

Yom Ha'Atzma'ut — April 15



April 2021

Nisan-Iyar 5781

The Brotherhood invites you to a very special afternoon at The Living Desert on Sunday, April 18th at 1 PM. Our guide for this walking tour will be Dr. James Danoff-Burg who is the Director of Conservation at The Living Desert.

Dr. Danoff-Burg's talk at the March speakers series was a big hit due to his knowledge, enthusiasm and engaging presentation, so don't miss out on this live in-person event.

This expert-led tour is a must event for families and children, as well as for our more active seniors. If you know anything about The Living Desert you won't want to miss this.

To join us for this special event please sign up by emailing Joe Weiss at bbqjoey@gmail.com

We meet at the entrance to The Living Desert at 1 PM Sunday, April 18th for our guided tour which will be offered free for all with admission.



FROM THE RABBI

Passover, our festival of liberation, extends into April this year. It is our annual retelling of our liberation from our narrow places, “tsar” in Hebrew. “Tsar” is part of the Hebrew word for Egypt, Mitzarim. Many of you know tsuris, the Yiddish derivative defined as all of those things large and small that cause us aggravation. The pandemic is a major cause of our tsuris—to our physical and emotional well being. It is our latest narrow place to traverse.



Rabbi David Novak

Those of us who have received the vaccine express relief after a year of living in fear of Covid. Still, many people remain anxious while waiting even as the flow of vaccines continues to accelerate. It is my hope that anyone who wants to be vaccinated will have it no later than June.

Riverside County is now in the Red Tier (at the time of this writing) that allows some activities to resume. Even with the gradual reopening, we are still obligated to wear face masks, regularly wash our hands, use hand sanitizer and practice “social distancing” which includes refraining from being close to people, giving hugs and kisses to people outside of our immediate families, and being separated from people we care about. These represent real losses to our humanity.

This sense of loss is the invisible aspect of the pandemic. Our emotional well-being is affected by our isolation from one another and the absence of the activities that once gave our lives structure. As your rabbi, it is important for you to know that I am here for anything that you would like to discuss confidentially with me. Leave a message or email me and I will arrange a time for us to talk. This is no time to be shy: I am here for you.

For those of you asking about when Temple Sinai will fully reopen, the answer is two fold: (1) we are already giving this active thought and planning and (2) we are planning for the High Holy Days to hopefully have in-person and online worship. Please know that is a priority for us, and, when we are reassured that it is safe to do so, our Temple’s doors will be swung wide open.

We will emerge from our narrow place. Remind yourself that we have each other to share our love and our caring.

L’Shalom,

Rabbi David Novak

President's Message

After going through the pandemic for the past year it is time we recognize our wonderful staff who have kept our congregation involved, even if not in the building.

Big thanks start with Arava Talve and all of the religious school teachers. They guided the change to zoom learning without missing a beat. Attendance actually increased, Confirmation last September and confirmation this May will be held in the Temple, but as last year only immediate family will attend in person. Everyone else can enjoy through our virtual streaming.



Keeping the business of the Temple was made more difficult with our staff working from home. The staff developed a schedule which brought them into the temple on a greatly reduced schedule, but enough time to stay current on receiving funds, paying our bills and trying to respond to our congregants' needs. Toni Robinson, Temple Manager directs a very talented staff of Elaine McDonald, communications, Jim Dobis, bookkeeper and our two part time custodians, Adrian and Ben.

Rabbi David Novak had the unenviable task of starting his tenure as our rabbi on July 1st, 2020 during the pandemic's roar. Rabbi Novak is a true people person. He has made many phone and zoom calls trying to reach out to his congregants. Along with many people he has voiced his excitement of meeting people in person once we are able to get back in our building. His involvement in all areas of temple activity speaks well for our future. He is a leader by doing, not just speaking. We are a fortunate temple to have Rabbi Novak as our leader.

The Rabbi and the Board of Trustees regularly discuss the issues of reopening. We will continue updating you as plans develop.

L'shalom

Bob Glast



Next Sip and Schmooze is
Sunday, April 18 at 5:00 PM

Temple Leadership

Executive Committee

Bob Glast	President
Sanford Friedman	1st Vice President
Michael Sonduck	2nd Vice President
Rosanne Ezer	Treasurer
Ann Loeb	Corporate Secretary
Jack Olshansky	Past President

Trustees:

Ann Miller	Membership
Micki Greenspan	Ambassador
Fred Fabricant	Ritual Committee
Terrie Turner	Chavurot
Gary Levin	Education Liaison
Joe Weiss	House and Grounds

Auxiliaries:

Nancy Singer	President, Women of Sinai
Joe Weiss	President, Brotherhood
Whitney Rosam	President, PTO

President's Circle

Picce & Bob Glast
Mitzie & Jack Olshansky

Patron

Barbara & Ron Borden
Jessica and James Greene
Leslie & Joel Hirschberg

Patron Mitzvah

Ruth & Morris Beschloss
Marion Cowle
Sharon & Rod Hill
Ann & Glynne Miller
Ruth & Jerry Newman
Nancy & Arthur Shorr
Marcia & Rick Stein

Single Patron

Janet Ball
Sandie Eichberg
Fred Fabricant
Sally Frank
Shirley Greenwall
Gladys Layne
Reesa Manning
Alicia Rodriguez
Nancy Singer

Upcoming Community Virtual Events



ISRAEL

Consulate General of Israel in Los Angeles



SAVE THE DATE!

