



# Limmud<sup>®</sup> AZ

JANUARY 31, 2016

PROGRAM GUIDE



Jewish Federation<sup>®</sup>  
OF GREATER PHOENIX



SCHOOL OF  
Historical, Philosophical  
& Religious Studies  
ARIZONA STATE UNIVERSITY



jewish news



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

# AND THANKS TO OUR VOLUNTEERS:

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Susan Hall  
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# 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](http://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.

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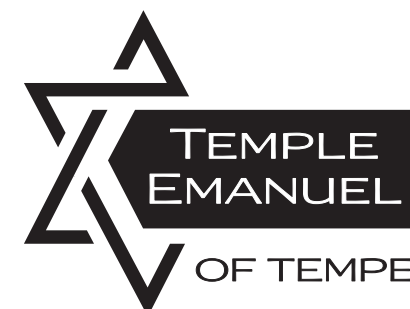
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## EXPAND YOUR MIND WITH Jewish Family & Children's Service

### ALEINU PROGRAM



➤ Our Aleinu workshops are dedicated to strengthening Jewish families and provide support for the general community through education.

- Mental Health
- Aging Issues
- Parenting

Please visit [JFCSAZ.org/aleinu](http://JFCSAZ.org/aleinu) for more information.

### CREATIVE AGING



➤ Classes designed for older adults to encourage creative expression and enhance quality of life. Class subjects include:

- Creative Writing
- Reader's Theater
- Music
- Dance

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CLASS SCHEDULE

9:00AM-10:00AM

PRESENTATION TITLE: *FDR and the Jewish Community*  
PRESENTER: **Jay Roth** TOPIC: **Jewish Experience** ROOM: **MU 228 Cochise**

This class will focus on Franklin Delano Roosevelt from 1932 to 1945. Included will be his response to the Great Depression, to the rise of Nazi Germany, to the plight of German Jewry prior to the outbreak of the war, to his dealings with anti-Semitism in the United States, to his reaction and steps when World War II broke out. Special focus will be on FDR’s response to addressing the issues and the tragedy of the Holocaust and dealing with the American Jewish community as the scope and horror of the Nazi plans became clearer as the war progressed.

PRESENTATION TITLE: *From Alter to Chavurot: The Changes in Judaism over the Millennia*  
PRESENTER: **Jack Silver** TOPIC: **Jewish Learning** ROOM: **MU 241A Ventana**

Contrary to what we have been taught in Hebrew school the practice of Judaism has changed significantly over the millennia. Perhaps the most significant changes have occurred in modernity with the influx of Jews in the 19th and 20th Centuries from Europe to America. This session will outline these changes in a multimedia presentation. Please join us in this interesting journey and lively discussion.

PRESENTATION TITLE: *Judaism and Ecology*  
PRESENTER: **Hava Tirosh-Samuelson** TOPIC: **Jewish Learning** ROOM: **MU 238 Apache**

The world today is in the midst of a major ecological crisis that is manifested in extreme weather events, loss of biodiversity, depletion of fisheries, prolonged droughts and pollution of air, water and soil. Since the 1970’s world religions have begun to grapple with the religious significance of the environmental crisis. This session explores how Judaism has addressed the ecological crisis for the past 50 years and the emergence of new religious ecological responses.

PRESENTATION TITLE: *Kabbalah-Based Jewish Self-Psychotherapy*  
PRESENTER: **Kenny (Yitzchak) Kaufman** TOPIC: **Jewish Learning** ROOM: **MU 236 Mohave**

From freedom to responsibility: What does freedom mean? Why do we need it and what purpose does it serve? Learn how to use the Kabbalistic concept of s’firat ha-omer (counting of the omer), the seven-week period between Pesach and Shavuot, as a step-by-step strategy to achieve personal tikkun hamidot (repair of character attributes), enabling us to break through the restrictions that obstruct us (Mitzraim/Egypt) and to prepare ourselves for the fulfillment of our mission in this world (Sinai).

PRESENTATION TITLE: *The Ten Commandments for Successful Fundraising*  
PRESENTER: **Paul Bregman** TOPIC: **Jewish Learning** ROOM: **MU 226 Graham**

Raising funds for not for profit organizations can be challenging. There are many organizations competing for Donor Dollars. Fundraising requires a lot of time, volunteer manpower, energy, layout of capital, risk and unknown economic factors . This presentation will guide you thru the Fundraising Process from inception to implementation. Learn how to assess an event for profitability and whether your organization has the seed capital and volunteers to make the event successful. The Ten Commandments for Successful Fundraising will help you focus your efforts and monetary expectations. Learn about social media and standard marketing tools in order to ensure the best results possible for your Event.

PRESENTATION TITLE: *Meditating Through the Soul*  
PRESENTER: **Micah Caplan** TOPIC: **Our Bodies/Ourselves** ROOM: **MU 207 Gold**

We will explore several meditative techniques including guided imagery meditation, breathing meditation, niggun meditation and several others through a Jewish lens. The gift of this meditation experience is to enter a world that we don’t always get to travel too, to feel inspired, energetic, spirited and connected to our souls and our bodies. All one has to do is have an open mind to all spiritual and creative possibilities to foster a connection.

CLASS SCHEDULE

PRESENTATION TITLE: *Gentle All Level Yoga Practice*  
PRESENTER: **Amy Tyre** TOPIC: **Our Bodies/Ourselves** ROOM: **MU 241C Ventana**

Come experience a gentle yoga practice to relax, calm and center yours self. The Judaism I’ve experienced, is deeply rooted in study. It is rich in questioning and fortified with instructions for how to behave in the world. This Judaism resonates with me as I tend to lead with my head. And yet, it feels like something is missing, or perhaps has been lost. Yoga practice takes me out of my head and into my heart. It provides a way to gain mastery over the roaming tendencies of our minds to allow us access to our innate inner joy and luminosity. Whether you’re an experienced yoga practitioner or would like to give it a try, come slow down, open up, move and breath. Give your mind and body a rest from the intellectual pursuits of the day and bring your awareness inside, back home to yourself.

PRESENTATION TITLE: *Being Grateful–Even Through Challenge*  
PRESENTER: **Lieb Bolel** TOPIC: **Text & Torah** ROOM: **MU 242 La Paz**

We all go through challenge and adversity. Being able to see the broader picture and spot any positives can be most challenging. This class will give us the ability to take a step back through the richness of Jewish text and give us the ability to understand what being grateful is, even through times of challenge.

PRESENTATION TITLE: *God Gets It That We Are Flawed*  
PRESENTER: **Ben Kamin** TOPIC: **Text & Torah** ROOM: **MU 241B Ventana**

Explaining the reality that Jewish biblical heroes can be related to exactly because they were all human beings – not deities. This makes them accessible to us; we don’t have to be “perfect” to be “in.” Moses had anger management issues and never wanted his job; Noah had a problem with alcohol and caused great embarrassment to his sons; Sarah was bitter about being childless for so long and did some bad things that are hard to rationalize (yet her marriage to Abraham ended with tenderness); Rebecca totally deceived her husband Isaac when he was frail and nearly blind; David was as much a misogynist and a murderer as he was perhaps the world’s greatest musician. The session will be a give and take with these stories and the goal is to truly humanize our “heroes” and understand why and how they are so easy to relate to our own lives and the world in which we live.

PRESENTATION TITLE: *Guard Your Tongue From Evil*  
PRESENTER: **Bonnie Koppell** TOPIC: **Text & Torah** ROOM: **MU 224 Gila**

“Who is the person who desires life, who loves days filled with goodness? Guard your tongue from evil and your lips from false speech.”- Psalm 34:12

Knowing when to speak and when to refrain from speaking, how to offer difficult feedback, when to tell the truth and when might a little white lie be appropriate- these are some of the greatest ethical challenges we face every single day. The Torah tells us that the entire world was created by the power of the word, and, similarly our entire world can be destroyed through harmful speech.

Let’s explore what Judaism can teach us about the wise use of the holy gift of speech.

PRESENTATION TITLE: *Photography as Tephila*  
PRESENTER: **HershI Webberman** TOPIC: **Text & Torah** ROOM: **MU 248 Rincon**

Exploring photography as an act of prayer.

Rather than only reciting prayers lauding the sun, moon, trees and the rest of the world, take photos of the Master of the Universe’s creations .When he is shooting HershI often tunes-in and enters a zone where he almost becomes one with the subject. Photographic process will be discussed. Participants are encouraged to bring a few samples of their photographs to discuss the elements of tephila in their work and process.

CLASS SCHEDULE

PRESENTATION TITLE: *Dealing with Our Elderly Parents*  
PRESENTER: **Cary Silverstein, Larry Waldman** TOPIC: **Life Cycle** ROOM: **MU 246 Coconino**

As people are living longer today, many of us have to deal with our elderly parents. This seminar will review issues that many of us will face, such as removing our parents’ car keys, finding care for them, and/or securing assisted living quarters for them.

10:15AM-11:15AM

PRESENTATION TITLE: ***A Dance Fusion: Israeli Folk Dance***  
PRESENTERS: **Linda Simon** TOPIC: **Arts & Culture** ROOM: **MU 207 Gold**

Get a Taste of Israel as Nancy and Jessica “take you to your homeland” in this fun, easy to learn class that teaches you the fundamentals of Israeli Folk Dancing. You will love the music while sharing this unique experience with your family and friends. Planning a Birthright trip? A Bar/Bat Mitzvah at Masada? A family vacation or trip to see relatives? Or not. Don’t let it be “Next Year in Jerusalem”... join Dance Fusion for a bit of Israel’s best!

PRESENTATION TITLE: ***Jazz and Jews***  
PRESENTER: **Andre Ivory** TOPIC: **Art & Culture** ROOM: **MU 236 Mojave**

Jazz represents the sound of America. Within that sound are the stories of Americans striving to have their voices heard. The Jewish-American story is wrapped up in the early and continued development of the genre of jazz. This session will survey the important figures and sounds of the Jews that helped build jazz music.

PRESENTATION TITLE: ***Was a Jewish Woman Behind Shakespeare’s Mask?***  
PRESENTER: **Steve Weitzenkorn** TOPIC: **Arts & Culture** ROOM: **MU 226 Graham**

Could a Jewish woman and feminist (centuries before the term was coined) have 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: ***Stories From A Peace Activist***  
PRESENTER: **Jonathan Wasserman** TOPIC: **Israel** ROOM: **MU 242 La Paz**

Jonathan spent two months during this past summer organizing American students in Israel and the West Bank. Come learn about the experiences that those students and Jonathan had as they traveled to many of the most contentious areas affected by the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, the lessons they learned, and the work that they are now doing on their campuses and in their Jewish communities.

PRESENTATION TITLE: ***Jewish Justices***  
PRESENTER: **David Kader** TOPIC: **Jewish Learning** ROOM: **MU 241B Ventana**

An overview of the Jewish Justices of the United States Supreme Court, from Brandeis to Kagan.

