

## NEWS

### Media Contact:

- Marian Gerlich P&G Communications  
818-786-8687, pgworld@aol.com
- Becky Blaine, Public Relations Manager  
The Arizona Biltmore  
602-954-2550, beckyb@arizonabiltmore.com

### **Arizona Biltmore Hosts Free Literary Evening With Reading of “Parted Waters” and Playwright in Attendance for Q & A**

PHOENIX, Arizona, July 24, 2009 – The hidden Jewish heritage of many residents of the Southwest will be explored at a literary evening being hosted by the Arizona Biltmore. On Saturday, August 1, starting at 7:00 p.m., the Arizona Jewish Theatre Company will present a reading of acclaimed “Parted Waters” by Robert F. Benjamin. The event, which will be held in the resort’s Grand Ballroom, is free and open to the public. The playwright will be in attendance for questions and answers after the performance.

To reserve your seat at this free community event please RSVP by calling 602-381-7660 by July 31<sup>st</sup>.

“Parted Waters” is the story of the “Crypto-Jews” (the hidden Jews"), the name given to Hispanics who are descendent from early Spanish Jews. During the Inquisition in the late 1400s, they were forced to convert to Catholicism, but many retained vestiges of their Judaism. They migrated to northern Mexico and then the Southwestern states. Some estimates claim that nearly 30 percent of Mexicans and Cuban-Americans can trace their roots back to Judaism. This contemporary play, filled with humor and hope, is set in New Mexico and brings to life three generations of Hispanics dealing with the knowledge and secrets of their lineage.

The Arizona Jewish Theatre Co. is a professional theatre company producing plays of universal interest from a Jewish perspective. [www.azjewishtheatre.org](http://www.azjewishtheatre.org)

The Arizona Biltmore has been an Arizona landmark since opening in 1929, when it was crowned the *“Jewel of the Desert.”* The legendary *Grand Dame* remains one of the most recognized resorts in the world for its distinctive Frank Lloyd Wright architecture, luxurious facilities, and storied history as a playground of the rich and famous. Nestled on 39 acres at the foot of the Phoenix Mountain Preserve, the legendary resort offers: 738 guest accommodations; full-service Spa, Salon and Fitness Center; two 18-hole golf courses; six restaurants and lounges including Wright’s at The Biltmore serving signature American Lodge Cuisine; and eight swimming pools including the Paradise Pool for the ultimate in summer family fun. The Arizona Biltmore is managed by Hilton Hotels and is a member of Hilton’s exclusive Waldorf=Astoria Collection®. For information and reservations: 800-950-0086, or log on to <http://www.arizonabiltmore.com>

###