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From the editor



At the Desert Gathering Jewish Music Festival in November, I picked up a T-shirt that read simply, “Love Phoenix or Leave Phoenix.”

I guess I’m here to stay, because I love living in the Valley of the Sun, and I hope you do, too.

The best the Valley has to offer – from restaurants and shops to stadiums and museums – is on display in Best of Jewish Phoenix, a special edition of Jewish News.

Of course, a community is more than just buildings and businesses, and we’re proud to highlight not only the best aspects of metro Phoenix, but also the things that make our local Jewish community great, from events and programs to the subjects of our 10 spotlight profiles. These leaders combine a strong Jewish identity with the desire to make a positive impact on their community, and their energy and accomplishments inspire us.

From all of us at Jewish News, we wish you the best in 2014.

Jennifer Goldberg
Special Content Editor



Staff

PUBLISHER
Jaime Stern

MANAGING EDITOR
Leisah Woldoff

ASSISTANT MANAGING EDITOR
Salvatore Caputo

SPECIAL CONTENT EDITOR
Jennifer Goldberg

STAFF WRITER
Marilyn Hawkes

MARKETING MANAGER
Jennifer Starrett

ACCOUNT EXECUTIVES
Susan Breakstone
Susan Forkos
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Jennifer Starrett

PUBLIC NOTICES COORDINATOR
Alexandra Stein

ADVERTISING COORDINATOR
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GRAPHIC DESIGNER
Jeannie Quiggle

BOOKKEEPER
Terri Oppelt

SUBSCRIPTIONS ADMINISTRATOR
Stephanie Shink

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1625 E. Northern Ave., Suite 106
Phoenix, AZ 85020
Phone: 602-870-9470
Fax: 602-870-0426
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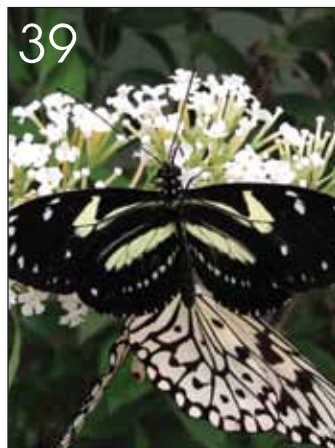
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on the cover:

Clockwise from top left: Chompie's matzah ball soup, courtesy of Chompie's; Kitchen 18's chicken shawarma, courtesy of Kitchen 18; Desert Botanical Garden by Adam Rodriguez; Changing Hands Bookstore, courtesy of Changing Hands; Musical Instrument Museum, courtesy of MIM; True Food Kitchen, courtesy of Fox Restaurant Concepts; and Elements, courtesy of Sanctuary Camelback Mountain Resort & Spa



Jonny Basha

Jonny Basha currently works at Unitedweb doing business development and analysis. He's an active member of Congregation Beth Tefillah, is involved with American Israel Public Affairs Committee (AIPAC), the Jewish Community Association of Greater Phoenix, Young Jewish Phoenix, Sigma Alpha Mu Fraternity, BBYO, Chabad at ASU, The Jewish Federations of North America and Jewish National Fund, and occasionally staffs Taglit-Birthright trips to Israel. He is single and currently lives in the Moishe House in Scottsdale.

What are your favorite Valley restaurants? One of my favorite restaurants is Paprika near Scottsdale and Shea, where I met my roommate at an all-you-can-eat shawarma night.

What are some of your favorite places to go in the Valley? As for nightlife, I like to walk around downtown Scottsdale during the Scottsdale ArtWalk. In my free time, I like to hike Camelback Mountain at sunrise, then grab a Jamba Juice. I also love making friends with Israelis at local mall kiosks. You can catch me frequenting big communitywide events like the Waste Management Phoenix Open, Sound Wave, the Tzofim Friendship Caravan of Israel Scouts and Mazelpalooza, obviously.

What do you love about our Jewish community? The Jewish community we have here in the Valley is both beautiful and thriving. It's a vibrant environment to spend time in after university life as well as being a great place to raise a family. There is leadership and opportunity everywhere.

What do you love about living in the Valley? From the start-up scene to technology companies to culture and arts, Phoenix has it all, plus we're just a quick flight away from the best vacation spots. People used to think the big Jewish scenes were only in L.A., New York and Toronto, but not anymore: We have it all right here in the Valley. That's pretty *sababa* if you ask me.



Photo by Molho Photography



Jonny Basha



Alison Betts

Alison Betts is the director of international marketing at American Express, a member of Congregation Beth Israel, a board member of the Jewish Community Association of Greater Phoenix, a co-chair of PJ Library Phoenix and a 2009 graduate of the Wexner Heritage Program. She lives in Scottsdale with her husband, Adrian, and their sons, Elliot and Cameron.

What are your favorite Valley restaurants? My favorite restaurants are Moto, La Grande Orange, Kitchen 18, Mozart/Paprika, Bourbon Steak, Tommy Bahama's, Zinc Bistro and Barrio Café. My favorite dishes are the roasted corn and goat cheese pizza at La Grande Orange, Onion Soup Gratinee at Zinc Bistro, the Senorita Sushi Roll at Moto, mojitos at Tommy Bahama's and tableside guacamole at Barrio Café.

What places do you like to shop? I'm not a big shopper, but if I have to shop, these are my spots: Kidstop (best place to buy children's gifts), The Jewish Collection, AJ's (the best place for fresh fish) and Nordstrom Rack.

What are some of your favorite places to go in the Valley? Make Meaning, Phoenix Zoo, Heard Museum, Joya Spa at the Montelucia

Resort & Spa, Valley of the Sun Jewish Community Center, hiking anywhere, Orangetheory Fitness and my mom's house.

What do you love about our Jewish community? I love that our Jewish community is growing and offering more opportunities to enjoy Jewish life than ever before. Whether you are heading to the Valley of the Sun Jewish Community Center Jewish Book and Cultural Arts Fair, the Greater Phoenix Jewish Film Festival, a Tu B'Shevat or Yom Ha'atzmaut festival, there is a constant stream of exciting Jewish activities in Phoenix. I've never been more proud of our community than I am today!

What do you love about living in the Valley? The weather! For eight months of the year we can enjoy outdoor living – what a treat!



Photo by Molho Photography



Alison Betts

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The best of Jewish Phoenix is all around us – in our synagogues, schools and celebrations. Although many of us came to Arizona from somewhere else, we who now call the Valley home have put down roots and are growing a strong, vibrant Jewish community in the desert – together.

Best place to go back in time **Cutler★Plotkin Jewish Heritage Center**

If you want to learn about the Valley's Jewish history, the Cutler★Plotkin Jewish Heritage Center is the place to go. Not only does the center house the offices of the Arizona Jewish Historical Society and its archives, but it also is the site of Phoenix's first synagogue, built in the 1920s. The site, which was voted by the public as a Phoenix Point of Pride in 2008, underwent a physical restoration in 2008 and officially reopened as a museum, educational center and event venue in 2010. Today, AZJHS hosts community events, private events, exhibits and sold-out screenings of documentaries, and some synagogues hold worship services in the restored sanctuary.

■ 122 E. Culver St., Phoenix 85004
602-241-7870
www.azjhs.org

Best new hangout **Moishe House Phoenix**

We wish there were a place like Moishe House to hang out in when we were in our 20s! From Shabbat dinners and holiday celebrations to outings such as sporting events and happy hours, Moishe House fills a gap between Jewish college life and Jewish family life. Moishe House Phoenix, which is actually located in Scottsdale, opened in June 2013 and receives funding from the Howard and Geraldine Polinger Family Foundation. Events are hosted by the house's 20-something residents and cover four genres: social, cultural, religious and repairing the world.

■ moishehousephoenix@gmail.com
[facebook.com/MoisheHousePhoenix](https://www.facebook.com/MoisheHousePhoenix)

Best young adult event **Mazelpalooza**

Chinese food and a movie is not the only option for Jewish young adults in the Valley to do on Christmas. Each year, hundreds of Jewish young adults dress up and attend Mazelpalooza, the largest party for their cohort in Greater Phoenix.

The event, held on Christmas Eve for the past 16 years, travels to a new nightclub each year; in 2013, it drew more than 700 people to Maya Day+Nightclub in Scottsdale.

■ www.mazelpalooza.com

Best *tikkun olam* event **Jonathan's Walk4Friendship**

In a beautiful tribute to one of the children who used to attend its program, The Friendship Circle, a nonprofit organization for individuals with special needs, recently held its third annual Jonathan's Walk4Friendship, a one-mile family walk followed by entertainment, activities and food. The walk, which raises funds and community awareness for The Friendship Circle, is named after a participant in the nonprofit's Friends at Home program. Jonathan, along with his buddy Adam, a volunteer with the program, spent countless hours enjoying camaraderie, friendship and true acceptance, and their families connected and became fast friends, according to The Friendship Circle. Jonathan died of cancer in 2010, at age 15.

■ www.jonathanswalk.com



Best way to raise a reader

PJ Library

Children around the Valley look forward to receiving PJ Library's large white envelope with blue text because it's like getting a present in the mail each month, and who doesn't like that? Parents enjoy it as well, because it refreshes their family's Jewish library of books and CDs and brings up an opportunity to discuss Jewish holidays, traditions and values with their children. Funding comes from the Harold Grinspoon Foundation and local donors. Jewish News salutes those who bring this Jewish

content into the homes of many young families in our community.

■ 480-634-8050
www.pjlibrary.org

Best hangout for seniors

Jewish Family & Children's Service Center for Senior Enrichment

If you're a Jewish senior looking for a place to hang out, you can't beat the JFCS

Center for Senior Enrichment at Chris Ridge Village. Open Tuesday through Friday, the center offers education, health and wellness programs, holiday programming, nutritious lunches, exercise and cultural outings. Activities range from "Wet and Wild Aquatics" (yes, there is a pool) and line dancing to crafts and writing classes. The center also offers an *erev* Shabbat service on Fridays. You can purchase lunch daily for \$4 and kosher meals are available. What are you waiting for? You might miss something fun!

■ 6250 N. 19th Ave., Phoenix 85015
602-943-9128
www.jfcsaz.org

Best community retreat

Camp Daisy and Harry Stein

Need a place for a group retreat? The Valley's Jewish community is fortunate to have a site near Prescott, which is owned and operated by Congregation Beth Israel in Scottsdale. In addition to fresh air and a forest setting, the facility also offers a wide range of activities, from a ropes course, indoor rock climbing and a zip line to horseback riding. There is also a swimming pool, a campfire pit and a gaga pit. Accommodations include dormitory-style cabins, but there are also semiprivate rooms and private rooms available for those who prefer more grown-up accommodations.

■ www.campstein.org

Best place for female bonding

Women's Jewish Learning Center

The Women's Jewish Learning Center was named one of North America's 50 most innovative Jewish nonprofits by Slingshot, in the "Slingshot Guide '12-'13," a resource guide for Jewish innovation. And, a supplement to the Slingshot Guide recently named WJLC one of 18 leading Jewish organizations committed to making an impact on the lives of women and girls.



Photo courtesy of Congregation Beth Israel



What better place to hang out and bond with other women? The center, headed up by Rabbi Elana Kanter of The New Shul, offers classes throughout the year that center on spiritual and academic topics. The WJLC's tagline, "Inspirational Learning with Inspiring Women" says it all.

■ 7825 E. Paradise Lane, Scottsdale 85260
www.womenlearning.org

Best idea factory Start Me Up!

Back in July 2009, a Jewish News blog post said: "Young Jews aren't sitting around waiting for the community to meet their needs, but are doing it on their own," and suggested "a communal incubator to foster innovative Jewish startups." That's precisely the role that Valley Beit Midrash's Start Me Up! fellowship has filled, encouraging under-45s to step up with their own Jewish social entrepreneurial ideas. The first-round fellows have produced a variety of enterprises from The Learning Shuk to the Desert Gathering Jewish Music Fest, and others you've read about in Jewish News. We can't wait to see what the second-round fellows produce.

■ info@valleybeitmidrash.org
www.startmeupaz.org

Best outpost in the East Valley Pollack Chabad Center for Jewish Life

Since its founding in 1997, when services were held in the living room of Rabbi Mendy and Shternie Deitsch's home, Chabad of the East Valley sure has come a long way. The Chandler congregation celebrated the grand opening of its new 15,900-square-foot facility – the Pollack Chabad Center for Jewish Life – in August 2013. The facility houses a sanctuary that seats 450, which doubles as a social hall. It also has five classrooms; the Chandler Jewish Preschool; the Chabad Hebrew School; a day camp; a kosher kitchen; and a library. It also offers a kosher venue for large gatherings in the East Valley.

