



Jewish Community News

The Publication of the Jewish Federation of the Desert

www.jfedps.org

Kislev/Teves 5784 - December 2023

Event Highlights 2023-2024

- Sunday, December 3, 2023
Feast of Jewish Learning
5 Jewish Book Council Authors
 - Sunday, January 7, 2024
3rd Annual Chabad Golf Classic
 - Monday, January 8, 2024
JBC Fayne Frey:
"The Skincare Hoax"
 - Wednesday, January 10, 2024
JMOGD Azi Schwartz Concert
 - Monday, January 22, 2024
Lion of Judah Event
 - Monday, February 5, 2024
JBC Omer Bartov:
"The Butterfly and the Axe"
 - Wednesday, February 7, 2024
Federation Main Event
 - Wednesday, February 14, 2024
JBC Deborah Applegate: "Madam: The Biography of Polly Adler, Icon of the Jazz Age"
 - Wednesday, March 6, 2024
JBC Sarah Bimbach:
"A Daughter's Kaddish"
 - Sunday-Wednesday:
March 10-13, 2024
11th Annual Jewish Film Festival
 - Monday, March 18, 2024
Pomegranate Event
 - Tuesday, March 26, 2024
Federation Day at Tamarisk
 - Wednesday, April 3, 2024
JBC Rachel Shteir: "Betty Friedan"
 - Monday, April 8, 2024
Card/Game Day in Sun City
 - Sunday, April 14, 2024
All Things Israel
 - Thursday, April 18, 2024
JBC Joe Posnanski
"Why We Love Baseball"
 - Sunday, May 5, 2024
Yom HaShoah; Holocaust Remembrance
- Bold** - Federation Event
• Event held at Federation Offices



JEWISH FEDERATION OF THE DESERT PRESENTS FEAST OF JEWISH LEARNING

5 Authors • LIVE • Sunday, December 3, 2023 



Andrew Lawler
10:00 AM



Israel Consul Ravital Danker
Noon



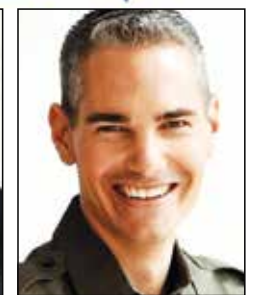
Philip Slayton
1:30 PM



Rabbi Michael Strassfeld
3:00 PM



Benyamin Cohen
4:30 PM



Joel Chasoff
5:30 PM

Exciting Array of JBC Authors Coming to Desert Sunday, December 3

Desert residents have the unique opportunity to meet and hear in-person presentations by some of the most outstanding, gifted contemporary Jewish writers by coming to the Jewish Federation Offices on Sunday, December 3rd, beginning at 10:00 am and continuing through the early evening. Attendees can select a favorite or two to hear or

come for the entire day and experience the diverse, fascinating range of topics presented by these remarkable authors. These authors are some of the most interesting and well respected writers today.

There is no charge to attend, but space is limited and reservations are a must no later than December 1st. Box lunches

are available for \$15, with the choice of a tuna, egg salad or veggie sandwich, plus potato salad or fruit, potato chips and a cookie. A Happy Hour wine and cheese reception will be provided by the Jewish Federation at 6:30 pm.

Information about each speaker and book begins on page 2.

RSVP to gloria.benavides@jfedps.org or call 760-324-4737 by December 1st

A Message from the Jewish Federation President

By Arnie Gillman, Federation President

The holiday season is upon us. Look for our Chanukah and Annual appeal coming to you in the mail soon.

People in America are looking forward to spending quality time with their families and friends. If you live in Israel, it is a different scenario.

We cannot not forget the hostages and must support the soldiers who are defending us and the country.



Arnie Gillman,
President

Here in the States, we are challenged by the rise of antisemitism and the disinformation attacking Israel. We are addressing these challenges in the Coachella Valley by educating the Jewish and general community on current issues and how to learn the facts. We are reaching out to elected officials, university officials, and the media to address the bias and disinformation coming out of the media and social media to guide them on how to respond appropriately.

The Jewish Federation of the Desert is busy raising needed funds to support the

people in Israel. We will not stop until the needs are met. We are also responsible for raising funds here locally through our Annual Campaign. Please give.

As Jews living in the United States, it is our obligation to support our brothers and sisters in Israel. For those of you who have generously donated on behalf of the Israel crisis, the people of Israel thank you. If you are interested in donating, please visit the Jewish Federation of the Desert website. jfedps.org

If you want to get in touch with me, my e-mail is: hag33150@aol.com.

everyone
counts
can we count on you?

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Jewish Federation
Annual Campaign
2024

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JEWISH FEDERATION OF THE DESERT PRESENTS FEAST OF JEWISH LEARNING

10:00 AM - "Under Jerusalem: The Buried History of the World's Most Contested City" by Andrew Lawler

Reviewed by Leslie Pepper, Director, Community Engagement

Under Jerusalem delves into the historical and archaeological exploration of Jerusalem, a city with a rich and complex past. The book explores the relentless quest by individuals, ranging from archaeologists to missionaries, to uncover the layers of history buried beneath the city's streets and shrines.



The narrative begins in 1863 when a French senator arrived in Jerusalem, aiming to unearth relics dating back to biblical times. His discovery of an ancient grave, which he claimed belonged to an Old Testament queen, sparked global fascination and inspired subsequent generations of fortune seekers and historians. Lawler details the stories of these individuals, bringing to life the characters who explored the subterranean landscape of the Holy City.

Lawler's narrative skillfully weaves together the historical accounts of those who sought to uncover Jerusalem's past, shedding light on the motivations, challenges, and consequences of their efforts. The author also suggests that this quest for heritage could potentially provide a roadmap for peaceful coexistence between the diverse peoples and faiths connected to the city.

Andrew Lawler, an acclaimed journalist, draws on his extensive experience to present a vivid and engaging account. His work has been featured in reputable publications such as The New York Times, The Washington Post, National Geographic, and Smithsonian. With a focus on science and archaeology, Lawler's expertise contributes to the depth and accuracy of the narrative in "Under Jerusalem."

"Under Jerusalem" offers readers a captivating journey into the depths of the Holy City, revealing the layers of history

that have shaped its contested present. The book not only provides historical insights but also prompts reflection on the potential for coexistence amid the complexities of Jerusalem's past and present.

Noon - CONSUL REVITAL DANKER: Consulate General of Israel in the Pacific Southwest Region

During our break between our morning speaker and the first of our afternoon authors, we are honored to have Revital Danker join us and present an Israel update. Consul Danker is a senior career diplomat with the Israeli Ministry of Foreign Affairs, having served in the Ministry since 1994. She serves as the Consul for Consular Affairs at the Consulate General of Israel in the Pacific Southwest Region. In this capacity, her regional mandate spans 7 states. Consul Danker has served in Los Angeles since August 2020, and has put special emphasis on revolutionizing the communications systems that serve over 250,000 Israelis and the wider community.

Given the recent challenging situation in Israel she has been called upon to provide immediate assistance to the Israeli Wounded Veterans, Beit Halochem organization, the organization established in 1949 which in collaboration with the Ministry of Defense promoting the rights of veterans in the Knesset.

1:30 PM - "Antisemitism" by Philip Slayton

Reviewed by Leslie Pepper, Director of Community Engagement

This startling exploration of the past and present of antisemitism starts with the surprisingly complex basics: what is a Jew? What is antisemitism? Why does it happen? Author Philip Slayton looks at the very different experiences of Jews

in Europe, the Middle East, North Africa, and America, and the longstanding tensions between Jews and Muslims, and Jews and Christians. He examines the Holocaust, which



brought the fight against antisemitism to new heights, and Zionism, which has set the fight back immeasurably. The role of media and particularly social media in spreading antisemitism is scrutinized. Identity Politics is found to have sidelined Jews in favor of other historically oppressed populations, a topic on everyone's mind today.

Philip Slayton was born in England. Slayton's family emigrated to Canada when he was a child. Slayton studied law at Oxford University as a Manitoba Rhodes Scholar and later clerked at the Supreme Court of Canada in Ottawa. He taught at McGill University and was Dean of Law at the University of Western Ontario. He practiced corporate law in Toronto with Blake, Cassels & Graydon from 1983 until his retirement in 2000. Slayton is an attorney and a regular contributor on law-related topics to Canadian magazines and newspapers. In 2008, and again in 2010, he was awarded a Kenneth R. Wilson Memorial Award by the Canadian Business Press for his column in Canadian Lawyer Magazine.

Slayton has received a Woodrow Wilson Fellowship and has served as President of the Canadian Rhodes Scholars Foundation and as Governor of Sheridan College. In 1998, Oxford University named him a "Distinguished Friend" of the university. Philip is a member of the Quadrangle Society of Massey College, Toronto, and the City of Toronto Legacy Project Committee, and is president of PEN Canada.

3:00 PM - Judaism Disrupted: A Spiritual Manifesto for the 21st Century by Rabbi Michael Strassfeld

Reviewed by Alan Potash, CEO

Here I am again promoting a book that I discovered as part of the Jewish Book Council's collection of books and authors. I am not sure if or when you were a young



adult, a college student or a couple getting married, and you needed help exploring ways to connect Jewishly and didn't feel comfortable or welcomed in a synagogue. Or you wanted to become more "Jewish" beyond a bar or bat mitzvah. For example, if you wanted to learn how to bake challah, put on tefillin, create a ketubah or any number of mitzvahs. It was all there at your fingertips.

In those days as I pursued Judaism through and adult lens, I would reach for a copy of the First Jewish Catalog, by Richard Siegel, Michael Strassfeld and Sharon Strassfeld. This book gave thousands of my generation and other people easy access to growing a Jewish life. It was titled a do-it-yourself kit (way before DIY became mainstream).

I still have my original copy which I spiral bound for easy access. The authors added two more to the collection. I mention all of this because when I saw Rabbi Michael Strassfeld listed as one of the authors I had to explore his new book titled Judaism Disrupted. Judaism Disrupted clearly caught my attention knowing how much I still garner from his earlier work. I needed to find out what he means by Judaism Disrupted.

Strassfeld opens a door to how Judaism has evolved over time and how and why now is the time to explore it from a 21st century perspective. I agree. Living a Jewish life today is different than it was in biblical times or even early rabbinic times. The desire to hold true to early teachings and values is timeless.

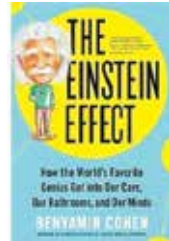
Strassfeld breaks down his philosophy in 11 core principles guiding the reader and student through an exercise of expanding ones understanding and commitment to

living a meaningful Jewish life. Each one of the core principles will resonate and help the reader connect with personal change and transformation.

4:30 PM – "The Einstein Effect" by Benjamin Cohen

Reviewed by Leslie Pepper, Director, Community Engagement

Benjamin Cohen joins us in a fascinating discussion of his book "The Einstein Effect: How the World's Favorite Genius Got into Our Cars, Our Bathrooms, and Our Minds". This book is a fascinating look into how Einstein's genius and science continues to show up in so many facets of our everyday lives and his enduring legacy as an unlikely pop culture icon.



Albert Einstein was the first modern-day celebrity and, decades after his death, still has the world's most recognizable face. His influence is seen in much of the technology we use every day: GPS, remote controls, weather forecasts, even toothpaste. But it's not just Einstein's scientific discoveries that continue to shape our world. His legacy underpins the search for aliens, the rescue of refugees, the invention of time machines, and the debunking of fake news. He appears in new books, TV shows, and movies all the time—and fans are paying millions for Einstein relics at auction. Award-winning author and journalist Benjamin Cohen has a bizarre side hustle as the manager of Einstein's official social media accounts,

which have 20 million followers—more than most living celebrities.

In *The Einstein Effect*, Cohen embarks on a global quest to unearth Einstein's ongoing relevance today. Along the way, he meets scientists and celebrities, speaks to dozens with the last name Einstein (including two rabbis), and even tracks down the brain of Einstein, stolen from his body during the autopsy. Cohen shows us the myriad ways the Nobel Prize winner's influence is still with us, giving an in-depth—and often hilarious—look at the world's favorite genius like you've never seen him before.

Cohen shows us the myriad ways the Nobel Prize winner's influence is still with us, giving an in-depth—and often hilarious—look at the world's favorite genius like you've never seen him before.

