



# *The Shpiel*

SUN LAKES JEWISH CONGREGATION

MAY 2025

Iyar/Sivan 5785

## *Celebrating Our Heroes*



Israeli Independence Day

& Memorial Day

All meetings are held  
in the Chapel Center  
unless otherwise noted.

# SLJC MAY 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4 <b>1 pm:</b> Friends of Israel With Speaker, Jake Bennett	5	6 <b>3 pm:</b> SLJC Choir Practice	7	8	9 <b>7-8:30 pm:</b> Erev Shabbat Service	10
11	12	13 <b>9:30 am:</b> Sisterhood Board Meeting	14 <b>1 pm:</b> Devorah Literary Ladies (Zoom)	15 <b>1 pm:</b> Sisterhood Meeting <b>4 pm:</b> SLJC Board Meeting	16 LAG B'OMER	17
18 <b>9:30 am:</b> JWV Meeting (Oakwood Country Club) <b>10 am:</b> Devorah Hadassah Board Meeting	19	20	21 <b>1 pm:</b> Devorah Hadassah Out to Lunch (TBD)	22	23	24
25	26	27	28 <b>10:30 am:</b> Devorah Hadassah Board Meeting <b>followed by:</b> Devorah Hadassah Out to Lunch (TBD)	29	30	31

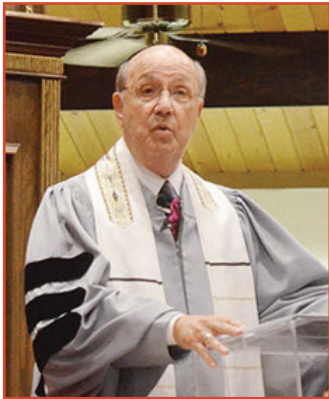
## HIGHLIGHTS

3 From the Clergy  
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15 Donation Form

■ President, Shelly Henden (480) 612-4413  
■ Membership, Susie Shapiro (480) 883-7117  
■ Rabbi Irwin Wiener, D.D. (480) 436-1460  
■ Cantor, Ronda Polesky (480) 247-8408  
■ Music Director, Lana Oyer (602) 524-5936  
■ Graphics, Carol Horowitz (760) 271-2758

To submit to *The Shpiel* or for more information, contact Geri Gould at (480) 305-0123, or gerijim@hotmail.com.

# RABBI IRWIN WIENER, D.D.



## A Time to Celebrate and Commemorate

This month we will commemorate the 77th anniversary of the founding of the State of Israel. It was a crowning moment in our history. From the ashes of the Holocaust, we saw the re-birth of our people. After more than two thousand years we were

finally able to live our lives in the land so long neglected because of dispersion. Nowhere in recorded history will you find a people so dedicated, so devoted and so loyal to an idea and a land.

"If I forget thee O' Jerusalem..." the people of Israel bemoan their treasured city of Peace. Remember, if you will, the Passover Seder, just celebrated and the last words uttered – they are the same. Centuries of pogroms, destruction and isolation never caused us to abandon our dream of the return to Zion. We are connected to that land now and forever.

We will also celebrate the holiday of Mother's Day. It is a time to remember the women who gave us life, who nurtured us, who lifted our spirits and encouraged us as we journeyed from childhood to maturity.

Perhaps we remember a smile, a laugh, a meal. Perhaps we think about a hug, a kiss, a small voice whispering sweetness in our ears. Perhaps we wish that time could be reversed so that we could, once more, tell her how much we appreciated her support when we fell and strong arm that reached out to lift us to a brighter tomorrow.

We will also pay tribute to the men and women who proudly wear the uniform of military service. Many things can and should be said in memory of all who sacrificed so much in the cause of human dignity and freedom. Memorial Day was designated not only to remember but also to commemorate the dedication of those who follow the traditions of service to country, and commitment to the honor and glory of our great country.