■ 875 N. McClintock Drive, Chandler 85226
480-855-4333
www.chabadcenter.com

Best close encounter of the Jewish kind in the West Valley PebbleCreek Shalom Club

Jewish seniors living in PebbleCreek have a self-contained Jewish community right there in their Goodyear retirement community. The Shalom Club of PebbleCreek offers monthly meetings that can include speakers or variety shows and frequent activities that include bowling, golf, theater outings, a book group and progressive dinners. Major events include a Hanukkah party, Passover seder and Yom Kippur break-the-fast. Members of the group have also coordinated High Holiday services, and currently, women from the PebbleCreek community are preparing for a group adult bat mitzvah ceremony.

■ 3645 Club House Drive, Goodyear 85395
www.pcshalomclub.org

Best place to get to know Israel The Israel Center

The Israel Center aims to "facilitate connections between Israel and the Valley's Jewish community," which is a fancy way of inviting Valley dwellers to get to know Israel. It was especially true in 2013 as Shahar Edry, an Israeli transplant, picked up the reins as full-time director of the center, which is a project of the Jewish Community Association and Valley of the Sun Jewish Community Center. A second community Birthright Israel trip and a program that twinned local religious schools and schools in the Partnership2Gether communities of Hof Ashkelon and Kiryat Malachi were highlights of a busy year.

■ 12701 N. Scottsdale Road, Suite 203, Scottsdale 85254
480-634-4900
israelcenter@jewishphoenix.org

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Best place to find out what's happening in the community

Jewish News

OK, so we're ruthless self-promoters, right? But we feel we have a fairly open-and-shut case to make. No other publication in the universe (well, except maybe God's Book of Judgment) has covered the Valley and Northern Arizona's Jewish community like Jewish News has: consistently, accurately and passionately. And now with a website that we can update 24/6, a social media presence that includes Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn and Pinterest, our coverage has never been more timely. Our award-winning news, advertising and production staffs are here to serve you. Are you feeling the love yet?

■ 602-870-9470
www.jewishaz.com

Best *besheret* pairing Pardes Jewish Day School and Ina Levine Jewish Community Campus

Aren't we all suckers for a match made in heaven? Early last year, word came that moves were under way to restore a Jewish day school presence on the Ina Levine Jewish Community Campus. By the end of the year, the school's fall 2014 opening on campus was all set. The point here is not the history of the campus' various day school configurations, but rather that in

2013, the campus (and its parent group, the Jewish Community Association) put that past to rest and took the steps necessary to bring new life to the campus in the form of hundreds of Jewish students in kindergarten through eighth grade. It's all about creating synergies – athletic fields, gym facilities, a swimming pool and a Jewish library all in one place for students – and with a preschool and after-school programs already on campus, this pairing provides a one-stop Jewish home-away-from-home for Mom and Dad's taxi.

■ 12753 N. Scottsdale Road,
Scottsdale 85254
602-788-4903
www.pardesschool.org



Photos by Joel Zolondek

Best local Woodstock Desert Gathering Jewish Music Fest

In that "I was at Woodstock" mode (although the better parallel might be all those souls at Sinai), we bet that in 10 years' time, about 6,000 people will remember when they were at Desert Gathering, soaking up the Jewish music vibe during one of the coolest community events of 2013. Peace and love were in the air, so was a lot of *klal Yisrael*. We may even have spotted some flower children, their children and their children's children. Were you there? If not, a second installment is planned for this fall. All props to Todd Herzog, who dreamed up the event during his Start Me Up! fellowship.

■ www.desertgatheringaz.com



Best taste of world Jewish culture

Greater Phoenix Jewish Film Festival

Visiting Jewish communities around the world can be so expensive (not to mention time-consuming), but the annual Greater Phoenix Jewish Film Festival affords us the opportunity to see the globe from the comfort of a stadium seat. The festival offers a diverse lineup of Jewish movies each year – foreign, domestic, documentaries, features, shorts and full-length films – plus a number of special speakers to enhance the moviegoing experience. This year’s festival, to be held Feb. 9-23, marks its 18th (*chai*) year, to which we say: Mazel tov!

■ www.gpjff.org



Photos courtesy of GPJFF

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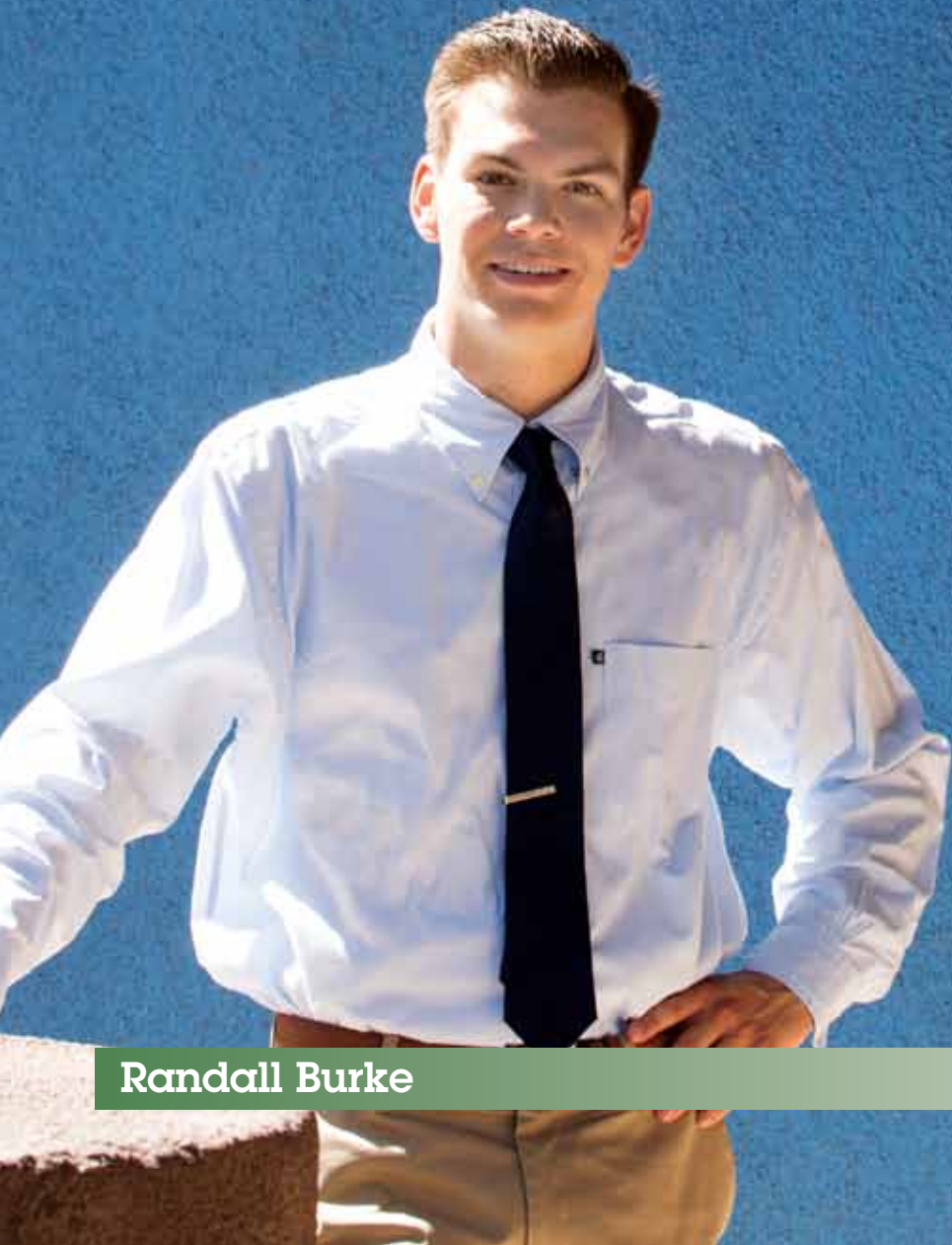
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HILLEL JEWISH STUDENT CENTER



Randall Burke



Randall Burke

Randall Burke (he goes by Randy) is a freshman at Barrett, The Honors College at Arizona State University. Majoring in Jewish studies, he has his sights set on a second degree either in macroeconomics or history. Born and raised in Scottsdale, he attended Pinnacle High School in Phoenix. At ASU, he plays on the Ultimate Frisbee club team, serves as the religious studies intern for the Hillel Jewish Student Center and is a member of Sigma Alpha Mu fraternity, Gamma Phi Chapter. After ASU, he intends to apply to the Hebrew Union College in Los Angeles to begin a six-year program that will end with his ordination as a rabbi and a master's degree in education, earning him the status of Reform Jewish educator. He is a member of Congregation Beth Israel where, in high school, he served one term as the membership and communications vice president and two terms as the president of BITY (Beth Israel Temple Youth), and worked as a *madrish* at CBI's religious and Hebrew schools. He is also the educator at CBI's Merkaz Yisrael, a program that teaches students about Israel. He says he is lucky to have his family supporting him in everything he does. Burke currently lives in Tempe.

What are your favorite Valley restaurants? This is a difficult question as I love to eat! My favorite restaurants are Christo's in Phoenix for Italian, El Bravo in Phoenix for Mexican and Morning Squeeze in Scottsdale for breakfast, the most important meal. I absolutely love breakfast foods and Morning Squeeze has very tasty choices, including their huevos rancheros (it's kosher, I checked). Christo's is a delicious dinner restaurant. My favorite dish is their veal chop; I get it every time. Christo's is special and sentimental to me as well because it was my *zeyde's* favorite restaurant; we go there every year for his *yahrzeit*.

What places do you like to shop? I love to shop here, specifically at Scottsdale Fashion Square because they have a Nordstrom. I like to shop at Dillard's and Nordstrom. I am very preppy; my favorite brands are Polo, Brooks Brothers, Sperry Topsider, Land's End and Nike (for athletic clothing and ASU gear).

What are some of your favorite places to go in the Valley? I love to hike with my mom, although she beats me almost every time. We usually hike at Pinnacle Peak and Camelback, but recently we tried a trail called Tom's Thumb, it was a challenging but fun trail in north Scottsdale. Another place I like to go is the ice rink. I love going to the rink because it means I get to play hockey. However, my favorite place to go in Arizona is Prescott because anytime I am there it means I will be going to Camp Stein, which I have been fortunate to attend as a counselor and camper for the past eight years.

What do you love about our Jewish community? I feel the best part about living in the Phoenix Jewish community is the opportunities given to be involved and connected to each other. We are very lucky here to have such a thriving Jewish population. Through programs such as Valley Beit Midrash and places like the JCC, it is very easy to connect with each other in the community apart from the synagogue. Additionally, I believe that the rabbis here in the Valley do an exceptional job facilitating programming for both youth and adults to further connect the community. I feel that we are moving forward in involvement because of all the opportunities given, specifically for youth. Youth involvement in the community is significant and special to me, because it brought me where I am today.

What do you love about living in the Valley? My favorite part about living in the Valley is that I have been given opportunities here that have helped me grow both Jewishly and secularly. Being a member of CBI has given me numerous opportunities that have shaped me Jewishly, such as study weekends at HUC, teaching about Israel at religious school, and going to Camp Stein. Rabbi Stephen Kahn and Rabbi Rony Keller have been such a positive influence on me and have mentored and guided me throughout my career in high school and even now in college. Additionally, I love cowboys: I love to learn about them, watch movies about them and dress up like them (when I was younger, and a little bit now). I love living out here because it has a Western flair to it; we are in the West and there is a lot of rich history about cowboys and their establishment of towns like Prescott, Yuma, Tombstone and Bisbee. I find it fascinating and intriguing.



Virginie Polster

As the co-founder of The Learning Shuk, Virginie Polster is fortunate to do what she loves every day: connecting families to each other and to innovative and creative Jewish learning locally and beyond. Through this parent-educator-community collaboration, she gets to be inspired by people from all walks of Jewish life. Her spiritual home is The New Shul but her family enjoys learning and participating Jewishly all over the Valley. The Jewish Tuition Organization, Jewish Community Association of Greater Phoenix, and her children's school (Basis Phoenix) round out a typical week. She is deeply grateful to the community for two seminal experiences: the Wexner Heritage Program and Valley Beit Midrash's Start Me Up! fellowship. It is her intention to pay it forward. She lives in Scottsdale with her husband, Jeremy, and their two teenage sons.

