

By BARBARA RUSSI SARNATARO
Citizen Staff Writer

New York has Little Italy.
San Francisco has Chinatown.
Tucson has Israel?

Perhaps, if only for a day.

To celebrate the 50th anniversary of Israel as a state, the Jewish community is throwing a bash that will transform a little pocket of Tucson into a carnival of sights and sounds pulsing with the culture and tastes of Israel.

Tomorrow's "Israel at 50 Festival," sponsored by the Israel Center (a joint project of the Tucson Jewish Community Center and the Jewish Federation of Southern Arizona), brings a little bit of Israel to Tucson.

Israeli-themed artists, musicians and designers will join together behind the Jewish Community Center, at the corner of River Road and Dodge Blvd., for a day of entertainment and celebration.

"The Jewish community is such a happily, strongly involved community with the general community of Tucson. We have strong involvements and collaborations with all aspects of the community," said John Peck, director of Jewish community relations council.

"Just as we enthusiastically go to events that celebrate other groups in the community," he said, "we want people to come celebrate this milestone with us."

Music and dance artists featured will include Israel's world music group Habrera Hativ'it, dance ensemble Keshet Chaim, singer David Dor and Borderlands Klezmer Band.

Educational booths will focus on Israel's history and development, and hundreds of vendors offering Israeli arts, clothing, jewelry and crafts will be on hand.

And don't think this festival is going to serve funnel cakes and hot dogs. The Israeli theme continues

iole, Israeli!

