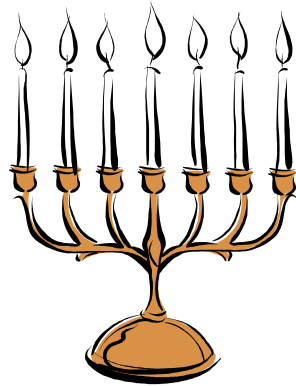


The Shpiel

Sun Lakes Jewish Congregation

February 2015 / Shevat-Adar 5775



SUN LAKES JEWISH CONGREGATION

OFFICERS

President – Wende Levy (301)-503-1047 Treasurer – Michael Dar (480)-882-9022
Vice-President – Jeff Spear (480)-556-1284
Recording Secretary – Geri Gould (480)-305-0123
Rabbi Irwin Wiener, D.D. – (623)-975-4272 Cantor Ronda Polesky – (480)-247-8408

To download a Membership Form, go to: www.SLJC.com/membership

Send any articles you wish to have published in *The Shpiel* to Mark Salita at ShpielSLJC@gmail.com by the 15th of the month for publication on the last day of the month.

Meeting Schedules (details on later pages)

FRIDAY NITE SERVICES – Friday, February 13 – Sun Lakes Chapel ; Note start at 7:00PM

BOARD MEETING – Thursday, February 12, 4PM - please call Wende Levy @ (301)-503-1047 if you wish to be on the agenda.

MEN’S CLUB – Dinner March 1st at the Oakwood Country Club.

SISTERHOOD – Sisterhood Shabbat service on Friday, February 13.

RITUAL COMMITTEE MEETING – Was moved to Tuesday Jan 27 to avoid Card Party.

JWV - Meeting at 9:30 a.m. February 15 in the Mirror Room of the Sun Lakes Country Club.

SHALOM HADASSAH – February 17th meeting at the Oakwood Clubhouse with speaker Tresha Baldwin, Physical Therapist, on “Aging Gracefully and Strong”.

BAR AND BAT MITZVAH INFORMATION

We are proud to offer Bar and Bat Mitzvah ceremonies both for youngsters and adults. For information regarding the procedures for commemorating this milestone, please contact the Rabbi at ravyitz@cox.net or 623-640-5913.

Dylan Joseph, son of SLJC members Angelique and Rob Joseph, will be celebrating his Bar Mitzvah on February 21 at 10:30am in the Chapel.



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Message from Our Rabbi

How We Affect the Lives of Others

“There is nothing new beneath the sun! Whatever has been is what will be, and whatever has been done is what will be done.” These words are profound and yet cynical. It was as though it does not matter what we do or say, everything is preordained. It was a difficult time for King Solomon who is purported to have written the Book of Ecclesiastes from where this is quoted.

We all have been there. Nothing seems to go right. No matter how hard we try, we come up empty. Perhaps it would have been better not to have been born at all. With all the wisdom Solomon was purported to possess, he still had doubts about his abilities and his value as the leader of the People of Israel. More than that, however, were the doubts he had about God’s role in the Universe, and the futility of life itself.

He amassed great wealth, built magnificent structures including the great Temple in Jerusalem, and marveled at all he had accomplished, but still no satisfaction. He then laments, “Thus I hated all my achievements laboring under the sun, for I must leave it to the man who succeeds me.” Finally, after all of his soul searching he concludes, “Send your bread upon the waters, for after many days you will find it. Distribute portions to seven, or even to eight, for you never know what calamity will strike.”

It is then he realizes that there is no value to wealth if it is not shared in some way with others. We all know that poverty will never be eradicated, or homelessness eliminated, or hunger abated, but we do know that one person helping another will eventually begin a process that will relieve these afflictions. There are so many ways to accomplish these feats of mercy. Sometimes it appears that the efforts do not match the problems. Maybe Solomon understood this. Maybe he also realized that we are obligated to try even though we may not always succeed.

There are many stories about the great Sage, the Ba’al Shem Tov. The one, however, that impresses me the most is the one that speaks to the issue of deeds verses despair, of conceit verses humility. He was teaching a class, and during the lesson the subject of preaching was discussed. Questions were asked about the value of a sermon and whether any Rabbi has an effect on the people listening.