What are your favorite Valley restaurants? We cook a lot at home and only eat vegetarian out, so we seek out beautiful vegetables and dishes that we enjoy having others prepare for us. There is something about that Tuscan Kale Salad topped with tofu at True Food Kitchen in Scottsdale Quarter and the freshness at Hiro Sushi that keep me coming back. Lunch with friends at Fresh Mint is always a pleasure. And no day is complete without a visit to a Starbucks, Jolta Java, 32 Shea or Coffee Bean & Tea Leaf to meet someone or catch up on emails. I am not one for clichés except that they are so often true; as a Frenchie, nothing still beats that perfect piece of cheese with a nice glass of wine.

What places do you like to shop? Food, shoes and hats – that sums up my shopping habits. Doesn't everyone do the Sprouts, Trader Joe's, Fry's, Costco loop weekly? When I'm not finding treasures in my mom's closet, I relish having luck at Nordstrom Rack.

What are some of your favorite places to go in the Valley? If it's family movie night, you'll find us at Harkins Scottsdale 101. If it's girlfriend movie date, a film at Camelview always makes for lively conversation. Tentatively moved by nature, I dabble with boating on Saguaro Lake, Shabbos tent camping with friends on Mount Lemmon and around Sedona, and love just staring at the desert. Finally, I appreciate strolling through our Valley's beautiful resorts, each with its own character and feel, from the charm of Royal Palms to the architecture of the Arizona

Biltmore to the zen of Sanctuary. Within minutes, you can grab a drink, sit by a fireplace and feel on vacation during a hectic week.

What do you love about our Jewish community? As part of my work, I connect daily with communities across the country. Admittedly, I sometimes wonder how life would be different in a place where "Jewish" was served on a silver platter, where we could effortlessly consume Jewish living without much thought. And then I remember. I remember the thrill of building a shul, the gift of being able to know people well from a spectrum of Jewish life and the wonder of the impact each person's contribution can have. I am in awe at how much our community has grown in such a short time. I am inspired by being able to dream with others about the future, knowing that we can make it a reality. Yes, one can come here and easily hide. But not anywhere can you go and quickly be part of building the Jewish future. This is the land of Jewish opportunity.

What do you love about living in the Valley? Growing up in the south of France, sunshine, blue skies and heat are my natural habitat. Though we lack the open waters or the urban bustle, growing up watching spaghetti Westerns groomed me to romanticize the mystery and the beauty of the Southwest desert as one of a few iconic American "skylines" and symbol of the pioneering spirit. My husband and I chose to leave the D.C. Metro area to make a life here 15 years ago after a week's vacation and have never looked back.





Virginie Polster



All work and no play makes ... well, you know the saying. There's more to life than time at the office, and the Valley of the Sun has more than enough sources of entertainment, from sports and museums to festivals and golf, to keep even the most discerning leisure-lovers occupied.



Best museum

Musical Instrument Museum

A museum devoted to the universal language of music would have found a warm welcome anywhere, which is why we're lucky to have it in the Valley. The north Phoenix institution doesn't just house thousands of musical instruments from every corner of the globe, it lets those instruments sing via hundreds of video clips and the fun-for-all-ages Experience Gallery, where visitors get to bang a gong or strum a harp to their heart's content. The state-of-the-art concert space draws acts from all over the world, but it's the museum's galleries, with their comprehensive collections of instruments, that leave us in awe of the spectacular diversity of humanity and its music.

■ 4725 E. Mayo Blvd., Phoenix 85050
480-478-6000
www.mim.org

Readers' pick: Musical Instrument Museum

Best movie theater

iPic Theaters

There's going to the movies, and then there's a moviegoing experience, and catching a flick at iPic Theaters at Scotts-

dale Quarter is definitely the latter. The experience begins when you select your seat in advance, choosing from one of two seating levels – one featuring comfy armchairs, tray tables and self-service, and one that boasts recliners, pillows, blankets, free popcorn and service at your seat. There's a full food and drink menu so you can choose the perfect accompaniment to your film, plus all the typical moviegoing fare like sodas, candy and more.

■ 15257 N. Scottsdale Road,
Scottsdale 85254
480-483-3232
www.ipictheaters.com

Best place to take a tourist

Desert Botanical Garden

Tourists unfamiliar with the Valley of the Sun sometimes think that living in a desert means being surrounded by nothing but sand. To remedy that, take your next out-of-town visitors to the Desert Botanical Garden to show them the beauty and diversity of the desert landscape. The garden provides an informative look at desert flora and fauna, but that's just the beginning; concerts, classes, flashlight tours and special exhibitions like "Chihuly in the Garden" make it a can't-miss highlight of anyone's visit to the Valley.

■ 1201 N. Galvin Parkway, Phoenix 85008
480-941-1225
www.dbg.org

Readers' pick: Sedona

Best library

Burton Barr Central Library

When it's time to hit the books, there's nowhere we'd rather be than downtown at Burton Barr Central Library, the flagship location of the Phoenix Public Library system. Truth be told, Burton Barr isn't just a place to hit the books – you can also check out music and movies, use the computers, look at the art in the @Central Gallery or attend a lecture or class. The clean, modern look of the building is another source of the library's appeal, but we don't judge this book on its cover – it's what's on the inside that really counts.

■ 1221 N. Central Ave., Phoenix 85004
602-262-4636
www.phoenixpubliclibrary.org

Best cultural event

Tempe Festival of the Arts

Twice a year, rain or shine, the Tempe Festival of the Arts takes over Tempe's Mill Avenue District for a three-day art extrav-



ganza. At the beginning of December and in early April, about 400 jury-selected artists display and sell their wares, which include paintings, ceramics, wearable art, jewelry and sculpture. The festival also features live music, street performers, food and beverage vendors, wine and beer tasting and a “Kids Innovation Area” where children can create their own masterpieces. Try to get there early, because the free festival attracts close to 225,000 people over the weekend. Bring your “well-behaved” dog, but don’t forget the leash.

■ 602-997-2581
www.tempefestivalofthearts.com

Best day trip destination **Sedona**

The day is young, the car is ready and you’re eager to hit the road. Where to go? Sedona, just two hours away from Phoenix, has a little bit of everything – shopping, art, food, hiking, entertainment and some of the best views in Arizona (if not the entire Southwest). It’s a great place to show tourists, but you don’t need an out-of-towner as an excuse to head up north for the day – a visit to Red Rock Country is always a good idea.

Best theater

Herberger Theater Center

Who says there’s no culture in the Valley of the Sun? The Herberger Theater Center, built in 1989 in downtown Phoenix to bolster the Valley’s performing arts scene, serves up cultural events aplenty. With three theaters and an art gallery featuring Arizona artists, the center is home to the Arizona Theatre Company and the Center Dance Ensemble and often features other local companies. You can catch an evening performance or see a show on your lunch hour at the center’s Lunch Time Theater. All told, the Herberger Center serves about 175,000 patrons each year, including close to 30,000 school-aged children through its arts education and outreach initiatives. Culture in the Valley? Check.

■ 222 E. Monroe St., Phoenix 85004; 602-254-7399; www.herbergertheater.org

Readers’ pick: (tie) ASU Gammage and Herberger Theater Center

■ www.visitsedona.com
Readers’ pick: Sedona

Best place to be outside **Scottsdale Civic Center Mall**

Greenery is hard to come by in this part of the country, so it’s nice to know that a beautiful expanse of lawn is only as far away as Old Town Scottsdale. The Scotts-

sdale Civic Center Mall has walking paths, water features, flower gardens – even an iconic sculpture (Robert Indiana’s famous “Love” piece). And in case you feel like ducking inside, there’s plenty to do around the periphery of the park, from the Orange Table eatery and the Scottsdale Center for the Performing Arts gift shop to the Scottsdale Civic Center Library.

■ 3939 N. Drinkwater Blvd.,
 Scottsdale 85251
www.scottsdaleaz.gov/parks/scottsdalemall



Best golf course

Papago Golf Course

Newer courses may have more cachet, but Phoenix insiders know that Papago is undoubtedly Phoenix's most attractive municipal golf course. With the Papago Buttes dominating the views, golfers get the best of the Southwest on a traditional tree-lined course. Opened in 1963, the course was designed by William F. Bell, whose other notable courses include Torrey Pines in San Diego. Papago features wide, flowing fairways and large, rolling greens. It's playable but challenging for the average player with demanding doglegs and interesting holes. A \$5.8 million restoration in

2008 removed some of the trees, but for the most part, the course remains true to the design that once brought golfers there at a pace of 100,000 rounds annually.

■ 5595 E. Moreland St., Phoenix 85008
602-275-8428
www.papagogolfcourse.net

Best place to get crafty Make Meaning

Feeling crafty? Make Meaning offers a variety of opportunities to get creative. Children and adults can make soap, candles, ceramics, books, jewelry, paper crafts and glass objects or decorate a cake (all cakes

and the majority of the decorations are certified kosher). The facility, located at the Scottsdale Quarter shopping center, also offers private parties for children and adults, corporate or team-building events, bachelorette and bridal showers, camp orientations and reunions.

■ Scottsdale Quarter
15257 N. Scottsdale Road, Suite 160,
Scottsdale 85254
480-845-0000
www.makemeaning.com

Best art walk Scottsdale ArtWalk

For more than 30 years, art lovers have flocked to the Scottsdale Art Walk held every Thursday evening (except Thanksgiving) in the Scottsdale Arts District. Follow the "ArtWalk the Line" sidewalk decals that extend along Main Street west of Scottsdale Road and on Marshall Way north of Indian School Road to Fifth Avenue. From 7 to 9 p.m., the public can stroll through Scottsdale Gallery Association member galleries and enjoy the work of artists from across the Southwest and beyond. Most galleries offer refreshments, but if you want to make an evening out of it, there are more than 125 restaurants in Old Town Scottsdale to choose from and parking is free.

■ www.scottsdalegalleries.com

Best sports venue Chase Field

Take us out to the ballgame: Chase Field is our favorite place to get out and enjoy a live sporting event. The home of the Arizona Diamondbacks has great food options (we love the garlic fries), the Sandlot Kid's Area for young fans and unique features like the right-field swimming pool. And even with space for 50,000 people, there's not a bad seat in the house.

■ 401 E. Jefferson St., Phoenix 85004
602-462-6500
www.azchasefield.com

Readers' pick: Chase Field



Photo by L.M. Parr/Arizona Diamondbacks



Best casino
Talking Stick Resort

If you're going to stand in a room plugging quarters into slot machines, you can make a day or night of it without leaving the Valley, since reservation gambling, er, gaming, is so close by. Talking Stick is so convenient and has that extra air of elegance that a resort hotel (four diamonds from AAA) confers: Think spa treatments, 36 holes of golf, six restaurants, a 650-seat showroom and plenty of entertainment. The 240,000-square-foot casino has more than 700 slot machines. That's not to mention keno games and the Arena Poker Room with 47 no-smoking tables, flat screens, a sports ticker and a variety of table games including Pai Gow, blackjack and three-card poker.

■ 9800 E. Indian Bend Road,
 Scottsdale 85256
 480-850-7777
www.talkingstickresort.com



Photo courtesy of Talking Stick Resort

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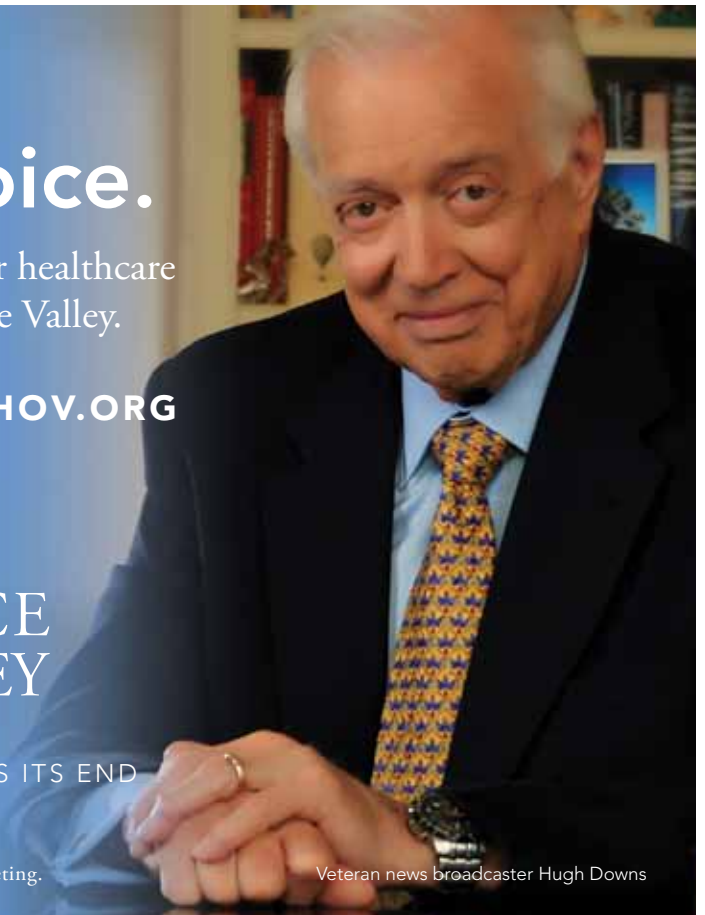




Photo courtesy of AAWL

Best place to adopt a pet

Arizona Animal Welfare League

Forget the bar scene: The best place to meet your next live-in love is Arizona Animal Welfare League, a no-kill shelter in Phoenix. The bright, beautiful facility has been the last stop before a loving home for thousands of dogs and cats since 1971. AAWL provides new owners with behavioral and medical support after adoption, and offers dog training classes. For young animal lovers, AAWL hosts birthday parties, classes and camps. So go on, stop looking for love in all the wrong places, and stop by AAWL to meet a four-legged friend.