PRESENTATION TITLE: ***The Behind the Scenes Story of Truman’s Support for the Statehood of Israel***  
PRESENTERS: **Robert Watson** TOPIC: **Jewish Experience** ROOM: **MU 241C Ventana**

This talk reveals the behind-the-scenes role and political intrigue leading up to statehood for Israel in 1948. President Harry Truman was opposed by senior officials in Britain, his own State Department, and many others, but worked with Zionist leaders to build support for statehood, provide important aid and funding to the fledgling state, and assure close relations with the U.S. The story is, at times, amusing and surprising, but is an inspiring example of moral courage in political leadership.

CLASS SCHEDULE

PRESENTATION TITLE: ***A Strong Jewish Woman...Or a Nag? How to Embrace Your Strength as a Jewish Woman***  
PRESENTER: **Jennifer Brown** TOPIC: **Life Cycle** ROOM: **MU 246 Coconino**

Are you a strong Jewish woman who perhaps, at times, gives-in and says, “yes” when you really want to say, “no?” Maybe you’re a strong Jewish woman who, out of the goodness of your heart, nags at your spouse, children or co- workers to get things accomplished? Psychologist and educator of womanhood, Dr. Jennifer Brown will help you to take inventory of your own personal boundaries. She will help you to break down why it can be difficult to say what you mean in the moment, (i.e., saying “no” when you mean it, and saying “yes” when you mean it), and give you strategies on how to overcome this behavior. By understanding and acknowledging your own boundaries, you will be able to stand in your own strength and love yourself, and others, in a truly profound way.

PRESENTATION TITLE: ***Converting to Judaism in America Today***  
PRESENTER: **Mariam Cohen** TOPIC: **Life Cycle** ROOM: **MU 224 Gila**

Converts have always been a controversial topic in Judaism, from the medieval era, through the Enlightenment in the 19th century. This presentation will cover some of the history of conversion to Judaism. Based on interviews with a number of converts, the current patterns of conversion (who converts, how do they convert, what issues are important to converts) and some of the current controversies and problems faced by converts to Judaism in America. One focus will be the importance of support for converts from the Jewish community.

PRESENTATION TITLE: ***When Kids Don’t Fit into a Pink or Blue Gender Box***  
PRESENTER: **Julie Tarney** TOPIC: **Life Cycle** ROOM: **MU 241A Ventana**

In 1992, Julie Tarney’s son, Harry, told her, “Inside my head I’m a girl.” He was two years old. She felt disoriented. Wasn’t it her role to encourage and support her child? Surely she had to set some limits to his self-expression – or did she? The internet was no help, because there was no internet. Books didn’t exist on how to raise children who didn’t conform to society’s gender expectations. And the parenting books beloved by others didn’t use terms like transgender, gender nonconforming, and gender creative. What the author of *My Son Wears Heels* did is the topic of this presentation.

PRESENTATION TITLE: ***When Love Meets Dementia***  
PRESENTER: **Ada Anbar** TOPIC: **Life Cycle** ROOM: **MU 248 Rincon**

This presentation will give snapshots from the life of a brilliant scientist who fell victim to FTD; a vicious brain disease that warps a person’s personality, judgment and relationships past the breaking point. A disease that has been often misdiagnosed as a psychiatric problem, until recent medical innovations found the real cause – a degenerative process in the brain. The clinical symptoms of FTD will be described, the physical and emotional toll on family members, the financial burden, and difficulty in getting the diagnosis will be discussed. Some information on possible prevention, treatment, and management will be provided.

PRESENTATION TITLE: ***All We Ever Need***  
PRESENTER: **Tracee Rosen** TOPIC: **Text & Torah** ROOM: **MU 238 Apache**

Have you heard of Maslow’s Hierarchy of Needs? In the 1940s, psychologist Abraham Maslow sought to define the characteristics of positive mental health. In the process, he articulated his famous pyramid of human motivation. In this class, we will examine a famous Biblical text that mirrors, or might have even inspired, Maslow’s theory. Revisit this famous text with new eyes, and discover the ancient wisdom that can lead us all to a life of fulfillment.

PRESENTATION TITLE: ***Layers Upon Layers of Meaning***  
PRESENTERS: **Todd Herzog** TOPIC: **Text & Torah** ROOM: **MU 228 Cochise**

This workshop will allow participants to view and interpret text through the language of music and rhythm. Following the Pardes system of text study, we will assign each layer of meaning a unique musical expression that will then be layered one on top of the next to create a new musical composition. The class will utilize looping and recording technology to capture our work. No previous musical experience necessary.

CLASS SCHEDULE

PRESENTATION TITLE: **A Mosaic Little Jewish Town**  
PRESENTER: **Morrine Maltzman** TOPIC: **Arts & Culture** ROOM: **MU 240 Navajo**

We will be creating a beautiful framed piece depicting a little town with a synagogue. Using stained glass, beads, gems, metals and found objects, we will have a completed project at the end of the session. This art piece can be hung on the wall or placed on an easel for display.  
**Please note: This is a two-hour class. Materials Fee: \$20. Limited to the first 15 students who pay upon arrival at Limmud AZ.**

11:30AM-12:30PM

PRESENTATION TITLE: **Creative Aging**  
PRESENTER: **Janet Arnold** TOPIC: **Arts & Culture** ROOM: **MU 224 Gila**

Creative Aging is a national movement aimed at fostering an understanding of the vital relationship between creative expression and quality of life for older adults. Quality arts programming has a clear and direct impact on the three elements which lead to improved quality of life through a sense of well-being in older adults: Living with purpose and joy, sustaining positive, meaningful, dynamic relationships, and dealing effectively with life’s changes and challenges. Learn about what is being offered locally to enrich the lives of our older adults.

PRESENTATION TITLE: **Powering the Promised Land: Fracking and Energy Use in Israel**  
PRESENTER: **David Krantz** TOPIC: **Israel** ROOM: **MU 228 Cochise**

What’s the source of the electricity that powers the lights when you flick the switch in Israel? Hint: It may not be what you think. Israel is on the verge of becoming an energy superpower, but at what cost? Learn what most Israelis don’t know about Israel’s energy situation.

PRESENTATION TITLE: **The 1973 Yom Kippur War**  
PRESENTER: **Moshe Apelas** TOPIC: **Israel** ROOM: **MU 248 Rincon**

This class will cover the objectives of the Arab side, a brief history of the war, and the role of the US in direct support for Israel. Finally, it will present information about the nuclear confrontation with the Soviet Union (second only to the 1962 Cuban missile crisis).

PRESENTATION TITLE: **O’Connor, Ginsburg and the Future of the Supreme Court**  
PRESENTER: **Linda Hirshman** TOPIC: **Jewish Learning** ROOM: **MU 241A Ventana**

Linda Hirshman, author of a recent bestselling biography of Justices O’Connor and Ginsburg, will talk about their rise and influence on American law in general and the Supreme Court in particular. Whatever the state of play in replacing Justice Scalia at the time of Limmud AZ, she will analyze the record of the 4/4 Court after he died and predict what will happen next. Her presentation will include talk about the decisions on immigration, abortion and affirmative action.

PRESENTATION TITLE: **Enhancing Your Mother/Daughter Relationship**  
PRESENTER: **Jessica Levin, Linda Levin** TOPIC: **Life Cycle** ROOM: **MU 242 La Paz**

Experience a one-of-a-kind interactive program that will enhance your Mother/Daughter Relationship through coping tools and strategies. Presentation will include Powerpoint, role-plays, and interactive/open discussion.

PRESENTATION TITLE: **When Did Jews Become Modern?**  
PRESENTERS: **David Benkof** TOPIC: **Jewish Learning** ROOM: **MU 226 Graham**

When did Jewish history transition from medieval to modern? Learn how historians periodize the Jewish past, and why the emancipation of the Jews of France is widely considered the kickoff of Jewish modernity. Through presentation, document analysis, and discussion, discover why your Jewish experience is so different from that of Jews before the late 18th century.

CLASS SCHEDULE

PRESENTATION TITLE: **If Not Now, When? Ethical Wills and Getting Started on Yours**  
PRESENTER: **Judy Schaffert** TOPIC: **Life Cycle** ROOM: **MU 246 Coconino**

Many of us know that ethical wills are “a thing.” Some people have even written one, but most of us don’t know where to begin, how to write one, or what it should include. This program will (1) explore the origins and a few examples to illustrate this long-standing custom and (2) then engage together in brainstorming to stimulate the beginnings of writing an ethical will of one’s own. The leader will provide prompts to help get your creative juices flowing and to encourage your own first steps in writing an ethical will.

PRESENTATION TITLE: **The Circle of Life: Finding Purpose and Passion at Every Stage**  
PRESENTERS: **Iris Krasnow** TOPIC: **Life Cycle** ROOM: **MU 241C Ventana**

Iris Krasnow has spent a career interviewing people about what matters most in their lives – doing work they love, and sustaining close relationships, with friends, family and partners. Krasnow’s presentation will be inspiring, prescriptive and humorous as she shares detailed stories about the dos and don’ts men and women have shared with her on how to successfully navigate each phase of the growth cycle. Krasnow’s focus will be on the importance of each person in a couple having a sense of purpose, and self-worth, beyond marriage and family, or as she puts it: “The happiest people I know have work they love and are surrounded by people they love – people that make them feel worthy.”

PRESENTATION TITLE: **Four Senses Yoga and Meditation**  
PRESENTER: **Cindy Rogers** TOPIC: **Our Bodies/Ourselves** ROOM: **MU 207 Gila**

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. We begin with a guided meditation to allow our hearts & minds to become open for receiving what the universe has to offer each one of us. The ending meditation prepares us to return to our day with a higher sense of spiritual insight and humility.

PRESENTATION TITLE: **The Marriages of Moses and Inter marriage Today: Can We Judge?**  
PRESENTER: **Ben Kamin** TOPIC: **Text & Torah** ROOM: **MU 241B Ventana**

In spite of his many personal frustrations with his career path and certainly with the Hebrews lack of gratitude, Moses led a fascinating personal life. The “Chief Rabbi” of Israel was married twice – both times to non-Jewish women. The first was the pagan daughter of the Midianite High Priest and, in fact, Moses took to his very non-Jewish father-in- law, Jethro, with tremendous affection and respect. The second was to a black woman – which provoked criticism from both of both Moses’s siblings, Aaron and Miriam. God punished Miriam with leprosy, leading Moses to pray that she recover--one of only two times that Moses prayed in the Torah. This itself is another irony about the often-free spirited, strong-willed Moses but, more importantly, leads us into a contemporary discussion about the high rate of Jewish inter marriage and how we react to it.

