

Temple Sinai

Where Judaism Blooms in the Desert

January Shofar

2023

5783

Women of Sinai Brings Back the Community Fashion Show

Friday, January 27, 12:00 PM at Temple Sinai



Jewish women of the Coachella Valley are invited to join the Women of Sinai for a luncheon and fashion show featuring the latest in stylish travel outfits from Shirley's Boutique Fashions El Paseo.

See page 10 for more information and sign-up sheet.

From the Rabbi

I am always excited when there are advances in Biblical archaeology. That should be no surprise given what I do for a living. So many times when we refer to the Hebrew Bible we talk about the history of our people. Historical events, though, are hard to prove given that history, as we understand it, was not being written in Biblical times.

The sole collaboration for Biblical events are archaeological finds. To date, these finds have mostly been dated using carbon dating. Now archaeologists have devised a better way to date using the Earth's geomagnetic record.

The New York Times reports that many materials, including rocks and soils, record the reversals and variations over time in earth's invisible geomagnetic field. When ancient ceramics or mud bricks that contain ferromagnetic, or certain iron-bearing, minerals are heated to sufficiently high temperatures, the magnetic moments of the minerals behave like a compass needle, reflecting the orientation and intensity of the field at the time of burning. The new methodology can provide a sort of geobiblical clock.

Experts in the new technique, known as archaeomagnetism, gain “chronological anchors” from the work of archaeologists — footholds in the historical timeline. To understand the mysterious mechanism of earth's magnetic field, geophysicists track its changes throughout history by using archaeological relics — furnaces, ceramic shards and roof tiles — that contain ferromagnetic minerals. Remarkable.

Like the recent discovery of silver coins, these discoveries continue to undergird our people's presence in these lands long ago. How exciting it is to be part of a people that is still here!

L'Shalom,

Rabbi David Novak



Rabbi David Novak



FROM THE PRESIDENT

I hope you all had a wonderful Hanukkah and will have a happy, healthy, safe New Year!

We started off the busy month of December with a wonderful evening of comedy, magic, and music. In attendance were approximately 90 people, and we netted over \$13,000 for our Rabbi Avi Levine Community Religious School. Thanks to committee members Sandie Eichberg, Gordon Kramer, Ilene Harris, Gary Kreger, Sharyn McKee, Jeff Schiffris, and Joe Weiss, and to those who helped out that day and evening. Special thanks to our generous sponsors: Sandie Eichberg, Rosanne & Steve Ezer, Ilene & Rick Harris, Barry Kaiman & Toni Victor, Eve & Gordon Kramer, Gladys Layne, Sharyn McKee, Ann & Glynne Miller, Mitzie & Jack Olshansky, Barbara Platt & Norm Lewis, Nancy Polacheck, Andra Ready, Melissa & Jeff Schiffris, Nancy & Arthur Shorr, Nancy Singer, The Smotrich Family Foundation, Cindy Spetalnick, Marcia & Rick Stein, and Carol Woodward. Artistic Director Wayne Abravanel and Honorary Chair Rick Stein were greatly appreciated. Our MC Arthur Shorr took ill, so we'll have to save his shtick for another time.



President Nancy Singer

A week later, our PTO under the leadership of President Natalia Levy put on a fun Hanukkah party for our religious school students. All had a glorious time, with their fingers in the paints and their smiles for the cameras. Many, many gifts were donated for the children at *Shelter from the Storm*. Thanks all!

We concluded our drive for donations for the women and families served by *Shelter from the Storm* with an overflowing car full of goodies, delivered to them by Ann Miller. Their appreciation was heartwarming.

Have you noticed our new front yard landscaping? Our native-scape planting is complete. Thanks to Bob Denebeim for the idea, to Joe Weiss for overseeing it, and to James Danoff-Burg for leading the project. Notice that the bricks that have been donated over the years now line the new walkways. You too can dedicate a brick in honor or in memory of someone.....just call the temple office.

Your Board of Directors approved the distribution of some of our Tikkun Olam funds to help those in need, especially during this holiday time. Checks have been sent from Temple Sinai to the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee for Ukrainian Relief, to Shelter from the Storm, to our Jewish Federation for community support, to the Coachella Valley Rescue Mission, and to Jewish Family Services for families in need.