AND we will present to the congregation two members who together will offer us a milestone in our journey of spiritual connection: Lana Oyer, our distinguished and celebrated Choir Director, will become a Bat Mitzvah. Lana never had the opportunity for this ritual and will now fulfill her commitment to the tradition of being called to the Torah and offering prayers dedicated to this lifetime desire. Len Dolins, a member of our choir and the Budget Director of the congregation, will celebrate the milestone of a second Bar Mitzvah which is traditionally part of the journey into the next phase of religious commitment.

Both Lana and Len will participate in many ways during our Shabbat service and will be accompanied by members of their families who will travel great distances to witness these achievements. I encourage everyone to participate with them and our congregation as we extend our heartfelt congratulations.

May will certainly be welcomed into our collective memories as we gather to remember the past and pay tribute to the future. 🕯️





# A MESSAGE FROM THE CHAPEL CENTER BOARD

## WE NEED YOUR SUPPORT

We are writing to ask our fellow congregants to financially support us in the continuation of upgrading the Sun Lakes Chapel and Chapel Center. Your donation will go toward making the kitchen facility more accessible and safer for users. Our community uses the facility for religious, secular and inter-faith events that we all enjoy and from which we benefit.

Your gift, along with contributions from members of the other congregations sharing the facilities as well as the greater community, would be an invaluable asset to our project and would help us to achieve our total goal. You have an opportunity to make a meaningful gift and there is a potential tax benefit for you because the Sun Lakes Chapel is an approved 501(c) (3) nonprofit organization. Your gift would play a critical role in promoting a sense of community, friendship, and camaraderie in a safe and accessible place.

No one makes a greater error than not acting because you can only give a little. We appreciate any consideration of our request and hope you will act on it. Consider a donation to honor, celebrate, or remember a special person or event in your life. For whatever reason, your donation will be woven into our community and greatly appreciated.

If you have any questions or need further information, please do not hesitate to write [tobarbara374@cox.net](mailto:tobarbara374@cox.net).

If you would like to donate by check, please make it payable to "Sun Lakes Chapel" and send it to Sun Lakes Chapel, 9240 E. Sun Lakes Blvd., Sun Lakes, AZ 85248.

Thank you for your generosity and support.

## SOMETHING YOU MIGHT NOT KNOW

### PRESERVING MONTICELLO *By Murray Siegel*

July 4, 1826, was the 50th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence, and the day that both John Adams and Thomas Jefferson (and also John Adams) died. Jefferson left his heir with a mountain of debt and to pay off that debt, Jefferson's possessions and his estate, Monticello, were sold. By 1834, Monticello was deteriorating. A Jewish family that had lived in America for five generations purchased the estate and revived its glory.

The Levy's, a Sephardic family who had landed in Savannah, Georgia in the 1700s, revived Monticello to honor Jefferson for bringing freedom of religion to the new nation. The most prominent Levy was Uriah P. Levy, the first Jewish American to attain the rank of Admiral in the U.S. Navy. His actual rank was Commodore, which is equivalent to Rear Admiral in today's Navy. Uriah is credited with ending the practice of flogging as a punishment in the U.S. Navy.

However, at the outbreak of the Civil War, the Confederate government seized Monticello and once again it was allowed to become rundown. Uriah died in 1862, but his heirs obtained Monticello after the war, and, once again, revived the estate. Eventually, the Thomas Jefferson Foundation purchased the property, and they still operate the estate today, allowing visitors to marvel at the ingenuity of our third president who used technology to improve living in the early 19th century.





# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

## SHELLY HENDEN



## Summer Is Coming

Summer has hit us and many of you will be heading to cooler climates. Therefore I wish you safe travels, and come back to us well-rested and ready

for another wonderful year with special events and most of all our beautiful High Holiday services.

Speaking of services, our service in April was one that will be talked about for quite awhile. For those of you that were unable to attend, here's what you missed. The service started off with our choir joined by the choir from the Sun Lakes Community Church singing a beautiful rendition of "Look at the World." It was both heartwarming and moving. What a way to begin the service!

In addition, prior to the start of the Yom Ha Shoah Service, we were enchanted with the violin by our guest Rebecca Ray. We were then treated by a sermon from

our special guest, Pastor Mitch McDonald of the SLCC. Rabbi Wiener then presented Pastor McDonald with a gift of Judaic art.

