a choice about going on a family vacation or to a loved one’s celebration, you do not have to give them a choice about camp.

4. Communicate openly and honestly (and early) with the camp about your child’s behavioral, emotional and/or academic challenges

Many parents think that because camp is

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“fun” extreme behaviors and emotions that happen at school won’t materialize at camp. Unfortunately, the opposite is often true. Camp is a highly structured environment where every waking moment has social, emotional and/or behavioral demands. Many camps have mental health professionals on staff to work together with parents, counselors (and your child’s teachers/therapists, if necessary) to create and supervise comprehensive accommodation plans (see step 1). The more prepared the camp is for your child, the better their chances for success. Withholding vital information (or sharing it at the very last moment) only sets your child up for failure.

On a related note, please don’t change or stop your child’s medications during camp. Camp, while magical and transformative, can also be stressful. Dealing with changes to medications while adjusting to camp life may add to stress.

5. In the months leading up to camp, provide opportunities for your child to practice independence and self-advocacy

Although there is plenty of support, sleepaway campers need to be able to help

themselves in many ways. They should be able to shower without assistance, serve themselves food, be able to identify their own belongings and put their dirty clothes in a laundry bag. They will even be expected to make their bed. Have your child practice as many of these things as you can at home before camp. It will significantly reduce their stress if they don’t have to learn all of this for the first time while also learning the ropes at camp.

More importantly, sleepaway campers need to be able to advocate for themselves. Counselors, while fabulous, are not mind readers. Give your child opportunities to use their voice and witness firsthand the power of self-advocacy. Let them order for themselves in restaurants, ask a store clerk for help, ask the teacher a question or tell a friend what’s bothering them. This practice will help them to communicate when and if they need help at camp and parents aren’t there to speak for them.

6. Get comfortable with discomfort

The first time they go to camp, most children will experience some nervousness. They may even cry or have trouble sleeping at first. As difficult as this is,

know that this is the kind of discomfort that leads to growth. Working through discomfort now will set your child up for working through adversity throughout their life; on the playground, at the choir performance, their first break up, college. This might sound hyperbolic, but it couldn’t be truer.

You can help by normalizing homesickness, and helping your child come up with a plan for how they will deal with it when and if it does happen. Who at camp can they talk to? What are some things they can do to help themselves fall asleep or calm themselves down (breathing exercises, etc.)?

As departure day gets closer, and nervousness intensifies, you may feel tempted to negotiate with your child to get them on the bus, saying things like, “If you don’t like it after three days, I’ll come pick you up.” Please do not do that. There is nothing worse you can say if you want your child to fully engage. Now they know they don’t have to.

Meanwhile, prepare yourself for letters that may be alarming, that feel desperate. Don’t panic. If that happens, call the camp to discuss strategies and options. The camp is your partner in supporting your child and their success at camp.

7. Trust the camp

You researched, attended meetings and spoke to staff. You chose this camp for a reason. Now let them do what they do best. When you do things like setting up secret codes with your child for the camp photos, sneaking covert cell phones into their luggage or questioning staff on opening day about bunk requests, you send the message that the camp can’t be trusted with your child’s best interest. If you don’t trust the camp, why should your child?

Yes, sending your child away to someone else’s care is a leap of faith and that is scary for any parent. Your camp does not take your faith in them for granted. Partner with them.

8. Trust your child

In the end, your child needs to know that you genuinely believe that they can do it. Even if it’s hard, even if it’s scary, they can do it. The way I see it, scary just means something great is about to happen. **JN**

Jodi Woodnick is a child, adolescent and family therapist with Out of the Woods Counseling in Scottsdale (outofthewoodsaz.com). Prior to her current role with WBT Camps, she was the director of Camp Charles Pearlstein in Prescott (now Camp Daisy and Harry Stein) from 2002-2012.

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CAMP & SCHOOL GUIDE

A love story that started at camp

DENISE KAYE | GUEST CONTRIBUTOR



Eric and Denise when they met in 1998.

COURTESY OF DENISE KAYE

It is said that to create Jewish children, one must make sure to give their children the opportunity to attend a Jewish summer camp and experience going to Israel.

Our story begins in Israel, where my sister, now Rabbi Erica Burech, was studying abroad during her junior year of college at Brandeis University. She always knew she wanted to be a rabbi, so it made sense for her to spend some time in Israel. One day while in Israel, instead of sitting with students from Brandeis, she decided to sit with a different group from another university. That is where she met Craig Weiss, a junior studying abroad from the University of Pennsylvania. He was from Phoenix, which started the domino effect of how Eric Kaye and I met.

My sister and Weiss started dating, continuing through the rest of their college careers. He ultimately took a gap year when Erica had her first year in rabbinical school in Israel. Weiss was accepted into Arizona State University for law school and Erica wanted to be a student rabbi at a Jewish summer camp.

In 1997, my sister met Eric Kaye, one of the song leaders at Camp Charles Pearlstein (now Camp Daisy and Harry Stein). The following summer in 1998, she had planned to return to work at the camp and convinced me that I should consider working there too, as a unit head. I had recently graduated with an education degree from the University of Tampa, so it made sense to work in a camp setting to utilize my degree while potentially meeting other teachers who could assist me with finding the right teaching job in Phoenix.

My sister might have also convinced me to come to camp because she wanted me to meet the song leader, with whom she and Craig had formed a friendship. I'll always remember meeting Eric for the first time during staff orientation week. I was walking inside to what is known as



The Kaye family today.

COURTESY OF DENISE KAYE

“the barn” and he was coming outside the building, and we practically bumped right into each other. From that moment on, we built a friendship that turned into an amazing partnership of marriage, ultimately becoming parents and even transitioning into business partners.

We have committed to sending both of our children to Jewish summer camp. Our son, Asher, who is in college at Oberlin University, will be a second-year counselor at Gindling Hilltop Camp in California, where Andrea Cohen is the resident director during the summer. (Cohen is also the director of youth philanthropy and community programs at the Center for Jewish Philanthropy of Greater Phoenix.) Cohen was the director when Eric and I met at camp in 1998 and was front and center at our wedding ceremony in 2001. Our daughter, Lirit, a sophomore at Horizon High School in Scottsdale, will travel to Israel this summer with other campers from the Wilshire Boulevard Temple Camps in California.

We utilize a concept we learned at camp daily, *tikkun olam* (acts of loving kindness), as one of our core values in our business, where we assist older adults in aging gracefully in their homes with a caregiver and helping them to find the right assisted living community.

We are both also involved with the Jewish community, and it is largely due to our experiences attending Jewish summer camps as children and working at a Jewish summer camp as adults that instilled that importance in us. **JN**

Denise and Eric Kaye own Connections In Homecare & Communities (connectionsinhomecare.com).

Jewish News is published by the Jewish Community Foundation of Greater Phoenix, a component of the Center for Jewish Philanthropy of Greater Phoenix.

