



JEWISH LEGACY SERIES

*Proudly Presents*  
**Rabbi Albert Plotkin**

Rabbi Emeritus  
of Congregation Beth Israel



*"Looking to the Past to Understand  
Our Heritage"*

*The Colorful History of Congregation Beth Israel.*

**Sunday, October 22nd, 3:30 pm**  
**at the Cutler Plotkin Jewish Heritage Center**

122 E. Culver Street

(Take 2nd Street South from McDowell)

**Tour & Exhibit begin at 3 pm**

*Free to the public*

This year, the AJHS is pleased to introduce a new series on the history of the Valley's Jewish congregations. We begin the program October 22nd with Phoenix's oldest congregation, **Beth Israel**. **Rabbi Albert Plotkin** served as Rabbi for **CBI** for 36 years, from 1955 to 1991. During that time, he became one of the best-known spiritual leaders of our city as Phoenix grew from a small tight-knit community into the major urban center it is today. His talk will focus on the early history of Congregation Beth Israel, the creation of the original temple on Culver Street, and the role of CBI in the early Jewish life of Phoenix.



**Cutler Plotkin Jewish  
Heritage Center**  
**Designated Historic  
Site by the City of  
Phoenix**

The **Phoenix City Council** voted unanimously on June 21st to add Phoenix's first synagogue to the city's **Historic Property Register**. The new designation offers some protection for the site and makes the AJHS eligible to receive city funds to restore the building. To qualify for the historic designation, a property must be over 50 years old and be associated with events that have made a significant contribution to our city's history, have an association with the life of an important historical person, convey a high architectural or artistic value, or yield important archeological information on Phoenix's history or pre-history.

❖ ARIZONA JEWISH HISTORICAL SOCIETY ❖

**The Second Annual  
Carnegie Hall West 2006**

*"An Afternoon of Music & Art"*



**Honoring  
Daron and Ron Barness**  
For their generous support  
of Jewish life in the Valley.

Featuring musical performances by:

Cantor Bruce Benson

Cynthia Serbin-DuBrow

Superintendent of Public Education Tom Horne

Debbi Lavinsky

Dr. Leon Zeitzer

Emcee: Judge Stephen Gerst

**Arts and crafts exhibitions by local Jewish artists**

All artwork available for purchase.

Get that special gift!

**Sunday, December 10th at Beth El Congregation**

1118 W. Glendale Ave.

**Art Show & Reception at 1 pm**

**Concert begins at 2 pm**

General Admission: \$50

*Preferred Seating*

Conductor Level: \$100

Maestro Level: \$250 (includes special gift)

Delicious desserts served after performance

(Dietary laws observed)

**Call 602-241-7870 for Reservations**

*Underwriting and advertising opportunities available.  
Contact us to place a special ad or tribute in our Playbill.*

# SAVE THE DATE!

**Sunday, October 22nd**  
**Jewish Legacy Series**  
**Rabbi Albert Plotkin**  
*"Looking to the Past to Understand Our Heritage: The Colorful History of Congregation Beth Israel."*  
3:30 pm at the Cutler✶Plotkin Jewish Heritage Center  
122 E. Culver St. (Take 2nd Street south from McDowell)  
*Free to the Public*  
Exhibit and Tour of Facility begins at 3pm.

**Sunday, November 12th**  
**Jewish Legacy Series**  
**Rabbi Bonnie Koppell**  
*"In the Combat Zone: A Rabbi's Perspective on the War in Iraq and Afghanistan"*  
2 pm at the Cutler✶Plotkin Jewish Heritage Center 122 E. Culver St. (Take 2nd St. south from McDowell)  
*Free to the Public*

**Sunday, December 10th**  
**The Second Annual Carnegie Hall West**  
*"An Afternoon of Music & Art"*  
1 pm at Beth El Congregation  
1118 W. Glendale Ave.  
Features an Elegant Reception and Delicious Dessert.  
Call 602-241-7870 for Reservations  
Underwriting opportunities are available.

**Sunday, January 28th**  
**Jewish Legacy Series**  
**Dr. Lawrence Bell, Executive Director - AJHS**  
*"The History of Jews in Latin America"*  
10 am at Barness East Valley JCC,  
908 N. Alma School Rd., Mesa  
Free to the Public  
Co-Sponsored by Or Adam Congregation

**Sunday, February 18th**  
**Jewish Legacy Series**  
**Dr. Blaine Lamb**  
*"Jews in Unexpected Places: Jewish Pioneers in Territorial Arizona"*  
*Free to the Public*  
Contact 602-241-7870 for more information.

Community of Arizona's Jewish Legacy of Preserving the



## CONNECTING PAST, PRESENT, and FUTURE

By **Lawrence D. Bell, Ph.D.**  
Executive Director

Members of the AJHS should feel proud of our role in preserving the history and the identity of our community. Over the past 25 years, we have built a wonderful archive of over 20,000 volumes, we have recorded and transcribed nearly 200 oral histories, and we have saved the site of Phoenix's first synagogue building to preserve as a Jewish heritage center. When completed, the **Cutler✶Plotkin Jewish Heritage Center** will be a place for people of all races and religions to learn about our history and the contributions Jews have made to Arizona life.