As you know each month we are greeted by members of the Sun Lakes Community Church. On Easter Sunday members of the Board of Directors of our congregation greeted their congregants as they entered the Chapel for their special Easter Service.

The month of May brings to us another special service, at which time we will be witnessing the B'nei Mitzvah of our Choir Director Lana Oyer and long-time member Len Dolins.

Please SAVE THE DATE for August 29. More information will be forthcoming.

Happy Mother's Day!

I will be attending my grandson's college graduation in May, so I will see you all in June for our monthly service — a Healing Service. 🕯️

## SLJC RESTAURANT FUNDRAISERS

On behalf of the Sun Lakes Jewish Congregation, I would like to thank all those that participated in the restaurant fundraisers this year. We had 70 to 90 participants come out and eat at the three different restaurants that were chosen. I am hoping to host more dine-out fundraisers again next year. Watch for the flyers.

If you have any questions or ideas, please contact Shirley at (480) 329-9368.





# **Israel: A Nation and its People: Part 3**

## **Israel, Zionism & Anti-Semitism: Understanding the Connection and Advocacy Strategies**

Speaker: Jake Bennett, Director of Government Affairs,  
Israeli-American Council

**Sunday, May 4, 2025 - 1 p.m.**

Israel and Zionism as a focus of Anti-Semitism in the United States. What are the best strategies to fight this phenomenon? What are the best ways to advocate for and support Israel at this moment in its history? Discussion will be encouraged.

Jake Bennett advocates to policymakers nationally on behalf of the Israeli-American and pro-Israel communities, ensuring their voices are heard on a range of issues at all governmental levels. He is a combat Lone Soldier veteran of IDF special forces, where he served from 1999-2001, during the Second Intifada. He is a knowledgeable and passionate supporter of Israel.



**Registration required by April 30 to [barbara374@cox.net](mailto:barbara374@cox.net)**  
(Please indicate number of attendees.)

Location: Sun Lakes (Address will be sent after registration)  
Questions? Email [israelsunlakes@gmail.com](mailto:israelsunlakes@gmail.com)



Friends of Israel

# CONGRATULATIONS & MANY THANKS

By Carol Horowitz

Thanks to the dedication and collaborative efforts of the ENTIRE CAST, our musical comedy "THE FAMILY TREE" accomplished all its goals.

First and foremost, the primary goal of LAFF (Laughter and Friendship Forever) was to present opportunities to build interfaith appreciation and understanding among faiths, and, in the process, to use laughter and the creative arts to develop true camaraderie and lasting friendships. That we certainly did!

The hours spent in rehearsals not only benefitted our performances, but we literally howled with laughter together, discovered our commonalities and celebrated our differences, and just plain enjoyed our time together. Cultural and background differences dissolved as we blended into one cohesive group. As we transformed into our character roles in the play, we became one huge family.

Our non-Jewish cast members who represented most of the churches and religious organizations within Sun Lakes (and even congregations as far away as Tempe), comprised about one-third of our cast! If you count the number of spouses who helped us put up and strike down the stage set, sell tickets, transport the play items, including the electronic equipment and borrowed keyboard, the number participating who are of other faiths grows even higher.

As a fundraiser, we were also quite successful, although we learned that here in Sun Lakes, afternoon tickets are the most popular and sell out the quickest.

As an avenue for seniors to accomplish goals on their personal bucket list, we also were extremely successful, giving many of the cast members opportunities to explore their hidden talents or to do what they'd always dreamt about but never tried before. Although this was truly an ensemble

endeavor, and as such, it wasn't intended to have "stand-out" stars, there were many cast members who did an outstanding job to overcome stage fears and to develop new talents and improve existing skills.

From our actors to our singers and dancers to our backstage crew, we worked as an incredible team, supporting each other, making collaborative suggestions to spur creative thinking to new heights, and to share ways for us (and our audiences) to laugh even harder.

