

Gathering for Good

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



I discovered an interesting study which was released this week by the Pew Research Center. As you have probably learned by now, I like to share studies and research articles on Jewish and Israel topics. This one by Pew caught my attention by the title of the study: **Americans Feel More Positive about Jews, Mainline Protestants, Catholics**. During a time of increased attention and incidents on Antisemitism I was excited to find something positive.

On the whole, 35% of Americans express very or somewhat favorable attitudes toward Jews, while 6% express unfavorable attitudes. The groups examined all rate themselves favorably, on balance. For instance, about eight-in-ten U.S. Jews (81%) rate Jews very or somewhat favorably, versus just 2% who express unfavorable views. Similarly, 80% of members of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints view Mormons favorably, while just 3% hold an unfavorable opinion – a difference of 78 percentage points. Majorities of atheists (72%) and Catholics (66%) also hold favorable views of their own religious groups. If you would like to read more about this study, please check it out at www.pewresearch.org.

JFNA Update:

This week Julie Platt, Chair of the Board of Trustees of the

Jewish Federations of North America, led a group of leaders on a twenty-four-hour fly-in to Jerusalem to meet with Israel's political, civic and business leaders about the advancing legislations in the Knesset that would change the relationship between Israel's legislative and executive branches on the one hand and the relationship with the independent judiciary on the other. According to the report by Julie Platt, the bottom line is clear, "There is a real issue in Israel regarding legislative versus judicial power that must be addressed, and there are real concerns that addressing these issues in the wrong way could fundamentally alter Israel's Jewish, democratic character. Both sides need to listen, learn, and compromise. When a situation becomes so contentious, it is often hard for even obvious compromises to take shape. We are doing everything we can to encourage this process along. In so doing, we believe Federations are acting in the best traditions of Jewish communal leadership"

This week's Torah Portion continues the construction of the tabernacle under Moses' directions and appeals to the community for their skills and dedication. Moses's leadership focuses on the importance of following rules and regulations for the benefit of the community. This highlights the idea of civic responsibility, where individuals are accountable for their actions and decisions and work towards creating a just and equitable society. Overall, the Torah portion Vayakhel-Pekudei emphasizes the importance of community, cooperation, and responsibility towards the collective good, which are all important civic and democratic values.

It is interesting that the teachings from this Torah portion are still relevant today. As a community we are responsible for the collective good to build, maintain and strengthen our community.

Shabbat Shalom, Alan Potash, CEO

Dear Pomegranate Ladies,

We have been publicizing this lovely afternoon "Chai" tea afternoon "An Affair to Remember" for several months now and we hope you will be able to join us for this lovely "Tea" at Le Vallauris on **Monday, March 27 from 2:00-4:00 pm.** We still have a few spaces left, but seating is limited. Please RSVP TODAY with your seating preference or go to our website at www.ifedps.org.

Lynda Zionte

Ja handan

Join Us for An Affair to Remember

POMEGRANATE EVENT



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

CO CHAIRS: Lynda Zionts and Ana Landau

"Chai" Tea Le <u>Vallauris</u> 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



RSVP: Leslie Pepper - 760-324-4737

Lynda Zionts and Ana Landau, co-chairs of our Pomegranate event, are bringing their creativity to ensure our Pomegranate event will be a success! They are reestablishing this event and level of giving to our Federation.

Your commitment as past and current supporters of the vital work our Federation does locally, nationally and internationally will support and add to the significance of the event.

The setting for our Pomegranate event will be "Chai" Tea at the gorgeous Le Vallauris in Palm Springs, "An Affair to Remember" on **Monday, March 27, 2023**. Musical entertainment will by Violin Soloist Cindy Brogan.

Your annual gift of \$1,800.00 or higher will enable us to reach out and help more people who need our support. The couvert for this classy event will be \$75.00.

For more information and to reserve your seats, please contact Leslie Pepper at 760-324-4757.

FROM DESERT TO DESERT:

EXPERIENCE ISRAEL

CELEBRATING ISRAEL AT 75

SEPTEMBER 4-12, 2023



Space is limited. Register now!



The dates are set for September 4-12, 2023, for the Jewish Federation of the Desert's Mission to Israel. This will be a full 8-day trip with 9 nights in hotels featuring the Negev, Jerusalem, Tel Aviv, Old Jaffe, Haifa and one of Alan's favorite places in Israel, Caesarea. Please call the office at 760-324-4737 to let us know if you are interested in this exciting trip!