■ 25 N. 40th St., Phoenix 85034
602-273-6852
www.aawl.org

Best dog park

Cosmo Dog Park

Looking for the best place to placate your pooch? Check out Cosmo Dog Park in Gilbert where you can let your favorite canine loose to enjoy four fenced acres of fun. Named for Gilbert's first police dog, Cosmo, the park is open 5:30 a.m.-10 p.m. daily, and has pet drinking fountains and wash stations, Mutt-Mitt waste disposal stations and separate areas for active and timid dogs. Also of note, Cosmo Dog Park is one of the few dog parks in the nation that has a beach. Why not make a day out of it? Reserve a ramada and bring a picnic, but don't forget the dog treats.

■ 2502 E. Ray Road, Gilbert 85296
480-503-6871
www.gilbertaz.gov

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14044 W. Camelback Rd., Ste. 118 & 216
Litchfield Park, AZ 85340

Sun City Office

Boswell Medical Campus
13000 N. 103rd Ave., Ste. 95
Sun City, AZ 85351

Sun City West Office

14506 W. Granite Valley Dr., Ste. 214
Sun City West, AZ 85375

Phoenix Office

John C. Lincoln Deer Valley Campus
19363 N. 27th Ave., Ste 306
Phoenix, AZ 85027

Anthem

3618 W. Anthem Way, Ste D114
Anthem, AZ 85086

Wickenburg Office

Wickenburg Community Hospital
520 Rose Lane
Wickenburg, AZ 85390



Brahm Resnik

Brahm Resnik is the politics reporter for 12 News, host of “12 News Sunday Square Off” and a news anchor. He and his family – wife, Wendy, and two sons – live in Tempe and have been members of Temple Emanuel of Tempe since arriving in the Valley 13 years ago.

What are your favorite Valley restaurants? Essence Bakery, Binkley’s & Cafe Bink, Green, Quiessence, Urban Cookie, LGO, FnB, St. Francis, Federal Pizza

What places do you like to shop? Nordstrom shirts, Dillard’s suits, TieBar.com ties and for everything else, The Rack, REI, Costco

What are some of your favorite places to go in the Valley? Musical Instrument Museum, Piestewa Peak, Camelback Mountain, Kierland Commons, downtown Tempe, Harkins Camelview 5 Theatres

What do you love about our Jewish community? Camp Swift for underprivileged kids and TETY (Temple Emanuel Temple Youth) youth programs

What do you love about living in the Valley? Living outdoors October through May



Photo by Melho Photography



NEWS

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12 NEWS

Brahm Resnik



Erin Searle



Erin Searle

In her role as director of NOWGen Programs for the Valley of the Sun Jewish Community Center, Erin Searle manages and oversees Young Jewish Phoenix, ShabbatLuck, iMPACT: A new generation of Women's Philanthropy, Taglit-Birthright Israel Phoenix community trips and all other programs and initiatives that aim to engage young adults in their 20s, 30s and 40s. Searle, who is single, moved to Phoenix 18 years ago from Winnipeg, Manitoba.

What are your favorite Valley restaurants? Some of my favorite Valley restaurants include True Food Kitchen, The Herb Box, RA Sushi Bar Restaurant, Chelsea's Kitchen, Windsor and Postino.

What places do you like to shop? Anthropologie, Nordstrom, Nordstrom Rack, Sephora

What are some of your favorite places to go in the Valley? My favorite place to go is a happy hour with friends ... and the Musical Instrument Museum and The Phoenix Zoo.

What do you love about our Jewish community? I love our community because we are a friendly, open and inviting community. I love seeing collaboration and partnerships amongst different Jewish organizations. I think when we can work together, we accomplish our goals with a much stronger impact.

What do you love about living in the Valley? Most importantly, I love living near my friends and family. I also love taking advantage of our great weather all year round. Whether it's exploring new areas around Phoenix or driving up north for a short day trip, there are so many opportunities at our fingertips.



It's all about the food and drink: breakfast, lunch, dinner, desserts, snacks, bars – we're not picky, we love it (and love to talk about it) all. The best places to chow down and drink up are naturally a matter of taste, but here are some of our Valley favorites.



Best Chinese food
C-Fu Gourmet

C-Fu Gourmet is in an unassuming strip mall location, but don't let that fool you, it's got the Chinese food to die for. Not only that, if you're hungry for some pan-seared tilapia, just walk up to the live fish tank and pick your meal. Our favorite was the kung pao chicken, but all of the food is delicious – and such portions! There are vegetarian versions of all the popular dishes, including the egg rolls, fried rice, egg foo young and moo shu, and don't overlook the spicy eggplant with tofu. With Harkins Chandler Fashion 20 Theatres just minutes away, this is the place to do that whole Chinese food and a movie thing.

■ 2051 W. Warner Road, Chandler 85224
480-899-3888
www.cfugourmet.com

Readers' pick: Jade Palace

Best kosher caterer
Simply Scrumptious Co.

Since 1987, Susan and Seville Levy of Simply Scrumptious have been catering mitzvahs throughout the Valley. Known for their elegant presentations, the Levys serve up tailor-made kosher meals for a variety of events, from bar and bat mitzvahs and weddings to social gatherings

and corporate events. They'll help you create a menu, select a venue and décor, offer suggestions for entertainment and provide rentals and bar service. The company's tagline boasts, "For catering that's artistic, innovative and delicious, there's simply no other choice." We agree. Simply Scrumptious is under the supervision of Chabad-Lubavitch Arizona.

■ 480-483-2425
www.simplyscrumptiousco.com

Best place to take a homesick Israeli
Paprika Mediterranean Experience/Mozart Café and Bakery

For homesick Israelis, a trip to Paprika and/or Mozart Café, owned by two Israelis, should help ease the pain. Paprika, certified glatt kosher by the Greater Phoenix Vaad Hakashrut, and supervised by an approved *mashgiach*, cooks up Israeli favorites including chicken shawarma, Israeli salads, chicken kabobs and house-made falafel. At Mozart, a certified kosher dairy (*cholov Yisroel*) restaurant, diners can grab breakfast, lunch and dinner, a wonderful array of pastries and breads as well as espresso drinks. The menu is vegetarian-friendly and also sports a couple of seafood choices. So, depending on which

Israeli delicacy you're in the mood for, one of these two restaurants ought to do the trick.

■ Mozart Café and Bakery
7116 E. Mercer Lane, Scottsdale 85254
480-609-3879
www.mozartscottsdale.com

■ Paprika Mediterranean Experience
7116 E. Mercer Lane, Scottsdale 85254
480-948-3776
www.facebook.com/PaprikaScottsdale

Best falafel
Spices Mediterranean Kitchen

The fresh-ingredient, olive-oil-fueled ethos of Spices Mediterranean Kitchen is evident in all of the family recipes that Israel-born Etgar Wagner serves up, but nowhere is it more clear than in the falafel. Really. If you have not been to Israel, you'll most likely take a bite and tell yourself, "So this is what falafel is supposed to taste like." Pair it up with one of his Mediterranean beer imports and it's almost Eden. You can't go wrong with anything on the menu here.

■ 4040 W. Ray Road, Suite 12,
Chandler 85226
480-491-4777
www.spicesmk.com

Best kosher restaurant

Kitchen 18

Kitchen 18 serves up kosher, dairy-free fare using fresh, seasonal vegetables, glatt kosher meat and made-from-scratch breads and pastries. Open for lunch and dinner, and supervised by Chabad of Scottsdale, Kitchen 18 churns out beef and turkey burgers, falafel and kabob pitas, tuna and chicken salad wraps, shawarma plates, pasta dishes, chicken schnitzel, grilled salmon, ribeye steak and more. The kosher eatery also offers gluten-free and vegan selections as well as a children's menu. You can dine inside or if the weather is nice, grab a seat on the outdoor patio. If you feel like staying home, there's good news: Kitchen 18 delivers.

■ 10211 N. Scottsdale Road, Scottsdale 85260
480-284-6001
www.thekitchen18.com



Photo courtesy of Kitchen 18

Best burger
Zinburger

There's no place we'd rather bite into a big, juicy hamburger than Zinburger at Biltmore Fashion Park. The Fox Restaurant Concepts eatery uses certified Angus beef (or you can upgrade to Kobe beef for an extra charge) and great, fresh ingredients to craft burgers we crave on a regular basis. Sides like zucchini fries and delicious desserts do a great job of rounding out the meal, and just in case your dining companions aren't the burger fans that you are, the menu also includes great options like the Turkey Sloppy Joe, Ahi Sandwich and a list of salads.

■ Biltmore Fashion Park
2502 E. Camelback Road,
Phoenix 85016
602-424-9500
www.foxrc.com

Best desserts
Chocolade van Brugge

We never really believed in love at first sight until we stepped into Chocolade van Brugge in Old Town Scottsdale. The small shop is stocked with more than 60 kinds of mouthwatering, exquisitely crafted chocolates handmade in and imported directly from Bruges, Belgium. There's also *pain au chocolat*, truly addictive hot chocolate and other goodies. The warm, friendly service is just the decorative chocolate drizzle on a truly standout culinary experience.

■ 4225 N. Marshall Way, Suite 102,
Scottsdale 85251
480-721-7363
www.facebook.com/ChocoladeVanBrugge

Most romantic restaurant
House of Tricks

For romantic atmosphere, you can't beat the House of Tricks restaurant nestled in two charming 1920s bungalows with adjoining patios surrounded by lush gardens just off Mill Avenue in Tempe. Since 1987, Robin and Robert Trick have been dishing up contemporary American fare from kale salad with dried cranberries to grilled filet mignon at their namesake restaurant, which is a favorite destination of many stary-eyed couples. Whether you grab a candlelit table for two on the cozy patio or inside the vintage dining room, you'll be in for a dreamy evening of great food in an alluring setting.

■ 114 E. Seventh St., Tempe 85281
480-968-1114
www.houseoftricks.com

Best happy hour
Roka Akor

Dinner at sushi-and-steak eatery Roka Akor is definitely a special occasion for us, but whenever we long for their top-quality food at everyday prices, we head there for happy hour. Asian-inspired options like the Butterfish Tatatki with White Asparagus and Yuzu, Sweet Corn Tempura, Chibi Burger with Wasabi Aioli and Wagyu and Kimchi Dumplings fill us up without emptying our wallets, and in case we get thirsty, there's a great selection of drinks to choose from as well.

■ 7299 N. Scottsdale Road,
Scottsdale 85253
480-306-8800
www.okaakor.com/scottsdale

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Best frozen treat Sweet Republic

In the midst of the interminable Valley summer, sometimes nothing but a frozen treat will do to alleviate the oppressive heat. When the mood strikes, we prefer our cooldown to come in the form of ice cream from Sweet Republic in Scottsdale. Sweet Republic has earned regional and national recognition for its top-quality treats; even publications like USA Today and Food and Wine magazine have made

mention of our local treasure. There's classic flavors like Belgian Chocolate and Madagascar Vanilla, plus a rotating selection of unusual options like Honey Blue Cheese and Basil Lime Sorbet. And if you don't feel like making a visit to the store, just stop by Whole Foods locations around the Valley and pick up a pint.

