



Limmud[®] AZ

JANUARY 31, 2016

PROGRAM GUIDE



Jewish Federation[®]
OF GREATER PHOENIX



SCHOOL OF
Historical, Philosophical
& Religious Studies
ARIZONA STATE UNIVERSITY



Wisconsin Society
for Jewish Learning

THANKS TO OUR

SUPPORTERS:

ADL
AJF Engineering
ASU Hillel
Congregation Beth Israel
Congregation Or Tzion
Dayna Adler
Jewish Free Loan
Reliable Background Screening
The Stockroom
Temple Emanuel of Tempe
Temple Kol Ami
Temple Solel
Women’s Jewish Learning Center

SPONSORS:

ASU Center for Jewish Studies
Jewish Federation
Jewish News of Greater Phoenix
Jewish Women’s Philanthropy Circle
Wisconsin Society for Jewish Learning

DONORS:

Sandy Adler
Micah Caplan
Alan & Randi Jablin
Gil & Harriet Rosen
Suzanne & Richard Swift
Stu Turgel
Michael Wasserman
Gail & Jay Weiss

A special thank you to all of our community partners and everyone who helped make Limmud AZ 2016 possible.

AND THANKS TO OUR VOLUNTEERS:

CAMP LIMMUD

Michelle Raizer
Andrea Kravets
Amanda Walker
Liz Vaisben
Shahar Edry

VOLUNTEERS

Sharon Wolf-Furman
Lise Kline

HOSPITALITY

Susan Farber
Shelly Reiss

LOGISTICS

Jim Hall
Ilene Singer
Michael Hall

MARKETING/COMMUNICATIONS

Donna Troisi
Kathryn Lipman
Carol Abrams
Lisa Kaplan

PROGRAMMING

Elana Kanter
Suzanne Swift
Sandy Adler
Michelle Mandell
Debbie Yunker Kail
Lisa Kaplan

REGISTRATION

Peter Pishko
Susan Hall
Fran Richter

*Special thanks to Limmud International for their support and guidance.
Special Thanks to Dayna Adler Creative. Special thanks to The Jewish Book Council.*



WELCOME TO LIMMUD AZ 2016

Welcome to Limmud AZ 2016!

The heart of Limmud is its values: a program entirely planned and run by voluticipants; a place where everyone teaches and everyone learns; and a place that demonstrates the breadth, depth, creativity and joy of Jewish life.

It is our hope that Limmud AZ will continue to create a re-energized and vibrant Jewish Arizona.

Challenge yourself to move out of the comfort of what you already know, and into the exciting places you’ve never been. Meet new people today and study something you’ve never learned about before.

No matter how you’ve gotten here today, settle in, enjoy, and be both a learner and a teacher.

Thank you to all of our voluticipants, presenters, sponsors, supporters and all who have worked to make this event come true. Have a wonderful day.

Sandy, Suzanne and Michelle

A LETTER FROM LIMMUD INTERNATIONAL

Dear Friends,

It is with great pleasure that I am writing to congratulate you on Limmud AZ 2016. I am sure the event will build on the success of last year’s event. We look forward to hearing all about it.

2016 represents the 36th year of Limmud’s existence and its growth around the world has been astounding. Limmud’s unique model of volunteer-led, cross-communal, multi-generational and transformational Jewish experiences is now truly global. There are now 80 Limmud groups in 40 countries round the world, and in 2015 there were 65 Limmud events run by 3,000 volunteers with 28,500 participants. These events are all inspired and supported by Limmud International and you can find out more at www.limmudinternational.org. Limmud is now truly a global community and we encourage you to attend Limmud events in other parts of the world if you are able to.

Limmud seeks to take every individual who attends our events one step further on their Jewish journey. Each individual will have a different Jewish journey yet I have no doubt that given the excellent and diverse programme that has been developed, Limmud AZ will achieve this goal. I would like to extend my congratulations to the wonderful team who have put so much effort into creating this event and Limmud community and I wish you every success.

David Bilchitz
Chair Limmud International

January 2016



LIMMUD’S MISSION AND VALUES

OUR MISSION - LIMMUD’S PROMISE:

Wherever you find yourself, Limmud will take you one step further on your Jewish journey.

Limmud’s mission is informed by the following values:

LEARNING

- Everyone should be a student and anyone can be a teacher
- Learning embraces personal development, knowledge and skills
- Learning changes people, inspires action and opens new worlds
- We encourage the creation of a learning environment in which people are able to reflect and grow
- There are many inspirations that can offer opportunities for learning

EXPANDING JEWISH HORIZONS

- We strive to create individual, collective and communal experiences, through which we strengthen and develop our Jewish identity

ENABLING CONNECTIONS

- We aim to create opportunities for communities and individuals to connect
- We recognize the strength of providing a space where spiritual, emotional and intellectual connections are made

PARTICIPATION

- Volunteerism is a key feature of almost everything we do
- We are all responsible for each other and for the communities we create - everyone has an important contribution to make
- We encourage participants to take an active part in all we do

EMPOWERMENT

- We inspire people to be ambitious about their contribution
- We challenge people, and trust them to rise to that challenge
- We see the potential of individuals and communities, and support their development
- We empower people to make choices and provide the information they need to inform those choices (including in the biographies which we ask presenters to provide)

DIVERSITY

- We value the rich diversity among Jews, and so we seek to create cross-communal and inter-generational experiences
- We value accessibility, and aim to be accessible to all
- We value choice in form, content and style in our programs
- We encourage people not to stereotype others

COMMUNITY & MUTUAL RESPONSIBILITY

- Limmud is a community of learning
- We can achieve more together than we can individually
- We gain from, and should give something back to, the Jewish and wider community

RESPECT

- No one is more important than anyone else
- We expect all participants to be respectful to one another, and to recognize that all volunteers are also participants

ARGUMENTS FOR THE SAKE OF HEAVEN

- We recognize and appreciate that ‘arguments for the sake of heaven’ can make a positive contribution to furthering our education and understanding
- We do not participate in legitimizing or de-legitimizing any religious or political position found in the worldwide Jewish community. Anyone coming to Limmud seeking opportunities for this will not find them. We have no part to play in the debates between/across denominations
- Sessions which encourage vigorous debate are entirely acceptable but we will seek to avoid religious or political conflict. Sessions should be educational, and not polemical

RELIGIOUS OBSERVANCE

- Shabbat and kashrut are observed in all public areas
- We recognize that in private areas, people will behave as they wish
- Should participants wish to hold a prayer group, they may do so providing they supply all resources and are responsible for the session or prayer group in its entirety



LIMMUD RULES

EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT YOUR DAY!

REGISTRATION

Registration will be open all day beginning at 8:15am. You will receive a badge and a program book.

PLEASE wear your badge at all times for security purposes. If you lose your badge, please get a replacement at the registration table.

HELP/VOLUNTEER DESK

The Help/Volunteer desk is located in the hallway right near registration. Please visit with any questions.

FOOD

All snacks and lunch are under rabbinical supervision. NO outside food is allowed in the lunch room.

Lunch will be served at 12:30-1:30pm in MU221 Arizona Ballroom.

BOOKSTORE

To help the learning continue, many of our presenters’ books will be on sale in MU 221 Arizona Ballroom. A portion of each sale will benefit Limmud AZ. The store will be open during breaks and lunch. Please stop by!

SECURITY

For your protection there will be security personnel on the premises at all times. Remember, please wear your badge.

LIMMUD ETIQUETTE

- During every session, please make sure your phone is on silent. Please respect our presenters and do not text during the session.
- The Limmud culture is one built on punctuality. Every session is expected to begin and end on time so please be prompt. Some sessions have limited space due to fire codes. Please, if a session is full when you arrive at the room, choose another session that is of interest to you.
- We realize that there may be many sessions that you want to attend during each scheduled time period. If after a session has started you would like to move to another session, please feel free to do so, but leave in the most respectful and quiet way possible so as not to disturb the presenters or other attendees.
- Please be considerate of the others in the room so as not to interrupt their experience of the program.

Congratulations to LimmudAZ on its second annual Day of Jewish Learning

La Judías de Cuba



Señor Cary Silverstein
LimmudAZ 2016

Learn about the history of the Jews of Cuba
from the 18th Century until today.

Presented by

Professor Cary Silverstein

Board member & Treasurer of

The Wisconsin Society for Jewish Learning

Sponsor of LimmudAZ 2016



THE LEARNING CONTINUES...

Sunday, April 3, 2016
2:00-4:30pm
The New Shul

Dollars & Sen\$e:

Financial Literacy for Women

Join us for this informative, fun
and FREE workshop.

To reserve your spot, contact JFL at
(602) 230-7983 or info@jewishfreeloan.org

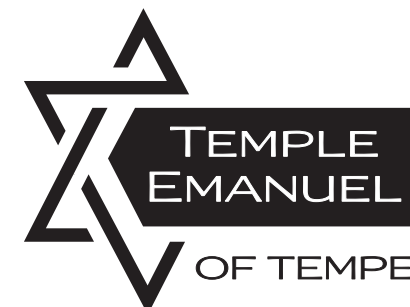
Jewish
FREE LOAN

NCJW
National Council of Jewish Women
Arizona Section

THE
Women's
JEWISH Learning
center

MIDFIRST
BANK

*Temple Emanuel
salutes
Limmud AZ
and all
Jewish Learners*



480-838-1414
EMANUELOFTEMPE.ORG



Nationwide Background Checks

- Employee Screening
- Tenant Screening
- Franchisee Screening
- Membership Screening
- Volunteer Screening

Tel: 800.787.2439 • 602.870.7711
www.reliablescreening.com



Calling all Limmudniks!

Step through the doors of Temple Kol Ami,
WHERE INNOVATION MEETS TRADITION.

Extraordinary learning experiences for all ages.
Variety of services including wonderful musical Shabbats.
Dynamic, inclusive community.

**CONTINUE YOUR
Inspiration...
ENABLE YOUR JEWISH
Journey!**



15030 North 64th Street, Scottsdale, Arizona 85254
(480) 951-9660 www.templekolami.org

CLASS SCHEDULE

9:00AM-10:00AM

PRESENTATION TITLE: **A Year of Reading Jewishly**
PRESENTER: **Sylvia Gotlib** TOPIC: **Arts & Culture** ROOM: **MU 236 Mohave**

This popular presentation will focus on 15-20 current titles that are worth considering for anyone’s reading list. The session is a short review on each title and integrates current trends in books in general when appropriate.

PRESENTATION TITLE: **Praying, Speaking, Singing Without Words**
PRESENTER: **Micah Caplan** TOPIC: **Spirituality** ROOM: **MU 228 Cochise**

In Hebrew, *Niggun* means a tune or melody without words. But in Judaism, we can use a *Niggun* to elevate our emotions and spiritual connections. At times, singing a *Niggun* can even be a meditative experience. A *Niggun* can guide our intention towards joy, and help us through our sadness. A *Niggun* can be an extension of words or stand alone. Come join me to explore the history of *Niggunim* (plural of *Niggun*), to explore and join our voices in various melodies, and to connect to your soul.

PRESENTATION TITLE: **Water Wars: Israeli Water Usage, Peace and Conflict**
PRESENTER: **David Krantz** TOPIC: **Israel** ROOM: **MU 242 La Paz**

Everyone knows that there is precious little fresh water in the Middle East, but where do Israelis and Palestinians get their water? And how can water lead to either tanks or doves? Many wars in the region have been fought over oil – discover why the next war could be over water, and learn about potential solutions.

