

# Temple Sinai

*Where Judaism Blooms in the Desert*

## May Shofar

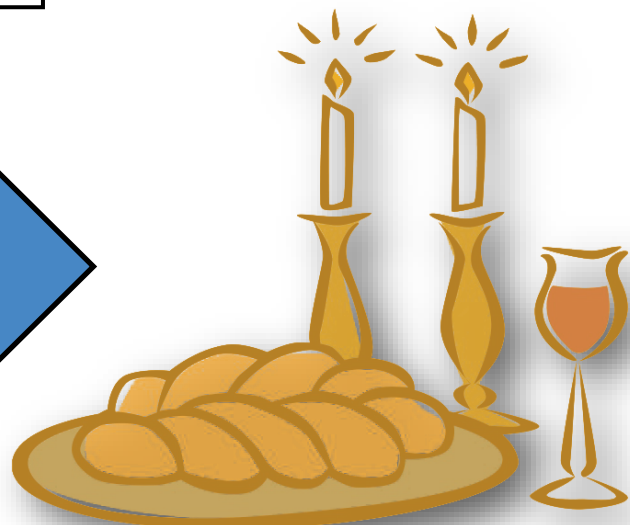
2023

5783



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Dinner Page 10



## From the Rabbi

You will soon see a new person at Sinai shadowing me. Her name is Adina Lawson and she attends the Academy for Jewish Religion, Los Angeles. Adina and I met at the Sun City Palm Desert dog park and began to discuss shadowing at Sinai. The school approved our proposal and so she will soon have the opportunity to meet many of you at Sinai.

Adina comes to rabbinic education late in life. For three decades she taught high school English and theater. She has a graduate degree in English from UC Berkeley. She possesses two bachelor's degrees, one in Jewish Studies and one in English from UCLA. Yes, she is a Californian.

Her avocation is theater—in addition to teaching high schoolers you may have seen her in some of the many performances she acts in with Sun City Performing Arts Club (with musical direction by our own Wayne Abravanel).

She lives with her husband Stephan in Sun City Palm Desert. Adina has wonderful energy and I look forward to growing with her.

Please join me in welcoming Adina Lawson to Sinai.

Rabbi David Novak

## Torah Readers Sought for High Holy Days

It's May—that means the high holy days are right around the corner. We are looking for people who want to read the Torah for us on Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur. An ability to decode Hebrew is preferred although not necessary. You will be provided with the reading and work with the rabbi on the chanting. It is a great mitzvah that you would be doing for our community. If you are here in the desert over the summer or elsewhere, we are able to collaborate online. Please make yourself known to me. I look forward to welcoming you to the bimah as you bring the Torah to life with your voice.



**Rabbi David Novak**



**Adina Lawson with Ziva**

From President Nancy Singer

It is supposed to be spring.....although it already feels more like summer. But our beautiful new garden in front of our building is blooming!

Now we're turning some attention to inside the building. Over the summer, we plan to upgrade our lobby. We already have donations for new tile and for the demolition & installation of the tile. If you'd like to donate towards new furnishings, please let me know. As always, your donations are greatly appreciated.



President Nancy Singer

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Our Annual Congregational Meeting was held on Sunday, April 23 and while it was nice to see those who attended, we unfortunately didn't have a quorum. So according to our Bylaws, the current Board of Directors voted approval of the nominees for next year's Board. Welcome Barry Kaiman, welcome back Micki Greenspan, and continuing for another three-year term are Michael Sonduck and Joe Weiss.

This year's financial report was better than most prior years' reports but we still face financial shortfalls in several areas, especially in the area of security. I relayed an incident that occurred in the office recently that shook us all up and made us realize that we need more security coverage during services and religious school plus we need to enhance the physical security in the building at all times. This is our top priority. In addition to having to increase the portion of dues that is devoted to security, we have requested an allocation from our Federation to help us with security costs.

Unfortunately, the concert featuring pianist David Syme scheduled for Saturday, May 6, has had to be cancelled due to circumstances beyond our control including a lack of registrations as many of our expected attendees have already left for their (cooler) summer homes.

Please join us for our Installation Shabbat on Friday, June 2. The 2023-2024 Boards of the Temple, Women of Sinai, and Brotherhood will be installed that evening by Rabbi Novak and we will have a celebratory dinner following services. Reservations for dinner are needed no later than May 31 so we can order the right amount of food. Call the office or send in your check with the tear-off portion of the flyer found elsewhere in this Shofar.

See you at the shul.

