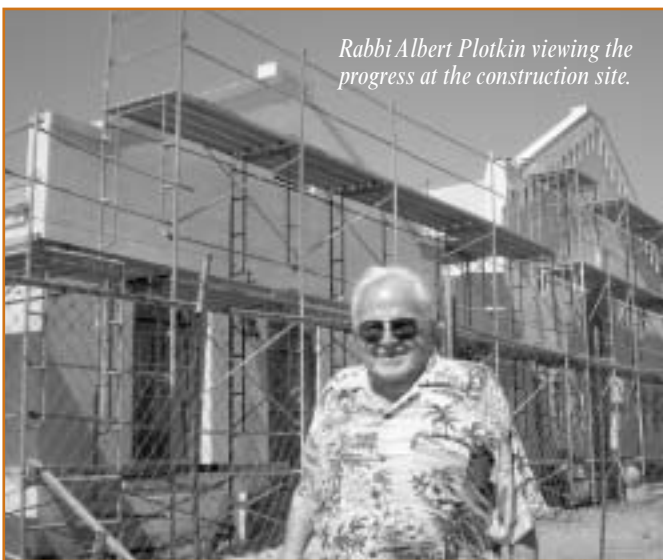


CONSTRUCTION BEGINS for Cutler☆Plotkin Jewish Heritage Center



Rabbi Albert Plotkin viewing the progress at the construction site.

The Arizona Jewish Historical Society is pleased to announce that construction has begun on the **Cutler☆Plotkin Jewish Heritage Center**. Originally built in 1922, the site was the home of **Phoenix's first synagogue, Temple Beth Israel**. When completed, the facility will serve the entire community as a museum, cultural, and educational center.

Phase I of the project (current phase) includes restoration and repair of the historic synagogue and classroom annex. This phase is being undertaken by **G&G Specialty Contractors**. **Phase II** will include new construction of a reception, social hall, archival vault, and landscaping to support the site. Our goal is to finish major construction by **December 2009** and to be ready to open by **December 2010**.

The Arizona Jewish Historical Society is currently seeking funds to complete Phase II. **Contact 602-241-7870 or visit <http://www.azjhs.org> for information, or to make a donation!** *There will be a ribbon-cutting event on Sunday, November 2nd, to celebrate the start of construction and to showcase the enormous progress made on Phase I. The event will be held at 10 am at the Heritage Center at 122 E. Culver St. It is free to the public and all are invited to attend.*

See Page 2 for additional photos from the project as it has progressed.

Cutler☆Plotkin Jewish Heritage Center Designated as "Phoenix Point of Pride"!



A delegation from the AJHS receives the Phoenix Point of Pride Award from Vice Mayor Peggy Neely and the Phoenix City Council.

One of Phoenix's oldest points has now become one of its newest Points of Pride. The **Cutler☆Plotkin Jewish Heritage Center** was the leading vote getter in this year's **Point of Pride Competition**. As a result, it will join **Arizona State University West** and the **Burton Barr Public Library** as **Phoenix's 2008 Points of Pride**.

The sites were among 10 finalists in the contest that ended March 20th. The three sites will be added to the current list of 30 Point of Pride sites. The designation is given to a landmark or attraction unique to and located within Phoenix that evokes a sense of pride among area residents. The registry began in 1992.

A total of 12,476 votes were cast. **The Cutler☆Plotkin Jewish Heritage Center** received the most votes, with 20 percent. ASU West was second, with 17 percent, and the Burton Barr Library had 15 percent. The other finalists were: North Mountain Visitor Center (9 percent), Chase Field (8 percent), Royal Palms Resort and Spa (8 percent), George Washington Carver Museum and Cultural Center (7 percent), Cesar Chavez Park (7 percent), Pioneer Living History Museum (7 percent), and Murphy Bridle Path (6 percent).

"Given the quality pool of finalists, having **The Cutler☆Plotkin Jewish Heritage Center** come in with the most votes was quite an honor," said Lawrence Bell, Executive Director of the Arizona Jewish Historical Society.

"It shows people value history. That is what makes our site distinctive, above and beyond the other worthy nominees."

The AJHS would like to thank all of those who voted for the site and who worked to get others to vote. Without your support, this honor would not have been possible.