PRESENTATION TITLE: **Biblical Questions to Change Our Lives**
PRESENTER: **John Linder** TOPIC: **Text & Torah** ROOM: **MU 241C Ventana**

Asking questivons has always been primary in Judaism. In a culture quick to offer answers, we would do well to go back our biblical well of wisdom, and hear anew the questions that have sustained and challenged our ancestors over the millennia. John Linder will present a short list of his favorite biblical questions, give them a brief biblical context, then invite participants to receive the questions as if directly addressed to them. Participants will leave with a “Biblical Questions Guide” to continue the process of personal and communal growth by asking ourselves the essential questions of our lives.

PRESENTATION TITLE: **The 10 Commandments: A Spiritual Blueprint to a Better Life**
PRESENTER: **Tracee Rosen** TOPIC: **Text & Torah** ROOM: **MU 241B Ventana**

This session will reveal the inner structure of the *Asseret Hadibrot* (10 principles) given at Mt. Sinai. A close reading of the text will reveal that this is not God’s top 10 list of *mitzvot*, rather it is a comprehensive system that can help us to grow in our spiritual lives and in our relationships with each other.

PRESENTATION TITLE: **Humor and Holiness**
PRESENTER: **Elana Kanter** TOPIC: **Spirituality** ROOM: **MU 241A Ventana**

Laughter can be a very serious matter. The ability to find the humor even in the most dire situations can contribute to the victory of good over evil, of life over death, and of hope over despair. Humor has been a key to Jewish survival, and a powerful tool in our struggle to make the world better. Join Rabbi Kanter in studying some of the ways that Jewish humor and laughter release the spiritually imprisoned and heal those whose spirits have been battered by life. You will laugh while you learn, and learn while you laugh.

CLASS SCHEDULE

PRESENTATION TITLE: **Exploring the Tensions of Modernity as Embodied in Chimen Abramsky’s Library**
PRESENTER: **Sasha Abramsky** TOPIC: **Jewish Experience** ROOM: **MU 226 Graham**

Chimen’s father was a famous rabbi, who headed London’s Beth Din for the better part of twenty years, and won the first Israel Prize for rabbinic literature. Chimen himself was non-religious, a world-class historian who grew up in the interwar years as a Communist, spent two decades immersed in the Communist Party of Great Britain, and then became a leading liberal and anti-Communist. Originally an anti-Zionist, as his attachment to Communism faded, so his sympathies for the young state of Israel grew. In Chimen’s library could be found all of the tensions of modern Jewish history: the traditionalists versus the exponents of the the Jewish enlightenment, the Haskalah; internationalism versus Zionism; communism versus liberalism. In my talk, I will explore these tensions, and their implications for today’s world.

PRESENTATION TITLE: **Resetting the Balance Between Work/Family Responsibility – A New Point of View**
PRESENTER: **Ada Anbar** TOPIC: **Life Cycle** ROOM: **MU 240 Navajo**

This presentation will reopen the conversation about issues of work/family balance. It will focus on the needs of parents compared with the needs of young children, and how to better bridge the gap between the two. A new transformative solution to the conflict of interest will be presented, based on the recognition that people today have 60 years of adult life (from age 20 to age 80). And if only 10 years out of these 60 years would be devoted to intense parenting, the most basic needs of young children could be better served, to the benefit of the children, their parents, and society at large. Selected readings from different early childhood authorities will be provided.

PRESENTATION TITLE: **Living the Weekly Torah Portion**
PRESENTER: **Rachel Isaacs** TOPIC: **Text & Torah** ROOM: **MU 224 Gila**

This class will demonstrate how to break down the narrative and lessons of the Weekly Torah Portion and incorporate them into daily life. The class will discuss fun ideas and concepts to engage children of all ages as well as provide the participants with the resources and tools to do it yourself.

PRESENTATION TITLE: **Celebrating the Increasing Diversity of the Jewish Community**
PRESENTER: **Eva Stern** TOPIC: **Jewish Experience** ROOM: **MU 246 Coconino**

We encounter potential newcomers to our Jewish communities all the time. Some have wonderful first experiences, and find themselves quickly gravitating towards deeper Jewish connection. Unfortunately, many others experience quite the opposite. Given the increasingly diverse backgrounds of teens and young adults today (including those with little or no Jewish background, from interfaith families, in interfaith relationships, or from non-traditional family structures, or those who might have had negative experiences with Jewish life in the past), we have the potential to ensure that their first (and future) encounters with Jewish life are positive! This session welcomes emerging leaders to learn how to find, welcome, and build relationships with teens and young adults.

10:15AM-11:15AM

PRESENTATION TITLE: **Planting Jewish Seeds in our Interfaith Grandchildren**
PRESENTERS: **Linda Feldman & Elaine Hirsh** TOPIC: **Life Cycle** ROOM: **MU 236 Mohave**

Are your grandchildren growing up in an interfaith home or with no religion? Come find ways to share your Jewish heritage and have a significant impact on your grandchildren. While every family is very different, come learn some positive strategies. You plant the seeds and overtime they will grow. Be the gardener and help your grandchildren to grow Jewish roots.

CLASS SCHEDULE

PRESENTATION TITLE: **Shiva and Mourning Rituals Reconsidered**
PRESENTER: **Judy Schaffert** TOPIC: **Life Cycle** ROOM: **MU 248 Rincon**

Everyone is born; everyone dies. Americans can feel uncomfortable talking about death. This sessions aims to have a civilized conversation about how mourners choose to honor the person they loved or had mixed feelings about, incorporating the character of the bereft family and its communities. How do we observe Shiva: traditionally or in a jazz-like riff on the tradition? For the alienated or unaffiliated, intense mourning presents opportunities to reconnect to family and community or faith and to be open to reconciliation. Mourners experience a deeply emotional and evocative time. This session aspires to start with a conversation about the tradition and its wisdom, and to then explore ways that within the truth and essence of Jewish mourning tradition add new possibilities.

PRESENTATION TITLE: **The Power of Sharing Our Stories in Song**
PRESENTER: **Marieke Slovin** TOPIC: **Arts & Culture** ROOM: **MU 228 Cochise**

“The greatest gift you can give the world is to tell your truth.” In this hour long presentation, songwriter Marieke Slovin will offer the opportunity for participants to share their truth and to experience the creative process of songwriting. She will work with group participants to create a unique song using a method she helped to create called Story-to-Song. (STS). Participants will share words and phrases along a common theme to create a shared story. Marieke will then guide the group through the process of shaping their words into lyrics, devising a chorus and verses, and finding a melody. The finished product will be a song the group can sing together.

PRESENTATION TITLE: **Translating Creation: A Few Centuries of Controversy**
PRESENTER: **Aviya Kushner** TOPIC: **Text & Torah** ROOM: **MU 242 La Paz**

How we understand creation affects how we read the Bible, and to some extent, how we understand the entire world itself. We’ll take a close look at several translations of Genesis 1:1-1:3 from various centuries and faith traditions, and we’ll discuss how language shapes belief. Questions, comments, rants and raves encouraged.

PRESENTATION TITLE: **The Chemistry of Character: Qualities, Strengths, Behavior**
PRESENTERS: **Myra Shindler & Andre Ivory** TOPIC: **Teens & College** ROOM: **MU 240 Navajo**

This interactive workshop for teens will examine the science of character and explore the elements of your personal character makeup. Through the viewing of the film “The Making of a Mensch” by Tiffany Shlain, teens will examine character strengths and weaknesses, and how different character traits respond to real life situations.

PRESENTATION TITLE: **Forgiveness in an Unforgiving World**
PRESENTER: **Megan Feldman Bettencourt** TOPIC: **Spirituality** ROOM: **MU 241C Ventana**

Research shows that people who are forgiving of others and themselves tend to be healthier and happier in a number of ways. They also perform higher at work and at play, and are more highly rated by their relationship partners. Given the fact that the world in which we live can be incredibly unforgiving at times, practicing forgiveness – of self and others – can be a challenge. Megan draws on the compelling science and powerful stories she collected while reporting domestically and internationally, as well as her own personal experiences, to provide a profound and insightful pathway to using this age-old concept as a modern and accessible practice to enhance individual health and wellbeing, interpersonal relationships and global relations.

CLASS SCHEDULE

PRESENTATION TITLE: **Can a Friendship Help Solve the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict?**
PRESENTER: **Anthony David** TOPIC: **Israel** ROOM: **MU 241A Ventana**

Publishers Weekly, in its review of my book *An Improbable Friendship*, writes: “If it hadn’t actually occurred, the friendship between Ruth Dayan (born 1917), the first wife of Israeli politician Moshe Dayan, and Raymonda Tawil (born 1940), the mother-in-law of Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat, would seem not merely improbable but impossible.”Even more unlikely was how these two women, directly and indirectly, influenced the Israeli-Palestinian peace process. With the Oslo agreement in tatters, is it possible that an improbable friendship, rooted in empathy, can show us ways to cross the seemingly unbridgeable chasm dividing Israelis from Palestinians? Can political lessons be gleaned from a personal friendship?

PRESENTATION TITLE: **Spend. Save. Tzedakah. – The Next Generation: Financial Literacy for Families**
PRESENTERS: **Ellen Sacks, Tina Sheinbein, Emily Schwartz** TOPIC: **Jewish Experience** ROOM: **MU 226 Graham**

As parents we want what is best for our kids. We work hard to provide for them and to teach them about the importance of tzedakah and giving back. But what happens once they are on their own? Will they be prepared for the financial decisions and responsibilities that await? Will they understand how the decisions they make today will impact their future and ability to give back in a way that is meaningful to them? Join Jewish Free Loan and MidFirst Bank’s Money Moments Program to learn about ways you can prepare your children for a successful financial future. You will learn simple strategies to help teach your kids about prioritizing needs and wants, saving for big purchases, keeping track of expenses, and incorporating tzedakah into their everyday life.

PRESENTATION TITLE: **Shimmering Hamsas**
PRESENTER: **Morrine Maltzman** TOPIC: **Arts & Culture** ROOM: **MU 238 Apache**

In this fun and creative class, you will create your own mosaic Hamsa using handmade glass gems, fabric, beads, glass tile, metal & our signature GlamGrout. This beautiful piece can be put on a wall or displayed on an easel in your home or office. No prior experience needed. We will guide you through the process. **This is a 2-hour class. Limited to 12 Participants. \$10 materials fee to be paid at registration.**

PRESENTATION TITLE: **Laugh and Learn – Kishon’s Israeli Best Satire**
PRESENTER: **Eran Vaisben** TOPIC: **Arts & Culture** ROOM: **MU 224 Gila**

Ephraim Kishon (1924-2005), an author and satirist, was a Holocaust survivor who became one of Israel’s best known and most widely read authors. He is well known for the many Israeli films that he wrote and directed, including. “Salah Shabati,” but especially for the 50 books he wrote during the course of his lifetime. His books have been translated into 37 languages and over 43 million have been sold world-wide! Join a session filled with laughter and joy as we read some of Ephraim Kishon’s best stories, plays and skits. We will try to make sense of Israeli’s life an culture through satire and humor. Discussions will be held in English. Texts will be provided in both Hebrew and English.