Praise for *The Einstein Effect*: "Benjamin is a regular Joe with great humility, a tremendous sense of humor, a philosopher with an acute awareness of human connection, a gift to us all!" —Mandy Patinkin, actor, singer, activist "I hope this book encourages others to be inspired by Einstein as well!"

5:30 PM – "Israel 201: Your Next-Level Guide to the Magic, Mystery, And Chaos of Life in the Holy Land" by Joel Chasnoff

Reviewed by Alan Potash, CEO

I read books. I read many books on Israel, Israel history, Judaism, Jewish History, biographies and sometimes crime novels (once in a while). I have known Joel for many years and have read his books in the

past. When I saw in the Jewish Book Council list of authors and Joel was listed with a new book, I bought it right way. *Israel 201* is filled with humor, history, food and many other delicious offerings. A few highlights: the chapter on the Israeli psyche sets the tone or better yet puts you in the driver's seat on the tour of what makes a person an Israeli.



He and his co-author Benji Lovitt do a great job as expats with decades of life experiences in Israel to help the non-Israeli lover of Israel get a glimpse into everyday life of, challenges and a little joy of living in Israel.

One of the chapters that will both make one laugh and learn is the chapter on Hebrew. You will get a chance to hear Joel talk about his book and then do a follow-up performance using his talents as a humorist to explain what is going on in Israel today during the current war.

Joel's first book the 188th Crybaby Brigade is a memoir of his early life in Israel a personal account of his time in the IDF. The 188th Crybaby Brigade: A skinny Jewish Kid from Chicago Fights Hezbollah is an easy way to learn first-hand what Joel experienced moving to Israel and being in the IDF—it is well worth reading too. Plus, he has co-authored two books, one on tennis and one on food. *Essential Tennis* with Ian Westermann and *Balaboosta* with Enat Admony. Joel will be available on Monday December 4th to play tennis and raise money for Israel.

Please RSVP to gloria.benavides@jfedps.org for the Sunday, December 3rd events and Tennis with Joel on the 4th.

RSVP to gloria.benavides@jfedps.org or call 760-324-4737 by December 1st

From the November 14 March for Israel in Washington, DC, Attended by Over 200,000

This is a transcript from the March for Israel. The speaker was Rachel Goldberg, the mother of Hersch Goldberg Polin.

"My name is Rachel and I am the mother of Hersch Goldberg Polin, a wounded civilian American Israeli kidnapped from the music festival on October 7th. Right now, how we are living is to describe to you, we hostage families have lived the last 39 days in slow motion torment for 38 nights. None of us have slept the real sleep of the before. We all have third degree burns on our souls. Our hearts are bruised and seeping with misery, but the real souls suffering are those of the hostages. And they want to ask everyone in the world, all the screamers, the indifferent, the experts, the academics, the knowledgeable, the passives, the

perfectly outraged, the righteous, the indignant, the haters, the leaders, the lovers, the every single one of us. Why is the world accepting that 240 human beings from almost 30 countries have been stolen and buried alive?

These children of God range in age from nine months to 87 years. They are Christians, Muslims, Jews, Buddhists, and Hindu. Why are they being left underground in the dirt? Abigail Moore Idan is three years old. She watched her



Rachel Goldberg



parents get murdered in front of her and was then kidnapped. And she would like me to ask the world, why are you letting her stay in the dark in her trauma, buried in the earth's crust? And Joshua Moel, who is a Tanzanian African graduate student studying agribusiness, would

like for me to ask you why somehow his life actually doesn't matter. The world must prepare what we will say to them. There was a Christian German who hid Jews during the Holocaust, and he was asked why he did such a heroic and dangerous act. His answer was simple. At least I will know when I die and stand before God. He will not ask me what he asked Cain in the Bible. Where were you when your brother's blood cried out from the ground? What the world needs to start thinking about today is what will your excuse be? Bring them home now. Bring them Home Now!"

Chabad's Aleph Schoolhouse



The Aleph Schoolhouse in Palm Desert enjoyed a visit from the 10th grade of Shalhevet High School in Los Angeles. They baked challah with the elementary and preschool students of Aleph, and they joined in prayer and song on behalf of all the Israeli hostages and soldiers. They heard a presentation by an Israeli mom of an Aleph student and spent quality time with the children.

As part of the Shalhevet students' Mitzvah Program, they decided to help raise funds for the Aleph Schoolhouse Scholarship Fund.

The school was happy that Federation Director, Alan Potash, was able to attend the event.

Desert Outreach Synagogue Shabbat School



Desert Outreach Synagogue kicked off the school year with intergenerational Sukkot and Simchat Torah celebrations.

DOS is a full-service Shabbat school serving families in the Coachella Valley. Our Jewish play group brings children (ages one to five) together for creative play as they begin learning alef-bet and holiday observances. Elementary aged students learn the elements of Jewish worship, values and lifecycle events.

Bnai mitzvah students meet twice a week, including tutorials, as they prepare to take their first steps into Jewish adulthood. Our confirmation/teen program focuses on Mussar (Jewish self-help), the Ten Commandments, the book of Ruth and current events. Our teens explore how they affect the Jewish community as they collectively prepare to lead the Shavuot service.

We are excited to have you join us! For more information please contact Arava Talve at Arava@my-docs.org / 909-560-3313.

JEWISH COMMUNITY NEWS

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EDITORIAL

Alan Potash, CEO
Miriam H. Bent, Editor
Bailey Communications,
Layout & Design

JCN STATEMENT

The Jewish Community News seeks to provide news and feature material of special interest to its readership, and to create a heightened sense of Jewish identity through the dissemination of information about people, events and issues at home and abroad. The JCN seeks to serve as a forum for the exchange of ideas and opinions in the Jewish community.

The JCN is published monthly, ten months a year by the Jewish Federation of the Desert, 69-710 Highway 111, Rancho Mirage, CA 92270, 760-324-4737, fax 760-324-3154.

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Women of Sinai Invite the Women of Our Community to a **FASHION SHOW & LUNCHEON**

Featuring the Latest in Stylish Outfits From
Shirley's Boutique

Friday, January 26, 2024 at Noon at Temple Sinai

11:00 am pre-show shopping

This event **Sold Out** last year, so get your tickets early!
You Can Win One of the Great Drawing Prizes!

\$40.00

Mail checks, payable to **Women of Sinai**, to Temple Sinai,
73251 Hovley Lane West, Palm Desert, CA 92260, or call
the temple office: 760-568-9699 for credit card payment.

Ticket purchase deadline January 23, 2024



Temple Sinai Religious School



Temple Sinai sent photos of their religious school program. The two photos with children blindfolded was an exercise of experiencing the biblical story of Jacob fooling his father Isaac to get his brother's birthright.

Temple Isaiah Opens Dor Hadash

By Rabbi Steven Rosenberg

Due to Temple Isaiah's unprecedented growth, especially of younger families, Rabbi Steven Rosenberg is happy to announce the creation of Dor Hadash (New Generation), a new and unique Jewish educational program for children and their families. "We are excited about offering a joyful and creative Jewish learning experience held on Shabbat afternoon and online, which will span from ages 8 through Bar/Bat Mitzvah," Rabbi Rosenberg said. "We are thrilled and tremendously honored to offer an immersive Jewish religious and cultural experience which will not be found anywhere else in the Coachella Valley," the rabbi added.

Rabbi Rosenberg, who will be personally running the program, also has put together a talented staff of exceptional Jewish educators and a wonderfully creative curriculum. Please contact Rabbi Rosenberg at rabbisteven.rosenberg@gmail.com for further information.

Czech Defense Minister Calls to Quit UN

Jewish News Syndicate



Czech Defense Minister Jana Černočová

Czech Defense Minister Jana Černočová has called for her country to leave the United Nations following the General Assembly's approval of a resolution demanding a ceasefire in Gaza that didn't mention Hamas or the hundreds of hostages kidnapped by the Islamist terrorist group.

The Czech Republic, one of Israel's closest allies in Europe, was one of only 14 countries that opposed Friday's resolution, which came three weeks after Hamas massacred more than 1,400 persons in Israel and took some 230 others hostage to Gaza, including dozens of foreign nationals.

"In my opinion, the Czech Republic has no place in an organization that cheers on terrorists and does not respect the fundamental right to self-defense," Černočová said. "Let's get

out."

Her remarks were posted on X, formerly known as Twitter, by the executive director of UN Watch, Hillel Neuer.

Israel has decried the "despicable" resolution as "a day of infamy" for the world body, while Hamas has praised it.

Only 14 countries voted against the resolution: Austria, Croatia, the Czech Republic, Fiji, Guatemala, Hungary, Israel, Marshall Islands, Micronesia, Nauru, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Tonga and the United States.

"Exactly three weeks ago, Hamas murdered over 1,400 Israelis, more victims for their population than the militant Islamist organization al-Qaeda murdered in the US on 9/11. And only 14 countries, including ours, have spoken out clearly and understandably against this unprecedented terrorist attack perpetrated by Hamas terrorists! I am ashamed of the UN," Černočová said.

Last week, Czech Prime Minister Petr Fiala traveled to Israel to express his "clear support and solidarity" with the Jewish state amid its war against Hamas.

B*H

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THE RIVER

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info: www.chabadrm.com/chanukah84

German Vice-Chancellor Criticizes Silence Over Hamas, Threatens Deportation

By Ben Cohen, *The Algemeiner*

Germany's Vice-Chancellor notified antisemitic offenders that they face legal prosecution and, in the case of non-residents, deportation, in a hard-hitting speech delivered on November 1st.

"Anyone who is German will have to answer for it in court. If you're not German, you also risk your residency status," Vice-Chancellor Robert Habeck of the left-wing Green Party in Germany's governing coalition said in a video posted to the X/Twitter platform.

"Anyone who doesn't have a residence permit provides a reason to be deported," Habeck said.

Antisemitic incidents in Germany have risen by more than 200 percent since the Oct. 7 pogrom unleashed by Hamas terrorists who invaded southern Israel from the Gaza Strip. During the last week, opposition politicians have been pushing the government to take more decisive action against Islamist groups in Germany.

In the video, which had racked up nearly seven million views as *The Algemeiner* went to press, Habeck also criticized Muslim associations in Germany for failing to condemn the Hamas atrocities.

While some groups had distanced themselves from Hamas' brutal actions, Habeck emphasized that it was "not all of them, and some are too hesitant and I think overall too few." He described Hamas as a "murderous terrorist group that works for the extinction of the State of Israel and the death of all Jews."

Outside of the Muslim community, he continued, antisemitism remained a serious presence on the far right as well as in "parts of the political left" and "among young activists."

"Anti-colonialism must not lead to antisemitism," Habeck said. "In this



German Vice-Chancellor Robert Habeck

respect, this part of the political left should review its arguments and be skeptical of the 'great resistance narrative.'"

Invoking the Nazi Holocaust, he added: "The responsibility of our history also asserts that Jews can live freely and safely in Germany. That they never again have to fear to show their religion, their culture openly. But precisely this fear is now back."

Habeck's speech met with a positive response across the spectrum, including from politicians belonging to the center-right Christian Democratic Union (CDU) party, which had previously expressed strong criticism of the government and its Interior Minister, Nancy Faeser, for allegedly dithering in the face of a new surge of antisemitism.

Habeck's words were "strong and necessary," CDU Vice Chair Karin Prien posted on X/Twitter.

Habeck also criticized the UN

General Assembly for passing a resolution last week that called for an immediate ceasefire while making no mention of the Hamas atrocities. While it was correct to urge Israel to avoid civilian casualties in its defensive war against the terrorist organization, he said, it was also "completely nonsensical to ask Hamas to avoid civilian casualties, because the goal of Hamas is to produce civilian victims."

The Vice-Chancellor's remarks won praise from Jewish leaders in Germany. "Thank you again, dear Minister Habeck, we will stay here in Germany," tweeted Hamburg rabbi Shlomo Bistrizky, while Philipp Peyman Engel, the editor of the Jewish news outlet *Judische Allgemeine*, stated that Habeck had answered the question that "many of us had hoped for years [to hear] from a federal government politician on Muslim hatred of Jews."

Israeli NBA Player Sings Israel's National Anthem With Fans

by Shiryn Ghermezian, *The Algemeiner*

Israeli professional basketball player Deni Avdija, who plays forward for the NBA's Washington Wizards, joined members of Atlanta's Jewish community in singing Israel's national anthem, *Hatikvah*, after his team played an away game against the Atlanta Hawks on November 1st.