Workers install new decking on roof, July 3rd



The heritage center sports a brand new roof, July 30th



Project Superintendent,
Johnny Woodlee



Worker begins removing ceiling tiles in temple sanctuary, June 18th



Installing the scaffolding, June 26th



Worker applies new stucco to exterior, July 14th



Workers restore sanctuary interior, August 8th



Heritage Center exterior, August 1st

HISTORY IN THE MAKING



AJHS Executive Director, Lawrence Bell, with Project Architect Robert Graham, and Building Committee Chair, Stu Siefer, July 18th



Excavated sanctuary, June 26th



Restored exterior windows are reinstalled, July 31st



AJHS board member Susan Shaffer Nahmias watches as carpenters restore historic windows, July 14th



Original diamond shaped tiles on the temple façade have been excavated and restored, July 30th

SAVE THE DATE!

Sunday, November 2nd

Special Cornerstone Ceremony!

10am at the Cutler Plotkin Jewish

Heritage Center

122 E. Culver Street (Take 2nd Street

south from McDowell)

Free to the public

Sunday, November 16th

Special Genealogy Event!

Amy Fellner:

From Kovno to Kishinev: Tracing Your

Roots in the Russian Pale

1:30pm at Beth El Congregation

1118 W. Glendale Ave.

Free to the public

Co-sponsored by Beth El Congregation

Thursday, November 20th

Jewish Legacy Series

A Blessing to One Another: Pope John

Paul II and the Jews

Rabbi Abie Ingber

7:30 P.M. at The Virginia G. Piper

Center for the Performing Arts

at Xavier College Preparatory

4710 North 5th St., Phoenix

(7th Street and Highland Avenue)

Cost: \$5.00

Contact 602-241-7870 for details

Co-sponsored by AJHS and other

Valley organizations

Sunday, January 11, 2009

Rhythm and Jews: A Musical Festival

2pm at the Tempe Center for the Arts

Tickets start at \$18

For more information contact AJHS at

602-241-7870

Advertising and sponsorship

opportunities are still available!

Preserve the Legacy of Arizona's Jewish Community



HISTORY IN THE MAKING!

Lawrence D. Bell, Ph.D.

Executive Director

It is often said that Phoenix is a city without history. That Phoenix is a city without culture. This is simply not true. The work we are doing to restore Phoenix's first synagogue as **The Cutler Plotkin**

Jewish Heritage Center stands as a testament to the history of our city, and to the origins of our local Jewish community.

I am both honored and thrilled to be involved in this project. I have watched with great enthusiasm over the summer as we stripped away the layers of this building down to its foundations, revealing clues about what it looked like eight decades ago. Gone is the baptismal font installed by the **First Chinese Baptist Church**. In its place, we have excavated the original niche set into the wall which once housed the ark. Gone too is the multi-level stage installed by the church. In its place, we have rebuilt the original bimah, closely reconstructed from old photographs of the site.

Everywhere we dug, scratched, or scraped, we also found the remnants of a terrible fire which scarred the building way back in its infancy in 1935. These included char marks on the wall behind the bimah, soot in long-closed window panels, and even a half burned joist in the floor. As a result of this fire, the sanctuary was substantially remodeled in 1936 from its earlier appearance. The current flooring, for example, was installed after the fire, and most interior features were re-painted at that time. This was also when the congregation added the smaller classroom annex on the west side of the sanctuary which now will house the **Barness Family Museum of Jewish History**.

In reality, we could build a Jewish Heritage Center like this virtually anywhere. I'm sure there are bigger lots or more affluent neighborhoods to choose from. But to build it here, in the birthplace of Phoenix's Jewish community, is what makes our project special. This building and this sanctuary, are not just a location, they are the main attraction itself. Not only do they teach us about the larger traditions of our Jewish heritage, they also teach us something about the PLACE that we call home.

I would personally like to thank everyone who has made a contribution to this project. Without your generosity, none of this would have been possible. If you have yet to make a donation, I hope you will consider doing so. Whether you are new to the Valley or have lived here all your life, each of us is now a part of **Phoenix's Jewish history**, which had its roots in the **little shul on Culver Street**.

The Arizona Jewish Historical Society

JEWISH LEGACY SERIES

Proudly Presents an Interfaith Event

***A Blessing to One Another:
Pope John Paul II and
the Jews***

Rabbi Abie Ingber

Thursday, November 20, 2008

7:30 P.M.

at The Virginia G. Piper Center

for the Performing Arts

Xavier College Preparatory

4710 North 5th St., Phoenix

(7th Street and Highland Avenue)

Cost: \$5.00

Call 602-241-7870 for details

**This event is co-sponsored by AJHS
and other Valley organizations.**

In the course of his papacy, **John Paul II** shattered the chain of 2,000 years of painful history between Catholics and Jews, becoming the first pope ever to enter a synagogue, officially visit and recognize the State of Israel, and formally engage in an act of repentance for the Catholic Church's historical treatment of the Jews.

