



JANUARY 28, 2024

PROGRAM GUIDE

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Many thanks to all the volunteers who are helping make this festival a success.

Dear Friends,

We are so excited to bring Limmud back LIVE to our Phoenix community. Limmud AZ returns this year in a new format and a new location; we can't wait to share it with you.

We want to thank all our participants, supporters, and donors who have made Limmud such a success throughout these many years.

When times are as difficult - as they have been since October 7th - we rely on our community to anchor us. Being part of a community provides us with a sense of **belonging**, and the opportunity to share, support, and care about others, and allow them to care for us.

So, the question is why Limmud? Limmud IS community. It is a place where no matter who you are or where you come from, you belong. When you join others at Limmud in learning and working together, we become a stronger, more cohesive community. That is why Limmud.

This year's Community Conversation on building a sense of belonging could not have come at a better time. Welcome to those who are new, welcome back to our veterans, and we hope today's event will bring us closer to our tradition and to each other.

Your Limmud AZ Team

Working **today** to ensure that our community remains strong and vibrant **tomorrow** and **always**.



**Center
for Jewish
Philanthropy**
of Greater Phoenix

Bnai Tzedek
Youth Philanthropy Program

Business & Professionals

CAMP Scholarships

Israel & Overseas

JEWISH NEWS
YOUR COMMUNITY WEEKLY SERVING GREATER PHOENIX AND NORTHERN ARIZONA

**Jewish
Phoenix**
Keeping you connected

LIFE & LEGACY
AMAZING JEWISH TOMORROWS
A program of the HANCOCK GRADUATE FOUNDATION

NowGen

PJ Library

**PROFESSIONAL
ADVISORY
Network**

Senior Rides

SHALOM PHOENIX

**Tikkun Olam
Together**
A program of the Center for Jewish Philanthropy

Women IN Philanthropy

CJP YOUTH
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 **INA LEVINE** JEWISH COMMUNITY CAMPUS

DAY AT A GLANCE

1:00PM-1:50PM

Judaism's 10 Best Ideas

Simcha/Joy
Echad/Oneness - The Interconnectedness of All things
Shabbat
Torah
L'chaim/To Life
Tzelem Elohim/The Value of A Human Life
Teshuva/Repentance and Change
Talmud Torah/Transmitting Jewish Tradition
Tikkun Olam
Halacha

Emily Segal
Suzy Stone
Nitzan Stein-Kokin
Tracee Rosen
Jeremy Schneider
Andy Green
Debbie Stiel
Sara Mason-Barkin
Aviva Funke
Michael Wasserman

2:00PM-2:50PM

Keynote: A Community of Belonging

Moderator:

Community Facilitators:

Wendy Verba

David Singer

Gail Baer, CJP Vice President

Rich Kasper, JD CAP, Chief Executive Officer

Ellen Sacks, Executive Director of Jewish Free Loan

Kaylie Medansky, CJP Senior Director, Community Engagement

Mason Marks, Moishe House & Temple Solel

Andrea Cohen, CJP Bnai Tzedek Shalom Phoenix

Amy Hummell, Gesher Executive Director

Lisa Kaplan, Assistant Director, Dept of Jewish Studies, ASU

Yosef Funke, CJP Campaign Manager

3:00PM-3:50PM

"Choose Your Own Adventure"

Your Soul Contract Decoded via The Spiritual Numerology of Moses

Positively Israel: Combating Anti-semitism on College Campuses

3G Stories Live

The Disappearance of John Jones' Wife and Daughters"

How Limmud Animates Jewish Lives: Perspective from Four Rabbis' Trip to Paradise

Please See Me!

Scotch Whiskey and the Jewish question

Antisemitism and the Local Jewish Community: Let's Get Practical

The Enduring Practice of Judaism

How We Connect Better with Each Other

4:00PM-4:50PM

Community Mitzvah Projects and Snacks

Introduced by Eddie Chavez Calderon

CLASS SCHEDULE

1:00PM-1:50PM sessions based on Arthur's Green "Judaism's 10 Best Ideas" 

PRESENTATION TITLE: ***Simcha/Joy***

PRESENTER: **Emily Segal**

ROOM: 516

"*Simchah*, or joy, is the attitude toward life that Judaism seeks to instill. Despite the fact that Jewish history has more than its share of bleak and depressing chapters, the tradition sees itself as a joyous one."

PRESENTATION TITLE: ***Halacha***

PRESENTER: **Michael Wasserman**

ROOM: 426

"We choose to follow [*halakhah*] out of personal commitment; it is our way of expressing such deep feelings as our love of God, our attachment to the legacy of the Jewish people, and our sense of the need to apply our spiritual beliefs to the conduct of even the most mundane human affairs."

PRESENTATION TITLE: ***Shabbat***

PRESENTER: **Nitzan Stein-Kokin**

ROOM: 500

"But today we look at Shabbat from a different, more contemporary, perspective. We are living through one of the great ages of the speeding up of human consciousness. How incredibly fast the pace of our lives has become!"