Brotherhood continues to feed us and to show interesting movies most months. Join the fun! And mark your calendars for Women of Sinai's Fashion Show luncheon on Friday, January 27, to which the ladies of the other congregations in our valley have been invited. We hope for a great turnout to show our community spirit.

Again, wishing you all the best for the new year. See you at the shul.

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

From the Educator

Shalom Temple Sinai Congregants, Families, and Students,

All of us at Temple Sinai Religious School want to wish you a very happy end of 2022. We are all looking forward to an extraordinary and healthy year ahead.

Our school is currently on winter break.

On Sunday, December 4th, in preparation for Hanukkah, our students conducted a scientific experiment followed by a discussion. In the Hanukkah story, we learn that King Antiochus demanded that Jews discard the Torah, discontinue all religious practices, and declare alliance to the Greek gods.

Some Jews yielded to the pressure and embraced their new ways of life. These Jewish Hellenists, as they were called, assimilated easily, like crystals of sugar mixed in water.

(Each student added sugar to a glass of water and mixed. The sugar dissolved in the water and “disappeared”).

The Maccabees, however, refused to assimilate and adhere the new restrictions and subjection of religion.

(Each student added oil to a glass of water and mixed. The oil did not dissolve in the water. The students added more oil to the water and mixed. It still did not dissolve).

They fought against the Hellenists and won.

(Discussion: Did you ever feel social pressure to act like everyone else, even if you did not really want to do it?)

On Sunday, December 11th, our Religious School students and families participated in a Hanukkah celebration organized by our amazing PTO. It included Hanukkah crafts, stories, cookie decorating, Happy Holiday card writing, and more.

Hanukkah celebrates light over darkness. At Temple Sinai’s Religious School we teach our students that *Tikkun Olam* – repairing the world through acts of kindness, is one of the main Jewish principles.

One of the Jewish laws around the celebration of Hanukkah is sharing light with others.

Our religious school wanted to spread the light and encourage compassion by taking part in Temple Sinai’s Social Action Project. Our families donated new unwrapped gifts to be donated to ‘Shelter from the Storm.’ The students created Happy Holiday cards, to go with the donations.