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Pains of war, seeds of peace

PAUL ROCKOWER | GUEST CONTRIBUTOR

Amid the sylvan splendor of the Maine woods, I spent a summer back in 2006 working as a counselor at Seeds of Peace International camp. Seeds of Peace is a camp that brings teenagers together from areas of conflict. Teens from Israel, the Palestinian Territories, Egypt and Jordan, as well as India and Pakistan are brought together to learn about each other, and to meet their enemy face-to-face. For two, three-week sessions during the summer, this veritable “camp o’ conflict” is abuzz in its mission of creating dialogue and friendship for groups that have never so much as sat down together.

Seeds of Peace is absolutely amazing in its ability to break down the barriers that exist between communities, and fashion friendships and understanding between divergent groups. I will readily admit that I became a drinker of the proverbial Kool-Aid, as I witnessed my own bunk of Israeli, Palestinian, Jordanian and Egyptian teenagers coalesce together over endless games of soccer and basketball.

The campers spend their summer in dialogue sessions, learning about the conflict from the eyes of the other side.

Moreover, they also spend much time on the sports field, competing together and learning to play with their teammates. The competitive nature of sports does much to help break down the barriers that exist between all sides.

Beyond traditional sports activities, these kids learn to value and trust their fellow campers through ropes course group challenges. The ropes course activities force the campers to learn how to work with, and rely on each other, despite their previous differences. Furthermore, a thriving music and arts program helps the kids express their creativity and identity in alternative fashions. Through a wide variety of activities, the campers learn to do what their parents have never been able to achieve — to co-exist together.

Over the summer, the campers learn to trust the process that brings them together and the environment surrounding them as a safe place to discuss their differences. Making peace among enemies is never easy, even in an idyllic Maine setting. Yet even amid the currents of political instability and the torrents of war that flooded throughout the Middle East

this summer, the kids were able to tread above the conflict and reach understanding. As the violence in the region reached its apex during the first session, the kids were caught up in the coup de grace of the session: color games. [Note: I was there in 2006 during the Israel-Lebanon War, this was the first summer where war broke out during a session]

During color games, the entire camp was divided up into two teams, completely irrespective of religion or nationality. The two teams, blue and green, fought pitched battles of competition on the sports fields. Green Israelis cheered on green Palestinians and rooted against their rival blue Israelis. For nearly three days, the most intense sports competition of their lives raged and enthralled these precocious teens. Finally, when the winning team was announced, the green team ran pell-mell first into Pleasant Lake, only to be joined moments later by their blue opponents. As both teams splashed in the lake, and washed away both victory and defeat, the lesson of the summer was apparent to all sides: identities that have been forged over a lifetime are as arbitrary as that of the divi-



Paul Rockower, right, during his time as a counselor for Seeds of Peace International camp.

COURTESY OF PAUL ROCKOWER

sions of blue and green shirts.

The motto of Seeds of Peace is that they do what no government can — make peace between people. I saw with my own eyes that summer that this statement is more than any buzzword-filled catchphrase; rather the Seeds of Peace mission is alive in all of the wonderful teens who gain such tremendous growth, understanding and empathy for each other and all humanity. **JN**

Paul Rockower is executive director of Jewish Community Relations Council of Greater Phoenix. This essay was submitted in his personal capacity.



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East Valley JCC's Early Learning Center includes kindergarten starting next fall

SHANNON LEVITT | STAFF WRITER

The East Valley Jewish Community Center (EVJCC) in Chandler opened its Early Learning Center (ELC) in 1971 and currently has children anywhere from 6 weeks to 5 years enrolled. Next year, it will add a kindergarten class for the 2023-24 school year.

Pam Morris, ELC director, said that after a number of inquiries from parents with kids at the school about a kindergarten option, it seemed like the right time to add one.

Parents told her of their concerns when it came to sending their kids from the safe environment of the ELC to the big and unknown world of public and charter schools. They wondered if they would have the same kind of close relationships with new schools, teachers and even other parents.

Some parents whose children had started at the ELC and gone on to a bigger school even complained to Morris that the parents of their children's new classmates didn't respond to the birthday invitations they sent.

"This is a safe environment and their children know it and feel comfortable," she said. Parents also appreciate the ELC's staff, which will add a new full-time kindergarten teacher. There will also be enrichment programming including movement, cooking, Israeli culture and Hebrew.

The new class will adhere to the ELC standard of a student-teacher ratio of no more than 1 to 12 and the curriculum will be aligned with and utilize the Arizona kindergarten standards. With the assistance of the Arizona Tuition Connection, the new kindergarten class will also be free to those who apply.

The COVID-19 pandemic supercharged parents' fears and the ELC became an even more protected and prized space, Morris said.

"We're a community and we found we need to extend the community and bridge the gap to that kindergarten year," Morris said. "We will continue with the curriculum and get them ready for the next stage of learning."

The ELC is open 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. weekdays with both options for before- and after-school care. It also offers camps during the summer and other breaks in the school year.

"This is a one-stop shop for many parents," Morris said. Parents will now be able to bring their kindergartener when they drop off younger siblings and with the after-school care, some will feel they don't ever have to leave 908 N. Alma School Road," she quipped.

With close to 30,000 square feet, the EVJCC certainly has the space.

"Our pre-K children already have, on average, somewhere between 50 and 75% of the knowledge that they would need at the end of kindergarten when they leave our pre-K," Morris said.

The new kindergarten class will adjust to meet the students where they are and get them to the next level by combining individualized and differentiated instruction.

It won't be the first kindergarten class the EVJCC has ever had. Many years ago, the East Valley Jewish Day School operated a kindergarten through sixth-grade program. With the blessing of the EVJCC, it moved to the campus of Temple Beth Shalom of the East Valley in Chandler and became Desert Jewish Academy.

Morris said she isn't looking to have a day school, however, and there is no plan to add a first grade.

"We're looking at having a kindergarten and one more year of protected community before the kids go off to a bigger school."



Pam Morris poses in front of a classroom door at the East Valley JCC.

COURTESY OF JEWISH NEWS

Instead, this class is a way to soften the transition from what the children and their parents have known to the unexpected.

"It's that kindergarten piece; it's that 'my child is still a baby and I'm gonna put them on a bus' piece," Morris said. Parents aren't necessarily ready only to accompany their kids into school the first day and then leave them in the schoolyard. At the ELC, parents have an app that provides a constant connection with pictures and communication throughout the day.

"Parents feel they can almost touch their children's hands with this access to the teacher and then suddenly it gets cut off and they're not ready," she said.

Still, the ELC is a school, and Morris

asks parents to have a relationship with other parents and families but also to call and alert her staff if their child is out sick or visiting a grandparent.

"We straddle both worlds of daycare and school," she said.

She's excited about providing this safe haven for parents. It also brings back good memories from when she was a preschool teacher at the ELC and there was a kindergarten.

"Being able to give that next stage of learning to our children and that safety and security for the parents — I think that's just so important," she said. **JN**

For more information, visit evjcc.org/elc.



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There's a lot that's new at URJ Camp Newman

MALA BLOMQUIST | MANAGING EDITOR

In 2021, URJ Camp Newman, part of the Union for Reform Judaism family of camps and youth programs, returned to its facilities on Porter Creek Road in Santa Rosa, California, after a wildfire destroyed 81 of its 90 structures in 2017. One of the few things spared by the flames was a large wooden Star of David on a hill that overlooked camp.