PRESENTATION TITLE: **Balance – A Lithuanian Model**
PRESENTER: **Jarred Elias** TOPIC: **Jewish Experience** ROOM: **MU 246 Coconino**

This class will explore the legacy of the Lithuanian Jewish community and delve into how we as a Jewish community can live up to our 21st Century responsibilities by learning from past generations. We will explore what it meant to be a Jew in Jewish Lithuania and we will discuss how we can incorporate basic Jewish ideals into our modern American lives. The objective of this class if for participants to understand why it is important for us as a community to stand upright and united in our desire to carry the torch of Abraham from generation to generation.

CLASS SCHEDULE

PRESENTATION TITLE: *The Temple Mount - Past and Present*
PRESENTERS: **Stav Lefler** TOPIC: **Israel** ROOM: **MU 241B Ventana**

In light of recent events in and around The Temple Mount, this presentation will clarify the historic background and importance of The Temple Mount in Judaism and Islam, and answer the question: why is this such a sensitive (some say explosive) location?

PRESENTATION TITLE: *Drum Shalom: Drum for Peace, Drum for Healing, Drum for Fun*
PRESENTER: **Sarah Leah Grafstein** TOPIC: **Spirituality** ROOM: **MU 207 Gold**

Drum Shalom introduces our historic tribal rhythm into the Jewish community. Our roots are in the Middle East where drumming and rhythms thrived for millennia. Today in North America there is a resurgence of interest in hand drumming. This is inspiring Jews to pick up their drums and reconnect with this most basic primal Biblical instrument. **Please note: This is a 2-hour class.**

11:30AM-12:30PM

PRESENTATION TITLE: *The Lord’s Prayer, Its Jewish Origins*
PRESENTER: **Leo Abrami** TOPIC: **Text & Torah** ROOM: **MU 226 Graham**

Leo Abrami will endeavor to show that this prayer, which was taught by Jesus to his disciples, is essentially derived from ancient Jewish prayers like the *Kaddish*, the Amidah and the Grace after Meal. He will also point out some of the different interpretations it was given in some Christian circles (“... protect us from evil” has sometimes been rendered by “...protect us from the Evil One (Satan)” for example.)

PRESENTATION TITLE: *Sisters in Law: How Sandra Day O’Connor and Ruth Bader Ginsburg Went to the Supreme Court and Changed the World*
PRESENTER: **Linda Hirshman** TOPIC: **Jewish Experience** ROOM: **MU 236 Mohave**

The relationship between Sandra Day O’Connor and Ruth Bader Ginsburg—Republican and Democrat, Christian and Jew, western rancher’s daughter and Brooklyn girl—transcends party, religion, region, and culture. Strengthened by each other’s presence, these groundbreaking judges, the first and second women to serve on the highest court in the land, have transformed the Constitution and America itself, making it a more equal place for all women.

PRESENTATION TITLE: *The History of the American Jewish Community*
PRESENTER: **Marty Haberer** TOPIC: **Jewish Experience** ROOM: **MU 242 La Paz**

From the first Jews coming to America, to life on the lower east side of Manhattan at the turn of the 20th Century, to how the Jews created Hollywood, the impact that Jews have had on American society these past 239 years simply defies our numbers. How can less than 6 million Jews have had such a powerful impact on a nation of 300 million people? We will examine the Jewish experience in Europe and how the opportunities of the New World were intricately woven to make the Jewish minority such a powerful force in the development of our country’s economic, moral and cultural development.

PRESENTATION TITLE: *Fascinating Facts: Exploring the Myths of Judaism*
PRESENTER: **Levi Levertov** TOPIC: **Text** ROOM: **MU 228 Cochise**

Myths, Misconceptions, and Urban Legends: Sometimes the truth can be stranger than fiction. Do Jews believe in Satan? Can a Jew convert out of the faith? Peering into a world of untold mystery, we’ll explore common Jewish myths rooted in non-Jewish beliefs, everything from the bizarre to the downright outrageous.

CLASS SCHEDULE

PRESENTATION TITLE: *Spend. Save. Tzedakah: Financial Literacy for Teens and Young Adults*
PRESENTERS: **Ellen Sacks, Tina Scheinbein, Emily Schwartz** TOPIC: **Teens & College** ROOM: **MU 240 Navajo**

Being “rich” is less about making a lot of money and more about knowing how to manage it responsibly and give whole-heartedly. The sooner you start to understand how to take care of your finances, while being able to make a difference in the world, the better! Come learn simple strategies to prioritize your needs and wants, save for big purchases, keep track of your expenses, and incorporate tzedakah into your everyday life. Jewish Free Loan and MidFirst Bank’s Money Moments Program present this financial literacy workshop for teens and young adults.

PRESENTATION TITLE: *The Gate of Tears: How to Feel Happy and Sad at the Same Time*
PRESENTER: **Jay Michaelson** TOPIC: **Spirituality** ROOM: **MU 241C Ventana**

“Even when the gates of prayer are closed, the gates of tears are open.” So says the Talmud (BT *Berachot* 32b), and many of us have seen that when the heart is broken, it is also the most open. And yet, much of our contemporary culture (and spirituality) seeks to banish sadness and other difficult emotions. Jay Michaelson’s new book *The Gate of Tears: Sadness and the Spiritual Path*, argues for an integration of joy and sadness, spirituality and social justice. In this talk, he will draw on secular, Hasidic, personal, and Dharma sources (and avoid cliché and psychobabble) to present an authentic contemplative path for today’s postmodern age.

PRESENTATION TITLE: *Why Your Family History Matters*
PRESENTER: **Marcia Fine** TOPIC: **Life Cycle** ROOM: **MU 248 Rincon**

Our history, where we came from, who our relatives were and what happened to them, is part of our daily life. In a historical look at 1920s Poland, 1940s New York City and finally, 1950s Florida, we garner respect for family members who survived. Who left and who stayed? Why? Those are the stories that impact people in our migratory history. Many of us have immigrants in our families. Their sacrifices teach us strength as Marcia shares her grandmother’s story and how she preserved it. It is an American story of assimilation based on three generations of women. The novel, *PAPER CHILDREN—An Immigrant’s Legacy* has been a finalist for three national prizes.

PRESENTATION TITLE: *The Power of Movies to Illuminate the Soul of Jewish Justice*
PRESENTERS: **Doug Passon & Shmuly Yanklowitz** TOPIC: **Arts & Culture** ROOM: **MU 241B Ventana**

The power of visual storytelling to illuminate the Soul of Jewish Justice. Shmuly Yanklowitz (teacher, author, Rabbi, activist) teams up with Doug Passon, local documentary filmmaker to examine the Jewish imperative of social justice, and the idea that visual storytelling, may be the greatest tool to put into practice the Jewish ethic of EMPATHY. Movies, particularly documentaries, not only help us understand the “other” (or the “stranger”), but they move us into ACTION.

PRESENTATION TITLE: *What Does It All Mean?*
PRESENTER: **Bruce Eric Kaplan** TOPIC: **Life Cycle** ROOM: **MU 224 Gila**

I have always been interested in deriving meaning from my experiences. A few months after my father died, I inadvertently sold a memoir about my childhood, forcing myself to deal with the loss of both my parents (my mother had died earlier). It also forced me to examine my parents, my childhood, and myself in a new way. I will talk about grieving, the process of writing the book, and trying to derive some meaning from my family situation. In some ways, it is the most difficult challenge I have ever had, and even though the book is done and published, I am still trying to learn from the whole thing – what does it all mean?

CLASS SCHEDULE

PRESENTATION TITLE: *Las Judias de Cuba: A Renaissance*
PRESENTER: **Cary Silverstein** TOPIC: **Jewish Experience** ROOM: **MU 246 Coconino**

Jewish life has been thriving on a little island in the Caribbean since 1508. In the 1950s, Cuba was the home to over 25,000 Jews and since the 1959 Revolution, the number of Jews on the island has dwindled to 1500. But today, there is a renaissance in Jewish life and many American Jews are visiting the island to experience the history, culture and food. Three synagogues function in Havana and there is even a kosher butcher and Mikvah on the island. Come hear more about this unique part of our Jewish history and even learn a little Spanish.

PRESENTATION TITLE: *Pictures Paint a Thousand Words*
PRESENTER: **Gary Kenzer** TOPIC: **Israel** ROOM: **MU 241A Ventana**

A picture can be very powerful, conveying information, emotion and details of a situation in quick fashion. Pictures can lie; words can also be taken out of context. All of the above can mislead the reader in getting the truth from the news as it relates to portraying Israel. Attendees will study this subject by looking at actual examples and will learn how to evaluate the power of pictures and seeing honestly what is being portrayed.

12:30PM-1:30PM

LUNCH

ARIZONA ROOM

1:30PM-2:30PM

PRESENTATION TITLE: *The Way It Was—Ethiopia Before the Aliyah*
PRESENTER: **Hershl Weberman** TOPIC: **Jewish Experience** ROOM: **MU 248 Rincon**

The history, traditions, legends and culture of Ethiopian Jewry with photographs and artifacts.

PRESENTATION TITLE: *Ahavat Yisrael: What Does It Mean to Love the People, the Land, the State?*
PRESENTER: **Arthur Lavinsky** TOPIC: **Israel** ROOM: **MU 236 Mohave**

We will explore several texts, ancient and modern, that connect the People of Israel to the Land of Israel. In recent years, Jewish leaders have argued about what it means to be “Pro Israel”. Some organizations take the position “Israel, right or wrong”. Others are bitterly critical of Israel and find nothing positive to say about the only democracy in the Middle East. Do Jews living in the Diaspora have a right or an obligation to voice their opinions regarding Israel policy? Does an elected Prime Minister of Israel speak for “all Jews”? Arthur Lavinsky looks forward to a spirited discussion with Jews for whom Israel and Judaism truly matter.

PRESENTATION TITLE: *Israel in the News: How to Get Your Point Across*
PRESENTER: **Gary Kenzer** TOPIC: **Israel** ROOM: **MU 241A Ventana**

Every day, Israel is in the news, whether there is a conflict or not, quoted hundreds of times. Through using the Israel Daily News Service, (IDNS) we will view the news as Israel is seen that day. Through this, attendees will learn how to effectively respond by using their own headlines of maximum 6 words, and responses of no more than 50 words. Being timely, using technology, and using carefully selected words can increase your chances of being an effective advocate for Israel.

CLASS SCHEDULE

PRESENTATION TITLE: *The Importance of Family Life*
PRESENTER: **Sasha Abramsky** TOPIC: **Life Cycle** ROOM: **MU 241B Ventana**

Sasha Abramsky will use the stories from his grandparents’ house at 5 Hallway to explore the importance of family life, of a food-centered home environment, and to show how that traditional world retains its vitality and joy even in a time of rapid social change and transitions.

PRESENTATION TITLE: *Shortcuts to Shabbat*
PRESENTER: **Elana Bernstein Storch** TOPIC: **Jewish Experience** ROOM: **MU 242 La Paz**

Our Shabbat candles here in Phoenix do not just create a “place in time” for ourselves; instead we have had the privilege of sharing Shabbat with a diverse population of people who have never been involved in this weekly ritual. Many guests sit down at our table and ask, “You do this every Friday night?” Hence was born the notion of Shortcuts to Shabbat. Through specially crafted seminars I have taken hundreds of people through a 30-minute Shabbat preparation – from soup to sorbet. My goal is to present simple shortcuts to what looks like hours of work. I ask the participants to imagine their kitchen as an art studio as they creatively arrange their menus and platters. My friends always laugh when I share the words my mom has lived by: “No one will ever write on your tombstone, she made it all from scratch.”