Keeping the basic premise behind LAFF in focus, the PROCESS for this type of endeavor is far more important than the actual PRODUCT. After all, we're here for fun and laughs, not Broadway perfection. We promised to make our audiences laugh, and it was very heartwarming to hear them roar with laughter during each of our performances.

Our interfaith partners have all begged for us to again perform a show together in the future. To that regard, we've found by trial and error that attempting a full-scale musical comedy may have been a bit ambitious for both cast and audiences of this senior population. So, for future performances, we are considering a return to the simplicity of last year's very successful production of "A Deli Line," and have an even funnier one-act, one-hour original musical comedy already in mind.

Most of all, "The Family Tree" was an amazing experience for all the cast and crew. Steve and I hope our cast and audiences all stay healthy to again share laughter together and keep the momentum of interfaith camaraderie moving forward. Steve joins me in saying a heartfelt thanks to all.

Keep believing in LAFF!

*See the next two pages for snapshots taken during the show!*

# "The Family Tree"









# SLJC SISTERHOOD

Next Event: Thursday, May 15, 1 pm, Chapel Center

The next meeting of the Sun Lakes Jewish Congregation Sisterhood will take place on Thursday, May 15 at 1 pm at the Chapel House. Sisterhood members would like to thank Carol Biales and Janey Burnce for their many years of service as Co-Presidents. Their leadership is a testament to their dedication to Sisterhood and our congregation. New officers of the Board of Directors will be inducted. Shirley Shalett and Sandy Golomb will serve as our new Co-Presidents. Be sure to send in the membership form below for the year 2025-2026 along with your check.

Following the brief induction, our speaker will be Esther Spear. Her topic is: Jewish Genealogy – The Origin of Jewish Surnames. She will discuss how and why surnames originated and what they tell us about our ancestors. Everyone is invited to attend.

The Sisterhood has many exciting programs planned for the fall and winter seasons. We will kick off October's meeting with a former ballerina who will discuss her career. In November, we will have a Sisterhood Shabbat when Sisterhood members will conduct the services. There will be prayers, songs, and a potluck luncheon.



Other events include our annual Hanukkah/Paid-Up Membership Luncheon. Games Galore (formerly known as Card Party) was a huge success, and we will meet once again in February at Oakwood Country Club in February to raise money for local charities. Details to follow in the coming months. We encourage you to bring friends to our events. Membership in Sisterhood is open to everyone.

## Sisterhood Membership Dues Form (July 1, 2025 – June 30, 2026)

*NOTE: We do not share information with anyone. For Sisterhood use only.*

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Birthday (month/day only): \_\_\_\_\_

Please send **this form and a check for \$30**, payable to SLJC Sisterhood, to:  
Wendy Goldstein, 24031 S Lakeway Circle NW, Sun Lakes AZ 85248





## BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND

It isn't too soon to begin thinking about your 2025-2026 SLJC membership. And we have the best deal in town!

SLJC is once again holding its annual **Membership Raffle**. What a great way to support the congregation, while at the same time helping yourself. That's right! You could win a one-year membership to SLJC (a \$200 value)! Tickets are only \$20, and you might have the winning entry!

It's easy — simply complete the form below and return it along with your check (**payable to SLJC**). The drawing will be held during the August 8, 2025 SLJC service. **You need not be in attendance to win.** The winner will be notified by phone. You may enter as many times as you would like at \$20 per entry. **Entries must be received by August 5, 2025.**

**With your support we can make this a huge success. Good luck!**

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Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Amount Enclosed: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Mail to: Janey Burnce  
9510 E. Champagne Drive  
Sun Lakes, AZ 85248

# MAY CELEBRATIONS

## ANNIVERSARIES — *kol hakavod* — to another great year ahead together!

4 Ron & Victoria Gindick	16 Barry & Joan Berger	25 Alex & Wendy Goldstein
5 Alan & Marilyn Behr	19 Berlyn (Sonny) Jr. & Margie Rose White	