PRESENTATION TITLE: **The Ten Commandments: A Spiritual Blueprint to a Better Life**  
PRESENTER: **Tracee Rosen** TOPIC: **Text & Torah** ROOM: **MU 238 Apache**

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: **When Down is Up: The Hasidic Masters on Spiritual Descent**  
PRESENTER: **Michael Wasserman** TOPIC: **Text & Torah** ROOM: **MU 236 Mojave**

The Hasidic masters taught that sometimes down is up. Sometimes the only way to get closer to God is to fall further away. That is because there is a kind of revelation that occurs only in the darkness. Some spiritual insights come to us only where God seems most absent. We will explore a teaching from the Degel Mahaneh Efrayim of Rabbi Efrayim of Sudlikov on “yeridah l’tzorekh aliyah” (spiritual descent for the sake of ascent), and see how its message can help us in our own growth.



CLASS SCHEDULE

12:30PM-1:30PM	LUNCH	ARIZONA ROOM
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1:30PM-2:30PM		
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PRESENTATION TITLE: <i>The Nazi Titanic: The Unknown Shocking Story of the Final Days of the Holocaust</i>		
PRESENTER: <b>Robert Watson</b>	TOPIC: <b>History</b>	ROOM: <b>MU 241B Ventana</b>

This is the little-known story of the final days of the Holocaust and an intriguing German ocean liner built to be the new Titanic. As the pride of the Third Reich, the ship starred in the most expensive propaganda film in history and played a central role in a bizarre plan by Hitler and Goebbels to turn the tide of the war. In the final moments of WWII as the Allies were closing in, Nazi commanders planned to load the ship with prisoners of the Holocaust and scuttle it. No one expected what would happen next... All evidence of the series of shocking events was sealed by the British government at the end of the war, but the documents have been declassified.

PRESENTATION TITLE: <i>American Jewish Experience</i>		
PRESENTER: <b>Marty Haberer</b>	TOPIC: <b>Jewish Experience</b>	ROOM: <b>MU 228 Cochise</b>

This course, the American Jewish Experience, has three main objectives. First it identifies important contributions that Jews have made to American society. The class will provide some of the major periods, events and trends of American Jewish History.

Second, it provides a backdrop of their own families histories. It is the origin and development of the communities in which they live and have lived. Participants should be able to explore how their Jewish identities, to some degree, are a composite of the people, experiences and events that have preceded them with the overlay of their own unique interests and experiences.

Third, participants will be asked to bring their own unique Jewish voice both to the class and to the continuum of Jewish History.

PRESENTATION TITLE: <i>Have I Got a Story for You: Yiddish Writers in America</i>		
PRESENTER: <b>Ezra Gliner</b>	TOPIC: <b>Jewish Learning</b>	ROOM: <b>MU 242 La Paz</b>

The Forward is the most renowned Yiddish newspaper in the world. It welcomed generations of immigrants to the United States, brought them news of Europe and the Middle East, and provided them with everything from comic strips to noodle kugel recipes. It also published some of the most acclaimed Yiddish fiction writers of all time, including Nobel Prize laureate Isaac Bashevis Singer. These stories, now in English for the first time, expressed the concerns of Yiddish writers and their millions of readers, including the challenges of immigration, both World Wars, and changing forms of Jewish identity.

PRESENTATION TITLE: <i>God Talk: Creating Your Personal Relationship with God Through Prayer</i>		
PRESENTER: <b>Bob Westle</b>	TOPIC: <b>Jewish Learning</b>	ROOM: <b>MU 236 Mojave</b>

Learning how to create a closer, more personal relationship with God , relating to ourselves and to others through the art of Prayer. Becoming comfortable with the complexities of Prayer can not be achieved in a single course but it is a process with this being the first small step.

CLASS SCHEDULE

PRESENTATION TITLE: <i>Holocaust Poetry</i>		
PRESENTER: <b>David Benkof</b>	TOPIC: <b>Jewish Learning</b>	ROOM: <b>MU 226 Graham</b>

It’s been said that extreme times lead to great art. Examine short works about the Holocaust by Dan Pagis, Abraham Sutzkever, Primo Levi, and others to explore how survivors, observers, and future generations have used rhythm, rhyme, meter, symbolism, and imagery to respond to the Shoah. Beyond brief explanations, the session will focus on discussion and group work.

PRESENTATION TITLE: <i>Finding God in the Strangest Places</i>		
PRESENTER: <b>Michael Wasserman</b>	TOPIC: <b>Spirituality</b>	ROOM: <b>MU 228 Cochise</b>

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: <i>Five Ways to Argue Constructively with your Partner</i>		
PRESENTER: <b>Larry Waldman</b>	TOPIC: <b>Life Cycle</b>	ROOM: <b>MU 240 Navajo</b>

A healthy relationship is one where the inevitable issues are resolved. In this seminar the five basic steps couples can use to effectively manage their issues are reviewed.

PRESENTATION TITLE: <i>Intimacy in Aging</i>		
PRESENTER: <b>Iris Krasnow</b>	TOPIC: <b>Life Cycle</b>	ROOM: <b>MU 241C Ventana</b>

This presentation will focus specifically on keeping the fires hot, or at least simmering, during a long relationship, spinning out of Iris Krasnow’s books on marriage and her newest title: “Sex After...Women Share How Intimacy Changes As Life Changes”. Having interviewed hundreds of couples about what it takes to keep their vows “Til Death Do We Part”, Krasnow is full of stories on the hard work and perseverance it takes to sustain long marriages and partnerships.

PRESENTATION TITLE: <i>Son Returns: Miracle Stories of Divine Intervention</i>		
PRESENTER: <b>Robin Meyerson</b>	TOPIC: <b>Life Cycle</b>	ROOM: <b>MU 248 Rincon</b>

Robin will share numerous miracle stories that are both humorous and inspirational including the amazing and uplifting “coincidences” from A SON RETURNS; featured in the best-selling Series; Small Miracles From Beyond. Come hear what has inspired thousands of people from these fantastic stories of divine intervention all over the world about how the Hand of God directs our life in both the small and huge every day events.

PRESENTATION TITLE: <i>Awareness Through Movement: How to Restore Your Body Back to Health</i>		
PRESENTER: <b>Jill Davis</b>	TOPIC: <b>Our Bodies/Ourselves</b>	ROOM: <b>MU 238 Apache</b>

Moshe Feldenkrais, from Israel, created a series of movement patterns that gets your nervous system to go from your para-sympathetic to your sympathy nervous system. The movements are small and everyone can do the movements and experience new feelings of health and relaxation in their bodies and mind. Learn new ways to handle stress and have more awarenesses of the importance of movement for health.

PRESENTATION TITLE: <i>Finding the Blessing in Your Hebrew Name</i>		
PRESENTER: <b>Alicia Magal</b>	TOPIC: <b>Text &amp; Torah</b>	ROOM: <b>MU 224 Gila</b>

Class will involve looking at the meanings and blessing in one’s Hebrew name; and finding the actual biblical pasuk (verse) that corresponds to one’s Hebrew name.



CLASS SCHEDULE

PRESENTATION TITLE: *Jewish Practice as Related to Tikkun Olam*  
PRESENTER: **Michael Beyo** TOPIC: **Text & Torah** ROOM: **MU 246 Coconino**

This class explores the tension that exists between faith and practice in Judaism from the prism of Tikkun Olam.

PRESENTATION TITLE: *The Power of Forgiveness*  
PRESENTERS: **Pinchas Allouche** TOPIC: **Text & Torah** ROOM: **MU 241A Ventana**

We’ve all been hurt, by someone, by something. And no, it’s not easy to forgive and overlook insults and affronts, especially when we feel that our self-worth has been denigrated. Join us as we explore the noble and liberating virtue of forgiveness, as taught in our Jewish heritage, and how to apply it to our everyday life.

PRESENTATION TITLE: *Drum Shalom: Drum for Peace, Drum for Healing, Drum for Fun*  
PRESENTERS: **Sarah Leah Grafstein** TOPIC: **Arts & Culture** ROOM: **MU 207 Gold**

The Jewish people are a tribal culture with an ancient musical tradition. As we have wandered in the Diaspora, we have gathered and incorporated traditions from local and host cultures. 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. As it is said in Exodus “and Miriam the prophetess took her drum and tambourine and lead the women in dance.”

Join us and experience new heights through singing and drumming with a master drummer and a Carlebach musician. Drum Shalom generates inner peace, love and healing. Bring your friends and your drums! We will have extras.

**Please note: This is a 2-hour class.**

2:45PM-3:45PM

PRESENTATION TITLE: *Creating Community: Strengthening Our Global Jewish Family*  
PRESENTER: **Eli Ovits** TOPIC: **Jewish Experience** ROOM: **MU 241B Ventana**

Together we will explore some of the worldwide challenges facing the Jewish People and society at large. Have Limmud, and others, developed a proven formula to combat them? To engage people, and create a community fit for our times and common future? This session welcomes innovative minds - seeking to learn and get involved.

PRESENTATION TITLE: *Allegiance to a Pledge: The Ethics of Honoring Verbal Commitments*  
PRESENTER: **Levi Levertov** TOPIC: **Jewish Learning** ROOM: **MU 246 Coconino**

Your friend is depending on your investment to get his business up and running. You agreed to help your friend move. You made a large pledge, but circumstances have since changed. Just how binding are your commitments? When is it all right to renege?

What makes a contract binding in Jewish law? When can you ethically renege on a verbal agreement? Is a commitment to give a gift or to attend an event morally binding?

PRESENTATION TITLE: *Narrow Bridges: Jews and Blacks in America Today*  
PRESENTER: **Andre Ivory** TOPIC: **Jewish Learning** ROOM: **MU 228 Cochise**

Fifty years post-civil rights movement, the Jewish and Black communities in America face an ever growing rift between the two. This is a far cry from the days of Selma with King and Heschel walking together. Examining the internal, national and international issues which face each community, we can better understand how the relationship between the two communities has shifted over the years. Plus, discussing key areas of unification between the two communities moving forward will be included.

CLASS SCHEDULE

PRESENTATION TITLE: *Hidden Ones: Sephardim and Trauma*  
PRESENTER: **Marcia Fine** TOPIC: **Jewish Learning** ROOM: **MU 226 Graham**

Did the Sephardim expelled from Spain and Portugal in 1492/1497 carry trauma in their genes to the New World? How are memory and identity shaped by our experiences and our individual or collective histories? What is the relationship between memory and identity?

This question has haunted me since I began research for my novel, THE BLIND EYE – A Sephardic Journey about displaced Jews from the Iberian Peninsula. The trauma of the ejection continues in HIDDEN ONES – A Veil of Memories that focuses on conversos in Mexico.

Melancholia, depression, and anger are all symptoms Sephardim dealt with as a result of the expulsion for the almost four hundred years they were persecuted around the world. The ordeal explains their mental state for centuries after the fact. The pain these people suffered because of the Inquisition cannot be minimized. It was in every area of their lives from forced conversions to abandoned possessions, the threat of death and hiding secrets on a daily basis.