■ 9160 E. Shea Blvd., Scottsdale 85260
480-248-6979
www.sweetrepublic.com

Readers' pick: Zoyo Neighborhood Yogurt

Best healthy meals True Food Kitchen

Craving gluten-free pizza? Want some lasagna without red meat? True Food Kitchen saves health food from a Sunday afternoon slot on a National Public Radio station and turns it into prime-time fare. In addition to surprisingly sprightly health-conscious soft drinks like the Cucumber Refresher (cucumber and honey lemonade), the Green Arnie (matcha green tea and honey lemonade) or Kale-Aid (kale, apple, cucumber, celery, lemon and ginger), the menu ranges from delights like tofu teriyaki brown rice bowl to a TLT, with the first T meaning tempeh (a soy cake that originated in Indonesia). If you're in the mood for adult beverages, the cocktail menu includes a Cucumber Martini and the wine list offers vintages from Italy, France, Argentina, Australia and California. There's sake and microbrew beer available as well.

■ Biltmore Fashion Park
2502 E. Camelback Road, Suite 135,
Phoenix 85015
602-774-3488

■ Scottsdale Quarter
15191 N. Scottsdale Road, Suite 100,
Scottsdale 85260
480-270-8123
www.foxrc.com

Best special occasion restaurant

Elements

Perched on the edge of Camelback Mountain, Elements at Sanctuary Camelback Mountain Resort & Spa serves "farm-fresh American cuisine with Asian accents." The elegant dining room has breathtaking views and a front row seat to stunning Arizona sunsets and city lights. While a little pricey (entrees range from \$31 to \$46), the food is expertly prepared under the direction of Food Network star Beau MacMillan and includes vegetarian as well as gluten-free options. From the minute you arrive at the mountainside restaurant, you realize that Elements has special-occasion restaurant written all over it. So, if you're looking for just the right spot to pop the question or celebrate a *simcha*, Elements provides the perfect backdrop.

■ 5700 E. McDonald Drive, Paradise Valley 85253
480-607-2300
www.sanctuarycamelback.com

Readers' pick: Don and Charlie's



Photo courtesy of Sanctuary Camelback Mountain Resort & Spa



Best coffee
Cartel Coffee Lab

Oh, coffee, sweet elixir of life. Filling up at a Cartel Coffee Lab location is a fantastic way to get your daily (or twice-daily, or thrice-daily) fix of caffeine. The local chain roasts its own beans at its Tempe location and serves up great coffee there as well as Old Town Scottsdale and downtown Phoenix. The stylish interiors are hip without being intimidating, and coffee is by no means the only thing available – food and alcoholic beverages are also sold. And don't worry about getting a cup of java on the go the next time you're on your way out of town – there's a Cartel in Phoenix Sky Harbor Airport's Terminal 4, perfect for last-minute beverages before takeoff.

■ Four Valley locations
www.cartelcoffeelab.com



Photo by Philip Goldberg

Best bakery
21 Cakes

Cupcakes, pies, brownies – if it's sweet and it comes out of an oven, it's a sure bet we love it. And we're sure we love everything at 21 Cakes, the bakery we visit when our sweet tooth starts shouting at us. 21 Cakes has a great rotating variety of cupcake flavors (including red velvet, raspberry lemon, coconut and salted caramel), plus Parisian-style macarons, chocolate-dipped pretzel sticks and more. 21 Cakes also does beautiful, delicious wedding and special-event cakes, but hey, those events are few and far between. We're glad that when the cupcake urge hits, we can go to 21 Cakes to indulge.

■ 7001 N. Scottsdale Road,
Scottsdale 85253
480-699-6220
www.21cakes.com

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Best wine bar

Kazimierz World Wine Bar

Walk behind the nondescript building in Old Town Scottsdale and enter through the unmarked wooden door. Make your way inside the dimly lit, cozy bar, sink into a plush couch or chair and sample one of Kazimierz's 2,000 different wines, which include red table wines from Portugal, blends from Lebanon and dessert wine from Arizona. The wine bar also includes a "global grazing menu" with Indonesian chicken kabobs, Egyptian flatbreads, artisan cheeses, charcuterie plates and chocolate fondue. There's also live music

from 9 p.m. to midnight and sometimes later. Kazimierz is open nightly 6 p.m.-2 a.m. and if you're looking for a late-night snack, the kitchen serves until 1:30 a.m.

■ 7137 E. Stetson Drive, Scottsdale 85251
480-946-3004
www.kazbar.net

Best Passover food option

Imperial Kosher Market

Menu options are limited during Passover, but Imperial Kosher Market, supervised by the Greater Phoenix Vaad Hakashruth, carries a wide selection of kosher-for-

Passover goods that can add some variety to daily menus. Offerings even include kosher-for-Passover baked goods, which is good news for those who celebrate birthdays during the festival of unleavened bread. For the past two years, Imperial also kashered its restaurant, which makes a great night out and offers a delicious alternative to trying to come up with new clever ways to cook with matzah, matzah meal and matzah farfel.

■ 737 E. Glendale Ave., Phoenix 85020
602-285-6999
www.imperialkosher.com

Best brunch

T. Cook's at the Royal Palms Resort & Spa

For a bountiful Sunday brunch, head over to the recently remodeled T. Cook's at the Royal Palms. You can choose the Harvest Buffet, a lavish spread of breads and pastries, chilled seafood, freshly squeezed juices, a variety of salads, smoked salmon and other brunch favorites; or order off the menu, with choices that include steelhead salmon and chicken panini or breakfast selections that range from vegetable frittatas to lemon-ricotta pancakes. Add the Harvest Buffet to any entree for an additional charge and top it off with a Bloody Mary or a bottomless glass of Champagne to complete your feast.

■ 5200 E. Camelback Road,
Phoenix 85018
602-808-0766
www.royalpalmshotel.com

Best brewery

Four Peaks Brewery

A brewery situated in a former creamery? The Four Peaks Brewing Co.'s brewery location is the coolest of Four Peaks' four pubs, thanks to its 1892 vintage red-brick walls and its funky industrial warehouse interior. The owners long ago retrofitted the defunct Borden's Creamery into the headquarters of microbrew chic. It's a place where you can hang out, have lunch, start (happy hour is 2-6 p.m. daily) or end (closing time is 2 a.m.) a night visiting Tempe nightspots. The main attraction, of course, is the beer (brewed on premises and all on tap), which any Valley beer aficionado should know, including Kilt Lifter, 8th Street Ale and Oatmeal Stout. Drink responsibly



Photo courtesy of Chompie's

Best matzah ball soup

Chompie's

This was a hard decision (although the research was delicious), but we have to give it up to Chompie's. Our favorite bowl of Jewish penicillin has big, well-flavored matzah balls (substantial but not too heavy), and a fragrant chicken soup base studded with noodles and big chunks of chicken, celery and carrots. The side of toasted bagel chips is also a welcome addition. We're hungry just thinking about it.

■ Four Valley locations
www.chompies.com



(and locally).

■ 1340 E. Eighth St., Suite 104,
Tempe 85281
480-303-9967
Info on all locations at www.fourpeaks.com

Best bagels
The Nosh Cafe and Bagelry

Truthfully, we were surprised, but when we added up the votes on our blind taste test that covered more than a dozen bagelries across the Valley, the bagel from The Nosh (once part of a local chain known as Bagel Nosh, but now its own stand-alone business) in Ahwatukee won our palates. Our methodology was simple: taste a plain bagel, clear palate, taste another bagel, have all staff members rank them. The top five scores went into a final taste-test round. It's a tough job but somebody had to do it. The Nosh is set up for breakfast and lunch, with sandwiches, eggs, pancakes and many other items to complement your standard bagels and lox. The Nosh makes

a variety of bagels that include onion, cheddar cheese and jalapeno, blueberry and banana nut, just to name a few.

■ 4855 E. Warner Road, Phoenix 85044
480-940-4484
www.thenoshazcafe.com

Readers' pick: New York Bagels 'N Bialys

Best potato knish
JJ's Delicatessen

Are carbs bad for you or good for you these days? We can't even remember. It doesn't really matter though, because not even an army of nutritionists will get us to abandon our love of knishes. Our favorite potato knish can be found at JJ's Delicatessen in North Scottsdale, where the enormous mound of smooth, peppery potato filling is wrapped in a dough casing that's not too heavy or greasy. We're full, warm and happy just thinking about them.

■ 23425 N. Scottsdale Road,
Scottsdale 85255
480-563-4557
www.jjsdeliaz.com

Best deli
Goldman's Deli

The Jewish deli should be a warm, inviting place full of the foods we love and remember from our childhoods, and Goldman's Deli in Scottsdale definitely fits the bill. Goldman's comprehensive menu has something for everyone — there are oversized sandwiches, salads, dinner plates and a full breakfast selection. There's also Jewish deli staples like matzah ball soup, chopped liver, latkes, noodle kugel, kasha varnishkes and bagels with lox. For the Americanized palate, there are hamburgers and hot dogs, too. It all adds up to a family-owned restaurant that has a delicious answer to your Jewish food cravings.

■ 6929 N. Hayden Road,
Scottsdale 85250
480-367-9477
www.goldmansdeliarizona.com

Readers' pick: Chompie's



Photograph by Jacqueline Byers

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Cory Shapiro

Raised in the Phoenix Jewish community, Cory Shapiro has enjoyed watching Phoenix and its Jewish community transform over the years. In 2007, along with friends in the area, Shapiro founded ShabbatLuck, a Shabbat potluck experience for Jewish singles and couples in their 20s and 30s. He is a member of Temple Solel and recent graduate of the Start Me Up! fellowship through Valley Beit Midrash and last year's Glass Leadership Institute within the Arizona region of the Anti-Defamation League. He is currently the assistant director of university housing and new student orientation at Arizona State University, managing the day-to-day operations of the residence halls and working with student orientation programs.

What are your favorite Valley restaurants? My favorite Valley restaurants include almost anything at La Grande Orange (bakery, brunch, coffee, gelato or pizza), Oregon's Pizza Bistro (pizza or pizza cookies), breakfast or sandwiches at Chompie's, Chinese food at Jade Palace or Golden Wok, special occasions at The Melting Pot or any occasion or dish at any of the Fox Restaurant Concepts restaurants such as Culinary Dropout, True Food Kitchen, Olive & Ivy Restaurant or Sauce Pizza & Wine. I am always up for new places whether chain restaurants, known local specialty restaurants or hole-in-the-wall restaurants.

What places do you like to shop? While I do not find myself shopping on a regular basis, I enjoy bringing out-of-town visitors to Kierland Commons or Scottsdale Quarter for a stroll, bite and shopping, or to Old Town Scottsdale for a taste of the Wild West. I also enjoy a nostalgic visit to Paradise Valley Mall and Scottsdale Fashion Square every now and then.

What are some of your favorite places to go in the Valley? Even though I have spent most of my life in the Greater Phoenix area, I am always learning new places to check out in the area. I enjoy attending festivals across the Valley with favorites including the various wine, art and food festivals in Scottsdale, the Ostrich Festival in Chandler and the Glendale Chocolate Affaire. On weekends, you can often find me checking out Phoenix staples such as The Phoenix Zoo and the Arizona Science Center, or at a live sporting event or concert at the US Airways Center or Herberger Theater Center. Day trips to Sedona or a visit to Northern Arizona or Tucson are fun, though I am also very content in town enjoying a comedy show with a troupe like Jester'Z

Improv Comedy in Scottsdale. Of course, any events bringing out my ASU or U of A pride are a plus, especially basketball games in Wells Fargo Arena!

What do you love about our Jewish community? When I arrived back home to Arizona in 2006 from Ohio, I came back to a fractured Jewish community with few known opportunities for young adults to engage in such a community. Since then, I have watched many organizations, associations and synagogues come together to build as strong of a community as possible for Jews of Greater Phoenix regardless of age and level of engagement. Through ShabbatLuck and other Jewish young adult organizations, I met many friends and peers. Meanwhile, the Start Me Up! fellowship through Valley Beit Midrash provided 10 of us entrepreneurs with the means to further engage our Jewish community with innovative ideas and projects. I sincerely look forward to seeing where our Jewish community goes next as everyone together works even further to build a cohesive Jewish community.

What do you love about living in the Valley? Though Phoenix is the sixth largest city in the country, I love how it can still feel small at times, thanks to each city and town's unique characteristics. Whether it's Scottsdale, Paradise Valley, Ahwatukee, Gilbert or Glendale, there is something for everyone in the Greater Phoenix area. Regardless of where you live, you can easily take advantage of any of the festivals, shops, restaurants or even traditions within any of the area's many cities or towns. The Valley is a great place to meet others if you know where to look, and there is much to do to keep anyone from ever being bored as long as you are willing to try something new.



