



The Shpiel

DECEMBER 2025 KISLEV / TEVET 5786

SUN LAKES JEWISH CONGREGATION

Wishing You Peace, Love, And Laughter
At Hanukkah and Always!



Carol
Horowitz

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

SLJC DECEMBER 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2 3 pm: SLJC Choir Practice	3	4	5	6 10:30 am: SLJC Shabbat Morning Service (with Adult Education Session)
7	8	9 9:30 am: Sisterhood Board Meeting 2:45 pm: SLJC Choir Practice	10 1:30 pm: Devorah Hadassah Literary Ladies (Zoom)	11 4 pm: SLJC Board Meeting	12 7-9 pm: SLJC Erev Shabbat Service	13 7 pm: LAFF Auditions
14 1ST NIGHT OF HANUKKAH	15 2ND NIGHT OF HANUKKAH	16 3RD NIGHT OF HANUKKAH 2:45 pm: SLJC Choir Practice	17 4TH NIGHT OF HANUKKAH 1 pm: Devorah Hadassah Out to Lunch (Location TBA)	18 5TH NIGHT OF HANUKKAH 12 pm: Sisterhood Hanukkah Lunch	19 6TH NIGHT OF HANUKKAH	20 7TH NIGHT OF HANUKKAH
21 8TH NIGHT OF HANUKKAH 9:30 am: JWV Meeting (Oakwood Country Club)	22	23 2:45 pm: SLJC Choir Practice	24	25	26	27
28	29	30 2:45 pm: SLJC Choir Practice	31			

HIGHLIGHTS

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8 Yahrzeits
8 Celebrations
16 Contributions
17 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.



The Generations That Follow

If there is anything sure in this life, it is the continuation of the generations. The journey of life contains so many experiences, but the glue that gives life meaning is the knowledge that when we are gone, there will be

another to take our place. That has been and continues to be the design of creation.

There are many ways to guarantee the future. There is love, which includes embracing everyone regardless of who and where they came from. There is support for those things we hold dear so that those who follow will inherit traditions and understandings from which to continue to build a future. There is service to one's ideals, which we hope will encourage those who continue to realize the values we hold dear.

All of these things come to mind when I think about the season just around the corner. The essence of Hanukkah is the understanding that love conquers all: the love of God. There can be no brighter light emanating from the menorah than the light of understanding and faithfulness.

Hanukkah helps us understand the true meaning of compassion and strength. Light not only represents awareness but it also enables us to find our way in the darkness that surrounds us. It doesn't only matter that there was enough oil for one day or that it lasted for eight. It doesn't only matter that a band of zealots overcame unimaginable odds to secure religious freedom for all. What *does* matter is that we remember and we tell the story, in whatever form, however we embellish it. What *really* matters is that we are here to do just that and every faith on the face of the earth owes its existence to this seemingly insignificant feat that took place 2200 years ago.

That is continuity in its highest form, and it is how love and devotion to faith will guarantee that the generations will follow. It is service to community and to synagogue that also makes Hanukkah so special.

Our commitment to Jewish survival enabled us to reach out to others in various communities. We are part of a greater Jewish presence in this valley. And all this was made possible because of vision and sacrifice.

The Mishnah teaches that in the beginning God created only one person to teach us the lesson that if you destroy a single person, it is as if you have destroyed the whole world. And if you save the life of a single person, it is as if you have saved the whole world. I would go even further by stating that if you preserve that which is sacred and has meaning, it is as if you have guaranteed the future and ensured continuity. That is the debt we owe to those who were responsible for our existence as a congregation and the preservation of our heritage. Hanukkah means dedication, and what better example of dedication than remembering our past which brought us to today.

The Talmud also teaches that if a community is in need, a person must not stay uninvolved. A person must share in the communities' needs, and they will see its survival guaranteed. The continuity of the generations will be the testament to that involvement.

Yes, Hanukkah means many things, but to me the most significant is that our destiny is enshrined in our connection to each other and to God, who enables us to make each season a season of joy and fulfillment. 🕯️



Don't Let the Lights Go Out

By Rabbi Irwin Wiener, D.D.

"Don't let the lights go out!" With these words, over 2200 years ago, humanity was introduced to an awareness that illuminates the path of life's journey.

Hanukkah represents the globalization of the understanding of God. The light that emanates from the Menorah is the light of the true meaning of the relationship between God and humanity. Hanukkah comes at a time when darkness surrounds us. Days are short. Nights are long. It is cold and the harshness of winter is beginning. Life withers. We sleep. Yes, this is the darkest time of the year.

Then there is light. The warm glow of the candles kindles an awareness in our hearts that radiates so strongly and embraces everything around us. We are mesmerized by the flame, almost hypnotized, and we feel secure. Each night we light another candle until all eight are lit. And each night we feel a new sense of enlightenment, a new level of holiness, a new attempt at the connection between God and humanity.

We light eight candles to differentiate between the Creator and the created. For in six days did God bring order from chaos and rested on the seventh, and we, on the eighth day, attempt to bring this order into our daily lives through the miracle of the lights.