*Nancy*

Internationally renowned pianist

# David Syme

In Concert, with Welcome Dinner

**Saturday, May 6**

Dinner: 6:00 PM

Concert: 7:30

Concert Ticket Only \$50.00

Concert & Dinner \$100.00

Concert, Dinner & Reserved Seating \$150.00

Concert, Dinner & Reserved Seating for two \$200.00

Please contact  
temple of-  
-568-

the  
fice (760  
9699) by

Vecteezy.com

Syme Concert

**CANCELED**

Names of all attendees included in this payment) \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Total \$\$ \_\_\_\_\_ Pay by Check # \_\_\_\_\_ Pay by Cash: \_\_\_\_\_ Vegetarian Meal(s) \_\_\_\_\_

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

Expiration Date: \_\_\_\_\_ CCV Code: \_\_\_\_\_ # of Attendees: Concert \_\_\_\_\_ Dinner: \_\_\_\_\_

Billing Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Wish to sit with: \_\_\_\_\_

Please call the temple office (760-568-9699) or bring this form (checks should be payable to Temple Sinai) to 73251 Hovley Lane West, Palm Desert, CA 92260 by **Wednesday, May 3** to make your dinner reservation.



## From the Educator

Shalom Temple Sinai Congregants, Families, and Students,  
Our religious school had a very meaningful Passover event on Sunday, April 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2023, including learning and celebration.

The students enjoyed creating matzah covers, playing 'Kosher/Not Kosher for Passover' game, showcasing our Passover play to their parents and families, and, of course, munching on chocolate-covered matzah.

Our parents were delighted to savor coffee with Rabbi Novak.

In preparation for Passover, the educators and I concentrated our efforts not only teaching about the history and traditions, but also discussing how we can better our world.



Talia Lizemer, Educator

We decided to join the Social Action Committee's Mitzvah Project by donating new and gently used clothing, shoes, coats, toys, and books to disadvantaged individuals in our community, both children and adults.

So, homework was assigned to our students, parents, families, and staff: spring-clean our homes.

A substantial amount of clothes, shoes, toys, books, and more were brought to the temple.

This was followed by a discussion where the students not only learned about the history of spring clean\*, but also shared their feelings and enjoyments regarding decluttering their bedrooms and closets and feeling elated about accomplishing the mitzvah of caring for the less fortunate.

I would like to thank our students, parents, families, and staff for helping us better our community.

On Sunday, April 30<sup>th</sup>, 2023, a community wide *Yom Ha'Atzmaut* (Israel's Independence Day) Celebration was held. Temple Sinai's Community Religious School participated in the event.

Warmly,

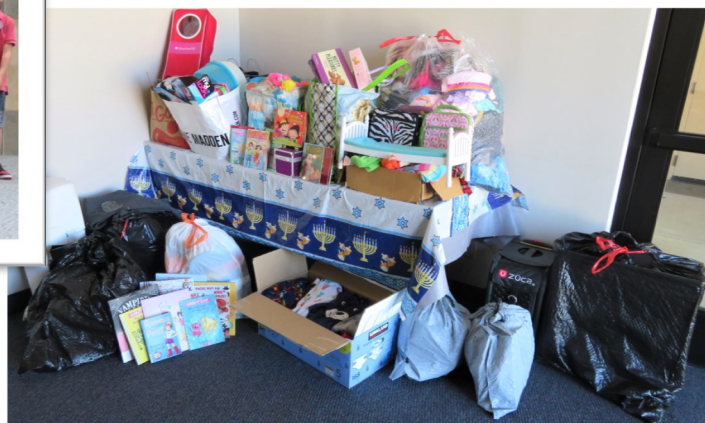
Talia Lizemer-Hawley, M.A.

Congregational Educator

\*In Jewish custom, spring cleaning is linked to Passover, which marks the liberation of Jews from slavery in Egypt, approximately 3,500 years ago. Before the start of the holiday, a general cleaning takes place in order to remove any yeast, bread or other *chametz* from the home.

# April in the Religious School

Students celebrated Passover with a show for their parents, donating to the Social Action Committee's Galilee Center project, welcoming Channel 3 newscasters, and of course by eating chocolate-covered matza.



Judaism relates to Earth Day because of the customs of repairing the world and doing no harm, so the school observed the day with re-usable water bottles and cupcakes.



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.....President, Brotherhood

**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***

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

Picce z”l & Bob Glast

Matthew & Judy Israel

Gladys Layne

Antonio Marin

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

***Pearl Patron***

Robert & Carole Adelstein

Steve & Evelyn Alden



## Congregants' Corner

By Ann Miller

On Saturday evening April 15th Marcia and Rick Stein opened up their home to our chavurah. We welcomed Toni Victor and Barry Kaiman into the group, and also Judy and Bernie Kotkin who were on vacation celebrating their 60th wedding anniversary. Jack Olshansky suggested we all go around and share some information about ourselves. What a great ice breaker.