PRESENTATION TITLE: ***Torah - People of the Book***

PRESENTER: **Tracee Rosen**

ROOM: 422

"Interpretation opens and widens the text, allows us to find ourselves within it, to make room within tradition for our own unique perspective. But it also affirms the text; we make Torah our own as we find ourselves in it."

PRESENTATION TITLE: ***L'chaim/To Life!***

PRESENTER: **Jeremy Schneider**

ROOM: 420

"Judaism's strength and inner wisdom have everything to do with the treasuring of life. We proclaim that life itself is a sacred gift and that God's presence is to be found in daily living. We exemplify that presence in human decency and kindness. God is glorified in the sacred moments that enrich the cycles of our years and lives, in the legacy that has carried us forward for so many centuries, allowing us to survive suffering and degradation with our heads held high."

PRESENTATION TITLE: ***Tzelem Elohim/The Value of A Human Life***

PRESENTER: **Andy Green**

ROOM: 502

"Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself." Rabbi Akiva says: This is the great principle of the Torah. Ben Azzai says: "This is the book of the generations of Adam" is the great principle of the Torah."

PRESENTATION TITLE: ***Talmud Torah/Transmitting Jewish Tradition***

PRESENTER: **Sara Mason-Barkin**

ROOM: 410

"If you were to ask me what single precept of Judaism is the one to which Jews feel the greatest commitment, I could answer completely without hesitation. 'You shall teach them diligently to your children': the commandment to educate, to pass the legacy of tradition and its knowledge onward from generation to generation. Jews have a particularly strong awareness that our lives serve as bridges between those who came before us and those who will come after us; each of us is a living link between our grandparents and our grandchildren."

CLASS SCHEDULE

PRESENTATION TITLE: ***Tikkum Olam***

PRESENTER: **Aviva Funke**

ROOM: 416

"In order to mend or repair something, you first have to acknowledge that it is broken. *Tikkun Olam* begins with recognizing that we live in a broken world."

PRESENTATION TITLE: ***Echad/Oneness - The Interconnectedness of All Things***

PRESENTER: **Suzy Stone**

ROOM: 428

"Don't look beyond the stars. There's no need to stretch your neck. God is right here, filling all of existence with endless bounty. Look around you. Look within. Open your eyes. Find God's presence in each and every creature and in the unified, transforming vision of all that is. That's what it means to belong to Israel, the people who struggle with God."

PRESENTATION TITLE: ***Teshuvah - Returning***

PRESENTER: **Debbie Stiel**

ROOM: 412

"Other voices within the tradition understand the claim of primordial teshuvah to mean that our human longing to return to our Source is fully part of the natural order. We are born to be God seekers. The soul quests after God in the same way that trees grow in the direction of sunlight, pulled by an inner force that tells them to reach out toward what they need, to attain their nourishment. Their very lives depend upon their ability to respond to this inward call."

2:00PM-2:50PM

KEYNOTE PRESENTATION - A COMMUNITY OF BELONGING

PRESENTER: **Wendy Verba**, MODERATOR: **David Singer**

ROOM: **SANCTUARY**

When we leave belonging to chance, too many people are left behind. Designing for belonging with intention is about creating the structures and practices that ensure belonging happens systematically across your organization or community, for everyone. Organizations with a strong culture of belonging cultivate diverse teams and communities, energizing people to pour their gifts and talents into a shared mission.

COMMUNITY FACILITATORS:

Gail Baer, CJP Vice President.

Rich Kasper, JD CAP, Chief Executive Officer

Ellen Sacks, Executive Director of Jewish Free Loan

Kaylie Medansky, CJP Senior Director, Community Engagement

Mason Marks, Moishe House & Temple Solel

Andrea Cohen, CJP Bnai Tzedek Shalom Phoenix

Amy Hummell, Geshar Executive Director

Lisa Kaplan, Assistant Director, Dept of Jewish Studies, ASU

Yosef Funke, CJP Campaign Manager

3:00PM-3:50PM

PRESENTATION TITLE: ***Your Soul Contract Decoded via The Spiritual Numerology of Moses***

PRESENTER: **Gellyannah Akhenn**

ROOM: 416

Most of us have wondered and asked the existential questions... Why am I here and What is my purpose? And while

CLASS SCHEDULE

our existence is sometimes the biggest mystery to ourselves, what if I told you the clues, and possibly even the answers, are actually hidden in the sound frequency of your birth name?

In the Sefer Yetzirah, the Book of Creation, we get an explanation of how The Creator created the universe/world through the sounds of the 22 Hebrew Letters. Each one of us carries a combination of these 22 Hebrew sounds within our birth name, which in turn, creates our reality.

Sound is creation. The sound of your name(s) carries with it the specific vibrations of your Soul. When decoding these vibrations through the Spiritual Numerology of Moses, you literally see the set of experiences at a physical and spiritual level that your Soul had set out to experience in this lifetime.

In this session we will explain how this methodology works and everyone will get a chance to create their own Numerology of Moses Soul Contract chart and get a brief explanation of the meaning of each frequency.

