

Matot–Masei: Should We Stay or Should We Go?

As the book of Numbers comes to a close and the Israelites finally come to the edge of the Promised Land, their forty-year endeavor nearly comes undone in a moment. Two (and a half) of the twelve tribes voice their wish not to enter the land along with their people but to stay back on the far side of the Jordan River, where their cattle can graze and their children can grow up in peace.

Moses is rightly outraged: “Are your brothers to go to war,” he objects, “while you stay here?”

It’s an objection I cannot help but hear as an American Jew living outside the modern day State of Israel, especially as my two-month sojourn here nears its end. War has cast its unrelenting shadow for the past 659 days (and counting); husbands, fathers, brothers, and sons have served for almost as many. Peace of the kind I take for granted—and to which I will return in two weeks’ time—seems an unearned privilege.

Of course, we cannot all join the war effort. And, in truth, we in the Diaspora have enough of a fight to contend with on the field of ideas if not of battle. Like the tribes who make their home outside the Land, we have an obligation to be halutzim, “equipped” with the knowledge, purpose, and resolve to stand up for our brothers and sisters in Israel as well as ourselves. May we be heartened by the refrain with which we conclude each book of the Torah: hazak hazak v’nithazek “Be strong, be strong, and let us strengthen each other.”

Shabbat shalom.

- Rabbi Moe Howard



Sinai Temple, 10400 Wilshire Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90024 310-474-1518 | www.sinaitemple.org

Affiliated with the United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism

SINAI TEMPLE CLERGY

Rabbi Nicole Guzik and Rabbi Erez Sherman  
Senior Rabbis

Senior Clergy Administrator:  
Gary Fayman gfayman@sinaitemple.org or  
310-481-3234

Rabbi Avi Taff  
Rabbi

Rabbi Gavriella Kornsgold  
Rabbi

Administrative Clergy Assistant:  
Gabriel Prunty

gprunty@sinaitemple.org or 310-481-3200  
Cantor Marcus Feldman  
Senior Cantor

Cantor’s Office Assistant and  
B’nai Mitzvah Coordinator: Ashley Soltys cantorsof-  
fice@sinaitemple.org or 310-481-3235

Rabbi David Wolpe  
Max Webb Emeritus Rabbi  
dwolpe@sinaitemple.org

Moe Howard

Rabbinic Intern mhoward@  
sinaitemple.org

Special thanks to the staff and lay leaders who make Shabbat services exceptional:

Executive Director – Jessica Green  
Ritual Director – Jay Harwitt  
Musical Director – Benjamin Fingerhut  
Director of Media and Communication – Roy Regev  
Audio Visual Tech – Christopher Princivalli  
Natalia Rojas – Communications Manager  
Rebeka Small – Operations Manager  
Amanda Harrison – Program & Engagement Coordinator  
Hannah Buckland – Atid Program Coordinator  
Judy Begin – Temple Administrator  
Sharona Rachmani  
Mansour Eslamboli  
Michael Silberstein  
Ebby Tabariai  
Michael Nazarian  
David Matloob  
Faith Gershbock  
Jacob Gershbock

Mehrzad Roshan, Sinai Temple President mro-  
shan@sinaitemple.org



Shabbat Daycare  
Upper Traub  
9:45-11:45 a.m.  
\*First come first serve

MINCHA & KABBALAT SHABBAT

in Kohn Chapel  
Every Friday at 5:45  
Also available to watch on YouTube

DAILY MINYAN

in Kohn Chapel  
Monday–Friday at 7:30 a.m. and  
5:45 p.m. (in person)

Saturday 9:00 p.m. (online only)

Sunday (and National Holidays, when  
held in-person) 8:30 a.m.