An enjoyable evening was had by all as we celebrated Ann and Glynne Miller's 46th anniversary.

We have our year planned out, with activities every other month .



### Brotherhood Garden Brick Program

Purchase a gift brick to help support and beautify the newly renovated Native Scape Chapel Garden  
These bricks may be used to:

- ◆ Celebrate a birth
- ◆ Honor or thank a special person
- ◆ Leave a lasting memorial
- ◆ Commemorate any occasion



## GENEROUS DONATIONS

### GENERAL FUND

#### Yahrzeit

**Rose Kaplan**

By: Andy & Anne Kaplan

**Israel Katz**

By: Marlene & Ron Caudill

**Barney Krieger**

By: Mitzie & Jack Olshansky

**Adrienne Chunowitz**

**Joel Role**

By: Joanne & Bill Chunowitz

**Oscar Weinstein**

By: Carole Corngold

#### IN MEMORY OF

**Picce Glast**

By: Rosanne & Steve Ezer

**Bob Geller**

By: Gordon & Eve Kramer

#### IN HONOR OF

**Rabbi Novak's leading of Passover Seder**

By: Pat & Paul Ehrlich

**Our patrons**

By: Nancy Singer

**Thanks to the Congregation**

By: Elaine Frankel

**Rabbi Novak's Installation**

By: Janet Ball

**Jack Olshansky's Birthday**

By: His grandchildren and great-grandchildren

#### TZEDAKAH

Michael Cordero

Farla Binder

### FUND FOR THE FUTURE

#### IN MEMORY OF

**Terri Granell**

By: Rachell Quinones

### RABBI'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

#### Yahrzeit

**Janice Kreger**

By: Gary & Betsy Kreger

#### IN MEMORY OF

**Jordan Richman**

By: Sandra Richman

**Terri Granell**

By: Rachell Quinones

**Arnold Cassuto**

By: Alex & Barbara Cassuto

#### TZEDAKAH

Charles Tigerman

### RABBI AVI LEVINE RELIGIOUS SCHOOL

#### Yahrzeit

**Harry Kirzner**

**Samuel Rudetsky**

**Sam Schrager**

By: Gloria & Ed Rudetsky

#### IN MEMORY OF

**Terri Granell**

By: Rachell Quinones

### CANTORIAL MUSIC FUND

#### IN MEMORY OF

**Terri Granell**

By: Rachell Quinones

### GAIL & SAUL JACOBS FOOD DELIVERY FUND

#### IN MEMORY OF

**Terri Granell**

By: Rachell Quinones

#### IN HONOR OF

**Micki Greenspan's Birthday**

By: Gail & Saul Jacobs

#### TZEDAKAH

Tony Cobain

# Installation & Shabbat Dinner Friday, June 2



Pre-oneg 5:00 PM

Service 5:30

Dinner Following Service

**Celebrate with the community with the installation of  
the Board of Directors & Boards of Women of Sinai  
and Brotherhood**

**Tell your friends it will be tacos and margaritas!**

**\$28 PER PERSON** Please make dinner reservations no later than Wednesday, May 31



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Installation Shabbat Dinner

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_  
(Include names of all attendees included in this payment)

Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Total \$\$ \_\_\_\_\_ Pay by Check # \_\_\_\_\_ Pay by Cash: \_\_\_\_\_ Vegetarian Meals \_\_\_\_\_

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

Expiration Date: \_\_\_\_\_ CCV Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Billing Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Wish to sit with: \_\_\_\_\_

Please send check payable to Temple Sinai to 73251 Hovley Lane West, Palm Desert, CA 92260 or call the temple office (760-568-9699) for credit card payment. Do not mail cash.



## Anniversaries

5/3

Michael Sonduck & David Zeligson

5/13

Marie & Eric Sontz

## Birthdays

5/2

Rosanne Ezer  
Martin Sherman

5/3

Ethan Mezrahi

5/5

James Danoff-Burg  
Lynn Hannan  
Rob Bergstein

5/6

Adam Farzaneh

5/9

Jimmy Ly Sing Sao  
Michael Horne

5/11

Anne Kaplan

5/16

Micki Greenspan

5/18

Andy Kaplan  
Mitzie Olshansky

5/19

Steven Alden  
Sally Frank

5/20

Michael Berk

5/21

Toni Victor

5/23

Ellen Sachs  
Michelle Hoffman

5/24

Daniel Levine

5/27

Nancy Levine  
Matthew Israel

5/29

Bernard Zemmol

5/31

Sam Weiss  
Steve Hogan  
Reesa Manning



# Brotherhood Dinner & A Movie

## Thursday, May 18

### 5:30 PM



**Chinese Dinner Buffet**

**\$18 per person**

***Please RSVP by  
Tuesday, May 16 so that we know  
how much food to order!***

Salam is a consultant on a popular Palestinian TV series filmed in Ramallah who rather stupidly runs afoul of an Israeli checkpoint commander who uses his military influence to begin to manipulate Salam and the writing of the show.



