



Jewish Federation
OF THE DESERT

Gathering for Good

Caring for the vulnerable - Strengthening Community -
Supporting Jews in Israel and around the world



I learned that today is the official day for random acts of kindness. I have to say, I am a little perplexed that there is only one day needed to be kind. This is a recognized international holiday that originated in New Zealand. I wonder if there is a connection to this day and this week's Torah Portion, Mishpatim also known as Shabbat Sheklim. More on this at the end of my comments.

The Jewish Federation of the Desert is mourning the passing of longtime supporter, Ted Lerner, who passed away on Sunday, February 12th. Our sincere condolences go out to his wife Annette and the entire Lerner Family. May his memory be for a blessing.

On Monday, we hosted Hebrew University Professor, Reuven Hazan. He gave a very practical and informative look at the current political issues in Israel. He said, "It is very important for Americans to not compare America's governmental systems to Israel. They are two vastly different systems. America's is a presidential system and Israel's is a parliamentary system." I will try to draft an overview of his talk with an update on the issues the current coalition is working on and post it on the website.

This week we held our Major Gifts dinner. In addition to

hearing from our guest speaker, former 60 Minutes producer, Ira Rosen, we honored two significant community and Federation leaders, Ellen and Phil Glass. Co-Chairs, Barry Kaiman and Ron Langus, presented them with a beautiful piece of art and read letters recognizing their impact. The CEO of the Jewish United Fund of Chicago also sent a nice tribute letter honoring the work of the Glasses in Chicago.

During our Major Gifts dinner, one of the serving staff from Morningside noticed that Jewish Family Services is one of the organizations that receives financial support from the Federation. After thanking me for supporting JFS (Jewish Family Service) she wanted to know if anyone from JFS was present so she could thank them for the help she received. I took her to meet the new president of JFS, Joanne Chunowitz.

News out of LA this week of two shootings, thankfully not fatal, made its way to us in the Coachella Valley as the suspect headed towards Palm Springs. We were notified by law enforcement that the suspect was in our community and to update the area clergy. The suspect was apprehended Thursday evening.

This week the Jewish Men's Outreach Group of the Desert held a meeting and program in our building. Our building is here to be utilized. If you have a group or event that needs a location, please call Gloria Benavides.

The Torah portion this Shabbat is Mishpatim also known as Shabbat Shekelim. Shabbat Shekelim is about the commandment to take a census of the community by way of collecting a half-shekel from every adult male equally. The collected funds were used for maintenance and operations of the Tabernacle.

Today, we would call this fund "to keep the lights on and the doors open," (Operating Funds). I want to connect Shabbat Shekelim with the idea of kindness. We collect funds to help people. Yes, we need to keep the lights on, but our purpose is to help people and strengthen the community. It is easier to do this through kindness, as one act of kindness leads to another act of kindness.

Shabbat Shalom,

Alan Potash, CEO



If you are interested in helping with the relief effort, [CLICK HERE](#) or you can contact our office and we will see that it goes to the right sources at 760-324-4737.



A wonderful and beautiful evening for **Major Gifts** at the spectacular Morningside Country Club. Ira Rosen, winner of 24 Emmy Awards, author and former 60 Minutes Producer was the keynote speaker. Ellen and Phil Glass were given a special "Tree of Life" recognition for all of their dedicated service to Jewish Federation of The Desert. JFED treasurer Ron Langus was Master of Ceremony and Alan Gitlin did a superb job capturing CEO Alan Potash for the allocation video highlighting all of the incredible programs JFED supports. Photo credit: Alberto Tejero



Professor Reuven Hazan, Chair in Israeli Democracy and Politics Professor of Political Science gave a talk on Israel politics and the structure of its democratic system. Justin Pressman, Executive Director, Western Region, American Friends of Hebrew University also attended the gathering of more than 25 people who were fascinated about hearing more about the Israeli system of government. Pictured L to R: Professor Hazen, Alan Potash and Justin Pressman.

