

## Beshalach: From One War to Another

This past Monday marked the end of what has felt like an era, as the body of slain hostage Ran Gvili was finally brought back to Israel for proper burial after more than two years of waiting, praying, and protesting.

Though this moment ought to have come much sooner, its arrival seems as if predestined. For it is in this week's Torah portion that we read of a momentous era's end marked by as momentous a return:

"And Moses took with him the bones of Joseph, who had exacted an oath from the children of Israel, saying, 'God will be sure to take notice of you: then you shall carry up my bones from here with you.'" (Exodus 13:19)

Joseph was first to be brought into Egypt, sold by his brothers into slavery against his will. Now he is last to be brought out, redeemed by his descendants generations hence. His homecoming, while not yet complete, is the closure of a saga and the fulfillment of a dual promise: that God does not abandon His people, and that they do not abandon each other. So too, Ran's homecoming is a saga closed and a promise fulfilled. And so too, there remains a journey ahead. With Egypt behind them and Sinai before them, the Israelites face the even greater challenge of redefinition. As former captive Rom Braslavski spoke from the stage of what was once Hostages Square in Tel Aviv: "We now go from one war to another war, which will be much more difficult—the war of rehabilitation."

Together, we will win.

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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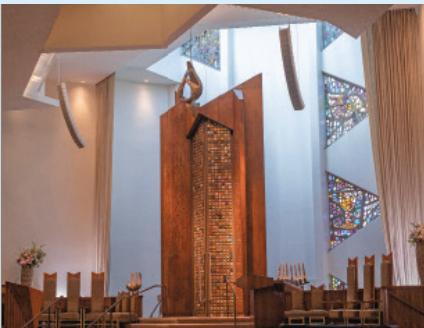
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SINAI TEMPLE

13 SH'VAT 5786 | 31 JANUARY 2026

### PARASHAT B'SHALLACH | בשלה

Torah reading begins: Exodus 13:17 (page 399)

Maftir: Exodus 15:22-26 (page 412)

Haftarah: Judges 4:4-5:31 (page 424)

"Singing with Faith"- Sermon by Rabbi Erez Sherman

### SHABBAT SERVICE

in Ziegler Sanctuary at 9:00 a.m.

Also available to watch on [YouTube](#)

### TORAH AT THE TABLE

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

### TORAH IN THE ROUND

in Kohn Chapel at 9:30 a.m.

The Bat Mitzvah of Sydney E. Himelstein

### MINCHA SERVICE

in Ziegler Sanctuary at 4:30 p.m.

The Bar Mitzvah of Benjamin Winnick

Honor or remember someone special  
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# A MESSAGE FROM PRESIDENT MEHRZAD ROSHAN

Holocaust Remembrance Day marks the liberation of Auschwitz-Birkenau and stands as a solemn reminder of the six million Jews murdered in the Holocaust, along with millions of other victims of Nazi persecution. It is a day to remember lives cut short, communities destroyed, and the consequences of hatred, indifference, and silence.

Just as importantly, it is a day to honor courage—those who resisted, those who helped others at great risk, and those who held onto their humanity in the darkest of circumstances.

One poem often read on this day is *"Blessed Is the Match"* by Hannah Senesh, written shortly before her execution in 1944 at age 23 by the Nazis.

Hannah was a Hungarian Jewish poet and resistance fighter. She is remembered for her courage and her words.

Blessed is the match that burns and sparks a fire.  
Blessed is the fire that burns quietly in the heart.  
Blessed are the hearts that know when to stop, with dignity.  
Blessed is the match that burns and sparks a fire.

The poem reminds us that even a single life—like a small match—can ignite light and meaning far beyond itself. Senesh's words honor inner moral courage and the dignity of standing firm in one's values at great personal cost.

On Holocaust Remembrance Day, the poem calls us to not only remember the past, but to carry forward its lesson: that one person's courage can light the way for others and that our responsibility is to ensure such darkness is never allowed to return.

## 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 will take place on **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 [marilynsterne1@yahoo.com](mailto:marilynsterne1@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

### Feit Family Live Community Havdalah

**TODAY Saturday, January 31, 2026 | 4:30 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

**THIS 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.

## Let's Talk: Interpersonal Communication

### A Men's Group at Sinai Temple

**Wednesday, February 11, 2026 | 7:00 PM | In Person**

The Sinai Temple Mental Health Center invites the men of Sinai Temple to a facilitated conversation with Dr. Michael J. Whitman, Psy.D. This gathering will explore interpersonal communication in relationships, work, and daily life, creating space for connection, reflection, and growth.

## Faith. Connection. Sport: An Inaugural Conference at Sinai Temple

**Thursday, February 12, 2026 | 9:30 AM**

With the NBA All-Star Game coming to Los Angeles, Sinai Temple is proud to host the inaugural Faith. Connection. Sport conference in partnership with *Rabbi on the Sidelines* and Fabric. This full-day event will feature athletes, media personalities, authors, and thought leaders exploring the intersection of sports, faith, and community.

## 2026 Abner (z'l) and Roslyn Goldstine Scholar-in-Residence

### Lecture Series: AI & Judaism

**February 17-19, 2026**

Sinai Temple welcomes Dr. David Zvi Kalman as the 2026 Abner (z'l) & Roslyn Goldstine Scholar in Residence. Over three days, he will lead timely conversations exploring AI, Judaism, ethics, and human dignity—and how Jewish wisdom can guide us in a rapidly changing world.

## Learn with Rabbi David Wolpe

**Thursday, February 19, 2026 | 7:00 PM**

These six classes will trace the wisdom, texts, and teachings that have guided Jewish life, from ancient foundations to medieval depth and modern relevance.

## 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).

## 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.

## Save the Date

Join us May 17 for the annual Sinai Temple Gala, a festive dinner and dance honoring President Mehrzad Roshan.



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