PRESENTATION TITLE: ***Positively Israel: Combating Antisemitism on College Campuses***

PRESENTER: **Erin Stafford Dmedy**

ROOM: 422

Faculty are influencers! Student leaders are influencers!

How do we promote our view of 'Positively Israel' with the predominantly critical media prism and challenging/hostile atmosphere on college campuses.

One such resource is Faculty Fellowship Program in Israel for academics. Together with Caravan for Democracy Student Leadership Program in Israel, both programs enable participants to see Israel through firsthand travel experience, obtain facts and resources, and openly engage in participative discussions with Israelis from all backgrounds and faiths.

What are the programs successes and challenges?

PRESENTATION TITLE: ***3G Stories Live***

PRESENTER: **Jennifer Sosnow & Adena Bernstein Astrowsky**

ROOM: 420

Join the founders of 3GAZ and hear their first-hand testimony as they share their grandparent's stories of how they survived the Holocaust. Understand the inherited trauma and how it affects the 3G population, and learn about Holocaust education in Arizona.

PRESENTATION TITLE: ***The Disappearance of John Jones' Wife and Daughters***

PRESENTER: **Janette Silverman**

ROOM: 502

John Jones arrived in California in 1850 and quickly established himself as a businessman and pillar of the Jewish community. History books tell us that he previously lived in Australia and sailed from there with his wife and daughters. What happened to them? Did they die onboard the ship? Did he desert them? Was it something more sinister? Let's take a closer look at John Jones and his family and discover the real story.

PRESENTATION TITLE: ***How Limmud Animates Jewish Lives: Perspective from Four Rabbis' Trip to Paradise***

PRESENTER: **David Singer**

ROOM: 428

If you ran into God, how would you react? The Talmud tells us a fantastical tale that provides deep insight into the hopes and fears of the rabbis, while offering a window into prognoses for the Jewish future as well, summing up the essence of what Limmud is all about. In this session, join Limmud North America CEO Rabbi David Singer to mine ancient and modern texts as we explore opportunities for building a brighter Jewish future, based on belief, cynicism, and the potent power of holy rebellion.

CLASS SCHEDULE

PRESENTATION TITLE: ***Please See Me!***
PRESENTER: **Stacy Rosenthal**

ROOM: 412

This session will include members of the Gesher Disability Resource community, who will conduct a panel discussion about what they wish people knew about living with a disability. They will be addressing topics such as,

- “How to talk about disability with kids and adults”
- “How to get to know someone with a disability”
- “Debunking assumption”

PRESENTATION TITLE: ***Scotch Whiskey and the Jewish Question***
PRESENTER: **Michael Weil**

ROOM: 500

This interactive presentation will focus on the recent advent of whiskey clubs in synagogues. We will trace the history of Scotch whiskey, learn how whiskey is made and understand the different types. We will learn about what is a single malt, the wash, stills, the angel's share, nosing, the finish and peaty. The presentation will be dilated by tastings of various Scotches while understanding their unique attributes. We will talk about whiskey and the Jews; is whiskey kosher and what the rabbis think about intoxication. We will add a joke or two and end with a vort (bit of religious thought) to stagger away with. Drinks and nibbles may be provided depending on the behavior of the audience. Must be 21 to participate.

PRESENTATION TITLE: ***How Can We Connect Better to Each Other***
PRESENTER: **Wendy Verba**

ROOM: 516

After the isolating, draining years of COVID, our workplaces are back to normal. But are they? Whether remote, hybrid or in-person, many teams are struggling with burnout, disconnection and silos. In employee surveys, workers report feeling invisible, uncertain how their roles matter, or lacking trusted relationships with co-workers. Thinking about the teams you are on, how might we design strategies to ensure that more people feel seen, valued and connected to each other and your core mission?

PRESENTATION TITLE: ***Antisemitism and the Local Jewish Community: Let's Get Practical***
PRESENTER: **Alan Zeichick & Jen Rogers**

ROOM: 426

Let's not waste time with statistics: You know that antisemitism has been steadily getting worse across the United States and in our local community. The Israel/Hamas war and the upcoming 2024 elections will add fuel to the fire. This session, brought to you by the Jewish Community Relations Council of Greater Phoenix, will discuss the latest local trends in antisemitism, and will describe how the JCRC acts, whenever possible, to mitigate antisemitic incidents by depriving many perpetrators with what they desire most: Attention.

In addition, this session will provide practical guidance about what you can do to help: How to talk about the issue with your friends, how to recognize antisemitic incidents, and what to do when you witness or are directly affected by antisemitism.

PRESENTATION TITLE: ***The Enduring Practice of Judaism***
PRESENTER: **Karolyn Benger**

ROOM: 410

This class will examine Aggadeta (non-legal stories in the Talmud) from the period after the destruction of the Temple as well as Halacha over the years of the Rishonim (first Rabbis in the Middle Ages), identifying how Judaism has managed to adapt over time in order to survive.

