

Pesach: Freedom to Serve

Passover goes by many names in our tradition. "Passover" itself (in Hebrew, Pesach) refers both to the lamb the Israelites slaughtered and God's "passing over" those homes marked by its blood. The Torah also knows it as *Hag Ha-Matzot*, "the Festival of Matzah," and *Hag Ha-Aviv*, "the Springtime Festival." Maybe the most compelling name is that found in the liturgy: *zman heruteinu*, "the time of our freedom."

Freedom is the message and the medium of this holiday. We recall the words that Moses spoke to Pharaoh, *shlach et ami*: "Let My people go," as we retell the story of our national liberation over a leisurely meal of wine, hours d'oeuvres, and dessert (at least that's what some say the *afikomen* is supposed to be).

Yet we often forget the second half of Moses's charge: *shlach et ami ve-ya'avduni*, "Let My people go that they may serve Me" (Exodus 9:1). Freedom from slavery was freedom to serve—not Pharaoh, but God. Though no longer deprived of their dignity, the people gained responsibility. Redemption is not absolute exemption, but ultimate obligation.

Perhaps that's why the holiday of our freedom is also the one with the most rules. We are freer the more we serve the Divine and less the despot of our own desire. The Torah tells us that the words of the Ten Commandments were *harut* ("inscribed") on the stone tablets by God, but the sages teach us to read this word instead as *herut*: "freedom." May we be free to serve a higher law this Passover—and so may all people.

Shabbat Shalom, and *Chag Sameach*.
Rabbi Moe Howard



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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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- Jacob Gershbock

Mehrzad Roshan, Sinai Temple President



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.



SINAI TEMPLE

17 NISAN 5786 | 4 APRIL 2026



SHABBAT CHOL HAMOED PESACH | שבת חול המועד פסח
MEN'S CLUB SHABBAT

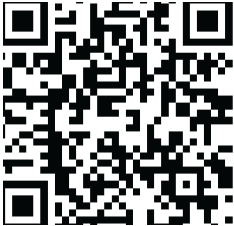
Torah reading begins: Exodus 33:12 (Page 538)
Maftir: Numbers 28:16-25 (Page 931)
Haftarah: Ezekiel 37:1-14 (Page 1308)
"Passover and Our Pets" - Sermon by Rabbi Erez Sherman

SHABBAT SERVICE

in Ziegler Sanctuary at 9:00 a.m.
Men's Club Shabbat

Also available to watch on [YouTube](#)

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

Once a month, on Sundays, we open our doors at Sinai Temple to children and young adults with disabilities for a day of connection, play, and community. These gatherings give them a chance to build friendships, stay active, and simply enjoy being together in a welcoming environment.

Two weeks ago, I had the privilege of joining this meaningful program alongside our lay leaders, Sindy Paikal, Brian Ghodsian, Michelle Taus, and a few others. It was a powerful reminder of what community truly means. This is what we do at Sinai Temple: create spaces where people feel seen, supported, and connected.

Many of you call Sinai Temple your spiritual home and attend our Shabbat services regularly.

Membership dues alone do not cover the full cost of sustaining our synagogue, offering inspiring Shabbat services, and the programs that enrich so many lives. Your generous tax-deductible donations allow us to keep building these meaningful experiences and invest in a vibrant future together.

Please support our fundraising efforts and become an active partner.

Together, we can make a difference. Please scan the QR code below to contribute.



TEMPLE EVENTS

Eighth Day of Passover - Yizkor

This Thursday, April 9, 2026 | 9:00 AM

Join us for the Eighth Day of Passover in Ziegler Sanctuary with services starting at 9:00 AM, with **Yizkor** at approximately 10:30 a.m. (in person and streaming).

Sinai Speaks: Echoes of Memory with Maria Ross Monday, April 13, 2026 | 7:00 PM

Join us on Yom HaShoah for a conversation led by Rabbi Gavriella Kornsgold and Holocaust survivor Maria Ross, honoring the memory of Holocaust victims through personal stories and reflections, followed by a candle lighting to commemorate the six million lives lost.

Let's Talk: A Men's Group with Dr. Michael J. Whitman, Psy.D. Understanding Dreams and the Unconscious Tuesday, April 14, 2026 | 7:00 PM

Join other members of Sinai Temple for an informal gathering focused on understanding dreams and the unconscious while exploring relevant mental health topics. Exclusively for men, all ages welcome.

Wine & Wisdom

Wednesday, April 15, 2026 | 7:30 PM

Join Rabbi Taff's Learning Circle for meaningful Torah study in a warm and intimate setting, accompanied by a glass of wine. Gather with community, deepen your learning, and enjoy thoughtful conversation.

Private Home (address provided upon registration) | RSVP Required

Teen Center Challah Bake

Thursday, April 16, 2026 | 7:30 PM

Join us for a meaningful and hands-on evening as we make shlissel challah (key-shaped) together. This program, for ages 12 and up, will also feature a powerful and inspiring story shared by a Holocaust survivor.

Sinai Temple Park Day

Saturday, April 18, 2026 | 3:00 PM

Come enjoy a relaxed afternoon at the park! We will provide light snacks and water with activities for kids of all ages led by sports coaches. Come spend time connecting with community in the sunshine!

Location Disclosed After Registration

Learning with Rabbi David Wolpe

Join Rabbi David Wolpe to explore 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.

The next session will take place at 7:00 PM on April 30 in Kohn Chapel.

Sinai Temple Sisterhood

Join Sinai Temple Sisterhood for two meaningful opportunities to connect, learn, and celebrate together.

On **Thursday, April 16**, gather for a special **Rosh Hodesh Iyar** evening with Rabbi Gavriella Kornsgold, featuring dinner, community, and reflection in an intimate Westwood setting.

Then, continue the connection at our **Sisterhood Book Group on May 5**, as we come together for a thoughtful discussion of *Spinning Silver* by Naomi Novik.

Both events offer a warm and welcoming space to build community and engage with one another.

For more information or registration, please visit sinaitemple.org/community/sisterhood/.

RSVP TODAY

Join us on May 17 for the annual Sinai Temple Gala, a festive dinner and dance honoring President Mehrzad Roshan. To RSVP, call (310) 481-3225.

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