

# Gathering for Good

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



There is a lot to share today in this e-blast. I first want to congratulate Jane Sherman for recently being honored by Masa Israel Journey on International Women's Day. Jane was honored for her leadership and impact globally on behalf of the Jewish community.

## Palm Springs Jewish Film Festival:

This weekend begins the Palm Springs Jewish Film Festival. The Jewish Federation of the Desert has been a sponsor of the festival for many years. Please see the schedule below for details. As part of the film festival, Rabbi Rosenberg will be in conversation tonight at Temple Isaiah with Helen Ayer Patton, the granddaughter of General Patton. Services are at 7:30 pm.

## **Happiness:**

This week as part of the UN's International Day of Happiness was the release of the World Happiness Index.

This is one of my favorite world studies. Over the past ten years a study has been conducted on the state of happiness around the world. The study focuses on six factors and ranks each country on these factors. The factors are GDP per capita, Social Support, Healthy life expectancy, Freedom to make life choices, Generosity, perceptions of corruption, and Dystopia + Residual.

A quick rundown of the top five countries includes Finland, Denmark, Iceland, Israel, and the Netherlands. United States came in 15th behind Canada and Ireland. I have shared in the past that Israel has ranked high in this study, but this is the first time they have made it in the top five. Feel free to check out the full study...<u>CLICK HERE FOR</u> <u>WORLD HAPPINESS REPORT!</u>

## Day School Focus Group:

On Sunday, March 26th, I will be facilitating a focus group on the interests and needs for the community to have a Jewish day school. We will meet at the Federation building at 1:00 pm.

Please contact the office if you are interested in participating.

## Federation Golf Day at Tamarisk:

Due to the inclement weather last week, we had to make changes to the day. We split the event into two parts. Part one was lunch and cards and part two will take place Monday, March 27th.

For planning purposes, please confirm your attendance at the cocktail party to either Bob Diamond at <u>dimobob@me.com</u> or Kim Shwachman at <u>ksps2324@comcast.net</u>.

Also, on Monday we will be hosting our Pomegranate event. See all of the details below.

## D'Var Torah:

As we look at this week's Torah portion, Vayikra, we enter the concept of sacrifices and the roles of leadership. While the concept of animal sacrifices is no longer practiced, the values embedded in the system are still relevant today in the form of philanthropy. As we examine the lessons from Vayikra we are reminded of the importance of generosity.

May we give generously and wholeheartedly in our ability to strengthen our community and uplift those in need.

## Shabbat Shalom, Alan Potash, CEO



## Join JFED for a Special Conversation and Presentation Ariella Loewenstein, ADL, Deputy Regional Director "Current Landscape of Hate and Antisemitism"

## Tuesday, April 4, 2023, 2:00 PM

Jewish Federation Office 69710 Highway 111, Rancho Mirage



# ARE YOU SEARCHING FOR A JEWISH DAY SCHOOL?

You are invited to join a discussion exploring the need and interest for our local community:

DATE: Sunday, March 26th, 2023

TIME: 1:00 PM

VENUE: Jewish Federation of the Desert 69710 Hwy 111, Rancho Mirage, CA 92270

If attending, please RSVP to: Gloria.Benavides@JFedPS.org



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 from 2:00-4:00PM**. Entertainment will be by the talented Violin Soloist Cindy Brogan.

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.

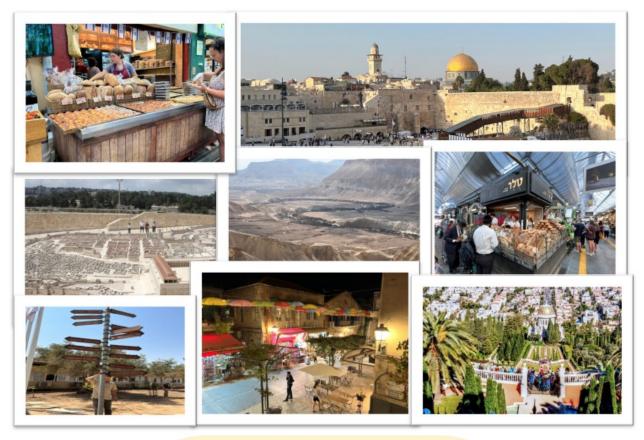
Your annual gift of \$1,800.00 or higher will enable us to reach out and help more people who need our support. The couvert for this classy event will be \$75.00.

