

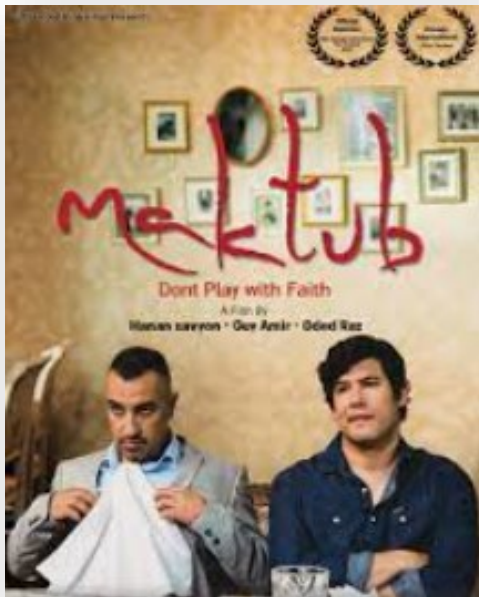
# Temple Sinai

*Where Judaism Blooms in the Desert*

## November Shofar

2022

5783



The Temple Sinai Brotherhood  
will be busy in November



Next Nature Hike:

### **Big Morongo Canyon**

Sunday, November 27

10:00 AM

More details coming  
soon.

### **Bonus Movie & Light Brunch**

Sunday, November 20

10:00 AM

See **The Yankels**

See Page 12 to RSVP

### **Dinner & A Movie**

Thursday, November 10

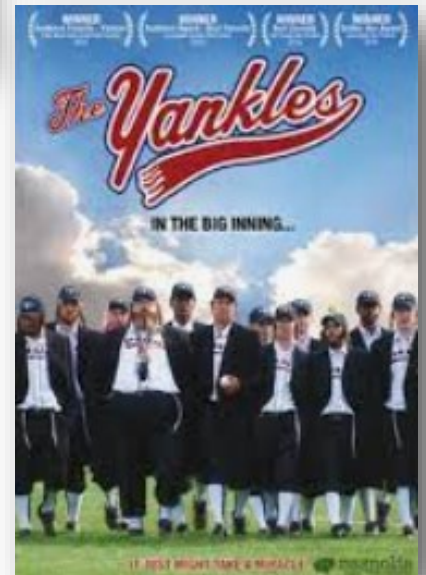
5:30 PM

Deli dinner from  
Sherman's Deli

Israeli comedy

### **Maktub**

See Page 10 to RSVP



## From the Rabbi

Are you an American Jew or a Jewish American? These hyphenate questions have always seemed silly to me. I am a man, born Jewish, in the United States who was also born gay. I am proud to live in this country and to have made Judaism and the Jewish People my life's work.

Ever since I can remember I have only been attracted to my own gender. There was no choice involved—same as there was no choice for having brown hair, blue eyes and being right-handed. With these identities, I foster what Rabbi Hillel articulated so many years ago: "Do not separate yourself from the community."



**Rabbi David Novak**

Not knowing that my sexual orientation had a name, one morning in shul when I was ten I was paging through the Hertz chumash (Torah commentary) edited by the late Rabbi J.B. Hertz. On the much contested verse Leviticus 18:22 that reads: "With a male you shall not lie [after the manner of] lying with a woman; it is an abomination!" Dr. Hertz commented: "The Torah saves Israel from the depravity of Greece and Rome." Some words for a ten-year-old to encounter! Apparently the Torah did not like how I was born and who I was to be.

Over time I, and many others, have wrestled with this verse, knowing that I am gay and I love the Jewish people. I should not have to choose. Still when it was time for me to go to rabbinic school the doors of Conservative Movement's seminaries were closed to LGBT people (until 2007). I went to HUC-JIR instead and was ordained in 2007.