May Dinner & A Movie

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_  
(Include names of all attendees included in this payment)

Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Total \$\$ \_\_\_\_\_ Pay by Check # \_\_\_\_\_ Pay by Cash: \_\_\_\_\_

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

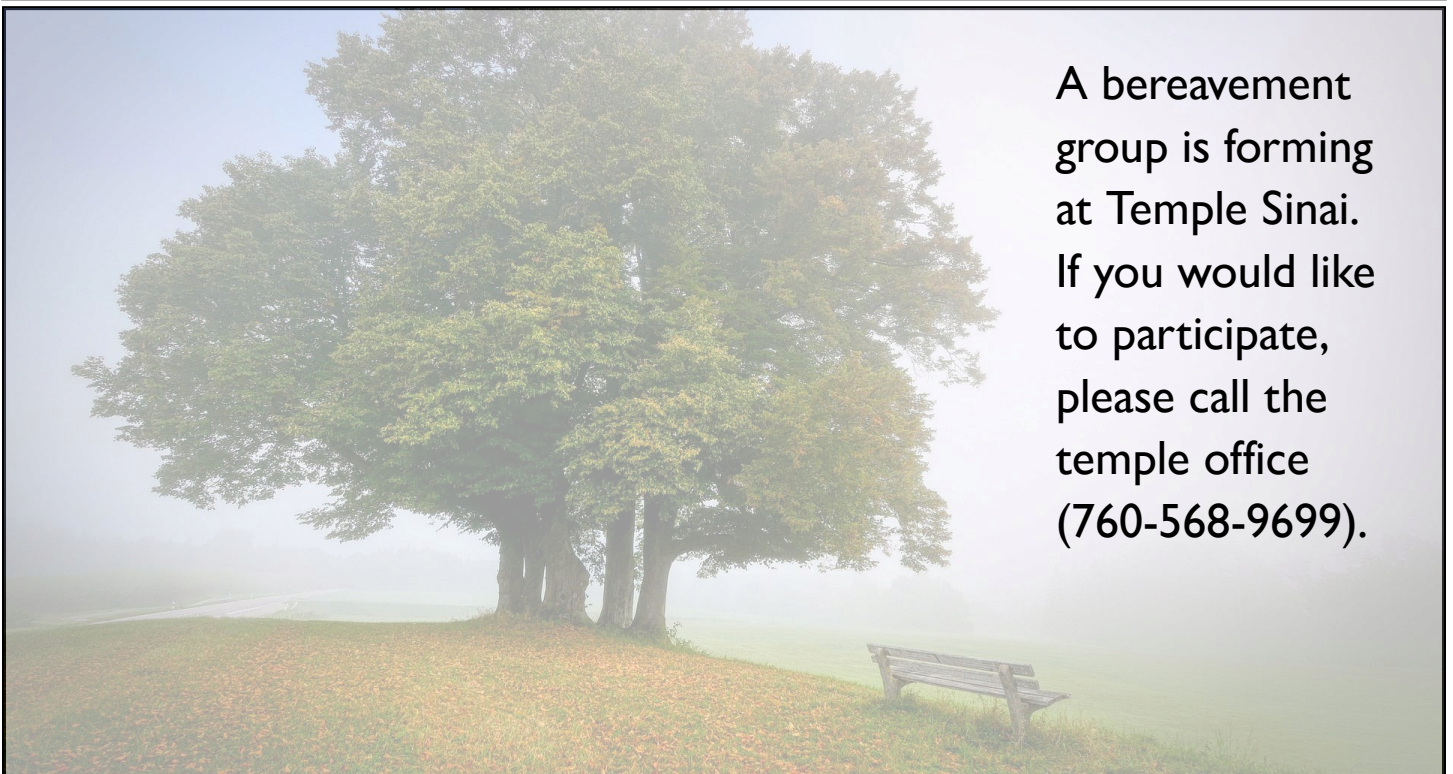
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Please send check payable to Temple Sinai to 73251 Hovley Lane West, Palm Desert, CA 92260 or call the temple office (760-568-9699) for credit card payment. Do not mail cash.



