

Bamidbar: Standard or Miraculous?

Is the Israeli flag a religious symbol? The American flag? While some might say “yes” to the former, most would say “no” to the latter. Yet both stand on the bimah of every synagogue in this country, flanking either side of the holy ark. Are they misplaced?

Maybe not. Turns out the flags in our sanctuaries aren’t the first to stand beside an ark. We read in *Bamidbar*:

“The Israelites shall camp each with his standard (*diglo*), under the banners of their ancestral house; they shall camp around the Tent of Meeting at a distance.” (Numbers 2:2)

The twelve tribes surrounded the Tent, itself housing the Ark of the Covenant, each one bearing its *degel*, its flag. While the Torah presents harmony, the Midrash imagines strife: Moses frets that the tribes will argue about their placements around the Ark—much like some today argue about the placement of flags beside it. A *degel* is as rallying as it can be divisive.

But there is another Hebrew word for a banner atop a pole: *nes*—the same word for “miracle.” It is a *nes* that heals the people from a rash of fiery snake bites (stay tuned); a *nes*, as Isaiah prophesied, that leads them back to their land after seventy years of exile; a *nes* that marked their and *our* return to national sovereignty after two millennia. So, too, it is a red, white, and blue *nes* that has proclaimed the promise of freedom under God for two and a half centuries.

Seen merely as standards, the flags on our bimah are out of place. Seen for the miracles they stand for, they belong no place else.

Shabbat Shalom.
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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- David Matloob
- Faith Gershbock
- 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.

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.



29 IYAR 5786 | 16 MAY 2026

PARASHAT BEMIDBAR | במדבר
SHABBAT MACHAR CHODESH: WE BLESS THE NEW MONTH OF SIVAN (STARTING TOMORROW)
THE SECOND BAR MITZVAH OF DR. DONALD SALEM
Torah reading begins: Numbers 1:1 (page 769)
Maftir: Numbers 1:52-54 (page 774)
Haftarah begins: I Samuel 20:18 (page 1216)
Feit Family Live Generations Shabbat

SHABBAT SERVICE
Feit Family Live Generations Shabbat
The Bar Mitzvah of Dr. Donald Salem
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 Erin Ghalili

TOT SHABBAT
in Upper Traub at 10:15 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

Sinai Temple 2026 Annual Gala: An Evening Honoring Mehrzad Roshan

This Sunday, May 17, 2026 | 5:00 PM

Join Sinai Temple for the 2026 Annual Gala, an elegant evening honoring Mehrzad Roshan and celebrating the community's continued vision and leadership.

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

This Tuesday, May 19, 2026 | 7:00 PM

Join fellow Sinai Temple members for an engaging and thoughtful gathering exploring the meaning of love and romance, with space for reflection, conversation, and connection.

Rock Wednesday

This Wednesday, May 20, 2026 | 6:00 PM

Rock Wednesday brings our community together for an evening focused on mental health awareness and support, hosted by Esther Rbibo, LMFT and Carolyn Hoffman, LCSW. Join us to learn more about the importance of mental health and connect with others in a meaningful way. As part of the evening, 3 NeeDohs will be auctioned off! Pizza dinner will be provided!

Tikkun Leil Shavuot

Thursday, May 21, 2026 | 7:00 PM

Join us for an inspiring evening where Sinai Temple learners will come together to reflect, share, and grow through Jewish learning. Sinai Temple clergy will be teaching throughout the evening, sharing their favorite line of text from one of the Five Books. We will conclude the evening together over cheesecake.

Meet Your Mensch Bowling Night

Tuesday, May 26, 2026 | 7:00 PM

Join us for a fun and easygoing Meet Your Mensch Bowling Night where making connections comes naturally. For \$50 per person, you'll get two hours of bowling, a kosher pizza dinner, and a drink ticket to keep things social and relaxed.

Sinai Speaks: Awake, Awake, Deborah!

Wednesday, May 27, 2026 | 7:00 PM

Join us for a powerful and thought-provoking conversation between Rabbi Gavriella Kornsgold and Rabbi Nancy Myers as they explore the enduring story of Deborah, prophet, judge, and leader. Together, they will reflect on themes of courage, voice, and leadership, drawing connections between this ancient text and the challenges and opportunities of our world today.

Life is a Team Sport: Choosing to Show Up, Work Hard, and Believe you Can

Thursday, May 28, 2026 | 7:00 PM

The Sinai Temple Mental Health Center invites you to join us for our Fifth Annual May event as we welcome Donna Orender, Professional Athlete, Respected CEO and Entrepreneur, and Inspirational Thought Leader. Join us for an engaging conversation with Donna whose extensive experience in sports and creative leadership will spark our imagination to reach for our own Positive and Possible.

Navigating Jewish Life on Campus in 2026

Saturday, June 6, 2026 | 12:00 PM

Enjoy a special Shabbat gathering with bagels and fruit, good company, and thoughtful conversation between Emeritus Rabbi David Wolpe, UCLA Chancellor Julio Frenk and Associate of the Chancellor Dr. Felicia Marie Knaul as they share insights and reflections in a warm, welcoming setting. A meaningful way to continue the spirit of Shabbat together after services.

Shavuot at Sinai Temple

Celebrate Shavuot at Sinai Temple with uplifting services, late-night learning, Yizkor remembrance, and meaningful community connection throughout the holiday. Join us for services, learning, and celebration as we come together in prayer, reflection, and community.

For more information, visit <https://www.sinaitemple.org/>

Calling All Young Voices!

Sinai Temple children **ages 8 to 11** have an exciting new opportunity to lead our congregation in prayer. Every Shabbat morning, students are invited to arrive early at **8:30 a.m.** to meet in Cantor Feldman's office and receive a solo for that day's service.

Whether it is singing *Romemu*, *Baruch Sheamar*, *Ashrei*, or *Yotzer Or*, just show up and the solo is yours! Family and friends can proudly watch in person or via our livestream. As an added bonus, participants will receive a special assortment of sweet treats.

No RSVP is needed. Step into your Jewish roots, enjoy some baked goods, and let your voice be heard in the Ziegler Sanctuary!

L'Shalom,

Cantor Marcus Feldman and Benjamin Fingerhut

Sisterhood Installation & Volunteer Appreciation Breakfast

Join us for the Sisterhood Installation & Volunteer Appreciation Breakfast at Sinai Temple as we install President Estelle Marco and welcome the incoming Board of Directors. We will also take time to honor and celebrate our volunteers, followed by a festive breakfast together.

Tuesday, June 9, 2026 at 10:00 AM in Gold Hall
\$20 per person | Registration required

To RSVP, please visit <https://www.sinaitemple.org/community/sisterhood/>

THE TORAH IN THE ROUND KIDDUSH IS SPONSORED BY

Desiree and Sam Ghalili in honor of the Bat Mitzvah of Erin Ghalili.

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