

The Peale, Baltimore

Out of the Blocks Storytelling Series

Recorded by Aaron Henkin; Photographs and Music by Wendel Patrick

Produced for the *Out of the Blocks* website, created by the Peale, <https://ootb.thepeale.org/>

Out of the Blocks is supported by PRX and produced with grant funding from the Corporation for Public Broadcasting, the National Endowment for the Arts, the Cohen Opportunity Fund, The Hoffberger Foundation, Patricia and Mark Joseph, The Shelter Foundation, The Kenneth S Battye Charitable Trust, The Sana and Andy Brooks Family Fund, The Muse Web Foundation, and the William G. Baker, Jr. Memorial Fund, creator of the Baker Artist Portfolios



Speaker 1:

Thank you.

Uriel Golfeiz:

Hi, my name is Uriel Golfeiz. The business is called A To Z Savings, 6307 Reisterstown Road.

Speaker 1:

No. You picked a different treat. Okay.

Uriel Golfeiz:

The concentration of the business is mostly for the Orthodox Jewish community who live around this neighborhood.

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Speaker 3:

What is a particular kosher interest here that you wanted to tell me?

Uriel Golfeiz:

All these thing that you see against the wall. We have something called electric [inaudible 00:00:38] pot. It's a urn with a pump because, as you might know, the Orthodox Jewish community, you are not supposed to cook or to bake during the Saturday, which we call it Shabbat.

And because of that, this pump is going to allow you to warm the water before Shabbat so you can use it during Shabbat. Or we have something else which is called hot plates for the same purpose, is electronic. And you can cook on it before Shabbat and let it be on it. So that on Shabbat, you are not cooking.

Speaker 3:

So, really quite an industry has sprung up in a response to the kosher rules.

Uriel Golfeiz:

That's right.

Speaker 3:

Yeah.

Uriel Golfeiz:

Yeah, it did. My perfect day always Saturday. I get up early, maybe four or five o'clock, sometimes six o'clock in the morning. And everybody's sleeping, more or less. I'm studying by myself. And then I go to congregation that I belong.

I have over the few partner that we learn until eight, when the rabbi comes and we have the prayer for the Saturday. And after that, the rabbi gives this pitch, which has only to do with the Bible. And then in the afternoon, again, we're going to do the afternoon prayer. And then at night also, we go and we do prayer and come back. So I feel that that day really fills me up. That's why I like about that day.

I'm not from United State, as you notice from my accent. I'm from Iran. On 1979, a lot of Jews, including me, they left Iran to come to United State so that they can be in an environment that there is no restriction of talking, no restriction of religion, and no restriction of all those things that was restricted in Iran. Now I'm living in here and I love it. And I feel that Baltimore is the best place for us, for

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Orthodox people who live here, because we have everything that we need to keep everything according to the Jewish Bible.

In Iran, not having freedom the way we have it here, people did not have the chance to learn. And because of that a lot of people, they weren't so religious and so orthodox. But here, you want to be orthodox. Baltimore is a place that you can learn and go up on the steps. In Iran, wasn't like that.

[foreign language 00:03:44]. What it means a person thinks a lot. [foreign language 00:03:46] means a lot. A lot of thinking comes to the person that, "I'm going to do this today. I'm going to do that tomorrow. I'm going to do..." That person thinks, "I'm going to do all these thing." [foreign language 00:04:01] But really the only thing that which is going to establish it, what God wants.

As I am getting older and getting more mature, I would call it, I realize the faith I have, I found what I am looking for.