Many thanks to all of the members of the community who donated to the Social Action committee's spring project to benefit the Galilee Center. Pictured here is just a portion of the new and gently used clothes and toys that were brought in during the month of April.



A bereavement group is forming at Temple Sinai. If you would like to participate, please call the temple office (760-568-9699).



# What is Lag B'Omer?

Lag B'Omer is a shorthand way of saying the 33rd day of the Omer. (The numerical value of the Hebrew letter lamed is 30, and the value of gimel is three; lamed and gimel together are pronounced "lahg.") In addition to tracking the agricultural cycle, the Omer marks the seven-week period from Passover, which commemorates the Israelites' Exodus from Egypt, to Shavuot, which commemorates the giving of the Torah at Mount Sinai.

The journey from Egypt to Sinai was not only biblical, but spiritual as well. As the Israelites hiked through the desert, they also had to find their way through the wilderness of their souls, preparing themselves not only to be given the Torah, but to accept the Torah. Some people take the time during the Omer as one of self-reflection, focusing on study and self-improvement.

Lag B'Omer is not mentioned in the Torah and only hinted at in the Talmud, and there is no formal observance associated with the holiday. But a series of festive and meaningful Lag B'Omer rituals have evolved over time.

Historically, the period of the Omer is a time of semi-mourning, when weddings and other festivities are avoided, in memory of a plague that killed thousands of students of Rabbi Akiva, a Talmudic scholar (c. 50-135 C.E.). Lag B'Omer was the day on which the plague ceased, and thus became a day on which the mourning rituals are abandoned, replaced with great joy.

In Israel, parties and picnics abound and many attend evening bonfires. The Jewish historian Josephus recorded Lag B'Omer as the date in 66 C.E. when the revolt against Rome began. There was a great victory on that day. It is therefore possible that the bonfires of today commemorate the bonfires kindled almost 2,000 years ago in celebration of successful Jewish resistance to oppression.

Additionally, many Jews mark Lag B'Omer by commemorating the death of Shimon bar Yochai, a second-century sage from ancient Judea. According to Jewish legend, bar Yochai performed many miracles and received secret mystical knowledge. Some consider him the author of the Zohar, a foundational Jewish mystical text. Bar Yochai died on the 33rd day of the Omer, and his yahrzeit is known as a Yom Hilula (a day of festivity to commemorate the death of a righteous mystical leader). The Yom Hilula of bar Yochai is customarily celebrated with bonfires, torch lighting, song, and feasting.

From: [ReformJudaism.org](http://ReformJudaism.org)



# May 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 Temple Office Closed	2 Torah in Translation 4:00 on Zoom	3 Chair Yoga 10:30 Mah Jongg 1:00 PM	4 Tai Chi 10:00 Lunch & Learn 12:00 Chapel & Zoom	5 Erev Shabbat Oneg 5:00 Service 5:30 <b>Sanctuary &amp; live stream</b>	6 Torah Study 8:45 AM Shabbat Morning Service 10:00 Chapel & Zoom
7 Religious School 9:30	8 Temple Office Closed	9 Lag B'Omer Torah in Translation 4:00 on Zoom	10 Chair Yoga 10:30 Mah Jongg 1:00 PM	11 Lunch & Learn 12:00 Chapel & Zoom	12 Erev Shabbat Oneg 5:00 Service 5:30 <b>Sanctuary &amp; live stream</b>	13 Torah Study 8:45 AM Shabbat Morning Service 10:00 Chapel & Zoom
14 Mother's Day	15 Temple Office Closed	16 Torah in Translation 4:00 on Zoom	17 Chair Yoga 10:30 Mah Jongg 1:00 PM	18 Lunch & Learn 12:00 Chapel & Zoom Dinner & A Movie 5:30	19 Erev Shabbat Oneg 5:00 Service 5:30 <b>Sanctuary &amp; live stream</b>	20 Torah Study 8:45 AM Shabbat Morning Service 10:00 Chapel & Zoom
21 Last Day of Religious School 9:30	22 Temple Office Closed	23 Torah in Translation 4:00 on Zoom	24 Book Club 10:30 Mah Jongg 1:00 PM	25 Erev Shavuot Lunch & Learn 12:00 Chapel & Zoom	26 Shavuot Yizkor 10:00 AM Erev Shabbat Oneg 5:00 Service 6:00 PM <b>Sanctuary &amp; live stream</b>	27 Torah Study 8:45 AM Shabbat Morning Service 10:00 Chapel & Zoom
28	29 Memorial Day Temple Office Closed	30 Torah in Translation 4:00 on Zoom	31 Chair Yoga 10:30 Mah Jongg 1:00 PM			



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