We cannot recapture the past, but we can use it to ensure the future. The religious freedom that was won has been the clarion call for all people throughout history. Every battle for religious freedom has had

as its foundation the spark from the candles lit to indicate that good survived.

May the light of freedom glow for all humanity.

May the light of hope give meaning to our journey through life.

May the light of redemption enable us to fulfill our destiny.

May the light of Hanukkah remain a symbol for the future for everyone.

May the light illuminate the paths of darkness as it awakens our souls to our societal duties.

May the light remind us that there is goodness in each of us.

May the light help us to remember our responsibility to comfort the oppressed; encourage the downtrodden.

May the light remind us to respond to those in trouble as we attempt to relieve their pain and suffering.

May the light remind us that tomorrow can be better and that life is cherished and above all it is to be honored.

At our Shabbat Services on December 12, we will once again join together to commemorate this dramatic experience that has given us the ability to enhance our lives through the miracle of LIGHT. 🕯️

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

SHELLY HENDEN



Happy Hanukkah

I want to thank the members of the Jewish War Veterans for accepting honors for our November service as well as sponsoring the Oneg. They make me so proud of all the good

work that they do for our vets who deserve the help. I hope that you do as I do when I see a vet with their hat on: I thank them for their service. I have found that they appreciate being recognized and thanked.

In the last Shpiel there were two notices about helping to set up and taking down the various items that are an

important part of making our services having the feeling of being in a temple. We had to say good-bye and thanks for being a part of us these many years to Doug Ross (whom I thank each and every service) because of health issues. Again, I am asking for your help to offer your time once a month for 30 minutes to set up at 3:00 pm and 30 minutes after services to put things away. If you are unable to help and might know of someone that would be willing to do this for us for \$50 each service, please let me know. Without such a person, we will be left without many of the items that we bring out to the bima.

I hope that you had a wonderful Thanksgiving and wish for you and your families a Happy Hanukkah and Happy and a Healthy New Year. 🕎

A MESSAGE FROM THE CHAPEL CENTER BOARD WE NEED YOUR SUPPORT



Hanukkah is often celebrated by giving gifts. Please consider an end-of-the-year donation/gift to the Chapel Center for the continuous upgrades that have been done. You will feel like you have made a difference. For those of us who work in the kitchen, set up and clean up for our congregation's events, we agree that the changes have been important and have made the facility safer and more accessible.

This is the season for giving. Please include the Chapel Center in your list of donations. The oversight of the Chapel Center is an organization with 501(c)(3) designation. Therefore, a donation can be tax deductible.

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

ADULT EDUCATION 2025

A NEW YEAR OF EXPERIMENTATIONS

Join the rabbi to experience Shabbat morning services and study. This sessions will be held in the Chapel Center. Please save the date to join us:

December 6, 10:30-11:30 am

The origins and traditions of Hanukkah: Why the Books of the Maccabees are not included in the Canon of Jewish Holy Books

Our congregation will have a unique opportunity to create a dialogue with Rabbi Wiener and each other around the general topic of Hanukkah. Our congregants come with insightful questions, varied interests and a desire to explore topics in a way that is different from what we thought we knew. The conversation should be outstanding.



CRISPY POTATO LATKES

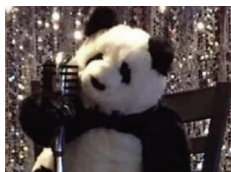


Second night of Chanukah:

Trade your "Latke" in for an EGG

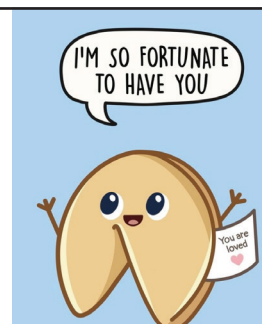
ROLL

Tues. Dec 16
5-8pm



Chandler Location
757 E. Chandler Blvd.
Chandler, AZ 85225

Phone
480-777-5050



SLJC FUNDRAISER

DEC 16

5-8

- Chanukah "tunes"
- Friends. Food. Fun
- Light the Menorah

Wear your Chanukah outfit
And bring your voice for the
SING ALONG

FRIENDS OF ISRAEL

AN IMMIGRATION NATION

Diversity of the Israeli population with a focus on immigration and absorption was the topic of the most recent Friends of Israel, SLJC, speakers' series. Two Israeli women who represent the Jewish Agency in Greater Phoenix spoke about their life experiences coming from immigrant families. Sapir is the Senior Shlichah (Israel Emissary) at the Jewish Philanthropy of Greater Phoenix and Pardes Jewish Day School, and Vita is the Israel Fellow at ASU Hillel. Sapir's family are Mizrahi, while Vita moved to Israel from Russia at age 16.

They both highlighted the rich cultural variations that exist in Israel with some obstacles from certain groups not fully appreciating the potential contributions of newly arriving immigrants. All arriving groups, however, quickly develop a sense of belonging and a national spirit. National emergencies and threats to security are met with a predictable unification and sense of a singular purpose.

