

Gathering for Good

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



This has been a very informative week at the Federation of On Monday, we hosted former Israeli the Desert. Parliament member and the first Druze woman elected to the Knesset Gadeer Kamel Mreeh. Currently she is traveling around the country as the Senior Envoy of the Jewish Agency for Israel to the Jewish Federation of Greater Washington. Her presentation focused on her life as a member of the Druze community in Israel and her role as a leader in a patriarchal culture. As a former journalist and TV News Anchor, doing broadcasts in both Hebrew and Arabic, she brought a unique voice to Knesset by speaking to the needs of the Druze community and other minority in Israel. After her noon presentation at the Federation, she spoke to students at Hillel at UC Riverside. She spoke to not only Jewish students but other students who were interested in learning about the Druze Community in Israel.



Alberto and I were invited to attend a special program here in the Desert, hosted by the Jewish Federation of Greater Vancouver. As a community made up of snowbirds several Federations make a special trip to the Desert to meet with their community members and donors. I am working on building relationships with my colleagues, so they feel comfortable about including our Federation in their events or meetings. If you are a member of another community and they are planning a visit, please let them know that we are here as a resource.

Thursday, March 16, 3:00 PM at the Federation. I will be leading an introductory conversation about our September Israel trip (see flyer and information below).

Tuesday, March 21, Federation Golf Day at Tamarisk. There is still time to sign up. You may visit our website jfedps.org or call the Federation office to register.

Is there a need for a Jewish Day School? I will be hosting a discussion at the Federation on Sunday, March 26th, at 1:00 pm, to discuss the need and interest in a Jewish Day School for our community. Please RSVP to gloria.benavides@jfedps.org if you are interested in attending.

A quick glimpse at this week's Torah Portion and how it relates to building community. Ki Tisa. I mentioned in previous emails about the census and the contribution of the half-shekel needed to build the tabernacle—I will leave out the part about the golden calf and focus on the building of the tabernacle. Moses, as a visionary and project manager, needs the skill set of the community to construct each part for the tabernacle. He needs to not only instruct them but to inspire and motivate them to build and assemble them into parts. As leaders in our community, whether you represent the federation, a synagogue, Hillel, or a country club, we are dependent on the collective skills of the community to be successful. So, if you are called upon to be a leader like Moses, to be successful, you need the community with you.

Shabbat Shalom, Alan Potash, CEO

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. There will be an informative meeting at the Federation office on **Thursday, March 16, at 3:30 PM**. Please call the office at 760-324-4737 to let us know you will be attending.

Israel Guide Dog Center

by Alberto Tejero, CFO Jewish Federation of the Desert

Helen Varon (Chair) hosted a lunch at Wally's Desert Turtle to honor the Israel Guide Dog Center. Dan McGrath served as the Master of Ceremonies and Phyllis Eisenberg was in charge of the raffle. Noach Braun, CEO and co-founder of the Israel Guide Dog Center, was the speaker and Danial Attal, program participant and volunteer, a special guest.

The Israel Guide Dog Center is one of the many organizations we proudly sponsor at the Jewish Federation of the Desert as part of our Israel, Overseas and World Jewry allocations program.

During the event, we had the opportunity to chat with Noach Braun and Daniel Attal who also shared his amazing story with the audience: Daniel, a father of three daughters, completely lost his sight 20 years ago. Soon after his prognosis was confirmed, he fell into a deep depression that cost him his marriage and job. Daniel felt like he was wearing an "iron suit" that kept him from performing simple tasks. Some time later, a friend introduced him to the Guide Dog program and when he felt "ready," Daniel made the call that turned his life around and would finally liberate him from the heavy burden that was keeping him down. The actual turning point was when Daniel went for a "test" night walk in the city and, in his words, "he felt free and human again." He could hear, taste and sense his surroundings. With every step he was shedding the heavy weight that had been chaining him to the ground.

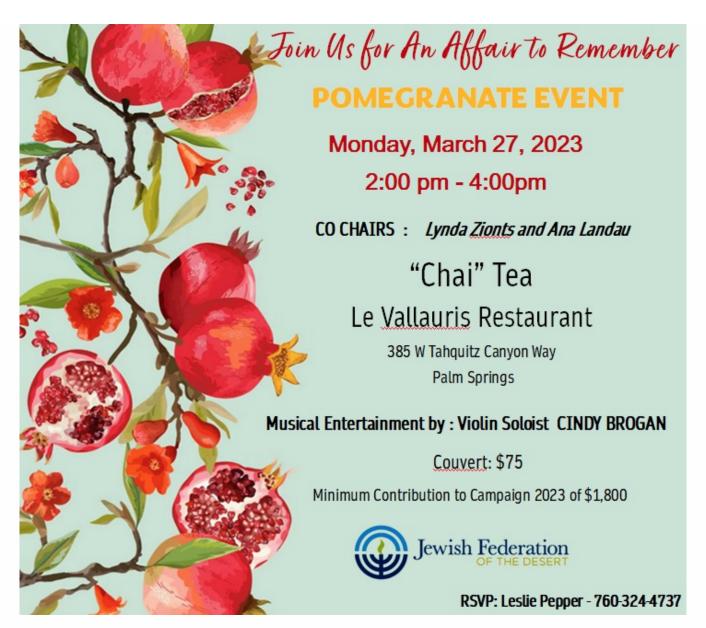
Each guide dog is trained since very young and when ready "to work" will spend a minimum of three weeks (day and night) adapting and training with his soon to be life companion. The working life of a guide dog is approximately ten years. After their guide life is over, the dogs retire, and are usually adopted by a family, or work as emotional support dogs. "Yellow" is Daniel's second guide dog and has been his daily companion for the last four years. Together they have travelled the world, and even walked the busy streets of New York City.