SINAI TEMPLE

1 AV 5785 | 26 JULY 2025



PARASHAT MATOT-MASEI | מטות-מסעי  
RASH CHODESH MENACHEM AV | ראש חודש מנחם אב  
Torah reading begins: Numbers 33:50 (page 957)  
Rosh Chodesh Maftir: Numbers 28:9-15 (page 930)  
Haftarah: Jeremiah 2:4-28 and 3:4 (page 973)  
“Living Outside the Land of Israel- A Shabbat Text Study:” Sermon  
by Rabbi Gavriella Kornsgold

SHABBAT SERVICE

in Ziegler Sanctuary at 9:00 a.m.

Also available to watch on YouTube

TORAH AT THE TABLE

in CC Library Classroom at 9:00 a.m.

Honor or remember someone special  
with a meaningful gift to Sinai Temple.  
Scan this QR code to make a contribu-  
tion in their name and create a lasting  
tribute.



Find us on YouTube at www.youtube.com/@SinaiTemplePresents

TEMPLE EVENTS

Meet Your Mensch Karsh Terrace Rooftop Movie Night

Tuesday, August 5, 7:00-10:00 p.m.

Join us at Sinai Temple for a relaxing rooftop evening as we screen A Real Pain under the stars. Enjoy popcorn, snacks, and plenty of space to stretch out—just bring a blanket, some pillows, and wear whatever makes you comfortable.

Feit Family Live: Back at Sinai Shabbat BBQ

Friday, August 22, 5:00 p.m.

Join us for a festive Shabbat evening with a classic BBQ dinner, kids’ entertainment, and a musical service led by Sinai Temple Clergy. Members only.

Weekly Parsha Class

Every Thursday at 8:30 a.m. starting Aug. 7th

Join us as Sinai Temple’s rotating clergy lead an in-depth exploration of the weekly Parsha. This class is offered exclusively online.

Sinai Temple Women’s Mission to Israel October 2025 Led by Rabbi Nicole Guzik

October 27 – November 2, 2025

For more information, email Gary Fayman at [gfayman@sinaitemple.org](mailto:gfayman@sinaitemple.org). Deadline is 9/1.

Siddur Project

Share your personal prayers, art, or music for a new Sinai Temple Siddur created by and for our community. Submit your original works to inspire others and enrich our collective prayer experience. Submissions are sent to [siddurproject@sinaitemple.org](mailto:siddurproject@sinaitemple.org). Scan the QR below for more information.



SISTERHOOD

Concerts on Cañon

Thursday, August 7 at 6:00- 8:00 p.m.

Join Sisterhood for an evening of music and fun at Concerts on Cañon on Thursday, August 7, from 6:00–8:00 PM at Beverly Cañon Gardens! Enjoy a performance by Rod Lightning and the Thunderbolts of Love, a classic rock tribute band, and connect with friends.

ATID

Atid Retreat at Camp Alonim

Sunday, September 7

Join us for a day trip to Camp Alonim with young Jewish adults! We will have a full day of activities and fun planned! Please note: This trip is for young Jewish adults ages 21-39 years old.

SAVE THE DATE

Mark your calendars for Dor Chadash’s end-of-summer party on Thursday, August 31, at 10:30 AM! Join us for a fun and festive celebration to close out the summer season.

WANT TO PLAN AN EVENT AT SINAI TEMPLE?

Host your next event at Sinai Temple, where exquisite catering meets a stunning setting to create unforgettable experiences.

Let our expert caterers transform your special occasion into a celebration filled with flavor, elegance, and impeccable service.

For more information, please contact Judy Begin at [jbegin@sinaitemple.org](mailto:jbegin@sinaitemple.org) or 310-481-3222.

SPONSOR AN ONEG SHABBAT



Honor a simcha or yahrzeit by sponsoring an oneg! Your sponsorship will be featured in the Shabbat bulletin and announced from the bimah on Shabbat.

To sponsor, contact Judy Begin at [jbegin@sinaitemple.org](mailto:jbegin@sinaitemple.org) or 310-481-3222.



Scan the QR code to RSVP and to learn about more events.

For more information contact Amanda Harrison at [aharrison@sinaitemple.org](mailto:aharrison@sinaitemple.org) or 310-481-3246