4:00PM-4:50PM **COMMUNITY PROJECT**

OUTSIDE COURTYARD

PRESENTER BIOS

GELLYANNAH AKHENN was born with intuitive talents and developed a strong fascination with mysticism. At first, she didn't have the word for "spiritual," but she was always pulled to her soul's wisdom and deeply connected with Judaism's Kabbalistic teachings. While healing from childhood wounds, she discovered "Numerology of Moses" (aka, Soul Contract Reading work), and from the first moment she knew it was a big part of her own soul's calling. Understanding her own energetic makeup played such an instrumental part in her own healing, that she decided to become a practitioner to help others heal and remember their purpose for this lifetime.

GAIL BAER has been committed to serving the Phoenix community since she and her family relocated to Arizona 18 years ago. Working for Grant Thornton, an accounting firm, Gail helped launch the organization's corporate giving initiative. In 2011, Gail took a position with Valley of the Sun United Way and then in 2016, with Jewish Family & Children's Service. In Gail's role as VP of Philanthropy at the Center for Jewish Philanthropy, the possibilities for impact are endless as she works to create life-changing philanthropy plans for our entire community. Gail is a graduate of Cornell University.

ADENA BERSTEIN is the grandchild of two Holocaust survivors. She is a Board Member of the Arizona Jewish Historical Society and a founding member of 3GAZ. Adena works as an Assistant Attorney General and is the Fentanyl Coordinator for the office. Adena is also the mother to Sarah & Zachary, sophomores at the University of Arizona and Gabby, a senior at Chaparral High School. To learn more about Adena's book detailing her grandmother's survival, *Living Among the Dead*, go to <http://mybook.to/ManiaL>.

KAROLYN BENDER is a Rabbinical student at Yeshivat Maharat (2026). In the past, she has been the Executive Director of the Phoenix JCRC and Executive Director of the Atlanta Jewish Free Loan. A graduate of Emory University, Karolyn specialized in the Middle East, studying Arab and Islamist opposition groups in Egypt. She has taught at Emory, Georgia Tech, and Emerson College. She has participated in the Arizona Interfaith Movement, the Valley Interfaith Project's 3rd Monseigneur Ryle Public Policy Faith Leader Institute, and the Women's Leadership Institute. Karolyn's writing has been published in the various papers and Journals.

EDDIE CHAVEZ CALDERON has been deeply involved in social justice work since he was a teenager. From the trenches to the coasts and everywhere in between, Eddie fights for a progressive movement that works towards a more inclusive, diverse America. Despite having many obstacles in his way, nothing has deterred Eddie from continuing to fight for the migrant community! As a DACA recipient and someone who has immersed with the Jewish tradition, Eddie finds his passion for justice through his latent Jewish values of continuous education and repairing the world, as well as his personal struggles with systemic oppression.

ANDREA COHEN is the Director of Youth Philanthropy and Community Programs at CJP.

AVIVA FUNKE serves as Associate Director, Hebrew High Principal and IGNITE Director at the Bureau of Jewish Education. A Ziegler School-ordained rabbi, Aviva is thrilled to be back in the Valley of the Sun with her family. Rabbi Aviva has served as School Rabbi for Brawerman Elementary School of Wilshire Boulevard Temple. Co-founder of Na'or, a prayer innovation project, and is a regular presenter for Jewish conferences and retreats, and communities throughout California and Arizona. A musician, storyteller and trained entertainer, Rabbi Aviva is passionate in helping to find personal meaning in Jewish ritual, lifestyle and tradition.

YOSEF FUNKE is a catalyst for engaging, resourceful, and vibrant community dynamics, and he serves as Campaign Manager for CJP. After many years of serving as a Growth Catalyst and Collaboration Coach, where he facilitated game-based collaboration training experiences and app-based behavior change journeys on a variety of topics for hundreds of teams and thousands of individuals across the globe, his focus has turned to promoting philanthropic opportunities and on activating the collaborative potential locally to co-create thriving community dynamics.

As Campaign Manager, he cultivates supportive relationships and forges collaborative partnerships that will enable the community to reimagine its shared future, adapt to pressing challenges, fuel innovation, generate growth and well-being, and make a positive impact on our quality of life locally, in Israel, and beyond.

PRESENTER BIOS

ANDY GREEN began his tenure with Congregation Or Tzion in July 2021. Green is a graduate of UCLA, and was ordained as a rabbi from the Ziegler School of Rabbinic Studies. In 2015,, he joined the clergy team of Congregation Beth El in Voorhees, New Jersey. Community involvement is seen by Green as a key component to his role as a rabbi. Rabbi Green served as president of the Tri-County Board of Rabbis, board member of the Jewish Federation and the JCRC, both of Southern New Jersey. He was a member of the Coalition of Religious Leaders of New Jersey, and the Rabbinical Assembly of Greater Philadelphia.. The distance from family and learning from the pandemic led Rabbi Green and his family to return to the West.