**MONDAY, MARCH 6, 2023 at 12:00PM
LIGHT LUNCH AT FEDERATION
BUILDING
RSVP BY MARCH 2, 2023**

760-324-4737

Gadeer Kamal-Mreeh



On March 6th we will have a unique opportunity to hear from Gadeer Kamal-Mreeh, currently she is the Senior Envoy of The Jewish Agency for Israel to The Jewish Federation of Greater Washington.

In 2021, Kamal Mreeh became the Jewish Agency's first Druze emissary to the U.S. Based in Washington D.C. In April 2019, Kamal-Mreeh was elected to the Knesset as a member of the Blue and White party, making history as the first Druze woman to become a Member of the Knesset. During her tenure, she chaired the Caucus for Planning,

Zoning and Industrial Areas, and the Caucus for the Advancement of Druze Women. She was a member of the Interior and Environment Committee, the Advancement of Women's Status and Gender Equality Committee, and of the special committee for fighting crime within the Arab sector.

Kamal Mreeh was born and lived in the Druze village, Daliyat al-Carmel. She is married to Shadi and a mother of two children, Tom and Liam. Gadeer enjoys cooking, art, nature, and quality time with her family which is the key for her pure happiness. "Gadeer Kamal-Mreeh's personal and professional journey makes her a powerful embodiment of Israeli society's diversity and complexity. We are thrilled that this unprecedented appointment will bring greater awareness regarding that diverse landscape to the United States as part of our efforts to strengthen understanding of Israel worldwide," said Amira Ahronoviz, The Jewish Agency's Director General and CEO

Please join us for a light lunch and conversation with Ms. Gadeer Kamal-Mreeh on March 6th at 12:00 at the Federation building 69710 HWY 111. Please call the office 760-324-4737 to RSVP by March 2, 2023

Save the Date: Tuesday, March 21, 2023
More details to follow.



2023 FEDERATION DAY

of the Coachella Valley

Tuesday, March 21st, 2023

All men and women of the Coachella Valley are invited to participate in this special event filled day. Whether you play Golf, Cards, Pickle Ball or Tennis come and enjoy a day of fun, while supporting the most vulnerable in our community. To add to the fun there will be a raffle and prizes! REGISTRATION 9am to NOON.

Golf

FOURSOMES MAY BE MEN, WOMEN OR MIXED TEAMS

- Limited to the first 112 players signed up.
- 10:00 am Continental Breakfast
- 11:00 am Shotgun-Play in a step-aside scramble
- Drinks and snacks available behind the 9th green
- Join Us for a Cocktail Reception at the conclusion of the day's activities.

FOR CARDS PLAYERS AND RACQUET SPORTS - AFTERNOON PLAY

- Lunch will be available on the patio starting at noon.
- Join Us for a Cocktail Reception at the conclusion of the day's activities.

Complete your entry form and return them with your Check to Tamarisk Country Club
70-240 Frank Sinatra Drive, Rancho Mirage, CA 92270
Make Checks Payable: Jewish Federation of the Desert

To pay by credit card, contact the Jewish Federation of the Desert to process payment by phone (760) 324.4737.

Name _____ Phone _____

Address _____

Email _____

____ Women's and Men's Pickle Ball, Tennis and Cards \$350

____ Women's Minimum Gift: \$350 ____ Men's Minimum Gift: \$600

____ Women's Sponsor Level Gift: \$550 ____ Men's Sponsor Level Gift: \$800

____ Women's Platinum Level Gift: \$1,000 ____ Men's Platinum Level Gift: \$1,000

____ Golf ____ Cards ____ Tennis ____ Pickle Ball

____ Hole Sponsorship Opportunity \$1,500

My Team _____ Pair me up _____

Questions Contact Mike Mendoza at (760) 324.6990 or by email at michaelm@tamariskcc.com

