

Pinchas: From Revolution to Revelation

On this date, two and half centuries ago, our country was founded on the principle “that all men are created equal.” Our national history since then—from the abolition of slavery, to the fight for women’s suffrage, to the civil rights movement—has been motivated by a collective effort to live up to this “self-evident truth.”

The same can be said of Jewish history. In the beginning, the Torah tells us, “God created man in His image.” Since then, we have striven to see others as made in the divine image—and to be seen in that image ourselves. Perhaps the first example of Jewish activism is in this *parsha*, when the daughters of Zelophehad plead their case before Moses to inherit their father’s land. “The plea of Zelophehad’s daughters is just,” God responds: “If a man dies without leaving a son, you shall transfer his property to his daughter” (Numbers 27:7–8). Rashi comments that the women “saw what even Moses could not see,” a vision of justice nobler than the status quo and truer to the Torah’s own ideals.

But progress is neither so swift nor simple (even when God is the judge). No sooner do women win the right to inherit than they lose the right to marry outside their clan. So too has America’s journey been a matter of two steps forward, one step back. We must celebrate how far we’ve come, as Americans and as Jews, and at the same time recognize that there is yet work to be done.

May the next two hundred fifty years be not a revolution but a *revelation* of our highest values as a citizenry and a people.

Shabbat Shalom.
Rabbi Moe Howard



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Affiliated with the United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism

SINAI TEMPLE CLERGY

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Rabbinic Intern

Special thanks to the staff and lay leaders who make Shabbat services exceptional:

Jessica Green - Executive Director

Jay Harwitt - Ritual Director

Benjamin Fingerhut - Music Director

Cantor Keith Miller - Cantorial Support & B’nai Mitzvah Mentor

Roy Regev - Director of Media and Communications

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Natalia Rojas – Communications Manager

Rebeka Small – Membership & Operations Manager

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Michael Silberstein

Ebby Tabariai

Michael Nazarian

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.

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

19 TAMMUZ 5786 | 4 JULY 2026



PARASHAT PINCHAS | פינחס

THE 250TH BIRTHDAY OF THE UNITED STATES
Torah reading begins: Numbers 25:10 (page 918)

Maftir: Numbers 48-51 (page 923)
Haftarah: Jeremiah 1:1-2:3 (page 968)

(The First Haftarah of Rebuke)

“At 250: the Jewish American Experience”- Sermon by Rabbi Nicole Guzik

SHABBAT SERVICE

in Ziegler Sanctuary at 9:00 a.m.

“At 250: the Jewish American Experience”- Sermon by Rabbi Nicole Guzik

[Livestream availability TBD, stay tuned for updates.](#)

TORAH AT THE TABLE

in Blumenthal Library Classroom at 9:00 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 SAM PARSI

It means a great deal to me to be part of this community, and it is a true honor to have the trust and support of our leadership as I serve as President for the next two years. I begin my term with enthusiasm and optimism, ready to help guide our Temple through the work that lies ahead.

I look forward to meeting many of our members to better understand what matters most to you, learn from your experiences, and work together to strengthen our community and our Temple. I also welcome those of you who may one day call Sinai Temple home to introduce yourselves and share what would make this congregation feel like the right fit for you.

A little about me:

I was born in Tehran, Iran, and immigrated to the United States during the Iranian Revolution. My parents and I joined Sinai Temple more than 35 years ago. I am married to Shirin Pashaie Parsi, and together we have two children, Leyla and Eli. Both attended Sinai Akiba Academy and celebrated their B’nei Mitzvah at Sinai Temple.

I look forward to the many conversations we will share in the months and years ahead.

TEMPLE EVENTS

Sinai Speaks: *Rabbi on the Sidelines* with Heather Karatz
Wednesday, July 8, 2026 | 7:00 PM

Join us for an inspiring conversation with Co-Senior Rabbi Erez Sherman and Heather Karatz, CEO of Hexcel and Owner of Angel City FC, as they explore the intersection of sports, leadership, faith, philanthropy, and the role of Jewish values in shaping the next generation of leaders.

Sinai Speaks: Re-Release of Navigating Jewish Life on Campus in 2026

Wednesday, July 15, 2026 | 7:00 PM | Online

Join Rabbi David Wolpe, UCLA Chancellor Julio Frenk, and Dr. Felicia Knaul for a timely conversation marking the re-release of Navigating Jewish Life on Campus. This special event will explore Jewish student life, campus culture, and the future of inclusive, thoughtful university communities.

Sinai Speaks: Religious Responses to Technology

Wednesday, July 29, 2026 | 7:00 PM | Online

As AI transforms society, religious communities are working to develop thoughtful responses and formal policies. Join Dr. David Zvi Kalman and Co-Senior Rabbi Erez Sherman for a conversation on the challenges of applying ancient wisdom to modern technology, exploring key ethical questions, points of tension, and paths forward.

Feit Family Live: Welcome Back BBQ

Friday, August 21, 2026 | 5:00 PM

Join Sinai Temple clergy and our community for the 3rd Annual Feit Family Live: Welcome Back BBQ! Enjoy a delicious BBQ by Beverly Catering, bounce houses, sports coaches, a special tour for new members, and a meaningful Kabbalat Shabbat service. Pre-registration is required, and tickets will not be available at the door.

A Wonderful Start to Jewish Learning

Give your 4-year-old the gift of joyful Jewish learning with Sinai Temple STARS Religious School’s Transitional Kindergarten (TK) Class. Through baking challah, singing Israeli music, celebrating Jewish holidays, and engaging in hands-on activities, children build friendships, explore Jewish traditions, and grow as part of a caring community. Classes meet Sundays from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., with special introductory membership rates available for families brand new to Sinai Temple.

Contact us at (310)-481-3271 or sprovost@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. 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

Expand Your Mind with the Community Scholar Program

Learning doesn’t stop. It evolves, deepens, and inspires. Sinai Temple is proud to partner with the Community Scholar Program (CSP), now in its 24th year, to bring members dynamic online learning with renowned scholars, authors, and thought leaders exploring Jewish history, culture, and ideas that resonate today. With engaging programs for July, there is something for everyone to learn, connect, and be inspired.

Explore upcoming programs and register at www.sinaitemple.org/adult-education-classes-2025-26/

David and Angella Nazarian Youth Leadership Program

The David and Angella Nazarian Youth Leadership Program empowers 9th and 10th graders to grow as Jewish leaders through meaningful conversations, mentorship, immersive travel opportunities, and connections with leading Zionist organizations. Fellows build leadership skills, deepen their Jewish identity, and join a vibrant community of engaged teens.

To join, contact Atara Rush at arush@sinaitemple.org.

Beren Scholars Fellowship

The Beren Scholars Fellowship is a selective leadership program for rising 11th and 12th graders who want to deepen their understanding of Israel, strengthen their Jewish identity, and develop the confidence to navigate today’s complex conversations. Through engaging seminars, expert speakers, and a national cohort of peers, students gain the knowledge and skills to become thoughtful Jewish leaders.

To join, contact Tori Greene at tgreene@sinaitemple.org.

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