

Sh'mot: Pay Attention

It’s never too early to start preparing for Passover. While the cleaning can wait, the claim at the heart of the seder is timely: “In each and every generation we must see ourselves as if we personally went out from Egypt.”

Slavery, we’re meant to understand, is not only a state of body but of mind. Pharaoh knew as much when he burdened the Israelites with ever harder labor: “Let heavier work be laid upon the people; let them keep at it and not pay attention to deceitful promises.” (Exodus 5:9)

It’s the confinement of their attention to nothing else than their work that defines their enslavement. So too, says Rabbi Moshe Chaim Luzzatto, of our own confined attention: “This is one of the cunning strategies of the evil inclination—to relentlessly burden our minds and hearts with its service so as to leave us no leisure to observe and reflect upon the kind of life we are leading.” (Mesilat Yesharim 2:31)

We are enslaved today by the Egypts of overfull schedules, twenty-four-hour news cycles, and addictive social media. Our attention is divided and diverted from where it most belongs: our relationships with ourselves, others, and God.

Moses was our redeemer then as he is now, not for splitting the sea but for sparing a second: “Let me turn aside,” he says on seeing the burning bush, “to look at this marvelous sight.” One moment of attention was enough to liberate our people. Perhaps it’s enough to liberate ourselves.

Shabbat Shalom.  
Rabbi Moe Howard

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

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MARK YOUR CALENDARS!  
Celebrating 120 Years of Music at Sinai Temple  
Sunday, January 25, 2026

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.



SINAI TEMPLE

21 TEVET 5786 | 10 JANUARY 2026



PARASHAT SH’MOT | שמות

Torah reading begins: Exodus 1:1 (page 317)

Maftir: Genesis 2:23-25 (page 325)

Haftarah: Isaiah 27:6-13 (page 343)

“When Kings Were Gods” - Sermon by Rabbi David Wolpe

SHABBAT SERVICE

in Ziegler Sanctuary at 9:00 a.m.

The Bar Mitzvah of Aaron J. Farahdel

Also available to watch on [YouTube](#)

TORAH AT THE TABLE

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

FAMILY MINYAN

in Kohn Chapel at 9:30 a.m.

The Bar Mitzvah of Ryder S. Kleinman

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](https://www.youtube.com/@SinaiTemplePresents)

# A MESSAGE FROM PRESIDENT MEHRZAD ROSHAN

January 7 marks the anniversary of the tragic fires of 2025 in Los Angeles.

The devastation caused by these fires is still beyond belief.

In the Palisades and Eaton Fires, which burned across Pacific Palisades, Malibu, Altadena, and the surrounding areas, approximately 16,000 structures were destroyed, including 13,000 homes. Thirty people lost their lives, and thousands were displaced and lost everything in a matter of hours.

The loss extends beyond physical damage. Homes that contained generations of memories were reduced to ashes. Businesses that were built over lifetimes and entire neighborhoods are gone.

This Shabbat, we pause as a congregation to acknowledge the depth of this tragedy. We hold in our thoughts all those families whose homes and lives were changed forever, and we recognize the pain of this tragedy continues long after the fires were extinguished. May this Shabbat be a time for reflection as we mark this moment.

## 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](mailto: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 [marilynstern1@yahoo.com](mailto:marilynstern1@yahoo.com) or visit [sinaitemple.org/sisterhood](http://sinaitemple.org/sisterhood). To receive our monthly newsletter, email Natalia Rojas at [nrojas@sinaitemple.org](mailto:nrojas@sinaitemple.org).



## TEMPLE EVENTS

### Learning with Rabbi David Wolpe

January 15, February 19, March 24, April 30, May 14, and June 16, 2026 | 7:00 PM

Join Rabbi David Wolpe for a six-part class series exploring Jewish wisdom from ancient texts to modern relevance. Free for members; \$10 per class for non-members.

## Flesh Family Unity Shabbat Dinner & Service Friday, January 16, 2026 | 6:30 PM

Join us for the Flesh Family Unity Shabbat Dinner & Service, a heartwarming and festive evening as we embrace the spirit of unity, joy, and community, continuing the Legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King and Rabbi Abraham Joshua Heschel.

### Join Sinai Temple at Faithful Central Bible Church!

Sunday, January 18, 2026 | 9:00 AM

Join Rabbis Taff and Kornsgold as Sinai Temple is hosted by Faithful Central Bible Church.

## Blindspot Screening & Panel Discussion

Wednesday, January 21, 2026 | 6:30 PM

Join us for a community screening of *Blind Spot*, a powerful documentary exploring the growing challenges facing Jewish students on college campuses.

## Men's Club Mixer

Thursday, January 22, 2026 | 4:30 PM

Join fellow Men's Club members for an evening of camaraderie, conversation with Rabbi Erez Sherman, and a relaxed viewing of Thursday Night Football. Don't miss this chance to connect and unwind in a social setting!

## 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.

You can secure your spot by visiting [www.sinaitemple.org](http://www.sinaitemple.org).

## 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](mailto:siddurproject@sinaitemple.org).

## SHABBAT KIDDUSH IS SPONSORED

In loving memory of Hallie Tager Leman, a lover of Israel

## 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](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

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