



## AJHS Receives \$200,000 grant from City of Phoenix



The Phoenix City Council voted unanimously on October 18, 2006, to award the Arizona Jewish Historical Society a \$200,000 Demonstration Grant to be used in the restoration of Phoenix's first synagogue as the Cutler Plotkin Jewish Heritage Center.

The funds are drawn from the 2006 Historic Preservation Bond and are earmarked for specific repairs. These include exterior stucco, windows and window sills, door and transom replication, structural reinforcement, roof repairs, the construction of a new Americans with Disabilities entry ramp, and other exterior items. All of these form an essential part of the larger project to restore the site. Work for the grant is expected to begin in the Fall of 2007, and be completed by the end of 2008.

This grant brings the amount raised by the Arizona Jewish Historical Society to \$1.9 million above and beyond the purchase price of the property. The AJHS estimates the total cost for restoring the site at \$4 million. We are still seeking donations for this exciting project.

To make a contribution, or to get involved,  
please call 602-241-7870.

Many excellent naming opportunities are still available.



### JEWISH LEGACY SERIES



Proudly Presents  
Dr. Blaine Lamb

*"Jews in Unexpected Places: Jewish  
Pioneers in Territorial Arizona"*

Sunday, February 18, 2007

2 pm at Temple Solel

6805 E. McDonald Dr.

*Free to the Public*

**D**r. Lamb graduated from Arizona State University in 1982, with his Ph.D Dissertation entitled, *Pioneer Jews in Arizona, 1850-1920*. He has published articles on Arizona and southwestern history in *Western Jewish History*, *The Journal of Arizona History*, *Western Historical Quarterly*, *Journal of the West*, and *Overland Journal*. Professor Lamb will focus on the pre-territorial and early territorial periods. He will present the stories of several early pioneer families from the Colorado River area, Prescott, Tucson, and Phoenix and the Salt River Valley. His premise is that far from being exceptional, Jews were integral to the American frontier experience. Don't miss this rare opportunity to learn about Arizona's earliest Jewish settlers.



**SAVE THE DATE!**  
**AJHS Annual Meeting**  
**Honoring Jack Fradin**  
**and**  
**Ann Polunsky**

Sunday, May 20, 2006

This year's annual meeting will honor community volunteer and activist **Ann Polunsky**, who will receive the first ever *Risa Mallin Community Service Award*. **AJHS Archivist and Administrator Jack Fradin** will also be honored with the *2007 Beryl Morton Award*. Contact 602-241-7870 for more information. Please join us in honoring these two wonderful individuals!

## ORAL HISTORY



### President's Message...

One of the many functions of your Society is to record the **Oral Histories** of the people who make up our community. In your home or office, you have collected memorabilia starting from your baby book to the most recent family get-together. This process is similar to Billy Crystal's "700 Sundays" for which he won the 2005 Tony Award. He traces his Sundays from the day he was born to the present in a very humorous and illustrative way. Particularly graphic are the photos and home movie clips of his growing up, along with his family's scenes and special occasions.

Look around your house. See the wonderful life you have lived as depicted in pictures and home movies, diplomas, correspondence, awards, and other memorabilia. All of these items are a valuable part of our Arizona Jewish history. With the **Cutler Plotkin Jewish Heritage Center**, we are building an archive to keep these memories for generations to come. Your Oral History is an important part of this record. Preserve your history by making it a part of our collection.

### Looking to Volunteer?

**The AJHS needs you.** We are currently seeking interviewers for our *Oral History Project*. No experience is necessary, just a commitment to helping save our history before it is too late. Interested volunteers will be given training in how to conduct oral history interviews. 602-241-7870 or email us at [azjhs@aol.com](mailto:azjhs@aol.com) for information.

### ALLEN KOGEN

Well, my grandfather Jack Kogen, came here on a convention for Metropolitan Life Insurance Company. He was one of their top producers. They booked into the Camelback Inn and made their reservations months and months ahead of time. Anyway, when everybody got to the Camelback Inn, everybody was checked in except my grand-father. When it was time for my grandfather to be checked into the hotel, they told him that the place was full.

My grandfather looked Jewish, and he had a Jewish sounding name, and he met all the requirements of the Camelback Inn's overt anti-Semitism. So my grandfather said, "What's the deal here, I signed up with all the rest of the guys and now I you don't have a room for me?". They said, "Well, we're sorry, we had a mix up." This ticked my grandfather off, and when he decided to retire in the 40's, he came out here to Phoenix and he needed something to keep him busy, so he decided to build the Arizona Manor Hotel, which to my knowledge, was really the first non-sectarian resort in the Phoenix area. And if you could put money up on the counter, you could get a room whether you were an American Indian, or a Black or a baseball player or a Jew, or an Arab...2390 E. Camelback Road was the hotel address, now it's a high rise.