The large waves of Russian Immigrants were initially labelled as "Sausages" because many could not prove their personal Jewish heritage and were felt to be taking advantage of visas to Israel being available. 1.75 million Russian/Ukrainians have arrived in Israel since 1948.

Mizrahi Jews were initially felt to be uneducated, compared to European Jews, with little to contribute to



FOI photo Sapir Barbara Michael Vita E

the general welfare. But Mizrahi Jews now comprise the majority of the Jewish population in Israel. There are now 10.15 million citizens in Israel, with 78.8% being Jewish and 21.5% being Arabs.

Both immigrating groups have made substantial strides in terms of acceptance, government service and industrial leadership, while others still struggle. All immigrants retain their cultural uniqueness, cuisine and lifestyles, with a high level of comfort.

The Diversity of the Israeli Population: Social, Cultural and Political Implication Series will continue. Watch for date and speaker information. Want to help or have ideas? Send an email to israelsunlakes@gmail.com.

LONE SOLDIER PROJECT

IMMIGRANTS' (OLIM) ROLE IN ISRAEL'S WAR AGAINST TERRORISTS ON SEVEN FRONTS SINCE OCTOBER 7, 2023

By Michael Cohen

According to data published by the Immigration, Absorption, and Diaspora Committee in January 2023, 6,973 Lone Soldiers were serving in the Israeli army, 88% of them immigrants. Typically, 7000-7500 Lone Soldiers are on active duty at any one time, half from foreign countries and half Israelis.

Meanwhile, 13,000 Lone Soldier reservists (reservists who originally did their regular army service as Lone Soldiers) served in Israel's war in Gaza between October 7, 2023 and December 2024.

However, according to the US-based Friends of the IDF, the number is much higher. It confirmed that 20,000 Americans have participated in the war from its inception to the present day as Lone Soldiers. (Excerpted from *The New Arab*)

The physical and emotional toll on IDF soldiers has been enormous. Our Lone Soldiers Center partners have been overwhelmed with mental health service requests. The IDF reports that well over 10,000 of all soldiers have been formally diagnosed with PTSD.



Photo credit: https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Flickr_-_IDF_Soldiers_Near_Israel-Syria_Border_Following_%22Naksa_Day%22_demonstrations.jpg

On October 26, 2025, (National Aliyah Day), **ninety-six fallen olim soldiers from the current war** were memorialized, with President Herzog presenting a book commemorating their life stories, military history and family messages. (*Jerusalem Post*)

The Lone Soldier Project, EVJCC, supports these soldiers while on active duty in collaboration with our Lone Soldier Center partners in Israel. Want to help? Email lonelossoldiers@evjcc.org. Learn more about the project at evjcc.org.

DECEMBER CELEBRATIONS

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

4 Eileen (Bunny) Elman	18 Stephen & Joy Fishman	26 Robert & Karen Kaplan
11 Charles & Judy Wolin	21 Dennis & Phyllis Novy	26 Alan & Leah Bloom
12 Gregory & Diane Posniack	25 Neil & Susan Tamber	27 Richard & Noreen Nadler

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

4 Leah Bloom	7 Irwin Wiener	12 Eileen Carpenter	23 Richard Tauber
4 Tom Mohr	7 James Gascoyne	13 Sander Frindell	25 Michael Freed
4 Marlene Bernstein	8 Milton Lewis	16 Fritz Fergusson	29 Richard Nadler
6 Dennis Novy	9 Kevin Murphy	20 Jeff Burnce	29 Faith Roth
7 Judy Asbell	9 Jon Scheck	21 Alice Salita	31 Gregory Posniack

DECEMBER YAHRZEITS

Zichronam livrachah — may their memories be a blessing.

Irving Arnow	Harold Dunayer	B. Claiment (Clay)	Libby Rossen
Naomi Axelrad	Alton Dunn	Granoff	Jerome Roth
Sophie Behr	Minnie Elias	Cyla Gutwillig	Zelda Rothstein
Jennie Berenweig	Esther Engel	Joel Gutwillig	Sidney Rudin
Dan Berg	Charles Fink	George Holstein	Sarah Shalett
Sidney Bloom	Sophie Fischer	Bobby Hopkins	Simon Shapiro
Edward Blumberg	Sol Gass	Jean Jacobs	Irving Silverman
Marilyn Blumberg	Bessie Gerson	Alexander Katcher	Stewart Silverman
Aaron Bram	John Gerson	Leah Koss	Meyer Solko
Fanny Bush	Irving Ginsberg	Marlene Lebovitz	Anna Solko
Frances Calcaterra	Sylvia Glazer	Tillie Levenson	Joan Spiegel
Margaret Cline	Allan Goelman	Berthe Machbitz	Irving Sternhill
Pauline Cohen	Edwin Golomb	Alaine Matlaw	Lynne Stone
Ray Cohen	Lydia Golomb	Louis Mertz	Harry Temkin
Pearl Cook	Irene Goldsmith	Rose Mertz	Edna Tepper
Edward Coopersmith	Grace Gould Earhart	Mark Nelinson	Norma Zacharias

SLJC SISTERHOOD

Next Event: Thursday, December 18, 12 pm, Chapel Center

On November 1, the Sisterhood held a special Shabbat service and luncheon in the Chapel Center. Thank you to Doris Codkind, Shirley Shalett, Judy Elias, Sandy Golomb, Karen Hassenfus, Eileen Carpenter, Cantor Ronda Polesky, and Rabbi Wiener for making this a special occasion. This was such a success that we hope to make this an annual event.