Thursday, April 8

**Yom HaShoah
Holocaust
Commemoration**

Join Jewish Federation of the Desert and the Consul General of Israel in Los Angeles for a special Yom HaShoah Holocaust Commemoration. This solemn, yet inspirational virtual event will include videos from CEO Bruce Landgarten, the Desert Holocaust Memorial in Palm Desert and special presentations from the Consul General of Israel in Los Angeles. Zoom Link and additional information will be available in next week's JFED E-Newsletter.



**Sunday, April 11
11:00a.m. - PST**

**Sephardic Victims
of the Shoah**

Sephardic communities from throughout Southern Europe and North Africa were nearly eradicated and forever changed due to the brutality of the Nazis and their collaborators. We pay tribute to their experiences by welcoming diverse voices to amplify victims' stories, honor the legacy of those who perished, and stand together as one Jewish community. Featuring a keynote address by Dr. Aomar Boum, Associate Professor & Vice Chair of Undergraduate Studies, UCLA Department of Anthropology. Generously sponsored by the California Legislative Jewish Caucus.

TO REGISTER: Go to [JFEDPS.ORG](https://www.jfedps.org) and scroll down to the blue "Federation and Community Virtual Programs box."

Torah Portions April 2021

April 3 — 21 Nisan

Yom Shvi'i shel Pesach (7th day of Pesach)

Exodus 14:30–15:21

After crossing the sea, the Israelites looked back at the drowned Egyptians. They had faith in God and Moses, and sang a song retelling their deliverance from Egypt.

April 10 — 28 Nisan

Shmini (Eighth)

Leviticus 9:1 - 11:47, Numbers 19:1 - 22

God commands Aaron and his sons to make the burnt and sin offerings at the Tabernacle. When God accepts the offerings, the people shout with joy. God describes to Moses the laws of kashrut.

April 17 — 5 Iyar

Tazria-Metzora (She Bears Seed-Infected One)

Leviticus 12:1 - 15:33

God instructs Moses about the purification rituals for mothers following childbirth. God then describes to Moses and Aaron the procedures for identifying and responding to those infected with leprosy.

God describes the purification ritual for people and homes afflicted with skin diseases; God also instructs Moses and Aaron regarding the laws of the emission of bodily fluids.

April 24 — 12 Iyar

Achrei Mot-Kedoshim (After Death-Holy Ones)

Leviticus 16:1 - 20:27

God speaks to Moses after the death of Aaron's two sons, who were killed for coming too close to the presence of God. God instructs Moses and Aaron on the procedures surrounding Yom Kippur. God describes all the laws surrounding sexual prohibitions.

God describes to Moses many ethical and ritual laws aimed at helping people live lives of holiness. The laws described include some of those recorded in the Ten Commandments, such as respecting one's parents, keeping the Sabbath and not stealing. God also introduces laws about farming and about belief in supernatural beings.

FRIDAY NIGHT SERVICES

April 2 5:30 PM

(Passover Evening 7)

April 9 5:30 PM

April 16 5:30 PM

April 23 5:30 PM

April 30 5:30 PM

To participate in Erev Shabbat services, Torah Study, and Shabbat Morning, please click on the link on the front page of our website:

www.templesinaipd.org

If you are using a mobile device, you may have to go to your app store and download *Zoom*.

SATURDAY MORNINGS

Torah Study at 8:45

April 3 10:00 AM

April 10 10:00 AM

April 17 10:00 AM

April 24 10:00 AM



Temple Manager Toni Robinson

From the Temple Manager

As some of our “snowbirds” make preparations to return to their “other” home, many for the first time in over a year, I reflect on how far we have come and how patient we have been, I applaud us all.

We, seeing a light at the end of this long dark tunnel, are making plans for the reopening of Sinai. We don’t know exactly when, but we need to be ready when the day comes. There is much more to do than just fling the doors open and say welcome back.

Currently we are developing schedules and procedures for sanitization of everything we all touch on a regular basis. Once we see how we fare after spring break, we will have a better idea about timing. We suspect that there will be limited capacity in the beginning and that face coverings will still be required as well as social distancing.