The 2018 and 2019 summer sessions were held at the California State University Maritime Academy in Vallejo and, due to the pandemic, a virtual camp, “Zoomin’ with Newman,” was set up in 2020.

“Since 2017, thanks to the incredible and generous support of the community and State of California, we’ve been able to reimagine our site with both functional and accessibility upgrades in mind,” said Rachel K. Slaton, director of marketing and communications for Camp Newman. The camp sits on almost 500 acres in Northern California and attracts many campers from the Greater Phoenix area.

In the last five years, they’ve rebuilt four cabin communities (housing an additional 160 campers and staff), added a new dining hall with indoor and outdoor dining capabilities, a new Beit Am (indoor pro-

gram space), conference meeting rooms, offices and health center. Currently, construction continues on a 28-room double-occupancy lodge for more adult staff, faculty and families to stay at, which is on track to be completed by summer 2023. Planned for the near future is a new art facility, more cabins, upgrades to the teen tent villages and rebuilding one of the campfire amphitheaters, the Pinat Tefilah, that was lost in the fire.

For summer 2023, Slaton said the camp is incorporating some of the most popular activities from Camp Newman’s sister camp, URJ 6 Points West, which closed in the fall of 2022. These include its Circus Arts and STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) electives, adapted under the guidance of Jordanna Flores, founding 6 Points West director, who is now serving as the director of year-round engagement for Camp Newman. There is also a new 18-hole disc golf course and low ropes initiative course.

Pre-fire, Camp Newman offered a ceramics program including hand and wheel forming and a fully functional kiln

SEE URJ CAMP NEWMAN, PAGE B8



Circus Arts is a new elective this year at Camp Newman.

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SPECIAL SECTION

CAMP & SCHOOL GUIDE



Campers try out the new 18-hole disc golf course.

COURTESY OF URJ CAMP NEWMAN

URJ CAMP NEWMAN CONTINUED FROM PAGE B7

room. “We’re excited to be able to bring more artists in residence as well as purchase new equipment — enabling us to bring back this very popular activity for all age groups,” said Slaton.

There are also new housing options for campers. Last summer, in partnership with Keshet, an organization that works for the full equality of all LGBTQ Jews and their families, Camp Newman offered several all-gender housing options for specific age groups.

Slaton said that for more than a decade, Camp Newman has been committed to creating a true space of belonging for each and every person, ensuring camp is a gender-inclusive and expansive space, and housed campers and staff based on their gender identity and where they felt most comfortable.

“This opportunity enabled both campers and staff who feel most comfortable in an all-gender space — whether they are nonbinary, transgender or an ally — to have a housing option at camp that deepened the feeling of belonging. We’re excited to continue offering this option, along with a male and female housing option, for sessions with campers in seventh to 12th grade.”

The tents or cabins are created based on interest and age group and are opt-in, which means families indicate their housing preference upon registration. Staff for all-gender housing receive additional train-

ing to ensure campers are supported and can co-create a living space that feels truly comfortable, with communal norms and expectations, grounded in Jewish values.

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“The process of creating a *brit kehillah* (community covenant) is one that every cabin at camp creates,” said Slaton. “All campers have access to single-stall, all-gender bathrooms throughout camp, along with private showers and changing space.”

In addition to summer camp, Camp Newman holds events throughout the year, including family weekends and family camp. They are hosting open houses for new campers on Jan. 15 and Feb. 19. **JN**

For more information, visit campnewman.org.

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Jewish Arizonan named one of top female scientists in nation, world

SHANNON LEVITT | STAFF WRITER

When Nancy Eisenberg began her career in 1977, there were relatively few women doing research in developmental psychology. Throughout her 44-year career, she’s watched women increase in numbers until they reached parity and even a majority of professionals in the field.

In that time, she’s also racked up a number of impressive achievements. The latest is being named 133 on Research.com’s list of top female scientists globally — and the top Arizonan; nationally, she ranked even higher at 86.

Research.com’s stated mission is to help academics and students in various scientific fields find publications and conferences around the world to assist their work. Every year the organization creates a list of top scientists through metrics such as the number of scientists’ citations, publications, awards and achievements.

This is the first year Research.com

created a list of the top 1,000 female scientists globally and nationally.

“Of course, it’s nice,” Eisenberg told Jewish News after learning her ranking. It wasn’t a complete surprise, however, since she’s been ranked highly in other groupings of scientists.

Eisenberg was born in Cincinnati, attended the University of Michigan and then the University of California, Berkeley, for her doctorate, which she received in 1976. The following year, at 26, she landed a tenure-track position at Arizona State University, where she stayed until her retirement in 2021.

Her research is ongoing and she is still the associate editor of American Psychologist, an academic journal.

“I just don’t have to go to meetings,” she laughed.

This career wasn’t always a given.

“I was always expected to go to college, being from a good Jewish family,” she

said. She was valedictorian and an outstanding science student in high school, but science didn’t excite her. But because she thought being a good student meant science, she started out in microbiology.

“My first course bored me to death. But then I took a psychology course, and it just interested me. From there, I started taking more and more psychology and something about it just clicked with me,” she said.

Eisenberg’s work focuses on developmental psychology, including the topics of prosocial behavior, empathy, emotionality, self-regulation and adjustment. Her research is multidisciplinary and looks at various factors, including personality development, cognition and moral reasoning.

“When I started, no one was looking at the role of self-regulation in sympathy and prosocial behavior and few people were



Nancy Eisenberg

COURTESY OF NANCY EISENBERG

SEE FEMALE SCIENTIST, PAGE 12



“Live your life and forget your age.”
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SENIORS

FEMALE SCIENTIST
CONTINUED FROM PAGE 11

studying children's sympathy and prosocial behavior," she told Jewish News.

There was little research on children and regulation when she turned her focus to the topic in the late 1980s and what did exist was done with "pretty primitive methods like self-reporting," she said.

She was on the ground floor developing new research methods, such as physiological factors — like heart rate and skin conductance — and using multiple reporters and behavioral measures in studies.

"Now, self-regulation is one of the biggest constructs in developmental psychology, but when we started, it was barely on the map," she said. "I was one of the first people doing a number of these topics in any depth."

Traditionally, psychologists emphasized cognitive development with much less focus on social and emotional development. By the 1990s, however, it was becoming a topic in textbooks and handbooks. In 2000, the National Academy of Science released "From Neurons to Neighborhoods," which stated outright that self-regulation is foundational to most development.

"It was a huge construct, and nobody was looking at it," Eisenberg said.

The bulk of Eisenberg's research has been on sympathy for others, a willingness to help others and self-regulation. She looks at connections between self-regulation and prosocial behavior, school performance and various aspects of children's social and academic functioning.

"Self-regulation is incredibly important," she said.

The ability to self-regulate, or control one's attention and behavior, and inhibit oneself and focus attention as needed to adapt to a situation, is important to development. Moreover, the ability to self-regulate emotions is also related to feeling concern for others because it is easier to have sympathy for someone when you're not at risk of being overwhelmed by someone else's emotions.

"If you can't manage your emotions, you're also more likely to develop symptoms of depression and to act out externalizing behaviors, such as aggression," Eisenberg said.