Did you know that people who understand significantly less than average about Jews, Judaism and the real number of Jews who were killed in the Holocaust are far more likely to believe in antisemitic tropes? Or that belief in conspiracy theories is also a significant predictor of antisemitic beliefs?

This is new data and new findings to build on the ADL survey of Antisemitic Attitudes in America. This is the second report based on the study released in January, which revealed the highest percentage of respondents

harboring extensive antisemitic prejudice in decades. This analysis helps us understand the intersections between antisemitism, ignorance and conspiratorial thinking. And vitally, this helps us find the most effective ways to combat this hatred.

CLICK HERE TO READ THE STORY!



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.



Listen to our "**Getting to Know You**" podcast (Greater Palm Springs and the Coachella Valley). On this episode we talk to with City of Palm Springs Police Chief Andrew Mills

about keeping his city safe and what issues he and his force are tackling.

CLICK HERE TO LISTEN!

Save Your Spot: Tuesday, March 21,2023 Details Below!



2023 FEDERATION DAY

of the Coachella Valley At Tamarisk Country Club

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!

Golf

FOURSOMES MAY BE MEN, WOMEN OR MIXED TEAMS

- · Limited to the first 112 players signed up.
- 9:30 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.

Make Checks Payable: Jewish Federation of the Desert Complete your entry form and return them with your Check to Tamarisk Country Club 70-240 Frank Sinatra Drive, Rancho Mirage, CA 92270 To pay by credit card, contact the Jewish Federation of the Desert to process payment by phone (760) 324.4737.						
Name	Phone					
Address						
Email						
CONTRIBUTIONS FOR THE DAY INCLUDE ALL FOOD AND DRINKS						
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 (8 holes sold)						
My Team			Pair me up			
My Team			Pair me up			

Questions Contact Jewish Federation of the Desert (760) 324-4737



To Register Click the Federation Link Below!

CLICK HERE TO DOWNLOAD ENTRY FORM!



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



Israel 75 chairs, Sheri Borax and Debbie Orgen, are so excited to invite the community to the Israel 75 festivities on Sunday, April 30, from 10:00-2:00 on the Palm Valley School campus. So far, we have over 30 vendors, including our local Jewish organizations, will be represented at the vendor fair, where you can learn more about each organization and a city or area in Israel they are showcasing.

In addition, some local vendors will have handmade jewelry (Roni Spitalnik, Eileen Packer & Vivian Posen), Mah Jongg and other wares to sell (Rene Gains) and much more to come. There will be Israeli wine tasting and a Kids Zone with children's activities available to enjoy. Chabad of Rancho Mirage will be selling Kosher BBQ/Israeli foods. Jewish music will be filling the air and our guest performers Rokduo will have two 40-minute violin concerts of Jewish music for our enjoyment. We will have local clergy and leaders delivering fun mini "Ted Talks" on Israel.

Israel 75 is free of charge to attend but bring your shekels for the wonderful Kosher food and other items for sale. Your spirit is needed to send our birthday greetings to Israel on the occasion of their 75th year as a free Jewish Nation. Please help us and encourage your family and friends to join you on Sunday, April 30, from 10:00AM - 2:00PM at Palm Valley School, 35-525 Da Vall Drive, Rancho

Mirage.

For more information contact Leslie Pepper at 760-324-4737 or leslie.pepper@jfedps.org.



THANK YOU TO OUR ISRAEL 75 SPONSORS

David Morgan, Phyllis Eisenberg











Reserve Your Space Now....
for these Upcoming Community Events



The Braid Celebrates Stories of the Jewish Queer Community in 'Out Loud'

The passion project of The Braid's creative producer, Daphna Shull, "Out Loud" grew out of a one-night only performance they did for PRIDE last year at the Annenberg Community Beach House.

The Braid captures the beauty, diversity, and vibrance of the Jewish Queer experience in "Out Loud," their latest salon show.

For all those who loved past Braid (formerly Jewish Women's Theater Group of LA) performances in the Desert, including The Violins of Hope that we showed at our International Holocaust Commemoration, her are two dates to enjoy a wonderful presentation from the comfort of your own home. You must register to receive the zoom link.