Warmly,

Talia Lizemer-Hawley
Congregational Educator



Talia Lizemer, Educator



GENEROUS DONATIONS

GENERAL FUND

Yahrzeit

Julius Zemmol

By: Bernard Zemmol

Ray Olshansky

Max Olshansky

Sherwin Jacobs

By: Mitzie & Jack Olshansky

Edna Karpel

By: Lee & Harold Weinstein

Dr. Brian A. Hill

By: Sharon & Rod Hill

Etta Gold

By: Beth Frank

Bernie Gusto

By: Lynn Hannan

IN MEMORY OF

David Light

By: Jack & Mitzie Olshansky

Judy & Bernie Kotkin

Ann & Glynne Miller

Nancy Singer

Sandie Eisenberg

Gary Gottesman

By: Mitzie & Jack Olshansky

Ann & Glynne Miller

Nancy Singer

Ken Eldred

By: Women of Sinai

Deborah Jacobs

IN HONOR OF

Betty & Bob Denebeim

By: Barbara Rosenberg

Joe Weiss and Landscaping

By: Gladys Layne

Rabbi Novak's 60th birthday

By: Carol Woodward

TZEDAKAH

Ries Foundation

Robert P. Bergstein

RABBI AVI LEVINE RELIGIOUS SCHOOL

IN HONOR OF

Marcia & Rick Stein

By: Betsy Borns

Sandie Eichberg's Birthday

By: Resa Fremed

BROTHERHOOD

IN MEMORY OF

Steven Levander

By: Sandy Weisenberg & Sidney

Schwartz

CANTORIAL MUSIC FUND

Yahrzeit

By: Debbie Lipsett

RABBI'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

Yahrzeit

Seymour Kreger

By: Betsy & Gary Kreger

IN HONOR OF

Rabbi Novak's 60th birthday

By: Sandy Weisenberg

Renée & Ron Partelow

Michael Sonduck & David

Zeligson

Ilene & Rick Harris

Resa Fremed

Elaine Eldred

Shabbat Morning Aliyah

By: Sandy Weisenberg & Sidney

Schwartz

IN MEMORY OF

Goldie Brickman

By: Richard Brickman

GAIL & SAUL JACOBS FOOD DELIVERY PROJECT

Yahrzeit

Zvi H. Landau

By: Alissa Marshall

IN MEMORY OF

Ken Eldred

By: Alissa Marshall

Remember, if you ever need a helping hand, you'll find one at the end of your arm.
As you grow older, you will discover that you have two hands: one for helping yourself, the
other for helping others.

-Sam Levenson, In One Era & Out the Other

**You are invited to a private screening of
the award winning documentary
“*AHEAD OF TIME*,
The Extraordinary Journey of Ruth Gruber”**



with
Special Guest
Executive Producer
Patti Kenner

on

Sunday, January 15, 2023

9:30 AM -12 PM

at

**Temple Sinai
Palm Desert**

73251 Hovley Lane West

Complimentary Bagel, Lox and
Cream Cheese nosh before the Film!

“Ruth Gruber is an adventure in herself.”

HELEN REID, THE NEW YORK HERALD TRIBUNE

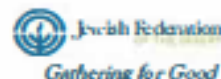
With her love of adventure and fearlessness, Ruth Gruber defied tradition from the moment she became the world's youngest PhD at the age of 20 in 1931. *Ahead of Time* tells the remarkable journey of 96 year-old Gruber, and is the directorial debut of noted cinematographer Bob Richman (*The September Issue*, *My Architect*, and *An Inconvenient Truth*). Gruber continued to make history throughout her trail-blazing career by becoming the first journalist to enter the Soviet Arctic in 1935 and escorting 1000 Holocaust refugees from Naples to New York in a secret war-time mission in 1944. She covered the heart wrenching ordeal of the refugees aboard the ship *Exodus* 1947 with photographs that helped change the world.



RSVP to Leslie Pepper, Jewish Federation at 760-324-4737

or

Temple Sinai at 760-5689699



Caring for individuals • Strengthening Community •
In partnership with the Jewish community

Brotherhood's Busy January



Nature Walk

Sunday, January 8 at 10:00 AM

Art Smith Trail
Meet at the trailhead
51500 Highway 74
Palm Desert

RSVP to gordeve@aol.com so that they know to look for you.

Thursday Evening Dinner & A Movie

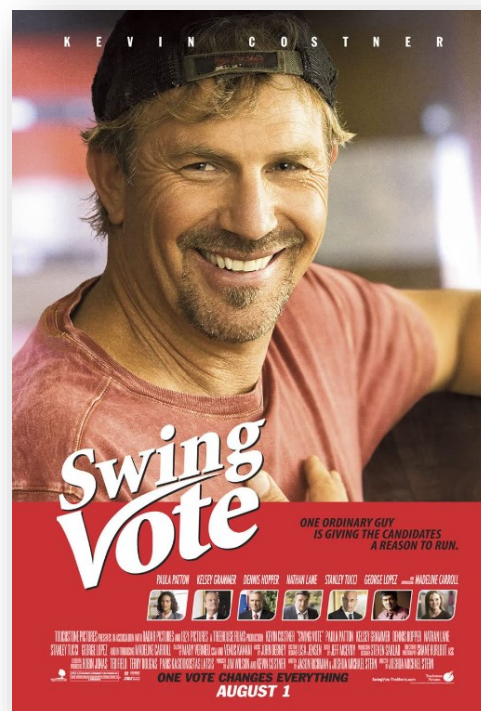
Thursday, January 19

5:30 PM in the Social Hall

Swing Vote is a 2008 American comedy-drama film about an entire U.S. presidential election determined by the vote of one man.



\$18.00 per person
(Drawing tickets included)



Women of Sinai Invite the Sisterhoods of Temple Isaiah, and Congregations Beth Shalom & Har-El for a Luncheon and Fashion Show on Friday, January 27 at 12:00 PM at Temple Sinai.