AMY DL HUMMELL, CMP, is the executive director for Damon Brooks & Associates, LLC a non-profit organization and subsidiary of Gesher Disability Resources, Inc. Hummell joined Gesher as it's executive director in 2015, after being senior director of field services for Autism Speaks, overseeing events in Arizona, New Mexico, Nevada and Oklahoma. Other work experiences include development and volunteer services for the New York Philharmonic, Sen. John Danforth's office, event manager in the credit union industry, and owner of Meetings by Amy, LLC. Hummell holds a BA in Speech Communication from the University of Missouri-Columbia. She and her husband, Brian, have been happily married for 25 years and have two wonderful children.

LISA KAPLAN is a graduate of Ithaca College, with a B.A. in Political Science. Lisa earned an MPA from the USC, and an MA from Hebrew Union College (HUC) -JIR. Lisa worked as Director of Community Relations, Planning, and Allocations at the New Orleans Federation, and as Assistant Director of University of Pennsylvania Hillel. Lisa returned to Los Angeles to work for Federation, moved on to become the Director of Recruitment and Admissions for HUC, and then got recruited back to the Leadership Development Department at Federation. In Arizona, Lisa served as Director of Planning and Allocation for Federation, Director of Development at Jewish Free Loan and most recently as the Assistant Director of the Center for Jewish Studies at ASU.

RICH KASPER was named Chief Executive Officer of the Center for Jewish Philanthropy, upon its inception in January 2022. Rich assumed this role after serving as President and CEO of the Jewish Community Foundation since 2013, having brought more than 20 years of valuable experience in law, nonprofit governance, community building, and philanthropy to the organization. Prior to working for the Jewish Community Foundation, he enjoyed a successful law career, most recently as a partner with Ryan Rapp & Underwood PLC, where he provided legal counsel for many secular and Jewish nonprofit organizations, individuals, and publicly traded or closely held companies.

MASON MARKS, or as some would call him - "Cartoon Mason", grew up in a Reform household, in New Mexico, celebrating the Jewish holidays. Wanting to learn more, he took a spiritual pilgrimage to Israel as a young adult, earning his Master's Degree in Jewish Education. He completed the 'FoundAishons' program at Yeshiva Aish HaTorah in Jerusalem, where he became very passionate about living a religious Jewish life. After completing his education, he moved to Scottsdale and is now working as the Engagement Specialist at Temple Solel, a 2nd grade teacher at Raker Religious School, and a highschool teacher at Hebrew High!

SARA MASON-BARKIN was ordained from Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion in May, 2010, after receiving her MA in Jewish Education in 2008. Sara earned her BA from Brandeis in Sociology and Judaic Studies. While teaching at a Jewish Day School, Rabbi Mason-Barkin discovered a passion for helping people of all ages find meaningful moments of Jewish connection in their own lives. This dedication to pursuing further work in the field of Jewish education led her to Jerusalem, where she began her rabbinical studies. Rabbi Mason-Barkin lives with her husband, Josh, and her three children, Charlie, Sela and Milo.

KAYLIE MEDANSKY is Senior Director, Community Engagement at CJP and oversees Business & Professionals, NowGen, Youth Philanthropy, and PJ Library programs along with general oversight of all community-wide engagement programs. Most recently, she held the position of associate executive director at Temple Chai. Previously, she was executive director at Swift Youth Foundation, an Arizona-based nonprofit that fosters positive mentor relationships between at-risk youth and college-bound teens through fun and enriching overnight camps, after-school, and weekend programs. Kaylie earned both her Bachelor's in Ethnic Studies and Women & Gender Studies and a Master's in Public Administration concentrating in Nonprofit Management at the University of Colorado. Kaylie is a Phoenix native who enjoys traveling, hiking, and spending time with her husband their two children and their dog.

PRESENTER BIOS

JEN ROGERS is the co-owner of Hudson West, a bi-costal full service boutique publicity and marketing firm with offices in Scottsdale, AZ and Brooklyn, NY. Before founding Hudson West 11 years ago, she garnered over a decade of experience in PR and television, working for industry giants like Warner Bros, Telepictures Entertainment, Harpo Productions, and Sony Pictures Television. Jen is actively involved in the local Valley community, serving on the board of the Jewish Community Relations Council of Greater Phoenix (JCRC) and as the Vice President of Communications for the National Council of Jewish Women Arizona (NCJW AZ).

TRACEE ROSEN was raised in Denver, Colorado and received both a bachelor's in Jewish Study and her MBA degrees from Washington University in St. Louis. After a 13 year career in banking, she returned to school, and was ordained in 2000 by the Ziegler School of Rabbinic Studies, with multiple academic awards. She served in pulpits in Encino, CA, Salt Lake City, UT, and Phoenix, AZ for 21 years before retiring in 2021. Two years later, she was coaxed out of retirement to return to the pulpit by TBS-EV. Rabbi Tracee serves as a member of the Rabbinical Assembly's Committee of Jewish Law and Standards, on its Investment and budget committees, and as its representative on the Joint Retirement Board. In addition, Rabbi Rosen enjoys participating in the Phoenix Board of Rabbis, and in interfaith dialogue opportunities.

STACY ROSENTHAL is the Director of Programs from Gesher Disability Resources. She had spent over two decades in the field of Jewish Education and currently holds the position of First Vice President for the Association of Reform Jewish Educators.