PRESENTATION TITLE: *Finding God in the Strangest Places*
PRESENTER: **Michael Wasserman** TOPIC: **Spirituality** ROOM: **MU 228 Cochise**

A core teaching of Hasidism is that there is no place where God cannot be found. Everything contains some spark of the divine. But what about the dark places within ourselves, the feelings and impulses that we are least proud of? How do we find God there? We will study some texts from the *Me’or Eynayim*, in which Rabbi Menachem Nachum Twersky of Chernobyl (1730 – 1797) teaches us that we can find God, and redeem ourselves, by uncovering the holy sparks hidden even in the darkest parts of our own personalities.

PRESENTATION TITLE: *Bird’s Eye View of Jewish Campus Life in Arizona*
PRESENTERS: **Debbie Yunker Kail, Shmuel Tiechtel, Mitch Goldstein, Amala Mark**
MODERATOR: **Hava Tirosh-Samuelson** TOPIC: **Teens & College** ROOM: **MU 240 Navajo**

For many reasons, these are challenging times to be a college student. Come learn how a multitude of organizations work collectively to strengthen Jewish identity on our two biggest university campuses in Arizona. This panel discussion will allow time for attendees to ask lots of questions. There will also be student panel members. A tour of ASU Campus will follow the panel discussion.

PRESENTATION TITLE: *Translating Slavery: Not What You Might Think*
PRESENTER: **Aviya Kushner** TOPIC: **Text & Torah** ROOM: **MU 241C Ventana**

Slavery in translation can be a big surprise for Hebrew readers, or even those who simply read the Haggadah in Hebrew each year. In this session, we’ll look at translations of slavery from several centuries and faiths. Questions, comments, rants and raves are all welcome.

PRESENTATION TITLE: *Yoga Meets Dance with Hebrew Music*
PRESENTER: **Rebecca Wolf** TOPIC: **Off the Beaten Track** ROOM: **MU 207 Gold**

Yoga Meets Dance is a very easy-to-do, wildly fun, deeply transformative class that has been shared around the world for all ages, shapes and sizes. No yoga or dance experience is needed! Stretch, breathe, move and groove into healing, heart-opening relaxation. Leave feeling profoundly relaxed, transformed and uplifted. The health benefits reach beyond the physical, into the emotional and spiritual realms. This Yoga Meets Dance class will include a beautiful selection of Hebrew music.

CLASS SCHEDULE

PRESENTATION TITLE: *What if the Holocaust Didn't Happen?*
PRESENTER: **Moshe Apelas** TOPIC: **Jewish Experience** ROOM: **MU 238 Apache**

What if the Germans hadn't targeted Jews in World War II for extermination? Would Israel have come into existence in 1948, or later? How differently would events have played out in the Middle East. How would the Middle East look today? Moshe Apelas will examine how world events have informed current Jewish issues.

PRESENTATION TITLE: *Do We Always Have to Forgive?*
PRESENTER: **Leo Abrami** TOPIC: **Spirituality** ROOM: **MU 226 Graham**

The Mishnah states that God is willing to forgive the sins we committed against him if we repent with sincerity, but the sins against our fellow men and women can only be forgiven if the person who has been offended is willing to reconcile with the offender. Can we then forgive the Nazis for the murders they have committed during the Second World War? Leo Abrami's essay on this topic - which has been endorsed by Dr. Laura Schlesinger – has had some 1400 readers on Academia.edu in the last year.

PRESENTATION TITLE: *Women of Valor*
PRESENTER: **Joanne Gilbert** TOPIC: **Jewish Experience** ROOM: **MU 224 Gila**

The riveting, inspiring, true stories of remarkable young Jewish and Gentile Polish women, provide a unique, too-long-untold narrative about female heroism during the German Occupation of Poland. By focusing on successful resistance to the Nazis, *Women of Valor* shows that the Jews did not “go silently like sheep to the slaughter,” and that there were some Gentiles who risked their lives and the lives of their families to help Jews. In so doing, they help to build bridges instead of walls between Jews and Gentiles. That these women lived well into their 90s, continuing to speak out for human rights, is a testimony to female intelligence, strength, resilience, wit, creativity, and love.

PRESENTATION TITLE: *Set Another Place at the Table: How to Welcome Your Children & Grandchildren to the Family Giving Table*
PRESENTERS: **Richard Kasper & Andrea Cohen** TOPIC: **Life Cycle** ROOM: **MU 246 Coconino**

In this interactive session, discuss strategies for engaging your next generation in the family giving conversation. Family values, personal values, history, volunteerism, and vision will all be topics for conversation. Participants will be given resources to take and use at home.

2:45PM-3:45PM

PRESENTATION TITLE: *Can a Friendship Help Solve the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict?*
PRESENTER: **Anthony David** TOPIC: **Israel** ROOM: **MU 241B Ventana**

Publishers Weekly, in its review of *An Improbable Friendship*, writes: “If it hadn't actually occurred, the friendship between Ruth Dayan (born 1917), the first wife of Israeli politician Moshe Dayan, and Raymonda Tawil (born 1940), the mother-in-law of Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat, would seem not merely improbable but impossible.” Even more unlikely was how these two women influenced the Israeli-Palestinian peace process. With the Oslo agreement in tatters, is it possible that an improbable friendship, rooted in empathy, can show us ways to cross the seemingly unbridgeable chasm dividing Israelis from Palestinians?

PRESENTATION TITLE: *Drinking the Bible*
PRESENTER: **Stav Lefler** TOPIC: **Off the Beaten Track** ROOM: **MU 236 Mohave**

A history of wine making in the Land of Israel, in Jewish tradition, and a summary of today's booming Israeli wine industry. Including Israeli wine tasting. **Must be 21 or over with valid ID to attend this presentation.**

CLASS SCHEDULE

PRESENTATION TITLE: *Chiasms: The Bible's Dazzling Literary Structure*
PRESENTER: **David Benkof** TOPIC: **Text** ROOM: **MU 248 Rincon**

The literary device known as the chiasm is essential to reading Jewish texts, yet little-known outside academic circles. How is the Tower of Babel story written like a tower? What's dazzling about “*Ahavat Olam*”? Do the Bible's literary structures suggest the Torah has a single author after all? Lots of examples, and practice at recognizing chiasms.

PRESENTATION TITLE: *What Do I Have to Believe To Be Good?*
PRESENTER: **Jack Silver** TOPIC: **Jewish Thought** ROOM: **MU 228 Cochise**

Most people believe that one must hold strong religious/spiritual beliefs in order to demonstrate pro social behavior. Certainly while most religious traditions emphasize the importance of “goodness” there are abundant historic and contemporary examples of the worst of acts against humankind performed in the name of religious belief. Recent scientific findings suggest that morality may actually be coded into the human brain. Correspondingly, the opposite may also be true. This session will provide an overview of current thinking about human behavior. Audience participation will be encouraged and will enhance the value of learning through the respectful exchange of ideas.

PRESENTATION TITLE: *Why Marry Jewish?*
PRESENTER: **Shmuel Tichtel** TOPIC: **Life Cycle** ROOM: **MU 240 Navajo**

An open discussion on this vital topic and discovering fascinating and logical reasons why Jews should marry Jews. Inter marriage is becoming more and more prevalent, as over 50% of Jews in Arizona and around the U.S. have married outside the Jewish faith. This topic impacts not only young professionals and young adults, but parents, as well as the entire Jewish community.

PRESENTATION TITLE: *Forgiveness in an Unforgiving World*
PRESENTER: **Megan Feldman Bettencourt** TOPIC: **Arts & Culture** ROOM: **MU 241C Ventana**

Research shows that people who are forgiving of others and themselves tend to be healthier and happier in a number of ways. Given the fact that the world in which we live can be incredibly unforgiving at times, practicing forgiveness can be a challenge. Megan draws on the compelling science and powerful stories she collected while reporting domestically and internationally, as well as her own personal experiences, to provide a profound and insightful pathway to using this age-old concept as a modern and accessible practice to enhance individual health and wellbeing, interpersonal relationships and global relations.

PRESENTATION TITLE: *What If Everything Really Was Better Then?*
PRESENTER: **Bruce Eric Kaplan** TOPIC: **Jewish Thought** ROOM: **MU 224 Gila**

Recently, I wrote a memoir about my childhood, I WAS A CHILD. In writing the book, I was plunged back into the world of the late 1960's/1970's of suburban New Jersey. I wrote a lot about the culture, the social rituals, and above all, the television. I think things actually were better then. A case can be made for my point of view being inaccurate because I am infused with nostalgia. But I don't think that's true. This class will be a talk about that time and perhaps we can all come to some conclusion – was everything better then or not?

PRESENTATION TITLE: *Wrapped in Light: Tallis and Tefillin in Jewish Mysticism*
PRESENTERS: **Tamara Allen** TOPIC: **Spirituality** ROOM: **MU 242 La Paz**

Embracing the Jewish spiritual practices of tallis and tefillin can bring an added dimension to prayer. We will explore traditional and contemporary mystical ideas about these ritual objects, and discover how they can enrich our personal prayer practice.

CLASS SCHEDULE

PRESENTATION TITLE: **Nes Gadol Haya Po: Four Faces of the American Rabbinate**
PRESENTERS: **Jason Bonder, Dean Shapiro, Bonnie Sharfman, Shmuly Yanklowitz**
TOPIC: **Text & Torah** ROOM: **MU 241A Ventana**

Rabbis are teachers of texts – but what texts speak most to the rabbi? Four local rabbis, each affiliated with a different stream of American Jewish life and trained in different seminaries, share their favorite passages from the body of Jewish literature. What texts inspire them, move them, delight them? In this session, you’ll consider a wide range of Jewish texts and come to learn more about the souls of four unique rabbis. And, more than this, you’ll have a side-by-side comparison of the values, genres, and modes of thinking that animate the Reform, Reconstructionist, Modern Orthodox and Non-Denominational faces of the contemporary American Jewish scene.

PRESENTATION TITLE: **Israel’s Pearl Harbor**
PRESENTER: **Moshe Apelas** TOPIC: **Israel** ROOM: **MU 238 Apache**

Exploring the uncanny similarities between events leading up to, and during the attack on Pearl Harbor on Dec 7, 1941, and the attack on Israel on Oct 6, 1973. History of the 1973 attack on Yom Kippur of Israel by Egypt and Syria. The roles played by the USSR and the US. Behind the scenes look at how the US air force conducted the massive airlift to resupply Israel during and after the war.

PRESENTATION TITLE: **Four Senses Yoga**
PRESENTERS: **Cindy Rogers** TOPIC: **Off the Beaten Track** ROOM: **MU 207 Gold**

Experience yoga as you never have before. Blindfolded! Remove the sense of sight to fully embrace your other senses. This gentle practice allows you to connect to your true inner self. One might say they cannot do yoga because he/she is unable to bend like a pretzel or touch the toes. Yoga is not about touching your toes but it is about touching your soul. Through this class I help students understand that yoga is about your breath & feeling comfortable inside of your own body.