After the class, the Sage asked one of his students about the lesson and whether he would like to accompany him as he traveled and preached. The student was overjoyed. To preach with the Master – how wonderful! What an opportunity!

They set out on their journey. Along the way, the Rabbi stopped to help a poor widow. He and the student chopped wood and helped with the livestock. As they left the grateful woman, the student asked his Rabbi why he had not preached to her. The Ba’al Shem Tov told him not to worry.

On and on, they visited village after village. In some there were sick people in need of some comfort and prayer. In others there were people who needed someone to prepare food and feed them. Again, the student would ask, after each visit about preaching. And, as before, the Rabbi assured him that there was not cause for concern.

At the end of a full day, after they had tended to many others in need, the frustration was even more prominent. And, again, the student questioned the Rabbi about the preaching. Finally, the Rabbi turned to the student and calmly and politely admonished, "What do you think we have been doing all day?" Surely, there is nothing new under the sun, but we were placed here to establish goodness and mercy because all of us depend on this attitude for true completion. We may not feel as though our little bit helps, but it does if it is given with sincerity and compassion.

Here in our little corner of the world, we see these acts of kindness performed each and every day. Whether it be Neighbors Who Care, or visiting the sick in the hospital, or bringing a pet to a sick bed to bring a little sunshine and smile, or a group of women called the Sun Lakes Jewish Congregation Sisterhood tirelessly devoting their energies to the greatness of the human spirit, or supporting the Jewish Free Loan Association, or the East Valley Jewish Day School, every little bit helps. Our Sisterhood unfolds its banner of tenderness and sympathy to all who are reachable regardless of race, color or creed. Our Sisterhood speaks to our goodness, Our Sisterhood understands that forgiveness and leniency do relieve the suffering. We can turn with pride to their many achievements. Perhaps Solomon was right that what has been done will be done. I believe, that what has been done can be improved upon. Our sisterhood is the classic example of this belief.

AMEN

Ritual Schedule for 5775 (2014-2015)

2015

February 13, 2015-----	Sisterhood Sabbath -----	7:00 pm
March 13, 2015-----	Service honoring our Choir -----	7:30 pm
April 10, 2015-----	Service honoring our Ritual committee and our Annual Yom HaShoah observance -----	7:00 pm
	Anyone wishing to light a candle in remembrance may do so	
May 8, 2015-----	Inter-Faith Sabbath -----	7:30 pm
June 12, 2015-----	Annual Healing Service -----	7:30 pm
July, August 2015-----	Twilight Services (Chapel House) -----	5:30 pm

Help Wanted/Needed at Shabbat Services

Sun Lakes Jewish Congregation is looking for a person to help us get ready for our monthly Shabbat service in the Sun Lakes Chapel on the second Friday evening of each month from October through June. This involves bringing religious articles out from the store rooms and setting up in the open area before services; then at the end of each service, putting them back in the store rooms. Two racks of prayer book must be rolled out to the lobby before services, then rolled back to the store room after services. We also need this person to make sure the sound system is in working condition for and during the service. If this sounds like something that you would be interested in doing, please contact SaraRuth Rossow at 480-883-1791.

Oneg Shabbat Sponsors for February

Shirley and Edd Shalett - in honor of Edd's 70th birthday	SLJC Sisterhood
Barbara & Marty Silverman	Geri and Jim Gould
Marilyn and Harvey Fein	Doris & Ron Codkind
	Victoria Gindick
	Leah and Al Bloom

President's Message

As I begin my term as President of Sun Lakes Jewish Congregation I wish to thank you all for trusting me to be the steward of SLJC. The Board of Directors and I take our responsibility to you, the congregants, very seriously and want to meet the expectations of each of you. I will be using this column to keep you informed of activities of the SLJC Board of Directors and hope that if you have comments, concerns, or suggestions you will feel empowered to come to the Board.

Areas that the SLJC BOD will focus on in the coming months include:

- Communication to our membership and feedback from our membership
- Recruitment of new members and retention of current members
- Methods to increase non-dues revenue
- Fundraising
- Strategic planning
- Financial planning and forecasting
- Programs for adult education

In order to take on these initiatives we will need members of the congregation to help lead and participate in these efforts in addition to Board Members. Jeff Spear is leading the effort for membership. If you are interested in this area please contact Jeff directly.