My research has been focused on women during the Inquisition, from books and journals about Sephardim, scientific papers and theories about the Jewish community, particularly Rachel Yehuda, Director of Mental Patient Care and a professor of psychiatry at the School of Medicine at Mount Sinai Hospital. She has developed Epigenetics, the study of alterations on genes that adjust the way they function. It means we carry our history with us, especially trauma. Holocaust survivors and the generations after are a great resource. Scientific studies in progress at Emory, Duke, Columbia and Stanford reveal certain traumatic life experiences can affect us on a genetic level. These can be passed on to future generations.

In my novel the characters feel the heavy burden they transport to Mexico after being cast out of their Brazilian colony on 26 January 1654. They travel through South America to Mexico. The Inquisition, to satisfy financial needs, initiates offices in Mexico City, Lima and Cartagena. For those suffering under these institutions until 1834 when the Inquisition collapsed, revisions of their sad mental state never left them.

PRESENTATION TITLE: *Who are the “Nones”?*  
PRESENTER: **Nate Crane** TOPIC: **Jewish Learning** ROOM: **MU 240 Navajo**

According to the 2013 Pew Research Center survey, Over 20% of U.S. Jews consider themselves to be “nones”. In other words, they have no religion. We will ask the questions: “What are the nones rejecting?” “Do the nones maintain a need for education and spiritual/emotional connection?” and “Can an inherently Jewish practice, intellectual study, offer an opportunity for the nones to reclaim their Jewish identity?”

PRESENTATION TITLE: *Yiddish: The International Language*  
PRESENTER: **Leon Gildin** TOPIC: **Jewish Learning** ROOM: **MU 248 Rincon**

Yiddish, the international language of Ashkenazic Jews, was brought to the United States by the great immigration from Eastern Europe. The people, in their desire for a life of freedom and education without fear of reprisal, contributed more to the fabric and culture of the American scene than any other immigrant population. This class explores the language, where it came from, what it brought with it, what it left behind and who speaks it today.

PRESENTATION TITLE: *Wise Aging*  
PRESENTER: **Harriet Rosen** TOPIC: **Life Cycle** ROOM: **MU 224 Gila**

The Wise Aging program comes to The Valley this winter. Using the book and guided by facilitators you have the opportunity to discuss the joys, opportunities and challenges of being a senior. Open yourself to a wide vision of possibilities. Share and learn from others in an open and respectful environment. Come and learn about this wonderful program and where it is available.

CLASS SCHEDULE

PRESENTATION TITLE: *From Agender to Zir: The New Language of Gender*  
PRESENTER: **Julie Tarney** TOPIC: **Life Cycle** ROOM: **MU 241A Ventana**

On a national stage, people like Laverne Cox, Caitlyn Jenner and teenager Jazz Jennings have helped give the transgender community a voice. But there’s still much confusion or lack of awareness surrounding the differences among terms like gender identity, sexual orientation and gender expression. Some even wonder about the “Q” in LGBTQ (Q stands for “queer/questioning”). Julie Tarney, author of the memoir MY SON WEARS HEELS: One Mom’s Journey from Clueless to Kickass, will help us navigate the changing landscape of gender through stories of her experiences raising a fabulous gender creative child of the ‘90s.

PRESENTATION TITLE: *Tikkun Olam Starts with You*  
PRESENTERS: **Livia Spitz Steingart** TOPIC: **Our Bodies/Ourselves** ROOM: **MU 238 Apache**

Livia’s premise is the Torah is a story of do-ers. From Abraham, to Moses, to our modern day do-ers . Tikkun Olam and personal transformation is a process, requiring action.

Using one of the lessons from her book, “Life from A-Z, 20 Minutes a Day: A Guide to Creating a Better You”, Livia will guide participants in a personal exploration and development of action steps. In a workshop setting, she will teach the principle, and take participants through specific activities. She will facilitate individuals to focus their attitudes and thereby empower them to achieve their goals.

Participants will be learning, reflecting, writing and sharing (if they chose). Livia will personally assist each person as she moves through the room during the self-analysis and action part of the presentation.

Participants will come out of this session empowered, with clarity of their personal mission and a map of how to achieve the goal.

PRESENTATION TITLE: *Human Sexuality from a Jewish Perspective*  
PRESENTER: **Kenny (Yitzchak) Kaufman** TOPIC: **Text & Torah** ROOM: **MU 242 La Paz**

What does it mean to be human and in God’s image? How and why do we strive for sanctity? How do the body and soul relate to each other? Why is cultivating intimacy important, and how do we do it? Participate in a guided discussion exploring these questions and learn how they provide a backdrop for understanding a Jewish perspective on human sexuality. Come prepared for lively interaction through an exchange of ideas, questions, and challenges.

PRESENTATION TITLE: *Ten Biblical Questions to Change Our Lives*  
PRESENTER: **John Linder** TOPIC: **Text & Torah** ROOM: **MU 236 Mojave**

Some of the most dramatic, sublime, and soul-searching narrative moments in the Hebrew Bible, come in the form of questions. Jews have always put a premium on questions, far more than answers. Jewish tradition wants to probe the heart and soul, to make us think, to learn about ourselves, our relationship with our fellow man, the earth and God. Rabbi Linder places each question in its biblical context, followed by reflections that flow from the depth of the questions, followed by a mindfulness practice to integrate the questions into our lives. Each participate is sure to be touched, if not transformed.

PRESENTATION TITLE: *What Makes Us Human? What Makes Us Jewish?*  
PRESENTERS: **Shmuly Yanklowitz** TOPIC: **Text & Torah** ROOM: **MU 241C Ventana**

What are the constitutive factors that make us distinctively human? How are we, as human beings, different from angels and how are we different from animals? What’s makes Jews distinct from other faiths and cultures? Join Rabbi Dr. Shmuly Yanklowitz for a session exploring Jewish identity and values in the 21st century.

CLASS SCHEDULE

4:00PM-5:00PM

PRESENTATION TITLE: *Bo’u Lirkod – Israeli Folk Dancing*  
PRESENTER: **Ora Kurland** TOPIC: **Arts & Culture** ROOM: **MU 207 Gold**

The session will be geared towards a beginner/intermediate level . Dances taught will span many decades of Israeli folk dance from pioneer era to modern day and incorporate a variety of different styles. No previous experience is required, just be prepared for a very active hour!

PRESENTATION TITLE: *Intra-Israeli Conflicts*  
PRESENTER: **Michael Beyo** TOPIC: **Israel** ROOM: **MU 238 Apache**

This class will review the religious/cultural/socio-economics conflicts that exist within the State of Israel.

PRESENTATION TITLE: *PB & Falafel: Israeli Pop Music Responses to Tragedy & Triumph*  
PRESENTER: **Ross Wolman** TOPIC: **Jewish Experience** ROOM: **MU 241B Ventana**

How do we collectively respond to tragedy? What about triumph? What brings us together, and how do we get through it all as a nation?

We will explore a few examples of how Israeli artists have expressed these moments from grief to elation using multimedia and discussion.

PRESENTATION TITLE: *Have I Got a Story for You: Yiddish Writers in America*  
PRESENTERS: **Ezra Gliner** TOPIC: **Jewish Learning** ROOM: **MU 242 La Paz**

The Forward is the most renowned Yiddish newspaper in the world. It welcomed generations of immigrants to the United States, brought them news of Europe and the Middle East, and provided them with everything from comic strips to noodle kugel recipes. It also published some of the most acclaimed Yiddish fiction writers of all time, including Nobel Prize laureate Isaac Bashevis Singer. These stories, now in English for the first time, expressed the concerns of Yiddish writers and their millions of readers, including the challenges of immigration, both World Wars, and changing forms of Jewish identity.

PRESENTATION TITLE: *The Chassidic Soul*  
PRESENTER: **Laib Blotner** TOPIC: **Jewish Learning** ROOM: **MU 226 Graham**

The Chassidic movement offered the masses a new approach to Judaism, that valued sincerity and emotional fervor. It shows a path to realizing one’s purpose and developing a deeper relationship with God.

This class will explore 6 major principles of Chassidic thought based on the classic book the Tanya:  
1. Divine Providence, 2. Joy 3. Love of your fellow. 4. The makeup of the soul. 5. The Tzadik-leadership  
6. Character refinement

PRESENTATION TITLE: *Jewish Meaning on the Diamond: Pro-Baseball in Israel*  
PRESENTER: **Jason Bonder** TOPIC: **Off the Beaten Track** ROOM: **MU 228 Cochise**

I entered rabbinical school at age 24 with roughly 22 years of baseball playing experience beginning in my backyard with a plastic bat and ball, of course. We often see Judaism as a source of inspiration to live more meaningful lives. For me, it was the other way around. I used my 22 years of passion and love for the game of baseball to figure out how to live a more meaningful Jewish life. The lessons that Judaism teaches, from valuing community, to respect for rules, to fixing the world, are all lessons that can be found on the ball field. For some people like me, describing these lessons in the framework of my passion for baseball allowed me to work backwards and more fully understand my Jewish tradition. In this class, beyond hearing the story of the one and only season of pro baseball in Israel, we will discover how we can use our secular passions in life to inspire more meaningful Jewish living.

CLASS SCHEDULE

PRESENTATION TITLE: *Subversive Hospitality*  
PRESENTER: **Mindie Snyder** TOPIC: **Off the Beaten Track** ROOM: **MU 236 Mojave**

Engaging participants in the exploration of Judaism’s commitment to hospitality, Rabbi Snyder will facilitate learning related to hospitality values and practices across denominational boundaries . Drawing upon her research, participants will be able to discuss how such values and practices can dynamically respond to expressions of hate, thereby establishing a firewall of Tikkun Olam.

PRESENTATION TITLE: *Balancing Your Life Using the Jewish Star as Your Guide*  
PRESENTER: **Jennifer Brown** TOPIC: **Our Bodies/Ourselves** ROOM: **MU 240 Navajo**

Balance might seem like a difficult place to find, and nearly impossible to stay in for an extended period of time. Join psychologist and educator Dr. Jennifer Brown in learning how to encourage better work/life balance through using the Jewish Star as a guide. Dr. Brown will discuss the symbolism of each point of the star and how incorporating this symbolism can serve as a daily guide to help keep you balanced.

PRESENTATION TITLE: *Finding Balance in the Tree of Life*  
PRESENTER: **Alicia Magal** TOPIC: **Text & Torah** ROOM: **MU 224 Gila**

Each of us has a way that we cope with challenges and respond to experiences. The Kabbalistic Tree of Life offers a mystical and practical guide to finding balance in our lives. Do we need more compassion? Do we need to create more boundaries? Do we need more perseverance? Do we need more ease and grace? Do we need to be more grounded? Each aspect of the spherot (energy centers) of the Tree of Life offer a teaching on reintegrating lost “pieces” of our personality or enhancing areas to make us more whole.

Through guided exercises, writing and other forms of expression, the group will “climb” the Tree of Life and explore some of its branches.

PRESENTATION TITLE: *Mussar: The Spiritual Practice of Good Actions*  
PRESENTER: **Greg Marcus** TOPIC: **Text & Torah** ROOM: **MU 248 Rincon**

If we all had what it takes to be a mensch, a person of extraordinary character, wouldn’t we all be one?