## Rembering the Valley's Jewish Businesses

**JACK FRADIN** My brother and I opened up our first store in 1960 and called it Dandy Television... We moved to south Phoenix in 1962. We sold big console stereos, portable black and white televisions, radios, phonographs, musical instruments, drums, guitars, trumpets and all the accessories that go with them. It was some store! We used to sell all the 45's, albums, and 8-track tapes when they came out...One day, out of the blue, Willie Mays walked into our store with a small portable color TV he needed repaired. We were shocked! One because it was Willie Mays, and two because we had never seen one of these new portable color TV's! He bought over forty 8-track tapes while he was there--paid cash for everything...



### BENJAMIN HERZBERG

My grandfather came to Tempe back in the 1890's. There wasn't any work to be had in Tempe proper, so he got the idea of sprinkling the streets of Tempe. He got a hundred gallon drum and hooked a sprayer on it, and he could push this thing up and down the streets, watering the streets... Then he got enough money to open a little store, which he did at the corner of 5th Street and Myrtle in Tempe.

He had all kinds of merchandise, almost like a trading post. Then the Indians started to come over from the Salt River Reservation... They used to come over to Tempe because they had no one to trade with across the river. So they'd come over there and trade with him.



*Herzberg family store, Tempe, AZ 1922.*

### SAMUEL SHURGIN (no relations to owner)

Back in the 1940's the center of attraction and the best restaurant in the city was Sam's Cigar Store. Sam's Cigar Store had a luncheon counter where most of the Jewish people in town congregated for lunch. It was located on 1st Avenue between Monroe and Adams Street. It was very popular. They served excellent food. Sam's Cigar Store was the central focal point for almost all of the Jewish people in Phoenix...



# "Be a Part of History"



Sam Korrick, 4th from right, in front of New York Store, Phoenix, 1895.

## "Remembering the Valley's Businesses"

Kline Phoenix Graphics

*We invite your  
participation and  
contribution of your family  
memorabilia and artifacts.*



of the Jewish contributions  
to Arizona history.  
Historical Society  
Arizona Jewish

**BE A PART  
OF HISTORY!**

ARIZONA JEWISH  
HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
4710 N. 16th Street, Suite 201  
Phoenix, AZ 85016



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# HISTORY MANNERS



*I. E. Solomon store, Solomonville, AZ 1900.*

## BE A PART OF HISTORY!

**AJHS is dedicated to the preservation, collection and exhibition of materials relevant to the Jewish community in Arizona and the Southwest.**

- \_\_\_ \$50 Supporting Member
- \_\_\_ \$100 Oral History Circle
- \_\_\_ \$180 Chai Circle
- \_\_\_ \$250 Legacy Circle
- \_\_\_ \$500 Curators Circle
- \_\_\_ \$1,000 Lifetime Member

Membership plus a donation to help restore the Cutler☆Plotkin Jewish Heritage Center:

\$ \_\_\_\_\_

Thank you for your tax deductible gift.  
Checks should be made payable to AJHS.

TOTAL AMOUNT \$ \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name (please print)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Address

\_\_\_\_\_  
City State Zip

\_\_\_\_\_  
Phone

\_\_\_\_\_  
e-mail

**Call 602-241-7870**

4710 N. 16th St.,  Phoenix, AZ 85016

# HISTORY MANNERS

*Together we will preserve the past  
for the next generation!*

## New Members for 2007

Rosalyn Abramowitz  
Charlene and Julius Abramsohn  
Dr. and Mrs. Jean Angelchik  
(Lifetime)

Amy and Glen Bacal  
Loren and Mack Bandler  
Eileen and William Bayer  
Marilyn Brooks

Elaine and Steven Casselman  
Goldie Cohen  
Randy Cutler

Arline R. Evans

Sarilyn and Sherman Fogel

Toby and Stephen Gerst

Judy Gordon

Judith and Robert Gottschalk

Jamie and Kevin Greenfield

Lynn Melczer Kahn

Selina and Eli Kaminsky

Dr. Andrew Kaplan

Karen and James Kaplan

Dorothy Kipnis

Willa and Martin Laderman

Lenore and Nat Laskin

Amy and Dirk Leverant

David Lorsch

Cynthia Lubin

Jane and Lawrence Marks

Alvin H. Mushkatel

Beverly and Alfred Mutchnik

Esther and Abe Orlick

Randee and Shlomo Pri-Tal

Bryan Riddle

Diane and Jeff Rust

Leah Shovers

Carin and Eric Siegel

William Weese

*If you are not a member today,  
we encourage your membership  
and participation in our  
projects, activities and exciting vision of the  
AJHS. • 602-241-7870 • azjhs@aol.com*

