

Va’ethannan: Bearing Witness

Va’ethannan, “I pleaded,” is a fitting title for a parsha that contributes more than any other to the content of our liturgy. Moses addresses the Israelites as they prepare to enter the Promised Land with an affirmation that you will hear our resident gabbai, Jay Harwitt, recite just before the Torah is read:

V’atem ha-dvekim b’Adonai Eloheikhem hayyim kulkhem hayom

“You who cling to Adonai your God have all been sustained to this day.”

Reminding them of God’s role in their reaching this moment, Moses continues with a familiar line from Aleinu:

V’yadata hayom v’hashevota el levavekha ki Adonai hu Ha-Elohim bashamayim mima’al v’al ha-aretz mitachat eyn od

“Know therefore this day and keep in mind that Adonai alone is God in heaven above and on earth below; there is no other.”

After reiterating the Ten Commandments (the fourth of which is included in the Shabbat morning Kiddush), Moses exhorts the Israelites with the prayer we all know by heart:

Shema Yisrael Adonai Eloheinu Adonai Ehad

“Hear, O Israel! Adonai is our God, Adonai alone.”

You might not know that the last letters of shema and echad are enlarged in a Torah scroll, together spelling the word ed, “witness.” To be a Jew is to bear witness to God’s presence in our own lives and the life of our people—at the same time that we bear witness to the pain of God’s absence where He is desperately needed. It was out of such desperation that Moses pleaded with God to see the land of Israel. Perhaps it’s out of such desperation that we should plead with God to see it have peace.

Shabbat shalom.

- Rabbi Moe Howard



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Affiliated with the United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism

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

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Director of Media and Communication – Roy Regev
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Shabbat Daycare
Parenting Center Room 114
9:45-11:45 a.m.
*First come first serve
Potty trained- 5 years old

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

15 AV 5785 | 9 AUGUST 2025



SHABBAT NACHAMU AND TU B’AV
PARASHAT VA-ETCHANAN | ואתחנן

Torah reading begins: Deuteronomy 5:1 (page 1015)

Maftir: Deuteronomy 7:9-11 (page 1031)

Haftarah: Isaiah 40:1-8 (page 1033) The First Haftarah of Consolation

“Holding On and Letting Go:” Sermon by Rabbi Avi Taff

SHABBAT SERVICE

in Ziegler Sanctuary at 9:00 a.m.

The Bar Mitzvah of Ari Hayavi

Also available to watch on YouTube

TORAH AT THE TABLE

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

FAMILY MINYAN

in Kohn Chapel at 9:30 a.m.

The Bat Mitzvah of Ayla S. Yafeh

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



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

A MESSAGE FROM PRESIDENT MEHRZAD ROSHAN

At Sinai Temple, membership is more than an affiliation — it is belonging to a sacred community rooted in tradition, connection, and purpose. As members, we are part of a multigenerational family that celebrates together, learns together, and lifts one another up in times of need.

Membership means showing up — not only for services and programs, but for one another. It means supporting our clergy, educators, and staff who inspire us daily. It means investing in the future of Jewish life through our schools, our youth, and our commitment to Conservative Judaism and to Israel.

Please join us in our sacred work. As we approach the High Holy Days, I invite you to reflect on what membership means to you. Let us continue building a community where everyone feels seen, heard, and valued.

Together, we are stronger.
Together, we are Sinai.

TEMPLE EVENTS

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.

Rock Wednesday!

Wednesday, August 27, 6:00-7:30 p.m.

Join us for Rock Wednesday as we assemble Rosh Hashanah gift bags for a local Adult Day Health Care Center.

From Tragedy to Hope: Building Bridges After 9/11

Thursday, September 11, 7:00-8:30 p.m.

Join us at Sinai Temple for a conversation with Co-Senior Rabbi Erez Sherman and Sharaka, amplifying moderate Arab voices for peace and partnership in the Middle East.

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. 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. Scan the QR below for more information.



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.

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.

YOM KIPPUR BOOK OF REMEMBRANCE

Many Sinai Temple congregants find it meaningful to remember loved ones by including their names in the annual Book of Remembrance, which is distributed on Yom Kippur for the Yizkor service.

To include a loved one's name in the 5786 Book of Remembrance, please go to <https://bit.ly/4k8wSCW>, or scan the QR code below to enter the information online and pay with a credit card. Alternatively, enter the names below and return the form, along with a check (payable to Sinai Temple) in the amount of \$20 per individual, by Friday, September 5, 2025.



Memorial Plaques- Honor the Memory of Your Loved Ones

Many members of our community find deep meaning in dedicating a permanent memorial plaque, in memory of their loved ones. These plaques are located in the back of Ziegler Sanctuary. There, the names of loved ones are illuminated on days when the Yizkor prayers are recited, as well as on yahrzeit anniversary dates in perpetuity. Names that are inscribed on these plaques are automatically honored in the Perpetual Memory section of our Yom Kippur Book of Remembrance.

If you are interested in purchasing a permanent Sinai Temple memorial plaque, please contact Judy Begin at (310) 481-3222 or jbegin@sinaitemple.org. We hope you have a wonderful summer and look forward to warmly welcoming you to our High Holy Day services.

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 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 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 or 310-481-3246