Judaism has a program of extreme spiritual fitness that can teach each and every one of us to become a mensch; it’s called Mussar. For over 1000 years, Mussar has taught how to develop character, not simply to overcome our weaknesses but to shine and thrive in life.

Join us for a highly interactive program to explore the Soul Trait of Humility. Whether you want more courage to speak out, or to become a better listener, you’ll come away energized and empowered to take one step closer to your best self.

PRESENTATION TITLE: *The Secret to Happiness*  
PRESENTER: **Pinchas Allouche** TOPIC: **Text & Torah** ROOM: **MU 241A Ventana**

In an age when depression and melancholy have become so rampant, happiness has become the craving for millions of people. How do I become a happy person? How do I sustain a happiness mindset in the face of daily challenges? How do I make sure my children are happy? Join us as we explore some of Judaism’s most revealing ideas and sources about the secret to happiness.

CAMP LIMMUD SCHEDULE

**8:15 – 9:00 AM | REGISTRATION**

**9:00 – 10:00 AM | FAMILY PROGRAMMING WITH ELLEN SACKS AND TINA SHEINBEIN OF JEWISH FREE LOAN (JFL)**  
Tzedakah and Mishpacha Mitzvot: What does giving back look like to your mishpacha (family)? How do you talk to your kids about what causes are important to your family and how you are going to “save to give?” Join your kids and Jewish Free Loan for a fun and interactive session on making tzedakah a family affair.  
Learn more at: <https://jewishfreeloan.org>

**10:00 – 10:10 AM | BREAK TIME (SNACK)**

**10:10 – 10:55 AM | PJ LIBRARY SESSION WITH RACHEL WALLACH**  
Totally Tu Bishvat: Celebrate the birthday of the trees with PJ Library books, crafts, games, and more! PJ Library sends free Jewish children’s books to families across the world every month. Something magical happens when parents sit down together to read with their children. PJ Library shares Jewish stories that can help your family talk together about values and traditions that are important to you.  
Sign up to get free book at: [www.valleybeitmidrash.org/pjlibrary](http://www.valleybeitmidrash.org/pjlibrary)

**10:55 – 11:05 AM | BREAK TIME**

**11:05 – 11:45 AM | ARTIST PAINTING SESSION WITH CORINNE MILNER**  
Art by Corinne, a local Scottsdale Art Studio ([www.artbycorinne.com](http://www.artbycorinne.com)), will lead kids in a painting project pertaining to the theme, Tikkun Olam. Each child will leave the session with an 8”x10” painting on canvas, along with new art skills and added confidence. Learn more at: [www.artbycorinne.com](http://www.artbycorinne.com)

**11:45 AM – 12:00 PM | CLEAN UP AND BREAK**

**12:00 – 12:50 PM | LUNCHTIME**

**12:50 – 1:35 PM | PHYSICAL ACTIVITY WITH COACH ALEX**  
Kids will participate in fun, interactive outdoor games.

**1:35 – 1:45 PM | BREAK TIME**

**1:45 – 2:30 PM | KIDS YOGA WITH AUDREY MATALON**  
The Inverted, Twisted and Flipping Days of Creation: We’ll symbolically move through the creation of the physical world through yoga postures.

**2:30 – 2:45 PM | BREAK TIME (SNACK)**

**2:45 – 3:30 PM | FUN SINGING SESSION WITH CANTOR ROSS WOLMAN**  
Sing, Jump, and Dance Through the Jewish Calendar: Kids will sing some old favorites and learn the new hot tunes for our holidays and Shabbat. Along with his passion for music, Cantor Wolman has a strong love for film, the outdoors, education, Israel, and the Hebrew language. He is the Cantor at Temple Chai.

**3:30 – 3:40 PM | BREAK TIME**

**3:40 – 5:00 PM | MOVIE SCREENING**  
Bee Movie: Barry B. Benson, a bee just graduated from college, is disillusioned at his career choice of making honey. On a special trip outside the hive, Barry’s life is saved by Vanessa, a florist in New York City. As their relationship develops, he discovers humans actually eat honey, and subsequently decides to sue them.



SCHEDULE AT A GLANCE

MU 236 MOHAVE

9:00 am	Kabbalah-Based Jewish Self-Psychotherapy	Kaufman
10:15 am	Jazz and Jews	Ivory
11:30 am	When Down is Up: The Hasidic Masters on Spiritual Descent	Wasserman
1:30 pm	God Talk: Creating Your Personal Relationship with God Through Prayer	Westle
2:45 pm	Ten Biblical Questions to Change Our Lives	Linder
4:00 pm	Subversive Hospitality	Snyder

MU COCHISE 228

9:00 am	FDR and the Jewish Community	Roth
10:15 am	Layers Upon Layers of Meaning	Herzog
11:30 am	Powering the Promised Land: Fracking and Energy Use in Israel	Krantz
1:30 pm	American Jewish Experience	Haberer
2:45 pm	Narrow Bridges: Jews and Blacks in America Today	Ivory
4:00 pm	Jewish Meaning on the Diamond: Pro Baseball in Israel	Bonder

MU 238 APACHE

9:00 am	Judaism and Ecology	Tirosh-Samuelson
10:15 am	All We Ever Need	Rosen
11:30 am	The Ten Commandments: A Spiritual Blueprint to a Better Life	Rosen
1:30 pm	Awareness Through Movement: How to Restore Your Body Back to Health	Davis
2:45 pm	Tikkun Olam Starts with You	Steingart
4:00 pm	Intra-Israeli Conflicts	Beyo

MU 224 GILA

9:00 am	Guard Your Tongue From Evil	Koppell
10:15 am	Converting to Judaism in America Today	Cohen
11:30 am	Creative Aging	Arnold
1:30 pm	Finding the Blessing in Your Hebrew Name	Magal
2:45 pm	Wise Aging	Rosen
4:00 pm	Finding Balance in the Tree of Life	Magal

MU 246 COCONINO

9:00 am	Dealing with Our Elderly Parents	Silverstein/Waldman
10:15 am	A Strong Jewish Woman...Or a Nag? How to Embrace Your Strength as a Jewish Woman	Brown
11:30 am	If Not Now, When? Ethical Wills and Getting Started on Yours	Schaffert
1:30 am	Jewish Practice as Related to Tikkun Olam	Beyo
2:45pm	Allegiance to a Pledge: The Ethics of Honoring Verbal Commitments	Levertov

MU 242 LA PAZ

9:00 am	Being Grateful – Even Through Challenge	Bolel
10:15 am	Stories From a Peace Activist	Wasserman
11:30 am	Enhancing Your Mother/Daughter Relationship	Levin/Levin
1:30 pm	Have I Got a Story for You: Yiddish Writers in America	Glinter
2:45 pm	Human Sexuality from a Jewish Perspective	Kaufman
4:00 pm	Have I Got a Story for You: Yiddish Writers in America	Glinter

MU 241A VENTANA

9:00 am	From Alter to Chavurot: The Changes in Judaism over the Millennia	Silver
10:15 am	When Kids Don’t Fit into a Pink or Blue Gender Box	Tarney
1:30 pm	The Power of Forgiveness	Allouche
2:45 pm	From Agender to Zir: The New Language of Gender	Tarney
4:00 pm	The Secret to Happiness	Allouche

MU 241B VENTANA

9:00 am	God Gets It That We are Flawed	Kamin
10:15 am	Jewish Justices	Kader
11:30 am	The Marriages of Moses and Inter marriage Today: Can We Judge?	Kamin
1:30 pm	The Nazi Titanic: The Unknown Shocking Story of the Final Days of the Holocaust	Watson
2:45 pm	Creating Community: Strengthening Our Global Jewish Family	Ovits
4:00 pm	PB & Falafel: Israeli Pop Music Responses to Tragedy & Triumph	Wolman

MU 241C VENTANA

9:00 am	Gentle All Level Yoga Practice	Tyre
10:15 am	The Behind the Scenes Story of Truman’s Support for the Statehood for Israel	Watson
11:30 am	The Circle of Life: Finding Purpose and Passion at Every Stage	Krasnow
1:30 pm	Intimacy in Aging	Krasnow
2:45 pm	What Makes Us Human? What Makes Us Jewish?	Yanklowitz

MU 240 NAVAJO

10:15 am	Mosaic Little Jewish Town	Maltzman
1:30 pm	Five Ways to Argue Constructively with your Partner	Waldman
2:45 pm	Who are the “Nones”?	Crane
4:00 pm	Balancing Your Life Using the Jewish Star as Your Guide	Brown

MU 226 GRAHAM

9:00 am	The Ten Commandments for Successful Fundraising	Bregman
10:15 am	A Was a Jewish Woman Behind Shakespeare’s Mask?	Weitzenkorn
11:30 am	When Did Jews Become Modern?	Benkof
1:30 pm	Holocaust Poetry	Benkof
2:45 pm	Hidden Ones: Sephardim and Trauma	Fine
4:00 pm	The Chassidic Soul	Blotner

MU 248 RINCON

9:00 am	Photography as Tephila	Weberman
10:15 am	When Love Meets Dementia	Anbar
11:30 am	The 1973 Yom Kippur War	Apelas
1:30 pm	Son Returns: Miracle Stories of Divine Intervention	Meyerson
2:45 pm	Yiddish: The International Language	Gildin
4:00 pm	Mussar: The Spiritual Practice of Good Actions	Marcus

MU 207 GOLD

9:00 am	Meditating Through the Soul	Caplan
10:15 am	A Dance Fusion: Israeli Folk Dance	Simon
11:30 am	Four Senses Yoga and Meditation	Rogers
1:30 pm	A Drum Shalom: Drum for Peace, Drum for Healing, Drum for Fun	Grafstein

# Join us for JNF's Arizona Annual Breakfast for Israel

Friday, March 17, 2017  
Registration: 7:00 am • Program: 7:30 - 9:00 am

Arizona Biltmore Resort  
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**GUEST SPEAKER**  
**RONALD S. LAUDER**  
JNF CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD  
Ronald S. Lauder is a leader of world Jewry. He is also an international philanthropist, investor, art collector, and former U.S. Ambassador to Austria. Lauder is currently the president of the World Jewish Congress, a position he has held since June 2007. In 1997, Lauder was elected president of the Jewish National Fund. After a successful 10-year tenure with JNF, Lauder became Chairman of the Board, a position he currently holds. Lauder's passion for art and his commitment

to justice led him to create and head the Committee for Art Recovery that has helped establish international laws to recover stolen art by the Nazis, and he was behind the recovery of an iconic portrait by Gustav Klimt dramatized in the 2015 film, *The Woman in Gold*. He was recognized in *The Jerusalem Post* as one of The Top 50 Most Influential Jews.