Rabbi Abie Ingber will share the inspiring story of the lifelong friendship of Mr. Jerzy Kluger and Pope John Paul II -- begun in childhood in Wadowice, Poland before the outbreak of WWII -- and the significant role their friendship played in this dramatic story of reconciliation of the Catholic Church with the Jewish people.

Rabbi Ingber is Founding Director for Interfaith Community Engagement at Xavier University in Cincinnati, Ohio, having recently retired from his long-time service as Executive Director of the Hillel Student Center in Cincinnati. Also an adjunct professor of theology at Xavier University, **Rabbi Ingber** has received numerous awards and well-earned recognition for his work in inter-religious dialogue.

AJHS ANNOUNCES START OF PHOENIX JEWISH VIDEO HISTORY PROJECT

The Arizona Jewish Historical Society has received a grant of \$13,000 from the Jewish Foundation of Greater Phoenix to be used to complete the video histories of 100 individuals as part of the **Phoenix Jewish Video History Project**. Additional support of \$5,000 has been provided by the Jewish Federation's Young Leadership Division.

Students from Arizona State University Film School will videotape the histories, while volunteer members from the community, as well as student interns, will conduct the interviews themselves. A limited number of internships are still available for this project. Those interested should contact 602-241-7870 for details.

All footage from the project will be recorded at **television quality** so that it may be utilized in the **museum exhibits** at **The Cutler Plotkin Jewish Heritage Center**. The concept of the museum is to provide a first-person narrative of **Arizona's Jewish experience** in which the subjects of the exhibits will tell their stories in their own words as much as possible.



President's Message...

Dear Friends:

As summer ends and our new year begins, I would like to thank all of you who are already members of the AJHS and invite those who have not yet joined our organization to make this the year it will happen.

What an exciting year this will be. The renovation and restoration of the **Cutler Plotkin Jewish Heritage Center** is now ongoing and plans for our museum and archival facility are under way. We have several community wide events scheduled and hope that you will join us by attending these.

During the coming year, I look forward to bringing our capital fund raising campaign to a successful completion and getting our museum ready to open soon thereafter.

We continue to document and preserve the contributions of local Jewish residents to the history of Phoenix and our great State of Arizona with our video and oral history projects and look forward to becoming a first class educational facility for residents, visitors, and students in Arizona. With your continued help, these dreams will become a reality.

Our Board of Directors, office staff and I wish you all a healthy, happy, and prosperous New Year. Warmest regards from my entire family to yours. L'Shana Tova.

Louise Leverant

OUR 2008-9 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

PRESIDENT: Louise Leverant

VICE PRESIDENTS:

Lea Nach Stu Siefer

Judy Stern Charlesa Feinstein

SECRETARY: Elaine Waxman-Segelbaum

TREASURER: Ken Diamond

PAST PRESIDENT: Jerry Lewkowitz

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Mike Bell*	Barbara Lewkowitz
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Dolores Forman	Rita Segal
Sherri Germaine	Jeffrey Steier, MD
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Ed Korrick	

* Indicates new board member

FROM OUR ARCHIVES

"The Day on Which Refrigeration Became Hot Air"

by Philip Newmark • 11/27/1989



Philip Newmark

To my best recollection the year was 1935. In the early evening of a day just prior to Rosh Hashanah I was standing in front of the old **Temple Beth Israel-122 East Culver Street**- when a black custom built limousine stopped at the curb.

I watched in some amazement as a tall bulky man stepped out of the limo followed by a young lady and a uniformed nurse carrying an infant. The procession made its way into the temple and shortly thereafter came out in the company of a prominent member of the Jewish community. During this interval I had the chance to look more carefully at the limo and I noted a well stocked bar in the rear portion of the car. This guy—the tall man—must be a Texas oil man. So I thought. Who else could demonstrate such wealth.

Indeed I had made some inquiry from others as to the identity of the man with the limo and I learned only that as a guest of Mr. (name withheld) there had been much card playing at certain locations.