At the end of the game, Jewish basketball fans in the State Farm Arena spontaneously began singing *Hatikvah*, and the 22-year-old sang along while draping an Israeli flag on his back.

The former Maccabi Tel Aviv player, who is the only current NBA player born in Israel, shared clips of the singing on his Instagram Story and wrote in the caption, "It's been a long time since the last time I was moved like this." His fans also chanted "*Am Yisrael Chai*" ("Long live Israel") during the game, and Avdija came to meet some of them in the stands after the anthem. The athlete scored a season-high 22 points during his team's 130-121 loss to the Hawks.

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IN PARTNERSHIP WITH:

Hadassah Honors Nancy Singer at 'Woman of Valor' Luncheon

By Debbie Orgen, Sabra Hadassah of the Desert President

Sabra Hadassah of the Desert honored Nancy Singer as its "Woman of Valor" at a recent luncheon attended by 140 people that took place at Mission Hills Country Club on October 29th. Nancy has served as an officer of Sabra of the Desert since the desert's five Hadassah groups consolidated, for many years as Treasurer and now Finance Vice President.

Nancy, a most deserving honoree, was overjoyed by the amount of money raised that was earmarked for Hadassah Hospital Emergency Campaign, **"At War: Heal Israel Now"** as the Hadassah Medical Organization (HMO) is treating many of



Nancy Singer, honoree



Audrey Levine, Hadassah Southern California President



Sabra Hadassah's Past President Cindy Hailpern, Honoree Nancy Singer, President Debbie Orgen and Past President Roni Spetalnick

the most severely wounded soldiers and civilians who have been transported to its hospitals for complex, specialized medical care provided by medical professionals

with expertise in crisis medicine and trauma-informed care.

Hadassah Southern California President, Audrey Levine shared some of the heartbreaking stories of civilians, physicians and soldiers who risked their lives to help others injured in the northern Negev Hamas terrorist attacks. She spoke of the physicians and nurses working extra long shifts in spite of rockets falling in their home communities.

And she spoke of the emergency pediatric and adult psychiatric and mental health services now available at Hadassah, a new service that provides rapid, one-hour crisis intervention for traumatized victims and those suffering from anxiety attacks.

OP ED - The World Must Re-evaluate its Values: Sometimes, the "Strong" are Right

By Rabbi Uri Pilichowski, Jewish News Syndicate

After 75 years of a successful Israel, it's hard to imagine that in its early years, Zionism garnered less than 10% of global Jewry's support. Many Jews preferred to assimilate into the nations in which they resided. Others were afraid that advocating for their own state would inspire antisemitic attacks.

It was only after the Holocaust that global Jewry, especially American Jewry, came around to supporting Zionism. As Germany transformed into an antisemitic killing machine, world Jewry witnessed the great powers refuse to admit Jews even though they were in danger of being exterminated.

American Jews were also powerless to influence President Franklin D. Roosevelt to bomb the train tracks to the concentration camps or do anything else to stop the Holocaust.

It was then Jews realized that without their own state and military, they could never guarantee their own safety. Today, over 90% of American Jews support some form of Zionism.

The world, by contrast, has usually favored Israel's enemies. It did so for several reasons. Many countries feared being denied Arab oil. Others worried about being dragged into Israel's wars. Latent antisemitism, of course, was a major factor.

Over time, it became the major factor. Antisemitism has long been the driving force behind anti-Zionist and anti-Israel sentiment around the world. Institutions like the United Nations, created to protect minority populations like the Jewish people, turned against the Jews and favored the Palestinians despite Israeli offers of peace and Palestinian rejectionism.

Today, the world has shown some sympathy for the Jewish people since Israel was brutally attacked by Palestinian barbarians on Oct. 7, but is still mostly sympathetic to the Palestinians. In a recent U.N. General Assembly vote, only 14 out of 196 votes went in Israel's favor.

... While pointing the finger at Israel was always the easy way out, it has become obvious that it was at best a superficial and erroneous understanding of the Palestinian situation. While the conflict with Israel caused great harm to the Palestinians, this was entirely due to their decision to continue the conflict by the most barbaric

means possible. It was the poor decisions of the Palestinian leadership, the abominations committed by Palestinian terror groups and the Palestinian obsession with destroying Israel that ultimately doomed the Palestinians to their current state.

Going forward, instead of the shallow paradigm of "power equals oppressor" and "weak equals oppressed," the world must judge nations by their morality, not their relative strength and weakness. When it comes to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, the world must look at the values of both peoples and see which values best reflect their own.

The barbaric Oct. 7 attack was an expression of a morally corrupt culture that encourages its people to rape, behead, murder and kidnap the innocent. These, we hope, are not the values and morals of the civilized world. It is time for the world to change its ways, view Israel with new eyes and demand a change in Palestinian values and culture....

Rabbi Uri Pilichowski is a senior educator at numerous educational institutions. The author of three books, he teaches Torah, Zionism and Israel studies around the world.

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The Jewish Men's Outreach Group of the Desert (JMOGD)

By Barry Fisher

Almost ten years ago, a group of men mainly living in Sun City Palm Desert and Sun City Shadow Hills started meeting as a small social group for camaraderie and to be with other Jews in our community. JMOGD

began with a core group of less than a dozen men, and today, it has grown to over 175 members, plus wives and significant others.

From the beginning, we chose to support the Jewish Federation of the

Desert and asked members for a yearly \$50 membership fee to JMOGD and a \$100 yearly donation to the Federation. In addition, we hold several charitable events during the year: a back-to-school project

to fund supplies for a local elementary school, a children's book drive, a holiday toy drive, a Thanksgiving food drive for the kosher homes sponsored by Angle View, and the Federation, plus other community programs. We also hold a Chanukah dinner, a dinner dance, a Valentine's brunch, and happy hours for members and their wives and significant others. JMOGD cruised to Mexico and plans another cruise again in 2024.

We hold a men's luncheon with a guest speaker and a monthly discussion group on contemporary Jewish topics. We started a chavurah program for members to join, a golfing group, a billiards group, and poker for those who choose to participate. Recently, a spinoff group - the Women of JMOGD - was formed and held luncheons for the women in our group during the year.

Our members are year-rounders living in the Coachella Valley and "snowbirds." Most are retired from every imaginable profession and hail from around the U.S. and Canada. People have made good friends and enjoy getting together socially. It's a wonderful group of men and women.

For more information, contact Barry Fisher at JMOGD2020@gmail.com or 213-718-1229.



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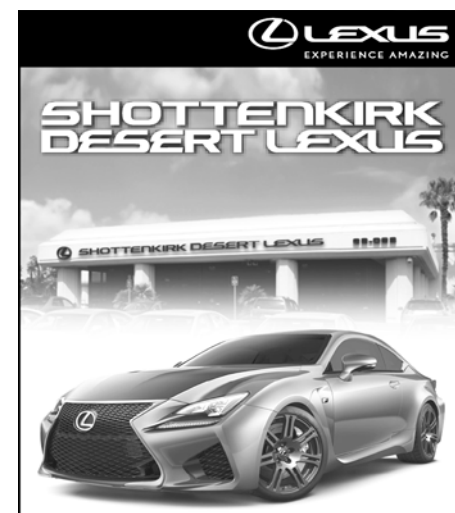
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We are "LIVE." Congregation Har-El Rises to the Challenge of the Times. WILL YOU?

Rabbi Richard Zions, founding and presiding Rabbi of Har-El, states: "This community's challenge is to make our community stronger. This will happen when we learn and study together. We all need to be counted. We must support our synagogues and Jewish Federation."

Har-El, Member, Union for Reform Judaism, believes that it is our community obligation to go LIVE, coordinate with the Jewish Federation and include with our congregation non-affiliated members of the Jewish community. Please join us in meeting this commitment. During Har-El's twentieth anniversary year, Har-El will be exploring current issues of concern for American Jews. This is for the purpose of adult Jewish education and creating a more well-informed community.

Our 2023-24 calendar of studies reflects this endeavor. One example is our newest program, Galen "Books and Bordeaux."

This program is an outgrowth of the Galen Book Course which started several years ago. It soon became the favorite among our membership. Presented live at first, it soon transitioned to Zoom out of necessity due to the Pandemic.

In addition, Har-El explores current Jewish issues with the following presentations and speakers for 2024:

- Wednesday, January 31, 3:30 PM—Second Speaker in Borns Lecture Series--Professor Tammi Rossman-Benjamin, University of California, Santa Cruz, on "Combating Antisemitism on College and University Campuses" both on Zoom and LIVE.



Rabbi Dr. Hillel Cohn

Join us, with the support of the Jewish Federation, on Wednesday, January 3, 2024 for Galen "Books and Bordeaux" when we review and discuss Rachel Maddow's latest work, Prequel: An American Fight Against Fascism. Rabbi Dr. Hillel Cohn, Rabbi Emeritus of Congregation Emanu-El of Redlands, CA will be the presenter. Rabbi Cohn has presented numerous programs to many of our own Jewish organizations in the Coachella Valley, including Har-El. This is a LIVE event. Reservations required for location.

Reservations required for location and zoom link.

- Sunday, February 18, 11:00 AM—Galen event "Conversations With A Scholar"

Dr. Steven Windmueller, Past Director, Zelikow School of Jewish Non-Profit Management, HUC-JIR, Los Angeles, CA on the subject "Current Jewish Concerns." LIVE--Home hosted. Reservations required for address and gate code.

- Wednesday, February 28, 11:00 AM—"Har-El Goes to the Movies"—Optional No-Host Lunch followed by Film at 12:15 PM. Film—"Hallelujah: Leonard Cohen, A Journey, A Song." This renown hymn has a place world-wide in religious services as well as rock concerts. Film followed by presentation and discussion led by Cantor Joseph Gole, D.Mus.(Hon.). Reservations required for address and gate code.

- Saturday, March 9, 10:00 AM--Shabbaton with Shabbat Morning service followed by 3rd Speaker in Borns Lecture Series, Prof. Alvin Rosenfeld, Borns Jewish Studies Program and the Institute for the Study of Contemporary

Antisemitism, Indiana University, Bloomington, IN. Prof. Rosenfeld is also Number Two in the Top 100 people Positively Influencing Jewish Life in 2023 by the Algemeiner Jewish 100. He will speak on: "What Are the Causes of Today's Antisemitism and What Can be Done to Combat Them?" LIVE--Home hosted. Reservations required for address and gate code.

- Wednesday, May 15, 11:00 AM—Kickoff—Summer Books to Movies

Series, with "Cabaret," adapted from the book Goodbye Berlin by Christopher Isherwood and the play "I Am A Camera" by John Van Druten, as well as the Broadway musical. There is more to "Cabaret" than good music and dance. It is an important part of the history of antisemitism and bigotry. Understanding the premise of the book and Tony Award-Winning play and later, nominee for Academy Award-Winning musical and movie, gives us insight into human behavior and contemporary events. Discussion to follow led by Rabbi Richard Zions, Ph.D. Reservations required for address and gate code.

Join us, learn with scholars, create community, and become part of the conversations. Email: harelurjpd@gmail.com.

Har-El Fourteenth Annual Women's Retreat Hosted by Marylynn & Andy Gladstein

SUNDAY, JANUARY 14, 2024

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- To present the history, background and accomplishments of the Mob Museum, located in the heart of Las Vegas.
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Director of Special Projects at the Mob Museum, the National Museum of Organized Crime and Law Enforcement
- To present the development of organized Jewish Mobs in America, which will be educational and entertaining.
PRESENTER: ROSA WEINSTEIN
Anthropologist

9:30 AM Registration, coffee and perusing Silent Auction, with surprises
10:00 AM Presentation in the Theatre
11:15 AM Last Bids on the Silent Auction
11:30 AM Brunch, in the Dining Room

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Come and be seated with new acquaintances or organize a table of your own, for 6 to 10 people.

Mail names of those attending and your check to:
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For additional information email harelurjpd@gmail.com.



DESERT HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL

The Desert Holocaust Memorial is located in the Palm Desert Civic Center Park at San Pablo Avenue & Fred Waring Drive. Residents and visitors are encouraged to visit this moving memorial, a place of remembrance and monument of hope.