PRESENTATION TITLE: **The Blind Eye - A Sephardic Journey**
PRESENTERS: **Marcia Fine** TOPIC: **Jewish Experience** ROOM: **MU 246 Coconino**

Learn about the Sephardic people who kept their culture and traditions alive through the harshest of circumstances. In 1492 they were forcibly expelled from Spain, unless they gave up their faith and converted to Catholicism (Conversos). Often, when they did, they suffered punishment, exile and even death. They maintained their religion, worshiping in secret, orally passing on their history when all books were confiscated. Women memorized the prayers and maintained traditions. Their expulsion followed them through centuries, leading them to South America and the New World. Sephardim represent a lesson in persistence. Could you survive in similar circumstances?

4:00PM-5:00PM

PRESENTATION TITLE: **Using American Ideals to Make Zaidy and Bubbie Proud**
PRESENTER: **Jarred Elias** TOPIC: **Jewish Experience** ROOM: **MU 246 Coconino**

It is undeniable that The United States of America has been good to the Jews. Contemporary American Jewry is in an extremely unique position in comparison to historical precedent. Kosher food is widely available in every American grocery store and religious observances (such as Shabbat) are protected under a variety of federal and state regulations. In contemporary America we are presented with an unprecedented opportunity to return to the traditions that previous generations died to preserve. This class will explore how we can practically grow in our Judaism by remaining active, productive members of contemporary society.

CLASS SCHEDULE

PRESENTATION TITLE: **Grow the Jewish Community by Sharing What We Love About Jewish Life**
PRESENTER: **Eva Stern** TOPIC: **Life Cycle** ROOM: **MU 228 Cochise**

Do you believe that there is value and benefit to being a part of a Jewish community? At any given time, less than a third of all Jewish households nationally are engaging in Jewish communal organizations; in Phoenix, that rate is even lower. Let’s understand why so few folks participate regularly, and learn simple steps that we – as leaders, or simply concerned Jewish “citizens” – can take to help engage more of our friends and family.

PRESENTATION TITLE: **Was a Jewish Woman Behind Shakespeare’s Mask?**
PRESENTER: **Steve Weitzenkorn** TOPIC: **Arts & Culture** ROOM: **MU 224 Gila**

Could a Jewish woman and feminist (centuries before the term was coined) written Shakespeare’s comedies and some of his most famous dramas? That distinct possibility will be explored, looking at clues and Judaic allegories embedded in the scripts as well as the correlation between her life and the chronology of plays. This woman, Amelia Bassano Lanier, was the daughter of a Venetian musician recruited by Henry VIII, a hidden Jew, and the first female poet (and fourth woman) published in England. Her radical poetic volume, Salve Deus Rex Judaeorum, advocated for women and rebutted Church doctrine that suppressed female aspirations.

PRESENTATION TITLE: **Tikkun Olam in Jewish Celebrations**
PRESENTERS: **Rebecca Wolf & Shmuly Yanklowitz** TOPIC: **Life Cycle** ROOM: **MU 242 La Paz**

Planning a Jewish celebration or lifecycle event is a time of inner exploration about the way in which one sees him- or herself in the world. It is a time during which one has an opportunity to make a public declaration to the community regarding what values he or she seeks to live by. Rebecca Wolf and Shmuly Yanklowitz discuss *tikkun olam* as a fundamental tenant of modern Judaism. They provide examples of ways in which Jews in the Greater Phoenix Jewish Community can plan meaningful and thoughtful lifecycle events while considering the Jewish value of *tikkun olam*.

PRESENTATION TITLE: **Religious Exemptions: Civil Rights and the Parameters of Liberty**
PRESENTER: **Jay Michaelson** TOPIC: **Jewish Thought** ROOM: **MU 241C Ventana**

From Kim Davis to Hobby Lobby, America is now engaged in a national debate about when religion and civil rights collide. When can a public employee refuse to do her job because she says it violates her religion? When can businesses turn (gay, Jewish, black) people away for religion reasons? The public rhetoric is polarized: religious liberty one hand, homophobia on the other; the First Amendment and women’s/LGBT rights. How are civil rights and religious liberty claims to be accommodated? How might exemptions impact sexual, gender, religious, and ethnic minorities? And is this good for the Jews?

PRESENTATION TITLE: **Renew Your Spirit with Yoga and Gratitude**
PRESENTER: **Amy Tyre** TOPIC: **Off the Beaten Track** ROOM: **MU 241B Ventana**

The traditions of Judaism and Yoga both teach us that through gratitude we are spontaneously filled with joy. After sitting and learning come unwind – quiet your mind, move your body and elevate your spirit. We’ll awaken our own inner joy as we move through yoga poses while focusing our attention on gratitude. All levels are welcome. Please wear comfortable clothes. *Please bring a mat if you have one (limited mats will be provided).*

PRESENTATION TITLE: **Feeding Our Souls**
PRESENTER: **Jackie Shore** TOPIC: **Off the Beaten Track** ROOM: **MU 238 Apache**

The Bible left us clues on what to eat. What do we really need to feed our bodies?

PRESENTATION TITLE: ***Toward a Purposeful Life***

PRESENTER: **Pinchas Allouche**

TOPIC: **Contemporary Jewish Life**

ROOM: **MU 241A Ventana**

Explore some of the most important lessons of Judaism that guide us toward finding our individual, inner purpose in a world that pressures us “Keep up with the Joneses” to make it in our larger society. This class will also further explore some of the most essential truths and pillars of our faith that make us who we are, and constitute the purpose of our existence.’

PRESENTATION TITLE: ***Israeli Folk Dancing – Bo’u lirkod!***

PRESENTER: **Ora Kurland**

TOPIC: **Arts & Culture**

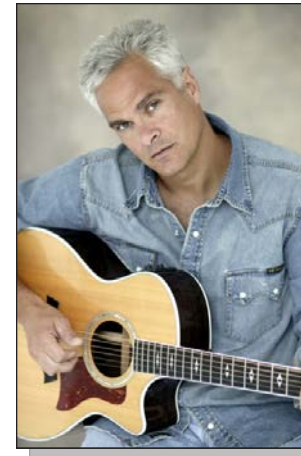
ROOM: **MU 207 Gold**

Come and join in for an active and fun dance session! The Israeli folk dance session will include dances from a variety of time periods and styles and be geared to the Beginner/Intermediate level. An effort will be made to accommodate any requests for individual dances.

ADL
Anti-Defamation League®

CRAIG TAUBMAN

“WEAVING SONG AND SPIRIT INTO
THE FABRIC OF JEWISH LIFE.”



Congregation Or Tzion
is delighted
to host legendary
Jewish musician,
songwriter,
and performer

CRAIG TAUBMAN

for a

community-wide concert
February 20th, 7:45 pm
Chaparral High School

For program details and ticket information, please see
the Or Tzion website: www.congregationortzion.org



Proud sponsor of
LimmudAZ
and lifelong
learning.



Lead. Learn.
Innovate.
Engage.

480 967 7563 • hillelasu.org



**Home, Termite,
& Commercial
Inspectors**

Hire the Best
Expect Nothing Less!



Your Choice For Property Inspections

**RESALE HOMES • NEW CONSTRUCTION
POOL & SPA • TERMITE • COMMERCIAL**

AJF Professional Inspectors Offer:

- Excellent Credentials
- Clear, Effective Communication
- Proprietary Report, with Photos & Summary on site

Your clients deserve expertise you both
can count on... it's our guarantee.

Sharon Wolf-Furman
and Paul Furman



Call: (480) 661-8888

Visit us: www.AJFengineering.com

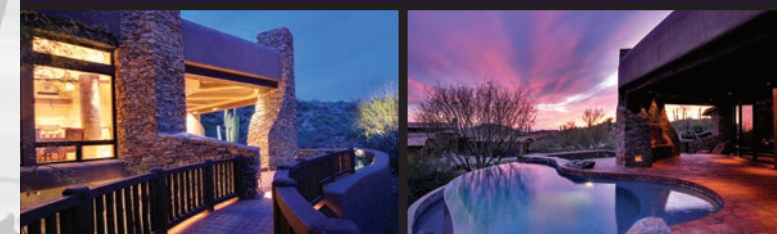


The Best Arizona Homes team

ARIZONA BEST
Real Estate
David W. MacIntyre, Broker

SANDY & ROB ADLER
Residential Realtors

BUY • SELL • INVEST



*The highest compliment you can give us is
to introduce us to your friends, family and
colleagues who need professional real estate help.*

azbesthomes@gmail.com • 480.250.5400
www.bestarizonahomes.com

SCHEDULE AT A GLANCE

MU 236 MOHAVE

9:00 am	A Year of Reading Jewishly	Gotlib
10:15 am	Planting Jewish Seeds in Our Interfaith Grandchildren	Feldman/Hirsh
11:30 am	Sisters in Law: How Sandra Day O'Connor and Ruth Bader Ginsburg Went to the Supreme Court and Changed the World	Hirshman
1:30 pm	Ahavat Yisrael: What Does It Mean to Love the People, the Land, the State?	Lavinsky
2:45 pm	Drinking the Bible	Lefler

MU COCHISE 228

9:00 am	Praying, Speaking, Singing Without Words	Caplan
10:15 am	The Power of Sharing Our Stories in Song	Slovin
11:30 am	Fascinating Facts: Exploring the Myths of Judaism	Levertov
1:30 pm	Finding God in the Strangest Places	Wasserman
2:45 pm	What Do I Have to Believe to Be Good?	Silver
4:00 pm	Grow the Jewish Community by Sharing What We Love about Jewish Life	Stern

MU 238 APACHE

10:15 am	Shimmering Hamsas (2 hours)	Maltzman
1:30 pm	What if the Holocaust Didn't Happen?	Apelas
2:45 pm	Israel's Pearl Harbor	Apelas
4:00 pm	Feeding Our Souls	Shore

MU 224 GILA

9:00 am	Living the Weekly Torah Portion	Isaacs
10:15 am	Laugh and Learn – Kishon's Israeli Best Satire	Vaisben
11:30 am	What Does It All Mean?	Kaplan
1:30 pm	Women of Valor	Gilbert
2:45 pm	What If Everything Really Was Better Then?	Kaplan
4:00 pm	Was a Jewish Woman Behind Shakespeare's Mask?	Weitzenkorn

MU 246 COCONINO

9:00 am	Celebrating the Increasing Diversity of the Jewish Community	Stern
10:15 am	Balance – A Lithuanian Model	Elias
11:30 am	Las Judias de Cuba: A Renaissance	Silverstein
1:30 pm	Set Another Place at the Table: How to Welcome Your Children & Grandchildren to the Family Giving Table	Kasper/Cohen
2:45pm	The Blind Eye – A Sephardic Journey	Fine
4:00pm	Using American Ideals to Make Zaidy and Bubbie Proud	Elias

MU 242 LA PAZ

9:00 am	Water Wars: Israeli Water Usage, Peace and Conflict	Krantz
10:15 am	Translating Creation: A Few Centuries of Controversy	Kushner
11:30 am	The History of the American Jewish Community	Haberer
1:30 pm	Shortcuts to Shabbat	Berstein Storch
2:45 pm	Wrapped in Light: Tallis and Tefillin in Jewish Mysticism	Allen
4:00 pm	Grow the Jewish Community by Sharing What We Love About Jewish Life	Stern