Fast forward to 2022. I am in the middle of my third year serving Sinai. You are a wonderful congregation and I am grateful to you that I am here. As we all know, the Coachella Valley is home to a large number of people who are part of the LGBTQ community. I, and others, would like to engage them with Sinai which is why we are forming Desert Keshet, Sinai's outreach to the LGBTQ community. On November 18 we will have a Desert Keshet Shabbat evening, with guest speaker David Brinkman, DAP Health's CEO.

Preceding Desert Keshet on Sunday, November 6 Temple Sinai will be marching in the Palm Springs Pride parade. If you are interested in joining us so that the community sees our strength please reply to [lgbtq@templesinaipd.org](mailto:lgbtq@templesinaipd.org) or call the temple office.

I rejoice at being alive at a time when all of us who reflect the Creator's image are embraced at Sinai.

L'Shalom,

Rabbi David Novak

# DESERT KESHET

## קשת המדבר

The LGBTQ Outreach of Temple Sinai

**LGBTQ Jews (and friends) are invited to Erev  
Shabbat Worship and Reception**

**Friday, November 18, 2022 at 5:00 PM**

Following a pre-service oneg, Temple Sinai's Rabbi David Novak and Cantorial Soloist Wayne Abravanel will lead joyous Shabbat worship featuring special guest speaker David Brinkman, CEO of DAP Health (formerly Desert AIDS Project).

A post-service oneg for Desert Keshet attendees will be held in the chapel, where we will nosh on Israeli-style appetizers.

This is a free event underwritten by a grant from the Jewish Federation of the Desert.

To RSVP and for more information: [lgbtq@templesinaipd.org](mailto:lgbtq@templesinaipd.org)

**73251 Hovley Lane W.  
Palm Desert, CA 92260**





## From the President

We made it through another year's High Holy Days spectacularly! Our services were wonderful, our camaraderie was evident, our Food Bank drive was again successful, and I could go on and on.

Many, many thanks to Rabbi David Novak and Cantorial Soloist Wayne Abraham for inspiring us with your words and music. Many many thanks to our staff.....Toni Robinson, Elaine McDonald, Adrian Macias, Ben Camargo, and Gary Jackson for all the extra work you did to move us along. And thanks also to Talia Lizemer for the encouragement that we all needed.



**President Nancy Singer**

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Many many thanks to Micki Greenspan who worked with me to line up all the participants for the services. My sincere thanks to all those who helped make the services so meaningful: Ann Bell, Lexi Berman, Jean Carrus, Betty & Bob Denebeim, Judy Egendorf, Sandie Eichberg, Elaine Eldred, Rosanne & Steve Ezer, Fred Fabricant, Nancy & Len Foster, Resa Fremed, Karol Gordon, Micki Greenspan, Ilene Harris, Michelle Hoffman, Gail & Saul Jacobs, Susan Jaspán, Barry Kaiman & Toni Victor, Ann & Andrew Kaplan, Eve & Gordon Kramer, Gary Kreger, Gladys Layne, Talia Lizemer, Ann Loeb, Reesa Manning, Antonio Marin, Elaine McDonald, Sharyn McKee, Ann & Glynne Miller, Mitzie & Jack Olshansky, Alan Potash & Amy Nachman, Andra Ready, Alicia Rodriguez, Gloria Rudetsky, Michael Sacks, Dr. Michael & Lori Sanford, Sandy Schachter, Arthur Shapiro, Michael Sonduck, Marcia & Rick Stein, Terrie Turner, Linda & Howard Vogel, Diane Weiss, and Joe Weiss.

Thanks also to the ushers, coordinated by Vice-President Joe Weiss. They included: Rosanne & Steve Ezer, Fred Fabricant, Karol Gordon, Micki Greenspan, Ilene & Rick Harris, Gordon Kramer, Reesa Manning, Antonio Marin, Sharyn McKee, Ann Miller, Andra Ready, Michael Sonduck, Marcia & Rick Stein, Terrie Turner, and David Zeligson.

And thanks to all the congregants who answered the beautiful Yom Kippur appeal by Board Secretary Ann Loeb. There is still time to send in your donations to be credited to the appeal if you haven't done so yet. Your donations are sincerely appreciated.