The Board and I will be looking to the congregation to help us define the needs of the congregation and ways for the congregation to connect with one another. I look forward to working closely with our Rabbi and Cantor to meet the spiritual needs of the congregation.

I have been working closely with our representatives to the Chapel Board to assure that the usage fees assessed for both the Chapel and Chapel House are reflective of our usage, and are fair and equitable in relation to both our usage and the operating budget for the two buildings.

You can contact me at 301-503-1047 or via e-mail at Wende@his.com.

Birthright – Free Trips to Israel

The Israel Committee of Friends of Israel, Sun Lakes Jewish Congregation, is proud to announce the upcoming presentation of "Birthright" by Shahar Edry, the Director of the Israel Center of the Scottsdale JCC on Sunday, March 22 at 3pm in the Chapel Center in Sun Lakes.

Birthright is a not-for-profit educational organization that sponsors free ten-day heritage trips to Israel for Jewish young adults. Since its beginning in 1999, more than 400,000 young people from 64 countries have participated in the program. Participants have reported positive changes in their appreciation of the state of Israel and their heritage.

Former participants and their close relatives are urged to attend to report. In addition, those who know of future Birthright enrollees can learn about the program from Shahar. For more information: maishelevitan@aol.com, Israel Committee member.

CONGREGATION NEWS

CONDOLENCES

We are sorry to inform you that our congregant Marvin Reiman passed away on January 7th. It is with great sadness to announce the death of Marc Ross, husband of Lee Ross, on January 8.

THE CARE COMMITTEE/BEREAVEMENT COMMITTEE

The Care Committee/Bereavement Committee consists of the following members: Chairperson: Shirley Shalett, tieman11@q.com or 883-9159, and Joyce Sparonos, Michael Kaplan, Jeff Spear, Geri Gould, Rita Solko, Jerri Siegel, Wende Levy, Mireille Kaplan, SaraRuth Rossow, Arleen Berke, Doris Codkind, Shelly Henden, Sandy Jennings and Edd Shalett. If there is an illness, please do not hesitate to contact anyone on the committee.

The Rabbi is always available. Marty Silverman will also be available. In case of a death, please call or email Shirley Shalett so that she can make sure that the congregation is notified.

Contact Marilyn Koss at 940-1916, or e-mail marilynjoe@cox.net if you know of anyone who is ill or hospitalized, or anyone celebrating the birth of a grandchild, etc. so that a card can be sent to the congregation member on behalf of Sisterhood.

Cantorial Notes: The Love of Friends

On this sisterhood Shabbat that we will be celebrating together in February, I thought it appropriate to think about friendship. I recently came upon the lyrics to a song called "Friendship Circle" by Moshe Hecht. Here is an excerpt from my favorite part:

When you come over,
Over, and over
My friend
Yes when you're around me,
The joy that surrounds me
My friend
I'm no longer lonely
You are my only
In the end



A visit from a friend really can lift your spirits. Friends make you feel connected. Can you recall a recent time when you may have been confined at home or in a hospital? How did it make you feel when a friend dropped by to say "hello?" Did your face brighten and did you smile at your friend? Did you feel your spirit lifted? This has certainly happened to me. Sometimes we forget the positive impact we can have on people just by "coming over." As Moshe writes/sings here...the person being visited is no longer lonely. The visit and comfort from a friend is pivotal-even life-saving. Moshe concludes his lyrics with this:

You changed one life
You changed the world
You changed my life
So watch out - world

Our SLJC friends do this for us every day. Be a friend, thank a friend. Inspire one-another!

B'Shalom, Ronda

Interfaith Choral Festival: 20 YEARS OF ROCKIN' OUR SOULS

Although March may come in like a lamb or a lion, why not be sure March will arrive in a special way, by greeting it with an afternoon of enjoyable music by attending the 20th anniversary concert of the Sun Lakes Interfaith Music Festival? If you enjoy a variety of music, both vocal music and instrumental, please mark your calendar now to reserve March 8, 2015 at 3 pm for this special event. This afternoon of musical performances is celebrating the commitment by Sun Lakes' choirs and choruses to two decades of concerts for the benefit of Neighbors Who Care.

Coordinating the concert is Lana Oyer, the director of the Sun Lakes Jewish Congregation choir. Lana is the only director to participate in all 20 years of this benefit and has been integral in its continuation for the last two decades. This year, once again, she has done a great job of selecting upbeat music that will have you clapping and rockin' in your seats.

