

Tazria–Metzora: Seeing Is Healing

The case of the biblical leper, or *metzora*, is mysterious indeed. Stranger than even the disease (which finds no parallel in modern pathology) is the protocol for its diagnosis:

“This shall be the ritual for a leper at the time of being purified: When he has been brought to the priest, the priest shall go outside the camp, and the priest shall see—behold, the affliction has healed.” (Leviticus 14:3–4)

One might ask why the priest, of all people, should be charged with the role of dermatologist. Is it not the very same priest who is barred from burying all but his closest relatives lest he defile himself by contact with the impure? Furthermore, if the leper is “brought to the priest,” why need the priest “go outside the camp”? And why does the affliction seemingly heal as soon as the priest sees it?

Rabbi Eliezer Deutsch answers all three questions with a profound psychological insight. Leprosy (or *tzara'at*, as it is called) was thought to be a punishment for sin. It is therefore precisely the priest, as the exemplar of rectitude, who must seek to put himself in the leper’s shoes—to “go outside the camp” of his own circumstance—and consider that, had he been in the other’s position, he too might have stumbled. It’s this recognition that is itself the cure—not of the leper’s leprosy, but of the priest’s sanctimony.

We, too, are called on to be “a kingdom of priests.” Far from a license to see ourselves as holier than thou, it is an obligation to see others as wholly equal: neither beyond reproach nor repair, but deserving dignity and empathy. Such seeing heals more than sin or skin—it heals the world.

Shabbat Shalom.
Rabbi Moe Howard



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Affiliated with the United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism

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- 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



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.

SHABBAT CHILDCARE

- Ages Potty Trained - 5 Years Old
9:45 AM | Room 114
- Ages 6 - 10 Years Old
9:45 AM | Youth Lounge

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.



1 IYAR 5786 | 18 APRIL 2026



PARASHOT TAZRIA-METZORA | תזריע - מצרע
ROSH CHODESH IYAR
THE BAR MITZVAH OF PRESTON ESFANDI
Torah reading begins: Leviticus 12:1 (page 649)
Maftir for Shabbat Rosh Chodesh: Numbers 28:9-15 (page 930)
Haftarah for Shabbat Rosh Chodesh: Isaiah 66:17-24 and 23 (page 1222)
“Threads Across Continents: Faith, Identity, and the Diaspora Journey” - Sermon by Rabbi Erez Sherman
Shabbat Speaker: Jewish-Indian Alliance

SHABBAT SERVICE

in Ziegler Sanctuary at 9:00 a.m.
The Bar Mitzvah of Preston Esfandi
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.
The Bar Mitzvah of Jonah Rosen

STARS SHABBAT

in Gold Hall at 10:00 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

On April 28, at the Annual Membership Meeting, the Sinai Temple Board of Directors will elect the next president.

The candidates for this position are Sam Parsi and Rob Galperson, two highly respected lay leaders with long histories of dedicated service to our community.

Our community has been blessed with strong leadership for over 120 years — leaders who have guided Sinai Temple with dedication, vision, and care.

We are proud to continue this tradition and look forward to going from strength to strength.

We invite all Sinai Temple members to join us for this important meeting.

The event will take place at 7:00 PM, in Barad Hall.

TEMPLE EVENTS

Come and Visit the BAPS Hindu Temple in Chino Hills
This Sunday, April 19, 2026 | 10:00 AM

Join Rabbi Sherman and leaders of President Herzog's Voice of the People Council from 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM for a meaningful visit to the BAPS Hindu Temple in Chino Hills.

Yom Ha'Atzmaut Community Festival
This Wednesday, April 22, 2026 | 5:00 PM

Join Sinai Temple for our Yom Ha'Atzmaut Community Festival! Enjoy an afternoon of arts and crafts, games, music, dancing, and a special VR Israel experience for all ages, followed by a festive barbecue dinner. Come celebrate Israel and connect with community in a fun and joyful atmosphere!

Join FDD expert Behnam Ben Taleblu at Sinai Temple
Saturday, April 25, 2026 | Immediately Following Services

Behnam Ben Taleblu is the Senior Director of the Foundation for Defense of Democracies (FDD) Iran Program, where he oversees the breadth and depth of FDD's work on Iran in addition to serving as a senior fellow specializing in Iranian security and political issues. For well over a decade, Behnam has supported FDD's Iran program as a senior fellow, research fellow, and senior Iran analyst.

Feit Family Live Community Shabbat Dinner
Friday, May 1, 2026 | 6:30 PM

Join us at Sinai Temple for a warm and welcoming Shabbat evening featuring services at 5:45 pm followed by a delicious dinner from Western Kosher at 6:30 pm. Enjoy engaging children's entertainment, great food, and meaningful community connection. \$18 per child and \$25 per adult.

Mitzvah Day! & Beyond at Sinai Temple
Sunday, May 3, 2026 | 10:00 AM

Join Sinai Temple for a day of giving back and community connection, featuring hands-on service projects supporting organizations in Los Angeles and Israel alongside STARS Religious School student-led Israeli-style shuk.

All proceeds benefit Israel & STARS!

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 a meaningful opportunity to connect, learn, and celebrate together.

On **Tuesday May 5**, join **Sisterhood Book Group**, as we come together for a thoughtful discussion of *Spinning Silver* by Naomi Novik.

This event offers a warm and welcoming space to build community and engage with one another.

For more information or registration, please visit [sinaitemple.org/community/sisterhood/](https://www.sinaitemple.org/community/sisterhood/).

Sinai Temple 2026 Annual Gala: An Evening Honoring Mehrzad Roshan

Join Sinai Temple on May 17th for the 2026 Annual Gala, an elegant evening honoring Mehrzad Roshan with a special legacy award presented to Dr. Arnold and Gloria Lushing Gilberg, celebrating the community's continued vision and leadership.

Guests will enjoy a memorable night while supporting Sinai Temple's mission. Sponsorship opportunities, digital journal tributes, and individual dinner tickets are available.

This event is expected to sell out quickly, and reservations are confirmed upon receipt of payment.

Reservation Deadline: Friday, May 8, 2026
To RSVP, please visit <https://www.sinaitemple.org/> or 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