## BIRTHDAYS — *mazel tov* — another year older and another year wiser!

1 Gary Hasenfus	6 Margie White	14 Alex Goldstein	27 Victoria Gindick
3 Sherie Sinykin	10 Lana Oyer	14 Mark Salita	28 Stephen Kubrin
4 Sharon Becker	10 JoAnne Rubinstein	17 Noel Levine	30 Elaine Zolty
5 Arthur Fink	11 Wendy Goldstein	22 Ken Mesa	
5 Barbara Reiss	12 Michael Kaplan	23 Eve Wagner	
6 Robert Kleiman	13 Ann Baumrind	26 Bruce Nussbaum	

# MAY YAHRZEITS

## *Zichronam livrachah* — may their memories be a blessing.

Samuel Abramson	Jerome Fisher	Barbara Lubisch	Anna Price
Roslyn Algranati	Shirley Francis	Ivanhoe	Mildred Roth
Eugene Behr	Harry Frauenthal	Eva Katcher	Sara Scheck
Anne Bernstein	Dorothy Frauenthal	Merv Kolb	Jacob Sharff
Irvin Biales	Fella Fryde	Ronald Landberg	Arthur Siegel
Celia Bornheim	Martin Garber	Herman Levinson	Ruth Siegel
Rose Brenwer	Sue Gerson	Ruth Levitan	Daniel Sinykin
Albert Burnce	Karen Ann Gersten	Sharon Lynn Levy	Gerald Sisser
Robert Cantor	Isabella Gettes	Sylvia Levy	Norman Spear
James Cline	Mitzi Goelman	Jerome Mendelsohn	Sonia Strauss
Joseph Cohen	Sarah (Sally) Granoff	Gretel Moses	Seymour Weiner
Samuel Cohen	Mark Gurievsky	Larry Moss	Meyer Wiener
Donald Currens	Albert Henden	Alva Nelson	Sadie Weiner
Charles Feinberg	Anita Salas	Darrell Owens	Leon Winter
Dorothy Fink	Hernandez	Ruth Pothus	Henry Arthur Zelinger

## Sun Lakes Jewish Congregation

### Non-Member Memorial Plaques Order Form

A loved one has passed away who was not a member of SLJC, and you desire to create a permanent remembrance of this person. Can this be done? This is a question that is often asked, and the answer is definitely "Yes." We understand the importance of paying tribute to loved ones who are no longer with us. A permanent non-member plaque can be purchased for \$36, and there are three options for the wording of the plaque.

Simply complete the form below and mail it along with a check payable to SLJC for \$36 per plaque to: Wendy Goldstein, 24031 S Lakeway Circle NW, Sun Lakes 85248. Any questions, call (480) 584-5909.

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#### SLJC NON-MEMBER REMEMBRANCE PLAQUE

Please complete a separate form for each plaque, indicating the desired choice of wording.

##### Choice 1

In Loving Memory of \_\_\_\_\_ (name & date)

Purchased by \_\_\_\_\_ (name)

##### Choice 2

Always in Our Heart. \_\_\_\_\_ (name & date)

Purchased by \_\_\_\_\_ (name)

##### Choice 3

In Remembrance of \_\_\_\_\_ (name & date)

Purchased by \_\_\_\_\_ (name)

\$36 per plaque – Make check payable to SLJC

Mail check and form to: Wendy Goldstein, 24031 S Lakeway Circle NW, Sun Lakes 85248.

Any questions, call (480) 584-5909.



# CONTRIBUTIONS



Sun Lakes Jewish Congregation gratefully acknowledges the following contributions made in honor or memory of a special person or event. If you would like to make a contribution, please use the donation form on the opposite page.