MU 241A VENTANA

9:00 am	Humor and Holiness	Kanter
10:15 am	Can a Friendship Help Solve the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict?	David
11:30 am	Pictures Paint a Thousand Words	Kenzer
1:30 pm	Israel in the News: How to Get Your Point Across	Kenzer
2:45 pm	Nes Gadol Haya Po: Four Faces of the American Rabbinate	Bonder/Shapiro/Sharfman/Yanklowitz
4:00 pm	Toward a Purposeful Life	Allouche

MU 241B VENTANA

9:00 am	The 10 Commandments: A Spiritual Blueprint to a Better Life	Rosen
10:15 am	The Temple Mount – Past and Present	Lefler
11:30 am	The Power of Movies to Illuminate the Soul of Jewish Justice	Passon/Yanklowitz
1:30 pm	The Importance of Family	Abramsky
2:45 pm	Can A Friendship Help Solve the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict?	David
4:00 pm	Renew Your Spirit with Yoga and Gratitude	Tyre

MU 241C VENTANA

9:00 am	Biblical Questions to Change Our Lives	Linder
10:15 am	Forgiveness in an Unforgiving World	Feldman Bettencourt
11:30 am	The Gate of Tears: How to Feel Happy and Sad at the Same Time	Michaelson
1:30 pm	Translating Slavery: Not What You Might Think	Kushner
2:45 pm	Forgiveness in an Unforgiving World	Feldman Bettencourt
4:00 pm	Religious Exemptions: Civil Rights and the Parameters of Liberty	Michaelson

MU 240 NAVAJO

9:00 am	Resetting the Balance Between Work/Family Responsibility - A New Point of View	Anbar
10:15 am	The Chemistry of Character: Qualities, Strengths, Behavior	Shindler/Ivory
11:30 am	Spend. Save. Tzedakah: Financial Literacy for Teens & Young Adults	Sacks/Scheinbein/Schwartz
1:30 pm	Bird's Eye View of Jewish Campus Life in Arizona	Yunker Kail/Tiechtel/Brumer/Mark
2:45 pm	Why Marry Jewish?	Tiechtel

MU 226 GRAHAM

9:00 am	Exploring the Tensions of Modernity as Embodied in Chimen Abramsky's Library	Abramsky
10:15 am	Spend. Save. Tzedakah – The Next Generation: Financial Literacy for Families	Sacks/Sheinbein/Schwartz
11:30 am	The Lord's Prayer, Its Jewish Origins	Abrami
1:30 pm	Do We Always Have to Forgive?	Abrami

MU 248 RINCON

10:15 am	Shiva and Mourning Rituals Reconsidered	Schaffert
11:30 am	Why Your Family History Matters	Fine
1:30 pm	The Way It Was – Ethiopia Before the Aliyah	Weberman
2:45 pm	Chiasms: The Bible's Dazzling Literary Structure	Benkof

MU 207 GOLD

10:15 am	Drum Shalom: Drum for Peace, Drum for Healing, Drum for Fun (2 hours)	Grafstein
1:30 pm	Yoga Meets Dance with Hebrew Music	Wolf
2:45 pm	Four Senses Yoga	Rogers
4:00 pm	Israeli Folk Dancing – <i>Bo'u lirkod!</i>	Kurland

Kol HaKavod to the
LimmudAZ Team

for bringing Limmud to Phoenix
and for all you do to deepen our
Jewish roots.

*Rabbi John Linder and Rabbi Ilana Mills
Todd Herzog, Cantorial Soloist
Randall Udelman, Temple Solel President
& All Your Friends at Temple Solel!*



6805 E. McDonald Drive
Paradise Valley, AZ 85253
www.templesolel.org
480.991.7414 ☎



**THE
Women's
Jewish Learning
Center**



Women's Jewish Learning Center
named top innovator for 3 years
by the Slingshot Fund

www.womenlearning.org



Rabbi Kanter named
Exceptional Jewish Educator,
By the Covenant Foundation

Congratulations to Limmud Team Leaders
Sandy Adler, Michelle Mandel and Suzanne Swift on
such a great contribution to our community.

*“Knowledge is like the sun -
it dispels all darkness.”*

- Yehuda Leib Gordon



CONGREGATION BETH ISRAEL

Rabbi Stephen Kahn, Rabbi Rony Keller
and the Board of Directors of
Congregation Beth Israel congratulate

Limmud *AZ*
for providing the gift of learning to the community.

Kol Hakavod!

Enjoy this beautiful day of learning.



PRESENTER BIOS

ABRAMI, LEO

Leo Abrami is a native of France. He studied at Lycée Turgot, Paris, the University of Geneva, the Charles Baudoin Institute of Psychoanalysis, Geneva, the Institute of Logotherapy, Berkeley, CA and the Hebrew Union College where he received a MAHL degree and was ordained. He directs the Arizona Institute of Logotherapy.

ABRAMSKY, SASHA

sashaabramsky.com

Sasha Abramsky is a widely published freelance author. His work has appeared in the New Yorker online, the Nation, the American Prospect, Salon, Slate, New York Magazine and many other publications. He is the author of seven books. Abramsky was educated at Balliol College, Oxford, and Columbia’s University’s Graduate School of Journalism. He currently teaches writing at UC Davis.

ALLEN, TAMARA

embracingjewishpractice.blogapot.com

Tamara Allen has facilitated Jewish community-building events and adult education classes for the past five years as a co-organizer of The Open Tent, a local independent chavurah committed to creating welcoming, inclusive, pluralistic Jewish spaces. She is a graduate of Smith College and has a passion for encouraging people of all ages to deeply engage with the many layers of meaning contained in Jewish liturgy and practice.

ALLOUCHE, PINCHAS

Pinchas G. Allouche is the founding Rabbi and Spiritual Leader of Congregation Beth Tefillah in Scottsdale, AZ, a fast-growing congregation with over 350 families. Rabbi Allouche is a well-recognized rabbinic figure and a sought-after lecturer and popular author of many essays and writings on the Jewish faith, mysticism, and social analysis. In 2013, Rabbi Allouche was listed in the Forward as one of America’s 36 Most Inspiring Rabbis, who are “Shaping 21st Century Judaism.”

ANBAR, ADA

adaanbar.com

Ada Anbar holds a PhD in Early Childhood Education from the University at Buffalo. After a forty-year teaching career, she is now a full-time writer. She is the writer of several books about preschool children.

APELAS, MOSHE

Moshe Apelas is a veteran of the U.S. Air Force and served in lieu of a Jewish chaplain while on active duty at Offutt Air Force Base in Nebraska. He is certified as a Jewish lay leader by Jewish Welfare Board. He is a software and power systems engineer and a member of Beth El synagogue. He was educated at West Coast Talmudical Seminary in North Hollywood, CA and holds a BSE in engineering sciences from Arizona State University.

BENKOF, DAVID

David Benkof has taught and published widely about Jewish history, Hebrew grammar, homosexuality, and contemporary Jewish life. He is a crossword constructor, polyglot, entrepreneurial philanthropist, theater lover, and trivia buff. He has a master’s degree in modern Jewish history from Stanford, and he taught Hebrew grammar at Darche Noam/Shapell’s yeshiva in Jerusalem. In 2015, he became President of the DAGESH Hebrew Language Project (which uses technology to improve Ivrit pedagogy).

BETTENCOURT, MEGAN FELDMAN

meganfeldman.com

Megan Feldman Bettencourt’s award-winning journalism has appeared in publications including The Miami Herald, The San Francisco Chronicle, Newsday and The Daily Beast. Megan has reported from multiple countries and holds a master’s degree from the Columbia University Graduate School of Journalism in New York. Her critically-acclaimed book, TRIUMPH OF THE HEART: FORGIVENESS IN AN UNFORGIVING WORLD, explores forgiveness through science and stories.

BONDER, JASON

Jason Bonder, of Temple Emanuel of Tempe, grew up with two major passions in life -Judaism and sports. Those two passions combined when Jason had the opportunity to play professional baseball in Israel. Rabbi Jason hopes to show people of all ages how ancient texts and traditions do not have to be at odds with their secular interests and passions. Rabbi Jason is a graduate of the Reconstructionist Rabbinical College. He earned his Master’s Degree from the Graduate School of the Jewish Theological Seminary in New York City.

CAPLAN, MICAH

congregationortzion.org

Rabbi Micah Caplan is the spiritual leader at Congregation Or Tzion in Scottsdale. He has long-standing ties to Phoenix having grown up here where his father served as Cantor and mother as Musical Director of Har Zion Congregation. His vision is creating a place of learning, sharing and celebrating Jewish living together as a Kehillah Kedosha – a holy community. He is known for his warm, personal outreach.

COHEN, ANDREA

jcfphoenix.org

Andrea Cohen, MSW, is the Youth Philanthropy Director of the Jewish Community Foundation of Greater Phoenix. Andrea directs the development, outreach, and facilitation of the Foundation’s B’nai Tzedek Youth Philanthropy Program. She loves helping teens and their families connect with wonderful nonprofit organizations, so they can donate their time and their philanthropic dollars to worthy causes.

DAVID, ANTHONY

tonydauidwriter.com

Since getting his PhD at the University of Chicago in 2000, Anthony has written widely on the Israeli military and high-tech industry. His first biography was The Patron, the story of the entrepreneur and publisher, Salman Schocken. (Metropolitan Books 2004). For Harvard University Press he wrote two volumes on the historian of the Kabbalah, Gershom Scholem and he is currently finishing a third volume.

ELIAS, JARRED

Jarred Elias grew up in Johannesburg South Africa. Jarred is a Senior Certified Human Resources Professional and Jewish community lay leader. Recognized as a strategic thinker, he has been helping organizations develop successful human capital strategies for more than a decade. Jarred holds a Bachelor of Science from Arizona State University and Masters of Administration from Northern Arizona University.

FELDMAN, LINDA

Linda Feldman, Director of Family Education, has been working at the BJE for over 19 years creating programs and bringing families into our Jewish world. From Chicago and Washington, D.C., her numerous teaching opportunities helped her to become a master educator. Linda was the former Director of the Temple Solel Preschool before joining the BJE. Linda created JEWISH BABY UNIVERSITY for Expectant Parents and BABY & ME SHABBAT for young families in addition to JEWISH MARRIAGE UNIVERSITY—a marriage preparation program.

FINE, MARCIA

marciafine.com

A former high school English teacher and composition instructor at the university level with a Masters from ASU, Marcia was a member of National Speakers Association for twenty years. She has been a corporate trainer who presented to large audiences (1995-2000) in the US and overseas and toured for the Jewish Book Council in 2013 and 2015. Her novel, THE BLIND EYE--A Sephardic Journey was chosen as ONEBOOKAZ in 2015 to be read statewide.

FRIEBAUM, JANICE

phsaga.com

Generations After is the only Phoenix area group for children and grandchildren of Holocaust survivors. GA operates under the auspices of the Phoenix Holocaust Survivors’ Association and began in 2013 from a desire to explore and carry forward the legacy of survivors, support survivors and their descendants, and contribute to tikkun olam. Sharing the unique and powerful journeys of growing up with survivor parents and grandparents can be inspirational to present and future generations.