TAMARISK


 Jewish Federation
OF THE DESERT



Join Us for An Affair to Remember

POMEGRANATE EVENT

Monday, March 27, 2023
2:00 pm - 4:00pm

CO CHAIRS : *Lynda Zions and Ana Landau*

"Chai" Tea

Le Vallauris Restaurant
385 W Tahquitz Canyon Way
Palm Springs

Musical Entertainment by : Violin Soloist CINDY BROGAN

Couvert: \$75

Minimum Contribution to Campaign 2023 of \$1,800

 Jewish Federation
OF THE DESERT

RSVP: Leslie Pepper - 760-324-4737

CRISIS IN UKRAINE



Without the generosity of people like you, the support we've been able to provide and continue to provide would not be possible.

Jewish Federations have raised \$73 million and allocated nearly \$61 million to NGO's Ukraine and neighboring countries to support refugees and Jewish communities in their time of need. And as the needs change, we continue allocation funds to meet them.

Because of JFNA's partner agencies, the Jewish Agency for Israel, JDC and World ORT, have been working steadily in Ukraine for generations - we've been able to be on the ground responding to emergency needs from day one of the conflict.

[CLICK FOR UKRAINE EMERGENCY RELIEF FUND!](#)



Jewish Federation of the Desert
Welcomes you

APRIL 30, 2023 10am—2pm
AT PALM VALLEY SCHOOL CAMPUS

SAVE THE DATE

YOM HA'ATZMAUT
ISRAEL
Independence Day

75
מגילת
CELEBRATE ISRAEL

FREE

COME
join us!

For further information
Contact Leslie.pepper@jfedps.org
760-324-4737

Reserve Your Space Now....
JFED's Upcoming Events

Call Now to RSVP: 760-324-4737



קהילת בית שלום

קהילת בית שלום
The Coachella Valley's
Conservative Synagogue

An extended Jewish family, caring for all its members



SUPPORTED BY
Jewish Federation
OF THE DESERT



12TH ANNUAL SCHOLAR-IN-RESIDENCE WEEKEND

MADE POSSIBLE BY A GRANT FROM JEWISH FEDERATION OF THE DESERT

FRIDAY — SUNDAY
FEBRUARY 17 — 19, 2023

DR. TAMMI J. SCHNEIDER

PROFESSOR OF RELIGION, CLAREMONT GRADUATE UNIVERSITY

- ✦ PROFESSOR
- ✦ AUTHOR
- ✦ ARCHAEOLOGIST



EISHET HAYIL: WOMEN OF STRENGTH

THE ENTIRE COMMUNITY IS WELCOME WITH PROOF OF VACCINATION

FRIDAY SERVICES — 7:45 PM

“ESTHER: A WOMAN OF COURAGE”

FOLLOWED BY ONEG SHABBAT DESSERT RECEPTION
GENEROUSLY SPONSORED BY BENJAMIN & HEATHER ALTMAN

SATURDAY SERVICES — 9:30 AM

“RUTH: A WOMAN OF FAITH”

FOLLOWED BY FESTIVE KIDDUSH LUNCH GENEROUSLY SPONSORED BY
DR. ROBERT & MAXINE GREENSTEIN AND JOEL & MARLENE WOLF

SUNDAY BRUNCH — 11:00 AM

“SHIR HASHIRIM: A WOMAN OF LOVE”

BRUNCH AND SESSION

GENEROUSLY UNDERWRITTEN BY GENE STILLMAN
PAID RESERVATIONS REQUIRED BY MONDAY, FEBRUARY 13, 2023
MEMBERS: \$18 ✦ NON-MEMBERS: \$23

FOR INFORMATION CALL THE BETH SHALOM OFFICE 760-200-3636
OR EMAIL US AT INFO@CONGREGATIONBETHSHALOM.NET
42600 COOK ST — STE 205, PALM DESERT, CA 92211 ✦ WWW.CONGREGATIONBETHSHALOM.NET

CLICK HERE TO RSVP for Friday / Saturday
and to REGISTER for the Sunday Brunch



SDJMC
San Diego Jewish Men's Choir

Join us
Sunday, March 19
3:00-5:00 PM

Award-Winning and Billboard Charting



\$15 or more donation recommended.



