

Vayishlach: Three Against One

On the journey back to his home town after leaving the land of his father-in-law, Jacob braces himself to confront his estranged brother, Esau. The last time the two crossed paths some twenty years prior, Jacob ran off with Esau’s birthright and blessing. Fearing the vengeance Esau had sworn to seek, Jacob prepares for the worst: “In his anxiety, [Jacob] divided the people with him, and the flocks and herds and camels, into two camps, thinking, ‘If Esau comes to the one camp and attacks it, the other camp may yet escape.’” (Genesis 32:8–9)

Rashi, our foremost commentator, explains that Jacob took a three-pronged approach to the potential conflict: he arranged a conciliatory gift; he prayed to God for protection; and, as a last resort, he readied for war. Two centuries after Rashi, Rabbenu Bahya saw Jacob’s approach as a model for the Jewish people’s dealings with a hostile non-Jewish world—excluding the option of war, which was theologically verboten.

Seven centuries after Bahya, Jacob’s tact is still our own. Faced with a world either openly hostile or merely indifferent to us, we’ve historically taken three courses of action: conciliation (including by assimilation), religious devotion, or, since the advent of Zionism, armed confrontation. No one strategy is sufficient for all times; each has played a necessary role in guaranteeing the survival of our people.

The problem, it seems, is that the three “camps” have become just that—camps, dividing us from each other more than uniting us in common cause. Progressive and Ultra-Orthodox Jews have little to no interaction, and both refuse to engage with secular Zionists. We’ve missed the very point of Jacob’s example: to diversify, not divorce; to complement, not compete; to defend, not disown. May we prepare for the future we want to see, together.

Shabbat Shalom.
Rabbi Moe Howard

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

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MINCHA & KABBALAT SHABBAT

in Kohn Chapel
Every Friday at 5:45 PM
Also available to watch on [YouTube](#)

DAILY MINYAN

in Kohn Chapel
Monday–Friday at 7:30 a.m.
Sunday morning at 8:30 am
Sunday-Friday evenings at 5:45 pm
Saturday evenings 9:00 p.m. (online only)
Please consult the website for holiday locations and times.



16 KISLEV 5786 | 6 DECEMBER 2025



PARASHAT VAYISHLACH | וַיִּשְׁלַח
Torah reading begins: Genesis 32:4 (page 198)
Maftir: Genesis 33:18-20 (page 205)
Haftarah: Obadiah 1:1-7 (page 222)
“The Small Things” - Sermon by Rabbi Erez Sherman

SHABBAT SERVICE

in Ziegler Sanctuary at 9:00 a.m.
The Bat Mitzvah of Olivia V. Waterman
Also available to watch on [YouTube](#)

FAMILY MINYAN

in Kohn Chapel at 9:00 a.m.
The Bar Mitzvah of Dylan Hoffman

TORAH AT THE TABLE

in Blumenthal 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 contribution in their name and create a lasting tribute.



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

A MESSAGE FROM PRESIDENT MEHRZAD ROSHAN

In 2026, Sinai Temple will celebrate its 120th anniversary — a remarkable milestone in the life of our community.

Reaching this moment invites us not only to celebrate but also to reflect with gratitude, pride, and hope.

For more than a century, Sinai Temple has stood as a center of Jewish life in Los Angeles. Generations have walked through our doors seeking meaning, comfort, knowledge, and connection.

They found clergy who guided them, teachers who inspired them, friends who supported them, and a community that welcomed them. The mission that began in 1906 continues to shape who we are today: to deepen Jewish learning, strengthen Jewish identity, and advocate for Israel.

From Shabbat services that lift our spirits to schools that nurture our children to programs that challenge our minds, we are the beneficiaries of a sacred legacy.

If you are a member, we thank you for partnering with us. If you're not a member, we encourage you to join or support Sinai Temple with a tax-deductible contribution. We hope we step forward together into our next chapter.

To join our membership, please contact Rebeka Small at rsmall@sinaitemple.org.

To make a tax deductible donation, please contact Jackie Ahdout at jahdout@sinaitemple.org or scan the QR code.

Shabbat Shalom.



WE WANT YOU! Apply for the Board of Directors

Sinai Temple is seeking qualified candidates to serve on our Board of Directors for the fiscal year starting July 1, 2026.

To qualify, candidates must have been a member of the Temple in good standing for at least two (2) years and should be serving on at least two (2) of the standing committees of the Board of Directors.

If you meet the above conditions and would like to apply, please contact Jessica Green at 310-481-3219 or jgreen@sinaitemple.org.

The deadline to apply is January 15, 2026.

Sinai Temple Sisterhood

Sinai Temple Sisterhood enriches members' lives through programs, classes, and volunteer opportunities. We run the Gift Shop and cater luncheons, with proceeds supporting Sinai Temple, its schools, partial Jewish camp scholarships for members' families, and the wider community. Classes include Mah Jongg, Arts & Crafts, Balance, Calligraphy, and Needlepoint.

For more information, contact Marilyn Stern at marilystern1@yahoo.com or visit sinaitemple.org/sisterhood. To receive our monthly newsletter, email Natalia Rojas at nrojas@sinaitemple.org.



TEMPLE EVENTS

**Foundations Class:
Introduction to the Siddur with Cantor Feldman
This Tuesday, December 9 | 7:00 PM | In-Person Only**

Learn how the Siddur guides Jewish prayer and tradition with Cantor Marcus Feldman.

Dreidelmania!
Next Sunday, December 14 | 10:00 AM
Come break the world record for the most dreidels being spun at the same time! The current record is 734. Help us get to 735! Bring your family and friends! We'll have sufganiyot, popcorn, and latkes for sale.

ROCK Wednesday! & Hanukkah Songfest
Wednesday, December 17 | 6:00-7:30 PM
Celebrate Hanukkah with the joy of giving as we come together to collect and wrap toys for Chai Lifeline. Enjoy a festive sing-along led by Cantor Marcus Feldman, Benjamin Fingerhut, and Dr. Michelle Green Willner. Come share pizza, latkes, and sufganiyot.

An Evening with Eli Sharabi
Wednesday, December 17 | 8:00 PM
Join us as Eli Sharabi shares his powerful story of survival, faith, and resilience in conversation with Co-Senior Rabbis Nicole Guzik and Erez Sherman, supporting Ma'agalim's work with at-risk Israeli teens. Tickets must be purchased in advance. Contact Rebeka Small at rsmall@sinaitemple.org. Register at afmirael.org.

Westwood Hanukkah Lighting
Thursday, December 18 | 4:30 PM
Join our Sinai Temple community for the Annual Hanukkah Lighting in Westwood Village, featuring songs and a beautiful menorah lighting led by Co-Senior Rabbis Nicole Guzik and Erez Sherman.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!
Celebrating 120 Years of Music at Sinai Temple
Sunday, January 25, 2026 | 7:00 PM
Join us for a special concert celebrating 120 years of music at Sinai Temple, featuring Cantor Marcus Feldman and an extraordinary lineup of past and present musical leaders. We will honor the rich musical tradition that has shaped our community across generations.

Siddur Project
Share your personal prayers, art, or music for a new Sinai Temple Siddur created by and for our community. Enrich our collective prayer experience. Submit your original works to siddurproject@sinaitemple.org.

SHABBAT KIDDUSH IS SPONSORED BY
Limor and Omid Shaye in honor of Masoud Younesi.

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