## GENERAL FUND

For Arnie Henden's good  
health  
*by Marjorie & David  
Levinson*

## MUSIC FUND

In memory of Sue Gerson  
*by Charles Gerson*  
Celebrating our 66th  
Anniversary  
*by Marilyn & Harvey Fein*

## YAHREZEIT FUND

In memory of Celia  
Bornheim  
*by Sheryl Rockwell*  
In memory of Ruth Pothus  
*by Suzanne Rosenthal*  
In memory of Dorothy  
Fink  
*by Arthur Fink*  
In memory of Karen Ann  
Gersten  
*by Shirley R. Gersten*  
In memory of Dorothy  
Frauenthal  
*by Karen Blonder*  
In memory of Harry  
Frauenthal  
*by Karen Blonder*

In memory of Mitzi  
Goelman  
*by Leah & Al Bloom*  
In memory of Henry A.  
Zelinger  
*by Diane Zelinger*  
In memory of Shirley  
Francis  
*by Diane Zelinger*  
In memory of Eugene Behr  
*by Alan & Marilyn Behr*  
In memory of Albert  
Burnce  
*by Jeff & Janey Burnce*  
In memory of Jacob Sharff  
*by Janey & Jeff Burnce*  
In memory of Charles  
J. Feinberg  
*by Sheilah (Lee) Ross*  
In memory of Barbara  
Lubisch Ivanhoe  
*by Sandor Lubisch*  
In memory of Sylvia Levy  
*by Rita Tanen*  
In memory of Ruth Levitan  
*by Roberta Levitan*  
In memory of Sonia  
Machbitz Strauss  
*by Marc & Suzanne  
Machbitz*

In memory of Roslyn  
Algranati  
*by Marsha Levine*  
In memory of Capt.  
Norman H. Spear  
USA(Ret.)  
*by Jeffrey Spear*  
In memory of Anne  
Bernstein  
*by Jerry Bernstein*  
In memory of Sarah (Sally)  
Granoff  
*by Carole Victor*  
In memory of Eva Katcher  
*by Marcia Weiner*  
In memory of Seymour  
Weiner  
*by Harvey Weiner*  
In memory of Mildred  
Roth  
*by Carol Horowitz*  
In memory of Albert  
Henden  
*by Arnie & Shelly Henden*  
In memory of Sharon Lynn  
Levy (Sheri)  
*by Barbara Sommers*  
In memory of Meyer  
Wiener  
*by Rabbi Wiener*

In memory of Sadie  
Wiener  
*by Rabbi Wiener*  
In memory of Freddie  
Williams  
*by Norma Owens*  
In memory of Rosetta  
Stemmons  
*by Norma Owens*  
In memory of Herman  
Levinson  
*by David & Marjorie  
Levinson*  
In memory of Annie Salas  
*by Yolanda Morales*  
In memory of Gerald  
Sisser  
*by Wendy & Eric Feldman-  
Kerr*

## COMMUNITY BULLETIN BOARD

I want to thank all my caring and thoughtful SLJC friends for the food, visits, calls, texts, cards, and emails I received after my knee replacement surgery. It was so greatly appreciated.

Judy Plafker

Diane Zelinger wishes to thank the SLJC community for all their good wishes and caring during her recent health issues.

SLJC sends condolences to the family of Ruth Lieberman, a longtime member of our congregation.

SLJC wishes mazel tov to Wendy Feldman-Kerr and Eric Kerr on the marriage of their daughter Sydney to Elias Slover.

Please submit Bulletin Board posting requests to Geri Gould at [gerijim@hotmail.com](mailto:gerijim@hotmail.com).

## SLJC Donation Form (please print clearly)

Please accept this contribution to the following fund, in honor/memory of:

**Fund:** ☐ Chapel ☐ Family Fund ☐ Music ☐ Oneg ☐ Silverman ☐ General

Yahrzeit Honoree: \_\_\_\_\_ Month \_\_\_\_\_

Please send card to:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Donor: \_\_\_\_\_ Amt. of Check \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Remit to: Marjorie Levinson, 9533 E Sundune Drive, Sun Lakes, AZ 85248

Please make checks payable to SLJC.

\*Minimum donation of \$10 per person being remembered/honored.

# Book of Remembrance

This is the time of year when we plan for our annual “Book of Remembrance” in which we honor and memorialize our departed family members. Since there are many congregants who leave for the summer months, and will want to have a listing in the book, we ask that you fill out the form below and send it in as soon as possible.