ELLEN FRIEDMAN SACKS is the Executive Director of Jewish Free Loan. She has been a part of JFL since 2010 – as a board member, and then joining the staff in 2012 as the organization's first Director of Programs and PR, and later serving as the Associate Executive Director. Ellen has over 25 years of experience working with non-profit organizations. Ellen is the Immediate Past President of the International Association of Jewish Free Loans', sits on the advisory committee for UPI Loan Funds, and serves on the Emergency Food & Shelter Program's allocation committee. She volunteers with several community groups, is a former mentor in the Women's Leadership Institute, and participated in the inaugural class of 50 Women Who Will Change the World – a leadership program for nonprofit professionals.

JEREMY SCHNEIDER attended the University of Texas in Austin earning a Bachelor of Science in Applied Learning and Development, and rabbinical school at the Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion where he received an MA in Hebrew Letters and an MA in Jewish Education. Rabbi Schneider wrote his rabbinical thesis on Jewish-Christian Relations: From Tolerance to Pluralism to Partnership. In January 2019, Rabbi Schneider was presented with the title, "Reform Jewish Educator" (RJE). Currently, Rabbi Schneider serves as President Board of Rabbis of Greater Phoenix. Rabbi Schneider is married to Rachel and are the proud parents of Ezra, Micah, Naomi and Sarah.

EMILY SEGAL is the Senior Rabbi of Temple Chai in Phoenix, Arizona. Previously she served as the Rabbi of the Aspen Jewish Congregation in the Roaring Fork Valley of Colorado and as the Associate Rabbi of Temple Jeremiah in the suburbs of Chicago. After graduating from the University of Virginia as an Echols Scholar, her studies continued at the Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion where she was ordained in Cincinnati in 2010. Rabbi Segal is proud to have been a Balfour Brickner Social Justice Fellow, as well as a Clergy Leadership Incubator Fellow. Rabbi Segal is a member of the Central Conference for American Rabbis, the Phoenix Board of Rabbis and serves as co-president of the Women's Rabbinic Network of the Reform Movement. Rabbi Segal's non-rabbinic interests include strong coffee, dark chocolate, good books, escapist baking, and live music, character-building hiking expeditions, and having family dance parties.

JANETTE SILVERMAN began her journey into her own family's history more than 40 years ago, with her dad, hoping to answer some questions about their family's early days in the U.S. What began as a hobby turned into an obsession and ultimately led to a shift in her career from Jewish education to genealogy. Her doctoral dissertation, "In Living Memory" was based on her genealogical research into four branches of her own family. She was previously the chair of the Phoenix (Arizona) JGS, lead co-chair of the 2016 IAJGS conference in Seattle, and a JewishGen volunteer. She speaks virtually and in-person all over the world, has been published in Avotaynu, APGQ, Tennessee Historical

PRESENTER BIOS

Quarterly, Gesher Galicia, and Genealogy at a Glance. She is looking forward to publication of her book “Stories They Never Told Us,” in 2024.

DAVID SINGER was named by The Jewish Daily Forward as one of America’s Most Inspiring Rabbis. He is CEO of Limmud North America. He previously served as Executive Director of UC San Diego Hillel and, before that, Associate Rabbi of Congregation Shearith Israel in Dallas, where he was the Director and Founding Rabbi of Makom, a young spiritual community recognized by Slingshot 14-15 as one of the most innovative Jewish organizations in North America. David received rabbinic ordination at the Ziegler School of Rabbinic Studies in 2012 and is a graduate of Clal’s Clergy Leadership Incubator and Rabbis Without Borders. He studied history at the University of California, Berkeley. He is the author of many articles as well as “Yisrael Sheli,” a religious school textbook about Israel. David is married to Danielle Rugoff, with whom he raises their son Ezra and their French bulldog, Jackson.

JENNIFER SOSNOW is granddaughter to Moshe Samiter, flight Holocaust survivor, and she is cousin to Gitle Roshtein, direct Holocaust survivor. Jennifer’s background is in talent acquisition/strategic recruitment and office administration. She is a founding member of 3GAZ and current Co-Chair. Jennifer has been a docent for Holocaust by Bullets where she led hundreds of students and visitors through the exhibits. Jennifer can be reached at: 3GAZ@phxha.com.

DR. ERIN STAFFORD DORMEDY is a Professor and Chair of the Department of Food Science and Nutrition at Fresno State and a JNF-USA Faculty Fellow.

DEBBIE STIEL is the Associate Rabbi of Temple Solel in Paradise Valley. Previously she served congregations in Topeka, Kansas and in Omaha and Lincoln, Nebraska. Among her various roles in community organizations, she was president of the Midwest Association of Reform Rabbis for 2 years, co-chair of the Kansas State Holocaust Commission for 5 years, and currently sits on the Theological Dialogue Commission of the Arizona Faith Network. Rabbi Stiel is an alum of the Institute for Jewish Spirituality’s clergy program and considers spirituality an important part of her rabbinate. In 2019, she received her honorary Doctorate of Divinity from Hebrew Union College for serving as a rabbi for 25 years. Rabbi Stiel earned her bachelor’s degree from Rice University. She is married to Steve Stiel who has a private therapy practice here in Phoenix. She is the proud mother to Micah and Jonah Stiel, mother-in-law to Madison Stiel, and grandmother to Ely Stiel.