The joy of this planning is overwhelming from time to time, but we all gladly soldier on toward the goal. Rabbi Novak reminds us that we need to approach this with an abundance of caution to continually improve and move toward a fully open and functioning synagogue. In addition to managing the flow of people for worship services there are also meeting times and groups that need to be taken into consideration. In this article I want to make sure you are all aware that we are trying to find just the right set of protocols that will allow us to congregate and remain safe and healthy.

As we make our way through the week of Passover and on to the rituals and celebrations of Yom Hashoah, Yom Hazikaron, Yom HaAtzma’ut and Lag BaOmer, I found that the article I quote here reflects my own observations.

FROM THE DESERT SUN

By Ericka Andersen

“...As we edge closer to the end of the COVID-19 pandemic, research shows one thing for certain: The faster people get back to (*their worship services*) the better it will be for them, and for the country as a whole.

A recent Gallup survey found that those who have prioritized weekly attendance at worship services throughout the pandemic have emerged – not merely unscathed – but mentally improved. Weekly worshippers reported a 4-percentage point increase in their mental health. Every other sub-group went negative.

Regardless of race, age, political affiliation, gender, or income, only those who consistently attended religious services each week (online or in-person) are happier today than they were a year ago when COVID-19 began to capsize the globe.

This lines up with historical research on mental health and (*religious service*) attendance. Broad based evidence demonstrates that attendance at worship services is indispensable to a happy, generous, flourishing society.

Pew research found that actively religious adults are more likely to be happy, volunteer time to good causes and be more civically involved than non-religious or non-practicing religious folks.

Other studies, like one from the National Library of Medicine, provide evidence that regular (*worship attendees*) live longer, happier lives.”

GENEROUS DONATIONS

GENERAL FUND

Yahrzeit

Nathan Bookin

By: Renee & Ron Partelow

Abbie Pozzner

By: Brenda Katz

Vivian Hill

By: Rodney Hill

Gertrude Jackoway

By: Lorraine & Herb Pregozen

Miriam Ross

By: Stephanie & Paul Ross

IN HONOR OF

Book Club

By: Sandie Eichberg

Tzedakah

Lisa & Brian Gottlieb

Mitzie & Jack Olshansky

RABBI'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

Yahrzeit

Donald Pierce

By: Nancy Pierce

Debbie Katz

By: Ron Katz

Tillie Schmeltzer

By: Resa & Charles Fremed

Hilda Weinstein

By: Lee & Harold Weinstein

DOROSHOW EDUCATION FUND

Yahrzeit

Dr. George Doroshow

By: Fran Kaufman

MITZVAH FOOD BANK FUND

Yahrzeit

Merle Solomon

By: Jerome Solomon

IN HONOR OF

Gail & Saul Jacobs

By: Stephanie & Paul Ross

Natalie Stets

By: Ellen & William Sachs

Tzedakah

Kevin Giser

Betty & Neil Colt

RABBI AVI LEVINE RELIGIOUS SCHOOL

Yahrzeit

Rose Singer

Martin Singer

By: Nancy Singer

Bella Levin

Leon Falkowitz

By: Gary Levin

Ben Glast

By: Picce & Bob Glast

Harry Kirzner

Anna Goodman

By: Gloria & Ed Rudetsky

IN MEMORY OF

Myles Fishman

By: Gary Levin

Vivian Zeligson

By: Fred Fabricant

Tzedakah

Marion Cowle

Rosa & Harris Weinstein

BROTHERHOOD SIGN PROJECT

By: Bob Denebeim

BROTHERHOOD/FEDERATION

PASSOVER FOOD DRIVE

Mitzie & Jack Olshansky

Nancy Singer

Sharon & James Danoff-Berg

Gordon & Eve Kramer

Ruben & Alicia Rodriguez

Nancy & Len Foster

Ilene & Richard Harris

JOINT BROTHERHOOD-WOS-PTO PROGRAMS

Nancy Singer

A Special Thank-You to the Members Who Have Already Contributed to the Save our Future Fund

Brenda Berman	Saul & Gail Jacobs	Robert & Rita Phillip
Ron & Barbara Borden	Steve & Norma Jacobson	Nancy Pierce
Jean Carrus	Susan Jaspán	Herbert & Lorraine Pregozen
Ethel Cooperman	Andrew & Anne Kaplan	Eric & Orli Presser
Judy Egendorf	Fran Kaufman	Ruben & Alicia Rodriguez
Sandie Eichberg	Gordon & Eve Kramer	Matthew & Whitney Rosam
Ken & Elaine Eldred	Sherman & Sydelle Kramer	Robert & Mindy Rose
Steve & Rosanne Ezer	Elaine Kravitz	Bobbie Rosenberg
Fred Fabricant	Gary & Betsy Kreger	Ed & Gloria Rudetsky
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Sally Frank	Gary Levin	Michael & Bobby Sacks
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Kevin Giser	Estelle Lieb	Arnold & Diane Simon
Bob & Picce Glast	Jim & Ann Loeb	Nancy Singer
Karol Gordon	Gabe & Clarice Lubel	Michael Sonduck & David Zeligson
Joyce Gorney	Diana McGinity	Terrie Turner & Lee Newman
Estee Gottesman	Raymond & Sharyn McKee	Harold & Lee Weinstein
Micki Greenspan	Glynne & Ann Miller	Joe Weiss
Steve & Joan Grossman	Kit & Sally Narodick	Sam & Susan Winett
Richard & Ilene Harris	Jack & Mitzie Olshansky	Carol Woodward
Joel & Leslie Hirschberg	Marv Paul	Bernard Zemmol