The theme for the concert is ROCKIN' OUR SOULS. The concert will consist of upbeat musical numbers, many of which are from gospel, spirituals or African roots. Members of choirs from a number of Sun Lakes Churches will be performing, including the Risen Savior Lutheran Church Hand Bells. The Sun Lakes Jewish Congregation Choir has added voices from the churches that share the Sun Lakes Chapel to form the Sun Lakes Interfaith Choir, which will be over 40 strong and create a powerful sound. Also performing, the Chordaires and their select group, The Ambassadors. The Chordaires are Sun Lakes' outstanding Sweet Adeline's chorus, noted for their entertaining barbershop music shows.

This year's concert will be co-hosted by our own Rabbi Irwin Wiener and Reverend Vernon Meyer of the United Church of Christ. (The Rab and the Rev)

Please plan to treat yourself to an afternoon of joyful music while helping a good cause. No matter what the weather is in early March, it will be cheery inside the Sun Lakes United Methodist Church.

When: Sunday March 8, 2015 at 3:00PM **Where: Sun Lakes United Methodist Church.**

Cost: \$5.00 Tickets are available from Arnie Henden (895-8851).



THE SLJC THANKS YOU FOR YOUR RECENT CONTRIBUTIONS

CHAPEL FUND

Ruth Friedman
Howard & Lisa Gershkowitz
Mickey & Bert Friedman
Hildy & Jeff Forman

FAMILY FUND

SaraRuth Rossow
Bernice Kantrowitz
Sandy & Roger Spark

ONEG FUND

Marilyn & Harvey Fein
Fran & Arthur Applebaum
Lynne & Bob Stone
SLJC Sisterhood
Geri & Jim Gould
Colette Goldstein
Mireille & Michael Kaplan
Doris & Ron Codkind
Marcia & Marshall Gurian
Edd & Shirley Shalett
Anita & Sander Frindell

MEMORIAL BOARD – A non-member Memorial Board is in the lobby of our chapel. Many of you have already placed plates on the memorial board to honor and remember their loved ones. The wording for these plates is limited to 5 lines of type, and the cost for each plate is \$75.00, payable to SLJC. Any questions regarding this board, please contact SaraRuth at 883-1791.

BLUE BOXES - Keep filling J.N.F blue boxes!! If filled, call me and I will arrange to pick them up. Thanks. Lill Fishman - 895-8928


TRIBUTE CARDS for any occasion can be purchased at the monthly Sisterhood meetings.

SERVICE HONORS – Anyone wishing to have an honor in any upcoming service, call SaraRuth Rossow at 883-1791.



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Donation Forms

<p>DONATION FORM TOYS FROM THE HEART</p>
<p>Name _____</p> <p>Address _____</p> <p>Please send checks (in any amount) payable to SLJC Sisterhood to: Phyllis Mandel, 3495 East County Down Drive, Chandler, AZ 85249</p>

<p>SUN LAKES JEWISH CONGREGATION DONATION FORM</p>
<p>Please accept this contribution to the following fund, in honor/memory Of _____</p> <p>Chapel ___ Oneg ___ Music ___ Family Fund ___ Flower ___ Torah ___</p> <p>General Fund _____</p> <p>Please send card to: Name - _____</p> <p>Address- _____</p> <p>Donor _____ Amt. of Check \$ _____</p> <p>Address _____</p> <p>Remit to: Shirley Gersten, 9238 E. Nacoma, Sun Lakes 85248 (Minimum donation of \$5.00, please)</p>

WHEN DONATING TO DIFFERENT FUNDS, PLEASE ISSUE A SEPARATE CHECK FOR EACH FUND; OTHERWISE ALL THE MULTIPLE DONATIONS WILL BE POSTED TO THE SAME FUND. THANK YOU FOR YOUR COOPERATION. IF A FUND IS NOT INDICATED, THE DONATION WILL BE APPLIED TO THE SLJC GENERAL FUND. SHIRLEY GERSTEN

Flowers for the bema for Shabbat services: May be donated by congregation members commemorating important occasions. To participate, call Shirley Gersten at 802-0007 to reserve your date. The cost is \$50.00 per household (no more than two households may donate flowers for any one service).