NITZAN STEIN-KOKIN is the Rabbi of Congregation Beth El. She is the first graduate of the Zacharias Frankel College in Berlin, Germany, one of the five rabbinical seminaries of the Masorith movement. In addition she holds a Master’s degree in Jewish Studies from The Hebrew University of Jerusalem. Before coming to Phoenix in August 2019, Rabbi Stein Kokin worked as a Jewish Educator for over 15 years teaching Judaism and Hebrew language in Jewish Day Schools and Congregational Settings in the United States, Germany and Israel.

SUZY STONE was born and raised in Minnesota and proud to be among the “frozen chosen” (along with Alaskan Jews of course) who have endured real winters and enjoyed summer days under 100 degrees. When she isn’t busy unpacking Jewish texts or reinventing Jewish tradition, she enjoys cycling, cooking, and comedy. Having lived in Boston, Jerusalem, Los Angeles, Santa Barbara, and D.C., she is happy to be in the Phoenix area where her family now lives part-time, serving as Senior Jewish Educator at ASU Hillel. She was ordained by the Reform Movement at HUC-JIR in 2012 and is a proud alumna of the Wexner Graduate Fellowship.

WENDY VERBA has been transforming teams and communities for as long as she can remember, forging cohesive groups that achieve shared goals. She brings that expertise to organizations across the country as the Founder of Belonging by Design, and as a former Senior Consultant for the Varda Institute for Community Building. Wendy led a flourishing culture of belonging movement through the San Francisco-based Jewish Community Federation and Endowment Fund. Wendy has designed and led hundreds of trainings for thousands of people, and facilitated numerous teams working to improve organizational alignment, engagement and performance. Wendy was a Wexner Heritage Fellow, an M2 Relational Engagement Cohort participant, and served on the boards of UpStart and the Peninsula JCC. She and her husband live in Northern California, where they’ve found meaning raising their three children, dancing and cycling with friends, and participating in Burning Man.

PRESENTER BIOS

MICHAEL WASSERMAN, a co-rabbi of the New Shul in Scottsdale, is a graduate of Harvard University, the Jewish Theological Seminary, and the Shalom Hartman Institute's Rabbinic Leadership Initiative. He is the author of *The Dancer and the Dance: Essays on Skepticism and the Search for Meaning* (Wipf and Stock 2022).

MICHAEL WEIL an economist by training, born and educated in Great Britain, has spent most of his career in strategic change, organizational development, economic, social and urban planning. Until recently, he was the CEO of the Jewish Federation of Greater New Orleans and was instrumental in leading New Orleans's Jewish Community's process of renewal after Hurricane Katrina. He spent the previous four years in Jerusalem as a fellow at the Jewish People Policy Institute (JPPI). Previously, Weil served as Head of Leadership and Development at World ORT, in London and led their fundraising efforts in North America.

Michael is an avid Limmudnik. He was instrumental in the founding of LimmudFest in New Orleans and presented there many times. He has also presented at Limmud Festival UK and Limmud AZ. And served on the Board of Limmud North America.

ALAN ZELCHICK is a mild-mannered technology journalist by day and Alan's alter-ego is the board chair of the JCRC of Greater Phoenix (<https://jcrcphoenix.org/>). A long-time activist in Jewish causes, Alan is VP of the board of Temple Chai, and formerly served on the boards of the Jewish Federation of Greater Phoenix, Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion, and the Union for Reform Judaism. Alan's background is in computer science and tech media. Alan and Carole moved to Phoenix about 10 years ago from San Francisco.



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Pardes Jewish Day School Campus Map 2023-2024

| | |
|----------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------|
| Room 300 Kindergarten Morah Seif/ Morah Shannon | Room 302 Kindergarten Morah Inbal/ Morah Laura |
|----------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------|

| | | |
|----------------------------------|--------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Room 402 First Grade Lande | Room 400 First Grade Schneider | Room 310 Makerspace De Palma |
|----------------------------------|--------------------------------------|------------------------------------|

| |
|-------------------------|
| Administration Nurse |
|-------------------------|

| | | |
|----------------------------------------|-----------|---------|
| Multi-Purpose Room (MPR) and Sanctuary | | |
| IT Office | Restrooms | Kitchen |

| | | | | | | |
|------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|---------------|------------------------------------|------------------------------------|------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Room 410 Second Grade Nadler | Room 412 Second Grade Traulsen | Rest rooms | Room 416 Second Grade Pepper | Room 418 Storage (currently) | Room 420 Third Grade Lemasch | Room 422 Third Grade Luther |
|------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|---------------|------------------------------------|------------------------------------|------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|

| | | |
|------------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Room 425 Art H. Carter | Room 427 Coach L & H | Room 428 Performing Arts Adams |
|------------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------------------|