The Opportunity to Add your Name to this List Will Remain
Open until Monday, April 26.





Arava Talve, Principal

From the Melamedet

Preparing for Pesach was the theme for our last two T'fillot before spring break. Our students jumped right into the story and shared many teachings on our journey from bondage to freedom. Many of our students shared artwork depicting different parts of the story. We all sang Dayenu (It Would Have Been Enough) and we even constructed our own verses of gratitude.

It would have been enough if we could only hear each other on Zoom but that we are able to see each other...Dayenu!

Our Midrashah students, under the guidance of Jeanette, created a Passover game for all to enjoy. Our Confirmation class thought about the leap of faith our ancestors took in taking that first step. They reflected on times in their lives when they had to face a challenge and the tools they use to overcome fear. Ruthi's class did beautifully asking the four questions and Rabbi Novak shared a teaching on the Matzah, Maror and the Pascal lamb.

Marjorie's class did a beautiful job not only explaining the seder plate but all the new items we are now including. Here are a few they shared:

Jack

The orange is a gesture of solidarity with the LGBTQ community and others that have been marginalized by the Jewish community. The orange is eaten. The seeds of the orange represent homophobia and are spit out while eating.



An acorn represents native Americans. It symbolizes teshuvah (repentance) we must do, an honest looking inward for the immense suffering and harm that the settlers of the United States caused the Native Americans in settling the land.

Enrique

A pine cone represents prison reform. We pass over pine cones every day, inside the pine cone is the most precious of nuts, yet they are hidden and unseen. The pine cone imprisons its seeds and they are difficult to extract. The pine cone is added to the plate to remind us of mass incarceration throughout the world and that God's most precious fruit of all is the human soul.

A potato is placed on the seder plate to remind us of Ethiopian Jewry. In 1991 Israel launched "Operation Solomon," a secret plan to bring Ethiopian Jews to Israel. The Ethiopian Jews were very ill when they arrived in Israel and were unable to eat normal food. They were fed potatoes and rice until their stomachs could handle more substantial food.



Levi

Fair Trade chocolate or cocoa beans on the seder plate represents labor issues around the world. The fair-trade movement is based on economic partnerships based on equality, justice and sustainable environmental practices around the globe. We have a role in that what we buy and eat should come from countries or regions of our country where workers are treated fairly.



A banana to represent refugees. During the summer of 2015 there was (and still is) a

refugee crisis of Syrians leaving Syria because of a civil war. Refugees would book passage on over-crowded boats. Many times the boats would sink and many people drowned. The world saw an image of a young boy's dead body on a Turkish beach. His name was Aylin Kurdi and he was only 3 years old. His father Abdullah was the only family member to survive. Every day after work Abdullah would bring his children a banana as a treat. The banana reminds us of the modern-day exodus many face, as we did when we left Egypt.

Reese

Miriam's cup is to honor women. Miriam's cup celebrates Moses's sister's role in our deliverance from slavery. Miriam's cup is empty and is placed next to Elijah's cup. Each attendee at the seder pours a bit of water into the cup to symbolize that women have always been and continue to be important to the survival of our community.



Another addition to our seder plate is cashews. A Rabbi in Massachusetts started the tradition of adding cashews to the seder plate after seeing a sign at a local drug-store that asked customers to buy and send bags of cashews to our troops stationed in Iraq. A son of an employee of the store explained that the salted cashews provided hydration and fuel in the desert climate to our soldiers.

Our kitah zayin students presented a rap version and also reflected on modern day plagues.

We thought about the plagues we are facing as a world community and actions we all can take to bring healing.

Lucas

The first plague we identified is global warming: Polar ice caps are melting, animals are losing their homes, and temperatures are rising and this is all because of global warming. Global warming has been a problem for many years now but humans aren't taking their time to stop and realize this. One simple way we can solve this issue is reducing our CO2 emissions. CO2 emissions are what come out of our cars when we drive. So we could switch to electric vehicles or at least make more. In conclusion, if we do not bring our attention to it now, global warming will become a big problem for generations to come.