Cory Shopiro



Kim Subrin

Kim Subrin has worked in the Greater Phoenix Jewish community for more than 13 years, and is currently in her fifth year as the director of Chanen Preschool at Congregation Beth Israel. She is a member of the Jewish Early Childhood Educators Leadership Institute (JECLEI) Fellowship, a past board member of the Young Leadership Division and a Class 22 Graduate of Scottsdale Leadership. Subrin, who is a member of Congregation Beth Israel, lives in Cave Creek with her husband of seven years, Brian, and their two “delicious” sons, Brayden, 4, and Parker, 2.

What are your favorite Valley restaurants? I haven’t met a beet and goat cheese salad that I don’t like, but I think one of my favorites is at the restaurant Tryst. My family loves Pita Jungle and you can pretty much find us there every other week! If I am choosing a restaurant with my husband, often I will choose Fleming’s, Village Tavern, Seasons 52 or something simple and yummy like Sauce or Genghis Grill!

What places do you like to shop? This is a funny question for me to answer because I just went through a huge weight loss so there isn’t a store lately that I haven’t loved to shop in! Just ask my husband and our credit card company! If I had to choose my favorites I would say Gap, Athleta, Old Navy and these two great boutiques in North Scottsdale called Pretty Please and Blue Daisy.

What are some of your favorite places to go in the Valley? With two young children, we tend to spend most of our time doing family activities. We love AZ Airtime and Jambo Indoor Amusement Park. We spend time at The Phoenix Zoo and we attend as many art festivals in the fall and spring as possible!

What do you love about our Jewish community? I abso-

lutely love our Jewish community here in Phoenix. Being the director of a Jewish preschool, I feel so privileged to be able to create and run so many new and fun programs for our Congregation Beth Israel community as well as our community as a whole. I find that families are looking for ways to get involved in our Jewish community and are looking to build friendships and create family traditions around all of the things that our CBI Jewish community creates. I have several “favorites” around our community, but I would say my top two are the Chanen Preschool Hanukkah carnival and CBI’s Simchat Torah celebration. They’re truly so much fun for the entire family!

What do you love about living in the Valley? I find that living in the Valley has offered me and my family so many wonderful opportunities. Yes, we all know that it is super-hot in the summer, but then I think about November, December and January, and I think how lucky we are. There are so many options for outdoor adventures, fun activities and many options for trips just a short drive away. I love that we can be up to the snow in a couple hours or at the beach in six hours! I think this is the perfect place to raise your family and I feel especially fortunate that my parents, my sister and her family live right here in the Valley as well.



Kim Subrin



The Valley of the Sun offers plenty to do and see, especially for its youngest residents. Local families can spend time together and make memories at kid-friendly restaurants, fun stores and centers for indoor and outdoor recreation. Altogether, metro Phoenix is a pretty great place to be a child – and a parent.



Best family-friendly restaurant
Sweet Tomatoes

Because of the popularity of this restaurant with young families, the atmosphere makes it a comfortable choice for those hesitant to take little ones out to eat. With the wide variety of choices at the salad bar, there's a chance that the young'uns will have at least a few vegetables before gorging on macaroni and cheese. And the promise of a trip to the dessert bar works well as a bribing tool for proper restaurant behavior if necessary.

■ Eight Valley locations
www.souplantation.com

Readers' pick: Chompie's

Best kids' menu
Chompie's

Children and parents alike will find more than enough to make them happy on the Chompie's kids' menu. The local chain's four Valley locations serve up a wide range of kid-friendly, New York-themed favorites from the Long Island French Toast to the Big Apple Hot Dog. Like the adults who eat at Chompie's, younger guests can also get breakfast all day and have a number of "gluten-free friendly" options. The back side of the menu has games to keep children entertained until the food arrives, but to us, the best part of the menu is the promise Chompie's makes to

donate a portion of its kids' meal proceeds to Playworks, a nonprofit whose stated goal is to keep bullying out of schools and playgrounds – a mission that sounds good enough to eat.

■ Four Valley locations
www.chompies.com

Best children's clothing
Peek...

When it comes to dressing the kids, the fine line between cute and cutesy can be difficult to walk. At Peek..., shoppers can find outfits for all little ones (infants through older children) that boast a fun sense of style and just a hint of sweetness, plus accessories, toys and other gifts. In 10 years, when their middle-school friends can find their preschool pictures on Facebook, Valley kids will be glad Mom and Dad went to Peek... for their childhood wardrobe.

■ Kierland Commons
15051 N. Kierland Ave., Suite 120,
Scottsdale 85254
480-991-0585

■ Scottsdale Fashion Square
7014 E. Camelback Road, Suite 2232,
Scottsdale 85251
602-910-6152
www.peakkids.com

Readers' pick: Old Navy

Best children's resale
Hissyfits

Even though this category is for best resale clothing, we would be remiss if we didn't mention all the other useful gear you can grab at Hissyfits, a children's consignment boutique with locations in Phoenix and Old Town Scottsdale. Looking for a high chair, tricycle, toys or décor? Hissyfits offers loads of kid paraphernalia in good shape at greatly reduced prices. You can also bring in your outgrown, unwanted and unused items for consignment.

■ 7036 N. Seventh St., Phoenix 85020
602-674-1250

■ 4246 N. Scottsdale Road,
Scottsdale 85251
480-941-1250
www.facebook.com/hissyfits

Best park for children
The McCormick-Stillman Railroad Park

The McCormick-Stillman Railroad Park is a fun spot for a day outing for young families. After children get out some of their energy swinging, sliding and climbing on the playground, the appeal of a carousel ride can work as an incentive to leave the play area. Then, the soothing train ride around the park – which includes a few seconds of riding through a tunnel – is a



Best animal attraction

Butterfly Wonderland

“Magical” isn’t a term we use lightly, so believe us when we say that Butterfly Wonderland is a fantastic place to take people of all ages. The butterfly atrium, filled with more than 30 different species from around the world, affords visitors the opportunity to see these delicate creatures up close and personal. Other areas of the building are devoted to bees, ants and stingrays, but our favorite part of the experience is the Emergence Gallery, where if you’re lucky, you can catch a glimpse of a brand-new butterfly. It’s – dare we say it? – magical.

■ 9500 E. Via de Ventura,
Scottsdale 85256
480-800-3000
www.butterflywonderland.com

Readers’ pick: The Phoenix Zoo



Photo by Jennifer Goldberg

smooth transition to heading home. And children who still aren’t quite ready to leave can practice their balancing act by walking on the tracks in front of the stationary train on the way to the parking lot.

■ 7301 E. Indian Bend Road, Scottsdale 85250
480-312-2312
www.therailroadpark.com

Best place for children’s birthday parties

The Play Factory

The thing we like best about having parties at The Play Factory is that it offers a safe place for the birthday child and friends to run around and have fun where the grown-ups can hang out and socialize, too. There’s a bounce house, an inflatable slide and a large climbing structure, as well as a climbing wall. The price (\$279 Monday-Thursday and \$299 weekends and holidays) includes two hours for use of the entire facility for up to 25 friends (\$10 each for additional children; adults are free), free invitations, paper products, balloons and two party hosts. Don’t forget to bring socks!

■ Desert Ridge Marketplace
21001 N. Tatum Blvd., Phoenix 85050
480-473-7529
www.playfactoryparty.com

Temple Sole
The Pathfinder Congregation

congratulates our member



Cory Shapiro
for being chosen
as a young leader in
our community!

6805 E. McDonald Drive, Paradise Valley, 85253
www.templesolel.org



Photo courtesy of Childsplay



Best theater for children
Childsplay

Since 1977, Childsplay has offered theater experiences to children of all ages. In addition to its productions, the company also offers theater classes and a variety of outreach programs. The remaining shows in the current season are "The Cat in the Hat" (through March 16), "Super Cowgirl and Mighty Miracle" (March 22-30) and "Schoolhouse Rock Live!" (April 20-May 25). Public performances are held at Tempe Center for the Arts, 700 W. Rio Salado Parkway. The theater company also brings shows to schools through its school tour program.

■ 480-350-2822
www.childsplayaz.org

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Best place for swim lessons
Valley of the Sun Jewish Community Center

When your little ones are ready to dip their toes in the water, it's time to think about swim lessons. The Valley of the Sun Jewish Community Center offers private lessons for members only and semi-private and group lessons for members and nonmembers in its Olympic-size heated pool. In the summer, there's plenty of shade for parents and a kosher snack bar just steps away inside the JCC lobby. The JCC also offers adult swim lessons and competitive swim lessons. Who knows? Your child might be the next Olympic superstar!

■ 12701 N. Scottsdale Road, Scottsdale 85254
480-483-7121
www.vosjcc.org

Best place for water fun
Splash pads

When the weather warms up and the air conditioning just isn't cutting it, it's time to get wet. Fortunately, an afternoon of water fun doesn't have to mean a long drive or a high ticket price. Splash pads – child-friendly water playgrounds that include arches, sprays, fountains and other features – are free to use and are found all over the Valley at shopping centers (like Desert Ridge Marketplace in Phoenix, Westgate City Center in Glendale and San Tan Village in Chandler), as well as parks such as Tempe Beach Park, Goodyear Community Park and Chandler's Desert Breeze Park. Cheap, close and cooling – what else do you need?

■ Multiple locations

Best museum for children
**Children's Museum
 of Phoenix**

There's lots to do at the Children's Museum of Phoenix: ride a bike through a tricycle "car wash," build forts, "shop" in the mock market, paint in the art studio, drive tiny racecars and walk through the popular Noodle Forest. There's also a special room for the under-3 crowd where no shoes are allowed and activities are designed to meet the developmental needs of infants and toddlers. A big plus in the summer months is the Schuff-Perini Climber (pictured at right), which provides an indoor climbing experience with a seating area for parents that has a clear view of all exits.

■ 215 N. Seventh St., Phoenix 85034
 602-253-0501
www.childrensmuseumofphoenix.org



Photo courtesy of Children's Museum of Phoenix

Jewish Community
ASSOCIATION
 of Greater Phoenix



Mazel Tov to
 Association staff member, **Erin Searle**
 and Association board member, **Alison Betts**
 and all who are being recognized by
 Jewish Phoenix as leaders in our community.

Your contribution and dedication to our
 community is commendable!



Joshua Simon

Growing up, Joshua Simon had a fascination with the building process and was captivated by construction projects and business in general. At age 8, he started his first business, a lawn-mowing and snowplow endeavor. By the time he was 18, he combined his entrepreneurial aspirations with his interest in building and entered into commercial real estate. He closed his first big real estate deal at age 18 (a Chili's ground lease), and has been highly involved with the industry since. In 2010, he founded Simon CRE, a full-service commercial real estate development company based in Scottsdale, and is also a principal in One Stop Voice, a hosted VoIP company that specializes in business communications. With his strong background in national real estate development and deep interest in business, he envisions growing in his industry and increasing his influence around the country with these two businesses. He is a founding member of the Young Jewish Funders of Arizona, which is part of a pilot program of the international philanthropic organization Jewish Funders Network. The group's goal is to ignite a change and personal involvement with and in the local Jewish community. Simon has also been on the board for Young Jewish Phoenix, a board member for City of Hope Phoenix and on the board of directors for Jewish Federation of Greater Phoenix (now the Jewish Community Association). He lives in Scottsdale with his dog, Riley.

What are your favorite Valley restaurants? I really enjoy Rokerij in Phoenix because of the ambiance, great food and vibe there. What's cool about it is that I can sit at the bar, listen to great music, or hang downstairs in the cellar. It's an eclectic place with great food and music.

What places do you like to shop? I really don't go to the grocery store and my refrigerator can attest to that. It has beer and tea in it, and that's all. I don't shop much; however, my mom and I go to New York City once a year to shop together. We never miss Bloomingdale's when we're there.

What are some of your favorite places to go in the Valley? A gem in this city that is definitely worth stopping

by is Char's Has The Blues. It's a great place to relax and listen to fantastic music.

What do you love about our Jewish community? We have a community that truly wants to help each other and wants to carry on the Jewish traditions.

What do you love about living in the Valley? There are many great aspects of the Valley, but what I really love is that in 2.5 hours I can be in 75-degree weather when it's 115 in the Valley. The versatility of the Valley and proximity to such different climates make this a wonderful place to call home.



