Terumah: The Gift of the Heart

What is the first task God assigns Moses atop Mount Sinai? Every Jewish nonprofit's favorite: to fundraise. After dictating the terms of the covenant, God undertakes a capital campaign:

"Tell the Israelite people to bring Me gifts; you shall accept gifts for Me from every person whose heart is so moved." (Exodus 25:2)

The gifts—of "gold, silver, and copper" and other precious materials—will finance the building of the Mishkan (or Tabernacle), the portable sanctuary that will accompany the Israelites through their desert wanderings. It is a construction project that spares no luxury or expense, making even a synagogue the likes of Sinai Temple seem modest in comparison. Everyone was called on to give.

Which begs the question: what of those who hadn't the means to give, whether of lapis lazuli or goat's hair? Were they only as useful to the community as they were donors? Were they less worthy because their net worth was less?

Not so, says the Malbim, a foremost rabbi of 19th century Ukraine. *Every person* had the capacity to give, even if all they had was "the desire in their heart and the will to participate in the building of something holy." Contribution to God's fund is not measured in dollars and cents but in a heartfelt desire to be of service.

So it is in this sanctuary. We are all ends in ourselves, no matter our means. We all have what to give, if only the wish that we could. And we must all contribute—from our hearts more than our wallets—because only all together can we build something truly holy.

Shabbat Shalom.
Rabbi Moe Howard

SINAI AKIBA ACADEMY
MOUNT SINAI MEMORIAL PARKS AND MORTUARIES

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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:

Jessica Green - Executive Director
Jay Harwitt - Ritual Director
Benjamin Fingerhut - Musical Director
Cantor Keith Miller - Cantorial Support & B'nai Mitzvah Mentor
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Ebby Tabariai
Michael Nazarian
David Matloob
Faith Gershbock
Jacob Gershbock

Mehrzad Roshan, Sinai Temple President

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

4 ADAR 5786 | 21 FEBRUARY 2026

PARASHAT TERUMAH| תרומה

Torah reading begins: Exodus 25:1 (page 485)
Maftir: Exodus 25:37-40 (page 491)
Haftarah: I Kings 5:26-6:13 (page 500)
Sermon will be given 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.

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

TEMPLE EVENTS

Volunteer with Keen & Zooz Fitness!
Tomorrow Sunday, February 22, 2026 | 12:30- 2:30 PM

We need your help playing basketball with our Keen+ Members, led by coaches at Zooz Fitness, in the 3rd Floor Weinberg Gym at Sinai Temple. Join us on the court for an energetic and inclusive experience supporting fun, fitness, and community.

The Middle East's Regional & Global Strategic Transition with IDF Major General (ret.) Oded Bassiuk
This Tuesday, February 24, 2026 | 8:15 AM

Join the Flesh Family Sinai Temple Israel Center and the Jewish Institute for National Security of America (JINSA) for breakfast with IDF Major General (ret.) Oded Bassiuk. Don't miss this opportunity for high-level analysis and community discussion.

Rock Wednesday!
This Wednesday, February 25, 2026 | 6:00 PM

Sinai Temple is partnering with the American Heart Association's Kids Heart Challenge for Rock Wednesday. Participants will learn about heart health, hear from a leading cardiologist, jump rope to raise lifesaving funds, and discover the power of connection through sports while supporting children with special hearts.

Sinai Speaks: Maintaining Brain Health With Yael Wyte, MSW, Alzheimer's Association
This Wednesday, February 25, 2026 | 7:00 PM

We will explore key findings from the 2025 U.S. POINTER Study on strategies to support and enhance cognitive health as we age. This program will take place on Zoom, with the link provided upon registration. We look forward to an engaging and informative evening together. Invitations are now open.

Purim Carnival
Next Sunday, March 1, 2026 | 10:00 AM - 1:00 PM

Step into a world of high-energy fun at Sinai Temple's Purim Carnival with festive games and family-friendly activities. Be sure to pre-purchase carnival wristbands this week!

Purim at Sinai Temple
Monday, March 2, 2026 | 5:00 PM

Celebrate Purim at Sinai Temple with programs for all ages throughout the evening, including family celebrations, a traditional Megillah reading, and an adults-only Purim party. Events are designed for young families, older children, adults, and the entire community.

Chai Society Mental Health Book Discussion & Lunch
Thursday, March 12, 2026 | 10:30am – 12:30pm

You are invited to join us for a delicious lunch and engaging conversation as we discuss the novel *Twice* by Mitch Albom. What would happen if we had the magical ability to get a second chance at everything in our lives…except who we love?

Book Signing and Conversation with Dr. Gilberg Author of *The Myth of Aging*
Sunday, March 22, 2026 | 11:00 AM – 1:00 PM

Join Sinai Temple for a book signing and conversation with Dr. Gilberg, author of *The Myth of Aging*, in discussion with Rabbi Wolpe. Enjoy brunch and an engaging exploration of health, longevity, and living well.

SAVE THE DATE

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

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 next **Wednesday, March 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.

Rosh Hodesh Nisan with Sinai Temple Sisterhood

Join Sinai Temple Sisterhood on **Thursday, March 19, 2026, from 6:00–8:00 PM** in West Hollywood as we celebrate the month of Nisan.

Hosted by Nora Rakow, the evening will feature guest speaker Angela Maddahi, who will explore the connection between Nowruz and Passover. Dinner is included, and the cost to attend is $20 per person.

RSVP to Jennifer Malvin at songwyrks@gmail.com

This event is for women only.

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 from the bimah on Shabbat.

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