

Vayelekh: Singing the Song of Torah

As he readies himself to take leave of the people and the world, Moses issues to the Israelites God’s final commandment:

“Write down this song and teach it to the people of Israel; put it in their mouths, in order that this song may be My witness against the people of Israel.” (Deuteronomy 31:19)

The “song” to which Moses refers is ambiguous. On its face, it is likely the poetic monologue that Moses recites in the very next parsha, Ha’azinu. But tradition interprets it to be the Torah in its entirety. Thus Maimonides, the great codifier of Jewish law, makes it incumbent on every Jew to write their own Torah scroll (or at least a part of one letter).

We might ask: What does it mean for the Torah to be a song? Perhaps that it should be chanted, as we do in any number of modes when we read from the Torah in community. Or maybe that it should be read not as prose but as poetry, as the love song of God for the Jewish people. Or, profounder still, that it be the lyrics to our lives—heard in our speech, performed through our deeds, played on the instruments of our hands and hearts.

However we understand the Torah as a song, one thing holds true: it’s most beautiful when sung together in harmony.

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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Celebrate the High Holy Days with Sinai Temple—explore our full schedule of services, programs, and experiences at sinaitemple.org/high-holy-days

Shabbat Daycare

9:45-11:45 a.m. | First come first serve!

Potty trained- 5 years old

The Parenting Center: Room 114

12 kids max

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

5 TISHREI 5786 | 27 SEPTEMBER 2025

SHABBAT SHUVAH | שבת שובה
PARASHAT VAYELECH | וילך
Torah reading begins: Deuteronomy 31:1 (page 1173)
Maftir: Deuteronomy 31:28-30 (page 1178)
Haftarah: Readings from Hosea, Joel, and Micah (page 1235)
“Answering Life’s Question:” Sermon by Rabbi Moe Howard

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.

TORAH IN THE ROUND

in Kohn Chapel at 9:30 a.m.
The Bar Mitzvah of Rio M. Kamran

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

Thank you to each one of you for your support and for being an essential part of our Sinai Temple family.

We have just celebrated two days of beautiful and inspiring Rosh Hashanah services, moments that reflected the strength, warmth, and spirit of our community. On this Shabbat morning, just days before Yom Kippur, I warmly invite you to support our annual appeal.

Every contribution you make is deeply valued and makes a direct impact on the life of our synagogue, our programs, and our community.

Together, we can ensure that Sinai Temple continues to thrive, inspire, and grow for generations to come. Wishing you and your loved ones a meaningful Yom Kippur, a sweet New Year, and a Shabbat shalom.

May you all be inscribed in the Book of Life.

With love and affection



Together Again at Sinai Temple

As we look toward the beginning of a new year together at Sinai Temple, we want to take a moment to reach out to you. Our synagogue is more than just a building—it’s a community, a family, and a place where we celebrate, learn, and support one another through every stage of life.

We know that life can get busy, and sometimes membership falls to the side. But we would truly love to welcome you back. By renewing your membership, you’ll not only stay connected to meaningful traditions and services, but you’ll also help strengthen the very community that has always been at the heart of Sinai.

This coming year is filled with opportunities—holiday celebrations, adult learning, youth programs, volunteer projects, and so much more. Your presence makes a difference.

If you’d like to rejoin, you can renew online at sinaitemple.org or call our office at (310) 474-1518. And if you have any questions or concerns, please don’t hesitate to reach out—we’d be happy to talk with you.

We miss you, and we hope to see you back soon.

Shabbat shalom,

Jamie Berman

Membership Vice President

A Single Ember

By *Jennifer Malvin*

one member
a single ember
Years to spend its light,
Making the world a bit more bright,
Welding together what needs repair,
Illuminating words of prayer,
Warming grief’s cold embrace,
And revealing hidden acts of grace.

A beacon for Kiddush, Kaddish, and community,
Am Yisrael Chai, simchas, and unity,
You are, each and every one, a single Ner Yachid,
But, together, we become a Ner Tamid.

TEMPLE EVENTS

Feit Family Live: Tashlich at the Beach

Sunday, September 28th | 10:00 am - 12:00 pm
Santa Monica Beach

Join us for a morning of games, arts and crafts, and a service for people of all ages. We encourage that you bring a shofar (if you have one), a water bottle, a beach towel or chair, and sun protection. If you can, please wear white.

Feit Family Live: Shabbat Dinner in the Sukkah

Friday, October 10 · 6:30 - 8:30pm PDT
Join us for a special evening of community and delicious food at Sinai Temple. Shabbat services with Sinai Temple clergy at 5:45 PM in Kohn Chapel. Engaging entertainment for children. The opportunity to fulfill the mitzvah of eating in the Sukkah.

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.

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.

SISTERHOOD

Sisterhood New Members Event

Thursday, October 9, 2025, 7:00 – 9:00 p.m.

Jacki & Jeff Karsh Terrace, Sinai Temple

Join Rabbi Nicole Guzik and Carolyn Hoffman, LCSW, for Building and Enhancing Satisfying Relationships: How to Give and Receive Feedback. Enjoy an evening of connection with fellow Sisterhood members, light dinner, and live music by Benjamin Wald.

SHABBAT KIDDUSH IS SPONSORED

By the Sanam and Simon Aftalion family in honor of their Baby Girl.

WANT TO PLAN AN EVENT

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

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