



AJHS Receives \$150,000 Grant From Arizona State Heritage Fund

The Arizona State Parks Board voted in May to award the Arizona Jewish Historical Society a grant of \$150,000 to be used in the restoration of Phoenix's first synagogue. The money is drawn from the state's 2007 Heritage Fund and is the maximum amount an applicant can receive.

Money from the grant will be used to restore the historic temple and classroom annex. The work to be performed includes structural reinforcement of the buildings, restoration of exterior wall surfaces, window and door rehabilitation, repair of deteriorated wood trim and vents, re-roofing, and the addition of an ADA access ramp on the east side of the temple. The project also involves interior rehabilitation work, including floor, wall, and ceiling restoration in the sanctuary, and the reconstruction of the original stage and ark based upon the original architectural drawings as well as historic photographs of the site. Work is expected to commence in January 2008.

Built in 1921, the temple was the original home of Congregation Beth Israel, and later served as a Chinese-American and Mexican-American Baptist church. The Arizona Jewish Historical Society purchased the facility in 2002 and is



restoring it as the **Cutler-Plotkin Jewish Heritage Center**. When completed, the center will serve the public as a museum of Jewish history, education center, archive, and event venue. This grant brings the total amount raised by the **Arizona Jewish Historical Society** to over \$2 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 additional donations for this exciting project.

To make a contribution, or to get involved, please call 602-241-7870, or visit us on the web at www.azjhs.org

JEWISH LEGACY SERIES

presents
Janet Arnold

Producing Director of the
Arizona Jewish Theatre Company

"Then and Now:
Celebrating 20 Years of
the Arizona Jewish Theatre Company."



Sunday, October 28th at 2pm

at the Cutler-Plotkin Jewish Heritage Center
122 E. Culver St. (Take 2nd St. south from McDowell)

Free to the public

Don't miss this interesting afternoon as Janet Arnold daunts the exciting history of the AZJTC and performs a reading of Joni Browne-Walders, *A Holiday Tale or How I learned to Stop Kvetching and Love the Torah*. This delightful piece is about a 12-yr-old girl who moves to Phoenix and decides she wants a Christmas tree because all the other kids have one. It mentions a number of old Phoenix landmarks and provides an interesting perspective on our local history.

Learn Your Family History

Researching your family history is not as hard as you may think! It just takes, time, patience, and lots of tenacity. The **AJHS** is co-sponsoring a special workshop with Temple Solel this fall on how to do Jewish genealogy. The program will consist of three afternoon sessions on Tuesday, October 9th, 16th, and 23rd. Each session will last from 1:30-3:30 pm and will cover such topics as getting started, what resources are available, and using your computer to do research. Sessions cost \$10 each or \$20 for all three and include computer access. They will take place at Temple Solel, 6805 E. McDonald Drive. Contact Janette Silverman at 480-991-7414, Ext. 121, or by email at jsilverman@templesolel.org for more information. An evening program will follow next spring.



Happy
New Year



Wishing you a
healthy, happy and
prosperous
5768

SAVE THE DATE!

Tuesday, October 9th

Genealogy Workshop

"Finding Your Family Roots"

1:30pm at Temple Solel

6805 E. McDonald Dr.

\$10 Registration fee, \$20 for all

three programs

Call 480-991-7414 ext. 121

Tuesday, October 16th

Genealogy Workshop

"The Complexities of Finding Information"

1:30pm at Temple Solel

6805 E. McDonald Dr.

\$10 Registration fee

Call 480-991-7414 ext. 121

Tuesday, October 23rd

Genealogy Workshop

"Computers and the Internet as Resources"

1:30pm at Temple Solel

6805 E. McDonald Dr.

\$10 Registration fee

Call 480-991-7414 ext. 121

Sunday, October 28th

Jewish Legacy Series

Janet Arnold, Producing Director
AZJTC

"Then and Now: Celebrating 20 Years of the Arizona Jewish Theatre Company"

2pm at the Cutler Plotkin

Jewish Heritage Center

122 E. Culver Street

(Take 2nd street south from McDowell)

Free to the Public

Monday, December 10th

AJHS Special Event

"To Life: A Celebration of Jewish Music in the Movies"

7pm at the Scottsdale Center for the Arts

Tickets start at \$18

Advertising and underwriting opportunities available

Contact 602-241-7870 for reservations

Sunday, January 13th

Jewish Legacy Series

Dr. David Graizbord, Center for Judaic Studies at U of A

"The Sephardic Jewish Legacy"

3pm at Congregation Beth Israel

10460 N. 56th Street

Free to the Public

P r e s e r v e t h e L e g a c y o f A r i z o n a ' s J e w i s h C o m m u n i t y



ARCHIVING HISTORY

Lawrence D. Bell, Ph.D.

Executive Director

"Without our past we have no future. It's as simple as that."

Documentary Filmmaker Ken Burns

From the early *converso* settlers of Spanish times, to the Jewish pioneers of the nineteenth century, to the 110,000 Jews who currently call our state home, each of us has played a role in shaping Jewish life here in Arizona. Our mission at the Arizona Jewish Historical Society is to preserve these experiences so that future generations may learn and benefit from those who came before.