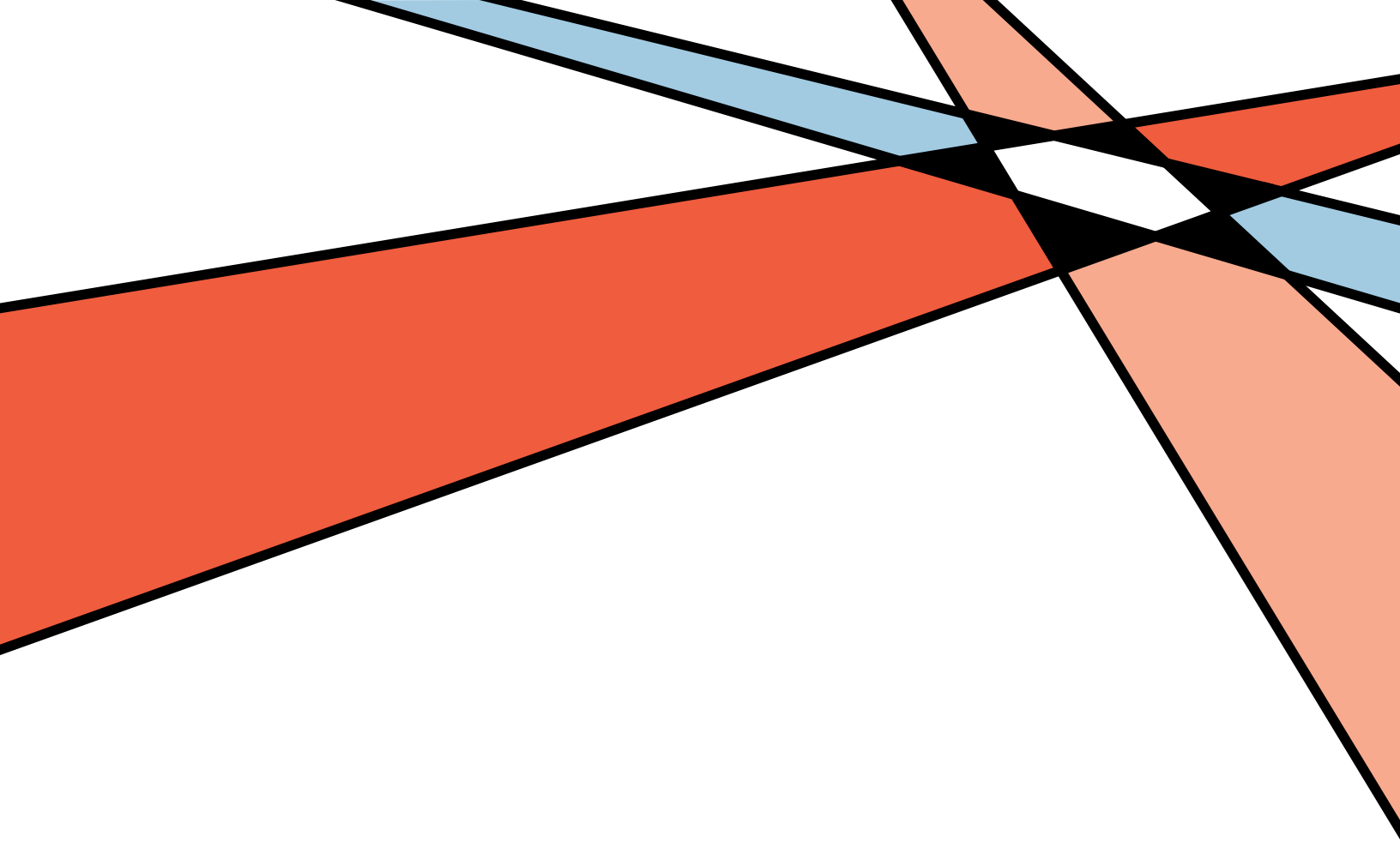
| | | |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| 601 Asst. Prin. Gill | Room 603 Literacy Media Center McGrady | Room 604 Fifth Grade Eckstein |
| 600 building Down stairs | Room 606 Whitehead | Room 605 Fifth Grade Kruszenki |

| | | |
|---------------------------------|----------------------|--------------------|
| 600 building Up stairs | Room 622 Ettinger | Room 623 Finks |
| | Room 625 Lubitz | Room 624 Braney |

| | | | | | |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------|-----------------------------------|----------------------|
| 500 building Down stairs | Room 500 Fourth Grade Berko | Room 502 Fourth Grade Passell | 510 Counselor Benson | Room 516 Burckhardt / Clark | Room 518 Workroom |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------|-----------------------------------|----------------------|

| | | | | | |
|---------------------------------|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|-----------|--------------------|--------------------|
| 500 building Up stairs | Room 520 Science A. Carter | Room 522 Spanish Caballero | Restrooms | Room 526 Hebrew | Room 528 Hebrew |
|---------------------------------|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|-----------|--------------------|--------------------|

517
Burckhardt



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