

Advocate for Tucson elders Samuel George Arcus dies at 95

Sam Arcus, a longtime advocate for older adults, died at his Tucson home on January 5. He was 95.

Marian Lupu, the founding director at PCOA, asked Sam to help with a 'short term' project twenty-eight years ago. He helped our Area Agency on Aging create a program to assist probate court in reviewing reports from guardians and conservators and then became the head of PCOA's Long-Term Care Advocates' Program when the Federal Government recognized that no one was looking after the interests of elder residents of nursing homes.

Sam literally wrote the book about Ombudsman programs when he wrote "**A Handbook for Volunteers in the Long Term Care Ombudsman Program.**" It has been adopted and used not only in Arizona but in several other states.

In 1998, Sam received the **Arizona Ombudsman Achievement Award**. He continued to contribute to the PCOA Long-Term Care Ombudsman program for another decade. When he was approaching his 87th birthday in 2008, he decided to retire.

Arcus and his wife, Adele, moved to Tucson in 1979 when he was hired to aid with fundraising to build the Jewish Community Center. He also served as a consultant to the Handmaker Home (for the Aging), the first facility of its kind in Tucson.

Former co-workers and others who knew him credit Arcus with guiding the new system of long-term care advocacy for aging Pima County residents.

"Generations of residents in nursing homes in this community received advocacy and compassionate assistance because Sam Arcus knew what needed to happen," said Debra Adams, chief operating officer at the Pima Council on Aging. Lupu hired Adams in 1986.

Arcus was for decades an omnipresent advocate for elders in the Tucson area.

In his later years, Sam Arcus continued to write. He was a co-author of "The Hebrew National Orphan Home Memories of Orphanage Life," and the author of "Deja Views of an Aging Orphan: Growing Up in the Hebrew National Orphan Home," and "The Affluent American Dog: and other Tails," about canines he has known and loved.

Mr. Arcus was preceded in death by his wife, Adele. Survivors include his son, Norman (Susan) Arcus of Tucson; daughter Shelley (George) Ting of Tempe, Ariz.; and four grandchildren.

According to a Arizona Jewish Post write up, memorial services were held at the Evergreen Mortuary with Rabbi Batsheva Appel of Temple Emanu – El officiating. Contributions may be made to Temple Emanu-El, the Tucson Jewish Community Center, the (Tucson) Humane Society, or Pima Council on Aging.