Tribute Card Donations

Sending tributes and memorials is a meaningful way to honor loved ones.

Honorarium Tributes In Appreciation For:

- **Nancy Altshule**, Thank you for a wonderful evening; from Merle Arenson, Kathi Balaban, Sera Brill, Joanne Chunowitz, Bette Cooper, Nancy Ditlove, Jane Effress, Judy Feinberg, Micki Goldner, Shelli Goodman, Cass Graff-Radford, Margot Halperin, Joan Hirsch, Loreen Jacobson, Lois Johnson, Carol Kaplan, Margie Kulp, Joellen Leifer, Bertel Lewis, Terry Lubar, Marilyn Malkin, Eunice Meister, Cydney Osterman, Barbara Platt, Gail Richards, Trudy Schwartz, Jane Sherman, Cecille Silverman, Elaine Stein, Carole Sukman, Leslie Usow and Barbara Weisberg. *
- **Les Cooper**, Happy 80th birthday, from Elaine and Ted Stein.
- **Helene Galen and Jaime Kabler**, Wishing you a Happy Thanksgiving, from Margot and Jerry Halperin.
- **Jodi Glaser**, Happy birthday wishes from the Jaffe family: Janni, Jerry, Stephen, Bean, Wheat and Mitzie.
- **Bobbi Holland**, Thank you for a wonderful evening; from Merle Arenson, Kathi Balaban, Sera Brill, Joanne Chunowitz, Bette Cooper, Nancy Ditlove, Jane Effress, Judy Feinberg, Micki Goldner, Shelli Goodman, Cass Graff-Radford, Margot Halperin, Joan Hirsch, Loreen Jacobson, Lois Johnson, Carol Kaplan, Margie Kulp, Joellen Leifer, Bertel Lewis, Terry Lubar, Marilyn Malkin, Eunice Meister, Cydney Osterman, Barbara Platt, Gail Richards, Trudy Schwartz, Jane Sherman, Cecille Silverman, Elaine Stein, Carole Sukman, Leslie Usow and Barbara Weisberg. *
- **Loreen Jacobson**, Happy birthday and thank you for gracious hospitality, from Barbara Platt.
- **Peter Johnson**, Wishing you a happy, healthy birthday, from Phyllis Schahet.

Barry Kaiman, Congratulations on your retirement, from Rabbi Yankel and Rochel Kreiman.

- **Barry Kaiman**, Thanks for your thoughtfulness, generosity, and calories, from Barbara Platt and Norm Lewis.
- **Pearle Rae Levey**, Thank you for a wonderful evening from Barbara Platt.
- **Mr. and Mrs. Jordan McCool**, Congratulations on the birth of Grayson Lane, from Grandpa Jack and Micki Goldner.
- **Diane Rubin**, Congratulations on your conversion, from Joanne and Bill Chunowitz.
- **Mr. and Mrs. Mark Schoeizel**, Congratulations on your marriage, from Grandpa Jack and Micki Goldner.
- **Ricky Zisook**, In honor of your 80th birthday, from Nina and Milt Zale.
- **Larry Zoll**, Best wishes on your special birthday, from Margot and Jerry Halperin, Eunice and Jerry Meister.
- Special congratulations to the **StandWithUs** group for putting together the rally in support of our homeland, Israel, with special congratulations to Marcia Stein, Paula Klein, Marilyn Feldman, Barbara Platt and Sheri Borax, from Jim Miringoff.

Refuah Shleimah Get Well:

- **Muriel and Ron Goldberg**, Wishing both of you a speedy recovery, from Eunice and Jerry Meister.
- **Judy Metzger**, Sending our love and best wishes for a speedy recovery, from Gail and Bob Scadron.

Memoriam Tributes Condolences Sent To:

- **Family of Joyce Freund**, In loving memory of Joyce Freund, from Larry and Cathy Pitts, Sheryl and Marty Sachman, and Cindy Ulman.
- **Family of Art Friedman**, in memory of Art, from Larry and Cathy Pitts.
- **Elaine Gershenson and Family**, In loving memory of your mother Diane Vedder, from Rabbi Yankel and Rochel Kreiman.
- **Bill Gordon**, In memory of Adele Pearlstein, from Mary Levine and Alan Goldstein.
- **Alan Greene**, In memory of your beloved wife Helen, from Cora Ginsberg, Loreen Jacobson, Mary Levine and Alan Goldstein, Cydney Osterman, Bob and Gail Scadron.
- **Family of Ted Lerner**, In memory of Ted, from Larry and Cathy Pitts.
- **Sheryl Moss and Family**, In memory of your beloved husband Michael, from Gail and Bob Scadron.
- **Family of Adele Pearlstein**, In memory of Adele, from Larry and Cathy Pitts.
- **Mrs. Cyril Price**, In memory of Sel, from Joe Noren and Marnie Miller.
- **Mr. and Mrs. Ronald Winicour**, In memory of your beloved son Jeffrey, from Marnie Miller and Joe Noren.

All donations to Nancy Altshule and Bobbi Holland and the tributes sent to Jody Glaser, Mr. and Mrs. Jordan McCool, Diane Rubin, Mr. and Mrs. Mark Schoeizel, and Ricky Zisook were earmarked to the Israel Emergency Fund.



BORNS LECTURE SERIES 2023-2024

**Dr. Tammi Rossman-Benjamin, Zoom & Live Presentation,
Wednesday, January 31, 2024, at 3:30 PM**

Dr. Rossman-Benjamin is a Professor at the University of California/Santa Cruz, Her primary area of expertise is investigating and combating antisemitism on US university campuses.

Location of presentation will be confirmed at time of registration. To register email harelurjpd@gmail.com



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Hazzak V'Amatz - Strong, Courageous and Resolute

By Rabbi Steven Rosenberg, National Board Member of Rabbis United/StandWithUs and Rabbi of Temple Isaiah, Palm Springs

I was honored to be one of the speakers at the recent Stand with Israel rally in Palm Desert. As a national board member of Rabbis United, an advisory council to StandWith Us, it was gratifying to see so many Jews from across the Coachella Valley coming together in one voice.

It was deeply moving to see a United Jewish Community who is deeply committed to bringing the hostages home now and supporting Israel and Israelis in their time of need.

We were also there to speak out against the surge in antisemitism.

ADL's latest survey, fielded after the Israel-Hamas war began, reveals a 316% increase in antisemitic incidents compared to a year ago. Almost 28 incidents per day on average.

October 7, 2023, will go down in history as one of the deadliest days Israel has ever faced. Instead of celebrating the Jewish holiday of Simchat Torah and the Sabbath in peace, Israel came under massive attack by Hamas and other terrorist groups invading from Gaza. As I write this, over 1200 Israelis have been murdered, over 2,000 wounded, and over 150 men, women, and children have been brutally kidnapped. Israeli homes were attacked in small towns and some were set on fire to force families to come out and be kidnapped or murdered. Terrorists have also fired over 3,000 rockets and missiles at Israeli communities, sending families into bomb shelters.

Videos of unspeakable war crimes are beginning to surface. Close to 300 Innocent young people going to a music festival in Southern Israel were found killed and many of their bodies mutilated. The same fate happened to residents of several kibbutzim, who were also brutally murdered, along with scores of members of the IDF, who bravely fought to protect them, also perished in this barbarous act.

The IDF, now in Gaza, must finally put an end to the insidious threat that is Hamas, not only for Israel, but for the entire world.

Fifty years ago, many of us woke up to the horrific news that Israel was savagely attacked on the eve of Yom Kippur by several Arab nations. The American

Jewish community responded with unwavering support. On Shabbat/Simchat Torah, we were awakened to another awful surprise attack, this time by Hamas.

We in the Jewish community need and must speak out in one clear voice of support for the State of Israel, because quite simply it is the right and moral thing to do. A regime like Hamas who takes mothers and children as hostages

must be defeated and dismantled. The last time this many Jews died in one day was during the Holocaust. The last time Jewish children were ripped away from their mothers, Six million Jews died. The Torah warns us about the ravages of Amalek and that sometimes the only way to defeat evil is to "blot out its memory from under heaven."

Rabbi Joseph Dov Soloveitchik (1903-1993), was the preeminent

Jewish philosopher of the 20th century who was head of the Rabbinical Seminary of Yeshiva University. He draws on Maimonides to argue that any nation that conspires to destroy Israel becomes, according to halakhah, Amalek. His definition of Amalek as any hate filled group that directs its enmity towards the Jewish people or one that conspires to commit genocide

continued on page 14

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COMMUNITY RALLY

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in Front of Palm Desert City Hall



November 5, 2023
in Front of Jewish Federation Office



continued from page 11

against the Jewish people justifies a war in modern times against such enemies as being obligatory. When a people emblazons on its banner, "Come, and let us cut them off from being a nation:

that the name of Israel may be no more in remembrance" (Psalms 83:5) it becomes Amalek. Hamas is Amalek of the 21st century.

Many of us have family in Israel, loved ones serving in the Israel Defense

Forces, and even some may know of a loved one who is currently missing. Just like fifty years ago, today is a day of tears, heartbreak and anguish. Supporting Israel today is an imperative of Jewish life.

There is a time for our people to unite as one in solidarity. This is a moment for unity. Like Moses and Joshua before us, with one voice, we cry out "Hazzak V'Amatz" May Israel be strong and resolute in the action she takes.

We as members of the American Jewish community must stand unequivocally with the people of Israel and the Israel Defense Forces, as they fight back against this murderous terrorist onslaught.

We must be the voices that together will lead all of our synagogues across the United States and the world, to come together as Klal Yisrael in one loud clarion call and say never again! This will not stand. This is not a political discussion, but a moral one. For Hamas to kidnap civilian parents, children and the elderly is beyond any measure of human decency and must be condemned in the strongest terms. Israel was brazenly attacked during Shabbat and the Chaggim just like it was 50 years ago on Yom Kippur. If we as American Jews do not lead this call of unity then who will?

The scenes are painful – the brutality of the terrorists is clear for all to see - and our hearts are at one with the people of Israel. We pray for the quick and full recovery of those injured and mourn with the families whose loved ones have been murdered, kidnapped and terrorized.

Israel is now at war as a result of continuous barbaric actions by Hamas and its terrorist allies, backed by Iran's regime. They do not want and have never worked towards peace with Israel. These forces are enemies not just of Israel, but of all peace-loving nations and peoples. They have stated that the purpose of this war is to prevent

peace between Israel and Arab states, and called for Israel's destruction. They say this openly, they indoctrinate children with their extremist ideology, and they act on their genocidal goals.

This clearly cannot stand. Israel has every right to defend itself, and an obligation to protect its citizens against genocidal terrorism. Tragically, we know that when Israel defends itself against Hamas and other terrorists, innocent Palestinian will suffer. Hamas is once again perpetrating a double war crime: murdering Israeli civilians while hiding behind Palestinian civilians in homes, hospitals, schools, mosques, and elsewhere.

All people of good will – and particularly global leaders – must condemn the terrorists and match their words with action by working to end funding for terror and promotion of hateful violence.

This is not the first time that Israel or the Jewish people have faced such challenges, which they will overcome.

The best thing we can do right here and right now is support our our synagogues by being present each and every Shabbat and for other programming. Additionally, we need to support our local Jewish Federations and other organizations that provide much needed help and services in Israel. We also need to support the organizations that are there for Jewish college students who are seeing unprecedented levels on of antisemitism on many of our American college campuses. StandWithUs and Hillel our on the front lines, being an advocate for Jewish students every day.

Let us be present for each for each other, by being a vibrant Jewish community will be proudly Jewish and help bring comfort and inspiration for each other. Become involved in local Jewish activities and let people know that Judaism thrives here. We are Israel strong, we are "Hazzak V'Amatz, strong, courageous and resolute in saying:

Am Yisrael Chai! The people of Israel live!!