The SLJC Sisterhood will have its Paid-Up Membership Luncheon with a Hanukkah Flair on Thursday, December 18 at 12 pm at the Chapel Center. There will be a catered lunch, Crazy Bingo, and Menorah Lighting. The meal is free for our paid-up members, but we request that you submit a check for \$15 as a deposit for the caterer. The check will be returned to you at the event. Please

bring four quarters for Crazy Bingo. See the flyer for more information and to register for this event.

Games Galore is our annual fundraiser for local charities. It will be held on Monday, February 23, 2026 at 10 am at the Oakwood Country Club in Sun Lakes. We will have a delicious buffet lunch with a new menu, our signature gift baskets, cash raffle, and tantalizing treats at our bake sale. For reservations or questions, please email Doris at rondor55@gmail.com. See the flyer to register for Games Galore.

It is also time to order your Mah Jongg cards for 2026. Fill out the form on page 13 and mail it to Rita Tanen.



SUN LAKES JEWISH CONGREGATION SISTERHOOD PAID-UP MEMBERSHIP LUNCHEON
THURS., DEC. 18th, 2025, AT @12 pm, The Chapel Center in Sun Lakes
FEATURING CATERED LUNCH, CRAZY BINGO* AND MENORAH LIGHTING
(*Please bring 4 quarters for Crazy Bingo)

The meal is free to our paid-up members, but we request that you submit a check for \$15 as a deposit for the caterer and mail it to Wendy Goldstein, 24031 S Lakeway Circle NW, Sun Lakes AZ 85248 by December 5. **The check will be returned to you at the event. Please write “Hanukkah Party” in the check memo.** If you have not paid your dues yet, please fill out the Membership Form and send it with a **separate check** to Wendy Goldstein, Membership Chairperson. For more information email her at wendysue800@yahoo.com.

Hanukkah Party Registration:

NAME: _____ CHECK # _____

EMAIL: _____



SLJC RESTAURANT FUNDRAISER

Monday, January 5, 6-9 pm, Black Bear Diner, 2805 S. Alma School Road, Chandler

You do not need a flyer, but please say you are from Sun Lakes Jewish Congregation to your server.

We are hoping for a big turnout and for everyone to enjoy themselves. For more information, please be in touch with Shirley Shalett at (480) 329-9368, shalettshirley@gmail.com.



SLJC Sisterhood Membership Dues Form (July 1, 2025 to June 30, 2026)

Note: WE DO NOT SHARE THIS INFORMATION WITH ANYONE,
FOR SISTERHOOD USE ONLY.

Name:

Address:

E-mail:

Telephone Number (indicate cell or home)

Birthday (month/day only)

Anniversary (month, day and year*)

**Your anniversary year is being requested in order for the SLJC Sisterhood to acknowledge milestone anniversaries*

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.



GAMES GALORE

Formerly known as Card Party

Monday, February 23, 2026 at 10:00 a.m.

Doors open at 9:00 a.m.

Oakwood Country Club in Sun Lakes

Charity event sponsored by Sun Lakes Jewish Congregation Sisterhood

\$40 entry fee includes a delicious buffet lunch with a new menu.

We will have our signature gift baskets, cash raffle and tantalizing treats at our bake sale!

For reservations or questions email Doris: rondor55@gmail.com.

Please make your check for \$40.00 per player payable to: SLJC SISTERHOOD and mail to: Doris Codkind, 100 W Queen Creek Rd., Apt. 215, Chandler AZ 85286. Please limit lunch seating to groups of 5.

Names of players: (Please include a contact phone # or email for one member of the group.) Reservations deadline is February 10. Contact #/email: _____

_____ **Game:** _____

You must provide your own game. No card shufflers please.

___ Single registration. Please add me to a group. Preferred game _____.

SLJC SISTERHOOD RAFFLE



\$10 GIVES YOU A CHANCE TO WIN A **CASH** PRIZE

FIRST PRIZE = \$200

SECOND PRIZE = \$100

THE DRAWING WILL BE HELD AT THE GAMES GALORE EVENT ON FEBRUARY 23, 2026. THE WINNERS NEED NOT BE PRESENT TO WIN. YOU MAY PURCHASE MULTIPLE ENTRIES AT \$10 PER ENTRY.