GILBERT, JOANNE

Author, educator and public speaker, Joanne Gilbert, has dedicated the last 5 years to finding, interviewing and celebrating Polish Jewish and Gentile Women--now in their 80s-90s--who actively and successfully defied the Nazis. Based on Joanne’s research and 1st-hand interviews, the true stories in WOMEN OF VALOR: Polish Resisters to the Third Reich provide irrefutable evidence dispelling negative stereotypes that the Jews went “silently like sheep to the slaughter,” and that the Gentiles were all complicitors or bystanders.

PRESENTER BIOS

GOLDSTEIN, MITCH

Rabbi Mitch Goldstein grew up in London, England where he attended the esteemed Carmel College, before going into business as a Recruitment Consultant. While in London he started to explore Judaism and eventually decided to attend Aish HaTorah College of Jewish Studies in Jerusalem by the Western Wall. While there he was inspired to go into Jewish outreach and received Rabbinical ordination. He serves as a rabbi at Arizona state for JAC (Jewish Arizonans on Campus).

GOTLIB, SYLVIA

Sylvia Gotlib is a lifelong book lover with a Master’s degree in English. She taught English literature for several years. A book club member for well over 30 years, she currently participates in three different book clubs. Her involvement in Jewish Book Fair has been going strong over twenty years. Sylvia has attended the Book Expo America publishing convention at least ten times, reads well over 100 books a year, and also reads multiple publications about books.

GRAFSTEIN, SARAH LEAH

Reb Sarah Leah founded Ruach Hamidbar - Spirit of the Desert in 1989. She is committed to inspiring, educating and supporting people to joyfully experience and celebrate their Jewishness. Reb Sarah Leah blends her background in the arts and traditional Judaism with Jewish renewal spirituality, chassidut and kabbalah. She is completing a feature documentary about Jewish Renewal. She co-leads Drum Shalom, a Jewish monthly and holiday drumming circle.

HABERER, MARTIN

Marty Haberer is the Chief Development Officer for the Jewish Federation of Greater Phoenix as well as for the Valley of the Sun JCC. He has been a Jewish Communal Professional for 29 years. His Journey has taken him and his family to Jewish communities in New York, New Jersey, Cincinnati, OH, Detroit, MI and most recently Sarasota, FL for the past 13 years.

HIRSCH, ELAINE

Elaine Hirsch, Director of Adult Learning and The Jewish Community Library, is an award-winning Holocaust educator. Elaine served as Director for the Florence Melton Adult Mini-School, and is regional director for the Alexander Muss High School in Israel. As Director of Adult Learning, she fills BJE classrooms with exceptional teachers and classes on a wide range of Jewish topics. Elaine has assembled an amazing PASSAGES LECTURE SERIES for 2016. She earned a Master’s Degree in Jewish Communal Service from Brandeis University.

HIRSHMAN, LINDA

A retired labor lawyer and professor, Linda Hirshman is the author of several books. She received her J.D. from the University of Chicago Law School and her Ph.D. from the University of Illinois at Chicago and taught Philosophy and Women’s Studies at Brandeis University. In recent years, she has appeared on 60 Minutes, Good Morning America, various NPR shows and the Colbert Report. She also has written for such publications as the New York Times Magazine, the Washington Post and many others.

ISAACS, RACHEL

Rachel grew up in NJ, attended Rutgers University and worked as a Pharmaceutical Microbiologist in Israel prior to her move to Central Phoenix. Rachel has five adorable children and is married to Rabbi Yisroel Isaacs who is associated with Beth Joseph Congregation, Phoenix Vaad Hakashruth, Phoenix Hebrew Academy, and the Jewish Enrichment Center. Rachel currently uses her spare time to volunteer in the valley and has a passion for incorporating Torah ideas into everyday life.

IVORY, ANDRE

Andre Ivory is the Outreach Director for the Bureau of Jewish Education and is a dynamic Jewish educator. Specializing in experiential Jewish education, Andre has served congregations and Jewish institutions in his hometown of Los Angeles, Toronto and Phoenix. Andre serves as coordinator for ACT, a service learning project aimed at connecting young Jewish professionals with their basic Jewish values. In addition to his service with the BJE, he proudly serves as Religious School Director at Temple Beth Shalom in Sun City, AZ.

KAIL, DEBBIE YUNKER

Debbie Yunker Kail is the Executive Director of Hillel at Arizona State University, where she strengthens the Hillel experience by prioritizing pluralism, innovation, collaboration, and leadership development. Nationally, she serves on the core team for Hillel International’s Measuring Excellence Program and the Ezra Fellowship Steering Committee. Locally, she serves on the Camp Daisy and Harry Stein Advisory board and was on the Jewish Federation of Greater Phoenix’s NOWGen Task Force. She is a mentor for the Women’s Jewish Learning Center Women’s Leadership Institute and serves on the team that founded LimmudAZ. Debbie holds a B.A. in Psychology from Emory University and a M.A. in Higher Education Administration from New York University, and she was awarded the Pomegranate Prize from The Covenant Foundation.

KANTER, ELANA

Elana Kanter serves as the Director of the Women’s Jewish Learning Center and is one of the founding members of Limmud AZ. Rabbi Kanter has a B. A. in English Literature from Barnard College, and was ordained by the Jewish Theological Seminary, as part of its first class of women rabbis. Rabbi Kanter also serves as co-rabbi of The New Shul of Scottsdale. In 1998, Rabbi Kanter received the Covenant Award for Exceptional Jewish Educators.

KAPLAN, BRUCE ERIC

Bruce Eric Kaplan has been a cartoonist for The New Yorker magazine, for almost 25 years. He is also a television writer/producer who has worked on such shows as **Seinfeld**, **Six Feet Under**, and currently, **Girls**. He has just written a memoir entitled *I Was A Child*.

KASPER, RICHARD

Richard Kasper, JD, is the President and CEO of the Jewish Community Foundation of Greater Phoenix. With more than 20 years of experience in law, nonprofit governance, community building, and philanthropy, Rich brings valuable experience to his role as President and CEO at the Jewish Community Foundation. Professionally, he has enjoyed a successful law career, most recently as a partner with Ryan Rapp & Underwood PLC, where he provided legal counsel for many secular and Jewish nonprofit organizations, individuals, and publicly traded or closely held companies.

KENZER, GARY

Gary Kenzer has been the North American Executive Director of Honest Reporting.com since 2006. Prior to that he was the Executive Director of Magen David Adom USA. Kenzer speaks all over North America in hundreds of venues including Limmud events in Houston, Miami, Baltimore, Bay Area near San Francisco, Winnipeg and last year at the first Limmud ever in Arizona.

KRANTZ, DAVID

David Krantz is a co-founder, president and chairperson of Aytzim: Ecological Judaism, the parent organization of Jewcology, the Green Zionist Alliance, and, together with GreenFaith, Shomrei Breishit: Rabbis and Cantors for the Earth. The editor of the **Jewish Energy Guide**, David is a National Science Foundation IGERT doctoral researcher and Wrigley fellow at Arizona State University’s School of Sustainability. David earned three master’s degrees, including one at the University of California, Berkeley, and two through a Steinberg Fellowship at New York University, where he studied Judaism and environmental policy.

KURLAND, ORA

Ora Kurland recently relocated to Phoenix from the New York area where she workd as a teacher/administrator in Jewish Education for over thirty years. She has also been an avid Israeli folk dancer since her college years. She has taught folk dancing to children and adults in a variety of settings, coordinated dance performances and has also presented teacher training workshops for the New York Board of Jewish Education and CAJE.

KUSHNER, AVIYA

Aviya Kushner grew up in a Hebrew-speaking home in New York and is the author of *The Grammar of God: A Journey Into the Words and Worlds of the Bible*. (Spiegel & Grau, 2015) Once an International Jerusalem Post travel columnist, she now teaches in the nonfiction writing program at Columbia College Chicago. She is a contributing editor at **A Public Space** and a mentor for the National Yiddish Book Center.

PRESENTER BIOS

LAVINSKY, ARTHUR *bethelphoenix.com*
Arthur Lavinsky is the spiritual leader of Beth El Congregation in Phoenix. He has served on the Executive Committee of the Rabbinical Assembly, the international body of Conservative (Masorti) rabbis and is a past president of the Board of Rabbis of Greater Phoenix. He is also a retired Navy Chaplain having achieved the rank of Lieutenant Commander. Rabbi Lavinsky has an extensive record of Israel advocacy and is currently on the board of Mercaz, the Zionist Organization of the Conservative Movement.

LEFLER, STAV
A native of Israel, after completing his service in the IDF, Stav Lefler started studying in the School of Tourism in Israel and has training as a graphologist and handwriting expert. An active tour guide in Israel since 2000, his experience includes leading 82 Taglit-Birthright Israel groups and many others, most of them with the Jewish-American community. Stav studied Middle Eastern Studies at Tel Aviv University and Music at Rimon School.

LEVERTOV, LEVI *jewishdowntownphx.com*
Levi Levertov was born and raised in Phoenix, and later studied in schools in New York, Argentina and Toronto, culminating with his graduation in 2007 with a bachelors in Judaic Studies - Talmudic Law. He received his Rabbinical Ordination from the President of the Orthodox Rabbinat of Ontario. He currently serves as a Rabbi for Chabad of Arizona and is the Director of Chabad of Downtown Phoenix and the Co-director, along with his wife Chani, of Smile on Seniors of Arizona.

LINDER, JOHN *templesolel.org*
John Linder has served as a rabbi at Temple Solel since 2008. Rabbi Linder received a Master’s Degree in Hebrew Letters and was ordained at the Hebrew Union College - Jewish Institute of Religion in Cincinnati in 2003. A 1980 Cum Laude graduate of Amherst College, Rabbi Linder became a rabbi at age 46 after earlier careers as a community and labor organizer and as an executive in his family’s scrap-metal recycling business in Buffalo.

MALTZMAN, MORRINE *glimmerglassmosaics.com*
Morrine Maltzman is a professional musician and teacher who has channeled her creativity into a new business creating fabulous works of mosaic art. She has been involved in numerous installations of her work in hospitals and commercial buildings and continues to grow in her new art form.

MARK, AMALIA
Amalia Mark hails from Maryland where she attended the University of Maryland, Baltimore County for her Bachelor’s degree in Theatre, with a concentration in Gender and Women’s Studies. Prior to moving to Tucson, she worked as a Fellow with Repair the World: Baltimore. Amalia can most often be found enthusing about multi-faceted Jewish life, good books, and great libraries. Amalia loves to engage with interfaith and pluralistic Jewish dialogue and she is deeply passionate about human rights and (in)equality.

MICHAELSON, JAY *jaymichaelson.net*
Jay Michaelson is Affiliated Assistant Professor at Chicago Theological Seminary, and author of *The Gate of Tears: Sadness and the Spiritual Path*, the bestselling *God vs. Gay? The Religious Case for Equality* and other books. He is a columnist for **The Daily Beast** and the **Forward**, and was a professional LGBT activist for twelve years. Jay is also a rabbi and a meditation teacher in a Theravadan Buddhist lineage. He received his PhD in Jewish Thought from Hebrew University of Jerusalem, a JD from Yale Law School, and a BA from Columbia.

PASSON, DOUG *dmajorfilms.com*
Doug Passon is a documentary filmmaker, lawyer, writer, and teacher. He serves as President and Creative Director of D Major Films, a documentary film production company that specializes in movies that foster social change. His latest documentary, *Road to Eden* is the story of a Jewish Musician traveling through the Deep South to uncover the deeper meaning of Sukkot. *Road to Eden* has played at film festivals and congregations across North America and Europe.