As we forge ahead into the 21st century it is more important than ever that we not forget our roots here in this state. To this end, the AJHS maintains a permanent archival collection of photographs, artifacts, and written documents on the origins of our community and its tremendous growth over the past two centuries.

One of our most important recent acquisitions involves over 10,000 photographs from the *Jewish News of Greater Phoenix*. The collection covers the spectrum of Jewish life in the Valley from the paper's founding in 1948 right up to the present day. Imagine 23 bankers boxes filled front to back with photos of every kind and you will start to realize the enormous value of this collection as a historic resource. It includes photos of prominent business, political, and community leaders, as well equally important portraits of bar/bat mitzvahs, weddings, and numerous social events. Each one of the literally thousands of faces depicted in this collection is one piece of the mosaic that is our Jewish community.

You don't have to be a native or even a long-time resident of Arizona to support the AJHS. What we do is important to old-timers and newcomers alike. For our experiences today will be history for our children and grandchildren just a few years from now. In addition to saving the more distant past, we are also preserving the present for generations yet to come. By becoming a member, you ensure that tomorrow's Jewish community can build on the solid foundations that we have established today. Without our past, we have no future. It's as simple as that.

JEWISH LEGACY SERIES



Coming in January

PROFESSOR DAVID GRAIZBORD

University of Arizona, Center for Judaic Studies

"The Sephardic Jewish Legacy"

Sunday, January 13th at 3pm

Congregation Beth Israel

10460 N. 56th Street

Free to the public

Born in Massachusetts, Dr. Graizbord was raised in Mexico City where he attended the Colegio Israelita de Mexico. He earned his Bachelor's degree from the University of California San Diego and his Ph.D from the University of Michigan. His research focuses on Sephardic Jewish ethnicity, Jewish family history, and the historical experience of ordinary Jews. His talk will highlight the experiences of Sephardic Jews and their baptized descendants in the Americas and Europe, who as targets of religious and ethnic persecution struggled to give meaning to their lives as earnest participants in both Jewish and Spanish cultures.

AJHS ARIZONA TRIVIA QUIZ!

Old timers and newcomers alike, test your knowledge of Arizona:

1. What year did Arizona become a state?
 - a. 1890
 - b. 1910
 - c. 1912
 - d. 1914
2. What is the official state flower?
 - a. Saguaro blossom
 - b. Daisy
 - c. Desert Marigold
 - d. Prickly Pear blossom
3. What is the official state bird?
 - a. Cardinal
 - b. Blue Jay
 - c. Golden Eagle
 - d. Cactus Wren
4. True or False: The original London Bridge is located in Arizona.
 - a. True
 - b. False
5. Which of the following is NOT one of the famous 5 C's?
 - a. Copper
 - b. Cottonwood
 - c. Cattle
 - d. Citrus

Answers: 1-c; 2-a; 3-d; 4-a; 5-b

Preserving History, One Photograph at a Time

In May 2007, *Jewish News of Greater Phoenix* donated their entire photo archive to the AJHS to ensure its preservation for future generations. This historic collection contains thousands of photographs that appeared or were submitted to the paper over the past 60 years. Thanks to a \$10,000 grant from the **Jewish Community Foundation**, we are working on conserving, indexing, and cataloging these photos. Special thanks also to **Flo Eckstein** for donating these photos to the AJHS.

Below are just a few samples from the collection.

POLITICAL LIFE

1. Arizona Governor Bruce Babbitt signs proclamation honoring victims of the Holocaust, 1983.
2. John and Cindy McCain answer phones during the Federation's 1981 campaign.
3. Phoenix Vice Mayor Joy Carter with Councilman Barry Starr, 1977.
4. Governor Jack Williams is honored by Jewish leaders, 1972.
5. Mesa's Jewish Mayor, Sumner "Al" Brooks, with the City Council, 1984.



SOCIAL LIFE

6. Eddie Cantor helps raise funds for Israel, Phoenix, 1948.
7. Junior Civic Leaders, c. 1970.
8. Kivel Resident Al Golder celebrates his 106th birthday, 1998.
9. Having fun at the JCC Pool, 1969.
10. Volunteers for the JCC's 8th Anniversary Ball, 1970.



RELIGIOUS LIFE

11. Michael Haskes, Rabbi Maurice Corson, Rabbi Moshe Tutnauer, Rabbi Abraham Rosenblum, Rabbi Philip Jaffa, and Rabbi Albert Plotkin, c.1967.
12. Celebrating Hanukkah at Temple Beth Shalom in Sun City, 1987.
13. Beth El Mission to Israel, 1971.
14. Dedicating Har Zion Congregation's Education Center, 1966.
15. Young Israel Receives a new Torah, 1997.





President's Message...

Do the years go by faster than before? Do you remember all that has happened this year and in the past?

Jerry Lewkowitz

There is a solution for this and it is not the fountain of youth. Rather it is a strong and vibrant historical society which serves our community in so many ways. Through our oral history collection we preserve unique reflections from the lives of Jewish Arizonans past and present. With our archives and artifacts, we recall the many families who make up our community. Our presence in Jewish history is palpable and significant. The Jews of our community have made great contributions to the history of our state, our nation, and the Jewish people as a whole. Our historical society strives to preserve the contributions of our community for our children and grandchildren and to educate the public about our Jewish history and culture.