**TABLE CAPTAIN AND REGISTRATION INFORMATION**  
jnf.org/azbreakfast17

**SPONSORSHIP INFORMATION** Deb Rochford, Executive Vice President, 480.447.8100 x980 or drochford@jnf.org

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**JEWISH TUITION ORGANIZATION**



PRESENTER BIOS

ALLOUCHE, PINCHAS

Pinchas Allouche is a well-respected and deeply loved rabbi, a sought-after lecturer, and an author of many essays on the Jewish faith, mysticism and social-criticism. He is the head rabbi at Congregation Beth Tefillah in Scottsdale, where he resides with his wife and eight children. Besides his impressive academic pedigree, he is richly-cultural, having lived in France, where he was born, South Africa, Israel and Italy. He is fluent in English, Hebrew, French and Italian. He received his rabbinic ordination in Milan, Italy in 1999. In March of 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

Ada Anbar is an educator with a Ph.D in early childhood education from the University at Buffalo, with more than 40 years of professional experience from Preschool to Graduate school. She is now a full-time author specializing in parenting books, most noted of these is ***The Drama of the Mother-Child Bond***. Ada is working on a new book, *When Love Meets Dementia—What Everyone Needs to Know about Frontotemporal Degeneration (FTD)*.

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.

ARNOLD, JANET

Janet Arnold has been an active member of the local Jewish community for over 40 years. She is currently the Concierge to the Senior Jewish Community, providing information and referral to older adult population - a position administered by Jewish Family & Children’s Service and funded by the Jewish Federation of Greater Phoenix. Prior to this position, she was the associate editor of Arizona Jewish Life Magazine and before that she was the Founding Producing Director of Arizona Jewish Theatre Company for its 24-year run. Janet is a Board member of the Arizona Jewish Historical Society.

BENKOF, DAVID

David Benkof has taught and published widely about Jewish history, Hebrew grammar, homosexuality, and contemporary American and Jewish life. He is a crossword constructor, polyglot, op-ed columnist, entrepreneurial philanthropist, theater lover, and trivia buff. He has a master’s degree in modern Jewish history from Stanford and has also studied at Hebrew University and NYU. This is his second time presenting at Limmud AZ. He lives in Jerusalem.

BEYO, MICHAEL

Michael Beyo was born in Milan, Italy and has lived throughout Europe and Israel. He received multiple rabbinical ordinations and has worked in both for-profit industries and nonprofit organizations. Michael Beyo is a published author, lecturer and sought after speaker. He is the CEO of the East Valley Jewish Community Center in Chandler. He is married to Karolyn Benger who is also involved in Jewish nonprofit work. They have two sons and live in Phoenix.

BLOTNER, LAIB

Laibel Blotner was raised in Worcester, Massachusetts. He received Rabbinical ordination in Brooklyn, N.Y, completed advanced rabbinical training at the Yeshiva Centre in Sydney, Australia and is qualified to sit on a Jewish Bet Din. Laib Blotner is renowned throughout the valley as a lecturer, teen director and dynamic executive director of Chabad of Mesa.

BOLEL, LEIB

A. Leib Bolel, originally from the UK, served as Rabbi of Beth El Jacob Synagogue, Des Moines, IA from 2011 until 2016. He and his family recently moved to Scottsdale to extend the Jewish opportunities for his children after seeing his Synagogue double in size under his leadership. He now leads MAKOR - a new center in Scottsdale for young Jewish families and professionals that is affiliated with JAC (Jewish Arizonans on Campus) to provide educational opportunities and Shabbat services while also running his consulting and coaching firm, Bolel Coaching and Consulting. Leib has written extensively in different publications primarily focusing on Judaism, Israel, Leadership and Coaching and presents on these topics around the country.

BONDER, JASON

Jason Bonder grew up with two major passions in life - Judaism and sports. Those two passions combined when Jason had the opportunity to play in the first, and only, season of professional baseball in Israel. Even though the professional league folded, the feeling of combining his secular and religious passions has never faded. 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. Jason Bonder is a graduate of the Reconstructionist Rabbinical College in Wyncote, PA. He earned his Master’s Degree from the Graduate School of the Jewish Theological Seminary in New York City, and his Bachelor’s Degree, Magna Cum Laude, from Muhlenberg College in Allentown, PA. He and his wife, Rina Lebovitz, are currently being taught how to parent by their young son, Mark.

BREGMAN, PAUL

Paul Bregman has been a leader of various Jewish Organizations for over 40 years. He has served on committees and leadership positions with synagogues, service organizations , not-for-profit trade organizations specializing in Canada-Israel trade, a founding member of a community Jewish High School, Israeli based organizations such as the Technion, The Magen David Adom organization, Shalva and Jews for Judaism. In many of these organizations, Paul has taken a major role in leading, implementing and successfully marketing unique fundraising activities to carry out the mission of the various organizations.

BROWN, JENNIFER

Jennifer Brown, Ph.D. is a psychologist and intuitive counselor whose practice, Understanding Women: A Naked Look Into Womanhood, explores the importance of understanding womanhood. Her message shatters the silence between women and society, shifting a once male-focused paradigm to include a feminine perspective. Jennifer’s research, which explores women’s cycles through a variety of cultural, spiritual and religious perspectives, formed the philosophic foundation for Understanding Women. Jennifer holds a Doctorate in Transpersonal Psychology with doctoral level certifications in Spiritual Guidance and Transpersonal Education and Research. She is in private practice in Scottsdale.

CAPLAN, MICAH

Micah Caplan joined Congregation Or Tzion on July 1, 2010. He has long-standing ties to Phoenix, having grown up here as a young kid. Previously, Micah has served congregations in Florida and California where he introduced exciting adult learning and youth programming. Under Micah’s leadership, Or Tzion has grown from 110 to 500 families. 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. Micah and his wife Michelle are the proud parents of three beautiful children: Brianah (16), Julia (13) and Avi (8). An avid sports fan, his favorite teams are the Phoenix Suns, Arizona Cardinals, and the Los Angeles Dodgers. He is always willing to attend a game with anyone who wishes to take him.

COHEN, MARIAM

Mariam Cohen is a psychiatrist with a practice in the area for over 30 years. She has published papers on the intersection between religion and psychotherapy. Mariam converted to Judaism over 40 years ago. She has a PhD in Religious Studies from ASU with a dissertation on conversion to Judaism. For the dissertation she interviewed over 30 people who were in the process of converting to Judaism.

CRANE, NATE

Upon earning his ordination from the Ziegler School of Rabbinic Studies, Nate Crane began his career at Congregation B’nai Tikvah in Deerfield, IL as Director of Lifelong Learning. Under Nate’s leadership, enrollment in the religious school increased by 20 percent, and the Chicago Jewish Federation awarded the school the Best Practices in Jewish Education Grant. Having served as rabbinic intern of Congregation Or Tzion throughout rabbinical school, Nate is thrilled to return to Phoenix, now as Associate Rabbi and Education Director. He is a NewCAJE Young Professional Fellow and sits on the Educator Advisory Board of Visrael.



# PRESENTER BIOS

**DAVIS, JILL**

Jill Davis has worked in the mental health field for over 30 years, working with individuals, babies, children, adolescents, couples, parents and schools to facilitate their opportunities for a more successful and happy life. She earned BA and MA degrees from the University of Michigan and an MA from Oakland University. Jill has a body-mind-spirit approach and bridges the worlds of traditional clinical work with techniques that work for parents in today’s technically-driven society. She uses humor, empathy and kindness to assist people in learning how to feel good and have better relationships with family, friends and in the workplace. She has authored two books: *Life’s A Trip* and *The ABC’S of What You Can Be*. Jill is a certified Child’Space Practitioner, Feldenkrais Practitioner, and Yoga Instructor.

**FINE, MARCIA**

Award-winning author and speaker Marcia Fine has written seven novels, including THE BLIND EYE—A Sephardic Journey, historical fiction chosen by the state library of Arizona for ONEBOOKAZ 2015. PAPER CHILDREN—An Immigrant’s Legacy has been a finalist for three national prizes. PARIS LAMB, her sixth novel, deals with anti-Semitism in the 1950s. She has also written the only satirical series about Scottsdale. Her novel, HIDDEN ONES to be released in 2017, examines conversos in Mexico during the Inquisition. Marcia has a BA from Florida State University and a Masters from Arizona State University. She recently presented at the International Society for Crypto-Judaic Studies (June, 2016, Santa Fe) and the International Jewish Genealogical Society (August, 2017, Seattle).

**GILDIN, LEON**

Leon Gildin is one of the last people alive who lived through the golden age of Yiddish secularism in America resulting from the great Eastern European immigration at the end of the 19th century and through the middle of the 20th century. If his parents didn’t want their children to understand what they were saying, they spoke Russian. Leon is a graduate of a Yiddish folk shul and a mittl shuls and attended a Yiddish organizational camp. He is a veteran and practiced law in New York City for 43 years.

**GLINTER, EZRA**

Ezra Gliner is an award-winning journalist, critic, translator and biographer. Born and raised in Winnipeg, Manitoba, Ezra attended McGill University in Montreal, Quebec, and the Arthur L. Carter Journalism Institute at New York University. For five years Ezra worked as the deputy culture editor of the Forward newspaper, where he edited “Have I Got a Story for You,” a landmark anthology of Yiddish fiction in translation. Ezra’s writing has appeared in publications such as the *New Republic*, the *Boston Globe* and the *Los Angeles Times*; he is currently writing a biography of the Lubavitcher Rebbe for Yale University Press.

**GRAFSTEIN, SARAH LEAH**

Sarah Leah Grafstein 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. Sarah Leah blends her background in the arts and traditional Judaism with Jewish renewal spirituality, chassidut, and kabbalah. Her mentors include Rabbi Shlomo Carlebach and Rabbi Zalman Schachter-Shalomi from whom she received her Rabbinic ordination. She is also an accomplished documentarian and is the producer of a growing multi-volume DVD library on the topic of Jewish Renewal. She is currently completing a feature documentary about Jewish Renewal. Sarah Leah resides in Scottsdale with her husband Steve Klemow, a Realtor, and their son Shlomo.

**HABERER, MARTY**

Marty Haberer has been a Jewish communal professional for 30 years. He has worked in the Jewish communities of New York, New Jersey, Cincinnati, Detroit, Sarasota and Phoenix. He has participated on 40 missions to Israel as well as missions to Ethiopia, Hungary, through the former Soviet Union, Poland and France. He has a 12-year Yeshiva education and taught teenagers at a community Hebrew High School in Sarasota for many years. He conducts Board and solicitor training workshops throughout the country and has taught leadership development classes for high-end donors. Marty has been married to Lori Haberer for 28 years. They have a 23-year-old daughter, Danielle, who is a 2nd year law student at Wash U. in St. Louis and a 20-year-old son, Noah, who aspires to be a fire fighter. They’re also the proud parents to two mischievous Dachshunds, Bailey and Marley, who keep them exhausted and entertained.