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Thursday, Jan. 4, 2024, 5 pm

Zubin Mehta, Conductor

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Tuesday, Jan. 16, 2024, 7:30 pm

Vasily Petrenko, Music Director

Isata Kanneh-Mason, Piano

Prokofiev: Piano Concerto No. 3 | Rachmaninoff: Symphony No. 2

Sponsored by Jane & Larry Sherman, Roberta Holland



PACIFIC SYMPHONY

Tuesday, Feb. 6, 2024, 7:30 pm

Carl St. Clair, Music Director

Olga Kern, Piano

Rachmaninoff: Piano Concerto No. 3 | Brahms: Symphony No. 1

Sponsored by Norman Forrester & William Griffin



SAN DIEGO SYMPHONY

Sunday, Feb. 18, 2024, 5 pm

Rafael Payare, Music Director | Pacho Flores, Trumpet

Ortiz: Altar de bronce, Concerto for Trumpet

Ravel: Le Tombeau de Couperin

Sponsored by Helene Galen & Jamie Kabler, The Nevinny Family, Gail Richards



ATLANTA SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

Wednesday, Mar. 6, 2024, 7:30 pm

Nathalie Stutzmann, Music Director

Haochen Zhang, Piano

Beethoven: Piano Concerto No. 5 | Dvořák: Symphony No. 9

Sponsored by Phyllis & Gary Schahet ("in memoriam")



SAN FRANCISCO SYMPHONY

Thursday, Mar. 21, 2024, 7:30 pm

Esa-Pekka Salonen, Music Director

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Shabbat Schedule - December 2023

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programs and events are updated on
our website.

Ckids Hebrew School 10:00 AM
- 12:30 PM on designated Sundays
throughout the school year. Check
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chabadrm.com or 760-272-1923.

CHABAD OF SUN CITY PALM DESERT

Rabbi Yonason Denebeim.
Call 760-848-8250 or e-mail: info@
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to receive weekly "Chabad in Sun City
Newsletter" with listing of all services
and activities: sussiedenebeim@gmail.
com.

CHABAD OF LA QUINTA

Rabbi Moshe Katz
50620 Eisenhower Drive, Ste. G103,
La Quinta, CA 92253. 760-709-2431.
Email: chabadlaquinta@gmail.com.
Chabad LQ offers weekly Torah
studies, home visitations, Kosher
meals, Shabbat Services, Women's
Circle, Youth activities, Holiday
programs and more.

CONGREGATION HAR-EL, a
Contemporary Reform Congregation
(Member, Union for Reform Judaism),
offering year-round services, Torah
study, youth and adult classes and
events. Membership open for
residents and non-residents.
Rabbi Richard Zionts, Ph.D.; Cantor
Joseph Gole, D.Mus. harelurjpd@
gmail.com 760-779-1691.

Website: harelurjpd.org.
Shabbat Eve Zoom Services are
conducted weekly at 5 PM. Rabbi
Richard Zionts shares a D'var Torah
on a timely topic based on our
timeless tradition. Cantor Joseph
Gole provides inspiring melodies
and insights from our Shabbat Eve
liturgy. Attendees are encouraged to
click on the Zoom presentation early
for a conversation with clergy and
congregants. Har-El welcomes visitors
from out of state as well as those in
California and the Coachella Valley.
Rabbi Zionts holds Torah Study on
Zoom every Saturday morning at
11 AM. For a Zoom link, contact
harelurjpd@gmail.com.

DESERT OUTREACH SYNAGOGUE, Rancho Mirage

Rabbi Dr. Jules King; Rabbi Rachel
Axelrad, Rabbi Andrew Bentley,
Cantor Lori Reisman Patterson.
760-449-0111. Mailing address:
P.O. Box 982, Rancho Mirage, CA

92270. Shabbat services held on
the second Fridays at Unitarian
Universalist Church of the Desert,
72425 Via Vail, Rancho Mirage. On
second Saturdays: 10:30-11:30 am
Torah study on Zoom with Rabbi
Axelrad. Beit Sefer Religious School
begins again on October 8th and is
held Saturday mornings (from 9:45
AM to noon. B'nei Mitzvah classes for
Children with Arava Talve. "Talkin'
Torah": See listing on Community
Calendar. Check website for most
current information: www.Desert-
Outreach-Synagogue.com or www.
my-dos.org

OR HAMIDBAR

Rabbi David Lazar rabbi@
orhamidbar.org
In-person services each 1st Friday
of the month and 3rd Shabbat
morning. Online services all other
Friday evenings and Shabbat
mornings of the month. Kabbalat
Shabbat Service - Fridays 6:30
pm; Shabbat prayer and study -
Saturdays 10:30 am.

SUN CITY JEWISH SERVICES, Palm Desert

Rabbi Dr. Kenneth Emert, Cantorial
Soloist Alan Scott. In person services
in Speaker's Hall in the Sunset View
Clubhouse (second clubhouse) in
Sun City Palm Desert the first and
third Fridays at 7:15 pm. Information:
Nadine Brinhendler, 707- 332-3947.

TEMPLE HAR SHALOM, Idyllwild

www.templeharshalomidyllwild.org
Email: templeharshalomofidyllwild@
gmail.com. Shabbat Candle Lighting
on Fridays at 6:00 pm on Zoom. 1st
Friday with Rabbi Malka Drucker;
2nd Friday with Rabbi Ilana Grinblat;
3rd Friday with Kerry Abram; 4th
Friday with Rabbi Ilana Grinblat.
Shabbat Book Study with Rabbi
Malka Drucker on Zoom Saturdays
4:00-5:00 pm. Check our website
for current info including Torah
Study with Rabbi Ilana one Saturday
morning per month. For more
information and for Zoom link call
951-468-0004.

TEMPLE ISAIAH, Palm Springs

Rabbi Steven Rosenberg.
(rabbisteven.rosenberg@gmail.
com). Cantorial Soloist Dr. Sarah
Sela join Rabbi on the bima most
weeks.
332 West Alejo Road, Palm Springs,
CA 92262, 760-325-2281. Email:
temple@templeisaiahps.com; www.
templeisaiahps.com.
Shabbat services Friday evenings
at 7:30 pm, preceded by Wine
and Cheese 'Happy Hour' from
7:00-7:30 pm and Oneg following.
Saturday morning torah study,
"Nosh and Drash," begins at 10:30
am. All services also streamed
online. To access any activity, go to
Temple Isaiah's website and click on
link to desired service or program.
Shabbat afternoon Bereavement
Group resuming soon. Check with
Temple Office.

TEMPLE SINAI, Palm Desert

(Member, Union for Reform Judaism)
Rabbi David Novak rabbi@
templesinai.org
73-251 Hovley Lane West,
Palm Desert, CA 92260. www.
templesinaipd.org 760-568-9699.
Go to templesinaipd.org for access
information. Shabbat services are
in-person and online on Livestream
at www.templesinaipd.org. Friday
evening services 5:30 pm, preceded
by pre-service Oneg at 5:00 pm.
Saturday morning Torah study
8:45 am; Shabbat morning
services 10 am.

**Temple Sinai's Avi Levine
Religious School** 9:30 - 12:00 AM
on designated Sundays
throughout the school year. Contact
Talia Lizemer-Hawley, Community
Educator,
for more information, educator@
templesinaipd.org

BIKUR CHOLIM

A project of Chabad of Palm Springs
& Desert Communities (Community
Outreach) www.BikurCholimPS.com
Rabbi Yankel Kreiman - 760-325-
8076, and Rabbi Mendy



Community Calendar of Programs - December 2023

Mondays:

Har-El offers three classes with **Rabbi Richard Zions** on Zoom on Mondays for residents and non-residents: 10:30 AM—Adult Bar/Bat Mitzvah Class; 1:00 PM—Conversion to Judaism; 4:00 PM—Youth Bar/Bat Mitzvah Preparation. Individual Zoom Sessions will be offered for beginning students who require extra preparation for group study. For registration and additional information, email: harelurjpd@gmail.com or call Rabbi Zions at (760) 668-9943.

Tuesdays:

4:00 pm Temple Sinai weekly class on ZOOM, "Torah in Translation" where participants join **Rabbi David Novak** in reading the Torah in various English translations. Contact *rabbi for ZOOM information*.

5:00-6:45 pm Chabad Rancho Mirage's popular weekly **BBQ** is back for the season. Check their website (www.chabadrm.com) for convenient reservations/order form.

6:00-7:15 pm Temple Isaiah **Aleph-Bet for Adults** beginning Hebrew Class led by **Dr. Gary Levin**. By end of course participants will be able to read Hebrew prayers in the Siddur. Class closed. Call to register for next course, 760-325-2281.

7:00 pm – Chabad of Palm Springs/Sun City: Tanya, a class for women, with **Sussie Denebeim**. Call 760-848-8250 for more information.

Wednesdays:

11:00 am Or Hamidbar: **Rabbi David Lazar** "Covenant and Conquest: The Book of Joshua" on Zoom. Link: visit orhamidbar.org.

7:00 pm Chabad of Palm Springs/Sun City: 'Ask the Rabbi': A Weekly

Open Q & A with **Rabbi Yonason Denebeim**.

7:00 pm Chabad of Rancho Mirage Tanya Class led by **Rabbi Shimon Posner**. For men and women. Hosted each week in Rancho Mirage and also available on Zoom.

8:00 pm – Temple Isaiah "Judaism 2.0 with **Rabbi Steven Rosenberg**. Online course on ZOOM: Judaism 2.0: "Jewish Observance in a Contemporary World." To participate, email Rabbi at rabbisteven.rosenberg@gmail.com.

Thursdays:

11:00 am Or Hamidbar: **Rabbi David Lazar** "Actively Engaging: Jews and Christians Reading Together Isaiah 40-55 on Zoom. Link: visit orhamidbar.org.

11:45 am Temple Sinai: **Rabbi David Novak** hosts a weekly "Lunch 'n' Learn" in Temple Sinai's Goodman Chapel.

Saturdays:

1:30 pm Temple Isaiah "Jewish University" is back, featuring adult education classes as well as religious school learning opportunities and Bnai Mitzvah preparation for the Temple's growing group of young people. Check website for programs: www.templeisaiahps.com.

YOUTH AND TEENS:

Chabad of Rancho Mirage offers programs for children 3 through High School. Ckids Club for children 3-13 offers monthly programs. CTeen is for teens in high school who meet weekly for events, discussion and participation in humanitarian projects. For more information on kids' club events, or to register, visit us on the web www.chabadrm.com/ckids.

Wednesday, December 6

3:30 PM Har-El "Books and Bordeaux" Galen Course Book Review hosted by Bob Schneeweiss, Past Director, Student Activities/Leadership Development, Central Connecticut State University. Book: *All About Me*, Mel Brooks' autobiography.

Thursday, December 7 and 14

6:00 pm Chabad **Chanukah @ Palm Springs Village Fest**

Friday, December 8

Services **5:15 pm**/dinner approximately **5:45 pm** Chabad of Rancho Mirage **Chanukah 'Lights and Latkes' Shabbat Dinner**. Suggested price: \$30 adults/\$17 children. Reservations required. See ad page 17.

Saturday, December 9

Chabad of Rancho Mirage **Chanukah Bowl** bowling. Contact 760-770-7785 for more information.

Saturday, December 9

7:00 pm Beth Shalom **Hanukkah Party and Gift Auction**. Latkes, sufganiyot, beverages and gift auction. Members \$20; non-members \$30. Newcomers welcome with valid identification. Bring a wrapped gift, minimum value \$25. Reservations required by Tuesday, December 5. Information and reservations: 760-200-3636.

Sunday, December 10

3:00 pm Temple Isaiah's **Chanu-Que** – celebration of Chanukah and barbecue. \$25 per person. See ad page 11.

Sunday, December 10

5:15 pm Chabad of Rancho Mirage **Chanukah at the River**

Amphitheatre. Enjoy hot chocolate, latkes, fresh donuts, cotton candy, live music. See ad page 5.

Sunday, December 10

6:00-8:00 pm JFS Desert 21st **Annual Patron Party** "a Night in Paradise" at a home in Bighorn. Call 760-325-5099 for more information and reservations. See ad page 11.

Monday, December 11

5:00 pm Bikur Cholim of Palm Springs and the Jewish Federation of the Desert **Chanukah at Boomers**, Cathedral City for children of all ages. Free. See ad page 19.

Monday, December 11, 2023,

5:00-8:00 pm Jewish Men's Outreach Group of the Desert Valley-Wide **Hanukkah Dinner and Candle Lighting** at Location in Sun City, Palm Desert. Reservations required. Information: jmogd2020@gmail.com.

Wednesday, December 13

Halftime during hockey game Chabad of Rancho Mirage second annual **Jewish Heritage Night & Menorah Lighting at Acrisure Arena**. Games starts at 7 pm. See ad page 6.