**A completed form, even if your information has not changed, must be included with your payment and be received no later than:**

**MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 2, 2025**

Return your check payable to Sun Lakes Jewish Congregation to:

Marty and Marsha Levine, 3805 E. County Down Dr., Chandler, AZ 85249

Questions? Call: (480) 802-8911 or (908) 216-0848

DO NOT INCLUDE WITH OTHER CONGREGATIONAL DUES

**NAMES WILL BE COUNTED, NOT LINES. EACH NAME ON A LINE WILL BE COUNTED INDIVIDUALLY. Prices are as follows:**

1/4 page	\$18.00	1-10 names
1/2 page	\$ 36.00	1-15 names
Full page	\$72.00	1-20 names

## PLEASE CHECK BOTH THAT APPLIES TO YOUR MEMORIAL

- ☐ No changes at all in previous memorial.
- ☐ Corrections, deletions or additions to a previous memorial. Make changes on separate paper and send with form. This is not considered a new memorial.
- ☐ Brand new memorial. Print names on separate paper and mail with form. Month and year of death is not included in the Book of Remembrance. This information is to be included with your membership form.

Amount Enclosed:

☐ \$18 (1/4 page)      ☐ \$36 (1/2 page)      ☐ \$72 (full page)

PRINT YOUR NAME(S) EXACTLY AS YOU WISH IT TO APPEAR IN YOUR MEMORIAL

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_



# JEWISH WAR VETERANS COPPER STATE POST 619

## JWV TO FEATURE PHOENIX VA HEALTH CARE SYSTEM AT MAY MEETING

Sunday, May 18, 9:30 am, Poolside Building, Oakwood Country Club, 24218 S. Oakwood Blvd., Sun Lakes



Penny Craft, Volunteer Services Specialist for the Phoenix VA Health Care System, is the featured speaker for Jewish War Veterans Post 619 meeting Sunday, May 18 in Sun Lakes' Oakwood Country Club Recreation Center, 24218 S. Oakwood Blvd. A "Meet & Greet," with free lox and bagels, coffee, and doughnuts

starts at 9:30 am. The speaker follows at 10 am. All are welcome.

Penny Craft works for the Center for Development & Civic Engagement. (CDCE). Craft will speak about the various departments within the VA that may require items not supplied by the federal government. She enjoys working with her contacts throughout the health care system and with the various clinics to develop wish lists.

JWV has worked closely with Penny to fill several of the VA's requests from these lists. A recent appeal was for 30 bicycles with helmets and locks for newly housed veterans who were coming off the streets and out of shelters. The Post also keeps Bereavement Carts stocked with supplies for veterans' families attending to end of life patients.

JWV volunteers participate in VetsGiving, an annual event that Craft plans where veterans can learn about the services they've earned and receive free items. Additionally, this busy veteran has single-handedly expanded the week-long Salute to Veteran Patients to let these veterans know they are appreciated.

Craft is a Desert Storm combat veteran who served in the US Army from 1990 to 2002. Her military

specialty started out as a medic. She ended up in Special Operations as a Psychological Operations (PSYOP) soldier which is the only military occupational skill available to women in that section. PSYOP soldiers use intelligence, cultural sensitivity, and foreign language skills to build relations with leaders and civilians. This career path prepared her for a lengthy career in public relations at the Phoenix VA where she ultimately joined volunteer services.

The Community Living Center (CLC), what civilians would call a nursing home, just opened in January after extensive remodeling and repairs to that portion of the medical center. Within two weeks, the CLC went from an initial count of four residents to 15. There will be new opportunities for both volunteers and donations to support that welcomed addition.

"I am convinced that there are organizations and individuals out there who would like to support veterans, especially those in need," offers Craft. "It is my job to make it easy for them to either volunteer their time or donate items that will help. I've been a VA employee for 16 years after serving for nine years in the Army. I know how hard it can be for veterans, and I am committed to getting the support they've earned," she concluded.