As much as she has contributed to this aspect of psychology, she started out at a somewhat different place.

Her earliest research was on the development of political attitudes while she was a graduate student at UC Berkeley. Then she looked at humanitarian political attitudes involving empathy, sympathy and prosocial behavior. She gradually shifted away into child development, but a few years ago, she started thinking about what she would discover if she returned to the realm of politics and its relation to empathy.

She convinced some of her younger colleagues to start studying the development of children's concern for "out-group" members, or those who are not in one's "in-group." In other words, she wants to know how people develop concern toward those they don't associate as friends, family or neighbors.

Some people are very sympathetic to in-group members but would still harm out-group members. Sympathy and concern from in-group members do not necessarily generalize to out-group members, and this is a less-studied phenomenon and gives her more impetus to investigate it.

Her analysis is ongoing but so far, it's clear that "parental attitudes matter. Exposure to diversity matters. Kids' self-regulation matters. Exposure to diversity is good and parental attitudes about valuing diversity, not holding prejudice, or biased attitudes seem to be important," she said.

Parents or teachers may say they are "color blind" to avoid talking about race. She said that view is associated with kids being less positive toward out-group members.

"It is better if parents talk about things that another group might be exposed to or why they might be upset or what they have to deal with — at a kid's level," she said.

"Ignoring race is not making it go away," she said. "Recognizing that there are issues that affect people differently that people are treated differently, and talking about that in a way that helps kids understand, is probably a good thing — if you want kids who are less prejudiced."

Eisenberg started her career when few women were making significant strides in the sciences and feels lucky that she "hit the market at the right time," when things were starting to change. While still in college, she had two female role models in her psychology department who encouraged her, and she started applying for teaching positions when universities wanted to add women to their rosters.

Other than hearing a few negative stereotypes from male colleagues about women not needing raises since their husbands' salaries mattered more and suggestions that nursing women "are crazy," she doesn't feel that she suffered directly from sexism in her career.

"I think there were more indirect ways that women could suffer, like not being asked to be editors, presidents of societies, etc.," she said.

Eisenberg started ASU's developmental psychology program and worked to attract competitive students to it. Looking back, she is most proud of her students, many of whom she still knows and collaborates with.

She's also proud that she was named the first female editor of a major psychology journal, *Psychological Bulletin*, in 1996.

"I definitely felt I was breaking a glass ceiling," she said. **JN**

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SENIORS

Comfort — a gift from my father

BOB ROTH | COLUMNIST

I know I am blessed to say that I had my dad, Sheldon Robert Roth, affectionately known as "Noodles," for 60 years. I lived in the same state for the past 28 years, the same town for the last five, and was part of his daily life for the last two years of his life. Not many transplants here in the Greater Phoenix area are fortunate, like I was, to get this very precious gift of time. Almost seven weeks ago, Dad passed away. Seven weeks before he died Dad made an important decision, that ended up being his final gift to us. Dad's choice to go "on hospice" was a gift of comfort and "time."

This decision was a gift for two reasons. First, Noodles was fully in control of his choice and second, my brothers and I, and our families, could immediately assume our role of supporting this informed decision. The operative word being "informed."

But first, the events leading up to this. Noodles was the bionic man. Living to within three months of his 87th birthday was in large part due to medical science and technology. He had a pacemaker, a watchman and a transcatheter aortic valve



Noodles receiving a kiss from his son, Bob Roth.

COURTESY OF BOB ROTH

replacement (TAVR). Dr. Google can explain in depth if you are not familiar with these groundbreaking advances in cardiac care. Hospitalizations and procedures went according to the script of "The Six Million Dollar Man," "We can rebuild him, we have the technology ..."

That is, until they couldn't rebuild

him anymore. At a point of no return, hospitalizations and procedures were not rebuilding him. They were breaking him. This has nothing to do with the exceptional care Dad received. Doctors are hardwired to seek solutions and

SEE FATHER, PAGE 14

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A night celebrating the ‘inextinguishable’ nature of a symphony

MALA BLOMQUIST | MANAGING EDITOR

On Jan. 22, MusicaNova Orchestra is teaming up with the ASU Center for Jewish Studies, with support by a grant from the Center for Jewish Philanthropy of Greater Phoenix, to present “Winter Journey and the Inextinguishable Symphony” at the Scottsdale Center for the Performing Arts. The evening features the little-known history of Jewish musicians in 1930s Germany through a unique presentation of music and film.

Carl Nielsen’s “Inextinguishable Symphony” is preceded by a screening of the 2019 film by Danish filmmaker Anders Ostergaard, “Winter Journey.” The film, based on Martin Goldsmith’s book, “The Inextinguishable Symphony: A True Story of Music and Love in Nazi Germany,” tells the story of his parents who played in the Jüdische Kulturbund, (Jewish Cultural Association), an ensemble sanctioned by the Nazis that served as a propaganda tool, employing Jewish artists who had been fired from their previous positions.

Goldsmith is director of classical music programming at SiriusXM Satellite Radio in Washington, D.C. and formerly the host of “Performance Today,” National



Rudolf Schwarz was conductor of the Berlin Kulturbund Orchestra until 1941, when the Nazis imprisoned him.

COURTESY OF THE JÜDISCHE KULTURBUND PROJECT

Public Radio’s daily classical music program. After the concert, he will be on hand for a Q&A with the audience.

Nielsen, a Danish composer, wrote his Symphony No. 4 in 1916, during the First World War. At the beginning of the score he wrote, “Music is life, and like it,

inextinguishable.”

“His belief was that even if somehow mankind were crazy enough to destroy itself, life would return to the earth in some form or other,” said Goldsmith. “So ultimately the symphony is a very optimistic and thrilling piece of music.”

Warren Cohen, MusicaNova’s artistic director said he has been wanting to do this piece for 40 years. In fact, he was having a conversation about reaching out to Goldsmith when he called MusicaNova suggesting they perform the “Inextinguishable Symphony.”

SENIORS

FATHER

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 13

trained to cure. However, with a serious illness, aggressive treatment at the end of life can be harder on the patient than the disease itself. Dad had hit that tipping point and said in no uncertain terms, “I never want to go back to the hospital again.”

Noodles had a very clear understanding of hospice. His exposure to hospice was directly related to having a son in the senior care space. Noodles was charismatic and so lovable; there were many “take your dad to work” opportunities, and thus special moments to learn about topics such as hospice in depth. When his primary care physician initiated the conversation, it did not elicit misperceptions of what hospice is all about. Unfortunately, most people associate hospice only with dying — instead of living more fully during the time that remains. Noodles was ready to go from curative care to comfort care.

One of the biggest misperceptions is that hospice care becomes the last resort when “nothing else can be done.” Hospice care doesn’t mean that treatment stops. It means the types of treatment and goals of care change to things like

managing pain and other symptoms while helping patients reach their goals in the time that’s left. The most common statement made by families who chose hospice for their loved one is, “We wish we had known about it or made the decision to go on hospice sooner.”

Another misperception is that hospice is a place. Hospice is not a place; it is a concept and that concept is centered around comfort. Over 98% of hospice is delivered in the home. It’s where most people want to be and it is a place where people are comfortable. Receiving care in the comfort of your own home makes perfect sense.