To help serve at the Onegs: call Gary Kanowsky at 802-4517, or fill out the following form:

<p>Sun Lakes Jewish Congregation- Shabbat Service Oneg</p>
<p>Please count me/us in to serve at an Oneg Shabbat</p> <p>Name _____ Phone _____ E-mail _____</p> <p>I/we are available during the month of _____ celebrating _____</p> <p>Please return to: Gary Kanowsky, 10221 E. Spring Creek Rd., S.L. 85248 – ph. 802-4517</p>

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<p>store4030@theupsstore.com</p>	

Welcome to our Sun Lakes Jewish Congregation Passover Seder

The Number "1" Caterer in Arizona will be catering our event again

"Heidi's Events & Catering"

Saturday, April 4th, 2015 (2nd night of Seder)
Door opens at 5:30 PM
Services begin at 6:00 PM Sharp

Sun Lakes Country Club
Arizona Room
\$40.00 per Adult
\$12.00 per Child 4-12

No Charge for Children 3 and under

Rabbi Irwin Weiner will conduct our Seder, everyone is welcome.

Please fill in the reservation form below. Standard table size is 8-9 diners Please make checks payable to: Sun Lakes Jewish Congregation and mail to: Susie Shapiro 24117 S Lakeway Cir. NE., Sun Lakes, Az, 85248

Deadline is March 26th, 2015, your check is your reservation. Questions call Bunny Emont at 480-802-4199

Attendees:
Name: _____
Name: _____
Name: _____
Name: _____
Name: _____
Name: _____
Name: _____
Name: _____
Name: _____
Telephone #: _____
Check Enclosed \$ _____ # of Adults _____ # of Children _____

Please seat me with: _____

Men's Club of Sun Lakes Jewish Congregation

The Men's Club annual dinner will be March 1st at the Oakwood Country Club. The dinner is free to members and \$32 for guests. The dinner choices are brisket, salmon and vegetarian. Mail your check to Sy Evans. More details and a form will be sent in a Men's Club email or flyer.

Membership Form for new members:

Dues are \$30 for 2014-15, which includes the Annual Dinner Dance and Kick-Off Bagel Breakfast. Please send your check payable to the SLJC Men's Club, and the following information form to:

Sy Evans, 26421 S. New Town Drive, Sun Lakes, 85248

Name: _____
Address: _____
Email: _____
Phone #: _____ Cell Phone: _____

President: Paul Herman (480-659-2998)



Jewish War Veterans (JWV)



The members of Post 619 Jewish War Veterans in Sun Lakes will be meeting at 9:30 a.m. Feb 15 in the Mirror Room of the Sun Lakes Country Club. The speaker will be three ladies from the CAP program at the Sun Lakes Fire Department explaining a program that will assist residents in both Sun Lakes and surrounding cities that will provide emergency data at a finger tip. The post is active all year long and inquiries are answered all year long from any person regardless of race, religion or gender. Many participants in the post are not Jewish but want to help veterans and this post works tirelessly to help homeless and in need veterans with many persons taking part in the Maricopa StandDown in Feb. Information on the post Elliot Reiss 480-802-3281. Reservations for the brunch that precedes the meeting, contact Myra Buckner at 480-305-0533.

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Sisterhood

The Sisterhood of Sun Lakes Jewish Congregation is up and running for 2015. We have wonderful programs planned for our future meetings, and look forward to welcoming returning members and anyone wishing to join us. New members can send their dues (\$30.00) to Phyllis Mandel at 3495 E. County Down Drive, Chandler, AZ 85249.

As always, we welcome donations for our ongoing charity, Toys From the Heart, for disadvantaged children at the Frye School in Chandler. Those donations also go to Phyllis at the above address. PLEASE SEE THE FORM ON PAGE 9.

We look forward to seeing everyone at the Sisterhood Shabbat service on Friday, February 13, 2015, Sisterhood has prepared a wonderful service, with the theme of "Women in Science." Hope to see you there.