Sponsored by



Temple Isaiah • Jewish Community Center of Palm Springs
332 West Alejo Road, Palm Springs, CA 92262
Get tickets online at www.templeisiahps.com or call 760-325-2281



PALM SPRINGS JEWISH FILM FESTIVAL - 10th Anniversary

* Festival opens Sunday, March 26 with a live concert featuring SVETLANA PORTNYANSKY, returning from 12 sold-out concerts in Israel
 * 17 films * Q & A with 19 Actors, Producers, Directors & Writers

PLATINUM PASS (Concert & all films) \$150
Concert only \$35 * Individual tickets \$12.

SUNDAY, MARCH 26



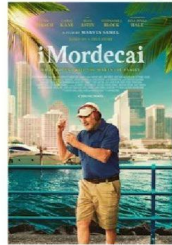
2:00 pm
3:30 pm

SVETLANA PORTNYANSKY CONCERT

* **Terezin: The Code to Life**
 Q&A Live with Svetlana Portnyansky, producer
 * **Our Almost Completely True Story**
 Q&A Live with stars & writers Mariette Hartley & Jerry Sroka



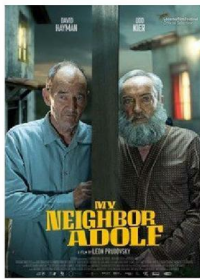
MONDAY, MARCH 27



9:00 am
10:45 am
1:00 pm
4:00 pm
7:00 pm

* **Exodus 91**
 * **Jews of the Wild West**
 Q&A on Zoom with filmmaker Amanda Kinsey
 * **America**
 Q&A Live with director Ofir Raul Graizer
 * **Farewell Mr. Haffmann**
 * **I Mordecai**
 Q&A Live: director Marvin Samel & co-star Azia Dinea Hale

TUESDAY, MARCH 28



9:30 am
10:30 am
1:00 pm

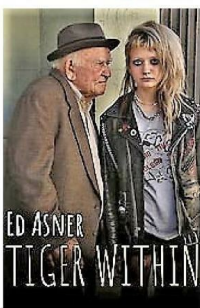
* **Space Torah**
 Q&A on Zoom with director Rob Cooper
 * **Karaoke**
 * **The Trench** and * **Three Minutes: A Lengthening**
 Q&A Live with *The Trench* director Gabriel Bologna and
 Q&A Zoom: Glenn Kurtz, author of *Three Minutes: A Lengthening*

2:30 pm **SPECIAL LIVE Q&A with General George Patton's Granddaughter Helen Ayer Patton**

4:00 pm
7:00 pm

* **Where Life Begins**
 * **My Neighbor Adolf**
 Q&A Live with Udo Kier, actor and star of the film

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 29



10:30 am
1:00 pm
4:00 pm
7:00 pm
9:30 pm

* **Baltic Truth**
 Q&A Live with Eugene Levin, producer and director of *Baltic Truth*
 * **The Last Laugh**
 Q&A on Zoom with Director Ferne Pearlstein;
 Q&A Live with special guest Actor/Director Don Most ('Happy Days')
 and Producer/Writer/Actress Hanala Sagal
 * **Simchas and Sorrows**
 Q&A on Zoom with Genevieve Adams, Actress/star/director/writer
 * **Tiger Within**
 Q&A Live with writer Gina Wendkos and co-star Margot Josephson
 9:30 pm After Party ... Everyone welcome!

The Concert & all films will be held at the Palm Springs Cultural Center (formerly Camelot Theatre), 2300 East Baristo Road, Palm Springs. For information about the Palm Springs Jewish Film Festival, and/or to become a sponsor, call 760-325-2281.

View trailers and purchase your Platinum Pass or individual tickets at www.PSJFF.com.