In addition to misperceptions about what hospice can do, the criteria for receiving hospice care can create obstacles. To be eligible for hospice, the rules of Medicare and most health insurance providers say that doctors must predict a that a patient has six months or less to live. Accurately predicting life expectancy can be a challenge, even for the most skilled physicians.

Another obstacle in engaging hospice is the patient must agree to give up curative treatments. I often see that when the patient is ready to move from curative care to comfort care, their family may influence them to not “give up.”



From left, Bob Roth, Sheldon Roth and Matthew Fehling, president and CEO of the Better Business Bureau who presented Bob with the BBB’s Torch Award for Business Ethics in 2018.

COURTESY OF BOB ROTH

About two-thirds of patients are willing to undergo therapies they don’t want if that is what their loved ones want, according to Dr. Susan Block, chief of psychosocial oncology and palliative care at Dana-Farber Cancer Institute in Boston, Massachusetts.

If families or physicians aren’t sure whether hospice care is appropriate, consider getting an assessment from a hospice provider with whom you can discuss your loved one’s condition, the challenges of living with an illness and the benefits of hospice.

Our family was 100% on Team Noodles. That support was easy to give because Dad was dictating exactly what he wanted because he was informed.

I miss you, Dad. Thank you for making the decision to choose comfort. We will cherish the memories we made in the final weeks and days we had together, especially the late-night excursion to get ice cream just a few days before we said our final goodbyes. **JN**

Bob Roth is the managing partner of Cypress HomeCare Solutions.

MusicaNova is celebrating its 20th season in 2023 and it remains “dedicated to bringing new, unjustly neglected and familiar music played in new ways,” according to its mission statement.

“The very first complete concert we did was a concert of music that had been suppressed by the Nazis,” said Cohen. “This concert, and doing this with Martin, is central to the mission of the orchestra because we have done so much music that has been suppressed by the Nazis. Now, in this case, the music was not suppressed by the Nazis, but was directly related to their suppression. It was part of their propaganda Jewish orchestra they had created.”

Cohen explained that, in an attempt to bring art under their control, the Nazis would label any music written by Jews as “degenerate music.” This label was also given to any music with other “degenerate characteristics” such as a relationship to jazz, or to non-heroic presentations of Aryan culture.

“It’s a wonderful thing for us to bring into our 20th anniversary season, because it reflects on the history of the orchestra,” said Cohen.

Goldsmith said he chose the title “The Inextinguishable Symphony” for his book because the Kulturbund orchestra rehearsed Nielsen’s symphony for a performance at the end of 1941.

However, the Nazis disbanded the Kulturbund in September of ’41, so the performance never actually took place.

Growing up, Goldsmith said that his father, George (nee Gunther Goldschmidt), and his mother, Rosemarie, never spoke about the past and when his brother questioned why they didn’t have grandparents or aunts and uncles, like other kids their age, his father’s response was, “They died in the war.”

In 1946, Rosemarie was hired to play the viola in the St. Louis Symphony. George sold furniture in a department store and stopped playing the flute. “It’s my belief that he gave up his life as a musician as an act of penance,” said Goldsmith. “Because he had failed to save his family. His father, mother, younger brother and sister were all murdered by the Nazis — either in Auschwitz or in a forest outside Riga, Latvia. Even though there is really very little he could have practically done, he felt that he didn’t do enough.”

Rosemarie then played in the Cleveland Orchestra from 1967 to 1981. When the orchestra traveled to perform in Tucson, she found the place she wanted to retire.

“She and my father moved to Tucson in 1981,” said Goldsmith. “My mother died in ’84 and my father stayed there for the next 20 years or so before he developed Alzheimer’s and I brought him back east

to stay near me in a facility where he died in 2009, at the age of 95.”

For his book, Goldsmith said he had to do the bulk of research about Kulturbund on his own, although he did have several conversations with his father about the past and those became the bulk of the content of the film, “Winter Journey,” where the late Bruno Ganz plays his father.

“I worked with the director, Anders Ostergaard, and I wrote the script and I appear throughout the film — though never on camera,” he said. “Which I guess is appropriate for a radio guy.”

Goldsmith met Ganz in Tucson during filming in a neighborhood near where his parents lived. He expected Ganz to pull him aside and question him about his father’s habits and mannerisms. Instead, Ganz never asked him a thing.

“He created his character, George Goldsmith, my father, completely out of the script and his own genius and I must say, his performance is just stunning,” said Goldsmith. “There are times when I forget that I’m looking at Bruno Ganz and I think I’m looking at my father.”

The concert will also feature “Finlandia” by composer Jean Sibelius. “It was on the very last program Kulturbund gave before it was dissolved in 1941,” said Goldsmith. “So, there’s a historical connection to the evening and Warren has put together

a marvelous choir to accompany his orchestra.”

He added that this program has only been performed once before. In February 2022, the Buffalo Philharmonic Orchestra presented the film, a discussion and Nielsen’s symphony — but not “Finlandia.” “I’m especially looking forward to it because Finlandia is one of my favorite pieces and the fact that it was on the very last Kulturbund program is an added bonus,” said Goldsmith.

“It’s a remarkable opportunity for our community to get in touch with it in a way where you’re seeing the film and also the context of the film — which I think is kind of a wonderful way to pull it all together.”

Goldsmith said that if his father were alive to see the concert he would be overwhelmed.

“He was reticent to talk about the past. So, to see himself on the screen depicted marvelously by Bruno Ganz, not to mention the orchestral connection with Nielsen and Sibelius, I think, for once in his life, he would be rendered speechless.” **JN**

For more information, visit scottsdaleperformingarts.org.

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COURTESY OF TEMPLE SOLEL

Events

FRIDAY, JAN. 6

Brighter Tomorrow Luncheon: 11:45 a.m.-1:30 p.m. JW Marriott Scottsdale Camelback Inn Resort & Spa, 5402 E. Lincoln Dr., Scottsdale. Join Jewish Family & Children's Service for their annual fundraiser featuring keynote speaker Mi-Ai Parrish, former Arizona Republic publisher, and event co-chairs Allan and Carol Kern. Cost: \$200-\$275. For more information, visit jfcsaz.org.

FRIDAY-SUNDAY, JAN. 6-8

The Installation of Rabbi Emily Segal: Times vary. Temple Chai, 4645 E. Marilyn Road, Phoenix. All are welcome to a weekend of learning and community to celebrate the installation of Rabbi Emily Segal with her lifelong rabbi, Rabbi Amy Perlin leading the ceremony. For more information, visit templechai.com.

SATURDAY, JAN. 7

Shabbat Game Afternoon: 4-6 p.m. Temple B'rith Shalom, 2077 Brohner Way, Prescott. Bring your favorite board game, snacks and beverage to enjoy socializing and playing games. Havdalah will conclude the afternoon. For more information, visit brithshalom-az.org.