Please make check (\$10 per entry) payable to **SLJC SISTERHOOD**. Mail to:

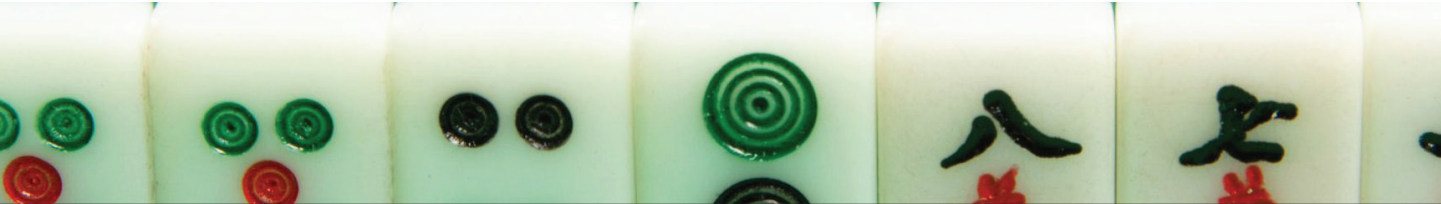
Diane Silverman, 9437 E Rocky Lake Drive, Sun Lakes AZ 85248

NAME: _____

PHONE #: _____

**WE THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING SLJC SISTERHOOD
AND THE LOCAL CHARITIES THAT WILL BENEFIT FROM THE PROCEEDS.**

PHOTO RECAP: NOVEMBER SISTERHOOD SHABBAT



MAH JONGG CARDS
It is time to order your Mah Jongg cards for 2026. Please print clearly when you fill out the form. You may use one form for up to 5 players. Use additional forms if necessary. The form (see below) and the checks are to be mailed to Rita Tanen by January 9, 2026. For more information: ritatanen@gmail.com

2026 MAH JONGG CARDS
Please fill in the information below for **one lead person** per group. Then clearly print the names, addresses, size and quantity of the card(s) ordered.

NAME _____ PHONE # _____

ADDRESS _____

Indicate: SIZE: (S) STANDARD PRINT \$14.00 (L) LARGE PRINT \$15.00

SIZE	QUANTITY	NAME and ADDRESS
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

Make checks payable to: SLJC Sisterhood and send all the checks with this form to Rita Tanen, 23905 South Sunland Ct., Sun Lakes, AZ 85248.

DEADLINE: JANUARY 9, 2026. Form and Checks must be received by this date.

SOMETHING YOU MIGHT NOT KNOW

JEWISH POWs

By Murray Siegel

When Operation Homecoming (the return of U.S. POWs from Vietnam between February and April 1973) occurred, Americans were joyful at the repatriation. Yet it is likely that you did not know that five of those POWs were Jewish and that one more converted several years later. I only learned this fact by reading "Hanoi's Jewish Prisoners of War," written by Sheldon Goldberg, Ph.D. and Lt. Col. USAF (Retired) in the Fall issue of *Mig Sweep*. Dr. Goldberg flew combat missions in Vietnam in the F-4D aircraft. He is the Docent/Historian at the National Museum of American Jewish Military History in Washington, D.C.

The first Jewish-American captured was Airman 2nd Class Arthur Niel Black, who was shot down in his HH-43B helicopter in September 1965. He was given a field commission while in captivity; upon returning to the U.S., he completed pilot training and retired as a Major.

Air Force 1st Lt. Al Brudno was shot down in his F-4C in October 1965. Lt. Brudno was an MIT graduate and taught math and physics to other prisoners, despite being the subject of numerous tortures. He was severely depressed in captivity and, sadly, PTSD led him to commit suicide four months after his repatriation.

Alan Lurie, Major USAF, was captured in June 1966, when his F-4C was brought down. He remained in the Air Force after coming home, retired as a Brigadier



Photo credit: <https://nmajmh.org/2025/09/hanois-jewish-prisoners-of-war/>
General, and passed away in 2017. Another F-4 pilot who remained in the USAF after repatriation was Captain Mel Pollack. He overcame severe back injuries and returned to flying status, retiring as a Lt. Col.

Army Capt. Hal Kushner, M.D., was captured by the Viet Cong when his helicopter crashed in 1967. Despite being wounded, he survived imprisonment, returned to active duty and retired as a Colonel.

Air Force Capt. Chuck Jackson was shot down in his F-4 by an air-to-air missile in June 1972. He remained on active duty for five years but was medically retired in 1979 due to injuries suffered in his 1972 ejection. Chuck converted to Judaism after he retired and became a life member of the Jewish War Veterans. He passed away in August of this year.

SLJC MEN'S CLUB



◁ Men's Club November lunch outing at Famous Dave's Restaurant

AUDITIONS FOR LAFF'S NEXT FUN MUSICAL COMEDY

CALLING ALL ACTORS, SINGER, DANCERS, & MUSICIANS (TECH & BACKSTAGE CREW ARE ALSO NEEDED)

AUDITIONS: Saturday, December 13, 7 PM, Chapel Center



Auditions will be held on Saturday, December 13 at 7 pm at the Chapel Center. While talent is greatly appreciated, all interested people are welcome and encouraged to join in the fun.

The mission of LAFF (Laughter and Friendship Forever) is to share fun and “LAFFter,” while using the performing arts to develop interfaith camaraderie. Especially at times like these, LAFF presents an opportunity for people of all faiths to spread understanding, share appreciation, and develop acceptance of all people. And based on the fact that most of our cast and crew from previous productions over the past years have eagerly returned to share in our merriment, we are accomplishing our goals of

becoming a cohesive, creative, and fun-loving, group — a family.