The 10th Annual Jewish Film Festival
opens Sunday, March 26th with a live performance!

Svetlana in Concert



Svetlana Portnyansky

Svetlana's sensational voice and personal charm has endeared her to audiences around the world. Just returning from 12 sold-out concerts in Israel, she brings her artistry to the opening celebration of the Palm Springs Jewish Film Festival's 10th anniversary. Following her performance and a Q&A, the film she produced, "Terezin: The Code to Life" will open this year's festival.

Svetlana's concert is included in the all-films Platinum Pass for \$150 or separately available for \$35 at www.PSJFF.com.

TEMPLE ISAIAH INVITES YOU TO OUR 60th ANNUAL **Community Seder**

1ST NIGHT OF PASSOVER: WEDNESDAY, APRIL 5th - 6:00 PM
led by Rabbi Steven Rosenberg, Dr. Sarah Sela & very special guests.

Join us for a joyous evening of friendship and lively participation, along with a delicious Seder meal, catered by Manhattan in the Desert



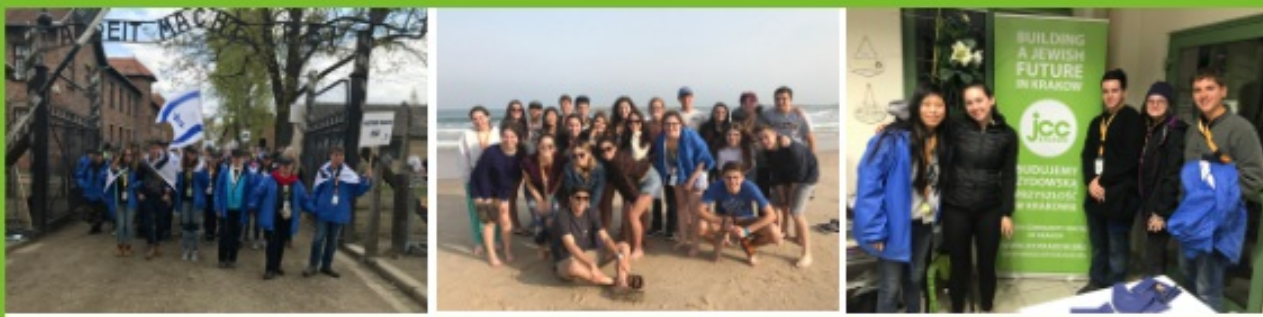
\$75 members / \$85 guests

Dinner Includes choice of gefilte fish or chopped liver; matzah ball soup or salad; beef brisket, roasted chicken or salmon; matzah, charoset, tzimmes, potato kugel, assorted desserts, Manischewitz wine & kosher grape juice.

Reserve your seat at our table! Deadline:
March 23. To RSVP and select meal options, go
online to www.templeisaiahps.com or call the
Temple Office Tuesday-Friday: 760-325-2281.



Temple Isaiah, Jewish Community Center, 332 West Alejo Road, Palm Springs, CA 92262.
Palm Spring's Iconic Synagogue and JCC, proudly serving the Jewish Community since 1947.



A ONCE-IN-A-LIFETIME EXPERIENCE FOR TEENS

Embrace the Past.
Grasp the Future.

Travel Dates:
April 16 - 30, 2023



THE MARCH OF THE LIVING brings together thousands of Jewish teens from all over the world to Poland and Israel.

In Poland you will search for traces of a world that is no more walking the three kilometers from Auschwitz to Birkenau the largest concentration camp complex built during World War II on a "March of the Living". From

Poland you will fly to Israel observing Yom HaZikaron, Israel Memorial Day and celebrating Yom Ha'Atzmaut, Israel Independence Day, on this milestone 75th year.

Open to students in 11 & 12th grade (10th by advance permission) are eligible to participate; all applicants are carefully screened and interviewed. All application materials must be submitted for consideration.