SISTERHOOD DUES STATEMENT

2014-2015

Sun Lakes Jewish Congregation Sisterhood
\$30.00

Name _____ Email _____

Address _____ Phone _____

Please send checks made out to SLJC Sisterhood to:
Phyllis Mandel, 3495 E. County Down Drive, Chandler, AZ 85249

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Shalom Hadassah

What's next for our Chapter? Can we top 2014 for fantastic events? The Shalom Chapter of Hadassah finished 2014 with a Bang after having our Chillin & Grillin Bar-B-Q; a marvelous Wine & Cheese Party; a trip to see the Sound of Music; and our annual shopping spree to Chico's and other great stores. These events were successful in raising funds for our Chapter's charitable work. Add to this a great lineup of programs on Reiki, our Holiday Recipe Exchange, a book review and wonderful lunches. Sounds like an organization you'd want to be a part of, doesn't it?

So, what do we have coming up in the next few months? At our February 17th meeting at the Oakwood Clubhouse we are fortunate to have as our speaker Tresha Baldwin, Physical Therapist and owner of 360 Sports Medicine & Aquatic Rehabilitation. Her topic, "Aging Gracefully and Strong" will cover multiple strategies the everyday woman can use to remain youthful, with the emphasis on physical activity. Learn simple strategies and daily activities that can help maintain and IMPROVE balance, strength and endurance to help you enjoy life to the fullest each day. For optional lunch reservation at 11:30 a.m. send \$16.00 to Ruth Friedman at The Renaissance, 9508 E. Riggs Road, Apt. D306, Sun Lakes, 85248. Program only, at 1:00 p.m.

There is a double header in March when, on March 5th, we will again go to the Phoenix Art Museum for a spectacular tour of "**Fashioned in America**" with lunch at the Museum Café. *Fashioned in America*, is an exhibition about how economics, ecology and labor ethics are driving a revival of fashion designs made in the United States. Featuring more than 40 ensembles and accessories, *Fashioned in America* highlights work by contemporary designers whose vision and talent are invigorating the revival of U.S. clothing manufacturing. For reservations call Diane at 895-6917 or Judi at 802-4944.

Then, on March 7th, one of the all-time favorite shows, My Fair Lady, will be presented at the Hale Theatre at 7:30 p.m. Tickets are \$30.00 each and checks made to Shalom Hadassah should be sent to Marcia at 10621 E. Champagne Dr., Sun Lakes, 85248. Reservations fill up quickly so be sure to reserve your seats early for this wonderful show.

Also on display and for sale at every meeting are the most beautiful greeting cards from Hadassah. You will want to stock up!

Shalom!

Devorah Hadassah

WHAT: Rummikub Tournament

WHERE: Jewish Community Center 908 N. Alma School Rd, Chandler

WHEN: March 15, 2015

WHY: Enjoy the camaraderie of a group of men and women who love the game of **Rummikub**. Bring your own game set and your friends to have a day of fun. The fun will begin at 11:30AM. Enjoy lunch, drinks, snacks, raffles and a silent auction.

ADMISSION: Early bird ticket is \$15.00. After March 1, admission will be \$18.00. Tickets are available at Hadassah.evinfo@cox.net or from a Devorah board member.

You can also learn the game or practice your Rummikub skills at the Chandler Senior Center, 202 E Boston Street, Chandler at 1:15 PM on Wednesday, January 14 and February 11 at no charge.

For more information contact: Hadassah.evinfo@cox.net or 480-318-7568

Holocaust Memorial Events

The Phoenix Effect (A film by Sharyn Blumenthal and co-creative collaborator Edith Hirshal)

The **Phoenix Effect** is a feature length documentary about children of Holocaust survivors who grew up in Vineland, NJ after WWII. The film concludes with grandchildren of survivors examining how the transference of trauma continues to affect successive generations.



Guest speaker **Edith Hirshal** was a child prodigy, who became a concert pianist. She is a recently retired professor of piano. Edith's father was a survivor of Buchenwald who lost a wife and three daughters. Edith's mother went into hiding with her infant son, Edith's half-brother Boris. Edith will be in attendance to discuss the film.

When:	Sunday, February 8, 2pm
Where:	Ina Levine Jewish Community Campus 12701 North Scottsdale Road, Scottsdale, AZ 85254
Cost:	If paid by February 2: \$5 for paid GA members; \$10 for non-members At the door: \$7 for paid GA members; \$12 for non-members
Mail Checks To:	Generations After, P.O. Box 28694, Scottsdale, AZ 85255

Wine and Dessert Reception and concert by pianist Edith Hirshal

When:	Saturday, February 7, 7:30pm
Where:	Private home in Paradise Valley
Cost:	Free for paid GA members; \$10 for non-members
RSVP:	Phx2G3G@gmail.com or 480-792-6736 for location & payment info

Music

Klezmer: The Soundtrack of the Jewish People



Join **Generations After** for a memorable evening with **Yale Strom**, world-renown Klezmer expert.