As I write this, I am happily reflecting on the wonderful afternoon of music we had with the duo Wendy & Rik on October 23. Thanks to Ilene Harris for co-chairing this fundraising event with Sabra Hadassah of the Desert. If you weren't there, you truly missed a great experience. You have another opportunity to support your Temple's fundraising efforts by coming to "An Evening of Music, Magic, and Comedy" on Saturday, December 3, being planned by Brotherhood and Women of Sinai. Don't miss it! Call the Temple office to register.

Don't forget our Shabbat dinner on November 4. I hope to see many of you there!

I usually end my monthly message with "See you at the shul." I want to encourage you to come and actually "see" me and "see" your fellow congregants. It is so easy to Livestream our services from home but you miss the camaraderie and new friendships, you miss the onegs, and we miss seeing you!

*Nancy*

2022-2023  
**Temple Leadership**

Executive Committee

Nancy Singer.....President  
Joseph Weiss.....Vice President  
Susan Jaspan.....Treasurer  
Ann Loeb.....Corporate Secretary  
Jack Olshansky.....Past President  
Howard Vogel.....Membership

Trustees:

Ann Miller.....Social Action  
Michael Sonduck.....At Large  
Fred Fabricant.....Special Projects

Auxiliaries:

Sandie Eichberg..President, Women of Sinai  
Jeff Schiffris.....Co-President, Brotherhood  
Natalia Levy.....President, PTO

**WITH GRATITUDE FOR OUR**

**2022-2023 PATRONS**

***Diamond Patron***

Howard Erlanger z”l

***Platinum Patron***

Miles Berger

Barry Kaiman & Toni Victor

***Ruby Patron***

Joel & Leslie Hirschberg

Glynne & Ann Miller

Jack & Mitzie Olshansky

David Pollart

Paul & Carrie Stone

***Gold Patron***

David & Anne Bell

James & Jessica Greene

Rodney & Sharon Hill

Arthur & Nancy Shorr

Nancy Singer

Rick & Marcia Stein

***Silver Patron***

Ron & Barbara Borden

Bill & Joanne Chunowitz

Bob & Betty Denebeim

Sandie Eichberg

Len & Nancy Foster

Bob & Picce Glast

Matthew & Judy Israel

Gladys Layne

Alicia & Reuben Rodriguez

Michael & Roberta Sacks

Arthur & Marlene Shapiro

Howard & Linda Vogel

Samuel & Susan Winett

***Bronze Patron***

Erika Altobelli

Janet Ball

Fred Fabricant

Reesa Manning

Antonio Marin

***Pearl Patron***

Robert & Carole Adelstein

Steve & Evelyn Alden



Temple Manager Toni Robinson

### From the Temple Manager

Another High Holy Days tucked neatly away in the memory box and now time to look forward to the rest of our year and all the new and interesting things that will be brought to the congregation.

We began in October with a joint Hadassah and Temple Sinai event, presenting Wendy and Rik for an afternoon's entertainment. What a fun time it was. That was followed closely by the Women of Sinai's first luncheon of the year, where Sharyn McKee offered many books and book discussion while everyone enjoyed the Salad Bar from Sherman's.

Now we look to what is planned for November. The Brotherhood is reinvigorating their monthly hikes and nature walks led by James Danoff-Berg, Director of Conservation with the Living Desert and Temple Sinai congregant. The first of our Shabbat Dinners is set for November 4<sup>th</sup>, a festive Italian Night in the social hall immediately following services. Desert Cities bridge is back beginning November 8th in the social hall Tuesday through Thursday from 1-4, if you are a bridge fan then give them a try, I am told they run a great game. The Brotherhood is also the driving force behind the new garden that will grace the front of our building and conserve water while beautifying our surroundings. Don't forget Dinner and a Movie on November 10<sup>th</sup> and Brunch and a Movie on November 20<sup>th</sup>. On November 16<sup>th</sup> JFS Auxiliary is presenting Cantor and Internationally Acclaimed singer Svetlana Portnyansky here at Temple Sinai (think Barbra Streisand). Log onto JFS website to purchase tickets. Don't forget Mah Jongg every Wednesday and the return of Chair Yoga. There sure are many things going on in our building and its not even Thanksgiving yet! I'll bet you can't wait to see what December brings...I can promise you there will be robust offerings from all quarters.