Cost: \$6,995. (This reflects a \$350 built-in scholarship thanks to generous funding from the International March of the Living) The fee does not include domestic airfare. Domestic fees TBA. Needs-based scholarships available.

Information and applications can be found at www.motlthewest.org

WHAT TEENS ARE SAYING ABOUT THE MARCH:

"I leave this experience more proud than ever of where I come from." - Mollie L, San Diego

"If you are ever given the opportunity to participate in the March of the Living, take it. You will not regret it. It will change you and the way you see the world around you, just like it changed me and my perspective on life."

- Stephie W, San Diego

"One of the best decisions I ever made was going on the March of the Living."

- Bailey B., Las Vegas, NV

contact

Marcia Tatz Wollner
Marcia@motlthewest.org
(858) 395-3590

AN OPPORTUNITY NOT TO BE MISSED!

For More Information and Application
for the Western Region March of the Living

[CLICK HERE TO APPLY!](#)

The cost is \$6,995. The fee does not cover domestic travel nor your additional travel insurance. At the moment, we will be flying out of LAX and returning through EWR (Newark), but it is not guaranteed. Scholarships are available in many of our communities. Thank you so much for any support you can give to our local teens.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR THESE
COMMUNITY & HOLIDAY EVENTS

2023 EVENTS

February 17 & 19

12th Annual Scholar-in-Residence Weekend,
made possible by a grant from Jewish Federation of the Desert
Eishet Hayil: Women of Strength
Friday, February 17 — Sunday, February 19
featuring Dr. Tammi J. Schneider,
Professor of Religion, Claremont Graduate University

Registration: www.CongregationBethShalom.net

February 22

13th Annual Israel Guide Dog Center Luncheon at Wally's
Wednesday, February 22, 2023
10:30 Shopping begins; 12:00 Luncheon
For more information contact
Helen Varon at 760-324-6448 or piscala@aol.com

February 22

Har-El Galen Course,
Steve Moyer, Attorney and Professor
For more information 760-668-9943
or by e-mail harelurjpd@gmail.com

February 27

Coachella Valley's first Interfaith conference on Antisemitism
9:00 am -4:00 pm
St. Margret's Church 47535 Highway 74, Palm Desert
Organizers Mensch International Foundation & St. Margret's
Church
For Information: Steve Geiger 760-333-1189

**March 6-7
Purim**

March 18

Children's Book Reading by author Ruthie Darling
11am to 12pm
Sponsored by:
Desert Outreach Synagogue
Unitarian Universalist Church
72425 Via Vail, Rancho Mirage, CA 92270
She will be selling her books with a
percentage going to the DOS Religious School.

March 21

Jewish Federation Golf Tournament
Tamarisk Country Club

March 26-29

10th Annual Jewish Film Festival

March 27

"An Affair to Remember"
Pomegranate at Le Vallauris

April 5

First Seder
Pesach April 5-13

April 30

Yom Ha'atzmaut Community Celebration

May 9

JMOGD Golf Tournament
Eagles Falls Course, Indio

May 25-27

Shavuot

JBC = Jewish Book Council



Your Child or Grandchild will be thrilled if you enroll them in the **PJ Library Free Jewish Books**. Please take a moment and sign them up, you'll be glad you did. [CLICK TO SIGN UP!](#)



**In-Person and Online
Religious Services Throughout
the Coachella Valley and Beyond**



Chabad of Sun City Palm Desert:
Rabbi Yonason Denebeim.
Call [760-848-8250](tel:760-848-8250) or
e-mail: info@chabadsuncity.com for schedule.

Chabad of Palm Springs & Desert Communities:
Rabbi Yonason Denebeim & Rabbi Arik Denebeim
Pre-Shabbat program at 5:30p.m. outside shul and
services held via Zoom. [760-325-0774](tel:760-325-0774)
Visit www.ChabadPS.com for contact and service
information.