The scene now shifts and it is Yom Kippur Day. It was still September and the day was a scorcher. During the morning and early afternoon my brother **Cecil** and I had sung during the services conducted by **Rabbi Samuel Hurwitz**. A recess was then called until the concluding service which was to take place a few hours before sunset. The only relief from the heat inside the sanctuary came from a couple of fans which helped very little. I was sitting in the last row of seats in the synagogue, utterly exhausted with parched throat and dreaming a bit about the ending of the fast when brother Cecil and I would- on our walk home to **Palm Lane**—stop and break our fast—with an ice cold milkshake at **McCrary's Drug**- located at **Central and McDowell**.

The hours had passed ever so slowly but now congregants had come back for the concluding service of Yom Kippur. Suddenly there was an announcement from the pulpit that we would be hearing a special message from a **Doctor Berg**. And then there strode to the Bimah the tall bulky man whom I had not seen since he walked out of the luxury limo some 12 days past.

Doctor Berg began his talk with kind words about **Phoenix** and those he met here. And then came this electrifying statement. At least that's what it was to me. Perhaps the intense heat in the building gave birth to the thought but to paraphrase the good doctor this is what he said: **"It is my pleasure to tell you now-- that- at my own expense- I will have installed in this temple the most up to date, and modern- air conditioning system- that is available."**

Suddenly I straightened up in my seat as these thoughts flashed through my mind. Was this fellow for real? Why not? Had I not seen evidence? This was a holy day and no doubt the angels had played a part in what we were hearing. I thought of the refrigerated coolness that one could experience only in the downtown **Orpheum Theater** and now all of this comfort would be ours—here at **122 East Culver**. Cecil and I would no longer have to sing- during holidays- and every Friday night after Friday night—under conditions that were so often intolerable.

This day dreaming took only seconds and now back to reality. The good doctor was continuing his address. Here is what he was saying and again I paraphrase. "As a fellow I was sent by the **Rockefeller Foundation in New York to Berlin** on assignment. My specific purpose was to observe the treatment of Jews. I must tell you that I saw Jews being beaten--- in the streets
UN- MER- CI -FUL- LESS- LY"

When Doctor Berg did not pause to correct himself I sensed a feeling of doom. It so happened that sitting in the same row with me—on the aisle- was the man I would most want to consult with at this particular moment. It was **Herman Lewkowitz** - my trusted advisor. Herman no doubt saw the puzzled expression on my face. He leaned over and whispered in my ear. "I am going to check this fellow out. In the morning I will send a telegram to the Rockefeller Foundation asking them to confirm the status of 'Doctor Berg.'"

By this time you have guessed that the answer from the Rockefeller Foundation was negative.

Suddenly the man they called Doctor Berg has disappeared along with the limo and entourage. I heard the rumor subsequently that the authorities in Texas were anxious to see him.



Herman Lewkowitz

CUTLER PLOTKIN JEWISH HERITAGE CENTER

WALL of HONOR

All contributions of \$1,000 or more to the Cutler Plotkin Jewish Heritage Capital Campaign are listed on our Wall of Honor. These names can be viewed on our website at www.azjhs.org, and will be listed on a plaque inside the completed Heritage Center.

To make a donation and have your name listed, contact us at 602-241-7870.

Many exciting Naming Opportunities are also still available.