### It's not too late to make your Kol Nidre pledge

Thanks to you who have already done so.

It's never a bad time to invest in your community, and to honor the hard work and hours that Rabbi Novak and Cantorial Soloist Wayne Abravanel have dedicated to bringing you such moving and meaningful High Holy Day services. We have made it as easy for you as possible:

Go to our website [www.templesinaipd.org](http://www.templesinaipd.org) and click on the "donate" tab, or call the temple office (760-568-9699) to contribute by credit card. Thank you if you already have done so.



## From the Educator

Shalom Temple Sinai Congregants, Families, and Students,

October was a very festive month for our Rabbi Avi Levine Religious School.

On Sunday, October 9, our students enjoyed a school-wide celebration honoring the holiday of *Sukkot*. This included listening to stories that reflect the history of Sukkot, preparing decorations for our temple sukkah, learning about the meaning of the lulav, and, of course, shaking it in six directions, and even preparing a sukkah style photo frame while learning about the holiday traditions.



Talia Lizemer, Educator

On Sunday, October 16, in preparation for the upcoming holiday of *Simchat Torah*, our students witnessed our temple Torah being unrolled, while learning about its five books. They were in awe listening to our educators share that the process of writing can take about a year since it is entirely written by hand. There are 304,805 letters in the Torah scroll, all inscribed with a quill and especially prepared ink. The parchments are made from the skins of a kosher animal. The Torah scrolls are written without vowels or accents. Once the writing has been completed, the parchment sheets are sewn together to make a very long scroll.

Of course, our students are continuing to have fun while learning Hebrew. During recess, they were encouraged to play games while counting in Hebrew.

Warmly,

Talia Lizemer-Hawley  
Congregational Educator









# Social Action Committee's End-of-Year Mitzvah Project



The committee is organizing a collection of items for Shelter From The Storm in Palm Desert, which provides a safe haven for victims of domestic violence, offering them protection from their abusers.

Their programs also provide counseling, education, and job training to help them find success in their lives.

Some of the things that are needed:

Moms:	Small Appliances	Cosmetics, skin care gift sets	Gift cards: stores, Amazon, gas
Teens:	Games, small electronics	Sports equipment, art supplies	Gift cards: stores, fast food
Children:	Dolls, action figures	Games, puzzles, baby items	Gift cards: stores, Amazon

Shelter from the Storm cannot accept used items.  
Check your E-Shofar for updated information and complete wish list.



# Brotherhood Dinner & A Movie

## Thursday, November 10

### 5:30 PM



Deli buffet from Sherman's Deli  
Israeli film "Maktub"  
**\$25 per person**



**The biggest Israeli blockbuster  
since 1986**

Steve and Chuma, two criminals are the sole survivors of a terrorist attack at a restaurant in Jerusalem. They decide to change their ways and become flesh and blood angels. They go on a journey of wish fulfillment for people who write requests on paper and put them between the sacred stones of the Western Wall.

Name(s)\_\_\_\_\_

Number in party\_\_\_\_\_ Pay by Check\_\_\_\_\_ Total:\$\_\_\_\_\_

Credit Card #\_\_\_\_\_

Expiration:\_\_\_\_\_ CCV\_\_\_\_\_ Phone\_\_\_\_\_

Billing Address\_\_\_\_\_

## GENEROUS DONATIONS

### GENERAL FUND

#### Yahrzeit

**Ira Rines**

By: Diane Weiss

**Charles Levander**

By: Sandy Weisenberg

**Sylvie Marin**

By: Antonio Marin

**Sam Schmeltzer**

By: Resa Fremed

#### IN HONOR OF

**Wendy & Rik Concert**

By: Judy Egendorf

#### IN MEMORY OF

**Natalie Axelrod**

By: Adrienne Hirschfeld

### RABBI'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

#### Yahrzeit

**Sylvia Ball**

By: Janet Ball

### CANTORIAL MUSIC FUND

#### Yahrzeit

**Samuel Fogel**

**Sylvia Schrager**

By: Gloria & Ed Rudetsky

### GAIL & SAUL JACOBS FOOD DELIVERY PROJECT

#### Tzedakah

Charlotte Burkholz

## Three opportunities every week to study with Rabbi Novak

Zoom is an option for all classes - use the Shabbat morning link on our website:

[www.templesinaipd.org](http://www.templesinaipd.org)



**Shabbat Morning  
Torah Study  
8:45 AM in the  
chapel**



**Reading Torah in  
Translation  
Tuesdays, at  
4:00 PM on Zoom**



**Lunch & Learn  
Thursdays, at  
12:00 PM in the  
chapel  
Bring your lunch.**



Temple Sinai Brotherhood Presents:

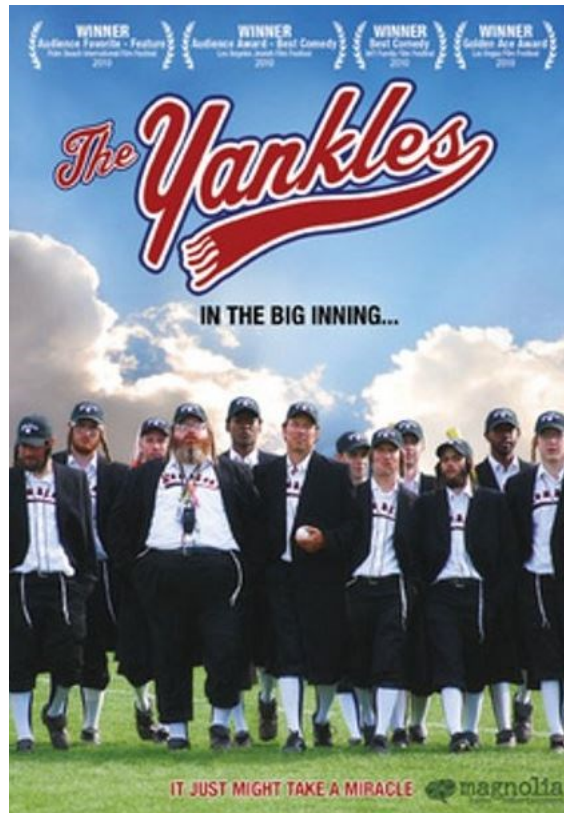
## Movie & Light Brunch

**Sunday Morning, November 20 at 10:00 AM**

**Meet the Screenwriter & Executive Director  
Cantor Zev Brooks for a Lively Discussion**

Charlie Jones, a washed-up ex-major league baseball player, gets a second chance at life and love by managing an orthodox Jewish yeshiva baseball team.

Rated PG-13



**Tickets are \$15 per person**

**(Kids are free)**

Mail in the form below, or call the temple office.

Temple Sinai  
73251 Hovley Lane West  
Palm Desert, CA 92260  
760-568-9699.

Name(s)\_\_\_\_\_

Number in party\_\_\_\_\_Pay by Check\_\_\_\_\_Total:\$\_\_\_\_\_

Credit Card #\_\_\_\_\_

Expiration:\_\_\_\_\_CCV\_\_\_\_\_Phone\_\_\_\_\_

Billing Address\_\_\_\_\_



## Chair Yoga Returns!

**Feeling stagnant after a long hot summer?**

Chair Yoga is returning to the temple's chapel starting Wednesday Nov. 2nd at 10:30 AM for 45 minute sessions. We meet every Wednesday of the month except the last Wednesday which is reserved for Book Club.

Please call the Temple office at 760-568-9699 to sign up so that we know how many people to expect. There is a limit of only 16 people so don't delay.

The cost is \$15 (cash please) per week per person, and part of the proceeds go to support the temple.