Jacob

Bullying is a big problem in our world right now. It can hurt people and it causes many problems and the sad thing is that it is happening to millions of kids around the world. I think that there are a few ways to stop this and one of them is, if it happens, stand up for yourself and others who can't stand up for themselves. Also, you can tell a trusted adult about what's happening and try to get help to stop the bullying.



Jessica

The plague that I will be talking about is the COVID-19 pandemic. COVID-19 pandemic is very crazy, and there is a rise in cases each day. Some ways to stop the risk of COVID is to wear your mask, not go out as much, wash your hands, use hand sanitizer, etc. If we all work as a team, we can get back to normalcy. Now that there is a vaccine, we are even closer to overcoming this horrible plague.

Esteban

Racism is part of this world, and people get hurt from it. We should not do this, we are all human. We are God's creations, and we should take care of one another. We should not dictate to other people and tell them how they should feel. Life is hard enough. We should help each other and not make it any harder for people of color, people with disabilities, and people of different religions. Racism is a plague we should all work to eradicate from our world. One of the ways we can get rid of racism in our world is to view people as individuals and get to know them and realize that we are all made out of the same matter.



Chag Sameach!

Arava

The Crossing

By Nora Feldbaum

It was chaos. My family was frantically searching for their sandals, their drawings, their keepsakes to take to the new world. I stood still in the midst of it all, trying to process that my life from now on would be forever different. The next hours passed in a blur.

We got to the shore. We were scared. We waited, and waited. Then we realized no one could part the sea alone. We came together. We were all connected as we had all suffered. We all wanted the same things. I had faith, my mother and father had faith, my brother had faith, and the others around us had faith. The sea began to part. And we began our journey

My mother and father were goal oriented. They never stopped. I could tell as they walked, they were dreaming of what their life would be like and how happy as a free family we could finally be.

My brother walked slowly as he gazed up at the tall walls of water on either side of us. He was almost frozen with the beauty of the whales, fish, and dolphins. He could barely walk because he was straining his neck to look at everything. Eventually he tripped to no one's surprise. He was then fascinated by the coral we were walking on.

Although I was excited for my new life and astonished by the sea creatures surrounding me, I looked back and saw the Egyptians chasing us suffering. I saw the walls of the sea closing in on them. I was sad but I pushed those thoughts out of my mind. They were chasing after us being selfish, wanting us to serve them. I reminded myself we deserve to be free. We all do. As I walked on, I heard Miriam and the women sing the song of freedom and I knew a better life was waiting for us.

Nora and her family live in Switzerland. She will become a Bat Mitzvah on December 30 at Temple Sinai.



SHALOM

By Alice Dameshek

What peace means to me:

Peace means being able to live with your neighbor in Peace.

Being able to buy from them and for them to buy from us.

Being able to build with them.

Being able to create history with them.

Being able to plan with them.

Unfortunately, we have not achieved Peace yet, but everyday we work closer to achieving it!

And to help, you can be nicer to your neighbors!

Or plant a community garden!



Freedom

By Alice Dameshek

Freedom means I can choose who I want to be and what I want to do.

Back when we were slaves, we had to work all day and night to build the pyramids. Thankfully, we have moved past that era and we can choose our path to take! We no longer have to build for the enemy but for ourselves!

I feel that is what freedom means, and we are lucky to have this meaning, holidays, and culture to remember how far we have come. And there is plenty more generations to come.

Alice, who will be turning 13 this week, is in seventh grade at Gasper De Porta Charter School In Encino, CA. Alice is new to learning Hebrew, and in a relatively short time has learned how to read Hebrew, and attends our virtual classes at Temple Sinai's Religious School. She is looking forward to her bat mitzvah in May 2022.



BROTHERHOOD, WOMEN OF SINAI, PARENT TEACHERS ORGANIZATION by Nancy Singer

Our three temple auxiliaries continue to combine planning resources to bring you speakers, entertainment, and gatherings to foster camaraderie among us and to try to keep us connected through Zoom while we patiently wait for the time when we can again gather in-person in our temple.

On Thursday, April 22, please join us at 5:00 pm to be thoroughly entertained by Cantorial Soloist and Temple member Alan Scott as he brings us his versions of many different types of music. This promises to be a most entertaining presentation and we hope you will be with us.

The prior Sunday, April 18, at 5:00 pm, we will be together for another of our monthly "Sip and Schmooze" gatherings. These are a great way to meet fellow Temple members in an informal setting. Last month, we had so much fun with our quarters (ask someone who attended about it!). This month, we will discuss some of the more fun aspects of our family seders.

We are all looking forward to the day when we can gather together in-person in the temple. Our joint Program Committee is discussing some ideas for a Welcome Back event which we of course hope can be held sooner rather than later. Watch for details.