**HERZOG, TODD**

Todd Herzog is an artist who takes the raw material of life experiences and creates soulful, spiritual, acoustic pop music along the lines of John Mayer, Jason Mraz, and Marc Cohn. The music is not intended solely as entertainment but also to promote healing and change in people’s lives. His songs invite us to slow down and take a closer look at how the simple choices we make each day affect the shape of our journeys.

**HIRSHMAN, LINDA**

Linda Hirshman is a lawyer and cultural historian and the author of *SISTERS IN LAW: How Sandra Day O’Connor and Ruth Bader Ginsburg Went to the Supreme Court and Changed the World*, *Victory: The Triumphant Gay Revolution* and many other books. She received her JD from the University of Chicago Law School and her PhD in philosophy from the University of Illinois at Chicago, and she has taught philosophy and women’s studies at Brandeis University. Her writing, especially about the Supreme Court, has appeared in the New York Times, The Washington Post, Slate, Newsweek, the Daily Beast, and POLITICO. She divides her time between New York City and Phoenix. \*For more on Linda Hirshman, visit: <http://sistersinlawbook.com/> and follow her on Twitter at: @LindaHirshman1

**IVORY, ANDRE**

Andre is a dynamic Jewish educator. Specializing in experiential Jewish education, he has served congregations and Jewish institutions in his hometown of Los Angeles, Toronto and Phoenix.

Andre’s commitment to the Jewish community is driven by his love for the values: Torah, Avodah, and G’milut Chasadim. Each day, Andre strives to impart these values on the adults and teens he instructs. He serves as coordinator for ACT, a service learning project aimed at connecting young Jewish professionals with their basic Jewish values. As one of the BJE’s lead educators, Andre pursues a commitment to providing innovative and engaging Jewish educational opportunities for all ages.

**KADER, DAVID**

David Kader is an Emeritus Professor of Law at the Sandra Day O’Connor College of Law at Arizona State University, where he served as Associate Dean in the early 1980s. He completed 36 years on the ASU law faculty and 41 years as a law professor in 2015. At ASU, Kader taught a number of courses on constitutional law subjects, including Religion & the U.S. Constitution. His has worked on inter-cultural and inter-religious relations domestically and in the Balkans, China, and Turkey; as well as serving as president of a local synagogue and the Phoenix Holocaust Survivors Association. In 2010 he co-edited *Poetry of the Law: From Chaucer to the Present*.

**KAMIN, BEN**

Ben Kamin is a nationally-known clergyman, teacher, counselor, and the prize-winning author of eleven books on human values, civil rights, and spirituality. He is a scholar on the life and work of Martin Luther King Jr. He has led congregations in Toronto, New York, Cleveland, San Diego, and Laguna Woods, CA since his ordination in 1978. He has published hundreds of articles about community life in newspapers around the world, ranging from *The New York Times* to *The International Herald-Tribune*. He has been quoted in the Ann Landers column and in The Congressional Record. He appears frequently on radio and television and serves on several national boards dealing with community affairs and interfaith relations. Ben holds the degree of Doctor of Divinity from Hebrew Union College. He recently was invited to present his 2014 book, *Dangerous Friendship* – about MLK and his Jewish colleague, Stanley Levison at both the Smithsonian Institute and the National Archives.

**KAUFMAN, KENNY**

Kenny Kaufman founded and directs KULANU. He has served as a campus and community rabbi, teacher, school principal, college administrator, social worker, and program organizer for all ages and backgrounds. He promotes Jewish learning and rejoicing through classes, celebrations, concerts, kosher camping, retreats, seminars, and social service. Various organizations (including Jewish, Christian, Muslim, secular, and universities) have hosted him as a speaker and scholar-in-residence for Shabbatonim and retreats, interfaith and multi-ethnic programs, ethics lectures, classes, seminars, and civic events. He values unity and diversity, and chesed and social responsibility. He loves people, nature, music, sports, learning, and a good argument.

# PRESENTER BIOS

**KOPPELL, BONNIE**

A native of Brooklyn, NY Bonnie Koppell received her BA from Brandeis University. She holds a Masters in Religion from Temple University and a Masters in Strategic Studies from the US Army War College. She graduated from the Reconstructionist Rabbinical College in 1981 and has served the Phoenix Jewish community since 1987. Bonnie is the Associate Rabbi of Temple Chai. She is passionate about teaching Jewish adults. In 2016 she retired from a career as a chaplain in the US Army with the rank of Colonel. She is the mother of Jessie Rubenstein and Sarah Wypiszynski, and grandmother of Helena. She married Ronald Kushner this past December.

**KRANTZ, DAVID**

David Krantz runs *Aytzim*: Ecological Judaism, parent organization of Jewcology.org, the Green Zionist Alliance, and *Shomrei Breishit*: Rabbis and Cantors for the Earth. He also serves on the board of directors of Interfaith Moral Action on Climate and Arizona Interfaith Power & Light, and on the cabinet of the American Zionist Movement. He is a National Science Foundation IGERT Fellow and a Wrigley Fellow researching solar-energy policy and faith-based environmentalism at Arizona State University. He previously served as a leadership fellow at the Coalitionon the Environment and Jewish Life and as a global-justice fellow at American Jewish World Service.

**KRASNOW, IRIS**

Iris Krasnow is a popular keynote speaker and a bestselling author of six books that chronicle the passages of a woman’s life. She has been featured twice on Oprah as well as on the Today Show, Good Morning America and many times on CNN. Krasnow is a journalism and women’s studies professor at American University, and is also a columnist for Huffington Post 50.

**KURLAND, ORA**

Ora hails from the Upper West Side of Manhattan and began her Israeli folk dance career in the living room of her family’s apartment with her older sister as her tutor. In consideration of the downstairs neighbors, she eventually switched her dance locale to Columbia University, the 92nd Street Y and, in later years, to dance camps across the Northeast. She has specialized in children’s folk dance and led teacher training workshops at conferences sponsored by the Board of Jewish Education in NY and Phoenix and at CAJE/NewCAJE. She currently leads folk dance sessions at the New Shul and is excited to bring Israeli folk dancing to Limmud AZ!

**LEVERTOV, LEVI**

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. Levi has interned in Colombia, Russia, Canada and the USA. 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. Smile on Seniors is a volunteer program to serving the needs of the Jewish Seniors throughout the State of Arizona. Levi is a Chaplain for the Phoenix Police Department and is also a Chaplain on call for HOV. Levi is married to Chani and they have two children, a son and a daughter.

**LEVIN, JESSICA**

Jessica Levin, MA, LPC is a licensed professional counselor who has worked in the mental health field since 2007. She has worked with individuals and families from various cultures and backgrounds. Jessica has worked in many agencies/schools and has created program to help educate the community on mental health awareness.

**LEVIN, LINDA**

Linda Levin has a dual master’s degree in Education and Psychology. She is an experienced child specialist, co-author of four books, college professor and has developed teen programs and curricula for schools throughout the valley.

**LINDER, JOHN**

John A. Linder serves as Senior Rabbi of Temple Solel in Paradise Valley. John had two previous careers, serving as a community and labor organizer in Massachusetts and Ohio, then working in his family’s scrap metal recycling company in Buffalo, New York. John was ordained at HUC-JIR in Cincinnati, 2003 and served B’nai Jehoshua Beth Elohim in

Glenview, Illinois before moving to Arizona in 2008. John counts his blessings to serve Temple Solel and the greater Jewish and interfaith community. John’s greatest blessings are his bride of 31 years, Nancy Levy Linder, and their 24 year-old son, David.

**MAGAL, ALICIA**

Alicia Magal received ordination from AJR-CA in 2003 and from Aleph Jewish Renewal Rabbinical Seminary the same year. Alicia lived and worked in Israel as a licensed tour guide and part of the staff of Israeli TV. She served as Museum Educator at the Los Angeles Skirball Museum, and as Program Director at Temple Emanuel of Beverly Hills. She currently serves as rabbi of the Jewish Community of Sedona and the Verde Valley.

**MALTZMAN, MORRINE**

Morrine is a local mosaic artist who has created large murals for public spaces and numerous commissioned works. She teaches mosaic classes out of her studio, and goes to homes for mosaic parties.She likes to focus on Jewish themed projects such as hamsas, the tree of life, and Jewish stars.

**MARCUS, GREG**

Greg Marcus is a recovering workaholic who offers guidance on how to lead a life of mindful balance and spiritual integrity, drawing upon timeless Jewish teachings and contemporary wisdom alike. Greg has a Ph.D. from MIT, worked for ten years as a marketer, and now is a stay at home dad, writer, speaker, and workshop facilitator. He invites you to join him on a Mussar journey, to take one small step every day towards becoming a Mensch. Greg is a graduate of the Mussar Institute’s facilitator training program. His book, *The Spiritual Practice of Good Actions: Finding Balance Through the Soul Traits of Mussar* was published in September 2016.

**MEYERSON, ROBIN**

Robin Meyerson was an award-winning marketing communications director for a Fortune 200 company and an adjunct business professor before following her heart to focus on family and community. She grew up in Australia, Malaysia and Europe. Robin fueled her Jewish soul by writing her first book, *A Son Returns* for which she had radio and television appearances. Robin was the co-founder and publisher of *Jewish Spirit Magazine*; a national outreach magazine and served on the board of the Jewish Tuition Organization and volunteers with the Jewish Burial Society. Her publications and websites include; editing *The Neshamah Should Have an Aliyah*; the foreword to *Cremation or Burial: A Jewish View, What Students Can Do To Provide Merit To Departed Loved Ones*; Peacefulreturn.org, and Jewishdeathandmourning.org. Married 25 years, she’s mom to five children ages nineteen to four.

**ROGERS, CINDY**

Cindy has been teaching yoga for ten years and is also a certified Reiki Master & Reiki Teacher. She teaches group and individual yoga classes. Four Senses Yoga is also presented in schools, charity organizations, and businesses as a team/trust building experience. Reiki treatments are also offered to groups or by individual appointment. She often hears that one might say that cannot do yoga because he/she is unable to bend like a pretzel or touch the toes. Her response to this is that yoga is not about touching your toes but it is about touching your soul. Through this class she helps students understand that yoga is about your breath and feeling comfortable inside of your own body.

**ROSEN, TRACEE**

Tracee Rosen is director of the Phoenix Melton School. She is a popular teacher of Jewish texts and Jewish history in venues all through the Valley of the Sun. She is a graduate of the Ziegler School of Rabbinic Studies at the American Jewish University in Los Angeles.

**ROSEN, HARRIET**

In collaboration with BJE, Connie Wolf & I have worked to bring Wise Aging to The Valley. We were ion the Federation committee that examine needs os Valley seniors. Socialization was identified as well as adult leaning. This program provides both.

PRESENTER BIOS

ROTH, JAY

Jay Roth has a BA in history and a Master’s degree in social work. He graduated from a yeshiva high school and is comfortable with all aspects of Judaism. Jay served as an executive director of a Jewish community center for 40 years. He has taught health care at Mercy College in the Bronx, NY and history classes at Florida International University in North Miami Beach.