# DESERT CITIES BRIDGE RETURNS TO TEMPLE SINAI

**TUESDAYS, WEDNESDAYS & THURSDAYS, BEGINNING NOVEMBER 8**

**FOR MORE INFORMATION, CALL SCOTT AT**

**818-731-3282**



## **Birthdays**

11/1

Melissa Schiffris

11/4

Stephen Dyer

11/5

Fred Fern

11/7

Ethel Cooperman

11/9

Brenda Berman

11/10

Marv Paul

Susan Jaspan

11/11

Nancy Foster

11/22

Lisa Hoff

11/23

Arnold Simon

11/24

Betty Colt

11/25

Rick Nusblatt

11/27

Philip Smith

Diane Weiss

Adrienne Hirschfeld

11/29

Kit Narodick

11/30

Marcia Stein

## **Anniversaries**

11/2

Jessica & James Greene

Joan & Norman Wine

11/29

Clara & Michael Horne

Mitzie & Jack Olshansky





## Join Temple Sinai as we march in Palm Springs LGBT Pride Parade on Sunday, November 6.



We will be toward the end of the parade as contingent 211, which is why the organizers are asking us to arrive at the staging area at 11 a.m. The staging area is located on Palm Canyon Drive, just south of Vista Chino. Look for the rabbi and other congregants.

We want a robust turnout to demonstrate to the unaffiliated LGBT Jews in the valley that we are here for them.

Contact Rabbi Novak (760-568-9699 x201) for further information or email [lgbtq@templesinaipd.org](mailto:lgbtq@templesinaipd.org).

### MAH JONGG PLAYERS:

Since we have closed our gift shop, we will NOT be selling Mah Jongg cards this year. You may order them from:

National Mah Jongg League, Inc.  
450 7th Avenue, Suite 405, New York, NY  
10123

212-246-3052

[www.NationalMahJonggLeague.org](http://www.NationalMahJonggLeague.org)



Brotherhood is pleased to sponsor the "Nativescaping" project to replace the grass with a native desert landscape in the front of our building.

We have been approved for turf rebates, and work will begin shortly. We are grateful to Brotherhood member and Sinai congregant Dr. James Danoff-Burg of the Living Desert for his leadership role in making this happen.

Saturday, December 3 at 6:00 PM

# Join us for a Very Special Evening of Music, Laughs, and Magic

In support of Temple Sinai's Community Religious School, serving  
the children of Coachella Valley for over forty five years

Artistic Director Wayne Abravanel

Host Arthur Shorr

Honorary Chair Rick Stein

Cabaret and Jazz singer Francesca Amari

Accompanied on piano by Wayne Abravanel

Comedian extraordinaire Steve Mittleman

Mind-blowing magician Dean Apple

Chef's Tables and Wine

Drawing and Silent Auction

VIP Sponsorships Available

See next page for more information and sign-up



Artistic Director Wayne Abravanel

# December 3 Variety Show

## Admission is \$72

### Or join us at a sponsorship level

- \_\_\_\_\_ Tier One Sponsorship: \$1,000. Includes special listing in the program, 2 tickets reserved seating, 2 Shabbat dinners, 2 tickets to Brotherhood dinner & a movie through June 2023
- \_\_\_\_\_ Tier Two: \$500. Includes special listing in the program, 2 tickets reserved seating, 2 Shabbat dinners
- \_\_\_\_\_ Tier Three: \$350. Includes special listing in the program, 2 tickets reserved seating.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Tier Four: \$125. Includes special listing in the program.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Number of regular tickets (x \$72) \$\_\_\_\_\_ (total)
- \_\_\_\_\_ Total number of people in party



Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Name on Credit Card, if different: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone # \_\_\_\_\_

Credit Card# \_\_\_\_\_ Amount \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Expiration Date \_\_\_\_\_ Code \_\_\_\_\_ Check # \_\_\_\_\_

Billing Address \_\_\_\_\_

Mail to: Temple Sinai Palm Desert  
73251 Hovley Lane West  
Palm Desert, CA 92260  
Or call the temple office: **760-568-9699**



# JFS Auxiliary Presents: International Singing Star Svetlana Portnyansky

Wednesday,

November 16

5:00 PM

Doors open at 4:00

Temple Sinai Sanctuary



Tickets: \$50  
General Admission

\$125 VIP, including  
dinner reception  
with Svetlana

Of Ukrainian heritage, Svetlana has been compared to Barbra Streisand, and has performed at Carnegie Hall and Lincoln Center.