SUNDAY, JAN. 8

JKids and Teens Expo: 12-3 p.m. Ina Levine Jewish Community Campus, 12701

N. Scottsdale Road, Scottsdale. Meet representatives from overnight camps from throughout the Southwest, local day camps and pick up information about local camp scholarships. Find out about teen Israel trips, after-school enrichment options, Jewish scouting, community service and teen philanthropy. Presented by Shalom Phoenix, a division of the Center for Jewish Philanthropy of Greater Phoenix. Cost: Free; registration required. For more information, contact Andrea Cohen at acohen@phoenixcjp.org or 480-481-1784.

Peoples of the Book Interfaith Dialogue:

1-5 p.m. The Roman Catholic Diocese of Phoenix, 400 E. Monroe St., Phoenix. Join Peoples of the Book, a Christian, Muslim and Jewish interfaith dialogue for education conversation and celebration of our diverse Scriptures. Cost: \$10-\$15 suggested donation; registration required by Jan. 6. For more information, contact Alan Zeichick at alan@zeichick.org.

MONDAY, JAN. 9

Prison to Promise: Breaking the Cycle of Incarceration: 9:30 a.m.-12 p.m. Embassy Suites by Hilton Phoenix Biltmore, 2630 E. Camelback Road, Phoenix. Hear Rosalind Kabrhel, associate professor and chair of the Brandeis Educational Justice Initiative as she discusses an innovative criminal justice education initiative. Breakfast included. Cost: \$49-\$59. For more information, visit brandeisphoenix.org.

WEDNESDAY, JAN. 11

No Greater Love — Holocaust survivor Dirk Van Leenen: 10-11:30 a.m. East Valley Jewish Community Center, 908 N. Alma School Road, Chandler. Holocaust survivor and author Dirk Van Leenen will be the featured speaker at this session hosted by the EVJCC Generations After group. Cost: Free; registration required. For more information, visit evjcc.org/generations-after.

SUNDAY, JAN. 15

Sunday Day of Service: 11 a.m.-2 p.m. Phoenix Welcome Center, 1211 E. Apache St., Phoenix. Join the National Council of Jewish Women Arizona and Congregation Or Tzion for a morning serving food and distributing clothes to refugees. For ages 12 and older. Cost: Free; registration required. For more information, visit form-usa.keela.co/sunday-day-of-service-january-15th.

MONDAY, JAN. 16

Arizona MLK March: 8:30-1:30 a.m. Pilgrim Rest Baptist Church, 1401 E. Jefferson St., Phoenix. Join a group from Temple Chai and march to promote cultural diversity, awareness and unity. Cost: Free. For more information, contact Chi Isiogu at cisiogu@templechai.com.

TUESDAY, JAN. 17

Can the Phoenix/Scottsdale Jewish Community be United?: 7-8 p.m. Valley of the Sun Jewish Community Center, 12701

N. Scottsdale Road, Scottsdale. Join Valley Beit Midrash for a panel discussion featuring community leaders; Rabbi Pinchas Allouche, Rabbi Nitzan Stein Kokin, Richard Kasper and Rabbi John Linder discussing the topic of "Can the Phoenix/Scottsdale Jewish Community be United: Looking at our Unity and Divisions." Moderated by Rabbi Dr. Shmuly Yanklowitz. Cost: \$18. For more information, visit valleybeitmidrash.org.

SUNDAY, JAN. 22

Jewish Speed Dating Event: 1-3:30 p.m. Kitchen 18, 10211 N. Scottsdale Road, Scottsdale. An event for adults age 50-65. Cost: \$25; includes for and one non-alcoholic beverage. RSVP at jewishspeeddatingaz@gmail.com.

SUNDAYS

B.A.G.E.L.S: 9-11 a.m.; last Sunday of the month. Valley of the Sun Jewish Community Center, 12701 N. Scottsdale Road, Scottsdale. Grab a bagel and a cup of coffee at Bagels And Gabbing Every Last Sunday and enjoy some time with your friends and make new ones. You must register to attend. Bagels and coffee will be provided. Cost: Free for members, \$5 for guests. For more information and to register, visit vosjcc.org.

MONDAYS

Mahjong: 10 a.m.-12:30 p.m. East Valley Jewish Community Center, 908 N. Alma School Road, Chandler. Come play Mahjong

each week. For experienced players only. Free; registration required at evjcc.org/mahjong.

THURSDAYS
Storytime at Modern Milk: 9:30 a.m. Modern Milk, 13802 N. Scottsdale Road, #163, Scottsdale. Storytime for babies, toddlers and preschoolers. Integrates children's books and songs while giving parents new ideas for play. Cost: \$5. For more information and to register, visit modernmilk.com/after-baby.

Meetings, Lectures & Classes

SUNDAYS
Chassidus Class: 9 a.m. Online. Learn about the Chasidic movement with Rabbi Yossi Friedman. Cost: Free. For more information, visit chabadaz.com.

Jewish War Veterans Post 210: 10 a.m. Online. Any active duty service member or veteran is welcome to join monthly meetings, every third Sunday. Cost: Free. For more information, email Michael Chambers at c365michael@yahoo.com.

Anxiety in the Modern World: 6 p.m. Online. Learn the secrets of the Torah for living stress-free in the current environment with Rabbi Boruch of Chabad of Oro Valley. Cost: Free. Tune in using this link: [zoom.us/j/736434666](https://us/j/736434666). For more information, visit chabadaz.com.

MONDAYS
Ethics of Our Fathers: 7 p.m. Online. Learn with Rabbi Zalman Levvertov. Tune in at: bit.ly/2Y0wdgv. Cost: Free. For more information, visit chabadaz.com.

Quotable Quotes by our Sages: 7 p.m. Online. Learn with Rabbi Shlomy Levvertov. Tune in at: JewishParadiseValley.com/class. Cost: Free. For more information, visit chabadaz.com.

Partners in Torah: 7:30 p.m. Online. Join a growing group of inspired learners with Project Inspire. Cost: Free. Tune in at: us04web.zoom.us/j/3940479736#success, password is 613. For more information, email Robin Meyerson at robin@projectinspireaz.com.

Learning to Trust in God: 7:30 p.m. Online. Learn with Rabbi Yossi Friedman. Tune in at: ChabadAZ.com/LiveClass. Cost: Free. For more information, visit chabadaz.com.

Torah & Tea: 7:30 p.m. Online. Learn with Rabbi Yossie Shemtov. Cost: Free. For more information, visit Facebook.com/ChabadTucson.

TUESDAYS
Let's Knit: 1:30 p.m. Ina Levine Jewish Community Campus, 12701 N. Scottsdale Road, Scottsdale. Share the pleasure of knitting, crocheting, etc. outside the social hall in the campus. Can't knit? We can teach you! Every level welcome. Cost: Free. For more information, visit vosjcc.org.

Maintaining an Upbeat Attitude: 7 p.m. Online. A class exclusively for people in their 20s and 30s, learn how Jewish Mysticism can help with your attitude with Rabbi

Shlomy Levvertov. Cost: Free. Tune in at: JewishParadiseValley.com/YJPclass. For more information, visit chabadaz.com.

WEDNESDAYS
History of the Jews: 11:00 a.m. Online. Learn the Jewish journey from Genesis to Moshiach with Rabbi Ephraim Zimmerman. Cost: Free. Tune in here: [zoom.us/j/736434666](https://us/j/736434666). For more information, visit chabadaz.com.