Aaron, Carrie and Morrie	Goldman, Suzanna	Pearlstein, Annette and Irv
Abelson, Elinor	Gometz, Betsy and Kenneth	Perlman, Ruth Ann and Raymond
Abraham, Ann and Andrew	Goodman, Dottie and Murray	Polunsky, Ann and Mel
Abrams, Audrey and Dan	Gonsker, Geoffrey and Barbara Lewkowitz	Rein, William
Abrams, Joy and Kenneth	Guzman, Susan and Nestor	Riddle, Bryan
Anatole, Phyllis and Ronald	Harris, Jonathan	Robles, Vicki S.
Anonymous	Horne, Joan	Rosen, David and Sue
Arizona State Heritage Fund	Hyman, Susanne	Rosen, Ruth
Bandler, Loren and Mack	Jacobs, Dora and Bernard	Rosenbluth, Leah
Barness, Daron and Ron	Jewish Collection	Rosenzweig, Betty
Becker, Melanie and Barry	Johnson, Miriam Jaffa	Rosenzweig, Kathy and Burke
Bell, Lawrence and Tracey Leonard	Karatz, Sue and Robert	Sarver, Penny and Robert
Bell, Michael	In Memory of Barry Kazan	Schaffer, Shyrle and Irving
Bell, Sherry	Kazan, David	Schubert, Jerri and Gordon
Ben-Shalom, Jim	Kazan, Lee (In Memory of Harold Kazan)	Schubert, Anne
Ben-Shalom, Rita	Kline, Ellen Bett and Mel	Schubert, Mary and Mark
Bendheim, Ronnie	Kluger, Bonnie, Allyn, and Family	Schwartz, Sheila
BMW of N. Scottsdale	Korey, Mel	Segal, Andrea
Brooks, Corrine	Korrick, Helen and Ed	Segal, Barry
Bycer, Karen and Jay	Kravetz, Nancy and Robert	Segal, Joseph
Cain Family: In Memory of Robin Cain	Kruglick, Burton	Segal, Rita and Ralph
Carter, Joy and Ron	Lane, Arlene	Segelbaum, Robert and Elaine Waxman
Casino Arizona	Leverant Family: Ryan, Calen, Dirk, and Amy	Sendrow, Susana and Mark
City of Phoenix	Leverant, Louise and Barry	Shapiro, Marlene and Eugene
Cohn, Amy and Andrew	Levin, Pam (in Honor of Robert and Michelle Levin)	The Sheinbein Families
Coles, Scott	Levin, Sherri and Tom	Shuman, Irving
Cutler, Elana and Howard	Levine, Susan and William	Siefer, Nancy and Stu
Cutler, Randi and Lawrence	Levy, Myra	Silverman, George-Ann and Barry
Dannenbaum, Soo and Kenneth	Lewkowitz, Andrea and Jerry	Silverman, Raymond
Diamond, Lynda and Kenneth	Lewkowitz, Catherine and Herman	Simons, Diane and Jay
Diamond, Susan and Robert	Luke, David	Sitver, Joan and Morton
Dietrich, Marnie and Harvey	Lurie, Arlene	Sniderman, Jan and Lou
DuBrow, Cynthia and Edward	Madorin, Joyce	Spector, Linda, Mark, and Family
Eckstein, Diane and John	Magen, Joan and Walter	Steier, Elizabeth and Jeffrey
Eckstein, Paul and Florence	Mallin, Risa and Bruce	Stein, Gayla
Epstein, Dee and Jay	Mallin, Hannah	Stein, Marvin
Epstein, Bette Mae and Lawrence	Markow, Bea and Bob	Stern, Judy and Barry
Erlick, Julie and Howard	Mason, Barbara and Sam	Stober, Richard
Fann, Ricki and Don	Matloff, Marilyn	Stone, Lisa and Steve
Feffer, Evelyn and Ralph Jr.	Mendelsohn, Martha and Frederick	Swartz, Belle and John
Feinstein, Charlesa and Allen	Metz, Irene and David	Swartz, Stan
Finkelstein, Kitty	Moffitt, Nancy and Larry	The Thunderbirds
Forman, Dolores	Moon, Esther and Kenneth (In Memory of Ralph Feitlin)	Turken, Bruce
Fradin, Sonia and Jack	Morton, Ira and Beryl	Turken, Bee
Fradin, Kenneth	Nasses, Wanda and Marvin	Turken, Kathleen and Meyer
Frazin, Fran and Lawrence	Nathan, Marti and Stephen	Weiner, Naomi and Gerald
Friedman, Doris and William	Newmark, Pearl	Wolfskill, Phyllis and Samuel
Gaines, Cheryl and Ira	Orlikoff, Michael	Zemel, Barbara and Barry
Ganz, Emil Paul		Ziegler, Ellie and Michael (In Memory of Maddie Levitt)"
Gelbart, Debra and Steven		
Germaine, Sherri and Sanford		

HISTORY MATTERS



*Michael Wormser, c.1884.
Wormser was a pioneer merchant and landowner in Prescott and Phoenix. Land from his estate was used to build the first Jewish cemetery in Phoenix.*

BECOME A MEMBER TODAY!

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

- ___ \$50 Supporting Member
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TOTAL AMOUNT \$ _____

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

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

AJHS SPECIAL EVENT

"Rhythm and Jews: A Musical Festival"

A fun concert for the entire family!



Featuring live performances by:

**Todd Herzog
The Rural Street Klezmer Band
and
Shalom Feivel & Rocky
Mountain Jewgrass**

Ticket prices:
\$18 General Admission
\$36 Shalom Level
\$54 Mazel Level

**Underwriting and sponsorship
opportunities available
Call 602-241-7870 for details.**

Proceeds from this event will go
toward the restoration of
Phoenix's first synagogue as the
**Cutler☆Plotkin Jewish
Heritage Center**



**ARIZONA JEWISH
HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

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

**BE A PART
OF HISTORY!**

**Arizona Jewish
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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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