When:	Monday, March 2
Time:	7pm
Where:	Ina Levine Jewish Community Campus 12701 North Scottsdale Road, Scottsdale, AZ 85254
Cost:	No charge \$5 suggested donation (at the door)
For more information:	Phx2G3G@gmail.com or 480-792-6736

Holocaust Torah Reunion Celebration - "Forgotten Holocaust Survivors"

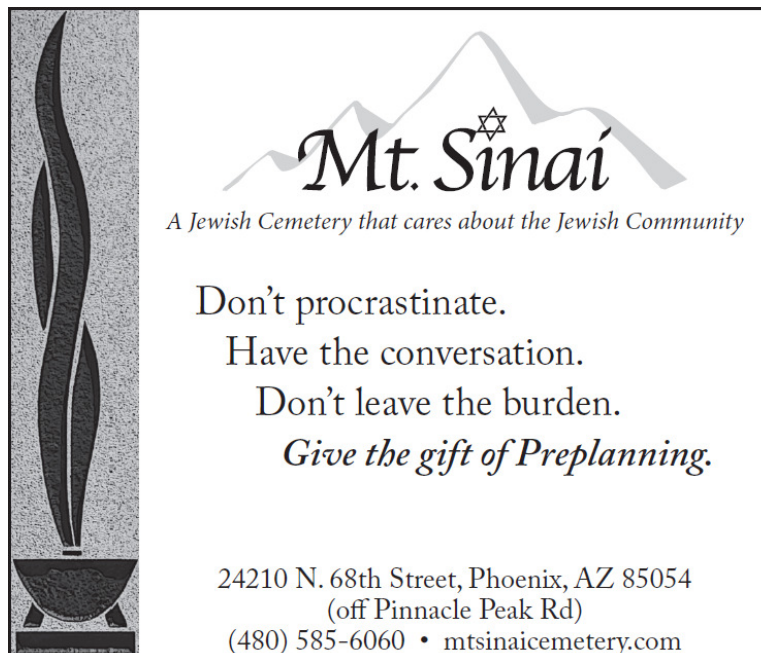
The Torah on display on the bema in the Sun Lakes Chapel is one of 1400 rescued from a warehouse in Prague where they had been collected originally in 1942 for safety, but were captured by the Nazis in 1944. They were found and rescued (liberated) in 1964 and flown to the Westminster Synagogue in London, England where many were restored by a Sofer (scribe) over a period of 25 years. The SLJC scroll is one of 1,000 such scrolls in the US, of which 22 are in the state of Arizona. Each Torah is a tribute to a survivor scroll and its synagogue from Moravia or Bohemia.

An exhibit and commemoration celebration of these Czech Torah Scrolls is being held on February 9 from 7-9PM at AZ Jewish Historical Society Cutler Plotkin Jewish Heritage Center, 122 E. Culver St. Phoenix, AZ 85004 (602-241-7870). There is no charge, but reservations are required (lbell@azjhs.org). Due to the costs involved in transportation and lodging of guest speakers, a voluntary contribution would be greatly appreciated.

Rabbi Irwin Wiener is planning to attend, and welcomes the participation of other SLJC congregants. SLJC is one of 20 AZ congregations that have been invited to participate by bringing their Czech Torah to be displayed as part of the collection of "forgotten Holocaust survivors".

Commemoration ceremonies will be led by experts from London, Toronto, LA, and Phoenix. A brief YouTube excerpt from "A Torah Tale" film about the scrolls will be shown and explained by Michael Hepner. Mr. Hepner will also speak about "The Myth of the Museum" which confronts the fact that there was a Nazi plan for *a museum of an extinct race*. In addition, a workshop from 1-5PM that day will provide valuable information tracing the origins of the scrolls, their age, the original scribe, the synagogues, and the people of those synagogues who were lost to the Holocaust.