NEW ADULT EDUCATION COURSE BEING OFFERED IN APRIL

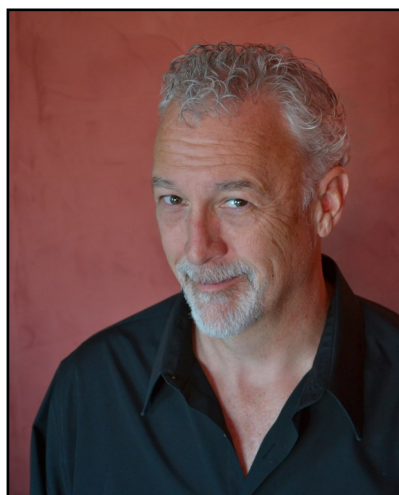
Contact Toni Robinson at trobenson@templesinaipd.org to register.

LEARN TO CREATE A JEWISH ETHICAL WILL/ LEGACY LETTER

This class takes us into a historical overview of ethical wills from the days of Bible and Talmud. Each session will include hands-on exercises while experiencing the steps of how to create a personal ethical will.

**Tuesdays, 12-1:30 PM, 4 sessions
beginning April 6th and ending
April 27, 2021**

Instructor: Jeannette Bland, PhD



Save the Date:

**An Evening of Cantorial Music with Temple
Sinai Member Alan Scott**

Thursday, April 22 at 5:00 PM

**Keep an eye on your Weekly E-Shofar for
details and Zoom link.**

Anniversaries

4/1

Ellen & Bill Sachs

4/8

Nancy & Daniel Levine

4/11

Sally & Kit Narodick

4/15

Ann & Glynne Miller

Birthdays

4/1

Carrie Stone
Isaac Goetting

4/2

Gabriella Mazet

4/5

Lee Weinstein

4/6

Mindy Rose
Alan Krubiner

4/10

Susan Boyer
Annette Novack

4/11

Eric Sontz

4/12

Carole Adelstein
Stephanie Ross

4/13

Howard Levy

4/14

Ardith Marguleas

4/22

Jean Carrus
Gloria Rudetsky
Jason Novack

4/24

Rod Hill

4/25

Sherry Fern
Jack Olshansky

4/26

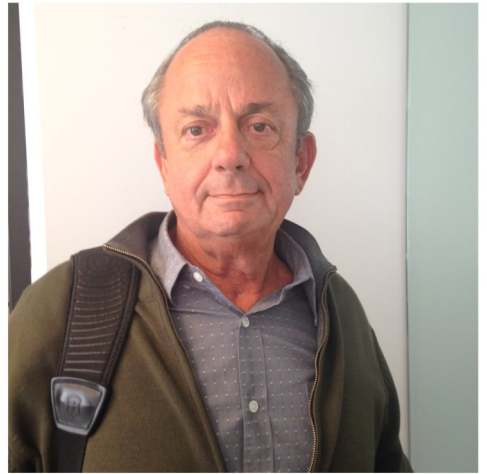
Asher Stone



Introducing Joe Weiss, Newly-Elected President of Temple Sinai Brotherhood

On February 28th, I was installed as the new president of Temple Sinai Brotherhood. While this has been a great honor, it's also a steep challenge. Our past president, Gary Kreger set the bar high. His presidency will be a tough act to follow but you can be sure I'll give it my best.

Just a little over two years ago, I moved to Palm Desert from Woodland Hills, California where I raised my two daughters and worked in the TV and motion picture industry.



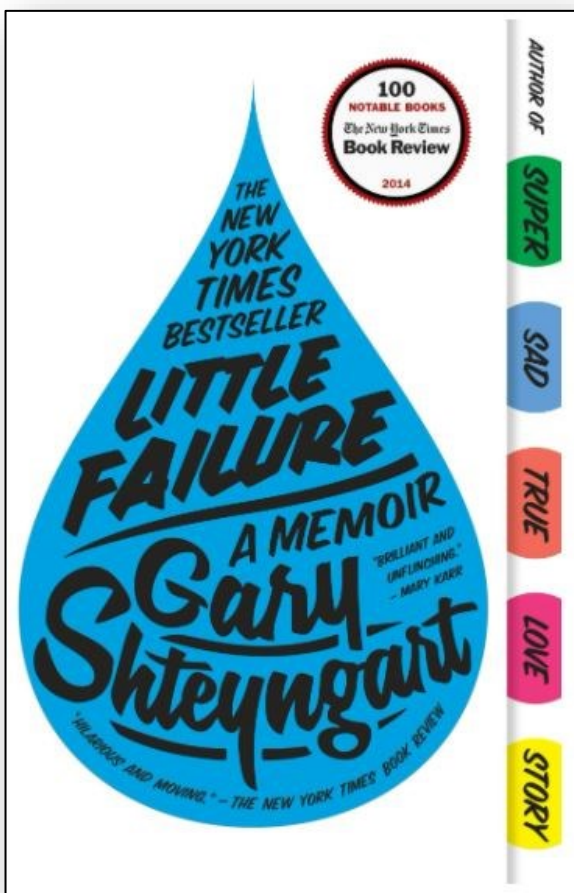
When I arrived in the desert, it seemed like all roads led me to Temple Sinai. After a month of house hunting, I landed in a community down the street from the temple. I had barely settled into my new home when my neighbors Saul and Gail Jacobs recruited me in the temple's Mitzvah project, which I continue to enjoy today.