Our next production will be approximately one hour and fifteen minutes of nonstop “LAFFing” in this ONE-ACT original musical comedy. Yet, although it’s a relatively short production, there will be ample opportunity for all who are interested to participate in this hysterically funny theatrical experience.

Come to our auditions and let us prove that “LAFFter” is indeed the best medicine. Our cast and crew laugh as much during our rehearsals and play preparation as our audiences do during our performances. Rehearsals begin in early January and continue, mostly on Sunday afternoons, until our scheduled performances in mid-arch.

Our auditions are designed to be fun and stress-free. For questions or further information about how to prepare for auditions, please contact Carol Horowitz at horowitz@windstream.net. (If you are unable to attend the auditions on December 13, contact Carol Horowitz to make alternate arrangements to audition the week prior, on Sunday, December 7, at 1:30 pm.)

We guarantee that this will be a unique experience, unlike any theatrical production you’ve ever experienced before. We invite you to share our “LAFFter!”

LAFF (Laughter & Friendship Forever) Proudly Announces Grant

LAFF tremendously thanks the Greater Sun Lakes Community Foundation for their generosity in awarding \$5,000 and for their continuing encouragement and support! The grant monies will be used to fund our upcoming play in March 2026, “The Key to A Good Night’s Sleep,” and will also be used to purchase items that bring ongoing benefit to the Chapel.



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

In honor of Gail Dante
by Steve & Carol Horowitz
In honor of Greg & Diane
Posniack
by Steve & Carol Horowitz
In memory of Karen
Blonder
by Nancy Stutman

CHAPEL FUND

In honor of Greg &
Diane Posniack's 60th
Anniversary
by Phyllis & Dennis Novy
In memory of Blanche
Delman
*by Gwen & Marshall
Adelson*

ONEG FUND

In honor of Diane &
Greg Posniak's 60th
Anniversary
*by Mireille & Michael
Kaplan*
In honor of our 65th
Anniversary
by Chuck & Judy Wolin

SILVERMAN FUND

In memory of Sy & Edie
Evans
by SLJC Men's Club
In memory of Karen
Blonder
by Shirley R. Gersten
In memory of Karen
Blonder
by Cyril Goodman

YAHRTZEIT FUND

In memory of Esther Z.
Kovac
by Susan Kovac
In memory of Ruth
Sternhill
by Fritzi Ferguson
In memory of Rae Cohen
by Gail Dante
In memory of Edward
Blumberg
by Laurence Blumberg
In memory of Marilyn
Blumberg
by Laurence Blumberg
In memory of Zelda
Rothstein
by Shirley Gersten
In memory of Berthe
Machbitz
*by Marc & Suzanne
Machbitz*
In memory of Alton Dunn
*by Marc & Suzanne
Machbitz*
In memory of Frances
Calcaterra
by Doris Codkind
In memory of Erving
Sternhill
by Fritzi Ferguson
In memory of Minnie Elias
by Judy Elias
In memory of Grace
Earhart
by Judy Elias
In memory of Libby
Rossern
by Judy Elias

In memory of Fanny Bush
by Judy Elias
In memory of Lydia
Golomb
by Sandy Golomb
In memory of Edwin
Golomb
by Sandy Golomb
In memory of Marlene
Lebovitz
by Sandy Golomb
In memory of Clay Granoff
by Carole Victor
In memory of Phil Stontag
by Gary & Karen Hasenfus
In memory of Jean Jacobs
by Bobby Sachs
In memory of Lynne Stone
by Robert Stone
In memory of Sophie Behr
by Marilyn & Alan Behr
In memory of Stewart
Silverman
by Betsey Silverman
In memory of Charles
Cohen
by Betsey Silverman
In memory of Sidney
Bloom
by Leah & Al Bloom
In memory of Harry
Temkin
by Gloria & Bob Howard
In memory of Allan
Goelman
by Leah & Al Bloom
In memory of John
Gerson
by Charlie Gerson

In memory of Bessie
Gerson
by Charlie Gerson
In memory of Jerome Roth
by Carol Horowitz
In memory of Simon
Shapiro
by Larry Shapiro
In memory of Leah Koss
by Marilyn Koss
In memory of Sarah Shalett
by Shirley & Edd Shalett
In memory of Naomi
Axelrad
by Esther Spear
In memory of Pearl Cook
by Nancy Stutman
In memory of Jennie
Berenzweig
by Owen Fabert
In memory of Margaret
Cline
by Owen Fabert
In memory of Tillie
Levenson
by Owen Fabert
In memory of Mark
Nelinson
by Diana Nelinson

COMMUNITY BULLETIN BOARD

SLJC sends condolences to Kevin Murphy on the recent passing of his wife, Barbara Somers. Cards may be sent to Kevin at:

1112 W. Oriole Way
Chandler, AZ 85286

SLJC sends condolences to Harvey Fein and family on the passing of his wife Marilyn.

