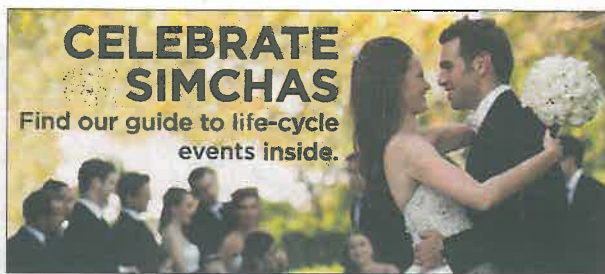


The Sosúa Rescue, Then and Now

A new documentary sheds light on the tale.

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TRADITION GROWS IN CENTER CITY

Photo by Greg Bezanis



▲ Rebecca Cohen is pushing for a mikvah to be built inside the Vilna Congregation on Pine Street.

Effort to Build a Mikvah in Center City Picks Up Steam

BRYAN SCHWARTZMAN | JE STAFF

FOR YEARS, as more observant Jews have decided to call Center City home, there's been talk of constructing a mikvah downtown. But it had never seemed much more than talk — until now.

A group of individuals, along with Chabad Rabbi Menachem Schmidt, has selected a site, commissioned architectural plans and already raised \$180,000.

Rebecca Cohen, a 40-year-old mother of two who lives in the Bella Vista section of the city, is one of the leaders of the group called Center City Community Mikvah, which is made up of individuals from across the religious spectrum, including a former president of a Reform synagogue.

She said she wants a mikvah close to home because she considers a mikvah a "sacred place for women to be in touch with their spirituality and their bodies."

"Going to a mikvah is an easy way to have a space to think about a woman's relationship with Judaism without her having to keep kosher, go to shul or read Hebrew," said Cohen, although she herself

Photo by Eric Berger

Working to Create Modern Orthodox Community

ERIC BERGER | JE STAFF

FOR NEARLY TWO WEEKS, while Andres Catalan's baby son was in intensive care, members of his synagogue were anxiously waiting for some news.

Rabbi Eli Hirsch, of Mekor Habracha, the Orthodox congregation in Center City, sent an email the afternoon of Sept. 24 say-



▲ Yah-el Har-el and her husband, Andres Catalan, with their baby son, Uriel, at Mekor Habracha

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