When the High Holidays arrived, I joined the temple, and since then, my involvement and dedication has grown. I was invited to be on the Brotherhood Board and months later asked to become a member of the Temple's Board.

We have a great congregation, an inspirational rabbi, and smart, forward thinking leadership.



I feel very fortunate to be a member of the Temple Sinai family, and especially proud to be a part of Brotherhood. It is my hope that if you are not already a member of the Brotherhood you will consider joining. We're here to serve Temple Sinai and foster friendship and community among our congregation.



The Book Club Meets Next on
Wednesday, April 21
10:30 AM

Next Read: Little Failure
By Gary Shteyngart

Little Failure is the all too true story of an immigrant family betting its future on America, as told by a lifelong misfit who finally finds a place for himself in the world through books and words.

To be added to the book club email list, please contact Toni Robinson at trobinson@templesinaipd.org.

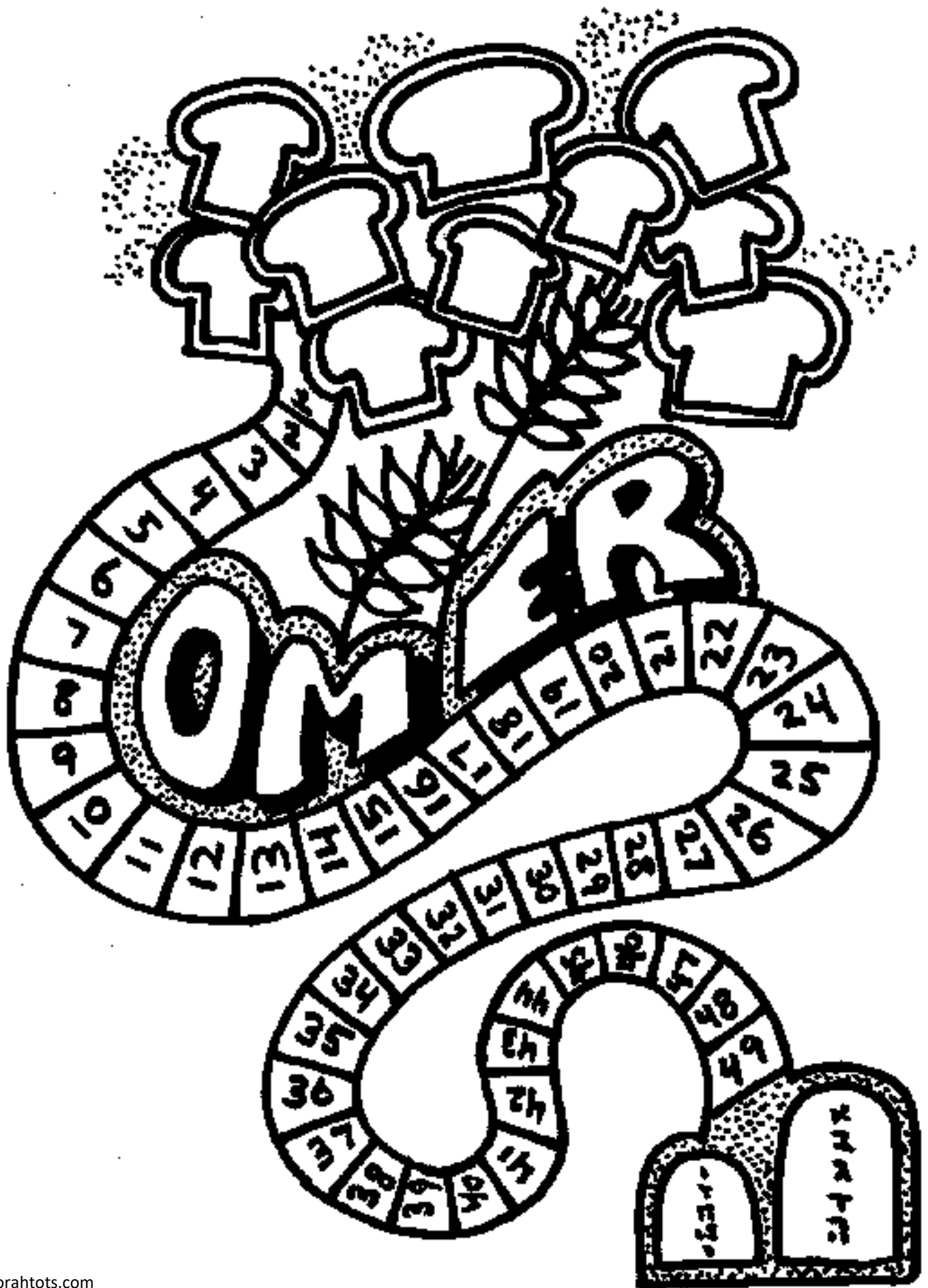
What is Lag B'Omer? What is Counting of the Omer?