For more information, please contact Jeffrey Schesnol 602.241.7870 jschesnol@azjhs.org



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February Milestones

BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Jeff Berke
- 2 Gerald Keizerstein
- 2 Arleen Forgang
- 3 Annette Berger
- 3 Louis Berger
- 3 Ron Kollman
- 3 Eloise Rubin
- 3 Martin Segal
- 10 Samuel Abramson
- 10 Cynthia Fielman
- 11 Martha Lubeach
- 12 Beatrice Pollock
- 13 Roxanne Banta
- 14 Joy Dolin
- 15 Barbara Schweitzer
- 15 Betsey Silverman
- 16 Diana Nelinson
- 16 Ruth Ostreicher-Weber
- 17 Ronald Codkind
- 18 Shirley Adler
- 18 Ellen Fineberg
- 18 Len Schulman
- 20 Ruth Friedman
- 20 Judi Primack
- 21 Eleanor Miller
- 21 Joan Nieman
- 21 Susan Reeves
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- 22 Joel Goldman
- 24 Sheryl Barlam
- 25 Jerome Feldman
- 25 Harvey Weiner
- 26 Nancy Stutman
- 29 Nessa Memberg



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A bouquet of diamonds in a vase. The diamonds are arranged in a bouquet shape, with some larger than others, and are set in a clear glass vase. The background is black.The logo for Phoenix Flower Shops, featuring a stylized phoenix in yellow and orange, with the text "PHOENIX FLOWER SHOPS" in white on a dark green background.

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News from Israel

Aliyah Figures at Highest in a Decade; France Leads the Way (12/31/14)

Wednesday marks the last day of 2014, and year-end figures released today by The Jewish Agency for Israel and Ministry of Aliyah and Immigrant Absorption show it has been a record year for aliyah (immigration). Around 26,500 new immigrants arrived in Israel in 2014 marking a 32% increase over last year and a ten-year high - all this despite Hamas's summer terror war against the Jewish state.

France led the list of countries of origin for the first time ever, with almost 7,000 new French immigrants, more than double the 3,400 who came last year. The sudden increase comes partially as a response to the skyrocketing of violent anti-Semitism in the country, and has led the Jewish Agency to advance programs encouraging and facilitating aliyah for French citizens.

While France may top the list, Ukraine saw the largest increase in immigrants, with numbers shooting up by 190% compared to last year and reaching 5,840. There too the increase is partially explainable by the ongoing instability and conflict in the country. However, the majority of immigrants came from stable, advanced nations.

"2014 was a year of record-breaking Aliyah. This year also saw a historic shift: for the first time in Israel's history, the number of immigrants who came to Israel from the free world is greater than that of immigrants fleeing countries in distress," said Chairman of the Executive of The Jewish Agency Natan Sharansky. Sharansky continued "this trend is evidence of Israel's attractiveness as a place where it's good to live, as well as of the success of our joint efforts to promote aliyah and strengthen connections between Jews around the world and the State of Israel."

"As we forecast further increases in aliyah from around the world, I very much hope the next government continues to join The Jewish Agency in maintaining aliyah encouragement and immigrant absorption as top priority.

Minister of Aliyah and Immigrant Absorption Sofa Landver (Yisrael Beytenu) joined in praising the figures, saying "this year we mark a ten-year record of aliyah and a 32% increase over last year in the number of Jews who reached the conclusion that they have no other country."

"I am excited to see the fruits of our many efforts to encourage aliyah, but we have not yet reached our goal. Our ministry continues to work together with all relevant parties to promote the ingathering of the exiles, a vision that has accompanied the people of Israel since the state's establishment," said Landver. "We expect that some 10,000 new immigrants will come from France alone next year, and we will surpass 30,000 immigrants from around the world – and even more," predicted the minister.

The year-end statistics revealed that aliyah from Western Europe, driven by the sharp rise from France, rose by 88% to a total of 8,640 immigrants. Aliyah from the former Soviet Union rose by 50%, reaching 11,430 with the notable increase from Ukraine. Likewise, aliyah from the United States remained strong reaching 3,470, an 8% increase from last year. Over half of the immigrants in 2014 were under the age of 35, with 5,300 of them being children. The oldest immigrant made aliyah at the age of 104 from France, while the youngest was a 20-day-old infant from the US.

Around 2,500 of the immigrants work in engineering and technological fields, and over 1,000 doctors and health professionals made aliyah, along with roughly 600 artists and athletes.



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