SCHAFFERT, JUDY

Judy Schaffert is an alumna of the Wexner Heritage Program of the Wexner Foundation. Professionally, she serves as the chief staff attorney of the Arizona Supreme Court. Before working for the third branch, Judy was an assistant Arizona Attorney General and a law clerk to Arizona Supreme Court then-Chief Justice William A. Holohan. A native of The Garden State, Judy received a Bachelor of Arts degree from Yale College and her law degree from the UCLA School of Law. Among law-related activities, she serves as Immediate Past President of the National Association of Appellate Court Attorneys, volunteers at the Sandra Day O’Connor College of Law judging moot court competitions and with the Arizona Foundation for Legal Services & Education teaching school children about the court system, and as immediate past chair of the State Bar Appellate Practice Section. Outside of work and family, Judy is an active member of Temple Solel, where she teaches adults, sings in the choir, and tries to make herself useful. Books, movies, cooking, and bicycling take up her non-work, non-family, non-sleeping hours.

SILVER, JACK

Jack Silver is an ordained rabbi who identifies as a Humanistic Jew. Jack has served congregations in Phoenix, Tucson and in Michigan. He currently is an independent rabbi who works for several cruise lines. In addition to his rabbinic experience, Jack is a Licensed Clinical Social Worker who directs the Jewish Counseling Program at Jewish Family & Children’s Services. Jack has worked as a clinician, educator and executive. He retired from the U.S. Army (Social Work Officer) at the rank of LT. Colonel. Jack resides in Tempe with his wife Sharon, their 3 dogs and 2 cats.

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. He has presented on “The Jewish Pirates of the Caribbean” and “Jewish Cowboys of the Old West” at last year’s LimmudAZ. and at local Jewish organizations in Wisconsin. Cary is co-author with Larry Waldman, PhD. of the upcoming book, *Overcoming Negatiaphobia: While Negotiating Your Way Through Life*.

SIMON, LINDA

Dance Fusion is a boutique dance, fitness and yoga studio for adults of all levels located in the Scottsdale Airpark. Dance Fusion offers one or more hour classes in tap, jazz, ballet, ballroom, hip hop, jazz, belly dance, Zumba, Salsa, Swing, Israeli Folk Dance, African, Country Line and more as well as Pilates and Yoga taught by the finest teacher in the Valley. With over 60 classes per week, private lessons, performance troupes and rental for private parties, Dance Fusion is there for you. Find your passion! Look for our biweekly ad in the Jewish News. We are also proud and active sponsors of the Greater Phoenix Jewish Federation, including the Women’s Philanthropy Group, NowGen and Moishe House.

SNYDER, MINDIE

Mindie Snyder is the spiritual leader of Congregation Lev Shalom ( formerly, Heichal Baoranim/Temple in the Pines), in Flagstaff. Mindie brings over 30 years of experience in arts, health and human services, pioneering work in the area of spiritual care and the expressive arts. She has been a program innovator, organizational executive, consultant to corporations, state and national agencies and a requested media spokesperson for issues pertaining to aging, end of life, at-risk youth and families, among other religious, social and public health issues.

STEINGART, LIVIA

Livia Spitz Steingart is the daughter of Holocaust survivors. She considers herself fortunate to have drawn upon the hard-won wisdom of her parents who taught her to achieve not only through hard work and study, but also by service. Livia has five college degrees including a Master’s Degree and PsyD in Psychology and a second Master’s Degree in Business Administration as a Finance Major. She has spent over 25 years applying her innovative methods to the cor-

porate world, as well as medical management, education and counseling. She is happily married for over 36 years with 3 successful, grown children who she is very proud of. Livia is the author of *Life from A-Z, 20 Minutes a Day: Your Guide to Creating a Better You*.

TARNEY, JULIE

Julie Tarney is the author of the memoir *My Son Wears Heels*, a speaker, educator, and advocate for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer/questioning (LGBTQ) youth. She’s a board member for the It Gets Better Project, blogs for *Huffington Post*, and is a contributing writer for The Parents Project and the True Colors Fund’s Give a Damn Campaign. She also volunteers for the PFLAG NYC Safe Schools Program. A longtime resident of Milwaukee, Wisconsin, Julie now lives in Brooklyn, New York.

TIROSH-SAMUELSON, HAVA

Hava Tirosch-Samuelson is Director of Jewish Studies and Irving and Miriam Lowe Professor of Modern Judaism and Professor of History at Arizona State University in Tempe. She writes on Jewish intellectual history with a focus on philosophy and mysticism in premodern Judaism, the interaction between Judaism, Christianity, and Islam in the Middle Ages, feminist philosophy, Judaism and ecology, bioethics, and religion and science. Through her interdisciplinary research, she seeks to create bridges between intellectual disciplines, religious traditions, religious and secular outlooks, and gendered perspectives. She is especially committed to understanding the complimentary relationship between science and religion from an historical perspective.

TYRE, AMY

Amy is an experienced yoga teacher offering a wide variety of group classes and private sessions. Amy’s warmth, wisdom, humor and kindness allow her students the opportunity to feel nurtured, engaged and, at times, challenged. Her 18 years of practice and deep love of yoga shines through, as she meets each student wherever they are on and off the mat. Amy’s teaching style is compassionate and instructive, appropriate for all levels, often drawing couples and multiple generations of family members to her classes. Off the mat, she enjoys hiking, biking and is learning to play bridge.

WALDMAN, LARRY

Larry Waldman is a recently-retired licensed clinical, forensic psychologist and certified school psychologist in Phoenix. He conducted a highly successful private practice for the past 38 years, providing legal consultations and working with children, teens, parents, couples, and adults in a solution-focused manner. His BS in Education/ Psychology was from the University of Wisconsin; his MS in School Psychology was from the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee; his Ph.D. in Educational/School Psychology was earned at Arizona State University; and his Diplomate (ABPP) was received in 2003. In addition to his clinical work, Larry was the past president of the Maricopa Psychological Society and the Director of Psychological Services for Charter Psychiatric Hospital of Glendale from 1988 to 2000. He has been a Medical Consultant for the Social Security Office in Phoenix for 23 years, an adjunct graduate professor in the Educational Psychology Department for NAU for 16 years, was an “Official Guide” on Parenting for SelfGrowth.com., and has served on the professional board of directors of notMYkid, a charitable organization, for the past seven years.

WASSERMAN, JONATHAN

Jonathan Wasserman, a Phoenix native, is a senior at Barrett, the Honors College at Arizona State University. He is the current Vice President for the Southwest on the National Board of J Street U, the pro-Israel pro-peace student movement. He served on the student board of Hillel at ASU and founded a traditional-egalitarian minyan there, and is a student leader at Chabad at ASU. He has spent time studying Torah at Mechon Hadar and the Drisha Institute for Jewish Education, has worked at Camp Ramah in the Rockies and is an alumnus of BBYO, having served in several chapter and regional positions. He spent this past summer doing student organizing work for J Street U in Israel and the West Bank.



PRESENTER BIOS

WASSERMAN, MICHAEL

Michael Wasserman is co-rabbi of The New Shul in Scottsdale, together with his wife Elana Kanter. He is a graduate of Harvard University, the Jewish Theological Seminary, and the Hartman Institute’s Rabbinic Leadership Institute. He has published numerous articles in professional and academic journals.

WATSON, ROBERT

Robert Watson, Ph.D. is an award-winning author, historian, and media commentator. He has published 40 books and hundreds of scholarly articles, chapters, and essays on topics in history and politics. Watson has been interviewed thousands of times by news outlets throughout the US and internationally, including CNN, the BBC, C-SPAN, The New York Times, Hardball, and The Daily Show. He also serves as the political analyst for WPTV 5 (NBC) in south Florida and is Professor of American Studies at Lynn University and Senior Fellow at the Florida Joint Center for Citizenship.

WEBERMAN, HERSHL

Hershl Weberman’s photographs have appeared in The Jewish News of Greater Phoenix, LA Times (online), *The New York Times*, *The New York Post*, *Observation Post*, *WRL Newsletter*, *Lifeline of NACOEJ* and *The Liberated Guardian* among many other publications. His work has been seen in numerous one-person and group exhibitions. He has been taking photographs for decades. Hershl co-founded BET (Brooklyn Experimental Tephila) and has led many alternative and experimental Jewish prayer services. He is also a ceramic artist, painter, poet and a licensed acupuncturist. Hershl created ChulentWest a group dedicated to helping Jewish singles find their besherts. ChulentWest has presented dozens of events including concerts, dinners, and discussions for singles around the Valley.

WEITZENKORN, STEVE

Steve is an organizational strategy, leadership, and performance consultant. He is also the author of *Shakespeare’s Conspirator* (a novel about Amelia Bassano) and co-author (with Rabbi Robin Damsky) of *Find-Fulfill-Flourish*. He is working on an organizational “catalytic” teamwork book and training program with researchers at Butler University, titled *The Catalyst Effect*. He is an expert on Amelia Bassano Lanier, a Jewish woman who some scholars believe wrote many Shakespearean scripts. He presents on leadership and trust as well as the Shakespeare authorship puzzle, clues suggesting Amelia Bassano was a hidden playwright, and the correlation between her life and Shakespeare’s scripts.

WESTLE, BOB

Bob has been a Jewish Educator for 45 years in the Conservative movement and holds a BA from Yeshiva University, and MA and JED from Spertus College of Judaica. His career has taken him to synagogues in New Jersey, Florida, New Mexico, Arizona and most recently in Plano, Texas before retiring in June 2016. He has been married to Diane for 40 years and has two sons, Andrew (wife Jamie) and Scott and two granddaughters, Ella and Zoe.

WOLMAN, ROSS

Ross Wolman is blessed to serve as cantor at Temple Chai in Phoenix where he brings spirit and experience, knowledge and a passion for teaching, as well as a balance of tradition and innovation. Originally from Lancaster, PA, Ross grew up in Congregation Shaarai Shomayim’s youth choir and led religious school services beginning after his Bar Mitzvah. He studied Music Education at Temple University in Philadelphia and upon graduation, entered the Debbie Friedman School of Sacred Music at Hebrew Union College to pursue ordination as a Cantor. He spent two years of his cantorial studies in Israel, serving Kehillat Bavat Ayin in Rosh Ha’ayin as student cantor. Ross has been an active leader and organizer of the Riding4Reform cycling fundraiser, which benefits the Israel Movement for Progressive Judaism. In May 2007, he was Invested as Cantor from Hebrew Union College and is a proud member of the American Conference of Cantors (ACC). He has performed throughout North America, Israel, France, Russia, and Ukraine.

YANKLOWITZ, SHMULY

Shmuly Yanklowitz is the President and Dean of Valley Beit Midrash and is the author of 10 books on Jewish ethics.

For full presenter biographies, please visit [www.limmudaz.org](http://www.limmudaz.org).

February 19-20, 2017

# Sexuality, Gender and the Jewish Family

Judaism, Science & Medicine Group Conference  
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