Email (preferred)

Miriam Bent at

mhbentjcn@earthlink.net

or call

760-323-0255

to have your events included in the community calendar.

US House Passes Bill Requiring Annual Report on Palestinian Textbooks

By Dion J. Pierre, *The Algemeiner*

The US House of Representatives on November 2 passed legislation that would require the US secretary of state to issue an annual public report on teaching materials provided to Palestinian students addressing whether their education is promoting antisemitism and hatred of Israel.

The bipartisan Peace and Tolerance in Palestinian Education Act was introduced by Rep. Brad Sherman (D-CA), along with Reps. Brian Mast (R-FL), Josh Gottheimer (D-NJ), Elise Stefanik (R-NY), and David Trone (D-MD). The measure also drew 30 other co-sponsors.

If the bill became law, the US secretary of state would be required to annually audit textbooks and other education content that the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) — the UN agency responsible for Palestinian refugees — and the Palestinian Authority (PA) provide to students.

Lawmakers have been pushing to determine whether US foreign aid, which goes to both the PA and UNRWA, has been financing violent and antisemitic materials.

One of those lawmakers is US Rep. Mike Lawler (R-NY), who on November 1 urged Congress to pass the legislation.

"We have known for decades that Palestinian children are taught from a young age to hate Israel and the Jewish people," Lawler said in a speech delivered on the floor of the House of Representatives. "Nongovernmental institutions continue to show that Palestinian school children are being indoctrinated with deeply disturbing violent imagery."

Lawler went on to cite several examples of incitement in Palestinian curricula that have been reported by *The Algemeiner*, including poems glorifying jihad and

textbooks describing Jews as "dangerous" and "perverted in nature."

During his remarks, Lawler linked Hamas' invasion of Israel on Oct. 7 to what he described as Palestinian schools manufacturing successive generations of antisemites and terrorists, arguing that the problem is an obstacle to resolving the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

"We will never arrive at a peaceful solution for Israelis and Palestinians if Palestinian children are being taught hatred," Lawler said. "Why else would Hamas terrorists call home bragging that they murdered Jews? Why else would they live-stream their barbaric attacks? That disgusting and gruesome cruelty is possible because these Hamas fighters were indoctrinated with hatred at a young age. They were taught to glorify terrorism and other so-called martyrs who killed Jewish people, and this must end."

Thursday's vote to pass the legislation drew praise from Israeli education watchdog Impact-se, which earlier this month reported that at least 100 Hamas terrorists involved in the Oct. 7 massacre of Israelis graduated from UNRWA schools.

"Impact-se has been warning for years about UNRWA indoctrination. This bill takes on a great deal of urgency following the Oct. 7 massacre," Impact-se CEO Marcus Sheff said in a statement, citing examples of violent texts taught to Palestinian students. "Let's be crystal clear: this modern-day pogrom was conducted with relish by thousands, with the majority likely graduates of UNRWA education in Gaza."

Sheff added, "Where did they learn to 'cut the necks of the enemy?' Where were they taught that 'Jews spread corruption which will lead to their annihilation?' More

than half of UNRWA's budget is earmarked for education. No decent society can continue paying for this horror."

Antisemitic incitement and violence in Palestinian curricula has persisted despite years of outrage and international pressure to change the teaching materials. Study cards for 11th graders accusing Jews of being "in control of global events through financial power," seventh graders instructed to describe Israeli soldiers as "Satan's aides" in a textbook chapter imploring Muslims to "liberate" the Al-Aqsa Mosque, and children gathered to listen to a poem with the following line: "Give me a Kalashnikov, an [M-] 14, an axe

and a knife" are just some of the examples of the themes to which Palestinian students are exposed.

In a science textbook for seventh graders — images of which can be found in a report released by Israeli education watchdog Impact-se in May 2021 — Newton's Second Law of Motion is explained with an illustration depicting a masked Palestinian "aiming a slingshot at approaching soldiers." In another textbook, titled *Mathematics* and used in grade nine, a word problem asks students to calculate, based on a given probability, how many Palestinians would be shot by "one of the settlers."

CHABAD THE TORAH OASIS

ANNUAL SHABBAT

Chanukah

LIGHTS & LATKES

FRIDAY NIGHT, DECEMBER 8, 2023

SERVICES 5:15 PM
followed by Community dinner approx 5:45 pm.

Join us for an evening of spiritual rejuvenation, lively Jewish songs, and culinary delights, potato latkes and Chanukah treats

Suggested Donation:
\$30 Adult/\$17 Child/ \$90 Family
PAID by noon on December 1
\$35 Adult/ \$20 Child/ \$100 Family
after December 1

DREIDEL SPONSOR \$180

MENORAH SPONSOR \$360

MACCABI SPONSOR \$500

RSVP: chabadrm.com/chanukah84
Space is limited

TZEDAKAH



FUND

For a meaningful way to say thank you for a special occasion, send wishes for recovery from illness or extend condolences, there is no better way to send your thoughts than to purchase a Tzedakah card from the Jewish Federation.

Proceeds from the sale of the tribute cards benefit the Tzedakah Fund, which enables our Jewish Federation to respond to the emergency needs of Jews in our community.

Call 760-324-4737 to order your cards, or go online to jfedps.org.

Kristallnacht Observance

Ccoordinated by Mensch International, held November 9, 2023 at our community's Holocaust Memorial in Palm Desert Civic Park.



(Top row) Attendees at Holocaust Memorial; JFS Director Kraig Johnson, Jewish Federation CEO Alan Potash and Rabbi J.B. Sacks. (Second row) Alan Potash, Mensch Foundation Founder Steven Geiger, Palm Desert Mayor Kathleen Kelly, Chabad Palm Desert's Shaindy Friedman, Survivor Rikki Taras, St. Margaret's Episcopal Church Rev. Andrew G. Butler III, Survivors Rikki Taras and Henry Friedman.



CHANUKAH EVENTS

NIGHT 1: DEC 7

CHANUKAH @ PALM SPRINGS VILLAGE FEST

NIGHT 2: DEC 8

CHANUKAH SHABBAT DINNER

NIGHT 3: DEC 9 CHANUKAH BOWL

NIGHT 4: DEC 10 CHANUKAH @ THE RIVER

NIGHT 5: DEC 11 CHANUKAH @ BOOMERS

NIGHT 6: DEC 12 CHANUKAH @ WEEKLY BBQ

NIGHT 7: DEC 13

JEWISH UNITY EVENT @ ACRISURE ARENA

NIGHT 8: DEC 14

CHANUKAH @ PALM SPRINGS VILLAGE FEST

INFO: 760-325-8076





Bill Amplo's Sugar-Free Challah Bread Pudding

In last month's Food column the last two lines of the bottom recipe ended up being cut off when the page for formatted, and very important information was left off. Not simply to be fair, but this is a really good recipe, so we are giving the complete recipe now. As we explained when we first ran the recipe six years ago, we loved when Bill started out his directions with, "start by freezing leftover challah..."

Sugar-free Challah 'Bread Pudding'

Make the bread pudding in a full-sized aluminum tray (such as sold in bulk at Costco).

Ingredients:

Full tray of leftover parve Challah (see approximate quantity below)

- 18 large eggs, beaten
- 8 cups of Splenda
- 1 half-gallon of Mocha Mix (parve)
- 8 teaspoons of pure vanilla extract
- 4 cups Craisins (or raisins if you prefer)
- Non-stick cooking spray (parve) – (not olive oil)

Start by freezing leftover parve challah from Shabbat or yontif. When you have approximately 3 full gallon size freezers bags, you should have enough. Cut the challah into cubes and fill the aluminum tray. Let the bread sit overnight to harden.

Preheat oven to 350 degrees F. In a large mixing bowl beat the eggs. Mix in the Splenda, Mocha Mix, and vanilla. Pour the liquid over the cubes of bread. Add the Craisins and mix them in. Press down on everything so that all the bread is sitting in the liquid mixture. Let the bread soak for about 10 minutes.

Spray a second full-sized aluminum pan with non-stick cooking spray. Be certain to spray the sides. (Bill's suggestion: set the tray in the open dishwasher to spray, to avoid excess spray getting onto counter surfaces. Easy clean-up!) Pour the pudding mixture into the "greased" tray. Bake for 50 - 60 minutes, testing to be certain that it is cooked through. Remove from oven and allow to cool. Serve warm or cold. Serves 64.

Education Secretary: Colleges Could Face Funding Cuts Over Antisemitism

By Ron Kampeas, JTA

Education Secretary Miguel Cardona said colleges could lose federal funding if they fail to address antisemitism and other bigotries, following up on a meeting last month with Jewish leaders alarmed by rising antisemitism on campuses in the wake of the Israel Hamas war.

Cardona made his warning in an interview on CNN on November 6 ahead of the release the next day of a letter reminding federally funded schools of their obligation to protect Jews and other minorities.

"I would want to provide support for these universities, provide guidance. And if there are egregious acts, I want to make sure that we're investigating," he told the network. "Ultimately, if we have to withhold dollars from a campus refusing to comply, we would."

Cardona's comments do not represent a new policy, but they suggest that Cardona is prepared to be aggressive in pressing colleges to act. In a release on November 7 formally announcing the letter, Cardona tied the letter's instructions to what Jewish organizations have said is a massive spike in antisemitism on campuses since Hamas terrorists struck Israel on October 7, launching the war.

"The rise of reports of hate incidents on our college campuses in the wake of the Israel-Hamas conflict is deeply traumatic for students and should be alarming to all Americans. antisemitism, Islamophobia, and all other forms of hatred go against everything we stand for as a nation," he said.

The letter sent November 7 to colleges that receive federal funds, signed by Catherine Lhamon, the department's assistant secretary for civil rights, describes in its first paragraph "an alarming rise in disturbing antisemitic incidents and threats to Jewish, Israeli, Muslim, Arab, and Palestinian students on college campuses and in P-12 schools."

In her second paragraph, Lhamon ties the money the schools get from the government to their legal obligations to protect minority students. Both public and private universities receive federal funds through a variety of pathways.

"I write to remind colleges, universities, and schools that receive federal financial assistance of their legal responsibility under Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and its implementing regulations

(Title VI) to provide all students a school environment free from discrimination based on race, color, or national origin, including shared ancestry or ethnic characteristics," Lhamon said in her letter. "It is your legal obligation under Title VI to address prohibited discrimination against students and others on your campus—including those who are or are perceived to be Jewish, Israeli, Muslim, Arab, or Palestinian — in the ways described in this letter."

In his October 30 meeting with Jewish leaders, Cardona noted that the Biden Administration had already, prior to the October 7 Hamas deadly attack on Israel, extended Civil Rights Act protections

to religious minorities, including Jews and Muslims. He promised a two-week deadline to come up with a plan.

Jewish leaders at that meeting noted that the federal government in recent years has expanded Title IX of the same act, which bans gender discrimination, to allow for funding to be withheld from universities that do not address sexual harassment and assault. They suggested that the department could apply similar measures to Title VI as an incentive for compliance.

Sen. Jacky Rosen, a Jewish Democrat from Nevada, had sent a letter in early November, urging the Education Department to issue "updated guidance

to college and university administrators making clear the consequences of failing to ensure the safety of Jewish students," among other measures.

Rosen, who cofounded an antisemitism task force in the Senate, welcomed Cardona's November 7 letter. "I'm glad to see the U.S. Department of Education is taking action at my urging to remind school administrators of their legal responsibility to keep students safe from antisemitism and other forms of discrimination — or face consequences," she said. "I'm continuing to urge the department to form a task force to counter campus antisemitism."

Chanukah Party at BOOMERS!
Monday, December 11, 2023 at 5:00 pm
EVERYONE IS WELCOME!

FREE Admission
Lots of Fun-For children of ALL ages!!

A special treat for everyone
Dreidels for Everyone
Chocolate Chanukah Gelt
New this year, special digitalized game cards

BOOMERS • 67-700 East Palm Canyon Drive • Cathedral City
For More Information call 760-325-8076

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- Bikur Cholim of Palm Springs
Dr. Paul & Stephanie Ross
- Pj Library

Fighting Back: Moms Rally to Combat Antisemitism on Campus

By Susan Tawil, *United With Israel*

With antisemitism soaring in the U.S. and abroad following the horrific Hamas attacks of October 7th, a group of concerned mothers is organizing to counter the spread of anti-Jewish bigotry and harassment on college campuses.

