

Ki Tisa: Living Forward, Looking Back

I write this—as you might be reading it—with one eye on the Middle East. We are witnessing history in the making. That much can be said with certainty. *What* history will be made remains to be seen.

Such is the nature of life: we live it forward but can only fully understand it looking backward. When Moses asks to see God’s face atop Mount Sinai, God refuses. “You will see My back, but My face must not be seen,” God insists, “for no mortal may see Me and live” (Exodus 33:20–23). God’s statement can be taken as a truth of theology and of time. Rabbi Moses Alshich notes that the Hebrew words for “My face” (*fanai*) and “My back” (*achorai*) also mean “before Me” and “after Me,” respectively. The significance of events in history and in our lives is rarely grasped before time has passed. Only afterwards, says Alshich, do their meaning and ultimate purpose become clear to us.

The perpetrators of the attack on October 7, 2023, failed to predict that, two and a half years later, their action against the people and state of Israel would lead not only to their own demise but that of the regime of which they were but a proxy. Neither could we have predicted the ensuing surge in antisemitism around the globe or the concurrent resurgence of Jewish national identity that has animated our people. As this chapter of history continues to be written, only time—and God—will tell if it is the beginning of the end or the end of the beginning.

Until then, we can pray that such a time come speedily and soon—and for the good.

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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MISSION STATEMENT

Sinai Temple is dedicated to providing a welcoming and caring community for its members, devoted to Jewish learning and support for Israel and the Jewish people, and committed to improving ourselves and the world through a growing relationship with God from generation to generation. We are committed to the principles and values of Conservative Judaism and we welcome Jews of all backgrounds and affiliations to observe life cycle events, and pursue our mission through prayer, rituals, learning, music and the other gifts God has given us.

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.



18 ADAR 5786 | 7 MARCH 2026



PARASHAT KI TISA | כִּי תִשָּׂא
SHABBAT PARAH
THE B’NAI MITZVAH OF ELLA TAVAKOLI AND JONAH AHDOOT
Torah reading begins: Exodus 30:11 (page 523)
Maftir: Numbers 19:1-22 (page 880)
Haftarah: Ezekiel 36:16-38 (page 1287)
“Rebuilding Again” - Sermon by Rabbi Erez Sherman

SHABBAT SERVICE

in Ziegler Sanctuary at 9:00 a.m.
The Bar Mitzvah of Jonah Ahdoot
The Bat Mitzvah of Ella Tavakoli

Also available to watch on [YouTube](#)

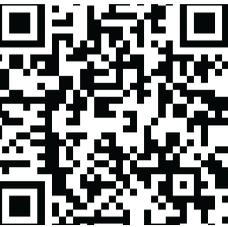
TORAH AT THE TABLE

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

FAMILY MINYAN

in Kohn Chapel at 9:30 a.m.

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

Let's Talk: A Men's Group with Dr. Michael J. Whitman, Psy.D.

Tuesday, March 10, 2026 | 7:00 PM

Stress Management | Join with other members of Sinai Temple for an informal gathering to explore relevant mental health topics. Exclusively for men / Men of all ages welcome!

Unlock Your Family History: Hands-On Jewish Genealogy Workshop with Randy Schoenberg

Wednesday, March 11, 2026 | 7:00 PM

Discover how to trace your Jewish roots! Join Randy Schoenberg, Sinai Temple member and expert genealogist, for a hands-on workshop. Randy will guide you step-by-step using a computer, Wi-Fi, and screen to explore family history.

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?

Zev Yaroslavsky in Conversation with Rabbi Wolpe

Saturday, March 14, 2026 | Immediately following services

Enjoy a special Shabbat gathering as Zev Yaroslavsky joins Rabbi David Wolpe in conversation, sharing insights from decades of public service and reflecting on the intersection of politics and Jewish life.

Ethics of War with Yisrael Klitsner

Wednesday, March 18, 2026 | 7:00 PM

Drawing on Jewish tradition, moral philosophy, and contemporary realities, Klitsner will explore how we grapple with questions of justice, responsibility, and human dignity in times of conflict.

Book Signing and Conversation with Dr. Arnie 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. Arnie Gilberg, author of *The Myth of Aging*, in discussion with Rabbi Wolpe. Enjoy brunch and an engaging exploration of health, longevity, and living well.

Learning with Rabbi David Wolpe

Join David Wolpe for an engaging six-part learning series exploring the wisdom, texts, and teachings that have shaped Jewish life across generations. Together, participants will trace Jewish thought from its ancient foundations through medieval interpretation and into its enduring relevance today.

Classes take place at 7:00 PM in Kohn Chapel and offer a meaningful opportunity for thoughtful study and conversation within our community.

The next session will take place on March 24.

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 songworks@gmail.com

This event is for women only.

Torah Fund Luncheon- Tuesday, March 24

Please Join Sinai Temple Sisterhood for a Torah Fund Luncheon honoring Jay Harwitt and Sharona Rachmani with the Ha'Yay Olam Award.

To register online, please scan the QR code. Advance registration is required by Tuesday, March 17 – NOON!



To make a Torah Fund donation in honor of Jay and Sharona, please scan the QR code.



SAVE THE DATE

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

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