For more information and to reserve your seats, please

contact Leslie Pepper at 760-324-4757 or <u>leslie.pepper@jfedps.org</u>.

# 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!





## If you are interested in helping with the relief effort, <u>CLICK</u> <u>HERE</u>

or you can contact our office and we will see that it goes to the right sources at 760-324-4737.

# A Podcast with Alan Potash and Jeff Hocker. Introducing Alan to leadership and programs of the Coachella Valley



Listen to our "**Getting to Know You**" podcast (Greater Palm Springs and the Coachella Valley). On this episode, Jeff introduced me to Sandra Schulz, a long time Valley resident and non-profit leader with the Coachella Valley Symphony and Eisenhower Medical Center Auxiliary. She is also a figure skater!

## **CLICK HERE TO LISTEN!**



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, 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 <u>leslie.pepper@jfedps.org</u>.



THANK YOU TO OUR ISRAEL 75 SPONSORS

## David Morgan, Phyllis Eisenberg





Highlighting our Israel 75 cultural festival, there will be performances by ROKduo, two Polish violinists who are supporters and promoters of Jewish Heritage in Poland. These accomplished violinists have performed all over Europe at Synagogues, festivals and Jewish gatherings and are making a return visit to the United States.

We are thrilled to welcome them to our Israel 75 festivities on April 30 which is open to the community at no charge. Kosher food will be available for purchase and so much more! Stay tuned for more information on vendors who will be with us for our celebration. Contact Leslie Pepper at 760-324-4737 or leslie.pepper@jfedps.org for more up to the minute details as we are adding vendors daily!

community Celebration to honor Israel's birthday! Israeli and Jewish music will be filling the air and our guest performers (Rok Duo) will have 2- 40 minute violin concerts of Jewish music for our enjoyment.



# Israel's 75th Birthday

**RokDuo Programm** 

התקווה

"Hatikva" - " The Hope" national anthem of State of Israel ירושלים ש ל זהב "Yerushalaim Shel Zahav" Jerusalem of Gold" שלום עליכם Israel Goldfarb " Shalom Aleychem"

פל שרה Fel Shara" - sefardic melody

תזיז את אסא Flory Jagoda " Hamisha Asar" sefardic melody

אויפן פריפטשיק " Oyfen Pripetschik" ashkenazy melody

ביי קרידה " Adio Kerida" sefardic melody נושא מרשימת שינדלר

John Wiliams " Theme from Schindler's List" ג'ונגלרוס Ewelina Nowicka " Jonglerous" אין וריאציות של נגילה Ewelina Nowicka " Hava Nagila Variations"

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

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

## FREE! Live on Zoom Sunday, March 26 at 4pm PT. Real experiences, brought to life by professional actors.

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. Go to <u>the</u><u>braid.org/outloud</u>, use the code (desertjf2) 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: <u>susie@the-braid.org</u>.



Temple Isaiah, Jewish Community Center of Palm Springs Special Event!

RABBI STEVEN ROSENBERG WELCOMES HELEN AYER PATTON, Granddaughter of General George Patton, FOR A VERY SPECIAL "IN CONVERSATION" PREVIEW AT SHABBAT SERVICES FRIDAY, MARCH 24<sup>th</sup> AT 7:30 PM



● Temple Isaiah, 332 West Alejo Road, Palm Springs, CA 92262 ● Palm Springs' Iconic Synagogue & JCC, proudly serving the Jewish Community for 75 years.