For tickets:

Check the JFS website ([jfsdesert.org](http://jfsdesert.org))

Contact Cheryl Scarlett at JFS –

760-325-4088 ext. 107 or

Email [CScarlett@jfsdesert.org](mailto:CScarlett@jfsdesert.org)

# November 2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		<b>1</b> Torah in Translation 4:00 on Zoom	<b>2</b> Mah Jongg 1:00 PM	<b>3</b> Lunch & Learn 12:00 Chapel	<b>4</b> Erev Shabbat Oneg 5:00 Service 5:30 Shabbat Dinner 6:45 PM <b>Sanctuary &amp; live stream</b>	<b>5</b> Torah Study 8:45 AM Shabbat Morning Service 10:00 Chapel & Zoom
<b>6</b> Religious School 9:30 Pride Parade 11:00 AM	<b>7</b> Office Closed	<b>8</b> Desert Cities Bridge 1:00 PM Torah in Translation 4:00 on Zoom	<b>9</b> Desert Cities Bridge 1:00 PM Mah Jongg 1:00 PM	<b>10</b> Desert Cities Bridge 1:00 PM Lunch & Learn 12:00 Chapel Brotherhood-Dinner/Movie 5:00 PM	<b>11</b> Erev Shabbat Oneg 5:00 Service 5:30 <b>Sanctuary &amp; live stream</b>	<b>12</b> Torah Study 8:45 AM Shabbat Morning Service 10:00 Chapel & Zoom
<b>13</b> Religious School 9:30	<b>14</b> Office Closed	<b>15</b> Desert Cities Bridge 1:00 PM Torah in Translation 4:00 on Zoom	<b>16</b> Mah Jongg 1:00 PM JFS/Svetlana Concert 4:00 PM	<b>17</b> Lunch & Learn 12:00 Chapel Desert Cities Bridge 1:00 PM	<b>18</b> Erev Shabbat Oneg 5:00 Service 5:30 <b>Sanctuary &amp; live stream</b>	<b>19</b> Torah Study 8:45 AM Shabbat Morning Service 10:00 Chapel & Zoom
<b>20</b> No Religious School Brotherhood Movie/Brunch 10:00 AM	<b>21</b> Office Closed	<b>22</b> Desert Cities Bridge 1:00 PM Torah in Translation 4:00 on Zoom	<b>23</b> Book Club 10:30 Mah Jongg 1:00 PM Desert Cities Bridge 1:00 PM	<b>24</b> Thanksgiving 	<b>25</b> Temple Office Closed Erev Shabbat Oneg 5:00 Service 5:30 <b>Sanctuary &amp; live stream</b>	<b>26</b> Torah Study 8:45 AM Shabbat Morning Service 10:00 Chapel & Zoom
<b>27</b> No Religious School	<b>28</b> Office Closed	<b>29</b> Desert Cities Bridge 1:00 PM Torah in Translation 4:00 on Zoom	<b>30</b> Mah Jongg 1:00 PM Desert Cities Bridge 1:00 PM			



73-251 Hovley Lane West Palm Desert CA 92260  
 760-568-9699 Phone 760-773-4883 FAX  
[www.templeinaipd.org](http://www.templeinaipd.org)



## Call us for your next life celebration

*Bar/Bat Mitzvah's, Weddings, Anniversaries,  
 Birthday Celebrations, Luncheons, Memorials,  
 Dinner Parties, etc...*

*Call:*

*Kurt Anthony or Gordon Foster  
 760-568-1350 or 760-836-3354*



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