Lag B'Omer is a minor Jewish holiday that occurs on the 33rd day of the Omer, a 49-day period between Passover and Shavuot. The Omer was an ancient measurement of grain. Ancient Jewish law stated that no new grain should be sowed until the Omer was brought to the Temple as an offering (seven weeks). The counting of the Omer also **reminds Jews of the journey from slavery to redemption**, from when Jews were slaves in Egypt (Passover) to when they received the Torah on Mount Sinai (Shavuot). Due to the solemn nature of this journey, many Jews do not cut their hair or celebrate weddings during this period.



The 33rd day of the Omer, Lag B'Omer, is the one exception during this period. Lag BaOmer is not mentioned in the Torah and only hinted at in the Talmud. There are no specific rituals for this day but many customs have come about over the years including making bonfires that celebrate Jewish resistance to oppression, having a hair-cutting ceremony, or getting married.

<https://www.bimbam.com/lag-bomer/>



לי"ג בעומר

חץ וקשת



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ARROW, BAR KOKHBA, BONFIRE, BOW, FIRST HAIRCUT, LAG BA'OMER, MOUNT MERON, RABBI AKIVA, REVOLT, SHIMON BAR YOCHAI, THIRTY THREE, WOOD

A	T	R	G	Q	X	Y	T	I	M	R	P	T	R	I
H	B	H	H	Y	I	P	D	O	K	H	L	B	A	E
F	O	H	I	G	V	H	U	C	Z	O	R	H	B	R
Z	W	L	K	R	C	N	G	U	V	R	C	L	B	I
D	S	M	L	O	T	Z	O	E	A	O	Y	Q	I	F
S	T	U	J	M	K	Y	R	B	Y	I	F	M	A	N
W	L	Y	E	F	G	R	T	R	C	O	C	U	K	O
H	O	R	U	J	O	N	A	H	S	Y	W	R	I	B
G	O	O	N	S	O	B	M	B	R	F	V	U	V	I
N	L	C	D	N	N	Q	A	B	B	E	I	P	A	R
B	R	E	M	O	A	B	G	A	L	S	E	J	Q	O
L	W	L	M	U	H	B	A	O	I	A	R	R	O	W
X	F	I	R	S	T	H	A	I	R	C	U	T	U	U
O	H	V	J	C	L	S	G	C	Y	A	C	K	S	E
S	V	G	M	C	K	I	W	J	N	Q	H	B	U	Z

April 2021

	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 Pesach 5	2 Erev Shabbat on Zoom 5:30 Pesach 6	3 Zoom Torah Study 8:45 AM Shabbat Morning/Yizkor Service on Zoom 10:00 Pesach 7
4 No Religious School	5 Office Closed	6 No Beit Sefer Reading the Torah in Translation 7:00	7 Adult B'nai Mitzvah 11:00 Lunch With the Rabbi 12:00 Yom HaShoah w/Rabbi Novak 10:00	8 Yom HaShoah	9 Erev Shabbat on Zoom 5:30	10 Zoom Torah Study 8:45 AM Shabbat Morning Service on Zoom 10:00
11 Beit Sefer 9:30 Confirmation/ Midrasha 12:00	12 Office Closed	13 Beit Sefer 4:00 Reading the Torah in Translation 7:00	14 Adult B'nai Mitzvah 11:00 Lunch With the Rabbi 12:00 Yom HaZikaron	15 Yom HaAtzma'ut	16 Erev Shabbat on Zoom 5:30	17 Zoom Torah Study 8:45 AM Shabbat Morning Service on Zoom 10:00
18 Beit Sefer 9:30 Confirmation/ Midrasha 12:00	19 Office Closed	20 Beit Sefer 4:00 Reading the Torah in Translation 7:00	21 Book Club 10:30 AM Adult B'nai Mitzvah 11:00 Lunch With the Rabbi 12:00	22 Alan Scott Concert 5:00 PM on Zoom	23 Erev Shabbat on Zoom 5:30	24 Zoom Torah Study 8:45 AM Shabbat Morning Service on Zoom 10:00
25 Beit Sefer 9:30 Confirmation/ Midrasha 12:00	26 Office Closed	27 Beit Sefer 4:00 Reading the Torah in Translation 7:00	28 Adult B'nai Mitzvah 11:00 Lunch With the Rabbi 12:00	29	30 Erev Shabbat on Zoom 5:30 Lag B'Omer	



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