Torah Study with Temple Beth Shalom of the West Valley: 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Online. Weekly study group explores that week's portion and studies different perspectives and debates the merits of various arguments. Intended for adults, Torah study is open to students of all levels. For more information, contact the TBS office at 623-977-3240.

Happiness Hour: 11:30 a.m. Online. Class taught by Rabbi Pinchas Allouche that delves into texts and references culled from our traditions to address a relevant topic. For more information or to join, visit cbtvirtualworld.com.

Torah Study with Chabad: 12 p.m. Online. Take a weekly journey of Torah with Rabbi Yossi Levvertov. Cost: Free. For more information, visit chabadaz.com.

Lunch & Learn: 12:15 p.m. Online. Grab some food and learn with Rabbi Yehuda Ceitlin. Cost: Free. Get Zoom link by emailing info@chabadtucson.com. For more information, visit chabadtucson.com.

The Thirteen Petalled Rose: 1 p.m. Online. Kabbalah class that studies "The Thirteen Petalled Rose" by Rabbi Adin Even-Israel Steinsaltz, focusing on the many concepts of Kabbalah and Jewish Mysticism and applying them to everyday life. For more information or to join, visit cbtvirtualworld.com.

JACS: 7:30-8:30 p.m. Valley of the Sun Jewish Community Center, 12701 N. Scottsdale Road, Scottsdale. In person and via Zoom support group for Jewish alcoholics, addicts and their friends and family on the first and third Wednesdays of the month. Cost: Free. For more information, email jacsarizona@gmail.com or call 602-692-1004.

Words & Whiskey: 8:30 p.m. Online. Learning session for men. Cost: Free. To RSVP, email rmollenaz@gmail.com or call/text 310-709-3901.

THURSDAYS
Ladies Torah & Tea: 10:30 a.m. Online. Learn about the women of the Torah with Mrs. Leah Levvertov. Cost: Free. Tune in at: ourjewishcenter.com/virtual. For more information, visit chabadaz.com.

Talmud - Maakos: 11 a.m. Online. Learn with Rabbi Shlomy Levvertov. Cost: Free. Tune in at: JewishParadiseValley.com/YJPclass. For more information, visit chabadaz.com.




Mindfulness Gatherings: 12 p.m. Online. Hosted by Hospice of the Valley via Zoom. Cost: Free. To join by phone, dial 1-253-215-8782, meeting ID 486 920 2119#, to get the Zoom link or for further questions contact

SEE CALENDAR, PAGE 19

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Scholarship and smiles

Sinai Scholars Society at Chabad at Arizona State University gathers every Wednesday on campus.

COURTESY OF CHABAD AT ARIZONA STATE UNIVERSITY



Brandeis' big musical night

Brandeis Phoenix held "An Evening of Music and Conversation" with Allan Naplin, executive director of Arizona MusicFest on Sunday, Dec. 9. Naplin performed in front of a full house. Pictured from left are co-chairs Ruth Learn and Hillary Kaminsky; Allan Naplin; and Brandeis presidents Ellen Widoff and Leith Baletin.

COURTESY OF JOEL ZOLONDEK



Lighting the menorah with the mayor

Rabbi Levi and Chani Levertov pose with their children and Phoenix Mayor Kate Gallego at Chabad of Arizona's Grand Menorah Lighting on Dec. 18, at the Biltmore Fashion Park in Phoenix.

COURTESY OF RABBI LEVI LEVERTOV



Chanukah parade and menorah lighting

Young onlookers watch and wait for the menorah to be lit at Chabad of Arizona's annual parade and menorah lighting event.

COURTESY OF HERSHL WEBERMAN



Science night

Nishmat Adin-Shalhevet Scottsdale and Jewnior NCSY co-sponsored a STEM Chanukah night for fifth-eighth graders at the Valley of the Sun Jewish Community Center on Dec. 13.

COURTESY OF NISHMAT ADIN-SHALHEVET SCOTTSDALE



Sharing the light

Temple Beth Shalom of the West Valley Rabbi Dana Evan Kaplan and congregant Fern Bentkover light the Chanukah candles during Shabbat services on Dec. 22.

COURTESY OF BERNIE ARUM

This **COMMUNITY** page features photos of community members around the Valley and the world. Submit photos and details each week to editor@jewishaz.com by 10 a.m. Monday.

CALENDAR
CONTINUED FROM PAGE 17

Gill Hamilton at ghamilton@hov.org or 602-748-3692.

The Science of Everything: 4 p.m. Online. Explore the most fundamental work of Chassidut: the Tanya, with Rabbi Boruch. Cost: Free. Tune in at: zoom.us/j/736434666. For more information, visit chabadaz.com.

Teen Discussions: 7-8:30 p.m. Online. Learn with Rabbi Tzvi Rimler. Cost: Free. Tune in at cteen.clickmeeting.com/east-valley. For more information, visit chabadaz.com.

SATURDAYS
Saturday Mindfulness Gatherings: 9:30 a.m. Online. Hosted by Hospice of the Valley. To join by phone, dial 1-253-215-8782, meeting ID 486 920 2119#. To get the Zoom link or for more information, contact Gill Hamilton at ghamilton@hov.org or 602-748-3692.

Middle Eastern Percussion - Beginner Level: 12:45-1:45 p.m. One World Dance and Music Studio, 3312 N. Third St., Phoenix. Learn the fundamentals of Middle Eastern rhythms on tabla/doubek (drum), riq (tambourine) and zills (finger cymbals). Cost: \$20 per class. For more information, visit oneworlddanceandmusic.com.

Book Discussion: 1:30-2:30 p.m. Online. Join Or Adam Congregation for Humanistic Judaism on the third Saturday of every month for a book discussion. For more information and to register, contact oradaminfo@gmail.com.

Shabbat

FRIDAYS
Shabbat in the Park: 10-11 a.m. Cactus Park, 7202 E. Cactus Road, Scottsdale. Join the Bureau of Jewish Education of Greater Phoenix monthly for music, parachute play, crafts and a family Shabbat experience. For more information, visit bjephoenix.org.

Welcome Shabbat: 11-11:30 a.m. Online. Celebrate Shabbat with the JFCS Virtual Center for Senior Enrichment. Each week a different guest host will lead the program with song and celebration. Cost: Free. For more information, visit jfcsaz.org/cse.

Shabbat at Beth El: 11-11:45 a.m. Beth El Phoenix, 1118 W. Glendale. Ave., Phoenix. Celebrate Shabbat with songs, blessings and teachings with Rabbi Stein Kokin the first Friday of every month. Special guests will be welcoming Shabbat during the remainder of the month. For more information or to join, visit bethelphoenix.com.

Erev Shabbat Service: 5:30 p.m. Online. Rabbi Alicia Magal will lead a service livestreamed for members of the Jewish Community of Sedona and the Verde Valley. Cost: Free. For more information and to obtain the Zoom link, visit jcsvv.org/contact.

Shabbat Services: 5:30 p.m. nosh, 6:15 p.m. service; morning varying dates and times. Temple Chai, 4645 E. Marilyn Road, Phoenix. For more information, contact Sheana Abrams at (602) 971-1234 or sabrams@templechai.com.

