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ASU LAW LIBRARY

Style and substance

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Learn advocacy skills from political activists

The growing power of the religious right is among the subjects to be discussed at "A Return to Passion," a "nuts and bolts" seminar on political involvement set for Sunday, Nov. 21 at the Doubletree Inn in Phoenix.

The daylong seminar, designed to provide hands-on information on getting involved in Arizona political life, is presented by the Community Relations Council of the Jewish Federation of Greater Phoenix in conjunction with the CRC of the Tucson Jewish Federation and the American Israel Public Affairs Committee (AIPAC).

Keynote speaker Renee Rothstein, AIPAC national field director, will outline issues of concern to Jewish voters and discuss the importance of grass-roots participation and the impact of "stealth" candidates (religious right candidates who deliberately misrepresent their positions). U.S. Rep. Sam Copper-smith, D-Ariz., will be the featured lunch speaker in a program on "Why Me/Why Now? Reinvesting in the Political Grass Roots."

The program will begin with registration and coffee at 9 a.m. and will continue till 2:45 p.m., with a dairy lunch included. Five workshops (participants have a choice of two) will deal with Opportunities for Campaign Involvement; Running for Office/Getting Appointed; Political Advocacy; Gaining Access to Media; and Coalition Building.

Robert Roos, event chair, says, "There are crucial issues in Israel, in the nation and in our own community on which we must make our voices heard." He calls the seminar "an excellent opportunity to learn how we can be most effective."

Cost is \$25 per person, \$40 per couple, or \$15 per student, which includes all materials and lunch. Dietary laws will be observed. Reservations should be made by Nov. 12. Send a check to: Community Relations Council of the Jewish Federation of Greater Phoenix, "Getting Involved in the Political Process," 32 W. Coolidge, Suite 200, Phoenix, AZ 85013. For more information call 274-1800.

Palestinians quit peace talks

By CYNTHIA MANN

JERUSALEM (JTA) — Palestinian negotiators have suspended the autonomy implementation talks in Taba to protest Israel's position on the withdrawal of its troops from the Gaza Strip.

The talks, which began Oct. 13, when the self-rule accord Israel signed with the Palestine Liberation Organization went into effect, had entered their fourth round this week.

But the talks in the Sinai border town were suspended Nov. 2 by the Palestinians. They rejected Israel's proposed troop withdrawals from Gaza

as falling far short of their expectations.

Israeli officials said they were not surprised by the suspension and that they expected the talks to resume after both delegations consulted with their respective leaders.

The latest round of talks on implementing Palestinian self-rule in Gaza and the West Bank town of Jericho had begun on an upbeat and businesslike note. But serious disputes arose after maps were presented illustrating Israel's plans to withdraw its forces from Gaza City and redeploy

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COVER STORY

Style and substance

BY VICKI CABOT

Using old and new, the library at Arizona State University College of Law houses its substantive legal collection and cutting edge technology in a striking modernistic design.

It is a fitting "living memorial" to local attorneys John J. Ross and William C. Blakley, for whom the facility is named, say friends and colleagues.

The two, best friends who practiced law for more than 20 years in the Valley, perished tragically in the 1987 crash of Northwest Airlines flight 255 on their way home from a golfing vacation in Scotland.

"Both John and Bill were excellent lawyers in the best sense of the word," says Paul Eckstein, one of Ross' partners at Brown & Bain and a primary player in the campaign to raise funds for the \$9.5 million facility. "They understood the value of hard work and good legal research and the value of a good law library."

The dramatic 60,000 square foot building—46,000 square feet of new space and 14,000 from the existing law school—adds another architectural landmark to the Tempe campus. It also reflects the keen aesthetic sense of both men, says Eckstein.

"John and Bill were conscious of style. This was reflected in their dress, in the way they lived," says Eckstein. "And this library has style."

Positive memorial

"John would have just loved this building," says Sue Ross of the John J. Ross and William C. Blakley Law Library which opened for use in August and will be dedicated formally in ceremonies today, Nov. 5.

She and Lyn Blakley Grant were instrumental in raising funds for the structure named for their late husbands.

The two were looking for "something that would be a positive memorial" when they first met with law school representatives in 1989.

They originally considered a more modest project, such as dedicating classrooms, but became excited about the prospect of a naming opportunity for the new library.

"We didn't know how much the board of regents would insist on," says Sue Ross. "So we just sent out pledge cards and held the money in trust."

The support was "overwhelming," she says. Contributions streamed in from former colleagues, clients, business associates, family and friends who felt they "wanted to do something" to remember the two attorneys.

"I feel good that so many came forth," says Sue Ross. "It speaks so well of how much the boys were loved."

Lead gift

Through their efforts, the women raised \$750,000, the single largest gift in the campaign, garnering the naming opportunity.

"Sue and Lyn took the lead," says ASU College of Law Dean Richard Morgan, explaining that \$7 million of the total cost came from state coffers with the remaining \$2.5 million raised independently.

Besides the Ross-Blakley gift, the project received strong support from the local legal community and ASU College of Law alumni.