Chabad of Rancho Mirage:
Rabbi Shimon Posner
www.chabadrm.com
[760-770-7785](tel:760-770-7785) "Taste of Shul" available Fridays on Zoom
and Facebook live. Send an e-mail: info@chabadrm.com
to be added to mailing list or
for specific virtual programs online.

Congregation Beth Shalom
Ken Hailpern, Spiritual Leader
Shabbat morning services at our new location:
42600 Cook St., Upper Level, Palm Desert at **9:45 AM**
Proof of vaccination required on first in-person return visit.

Visitors welcome with proof of vaccination. www.congregationbethshalom.net

**Congregation Har El - Fridays 5:00 PM
and Torah study Saturdays at 11:00 AM**

Rabbi Richard Zions, PH.D, Cantor Joseph Gole
E-mail: harelurjpd@gmail.com for Zoom invitation and link.

Congregation Shalom Bayit

Rabbi Kenneth Milhander
1320 West Williams Ave., Banning, CA 92220
Contact: [951-392-5380](tel:951-392-5380)

Desert Outreach Synagogue

Rabbi Dr. Jules King, Rabbi Rachel Axelrad,
Rabbi Andrew Bentley and Cantor Lori Reisman
2nd Friday - 7:00 PM - Shabbat Services both

In-person and also on Zoom.

2nd Saturday morning - 10:30-11:30 AM -

An hour of Torah study on Zoom with Rabbi Rachel Axelrad.

Proof of vaccination required. Masks optional.

Check calendar for updates.

Beit Sefer: Religious School is held on Saturday mornings
(Shabbat school), beginning October 8th, from

9:45 AM to noon. B'nei Mitzvah classes for children
with Arava Talve and adults will start in the fall.

Call 760-449-0111 for information and to sign up.

www.Desert-Outreach-Synagogue.com

Or Hamidbar - Fridays 6:30 PM

Kabbalat Shabbat and Saturdays 10:30 AM

Shabbat prayer and study - [Click Here](#)

Sun City Jewish Services

Rabbi Dr. Kenneth Emert, Cantorial Soloist Alan Scott and
Accompanist Brent Reynolds
38180 Del Webb Blvd.

Meeting in Sunset View Clubhouse (2nd Club House)

1st and 3rd Fridays of the month at 7:15 PM

Call Nadine Brinhendler at 707-332-3947, for more
information

Temple Har Shalom, Idyllwild

Erev Shabbat Services the 4th Friday of each month
with Rabbi Ilana Grinblat at 6:00 pm with dinner to follow.

Shabbat teaching with Rabbi Ilana the next morning at
9:30 with bagels and coffee. On all other Fridays of the
month Shabbat Candle Lighting at 6:00 on Zoom.

1st Friday with Rabbi Malka Drucker

2nd Friday with Rabbi Ilana Grinblat

3rd Friday with Board host

Phone: 951-468-0004

For More Information and for Zoom

Link: www.templeharshalomidyllwild.org

Temple Isaiah

Rabbi Steven Rosenberg

Friday evening Shabbat Services in-person

(must provide proof of vaccination) at **7:30 PM**,

preceded by wine and cheese 'nosh and sip' socializing
from **7:00-7:30 PM**. Oneg follows service. Services also

streamed online on our Facebook page
at Temple Isaiah Palm Springs.

**Saturday morning 'nosh and drash' at 10:00 AM,
followed by Shabbat morning services at 10:30 AM.**

Service also broadcast on Zoom & Facebook.

www.templeisaiahps.com

Temple Sinai

Rabbi David Novak rabbi@templesinai.org

Temple Sinai requires all people on the campus
to be fully vaccinated.

Friday Shabbat Services at 5:30 PM

Shabbat morning Torah study at 8:45 AM

Shabbat morning worship at 10:00 AM

All worship is held in-person and available online
at www.templesinaipd.org



Jewish Federation of the Desert

69710 Highway 111, Rancho Mirage, CA 92270
760-324-4737

www.JFEDPS.org