Pre-Shabbat Kiddush Club: 6 p.m. Online. Say Kiddush with Rabbi Mendy Levertov. Cost: Free. Tune in here: ourjewishcenter.com/virtual. For more information, visit chabadaz.com.

Shabbat Services: 6 p.m.; 9:30 a.m. Congregation Or Tzion, 16415 N. 90th St., Scottsdale. Services are also live streamed at otaz.org/livestream. For more information about services, events and membership, visit congregationortzion.org or call 480-342-8858.

Shabbat Services: 6:15 p.m.; 10 a.m. Congregation Beth Israel, 10460 N. 56th St., Scottsdale. Services held in the Goldsmith Sanctuary. Participants must pre-register by Thursday at 5 p.m. Priority will be given to members first and then guests. If there are more requests than available seats a lottery system will be used. For more information or to make a reservation, visit cbiaz.org/shabbat-services.

Kabbalat Shabbat and/or Shabbat morning service: 6:30 p.m.; 10 a.m.; dates vary. Congregation Kehillah, 5858 E. Dynamite Blvd., Cave Creek. Join Rabbi Bonnie Sharfman and cantorial soloists Erica Erman and Scott Leader either in person or via Zoom. For safety reasons, please register ahead of time. For dates, visit congregationkehillah.org/event/. Register by emailing info@congregationkehillah.org.

Third Friday Shabbat: 7-9 p.m. Group meets at a North Scottsdale location. The Desert Foothills Jewish Community Association hosts a Shabbat service followed by a program. Contact Andrea at 480-664-8847 for more information.

Shabbat Services with Sun Lakes: 7 p.m. Sun Lakes Chapel, 9240 E. Sun Lakes Blvd. North, Sun Lakes. Sun Lakes Jewish Congregation conducts services on the second Friday of the month. For more information, contact 480-612-4413.

Shabbat Services with Beth Ami Temple: 7:30 p.m. Gloria Christi Church, 3535 E. Lincoln Dr., Paradise Valley. Rabbi Alison Lawton and Cantorial Soloist Michael Robbins lead Shabbat services twice a month. Beth Ami welcomes people who are not affiliated and looking for a spiritual connection. For more information, visit bethamitemple.org.

Seniors

MONDAYS
Fitness Xpress Series with Zoe: 11-11:30 a.m. Online. Presented by JFCS Center for Senior Enrichment. Workout features weight and band exercises as well as yoga poses. Exercises will be demonstrated standing, but can also be done sitting in a chair. Cost: Free. For more information, visit jfcsaz.org/cse.

Sip & Schmooze: 11 a.m. milk + honey, 12701 N. Scottsdale Road, Scottsdale. Sip on kosher coffee or tea, enjoy a pastry and schmooze every second Monday of the month. RSVP appreciated to chani@sosaz.org or 602-492-7670. For more information, visit sosaz.org.

Featured Presentation: 12:30 p.m. Online. Join Smile on Seniors Mondays and Wednesdays to learn from a variety of

presenters about topical issues, like Q&As with medical professionals, entertainers and lectures. Cost: Free. For more information, visit sosaz.org/virtual or email Rabbi Levi Levertov at levi@sosaz.org.

TUESDAYS
Movie Discussion Group: 11 a.m. Online. Join Smile on Seniors on the third Tuesday of every month hosted by Issy Lifshitz. Cost: Free. For full details and the movie of the month visit sosaz.org/virtual or email Rabbi Levi Levertov at levi@sosaz.org.

WEDNESDAYS
Fitness Fun with Zoe: 10-10:45 a.m. Online. Presented by JFCS Center for Senior Enrichment. Workout features light chair exercises with optional weights. Cost: Free. For more information, visit jfcsaz.org/cse.

Chair Yoga with Zoe: 11-11:45 a.m. Online. Presented by JFCS Center for Senior Enrichment. 45-minute chair yoga class. No prior yoga experience required. Cost: Free. For more information, visit jfcsaz.org/cse.

THURSDAYS
Memory Cafe: 10-11 a.m. first Thursday; 1-2 p.m. third Thursday. Online. Presented by JFCS. Program for those with changes in their thinking or memory, mild cognitive impairment due to Alzheimer's disease or a related disorder, along with their care

partners. For more information, visit jfcsaz.org/our-services/older-adult-services/memory-cafe/.

In the Kitchen with Benita: 12:30 p.m. Join Smile on Seniors on the fourth Thursday of every month for some delicious cooking or baking fun! Cost: Free. For full details visit sosaz.org/virtual or email Rabbi Levi Levertov at levi@sosaz.org.

FRIDAYS
Welcome Shabbat: 11-11:30 a.m. Online. Celebrate Shabbat with the JFCS Virtual Center for Senior Enrichment. Each week a different guest host will lead the program with song and celebration. Cost: Free. For more information, visit jfcsaz.org/cse.

Sit or Stand Ballet Class: 12-12:45 p.m. Online. Presented by JFCS Center for Senior Enrichment. Jennifer Cafarella Betts and Friends from Ballet Theatre of Phoenix teach this class. Grab a chair or you can stand next to a chair or counter. Cost: Free. For more information, visit jfcsaz.org/cse.

Musical Friday: 12:30 p.m. Online. Join Smile on Seniors on the first Friday of every month for a musical presentation. Cost: Free. For full details visit sosaz.org/virtual or email Rabbi Levi Levertov at levi@sosaz.org. **JN**

OBITUARIES



Stephen Franklin Needle passed away on November 10, 2022 at the age of 77.

Stephen was born on June 8, 1945 in Boston, Massachusetts. He attended the Massachusetts College of Pharmacy, earned a Bachelor of Science, and was a pharmacist for over 34 years. He retired with Maricopa County as a Pharmacy Supervisor.

Stephen loved cooking, The History Channel, shooting, traveling, lots of ice in his unsweetened iced tea, a good pastrami sandwich, soup, and Cindy Lauper. But Stephen's greatest passion was his family and he never missed an opportunity to tell them that he loved them. Stephen had a fabulous sense of humor and was always happy. He loved to make others smile with his quick wit personality and by telling a joke.

Stephen is survived by his wife Terri of 27 years; his 5 children, Jim Needle (Sari), Rhea Kowitz (Michael), Harley Needle (Jenny), Chad Permison, Valerie Ahern (Gavin). He was a proud Papa to eight grandchildren.

Stephen was laid to rest at Mt. Sinai Cemetery on November 11, 2022. He will be deeply missed by friends and family. Zichrono livrach, may his memory be for a blessing.

Long-time Phoenix resident **Eva Green** passed peacefully on Dec. 16, 2022. She was 101 (and a half!).

Born in Chicago in 1921 to Louis and Rose Saperstein, Eva grew up in Bronx, New York.

She was preceded in death by her husband of 71 years, Thomas Green. They owned House of Thomas Commercial Draperies. She was also proceeded in death by his sister, Anne. She is survived by her four children: sons Bruce, Mitch and Steve; daughter, Margo; their spouses, several grandchildren and great grandchildren. Eva was a strong, kind and beautiful person loved by all and will be unbelievably missed.

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