In the wake of the Hamas massacres, the number of antisemitic incidents in both the U.S. and across the world have soared, in particular in and around major universities.

In response to the now violent climate in the once bucolic halls of academia, Elizabeth Rand founded Mothers Against Campus Antisemitism (MACA), a new Facebook group.

Rand, a Manhattan lawyer who is also the mother of a college-age son, started MACA to bring other concerned mothers together, in order to effectuate change.

Begun on October 26, the group quickly grew to over forty thousand members in less than a week.

Rand says she has been overwhelmed by the tremendous interest in the FB group. A working mother, she can't single-handedly manage the flood of postings and requests for advice on handling the giant spike of



hateful rhetoric targeting Jewish students on even the "best" university campuses throughout the country.

So Rand is delegating responsibility for running the group: she brought a communications manager on board, assembled a team of administrators and monitors for the postings, and reached out to followers with legal and non-profit experience to help advise the group.

Besides offering a forum for member moms to decry the current climate of hatred on campus, supportive practical action is encouraged.

The members of the 40,000-strong

group can circulate petitions, or write letters and make phone calls to politicians, school administrators, and university donors. They can withhold donations and demand additional campus security for students.

One goal of the new group is to harness the legal clout of the group to pressure college administration to condemn antisemitic attacks and intimidation of students. Rand would like the group to assist students with bringing lawsuits against colleges and student groups when necessary.

As well, the FB group provides a

"community," offering emotional support for like-minded mothers concerned and anxious about their children.

Considering the exorbitant cost of university tuition, parents feel that their children should at least be assured of a safe environment in which to learn.

For many parents who were not previously involved in anything Jewish, the current spate of antisemitic assaults threatening their children on college campuses is a real wake-up call.

Rand says she draws inspiration from MADD, Mothers Against Drunk Driving.

Formed in 1980 by a mother whose daughter was killed by a drunk driver, the group of "ordinary mothers" accomplished a major change in social attitudes.

Laws were enacted raising the legal drinking age in the US from 18 to 21, saving many lives. MADD brought their cause into public awareness, making drunk driving socially unacceptable.

Likewise, Rand says about her new group: "I want to make it socially unacceptable to display Jew hatred on college campuses."

Dear Friends,

Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow; Jewish Federation is on the ground here in the Desert, in Israel and Overseas everyday. We focus on the quality of life for the Vulnerable, Educating community and Engaging the next generation. Our profound thanks for your continued support of the Jewish Federation of the Desert.

IRA ROLLOVER TO CHARITABLE ORGANIZATIONS

While you're planning for the remainder of this year, we want to remind you that the IRA Charitable Rollover provision permits individuals 70 1/2 or older to donate up to \$100,000 annually from their IRAs to charities without having to count the distribution as taxable income. The donation counts toward the donor's Required Minimum Distribution (RMD). The provision allows for rollover directly to charitable organizations such as The Jewish Federation of the Desert, but NOT to "Donor Advised Funds".

The SECURE Act allows people 72 and over to abstain taking a required minimum distribution (RMD) from their IRA's in 2021. Therefore, your RMD for this year may be more than you expect. Rather than taking the entire RMD and paying income tax on the distribution, you can maximize your tax savings and support Federation's mission driven work for "Tikkun Olam", repairing the world.

GIVING STOCK

If you are using appreciated stock, it is important that you contact our office at (760) 324-4737 or email Alberto.Tejero@jfedps.org, and provide us with the donor's name, name of the security, and number of shares being transferred into our Charles Schwab account by December 26 to ensure a 2023 tax benefit.

Because of the tax advantages of contributing from your IRA, this retirement bucket is the optimal account to be considered for your charitable donations. When you make a contribution to Federation from your IRA, you should not take those distributions personally. Inform your IRA administrator to donate directly to Jewish Federation of the Desert on your behalf.

For IRA rollover contributions, please mail to:
Jewish Federation of the Desert, 69710 Hwy 111; Rancho Mirage, CA 92270

Thank you in advance for your consideration,

Alan Potash
CEO

Alberto Tejero
CFO

Arnie Gillman
President



**The Strength of a People.
The Power of Community.**



'Stunned, Sickened' by Harvard's Silence on Hamas, Wexner Cuts Ties

"Many of our Israel fellows no longer feel marginalized at Harvard Kennedy School," the Wexner leaders wrote. "They feel abandoned."

Jewish News Syndicate



Leslie Wexner

The Wexner Foundation supports up to 10 Israeli "outstanding government and public service professionals" to study in a one-year, mid-career master's degree in public administration at the Harvard Kennedy School, per the philanthropy's website. The goal of the Israel fellowship, per Wexner, is "providing Israel's next generation of public leaders with superlative training."

The webpage, which notes Harvard's "rich environment that is conducive to reflection and dialogue about Israel's policy challenges and the diverse leadership strategies that could address those challenges," will need updating.

The Billionaire businessman Leslie Wexner, founder of the Wexner Foundation, receives the Woodrow Wilson Award for Corporate Citizenship. Credit: Wikipedia.

Wexner told the Harvard Kennedy School on Oct. 16 that it is cutting ties after more than 30 years. "We believed that at its core, HKS was a school with moral purpose, matching the core values we embrace in our own work," wrote three Wexner leaders: Rabbi B. Elka Abrahamson (president), Ra'anana Avital (director general, Israel) and Abigail and Leslie Wexner (chairmen).

"We have observed that this cherished tolerance for diverse perspectives has slowly but perceptibly narrowed over the years. A disappointing consequence of this trend is that our Wexner Israel Fellows are increasingly marginalized, their voices and views even shouted

down," the philanthropy leaders wrote. "Disappointingly, HKS has been slow to craft a strategy to enable Israeli students to engage in productive—even if difficult—dialogue within the school. We believe this is an unfortunate trend for the entire MPA student community."

Following Hamas's terrorist attacks on October 7, which killed more than 1,400 Israelis, the Wexner leaders were "stunned and sickened at the dismal failure of Harvard's leadership to take a clear and unequivocal stand against the barbaric murders of innocent Israeli civilians by terrorists," they wrote.

"Since then, many of our Israel fellows no longer feel marginalized at HKS. They feel abandoned," the leaders wrote. "Our core values and those of Harvard no longer align. HKS is no longer a place where Israeli leaders can go to develop the necessary skills to address the very real political and societal challenges they face."

Gilad Erdan, Israeli ambassador to the United Nations, praised Wexner's decision. "The leadership of Harvard have proven they have lost their moral compass. Not only do they allow Jew-hatred and pro-terror rhetoric to permeate their campus, but they cannot bring themselves to immediately condemn terrorism," the diplomat wrote. "I call on every North American Jew and supporter of Israel to send this message to every university that behaves similarly."

"If your child's university thinks twice before condemning the murder of innocents or allows a culture of hate to grow on campuses unhindered, then it cannot receive one more cent from any of you," Erdan said. "Whoever stays silent after the massacre of children does not hold the moral credibility to educate our children."

"It shouldn't have taken this long to realize what a morally compromised institution Harvard has become, but ... better late than never," wrote Jeff Jacoby, a *Boston Globe* op-ed columnist.

Idan Ofer, an Israeli billionaire, and his wife Batia quit Harvard's executive board. "We denounce those who seek to place blame on the people of Israel for the atrocities committed by the terrorist organization, Hamas," the couple said.



Have A Nosh

Sufganiyot for Chanukah

It's been five years since I gave you sufganiyot instead of latke recipes for Chanukah in the December paper, so here are some fun, easy recipes for you to try. Israeli sufganiyot are, basically, jelly donuts. I started making 'donut holes' to



bring into my son's classroom when he was a child, and often used quick, baking powder donut holes instead of a yeast batter for the ease and convenience, which was met with equal enthusiasm by the kiddies. Wishing you a sweet Chanukah! – Miriam Bent

"Donut Hole" Sufganiyot (Parve)

3/4 cup orange juice (or water)	1/3 cup powdered sugar, mixed with
2 eggs, beaten	1 teaspoon cinnamon
1/4 cup parve margarine	2 pkg. dry yeast
dash of salt	3 cups flour
4 Tablespoons sugar	Vegetable oil for deep frying

Combine orange juice, margarine and sugar. Heat until margarine melts. Cook to lukewarm and add yeast. Stir until dissolved. Add flour, eggs and dash of salt, and mix well. Remove from bowl onto a floured board and knead until smooth. You may need a little more flour. Place dough in a greased bowl, turning dough so all sides have a light film of oil. Cover bowl and let dough rise in a warm spot for 30 minutes. Punch down. Break dough into pieces and shape into small balls. Cover with a light kitchen towel and let rise another 30 minutes. Deep fry in 375-degree oil until golden brown. Drain on paper towels and dust with cinnamon sugar.

Chocolate Filled Sufganiyot (Milchig)

3/4 cup warm water (about 100 degrees)	2 large eggs, separated
1 envelope active dry yeast	2 Tablespoons unsalted butter, room temperature
2½ cups all-purpose flour, plus more for work surface	Frying oil
1/4 cup sugar plus ½ cup for coating	Chocolate bars, (gourmet chocolates work best) cut in to approximately one-inch squares.
½ teaspoon salt	

In a large metal bowl, stir together warm water and yeast. Let stand until foamy, about 5 minutes. Add 3/4 cup flour, 1/4 cup sugar, and salt; mix until well combined. Add egg yolks and remaining 1 3/4 cups flour. Mix until combined, then knead dough in bowl until all flour is incorporated. Turn out dough onto a lightly floured work surface; knead a few minutes until smooth. Knead in margarine until incorporated. Transfer dough to a well-oiled bowl; turn dough several times to coat entirely with oil. Cover tightly with plastic wrap, and refrigerate overnight.

About 30 minutes before you're ready to form doughnuts, remove dough from refrigerator to let come to room temperature. On a lightly floured work surface, roll out dough into an 1/8 inch thick. Using a 2 inch cookie cutter (or a glass), cut out about 24 rounds, dipping cutter in flour as needed to prevent sticking. Re-roll scraps and cut out about 16 more rounds.

Line a baking sheet with a clean kitchen towel. In a small bowl, lightly beat egg whites. Brush edge of a dough round with egg white, then put chocolate bar pieces in center. Top with another round and press edges to seal. Repeat process with remaining rounds. Transfer to prepared baking sheet; let doughnuts rise until puffy, 20 to 30 minutes.

Heat a few inches of oil in a large (4-5 quart) heavy pot until it registers 360 degrees on a deep-fry thermometer or a scrap of dough sizzles upon contact. Working in batches of 4 to 5, carefully slip doughnuts into hot oil. Fry, turning once until golden brown, about 1 minute. Using a slotted spoon, transfer doughnuts to paper towels to drain.

Place remaining ½ cup sugar in a medium bowl. While doughnuts are still hot, toss them in sugar, turning to coat. Serve immediately. Makes 20 sufganiyot.

Baking Powder Quick Sufganiyot (Dairy)

1/4 cup sugar	1 teaspoon nutmeg or mace
3/4 cup milk	½ teaspoon salt
1 tablespoon baking powder	1 egg
½ cup sugar, mixed with 1 teaspoon cinnamon	Vegetable oil for deep frying

Combine flour 1/4 cup of the sugar, baking powder, nutmeg (or mace) and salt. Add egg, oil and milk. Mix thoroughly. Drop by small teaspoons into 375 degree oil and fry until golden brown. Drain on paper towels and sprinkle with the remaining 1/4 cup cinnamon sugar. Makes about 4 dozen.

Meet the Christian Cowboys Defending Israel's Heartland

By Maayan Jaffe-Hoffman, The Jerusalem Post

Fifteen American Christian cowboys with their wide-brimmed hats, denim shirts, tight Wrangler jeans, leather belts with large buckles, and well-worn boots have come to Israel to protect the Jewish residents of the biblical heartland – Judea and Samaria.

"We want to live for Israel; that is our goal," said 24-year-old Yosef Strain from Montana, his voice carrying a subtle twang.