SLJC sends condolences to the families of two former long time members, Sheldon Kruger and Carol Weiner.

Mazel tov to Mike and Helen Abrams on the birth of their new granddaughter, Jordyn Olivia.

Please submit Bulletin Board posting requests to Geri Gould at 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.

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 **\$54.00**, and there are three options for the wording of the plaque.

Simply complete the form below and mail it along with a check payable: SLJC for \$54.00 per plaque to: Wendy Goldstein S Lakeway Circle NW, Sun Lakes 85248. Any questions, call (480)548-5909.

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)

Purchase by _____ (name)

CHOICE 2

Always in Our Heart _____ (name & date)

Purchase by _____ (name)

CHOICE 3

In Remembrance of _____ (name & date)

Purchase by _____ (name)

\$54.00 per plaque-Make check payable to SLJC

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

Any question, call (480)-584-5909

TAX CREDIT INCENTIVE GRANTS TO SLJC

Use your Arizona State income tax liability and payment to benefit East Valley JCC and Sun Lakes Jewish Congregation

Your tax liability will not increase or decrease for this donation. Instead of giving your income tax payment to the Arizona Treasury Department, you can donate it to East Valley JCC and SLJC!

This is a win-win for both you and our congregation!

Individual income tax filers can donate as much as \$495 and joint income filers can donate as much as \$987 without increasing or decreasing your tax liability for this donation. SLJC will receive 18% of the funds received by East Valley JCC. Once this donation has been made, East Valley JCC will send a donation confirmation to use for your tax records. Form 321 will need to be filed with Arizona Income Taxes for this Charitable contribution.

Help our synagogue benefit from your generous contribution without it costing you any additional money!

Below is a form that you can use for your donation to the East Valley JCC that lists Sun Lakes Jewish Congregation as the benefiting organization.



TAX CREDIT FORM

Name: _____

Address: _____

Amount of Donation (Check): _____

Benefiting Organization (AZ Tax Credit): Sun Lakes Jewish Congregation

Email: _____

Phone: _____

Date: _____

Please return this form to:

East Valley JCC (AZ Tax Credit)

908 North Alma School Road, Chandler, AZ 85224

JEWISH WAR VETERANS COPPER STATE POST 619

JWV SPEAKER OFFERS HELP TO BRAIN INJURED VETS AND PUBLIC

Sunday, December 21, 9:30 am, Oakwood Clubhouse Ballroom, Oakwood Country Club, 24218 S. Oakwood Blvd., Sun Lakes



Tom Eiseminger, a U. S. Army veteran, and President of the Arizona Veterans' Medical Leadership Council, will be the featured speaker at our next meeting. Complimentary lox, bagels, donuts, and coffee will be served at 9:30 am. The

meeting follows at 10 am.

The Veterans' Medical Leadership Council (VMLC), a nonprofit organization, exists to "stop the spiral" toward veteran suicide through "upstream prevention," according to Eiseminger. A lifelong advocate for those who have served, Tom has made it his mission to bridge the gap between military service and successful civilian life. He works closely with public and private partners across Arizona to ensure veterans receive the respect, resources, and rapid support they deserve.

Founded in 1999, its mission is to support the veterans of the Greater Phoenix Valley who have a need which is outside the scope of what the Veterans' Administration, the State of Arizona and other Federal and State offices. The VMLC works in concert with all possible organizations to meet Arizona veterans' needs.

Working in conjunction with VA Social Workers in Phoenix and Prescott, the VMLC identifies veterans on the

verge of losing their jobs or homes and provides immediate financial assistance to stabilize their lives. In many cases, a few hundred dollars for rent, utilities, or car repairs can make the difference between stability and tragedy. "Our payments can be made same day the temporary hardship is identified, making us a unique and responsive non-profit within the veteran's community," explains Tom. According to Kristy S., LCSW, Mental Health Treatment Coordinator of the Phoenix VA Healthcare System, "Social workers can provide only so much support to our veterans in need, and financial assistance is usually not available; so, it feels incredible to have the VMLC as an amazing resource to offer."

Founded by veterans for veterans, the VMLC has been a trusted partner to Arizona's veteran community for over two decades. In 2026, the organization plans to expand its program to the VA Medical Center in Tucson. In addition to his role with the VMLC, Tom serves as the President & CEO at Regenesys Biomedical, a medical device company focused on improving patients' lives and reducing pain — a passion that aligns closely with his advocacy for veterans' health and well-being.

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. To learn more about JWV activities and membership, contact Arthur Uram, (702) 884-4175, uramarthur@gmail.com.