A community under attack. Show up. Support the right to be yourself. Stories full of humor, forgiveness, beauty and love from the queer community in Out Loud, a new work of theatre from The Braid. FREE! Live on Zoom Sun, Mar 19 at 11am PT and Sun, Mar 26 at 4pm PT. Real experiences, brought to life by professional actors.

Go to the-braid.org/outloud, use the code desertif2 on the Checkout Page and be sure to hit the APPLY button. The Zoom link will be sent a few days prior AND the day of the event. For any questions, email: susie@the-braid.org.





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

Award-Winning and Billboard Charting



\$15 or more donation recommended.









Temple Isaiah ● Jewish Community Center of Palm Springs 332 West Alejo Road, Palm Springs, CA 92262

Get tickets online at www.templeisaiahps.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.

SVETLANA PORTNYANSKY CONCERT SUNDAY, MARCH 26 2:00 pm 3:30 pm * Terezin: The Code to Life Q&A Live with Svetlana Portnyansky, producer 7:00 pm * Our Almost Completely True Story Q&A Live with stars & writers Mariette Hartley & Jerry Sroka **MONDAY, MARCH 27** 9:00 am * Exodus 91 10:45 am * Jews of the Wild West Q&A on Zoom with filmmaker Amanda Kinsey 1:00 pm * America Q&A Live with director Ofir Raul Graizer 4:00 pm * Farewell Mr. Haffmann 7:00 pm * | Mordecai Q&A Live: director Marvin Samel & co-star Azia Dinea Hale **TUESDAY, MARCH 28** * Space Torah 9:30 am Q&A on Zoom with director Rob Cooper 10:30 am * Karaoke 1:00 pm * 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 * Where Life Begins 4:00 pm 7:00 pm * My Neighbor Adolf Q&A Live with Udo Kier, actor and star of the film WEDNESDAY, MARCH 29 10:30 am * Baltic Truth Q&A Live with Eugene Levin, producer and director of Baltic Truth 1:00 pm * 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 4:00 pm * Simchas and Sorrows Q&A on Zoom with Genevieve Adams, Actress/star/director/writer 7:00 pm * Tiger Within Q&A Live with writer Gina Wendkos and co-star Margot Josefsohn

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.

After Party ... Everyone welcome!

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

9:30 pm



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.



The directions and gate code will be included in your confirmation e-mail. Your couvert will be payable at the door. A reservation is your committment to attend. Enjoy and bring your friends!

Har-El Congregational Passover Seder

First Night of Passover • Wednesday, April 5, 2023 • 6:00 PM

"Let all who wish, come and celebrate the Passover with us"

Location: CHEZ PIERRE BISTRO Hwy. 111 & Portola, Palm Desert

> Adults \$89 Children 11 & under \$65

This is a catered event • SEATING LIMITED Let us know if you need a vegetarian meal.

Reservations required by March 27th







Chopped Liver and
Traditional Gefilte Fish with Beet Horseradish
Choice of Poached Salmon with Dill Sauce or
Braised Organic Chicken in Red Wine (Coq au Vin)
A special entree can be requested
Entrees served with potato kugel and spring vegetables

Dessert: Baked Granny Apple stuffed with raisins & walnuts and homemade caramel sauce



PASSOVER SEDER RESERVATION:						
Name(s)						
Reservations: Adults	@ \$89 \$; Children	@\$65 \$	TOTAL: \$		
I/We have added an additional amount of \$ for the Passover meal for those less fortunate.						
☐ Enclosed is a check of \$;						
□ Charge \$ to my Visa □ MasterCard □. Name on card						
No			_Expiration	Security code		
Mail to: Har-El c/o L. Zionts, 106 Piazza Perrone, Palm Desert, CA 92260						



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



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.



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 2023 COMMUNITY & HOLIDAY EVENTS

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

Chabad of Sun City Palm Desert:

Rabbi Yonason Denebeim. Call <u>760-848-8250</u> or

e-mail: <u>info@chabadsuncity.com</u> 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. <u>760-325-0774</u>
Visit <u>www.ChabadPS.com</u> for contact and service information.

Chabad of Rancho Mirage:

Rabbi Shimon Posner www.chabadrm.com

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

Visitors Welcome.

www.congregationbethshalom.net

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

Rabbi Richard Zionts, 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

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.

<u>rabbi@my-dos.org</u> <u>www.my-dos.org</u>

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

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 <u>rabbi@templesinai.org</u>
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