Today, Daniel is fully employed and also works as a volunteer at the Center. He recently married Nadine, a successful designer, and they reside in the city of Netanya (northern central district of Israel). As everyone in the room, including myself, wiped our happy tears, Daniel's incredible journey reminded us how the Center has impacted the lives of so many.

Through the years, and thanks to your generous contributions, the Jewish Federation of the Desert has partnered with many local and overseas programs to provide hope and opportunities to thousands of children and adults. Please feel free to contact us at (760) 324-4737, for more information.







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.

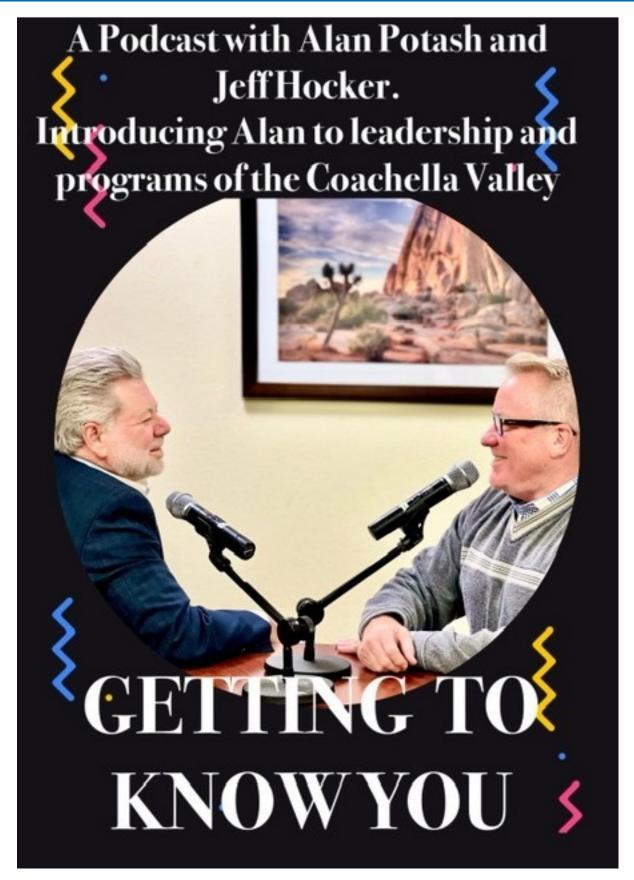
Your annual gift of \$1,800.00 or higher will enable us to reach out and help more people who need our support. The couvert for this classy event will be \$75.00.

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



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 Ellen Goodman, Director, The Foundation for the Palm Springs Unified School District. She'll share insight into its mission and several of the incredible programs that help our youth.

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			

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!





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 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.

Debbie Orgen and Sheri Borax, chairs of this event, are so excited to finally have a community Celebration to honor Israel's birthday! Israeli and 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, at Palm Valley School, 35-525 Da Vall Drive, Rancho Mirage, CA, 92270, from 10:00-2:00.



THANK YOU TO OUR FIRST SPONSORS FOR ISRAEL 75





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



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

Call Now to RSVP: 760-324-4737 or Click Graphic for Link to Register





HAR-EL GALEN COURSE: WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 22 - 3:30 PM

Har-El Galen Course Chair, Steve Moyer, Attorney-at-Law and Professor leads a discussion with a panel of attorneys: Barry Messinger and Prof. Samuel Russell, Attorneys-at-Law, on chapters from *The January 6 Report*—Not to be missed. This report is available, in its entirety, on Amazon-Those registering will receive the titles and numbers of the chapters to be reviewed and discussed.

Email harelurjpd@gmail.com for Zoom invite and to register for the program.







Risk it all to be yourself! See these daring stories of the Jewish LGBTQIA+ 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 (**desertjf2**) on the checkout page and be sure to hit the APPLY button. You will receive 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.

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



a shales of refilts fish or shanned livery metrols

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 11

Joe Goldman, HIAS Western Regional
Director of Community Engagement
Zoom talk on the work of HIAS in Israel and will
include update on their work in Ukraine
For Zoom Link: info@havurahofthedesert.org
Sponsored by Havurah of the Desert
www.Havurahofthedesert.org

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: <u>951-392-5380</u>

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> www.my-dos.org

Or Hamidbar - Fridays 6:30 PM Kabbalat Shabbat and Saturdays 10:30 AM Chabbat prayer and study Click Horo

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. <u>www.templeisaiahps.com</u>

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