

Vaeira: When Patience Is Not a Virtue

Jonathan Greenblatt, CEO and National Director of the Anti-Defamation League, addressed our Sinai Temple congregation last Shabbat. The “torrent” of antisemitic hate, he said, is alarming in its pervasiveness, touching every corner of our lives. “Perhaps what’s most terrifying, most shocking,” he admitted, “is the fact that we’ve almost become numb to it.”

That we are inured to the rising tide of antisemitism is dis-maying—but it isn’t shocking. It’s a story as old as our people. “Say to the Israelites,” God tells Moses: “I will free you from the burdens of the Egyptians and deliver you from their bondage” (Exodus 6:6). The word for “burdens,” *sivlot*, is related to the word *sovlanut*, “tolerance.” Their tolerance of the suffering inflicted upon them, teaches Rabbi Simcha Bunim, was the Israelites’ true burden. They had grown so accustomed to a reality of blame, shame, and fear that they came to see it as normal.

It is not normal, God said, to be enslaved. Nor is it normal, said Jonathan Greenblatt, to be harassed, intimidated, and assaulted on campus, in the synagogue, or at the beach. We must fight this new status quo with our voices, our votes, and our values—but first, we must fight the inclination within ourselves to remain indifferent. It was when the Israelites were no longer willing to bear their burdens that redemption was soon at hand. How long are we willing to bear our own?

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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Mehrzad Roshan, Sinai Temple President



NEXT SUNDAY!

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

28 TEVET 5786 | 17 JANUARY 2026



PARASHAT VAEIRA | וַאֲרָא

WE BLESS THE NEW MONTH OF SH’VAT (Monday) | MLK WEEKEND

Torah reading begins: Exodus 6:2 (page 351)

Maftir: Exodus 7:5-7 (page 357)

Haftarah: Ezekiel 29:13-21 (page 372)

“Unity Without Uniformity” - Sermon by Rabbi Erez Sherman

SHABBAT SERVICE

in Ziegler Sanctuary at 9:00 a.m.

The Bat Mitzvah of Marmar Michelle Toumari

Also available to watch on [YouTube](#)

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

The situation in Iran has become increasingly grave. What is unfolding is not simply unrest but a campaign of repression against civilians who are demanding basic freedom. Thousands have been killed by militias in the streets. We have seen scenes in the news of families searching for their loved ones in morgues and hospitals.

We as Jews understand what it means to face persecution. History teaches us that injustice grows when the world looks away. We are far from Iran, but we are not indifferent to the suffering of its people.

May we see Iran and the Iranian people free from oppression and from a government that not only denies its people their basic human dignity but is also an enemy of Israel and the United States.

WINE & WISDOM

Join Rabbi Taff's Learning Circle for an intimate and enriching series that blends thoughtful Torah study with meaningful conversation in a warm, relaxed setting. Each session offers an opportunity to explore Jewish wisdom, ask big questions, and connect with fellow members over a shared glass of wine.

The next gathering takes place **Wednesday, February 4, from 7:30–8:30 PM**, with additional sessions continuing through the spring. This members-only learning circle is hosted in a private home to foster open dialogue and community.

RSVP is required. Address will be provided upon registration.

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 or visit sinaitemple.org/sisterhood. To receive our monthly newsletter, email Natalia Rojas at nrojas@sinaitemple.org.



TEMPLE EVENTS

Join Sinai Temple at Faithful Central Bible Church!
Tomorrow Sunday, January 18, 2026 | 9:00 AM

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

Sinai Speaks: Blind Spot Screening & Panel Discussion This Wednesday, January 21, 2026 | 6:30 PM

Join us for an important community evening featuring a screening of the documentary *Blind Spot*, followed by a panel discussion with student leaders and the film's executive producer. This timely program explores the growing threat to Jewish life on campus and offers space for reflection, learning, and conversation.

NEXT SUNDAY! Celebrating 120 Years of Music at Sinai Temple Next 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.

Paradise Cove: They Escaped the Cuckoo's Nest Wednesday, January 28, 2026 | 7:00 PM | Online Only

Join Co-Senior Rabbi Erez Sherman and Rabbi Pini Dunner for a compelling online book talk exploring *Paradise Cove*, the true story of courage, survival, and resistance inside a notorious psychiatric institution.

Feit Family Live Community Havdalah Saturday, January 31, 2026 | 5:30 PM

Gather for a special community Havdalah on the Jacki and Jeff Karsh Terrace featuring a private stargazing show led by professional astrophysicist Jack Lubin of Galaxy Guides, with food, drinks, and family-friendly activities to close out Shabbat together.

Singles 35+ and ATID Attend a Kings Game Wednesday, February 4, 2026 | 7:00 PM

Join other Singles 35+ and ATID for a fun night out at the Kings vs. Kraken game at Crypto.com Arena, featuring great hockey, a social atmosphere, and the chance to connect with new people.

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.

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