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*JWV Post 619, which meets the third Sunday of every month from September to June, boasts members who represent a wide range of religious affiliations and participates in philanthropic activities to help veterans of all faiths. For more information about JWV Post 619 and membership opportunities, please visit the JWV Facebook page at [facebook.com/CopperStatePost619](https://facebook.com/CopperStatePost619) or contact Arthur Uram at (702) 884-4175 or via email at [uramarthur@gmail.com](mailto:uramarthur@gmail.com).*

# DEVORAH HADASSAH

Come join the fun and meet new friends! For information on Hadassah and attending our events, contact Eliana Bar-Shalom by phone at (860) 377-7126 or by email at [ebarsalom.eb@gmail.com](mailto:ebarsalom.eb@gmail.com).

## General Meeting

Our next General Meeting will be held Wednesday, May 28 at 10:30 am. We will be joined by a guest speaker. After the meeting, we will be going to lunch. To attend, RSVP to Gail Scheck at (480) 570-6819.

## Out to Lunch

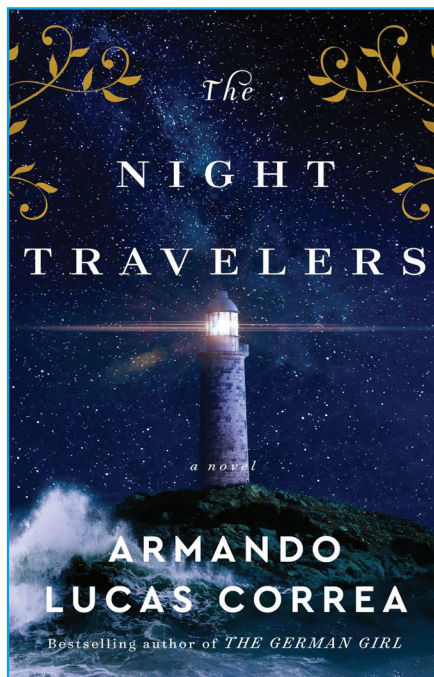
Gather with other women after the general monthly meetings to socialize and enjoy lunch together! Upcoming dates are Wednesdays, May 28 (following the General Meeting) and June 25. To learn more, please contact Gail Scheck via email at [gscheck85206@yahoo.com](mailto:gscheck85206@yahoo.com).

## Food Drive

The third Wednesday between 11 am and 1 pm we collect non-perishable food for JFCS (Jewish Family & Children's Services) in various communities in the East Valley.

## Literary Ladies Book Group

Our book group meets the second Wednesday of each month at 1:30 pm on Zoom. The upcoming book we will be discussing will be: (1) *The Night Travelers* by Armando Lucas Correa on Wednesday, May 14, and (2) *Kantika* by Elizabeth Graver on Wednesday, June 11.



## Chai Flicks Movie Group

The dates and movies vary each month, but include a discussion of the film at lunch following the film.

**Devorah Hadassah sells greeting cards!** We have cards for all occasions that we sell for \$2 each or, if you want to have a selection on hand, we sell 12 for \$21. Such a deal! We also have several different certificates priced at \$5, \$18, and \$100. These are ready to view at all in-person events. Contact Susan Fox to order or to ask questions at (520) 705-3226.

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*The Shpiel* | May 2025  
Iyar-Sivan 5785  
Volume 8, Issue 5  
[sunlakesjewishcongregation.org](http://sunlakesjewishcongregation.org)

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## Coming up at the East Valley JCC



### Israeli Film Series

#### 'The European Dream'

A documentary that explores the legacy of stolen art from the Holocaust era. Sign up to receive the link and watch from home on May 4.

[evjcc.org/film](http://evjcc.org/film)

### Open Beit Midrash

Through May 29

9 a.m. Wednesdays

Weekly parsha discussion

At the EVJCC, 908 N. Alma School Road, Chandler

10 a.m. Thursdays

Jewish Ethics & Morals

Online

11 a.m. Thursdays

What are the 613 Commandments?

Online

Taught by Rabbi Michael Beyo, EVJCC CEO

[evjcc.org/obm](http://evjcc.org/obm)

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