Yet, we do this not simply to honor our past. We do this to build our future as well. Our future as a community, here in **Arizona**, where we live, work, and pray. Imagine a student accessing a virtual archive of information with the click of a button, examining photographs, documents, and memorabilia on Jewish life here in Arizona. Learning about the history of early Jewish pioneers like **Anna and Isadore Solomon**, or of **Charles Bernstein** (the first Jewish Chief Justice of the Arizona Supreme court who in 1953 helped desegregate Arizona's public schools), or of present day philanthropists like **Daron and Ron Barness** who have given so generously to our community.

Even more, imagine his or her classmates in school, coming to a place – **THE PLACE** – in fact where our community first began to learn about our history and culture. Touring an interactive museum that combines classic 1920's architecture with the wonders of modern technology.

Imagine your great granddaughter or better yet your great-great granddaughter, someone you will never meet, coming to our library to listen to YOUR oral history. Or better yet, imagine her listening to it over the internet, connecting with her heritage, in ways that were not thought possible just a few years ago.

This is why our mission is so important. History is not only about the distant past, it is also about the future. We are making history right now, every day. Our legacy as a community and as a people will in large measure be determined by how well we honor and keep this record. If we do not do this, who will?

### JEWISH LEGACY SERIES



**Coming in November!**  
**Special Veterans Day Weekend Event**  
**Featuring Rabbi Bonnie Koppell**  
*"In the Combat Zone: A Rabbi's Perspective on the War in Iraq and Afghanistan"*

Sunday, November 12th, 2pm  
at the Cutler✶Plotkin Jewish Heritage Center  
122 E. Culver St.  
(Take 2nd Street South from McDowell)

A native of Brooklyn, **Rabbi Koppell** serves as the spiritual leader of **Congregation Beth Hagivot** in **Fountain Hills** and **Temple Havurat Emet** in **Sun Lakes**. She also serves as a military chaplain in the **U.S. Army Reserve** where she holds the rank of full colonel.

She recently served a year of active duty in support of **Operation Noble Eagle**, and was awarded the **Global War on Terrorism** medal for her service in Iraq in the Spring of 2005. Rabbi Koppell returned in January of 2006 from a visit with Jewish service members in Kuwait and Afghanistan, and spent Passover 2006 in Iraq.

Rabbi Koppell's talk will focus on her recent experiences in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Exhibit and tour of the facility included.

Contact 602-241-7870 for details.



### INTERESTED IN VOLUNTEERING?

Being a volunteer is a fun and easy way to make a difference in our community. The AJHS is always seeking new volunteers to help in the following areas.

- Oral history
- Event planning
- Exhibit building and design

- Tour guides for events at the Cutler✶Plotkin Jewish Heritage Center
  - Administrative and office work
- Contact us at 602-241-7870 for more information. Your help makes all the difference!

*Our heartfelt blessings for a happy and healthy New Year 5767.*



## America's First Jewish Veteran: Asser Levy



### President's Message...

**Happy 5767!** With the advent of the new year, each of us reflects on our past, and particularly how we can improve for the future. We think of family, and when we think of family we think of the wonderful memories we have, many of which have been photographed, written, or published. If you have any family oriented items, consider making them a part of our archives. This way, the future will benefit from the past.

We have enjoyed much excitement this past year and expect even more in the year ahead. The refurbishment of the Cutler Plotkin Jewish Heritage Center is finally getting underway, and we plan to begin construction in the spring of 2007.

We have an interesting series of lectures scheduled for this fall, and our Carnegie Hall West concert this December promises to be one of the premier events in the community. This year, we are honoring **Daron and Ron Barness** for their enormous contributions to both the AJHS and to the community at large. I cannot think of two better individuals to receive the *Dorothy Pickelner Enduring Legacy Award* at this event.

I hope you will join us for our exciting year. As always, Andrea, myself, and the entire Lewkowitz family wish each of you a healthy, happy, and successful new year!

Today's tradition of religious freedom was not always a feature of early American life in colonial times. In virtually all the European colonies in North America, Jews faced exclusion, discrimination, and often outright persecution. In 1654, when the first group of 23 Jewish refugees arrived in **New Amsterdam**, the governor of the Dutch colony, **Peter Stuyvesant**, refused to admit them on the grounds they would become a burden on the other residents. His decision was later overturned by the **Dutch West India Company in Holland**, which administered the colony, but significant restrictions on Jewish settlement remained, including a ban on military service.

Stuyvesant barred Jews from serving in the colonial militia and levied a special tax on them to pay for others to serve in their place. This situation in effect made Jews into second-class citizens, denied the rights and duties of other residents of the colony. In defiance of this discrimination, a merchant named **Asser Levy**, along with another refugee, **Joseph Barsimon**, filed a petition with the colonial court asking that they either be allowed to stand watch with the other citizens or be relieved of the tax. After a two-year fight, they won the right to stand watch. Levy then further successfully



petitioned the West India Company for the right to trade and own real estate.