Jewish War Veterans Copper State Post 619 raised more than \$17,000 at ten Fry's locations in the Phoenix East Valley on Veterans Day Weekend. This was the first poppy campaign where shoppers who don't carry cash were able to help homeless, hospitalized and at-risk veterans by donating to the JWV Poppy Campaign.

left to right: JWV veteran Gabe Forsberg, JWV volunteer Dawn Quinn, and digital Zelle donor Bri Armijo



JEWISH WAR VETERANS COPPER STATE POST 619

JWV PAST COMMANDER INDUCTED INTO ARIZONA VETERANS' HALL OF FAME

Sunday, December 21, 9:30 am, Oakwood Clubhouse Ballroom, Oakwood Country Club, 24218 S. Oakwood Blvd., Sun Lakes

Arthur Sharf, Past Commander of Jewish War Veterans Copper State Post 619 (JWV) of Sun Lakes, was one of 15 outstanding veterans inducted into the Arizona Veterans' Hall of Fame (AVHOF) by Arizona Governor Katie Hobbs and John Scott, Director of Arizona Department of Veterans' Services. The event, held October 24th at the Talking Stick Resort Conference Center in Scottsdale, recognizes veterans of the U.S. military who have made Arizona their home and have made significant professional or volunteer contributions to their community, state, or nation.

Stationed in the Panama Canal, Art served with U. S. Army Military Police from 1969 -1971. He then returned to his hometown, Rochester, NY, where he worked for Kodak and joined the Knights of Pythias. There he raised thousands of dollars to support local charities, including those that helped disadvantaged children. One program that stands out in his mind was a camp for children undergoing cancer treatment.

Art remained loyal to the lodge and maintained his membership even after leaving New York in 2003 to come to Arizona. In 2007, he joined Jewish War Veterans Post 619 in Sun Lakes, AZ and quickly became Jr. Vice Commander. He served as Senior Vice Commander 2008–2009 and Post Commander 2010–2011, served on the Board 2007-2015, and chaired the Poppy Drive 2015–2020 when he was diagnosed with lymphoma, which he is still battling.

Sharf received numerous awards and honors from JWV Post 619 for his volunteer work. In April 2024, he received a Lifetime Service Award "for long-term commitment to help disadvantaged veterans." Specific innovative programs he implemented were "meal" events to have post members serve food to the veterans at the Arizona State Veterans' Home, US Vets, MANA House, and the VA Mental Health Clinic. These events inspire the membership to participate in JWV's Poppy Drive, which raises thousands of dollars yearly to support critical services and events for the vets.

Art received the JWV Person of the Year award in March 2015 for his contributions to and modernization of the



△ Arizona Veterans Hall of Fame award presented to Arthur Sharf by Governor Katie Hobbs and John Scott, Director Arizona Department of Veterans' Service

post's primary fundraiser Poppy Drive at eight Fry's Market locations. He then assisted the post as it distributed funds, ensuring that the nonprofit organizations receiving money were wise investments and helping find new worthy veteran-focused organizations in need of financial aid.

Art's volunteer work was primarily focused on helping support struggling vets, especially those at risk with substance abuse issues, dealing with homelessness, hospitalization, etc. His unyielding goal was to help vets get back on their feet and live their best lives when dealing with obstacles and disabilities.

The JROTC program at Hamilton High, established by Sharf, which supports cadets travelling to the Air Force Academy, was recently resurrected in 2025 by the post. Cadets now participate in JWV ceremonies and events and have attended post meetings.

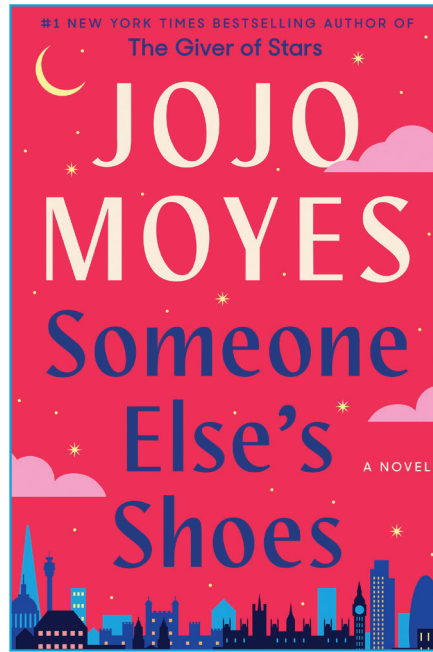
JWV Post 619 is proud to add Arthur Sharf, Class of 2025, to the exclusive list of Arizona Veterans' Hall of Fame along with post members Jesse Gersten, Class of 2004; Arthur Sloane, Class of 2008; and Steven D. Weintraub, Class of 2022.

DEVORAH HADASSAH

Hadassah, The Women's Zionist Organization of America, has a Chapter in the East Valley called Devorah Hadassah. We organize events, programs, and fundraising activities to support Hadassah Medical Center in Israel and other Hadassah initiatives. For more information, please visit desertmountain@hadassah.org.

Out to Lunch

Gather with other women after the general monthly meetings to socialize and enjoy lunch together! Upcoming meeting date is Wednesday, December 17 at 1 pm.




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 on Zoom on Wednesday, December 10 is *Someone Else's Shoes* by Jojo Moyes.

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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Sun Lakes Jewish Congregation
P.O. Box 11479
Chandler, AZ 85248

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Chanukah party

Dec. 17



Tuesdays at the J

Dec. 16: Sapir Tiram



Israeli Film Series

Dec. 7: Midas Man

Make an impact with your tax credit: evjcc.org/sljc

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