In this new year we break ground on the renovation and construction of the Cutler☆Plotkin Center. We will have a museum, a first-rate archival facility, and a restored sanctuary to be used for a variety of purposes. This year promises to be a memorable one for the AJHS. We hope you will be a part of it!

On behalf of the Board and Staff, we wish you and yours L'Shana tova and participation (membership and/or support) in the society. With warm wishes from all of my family to all of yours .

WE NEED YOUR HELP

Many thanks to the volunteers and student interns who are working on this project. These include volunteer coordinator **Marty Richelsof**, interns **Serene Rock, Michael Lowe, and Alexandra Greenwood**, and volunteers **Sheryl Brooks and Al Rubinow**. At the present time, we have processed approximately one-third of the collection. We need your help to do the rest. If you are interested helping to conserve and exhibit these historic photos, please contact us 602-241-7870.

NEW MEMBERS for 2007

Together we will preserve the past for the next generation!

- Richard M. Barnett
- Carmela and Michael Blank
- Peggy and Gary Chiate
- Natalie and Simon Eisenberg
- Dr. Lee and Jane Ehrlich
- Julie Kirschner
- Lorna and Lester Klebe
- Marilyn A. Kutner
- Dr. Jay and Ruth LeGrand
- Lillian Barry Leguns
- Isabel Meth
- Julee Rosen

HISTORY MATTERS



Famous Jewish Arizonan? Albert Einstein was among the state's winter visitors in February 1931. He stopped briefly at the Grand Canyon with his wife Elsa during a trip across the US.

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

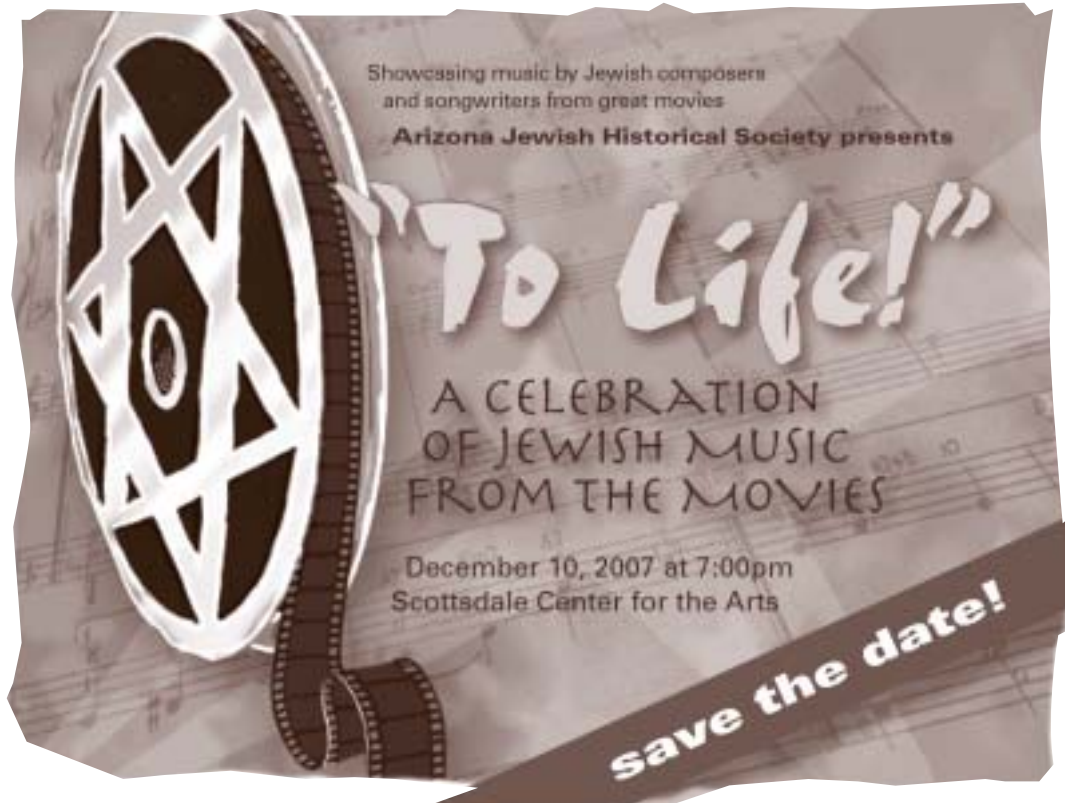
Phone

e-mail

Call 602-241-7870



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



**AJHS
SPECIAL EVENT
"To Life!"**

A live concert showcasing music by Jewish composers and songwriters from classic movies such as:

- *The Jazz Singer *Exodus *Yentl
- *Fiddler on the Roof *Shindler's List and many others

Ticket prices:

- \$18: General Admission
- \$36: Conductor Level
- \$54: Maestro Level

Underwriting and sponsorship opportunities available.

Call 602-241-7870 for reservations

Proceeds from this event will go towards 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
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.*