PALM SPRINGS JEWISH FILM FESTIVAL	* Festival ETLANA POI * 17 films PLAT	NGS JEWISH FILM FESTIVAL - 10 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary opens Sunday, March 26 with a live concert featuring RTNYANSKY, returning from 12 sold-out concerts in Israel © Q & A with 19 Actors, Producers, Directors & Writers TINUM PASS (Concert & all films) \$150 ert only \$35 * Individual tickets \$12.		
SUNDAY, MARCH 26	2:00 pm 3:30 pm	SVETLANA PORTNYANSKY CONCERT * Terezin: The Code to Life		
Ours	3:30 pm	Q&A Live with Svetlana Portnyansky, producer		
Almost Complety True Story	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		
And a state of the	10:45 am	* Jews of the Wild West		
Mordecai	1:00 pm	Q&A on Zoom with filmmaker Amanda Kinsey * America		
Lasla	1.00 pm	Q&A Live with director Ofir Raul Graizer		
	4:00 pm	* Farewell Mr. Haffmann		
	7:00 pm	* I Mordecai		
		Q&A Live: director Marvin Samel & co-star Azia Dinea Hale		
TUESDAY, MARCH 28	9:30 am	* Space Torah		
	10.00	Q&A on Zoom with director Rob Cooper		
	10:30 am 1:00 pm	* 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		
ADOLE	4:00 pm	* Where Life Begins		
	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		
	1:00 pm	Q&A Live with Eugene Levin, producer and director of Baltic Truth * The Last Laugh		
5 T 00	1:00 pm	Q&A on Zoom with Director Ferne Pearlstein;		
		Q&A Live with special guest Actor/Director Don Most ('Happy Days')		
	1.00	and Producer/Writer/Actress Hanala Sagal		
	4:00 pm	* Simchas and Sorrows Q&A on Zoom with Genevieve Adams, Actress/star/director/writer		
ED ASNER	7:00 pm	* Tiger Within		
TIGER WITHIN		Q&A Live with writer Gina Wendkos and co-star Margot Josefsohn		
	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 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Jewish Film Festival opens Sunday, March 26<sup>th</sup> 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 10<sup>th</sup> 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.

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



## Menn



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 RE	SERVATION:	
Name(s)	and a standard line in a standard standard standard standard standard standard standard standard standard stand		
Reservations: Adults@	\$89 \$; Children _	@\$65 \$	TOTAL: \$
I/We have added an addition	nal amount of \$fo	or the Passover meal	for those less fortunate.
	Enclosed is a check	of \$;	
□ Charge \$ to my Visa [	□ MasterCard □. Name o	on card	
No		_ Expiration	Security code
Mail to: Har-El c/	/o L. Zionts, 106 Piazza P	errone, Palm Dese	rt, CA 92260







#### A ONCE-IN-A-LIFETIME EXPERIENCE FOR TEENS

INTERNATIONAL

WHAT TEENS ARE SAYING

"I leave this experience more proud

"If you are ever given the opportunity

than ever of where I come from." -

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

"One of the best decisions I ever made

was going on the March of the Living."

ABOUT THE MARCH:

Mollie L, San Diego

- Stephie W, San Diego

Bailey B., Las Vegas, NV

## 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

> contact Marcia Tatz Wollner Marcia@motithewest.org (858) 395-3590

life."

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.

Friday, March 24, 2023

## My JEWISH LEARNING



A Night to Remember: An Online Passover Seder

CLICK HERE TO REGISTER!



Passover Marshmallow Brownies

**CLICK HERE TO READ MORE!** 

## MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR THESE 2023 COMMUNITY & HOLIDAY EVENTS

## March 26-29 10th Annual Jewish Film Festival

## March 27

"An Affair to Remember" Pomegranate at Le Vallauris

## March 27

Jewish Federation Golf Tournament Tamarisk Country Club

## April 4 at 2:00 PM Join JFED for a Special Conversation and Presentation with Ariella Loewenstein,

ADL, Deputy Regional Director "Current Landscape of Hate and Antisemitism"

> Jewish Federation Office 69710 Highway 111, Rancho Mirage

### 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. <u>CLICK TO SIGN UP!</u>



## **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

<u>760-770-7785</u> "Taste of Shul" available Fridays on Zoom and Facebook live. Send an e-mail: <u>info@chabadrm.com</u> 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: <u>harelurjpd@gmail.com</u> 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. rabbi@my-dos.org

www.my-dos.org

Or Hamidbar - Fridays 6:30 PM Kabbalat Shabbat and Saturdays 10:30 AM Shabbat prayer and study - <u>Click Here</u>

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. <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 <u>www.templesinaipd.org</u>

> Jewish Federation of the Desert 69710 Highway 111, Rancho Mirage, CA 92270 760-324-4737

> > www.JFEDPS.org