When the English captured New Amsterdam in 1664, and renamed it New York, Levy swore an oath of allegiance to the English crown. All the rights he had under the Dutch were conferred to him under the new regime, thus creating a tradition of Jewish military service in the future United States. In 1671, he also became the **first Jew to serve on a jury in North America**. He died in 1681 and is buried in an unknown grave.



## Arizona's Jewish Veterans

These photos of Arizona Jewish veterans are taken from our archives.



Leon Jacobs WWI



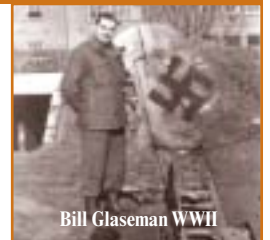
Abe Korrick  
WWI



Joe Schwartz  
1918



Sol Charnofsky  
Korea



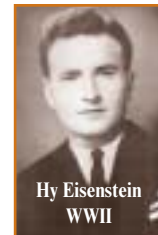
Bill Glaseman WWII



David Kazen  
WWII



Louella (Liff)  
Goldman WWII



Hy Eisenstein  
WWII



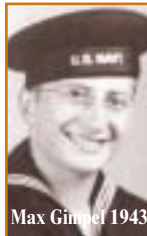
Irving Vincent WWII



Jerry Hirsch 1954



Marvin Stein 1951



Max Gimbel 1943



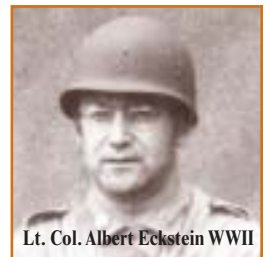
Ed Korrick WWII



Malcolm Straus  
WWII



Burton  
Lewkowitz 1943



Lt. Col. Albert Eckstein WWII



### Jewish Veterans: We Want You!

AJHS is looking for photographs, correspondence, oral histories, and other memorabilia from Jewish veterans in Arizona. As part of the Veterans History Project nationwide, we are looking to document the service of our own community members in the U.S. Armed Forces. If you have materials you would like to share, please contact us at 602-241-7870.



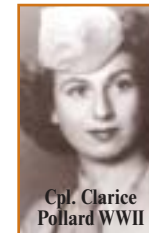
Elliot Horne  
1954-Korea



Morris Spitalny 1942



Bruce Mallin  
Viet Nam



Cpl. Clarice  
Pollard WWII



Arnie Serbin 1958



## BACK TO SCHOOL

Graduates from the JCC Kindergarten class of 1959 (back row) pose with the class of 1971.

### Top Row - L to R:

Mrs. Sylvia Richman, Pre-School Director, Michael Anatole, Marsha Kantor, Mavis Mackoff, Debbie Richman, Lyn Grushko, Ilene Sabel, Keith Comess.

### Middle Row - L to R:

Alexi Sheydayi, Gary Feinberg, Rhonda Gruber, Gregg Goldman, Walter Groll, David Nach

### Bottom Row - L to R:

Nancy Abrams, Amy Leach, Karen Brazlin, Susan Brown, Greta Gluck, Beth Charvonia  
*Names given as they appeared at the time.*



## ARIZONA JEWISH HISTORICAL SOCIETY

4710 N. 16th Street, Suite 201  
Phoenix, AZ 85016

## BE A PART OF HISTORY!

### Arizona Jewish Historical Society

is dedicated to the preservation of the Jewish contributions to Arizona history.



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

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U S POSTAGE  
PAID  
PHOENIX, AZ  
PERMIT NO 5598

# HISTORY MATTERS



AJHS Executive Director Lawrence Bell with Deacon Jim Loui of the First Chinese Baptist Church and his family. Deacon Loui was a special guest at a reception celebrating the history of the Culver Street synagogue sponsored by the History Channel TV Network. The First Chinese Baptist Church owned the property from 1957-1981.

### BE A PART OF HISTORY!

Join us in preserving the legacy of Phoenix's first synagogue building.

**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 Circle of Friends
- \$180 Chai Circle
- \$250 Research Circle
- \$500 Builders Circle
- \$1000 Lifetime Member

Membership PLUS a donation to help continue a special project

- \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Jewish Legacy Series Fund
- \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Jewish Heritage Center Restoration
- \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Oral History Project

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

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

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

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Address

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Phone

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e-mail

Call 602-241-7870



4710 N. 16th St., #201, Phoenix, AZ 85016

# HISTORY MATTERS

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

### NEW MEMBERS:

Al Stein

Clara D. Stander

Julian Schamus

Lisa Schamus-Mosely

Dr. and Mrs. Daryl Stern

Jackie Rosenberg

Ken Kalina

Linda and Howard Lantin

Irving Levy

Susan and Paul Stander

Sallie Terman

Janice and Sam Tracht

Grace Goldstein Roth

Beth Sheva and David Zinder

Dr. and Mrs. Melvin Cohen

*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*