# SAVE THE DATE!

**Sunday, February 18th**

**Jewish Legacy Series**

**Dr. Blaine Lamb**

**"Jews in Unexpected Places:  
Jewish Pioneers in Territorial  
Arizona"**

2pm at Temple Solel

6805 E. McDonald Dr.

Free to the Public

Call 602-241-7870 for RSVP

**Sunday, March 18th**

**AJHS Special Presentation**

**Rabbi Albert Plotkin**

**"Legacy of Joy: My Early  
Days in Phoenix"**

1:30pm at Chris Ridge Village

6246 N. 19th Ave.

Free to the Public

Call 602-241-7870 for more

information

**Tuesday, April 17th**

**Jewish Legacy Series**

**Risa Mallin**

**"76 Years of Beth El History"**

7pm at Beth El Congregation

1118 W. Glendale Ave.

Free to the Public

**Sunday, May 20th**

**AJHS Annual Meeting**

**Honoring Ann Polunsky and**

**Jack Fradin**

Call 602-241-7870 for more

information

## **Jewish Genealogy Group Forming at AJHS**

The AJHS is pleased to announce the creation of a new genealogy and family history group. Just where exactly did Bubbe and Zayde come from and when? There is no thrill like finding out about your own roots! The group plans to host speaking events on family history, how-to clinics, and conduct tours of local libraries and genealogical institutions. Contact 602-241-7870 to get involved.

Preserve the Legacy of Arizona's Jewish Community



## **YOUR PART IN HISTORY**

*The following is an excerpt from the speech given by  
Ron Barness at the AJHS Carnegie Hall West event,  
December 10, 2006.*

*Daron and Ron Barness donated \$600,000 in  
April 2006 to the restoration of the Cutler Plotkin Jewish Center.*

**T**he history of the Jewish people is extraordinarily unique and rich, and the wonderful thing about this history is that we are all a part of it. For Jewish history is not only about Abraham, and not only about the exodus from Egypt. It is not only about the Crusades, the Spanish Inquisition, and thankfully it is not only about the Holocaust. It is also about the great Lions of Judah, the Ben Gurions, the Golda Meirs, the Moshe Dayans... And the most extraordinary thing of all is that it is about us. For we are the embodiment of Jewish history. Had it not been for those who came before we would not be standing here today, but if it is not for us, we cannot know that Jews will be here tomorrow...

And that is the wonderful thing we are doing here in Phoenix with the Cutler Plotkin Jewish Heritage Center. It is a museum that will not only remind us of our deep roots here in Arizona and throughout time, but will give us the opportunity to show our children and our grandchildren the part of history that we ourselves are participating in and how important it is to be a part of that continuity...

We encourage everybody to *participate* in our history so that our history will have not only the rich past that it does, but will also have an enduring legacy that we as Jews have brought to mankind and should continue to bring to it throughout the ages."

### **JEWISH LEGACY SERIES**



Presenting

**RISA MALLIN**

**"76 Years of Beth El History"**

Tuesday, April 17th

7 pm at Beth El Congregation

1118 W. Glendale Ave.

This is the second lecture in our series on the history of the Valley's Jewish congregations. Former AJHS Executive Director and Beth El member Risa Mallin will discuss the origins of Phoenix's second oldest congregation and its rich history over the past 76 years.

### **\$\$\$ Did You Know? \$\$\$**

The Federal Government has adopted new rules about making donations to charitable organizations from your IRA. According to the Pension Protection Act of 2006, "Individuals aged 70½ or older can now distribute up to \$100,000 of their IRA balance in 2007 without recognizing income and without taking a charitable deduction. The distribution counts towards the required minimum distribution." If you are 70½ or over, you should check with your accountant to see if you are eligible for this unique philanthropic opportunity.



### **Carnegie Hall West 2006 Is a Big Hit!**

Special thanks to all those who helped make this year's **Carnegie Hall West** event a big success! The event was held in honor of **Daron and Ron Barness**, and featured musical performances by six local Jewish personalities and art exhibitions by 11 local Jewish artists. Special thanks to **Bruce Benson, Ethel Harris, Tom Horne, Deborah Lavinsky, Cynthia Serbin-Dubrow, and Leon Zeitzer** for their wonderful performances, and to **Stephen Gerst** for serving as the emcee. Special thanks also committee members **Ann Polunsky (Chair), Linda Aarons, Mindy Brandt, Joy Carter, Dee Epstein, Paulette Fraenkel, Libby Friedman, Sherri Germaine, Louise Leverant, Lea Nach, Michael Orlikoff, Ruth Rosen, Rita Segal, Mark Sendrow, and Elaine Waxman.**