- Featuring the latest in stylish travel outfits from Shirley's Boutique Fashions
- \$35.00 per person
- Includes lunch and 5 drawing tickets
- Receive another ticket for each additional person that you bring.
- Shirley will have items for purchase.



Name(s)_____

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

Credit Card #_____

Expiration:_____ CCV_____ Phone_____

Billing Address_____

Send checks payable to "Women of Sinai" to Temple Sinai, 73251 Hovley Lane West, Palm Desert, CA 92260 or call the temple office 760-568-9699 for credit card payment.

COMMUNITY HOLOCAUST COMMEMORATION DAY

SUNDAY, JANUARY 29, 2023

3pm - 5pm

(Film Theatrical Performance with
Music by The Braid)

UC Riverside Palm Desert Auditorium
75080 Frank Sinatra Drive

*"The Holocaust is very much alive.
The wounds are still there.
The scars are still there.
The influence is still there".*

Avner Shalev



STORIES FROM THE VIOLINS OF HOPE

The Holocaust had silenced them...until an extraordinary violin-maker brought their voices back to life – and to the world.

The stringed survivors were brought back to life – and to the world – by a family of violin restorers spanning three generations. This is the true story of luthier Amnon Weinstein who took what might have become an exhibit of ruined instruments, restored them, and put them into the hands of musicians all over the world so that a new generation can hear them. The survivors of the Holocaust will not be here forever, but these violins will continue to tell their stories for generations to come. Produced by The Braid in their signature style of Salon Theatre and performed by seven professional actors, with live music from the Los Angeles Jewish Symphony



Jewish Federation
OF THE DESERT



The Braid
INSPIRING JEWISH STORIES

Rabbi Novak is participating in this event.

More information will be available soon.

Women of Sinai Present:

Chair Yoga at Temple Sinai

First Three Wednesdays of Every Month

10:30 AM in the Chapel



Chair Yoga can increase balance and flexibility, increase muscle tone and strength, boost mood and mental well-being, help manage chronic conditions, and help manage chronic pain.

Chair Yoga meets every Wednesday except for the last Wednesday of the month at 10:30 AM for 45-minute sessions. The cost is \$15 per person per session (cash please) and part of the proceeds go to support the temple.

Call the temple office at 760-568-9699 to RSVP.



Tai Chi returns to Temple Sinai on Thursday January 5.

Tai Chi improves strength, flexibility, aerobic conditioning and balance. It has been proven to improve cardiovascular fitness, lower blood pressure, prevent falls and help people who have arthritis.

There is no charge, but donations are gratefully accepted

Tai Chi meets Thursdays at
10:00 AM in the chapel

For more information, contact
instructor Diane Wohl at

DianeWohl@gmail.com



Birthdays

1/2
Alicia Rodriguez
1/4
Alex Cassuto
1/7
Sharon Danoff-Burg
1/8
Hannah Solomon
1/9
Ann Loeb
Clarice Lubel
Ann Miller
1/14
Gail Jacobs
1/15
Len Foster
1/16
David Bell
Nancy Pierce
1/17
Barbara Borden
1/20
Sandy Schachter
1/21
Resa Fremed
Susan Kross
Diane Simon
Joan Wine
1/23
Karol Gordon
1/24
Robert Rose
1/25
Marc Block
1/26
Nona Solowitz
1/28
Ron Borden
Stephen Ezer
1/29
Andra Ready
1/30
Sharyn McKee
1/31
Mike Hankin

Anniversaries

1/9
Carole & Robert Adelstein
1/14
Ilene & Richard Harris
Clarice & Gabe Lubel



Book Club's Next Read:

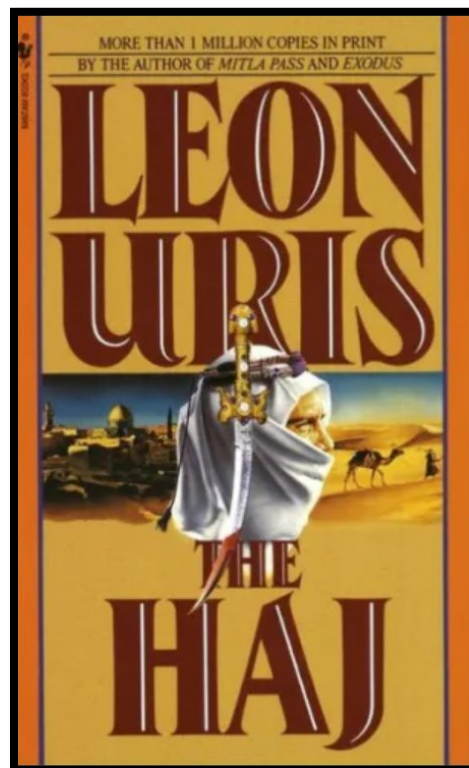
The Haj by **Leon Uris**

The Haj tells the story of the birth of Israel from the viewpoint of a Palestinian Arab

Wednesday, January 25,

10:30 AM

In the chapel



Calling All Singers!

The Jewish Federation of the Desert is putting together a community choir for its

Community Israel 75 Celebration on

April 30, 2023.

If you've got the RUACH (enthusiasm) and time for rehearsals, please contact Leslie Pepper at the Federation (760-324-4737) or leslie.pepper@jfedps.org.

Young and young-at-heart are encouraged to participate.

January 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 No Religious School - Winter Break	2 Office Closed	3 Desert Cities Bridge 1:00 PM Torah in Translation 4:00 on Zoom	4 Chair Yoga 10:30 Desert Cities Bridge 1:00 PM Mah Jongg 1:00 PM	5 Tai Chi 10:00 AM Lunch & Learn 12:00 Chapel & Zoom Desert Cities Bridge 1:00 PM	6 Erev Shabbat Oneg 5:00 Service 5:30 Sanctuary & live stream	7 Torah Study 8:45 AM Shabbat Morning Service 10:00 Chapel & Zoom
8 Religious School 9:30 Brotherhood Nature Walk	9 Office Closed	10 Desert Cities Bridge 1:00 PM Torah in Translation 4:00 on Zoom	11 Chair Yoga 10:30 Desert Cities Bridge 1:00 PM Mah Jongg 1:00 PM	12 Tai Chi 10:00 AM Lunch & Learn 12:00 Chapel & Zoom Desert Cities Bridge 1:00 PM	13 Erev Shabbat Oneg 5:00 Service 5:30 Sanctuary & live stream	14 Torah Study 8:45 AM Shabbat Morning Service 10:00 Chapel & Zoom
15 No Religious School - MLK Day Ruth Gruber Movie with Federation 9:30 AM	16 Office Closed	17 Desert Cities Bridge 1:00 PM Torah in Translation 4:00 on Zoom	18 Chair Yoga 10:30 Desert Cities Bridge 1:00 PM Mah Jongg 1:00 PM	19 Tai Chi 10:00 AM Lunch/Learn 12:00 Chapel & Zoom Desert Cities Bridge 1:00 PM Brotherhood Dinner/Movie 5:30 PM	20 Erev Shabbat Oneg 5:00 Service 5:30 Sanctuary & live stream	21 Torah Study 8:45 AM Shabbat Morning Service 10:00 Chapel & Zoom
22 Religious School 9:30	23 Office Closed	24 Desert Cities Bridge 1:00 PM Torah in Translation 4:00 on Zoom	25 Book Club 10:30 AM Desert Cities Bridge 1:00 PM Mah Jongg 1:00 PM	26 Tai Chi 10:00 AM Lunch & Learn 12:00 Chapel & Zoom Desert Cities Bridge 1:00 PM	27 WOS Luncheon 12:00 Erev Shabbat Oneg 5:00 Service 5:30 Sanctuary & live	28 Torah Study 8:45 AM Shabbat Morning Service 10:00 Chapel & Zoom
29 Religious School 9:30 Federation Holocaust Commemoration Day. UCR-PD 3:00 PM	30 Office Closed	31 Desert Cities Bridge 1:00 PM Torah in Translation 4:00 on Zoom				



73-251 Hovley Lane West Palm Desert CA 92260
 760-568-9699 Phone 760-773-4883 FAX
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 760-568-1350 or 760-836-3354*



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