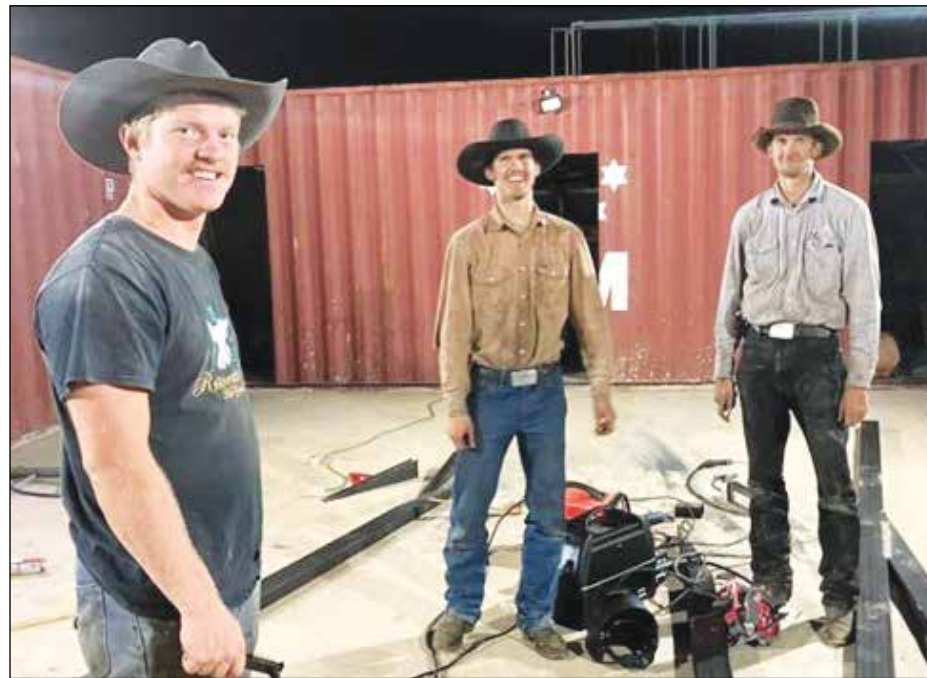
The young men, mostly in their early 20s, hail from across the South: Tennessee, Missouri, Texas, Arkansas, and Montana. They join other faith-driven volunteers in Israel through Hayovel. For 20 years, this organization has been bringing several hundred Christians to Israel each year to help harvest the grapes of the biblical heartland. These Evangelical Christians are usually focused on restoring Christian-Jewish relations and confirming Israel's right to their ancestral homeland.

However, after the October 7 Hamas massacre, "we understood the morbid reality that we are facing a serious enemy and the world does not recognize it," explained Hayovel Director of Operations Joshua Waller. "If we did not say yes [to helping Judea and Samaria], no one was."

Hayovel launched Operation Itai to raise \$29 million for security supplies for the West Bank. So far, more than \$2 million has been raised from American Christian Zionists for bullet-proof vests, helmets, night vision binoculars, drones, flashlights and more.

Itai was the non-Jewish commander of King David's 600-men army, mentioned in II Samuel, chapter 15.

"We did not set a budget," said Waller.



Pro-Israel Cowboys at work lending a hand in the West Bank.

"We asked the communities what they needed, and Operation Itai responded."

In addition, Hayovel decided to bring a group of "hardcore guys" to help install security roads, build warehouses for supplies, deliver supplies, and do 24/7 guard duty, Waller said. 15 cowboys were selected.

"Everyone is talking about a proportionate response," he added. "A proportionate Christian response would be to bring the supplies needed to stop another Jewish massacre from happening."

He said Gaza is only one front. Syria and Lebanon are two other fronts, and the West Bank is the fourth front.

"This is one of the most severe fronts. You have around 500,000 Jewish people scattered among 200 different communities living next to two- to three-

million Palestinians, and there are no security fences between them and us," Waller added. "No one wants to say it, but these Palestinians, many of them are also involved with Hamas or another terrorist organization, and if they believe they are strong enough and Israel is weak enough, they will strike."

The cowboys stay on Har Bracha with Hayovel but work throughout the West Bank, including in the southern Hebron Hills. They participate in what they call "farm watch" – staying up all night to catch cattle and sheep thieves and terrorists.

These boys are the real deal. "A lot of people think we are dressing up," Strain, 22, wearing a large Star of David metal belt buckle, told The Jerusalem Post. "We just have a different style and culture."

Strain, whose family farm trains horses

and rides them in rodeos, said he had been to Israel three times before, and his parents were "pretty supportive."

And none of the cowboys seemed very afraid of violence.

Charles Hutsler, 19, from Huntsville, Arkansas, said he was "not scared" about being in the country during a war because "God has my back."

Ezekiel ("Zeek") Strain, 20, Yosef Strain's brother, said he believes in Israel in the promised land, specifically, the biblical heartland.

"I ain't scared of what could happen or might happen. I just want to help," he said.

"God put a special calling on my life and has given me certain talents, direct my life in a certain path, that I can do something when the time comes," added Johnny Plocher, 24. "I am not on Earth for money, a new truck or property, a vacation - that is not my purpose. I feel called here now and am glad to be here."

The cowboys stressed that they do not represent the Biden administration or liberal Americans.

"Biden does not represent these cowboys," Waller said. "Americans support Israel, including Judea and Samaria. The Biden administration believes in a two-state solution and would like to see 500,000 Jews pushed out of here, their biblical heartland."

"These cowboys represent the America behind Israel and the Bible."

He continued: "We are here to say no way to have to cut the State of Israel in half and the ability to create an Arab state in the idle of Israel's heartland. These cowboys are not going to see it."

Jewish Billionaire Henry Swieca Quits Columbia Business School Board, Saying Campus is 'Unsafe' for Jews

By Ron Kampeas, JTA

A Jewish billionaire investor and philanthropist quit the board of Columbia Business School, saying the campus had become unsafe for Jews since the launch of the Israel-Hamas war.

"With blatantly anti-Jewish student groups and professors allowed to operate with complete impunity, it sends a clear and distressing message that Jews are not just unwelcome, but also unsafe on campus," Henry Swieca

said in an Oct. 30 letter obtained Tuesday by the Jewish Telegraphic Agency. "My resignation is an expression of my deep concern for the direction in which the university is heading."

The Board of Overseers is the school's main fundraising arm.

Swieca, 66, is the founder in 2010



Henry Swieca

of Talpion Fund Management and the cofounder of Highbridge Capital Management, which was acquired by J.P. Morgan Chase in 2008. The child of Holocaust survivors, he has been a member of the business school's Board of Overseers since 2014. Forbes lists his worth as \$1.9 billion.

His resignation, which he did not announce publicly, comes amid a flurry of protests by Jewish supporters of elite universities in response to

the schools' handling of the Israel-Hamas war following October 7, when Hamas attacked Israel. Prominent supporters of Harvard University and the University of Pennsylvania have announced that they will or might no longer support their alma maters because of the presidents' response to the war, and the private equity CEO Marc Rowan is reportedly trying to get others in the finance field to withhold donations over the issue.



Simchas

It is a special joy to share the birth of children/grandchildren/great-grandchildren in our Simchas column, and this month we have the arrival of four precious babies to share with you! We were delighted to announce the birth of **Elaine** and **Mark Gershenson's** first grandchild in last month's JCN, but we were given the wrong name! Proud grandfather Mark emailed us the correction along with this wonderful photo. The sweet baby is **Simon Levi**, born September 30, with his Hebrew



Simon 'Lev' Stein

name **Shmuel Lev**. They are calling him **Lev**. Thrilled parents are **Gwynne (Gershenson)** and **David Stein**, who live in New York ... Another



Asher Baum

birth to share: **Asher Baum**, son of **Jake** and **Rachelle Baum**, was born here in Palm Springs on October 11th. Delighted grandparents: **Ted** and **Cece Baum**, and great-grandparents **Renee Baum** and **Candace** and **Jason Davis** ... Mazel tov to **Gail** and **Saul Jacobs** on the birth of their great-granddaughter, **Vera Violet**, daughter of **T.J.** and **Emily Liebcap**, born October 14 in

Lexington, Kentucky ... Mazel tov to **Rabbi Shimon** and **Chaya Posner** on the birth of their grandson, **Shalom Dovber Kessler** on October 16th, born to **Rabbi Mendel** and **Fraydee Kessler** of Chabad of Sedona, Arizona ... Mazel tov to **Rabbi Steven Rosenberg** and **Dr.**



Vera Violet Liebcap



Anna and Evan Rosenberg

Sarah Sela of Temple Isaiah on the marriage of **Evan Rosenberg** to **Anna Jacobson Eckert** on November 9, 2023, in Malabar, Florida. ... Mazel tov to **Rabbi Yonason** and **Sussie Denebeim** on the engagement of their son **Ashie** to **Sarah Drizin**, daughter of **Rabbi Dov** and **Hindy Drizin** of Woodcliff Lake, New Jersey ... Mazel tov to **Jonah Adelman**, son of **Boni Adelman** on his Bar Mitzvah at Chabad of Rancho Mirage. His birthday was November 6th and he read from the torah that morning, then celebrated his Bar Mitzvah on Shabbat Toldot, November 18, with reading the parshaat Shabbat services. *Share your simchas with us. Email Miriam Bent at mh bentjcn@earthlink.net or call 760-323-0255.*



Classifieds

DENEBEIM LAW FIRM - Estate Planning, Wills, & Trusts: To schedule a free consultation with Attorney Mendy Denebeim, visit denebeimlawfirm.com or call 760-405-8484.

Poetry Contest to be held in April. The contest is open to all teens in the Coachella Valley in grades 8-12. The contest theme this year is "Never Again, Never forget". For more information contact Leslie Pepper at 760-324-4737 or at leslie.pepper@jfedps.org

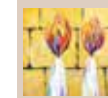
THERAPEUTIC MASSAGE Swedish, deep tissue and foot reflexology modalities. Treat yourself or someone you love to a wonderful therapeutic massage in your home. Jewish Massage Therapist with over 35 years' experience, fifteen in the desert. Call Leora at 760-778-0068.

JEWISH FAMILY SERVICE SUPPORTERS welcomed. JFS has rewarding **volunteer opportunities** in its community programs and is now accepting applications for several positions. **Tribute cards** provide a unique way to celebrate a special occasion or honor a loved one, all while supporting JFS programs. If you're interested in learning more about volunteer opportunities or supporting JFS through the purchase of tribute cards, please contact 760-325-4088 ext. 101.

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JUDGES WILL BE NEEDED for the Jewish Federation's Holocaust and



Candle Lighting Times

Friday, December 1	Shabbat Vayislach	3:54 pm
Thursday, December 7	First night Chanukah	
Friday, December 8	Shabbat Vayeshev	3:54 pm
Friday, December 15	Shabbat Miketz	3:56 pm
Friday, December 22	Shabbat Vayigash	3:59 pm
Friday, December 29	Shabbat Vayechi	4:03 pm



We Mourn the Passing of...

Dorothy Antflick, Faye Blyveis, Ginger Jones Gold, Marty Helpman, Seymour Levitt, Donald Robert Miller, Adele Pearlstein, Phyllis Pozepff, Arlene Rosenfeld, Suzanne Somers, Merriam Sukeinnik, Diane Vedder and Irving Wiseman. *Our deepest sympathies to their families and friends. May their memories endure as a blessing.*

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Happy Chanukkah from the Jewish Federation Board and Staff

JEWISH FEDERATION OF THE DESERT

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Jewish Federation
OF THE DESERT



Jewish
Book
Council

Feast of Jewish Learning At Federation building



Sunday, December 3, 2023

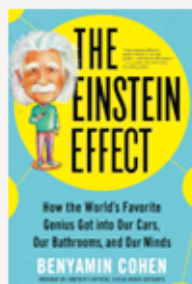


10:00 am - 6:30pm

Book Authors Lineup



Andrew Lawler
Under Jerusalem
10:00 am



Benjamin Cohen
The Einstein Effect
4:30 pm



Philip Slayton
Antisemitism
1:30 pm



Joel Chasnoff
Israel 201
5:30 pm



Michael Strassfeld
Judaism Disrupted
3:00 pm

Lunch available for purchase \$15

- Tuna sandwich
- Egg salad sandwich
- Veggie sandwich
- Box lunch comes with potato salad or fruit
- Potato chips and a cookie

Speaker at noon Revital Danker

Consulate General of Israel to the Pacific
Southwest and Beit Halochem

6:30pm Happy hour reception and final

presentation with comedian
Joel Chasnoff
Wine and cheese provided by
Jewish Federation

**No charge to attend speakers
RSVP for speakers, lunch and reception by December 1st
760-324-4737**