Blakley was a member of the 1971 ASU law school class; John Ross was a Harvard Law School graduate who decided to practice in Phoenix after spending a summer clerking at Brown & Bain. He had a



Above, the interior of the new law library marries form and function. Below, an oil painting of William C. Blakley, left, and John J. Ross will hang in the library bearing their names.

"healthy respect" for the Arizona school, says Morgan.

Blakley was a partner in the firm of Mohr, Hackett, Pederson, Blakley, Randolph and Haga.

Functional design

The design by architects Mack Scogin and Merrill Elam of Scogin Elam and Bray in Atlanta provides accessible shelving for the library's 320,000 volumes and microform volume equivalents as well as comfortable study space for students and members of the legal and general community who make daily use of the facility. The research center boasts 156 study carrels, 31 tables, a 30 station computer lab as well as two computer research rooms, each containing 10 stations with LEXIS and WESTLAW computerized research capacity.

The library also has 27 meeting and study rooms, a conference room, reserve reading room and a classroom.

Since law students "spend most of their days in the library" creating a comfortable, attractive environment was a priority, says law professor Jonathan Rose, who was involved intimately in the project.

Sue Ross toured law libraries around the country and forwarded suggestions to the law school during the planning process.

"They incorporated almost every single thing I suggested," she says, "especially making sure that there's lots of comfortable seating for the students."

She is donating a Merrill Mahaffey piece of art to the library for the students' enjoyment. It was a favorite of her late husband's, purchased years ago from Scottsdale gallery owner Suzanne Brown, wife of Brown & Bain's founding partner, Jack Brown.

"It just goes in the space," she says.



Morgan says the top-notch research facility enhances the school's academic reputation. The new library is now the 25th largest in the country in terms of space, out of approximately 175 such facilities. Morgan anticipates that it will serve the school's some 500 students for at least the next 20-25 years.

"More opinions are published every year so there are always new acquisitions," says Morgan. The library has been recognized for its growing special collections in the areas of international law, Indian law, Mexican law and law and technology. It is also a selective U.S. government depository.

Fund raising efforts will continue, he says, to continue to add to the library's resources. "The library is a truly magnificent facility for a very good collection," he says. "We can go up from truly good to magnificent."

Community of friendship

Family, including John Ross' brother, Micah Ross from Illinois, and sister, Naomi Ronen, from Boston, Sue Ross' husband Dr. Ted Doderhoff, her sons from a former marriage, William Wichterman, in his last year

at Georgetown University law school, and Eric Wichterman, a senior at the University of Arizona, will be on hand for the dedication.

Guest speakers include U.S. Secretary of the Interior Bruce Babbitt, who practiced law with Ross at Brown & Bain, and his wife, Harriet, an ASU College of Law graduate who is U.S. Ambassador to the Organization of American States.

"It's more fun to have a living memorial," says Sue Ross anticipating the dedication. "Lyn and I plan on having a reception every year to honor the donors and continue the community of friendship."

Dedication, tours

Dedication of the John J. Ross-William C. Blakley Law Library is set for 10 a.m., Friday, Nov. 5 at Armstrong Hall at the ASU College of Law, Tempe.

There are limited public seats available for the dedication ceremony. A public open house and tours of the new library will begin at 12:30 p.m. and conclude at 4 p.m.

Tradition of learning

Naomi Ronen, John Ross' sister, will be in the Valley this week for the dedication ceremonies.

"When I was here for the groundbreaking last year, all I saw was a hole in the ground," says Ronen from her offices at the Harvard Law School Library in Cambridge, Mass.

"I can't wait to see the library."

She speaks glowingly of her sister-in-law Sue Ross and her efforts to raise funds to name the research facility in John's name. "It is such a wonderful thing that Sue and Lyn did," she says. "I'm so proud of them. It's truly a fitting memorial."

Love of libraries

Books and libraries always played an important

role in the lives of the three Ross siblings, says Ronen. They were raised in Benton Harbor, Michigan, "a small, rural town with a one-room school house" on the shores of Lake Michigan.

Before her marriage, their mother was a school teacher in a Jewish day school in Toronto; their father came to Benton Harbor via New York's lower East Side. They were founders of the town's first Reform temple.

A trip into town to story hour at the local library was a high point of their week, remembers Ronen. After their parents died, the children were raised by an aunt who worked as a librarian at a public library branch near where the family lived, so "libraries were very important in our lives."

Highest honor

Ronen has been on staff at the Harvard



Photo by Bradford Herzog

Naomi Ronen, front right, helps students with research in the Harvard Law School Library.

law library since 1976. Before that, she lived in Israel where she met her husband, Dov, and worked at the Jewish National and University Library in Jerusalem.

Ronen has a deep respect for learning and libraries as repositories of knowledge, "a place where people help others to find information."

She notes that law libraries are unique in that they accrete knowledge. "We don't throw out the old," she says.

Law is based on precedent, she explains, so its bibliography is continually growing. "What happened last week can be as valid as what happened in 1789," she says.

She is particularly taken with naming the law library for her late brother because it is "something that will be used everyday to find answers."

"I can't think of a higher honor than being remembered in a center of learning."—V.C.

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