ROGERS, CINDY *pawsinsight.com*
Cindy Rogers is a certified yoga instructor who is blind. She is licensed with the National Yoga Alliance and has been teaching yoga since 2009. Cindy is a firm believer that the practice of yoga can be life changing.

ROSEN, TRACEE *templeganelohim.org*
Tracee Rosen is rabbi at Temple Gan Elohim in Sun City West. She is also the director of the Florence Melton School of Adult Jewish Learning for the greater Phoenix area, and she teaches at Pardes Jewish Day School. She is a graduate of the Ziegler School of Rabbinic Studies at American Jewish University in Los Angeles. Prior to becoming a rabbi, she worked in the banking industry for 13 years.

SACKS, ELLEN
Ellen Sacks is the Associate Executive Director of Jewish Free Loan. She has over 15 years of experience working with non-profit organizations, volunteers with several community groups including Chanan Prechool at Congregation Beth Israel and the Women’s Jewish Learning Center (WJLC), and is a mentor for the WJLC’s Women’s Leadership Institute. She holds a master’s degree in public administration.

SCHAFFERT, JUDY
Judy Schaffert teaches adult education classes at Temple Solel in Paradise Valley, including a series on Jewish Views of the Afterlife. A former board president of the Jewish Tuition Organization, Jess Schwartz Jewish Community High School, and Temple Solel, she was honored to be a member of the first Phoenix Wexner Heritage Program cohort.

SCHWARTZ, EMILY
Emily Schwartz manages the Money Moments education program at MidFirst Bank. As an educator, she is passionate about helping community members take control of their finances by being informed of resources and best practices. She holds a PhD and master’s degree from Arizona State, as well as a bachelor’s degree from the University of Southern California.

SHAPIRO, DEAN *beitdean.blogspot.com*
Dean Shapiro serves as rabbi at Temple Emanuel of Tempe. He loves teaching people of all ages, and serving as a guide on Jewish journeys. Rabbi Dean received his Rabbinic Ordination from Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion and his Bachelor’s Degree from Harvard College. He also holds a Certificate in Jewish Communal Service from HUC-JIR. As a rabbinical student, Shapiro joined American Jewish World Service’s service learning trip to El Salvador, a profound experience of the Jewish value of social justice.

SHARFMAN, BONNIE
Bonnie Sharfman serves as rabbi at Congregation Kehillah. Her scholarly interests range from Chassidic/mystical teachings and Jewish Thought to trends in modern Jewish life and implications for synagogues and communal agencies. She lived in Israel for many years, holds graduate and undergraduate degrees from The Hebrew University of Jerusalem, taught in Israeli schools, and worked as a tour guide and folk dance instructor there. A past President of the Board of Rabbis of Greater Phoenix, she is an alumna of the STAR PEER Rabbinic Executive Leadership Program, and founder of Pardes Jewish Day School.

SHEINBEIN, TINA
Tina Sheinbein is the Executive Director of Jewish Free Loan. She has over 40 years of experience working with non-profit organizations as a both a volunteer and a professional. Tina is the President of the International Association of Jewish Free Loans, serves on the Advisory Council of the Women’s Jewish Learning Center (WJLC) and is a mentor for the WJLC’s Women’s Leadership Institute. She holds a masters of counseling degree from ASU.

SHINDLER, MYRA
Myra Shindler is the director of the Bureau of Jewish Education and Hebrew High Principal, and is a lifelong Jewish educator. During the 2014-15 school year, Hebrew High, under Myra’s guidance, successfully completed an extensive external review process for accreditation for Hebrew language credit through AdvancED Accreditation. Myra is a graduate of the University of Iowa, with a Masters degree in Jewish Studies from Spertus College of Judaica.

PRESENTER BIOS

SHORE, JACKIE patientadvocatesaz.com
Jackie has been a nurse for 12 years. For the past 10 years her specialty has been Oncology. Jackie bases her practice on the concept of YOUR VOICE YOUR CHOICE; educating, supporting and guiding her clients in making healthcare decisions. She brings a tenacious spirit of advocacy and support to those facing serious health challenges. Jackie is knowledgeable in holistic healing modalities to support natural healing as an adjunct to traditional medicine.

SILVER, JACK humanjew.com
Jack Silver is an ordained Madrikh and Rabbi. He affiliates with the Secular Humanistic Jewish movement. Additionally, Jack holds advanced degrees in Social Work and Psychiatric Administration and for the past 10 years has been the director of the Jewish Counseling Program with Jewish Family & Children’s Service. Jack is the past CEO of the Arizona State Hospital, and served as a Social Work Officer with the U.S. Army until his retirement in 1998.

SILVERSTEIN, CARY
Cary Silverstein is the President & CEO of the SMA, LLc & The Negotiating Edge, a consulting firm that mentors key executives and trains their organizations in negotiating skills. Cary’s passion is researching obscure aspects of Jewish history. Cary is co-author with Larry Waldman, PhD., of the upcoming book, *Overcoming Negotiaphobia: While Negotiating Your Way Through Life* which will be available on Amazon.com in January 2016.

SLOVIN, MARIEKE
Marieke Slovin is a performing musician, yogi, writer, and songwriter. She leads songwriting workshops and composes original music from spoken stories. Marieke spent the past decade working as an interpretive park ranger for the National Park Service in Washington, Alaska, and Massachusetts. She has composed original songs from the oral histories of whalers and fishermen, factory workers, and people from around the world. Marieke earned a B.A. at Bates College; M.A. at Western Washington University; and Ph.D. at Prescott College.

STERN, EVA bigtentjudaism.org
Eva Stern is Senior Director of Training at Big Tent Judaism where she trains professionals and volunteer leaders to better find, welcome, and engage thousands in Jewish life each year. For teaching Jewish communal leaders the critical skills to build more dynamic and inclusive Jewish communities, she received the 2010 Young Professional Award from JPro, and was named among the “36 under 36” blending Jewish values to create a more thriving and secure world.

STORCH, ELANA BERNSTEIN shortcutstoshabbat.blogspot.com
Elana Bernstein Storch is a native of New York’s Upper East Side transplanted to the Wild West in Arizona. She views Shortcuts to Shabbat seminars as a market with a Mitzvah. Through these presentations she not only inspired, but she has the opportunity to inspire others to fulfill the Mitzvot of Shabbat.

TIECHTEL, SHMUEL
Shmuel Tiechtel, founding Director of Chabad at ASU, is source for spiritual guidance, advice, a great friend who loves ASJews, and an inspiring educator and leader of Jewish life for over a decade at ASU. Rabbi Shmuel is well-versed in Jewish law and Jewish philosophy. He and his wife Chana are parents to four beautiful children.

TYRE, AMY
Amy’s warmth, wisdom, humor and kindness permeate her yoga classes allowing her students the opportunity to feel nurtured, engaged and challenged. Her 15 plus years of practice and deep love of yoga shines through in every class, as she strives to meet each student wherever they are, both on and off the mat. Highly influenced by Astanga, Anusara and Bikram styles of yoga Amy’s teaching style is compassionate and instructive often drawing couples and multiple generations of family members to her classes.

VAISBEN, ERAN
Eran Vaisben is the Director of Jewish Life and Learning at Pardes Day School of Scottsdale. He has 15 years of experience working in the field of Jewish education as both a teacher and a school director. Eran is holds a doctorate degree in Educational Leadership from the University of California, Davis. He is a big fan of modern Israeli satire that try to make sense of the Israelis’ crazy life in the wild Middle East.

WASSERMAN, MICHAEL thenewshul.org
Michael Wasserman serves as co-Rabbi of The New Shul with his wife, Rabbi Elana Kanter. He is a graduate of Harvard University, the Jewish Theological Seminary, and the Shalom Hartman Institute’s Rabbinic Leadership Initiative. He has published numerous articles in professional and academic journals; his most recent article, “The Vendor Trap: Why Selling Spirituality Doesn’t Work” appeared in eJewishphilanthopy.

WEBERMAN, HERSHL
Hershl Weberman served on the board of NAOEJ (North American Conference on Ethiopian Jewry) in the mid ‘80s and has traveled to Ethiopia 4 times. He has spoken close to 400 times about the plight of Ethiopian Jews.

WEITZENKORN, STEVE
Most of Steve’s career has been devoted to helping organizations and the people working within them achieve greater levels of success. He co-authored (with Rabbi Robin Damsky) *Find, Fulfill Flourish*, a self-help guide for formulating a personal purpose and charting a path forward. In the course of writing *Shakespeare’s Conspirator*, Steve became an expert on Amelia Bassano Lanier, a Jewish woman who some scholars believe wrote many Shakespearean scripts.

WOLF, REBECCA
Rebecca Wolf is a lawyer and occupational therapist. She is deeply committed to the Jewish value of tikkun olam, and believes that it is every Jew’s responsibility to help make the world a better place. When Rebecca is not helping individuals with disabilities--both as a lawyer and an occupational therapist--she enjoys practicing yoga, swimming and hiking with her husband, Evan, and their young son, Ronen.

YANKLOWITZ, SHMULY valleybeitmidrash.org
Shmuly Yanklowitz is the Executive Director of the Valley Beit Midrash. He is a modern Orthodox Rabbi, activist, educator, author, motivational speaker, social entrepreneur, the founder and president of Uri L’Tzedek, the Orthodox Jewish social justice organization, and the founder and CEO of The Shamayim V’Aretz Institute. In March 2012 and in March 2013, Newsweek called Yanklowitz one of the most influential rabbis in America.

For full presenter biographies, please visit www.limmudaz.org.



ARIZONA STATE UNIVERSITY

Jewish Studies

Knowledge is inseparable from identity formation, transforming the present and future.

Together, the **Center for Jewish Studies** and **Jewish Studies Program** at ASU offer critical inquiry, inspired teaching and inventive engagement.

Home to the **Judaism, Science & Medicine Group** and welcoming world-class scholars to international research conferences today, we are working to **shape a better tomorrow.**

Our diverse students pursue **Bachelors of Arts** degrees and **certificates of concentration**, and **graduate-level work** in a variety of disciplines, including religious studies, history, political science and English.

Jewish Studies community educational outreach programs help to **transform cultural life** in metropolitan Phoenix by offering a model of **life-long learning** through adult education, lectures, exhibits and cultural events.

Research. Instruction. Community Outreach.

jewishstudies.asu.edu



What does the Federation do? We help people.

Your donation to the Federation fosters Jewish education, inspires young Jewish adults, cares for Jewish seniors and forges ties with Israel. Together we make an amazing difference in peoples lives by

... taking care of Jews in need, building community, creating vibrant Jewish life, and inventing the future.

... increasing understanding and support of Israel- through education, experiential connections and providing a community voice.

... engaging with young adult Jews and enabling them to define Jewish family in ways they find meaningful.

... helping older adults remain active, healthy, and living independently in their communities longer.

**That's it. That's what we do.
WE HELP PEOPLE.**

Give today. Create tomorrow.



Helping Jews in need and building vibrant Jewish communities here, in Israel and throughout the world.

480.634.4900 x1299 | jewishphoenix.org/donate



See you next year!
February 12, 2017

www.limmudaz.org