Joshua Simon



Tammy Weinbaum

Tammy Weinbaum is senior vice president and general manager for American Express. She oversees the leadership and operations of the American Express customer care centers in Phoenix, Salt Lake City and Markham, Canada. She serves as the co-chair for the Valley of the Sun United Way's Women's Leadership Council. She is a member of Greater Phoenix Leadership, National Association for Female Executives and American Express' Executive Women's Interest Network. Weinbaum also serves as a member of the American Express Arizona Philanthropy Committee, on the board of directors for the Arizona Chamber of Commerce, Congregation Beth Israel and for the American Express Political Action Committee (PAC). She has also served on the boards of directors at Arizona Foundation for Women as well as Valley of the Sun United Way. Weinbaum lives in Scottsdale with her husband, Dan, and their sons Jake, 17, and Justin, 13, and their daughter Jordan, 6.

What are your favorite Valley restaurants? One of my favorite spots is North in Kierland Commons – I love dining inside or outside there, and the food is always great!

What places do you like to shop? Anywhere! I really love Scottsdale Quarter and Kierland Commons where I can enjoy both the shopping and the great weather we have in Arizona.

What are some of your favorite places to go in the Valley? With three kids, some of our favorite activities are going to the great parks around the city, attending sporting events and rooting for Arizona, and seeing movies at the Studio Movie Grill.

What do you love about our Jewish community? When we relocated here

10 years ago, we knew no one. Our involvement at Congregation Beth Israel has made it possible to build a community of Jewish friends that are like family. Additionally, my children have been very involved at CBI. Whether it is their experiences at preschool, religious school, youth programs, trips to Israel or summers at Camp Stein, I have no doubt these experiences are helping them to build strong Jewish identities for the rest of their lives.

What do you love about living in the Valley? I love the people and the weather – in that order! We came to the Valley 10 years ago and everyone was so welcoming! And since I grew up in Florida, I've always loved a warm climate.



Photo by Molino Photography



Tammy Weinbaum



With so many fantastic places to shop around town, it can be difficult to decide where to spend your time – and your money. Service, selection, price, convenience – there are a lot of factors that make up a fabulous shopping experience. Here are some of our favorites from around the Valley.



Best shopping center
Scottsdale Quarter

When the shopping bug hits us, there's no place we'd rather go than Scottsdale Quarter. We love the eclectic mix of stores and services, which include blowdry salon Drybar, upscale table goods store Nambé and popular yoga gear shop Lululemon. The cozy neighborhood atmosphere makes us feel like we're right at home as we stroll among the shops, and when all that shopping makes us hungry, we've got a fantastic selection of restaurants (including Stingray Sushi, Dominick's Steakhouse and SOL Mexican Cocina) to choose from.

■ 15279 N. Scottsdale Road,
Scottsdale 85254
480-270-8123
www.scottsdalequarter.com

Readers' pick: Scottsdale Fashion Square

Best women's clothing consignment
Poor Little Rich Girl Upscale Resale Boutique

The owners of this consignment shop profess an affinity for Anthropologie, Nordstrom, Gucci, Louis Vuitton, Dior and Prada,

among others. If you don't get the picture by now, then let's make it plain: If you want fashionable women's clothing, designer items (not knockoffs), formal wear, shoes and vintage clothing, you won't miss with Poor Little Rich Girl. Cat Fournier-Raslavsky and John Raslavsky, she a Phoenix native and he very nearly one, got into this business when the real-estate market tanked in 2008, which makes buying upscale goods at downsized prices somehow even more delicious.

■ 1576 E. Bethany Home Road,
Phoenix 85014
602-354-5680
■ 3629 E. Indian School Road,
Phoenix 85018
602-955-0708
www.poorlittlerichgirlresale.com

Best jeweler
Molina Fine Jewelers

Diamonds may be a girl's best friend, but sapphires, emeralds and pearls are also welcome members of the clique. Molina Fine Jewelers in Phoenix is our favorite place to browse some bling and purchase truly breathtaking pieces of jewelry. Molina sells new, estate and custom pieces of jewelry for all occasions. The lovely, vil-lalike location and exquisite service add to the experience and make Molina our

first stop when it's time to buy something special.

■ 3134 E. Camelback Road, Phoenix 85016
602-508-1653
www.molinafinejewelers.com

Readers' pick: London Gold

Best place to buy Judaica
The Jewish Collection

From Shabbat candlesticks and seder plates to menorahs and mezuzot, The Jewish Collection has a wide selection of Judaica for all Jewish lifecycle moments. The store also stocks books and cards and features a large array of Israeli products, artwork and jewelry in an effort to support the Israeli economy. An extra bonus – The Jewish Collection offers food, wine and meat pick-up from Segal's One Stop Kosher Foods.

■ 10820 N. 71st St., Scottsdale 85254
480-368-0001
www.thejewishcollection.com

Readers' pick: The Jewish Collection

Best custom bridal salon
Mariée Bridal

The family-owned bridal shop, which opened in Scottsdale in 2003, offers a



Photo courtesy of AJ's Fine Foods

couture experience for brides. The small bridal boutique, "where bridal is art," assigns each bride her personal dressing room and consultant. The boutique displays designer gowns from all over the world and then uses them as a guide to make a custom gown for each bride. Mariée, pronounced "ma-ree-ay," is "bride" in French.

■ The Shops at Gainey Village
8787 N. Scottsdale Road, Suite 206,
Scottsdale 85253
480-946-4343
www.marieegallery.com

Best place to fill a home Furniture Affair

It's a furniture store with a little bit of a naughty wink and nudge, not to mention good deals. You've got to love a website that asks for testimonials under the heading "Was it good for you?" and features a new-items menu called "The Fling." And you've got to love a 28,000-square-foot showroom where you can find bargains on model home furnishings and upscale resale items. That's not to mention an array of brand names direct from the manufacturer. The company also offers design services and CeCe Caldwell's Paints because furniture alone does not a room make.

■ 15602 N. Seventh St., Phoenix 85022
602-863-9955
www.furnitureaffair.com

Best grocery store AJ's Fine Foods

There are grocery stores we shop in, and grocery stores we explore, luxuriating in the selection and atmosphere. AJ's Fine Foods is definitely the latter. The upscale grocery chain carries all the basics you need, plus all the extras that make life worth living. AJ's has mouth-watering produce displays; local, specialty and hard-to-find items; great meals to go, including Italian food, sushi and a salad bar; and a well-stocked wine section. Whatever's on the menu, AJ's can deliver.

■ 11 Valley locations
www.ajsfinefoods.com



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10320 N. Scottsdale Rd., Scottsdale, AZ
480.991.3034
www.nybbaz.com



Best home decor **MADE art boutique**

If you're looking for a unique home decor item, visit MADE art boutique on Roosevelt Row in downtown Phoenix. The bungalow-turned-boutique features an ever-changing array of handcrafted items made by local artists, including bowls and mugs for the kitchen, soaps and candles for the bathroom, and books and potted cacti for the coffee table. Owner Cindy Dach says she looks for items that are pleasing to the

eye, but lean toward being functional. The store features the works of more than 100 artists.

■ 922 N. Fifth St., Phoenix 85005
602-256-6233
www.madephx.com

Best spa **Waldorf Astoria Spa at The Boulders**

Modern life is busy and stressful and

full of aggravations, which is why we're so thankful there are spas – marvelous, blissful oases of relaxation and indulgence in the middle of the chaos. In the Valley, our favorite spot for a little pampering is the Waldorf Astoria Spa at The Boulders resort. The services include massage, acupuncture, reflexology, body wraps, facials and more. A full salon, cafe and the lovely meditation labyrinth complete the experience. All in all, we think it's fitting that we go to Carefree to feel our troubles melt away.

■ 34631 N. Tom Darlington Drive,
Carefree 85377
480-595-3500
www.theboulders.com

Readers' pick: The Spa at Camelback Inn

Best salon **Snapdragon**

Located in Central Phoenix, Snapdragon is home to about a dozen stylists who promote the salon's mission: "Helping you feel and look your best through creative mastery of hair." The talented hair experts will cut, color, highlight, condition, style, straighten or extend your hair in a relaxing "retreat from the hustle and bustle of

Best bookstore **Changing Hands**

We feel very fortunate to have one of the country's premier independent bookstores right here in the Valley. Changing Hands has been a local mainstay for 40 years, delivering endless reading options to generations of loyal customers. Changing Hands hosts hundreds of events each year for all ages, and routinely draws a diverse lineup of top authors to the store; last year's visitors included Anne Rice, Linda Ronstadt and Internet sensation Grumpy Cat. And best of all, starting this year, we won't have to drive so far to visit; the store's new Phoenix location opens soon.

■ 6428 S. McClintock Drive, Tempe 85283
480-730-0205
www.changinghands.com



Photo courtesy of Changing Hands



Best gym

The Village Health Club and Spa

With three Valley locations, The Village Health Club and Spa offers “the ideal blend of fitness, fun and relaxation.” Featuring state-of-the-art facilities and equipment, along with full-service spas and salons, The Village offers group fitness classes, personal training, racquet sports, swimming lessons, hot yoga, pilates, Kids Club, family activities and more. All three locations have cafes that serve healthy foods, as well as refreshing smoothies designed to hit the spot after a strenuous workout.

■ Three Valley locations
www.villageclubs.com



Photo courtesy of The Village

everyday life.” The staff also ventures out for on-location wedding day styling.

■ 347 E. Camelback Road, Phoenix 85012
602-690-2629
www.snapdragonsalon.com

Best place for a staycation
Arizona Biltmore

Sometimes, it’s nice to enjoy a little get-away without having to brave the indignities of modern-day air travel. Arizona Biltmore, a world-class resort in the heart of Phoenix, offers beautiful accommodations, a number of sparkling swimming pools, relaxing spa treatments, great shopping and fantastic restaurants like Wright’s and Frank and Albert’s, all on a lush, luxurious property. Book a room for a week or a weekend and you’re on your way to a fantastic getaway – no airport required.

■ 2400 E. Missouri Ave., Phoenix 85016
602-955-6600
www.arizonabiltmore.com

Best place to work your core
Karve Studio

Core workouts are getting their day as people realize that a strong core is the foundation of posture, balance and strength. The Karve method, created and developed by Kendra Jordan (who has a bachelor’s in kinesiology and a master’s in

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Brenda LaTowsky, MD



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by Arizona Republic

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Brokerage**

by Phoenix Business Journal

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Marketplace

sport and fitness management), employs ballet barre conditioning and concepts from Pilates and yoga to help burn fat and sculpt those toned body lines – so you can look fabulous while you improve your health. These low-impact techniques can be adjusted to any skill level and Karve promises that exercisers can continue these routines even when pregnant or injured.

■ Four Valley locations
www.karvestudio.com

**Best men's clothier
Carter's Men's Clothing**

The last thing most men want to do is go to a men's clothing store and shop. They want to get in, get what they need and get out. That's why Michael Carter's establishment, which will celebrate its 30th anniversary in 2014, is *the* place locally for men to outfit themselves. Old-school service – from handwritten tickets to smart suggestions on style and match to custom fitting and alterations – fits the masculine shopping program. With Carter's help, you can build your look from your neck to your toes with brands like Samuelsohn, Bill's Khakis, Tommy Bahama and Alden of New England shoes. You'll look like you stepped out of GQ, with no hassle at all.

■ 5045 N. 44th St., Suite C5, Phoenix 85018
602-952-8646
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Here are some of our favorite photos that ran in Jewish News in 2013:

1. Jay Schechter, center, holds a plaque commemorating the new Rabbi Philip Herbert Schechter A"H Scholarship Fund at Yeshiva High School of Arizona in August 2013. The fund was dedicated by Estelle Schechter and Debbie and Jay Schechter. Schechter is surrounded by the school's seniors, who will be its first graduating class. *Photo courtesy of Rabbi Shraga Yankelewitz*

2. Sandy and Harvey Belfer receive the Tree of Life Award during Jewish National Fund's annual Tree of Life Gala, held Jan. 5 at the Arizona Biltmore. About 400 people attended the dinner, which paid tribute to the Belfers' commitment to Israel and their community and marked Israel's 65th anniversary. *Photo courtesy of Jewish National Fund*

3. The Phoenix Hebrew Academy and Pardes Jewish Day School football teams played each other on Oct. 8; Phoenix Hebrew Academy won 12-0. *Photo courtesy of Rabbi Isaac Entin*





4. Rabbi Mendy Deitsch, who co-founded Chabad of the East Valley in 1997 with his wife, Shternie, celebrates the grand opening of the Pollack Chabad Center for Jewish Life in Chandler, during a dedication ceremony on Aug. 18.

Photo by Michele Fiorenza

5. Jim Baker, director of dining services at Chris Ridge Village, left, and Sandy Reichsfeld, site manager of the JFCS Center for Senior Enrichment, get into the spirit of Hanukkah at a Dec. 4 luncheon at the center.

Photo courtesy of Kathleen Lunt

6. From left, Rabbi Bonnie Koppell, Rabbi Mari Chernow and Rabbi Jake Singer-Beilin serve breakfast to guests at Temple Chai's Nov. 24 Latke & Pancake Breakfast event. Proceeds from the event benefited the synagogue's religious school.

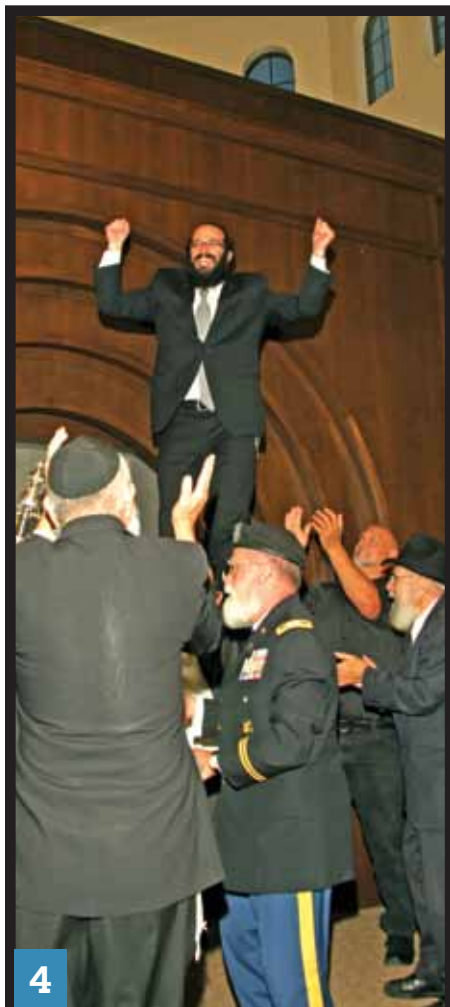
Photo courtesy of Temple Chai

7. From left, Rabbi John Linder of Temple Solel, Noel Washington, Adam Zweiback and Dan Indech — all from the Valley — take part in the opening ceremonies of the Maccabiah Games in Jerusalem on July 18.

Photo courtesy of Rabbi John Linder

8. Moishe House Phoenix hosts a Shabbat dinner for about 150 people in its 1,800-square-foot sukkah on Sept. 20.

Photo courtesy of Moishe House



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9. From left, Jonny Basha, Blaine Light and Leor Lapid were three of the many attendees at Mazelpalooza, which was held Dec. 24 at Maya Day + Nightclub in Scottsdale. More than 700 people attended the event for adults ages 21-40, which was hosted by Young Jewish Phoenix under the auspices of the Jewish Community Association of Greater Phoenix. *Photo courtesy of Lin Monas Photography*



10. Volunteers for Israel ambassadors visit with Shahar Edry, director of the Israel Center, at the community Yom Ha'atzmaut celebration on April 28. Pictured, from left, are Bea Eisenberg, Helen P. Freedman, Karen Kamenir, Edry, Marilyn Sloan and Mindy Franklon. *Photo courtesy of VFI AZ*

11. The Arizona Anti-Defamation League's Torch of Liberty Award Dinner was held Oct. 24 at the Sheraton Downtown Phoenix Hotel. From left, David Bodney, 2013 Torch of Liberty honoree; Denise Resnik, co-chair of the dinner; and George Weisz, Anti-Defamation League board member, gather after the event. *Photo courtesy of ADL*

12. Members of the Young Jewish Phoenix board participated in the Oct. 13 Komen Phoenix Race for the Cure. Pictured, from left, are Leor Lapid, Samantha Lapid, Rebekah Rubenstein holding Penelope Rubenstein, Erin Searle and Lily Behboodi. *Photo courtesy of Erin Searle*

13. The Phoenix Phriends reunion for people who grew up in the Valley in the 1950s and 1960s was held March 2 at the Cutler Plotkin Jewish Heritage Center. Socializing at the reunion are, from left, Art Lipschultz, Annie Wachsberger Ginsburg, Noreen Rudin Shcolnik, Tina Heinemann Robbins and Jerry Kosowsky. *Photo by Mark Gluckman*





14. Rabbi Joseph Telushkin, center, spoke about "A Jewish Vision, One Day at a Time" during a Valley Beit Midrash program at Congregation Beth Israel on April 21. Also pictured are Rabbi Darren Kleinberg, left, former executive director of VBM, and Rabbi Stephen Kahn of CBI.

Photo by Joel Zolondek



15. On Oct. 1, a celebration was held at Chabad of Phoenix for "Sashie's Torah," a Torah written in honor of Rebbetzin Sashie Levertov, who was diagnosed with leukemia in 2012. Here, the Levertov family watches the scribe, Rabbi Moshe Klein of Brooklyn, N.Y., write a letter in the Torah.

Photo by David Halloway



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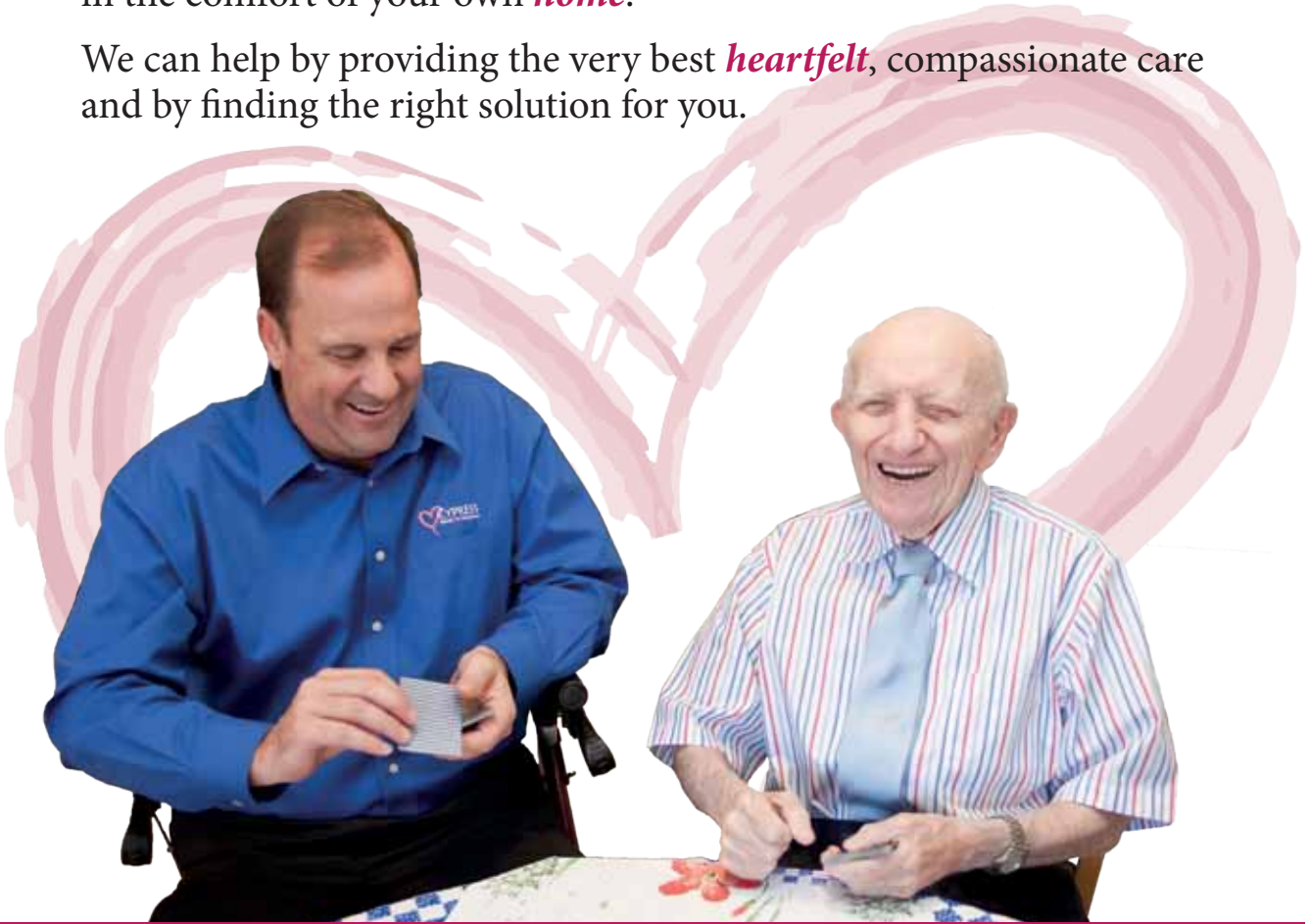
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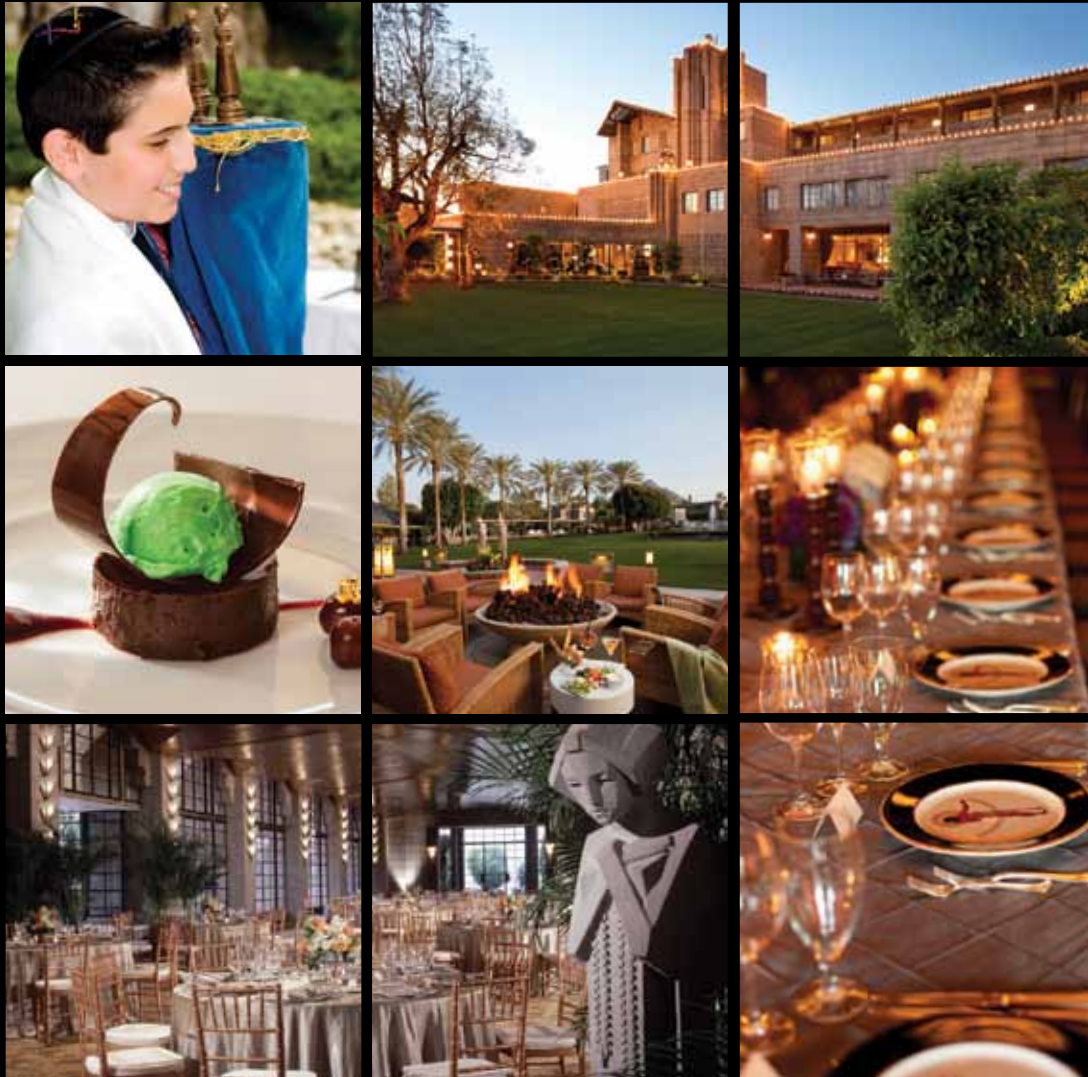
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