

Lech L'cha: Leading by Listening

Why did God choose Abraham (or Abram, as his name was then)? What made him uniquely qualified to be our foremost forefather? Was he particularly pious? Exceptionally learned? Good at PR?

Only God knows. Unlike Noah, who is described as “a righteous man, blameless in his age,” the Torah is silent on Abraham. He is introduced at the same time he is called:

“God said to Abram, ‘Go forth from your native land and from your father’s house to the land that I will show you.’” (Genesis 12:1)

To be sure, tradition offers any number of reasons for Abraham’s election: he discovered monotheism; he protested idolatry; he alone stood on one “side” (ever, the root of *ivri* “Hebrew”) while the entire world was on the other. But perhaps his leadership wasn’t a foregone conclusion. Maybe, as author Jared Diamond argues in his new book, *Profits, Prophets, Kings, and Coaches: (When) Do Leaders Make a Difference?*, the person of Abraham mattered less than the place and time he occupied.

The Sefat Emet, writing a century and a half prior, makes at once the same—and the very opposite—case:

“‘Go forth’ is proclaimed by God to all people, at all times. Abraham, however, was the only one who was able to hear it.”

Abraham was not singularly *chosen*; rather, he singularly *chose*. Born to lead or not, he made a fateful decision: to listen.

May we, the children of Abraham and the chosen people, choose to follow his lead.

Shabbat Shalom.
Rabbi Moe Howard

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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 - Music Director
Cantor Keith Miller - Cantorial Support & B'nai Mitzvah Mentor
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SINAI TEMPLE



13 CHESHVAN 5787 | 24 OCTOBER 2026



PARASHAT LECH-L'CHA | לך-לך
THE BAR MITZVAH OF DARA BENJAMIN NAVIZADEH

Torah reading begins: Genesis 14:1 (page 77)
Maftir: Genesis 15:17-21 (page 85)
Haftarah: Isaiah 41:9-16 (page 96)
“Are You Willing To Go?”- Sermon by Rabbi Erez Sherman

Why Are Israelis So Happy? The Soundtrack of Israeli Joy — November 4

Wednesday, November 4 at 7:00 PM, join us at Sinai Temple for a musical multimedia presentation with **Josh Shron**, “Israel’s Soundtrack Storyteller.” Through powerful music videos, heartfelt stories, and insights into Israeli culture, Josh explores how Israel’s music reflects the nation’s optimism, resilience, and hope, even in difficult times. With more than 30 years of sharing Israeli music and as host of the popular podcast Israel Hour Radio, Josh brings the songs and stories of Israel to life. This event is in person only in Kohn Chapel. To reserve your spot, visit <https://bit.ly/4i2d6ex>

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



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

SHABBAT SERVICES
in Ziegler Sanctuary at 9:00 a.m.
Also available to watch on YouTube

TORAH AT THE TABLE
in Blumenthal Library Class at 9:00 a.m.
FAMILY MINYAN BAR MITZVAH SERVICE
in Kohn Chapel at 9:30 a.m.
The Bar Mitzvah of Zev Neuman

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.

TEMPLE EVENTS

Sinai Speaks: The Legal History of the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict and Its Relevance Today
Tuesday, October 27, 2026 | 7:00 PM
Explore the legal history of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict with Professor Steven E. Zipperstein, Director of the UCLA Younes and Soraya Nazarian Center for Israel Studies. In this third and final class, trace key events and legal developments from the Balfour Declaration through today.

Rock Wednesday: Breast Cancer Awareness
Wednesday, October 28, 2026 | 6:00 PM
Join us for Rock Wednesday as we partner with Sharsheret in honor of Breast Cancer Awareness Month. Together, we'll assemble care packages for women undergoing treatment and learn more about the vital support and resources Sharsheret provides to individuals and families facing breast and ovarian cancer.

Sinai Speaks: The Road to the Games with Olympian Mitch Gaylord
Wednesday, October 28, 2026 | 7:00 PM
Join Co-Senior Rabbi Erez Sherman for a conversation with Olympic Gold Medalist Mitch Gaylord as they look back on his journey to the 1984 Los Angeles Olympics. Hear stories from his athletic career, the road to the Games, and his experiences competing on the world stage as Los Angeles prepares to welcome the Olympics once again in 2028.

Rabbi Josh Warshawsky Musical Concert
Saturday, November 7, 2026 | 7:00 PM
Join us for a special musical concert featuring Rabbi Josh Warshawsky, with a special appearance by the Colker-Klein/Shapiro family. Hosted at Temple Beth Am, this community-wide event brings together congregations for an evening of music and connection.

Weekly Parsha Class
Every Thursday | 8:30 AM
Every Thursday for 30 minutes, a member of Sinai Temple's clergy will lead an in-depth exploration of the weekly Parsha, drawing out contemporary insights that can be applied to everyday life. This class is offered exclusively online.

Miller Introduction to Judaism Program

Join the Miller Introduction to Judaism Program at Sinai Temple for an engaging, in-person learning experience open to everyone, regardless of background or prior Jewish knowledge. Classes meet Tuesdays, November 3 through March 16, from 6:30–8:30 PM, with weekly topics including Shabbat, Torah, prayer, holidays, Israel, and more.

Individual \$360 | Couple \$540
Additional family/friend: \$180

Questions or interested? Contact Gabriel at gprunty@sinaitemple.org or 310-481-3200.

Zooz Fitness Volunteer Opportunity at Sinai Temple

Sundays, November 8, December 13, January 10, February 7, March 21, April 11, and May 16 | 12:30–2:00 PM

Join Sinai Temple's Social Action Committee for a fun and meaningful volunteer opportunity with Zooz Fitness! Volunteers will join Keen+ members for a fun basketball experience led by Zooz Fitness coaches, helping build connections and make a difference through the power of play.

Location: 3rd Floor, Weinberg Gym at Sinai Temple
No basketball experience necessary—just bring your energy, enthusiasm, and willingness to have fun!
Register here: <https://bit.ly/4BskK9M>

Team Sinai Temple: Sharsheret West Coast Dash

Join Team Sinai Temple **TOMORROW, Sunday, October 25 at 8:00 AM** for Sharsheret's 5th Annual West Coast Dash, featuring a 5K, 10K, and Family Fun Race. Come together with our community to support Sharsheret and its incredible work improving the lives of those affected by breast and ovarian cancer. Register or donate and help Team Sinai Temple make a difference.

Register or donate: runsignup.com/sinaitemple
Family Fun Race begins at 9:15 AM.

Torah on Tap

Join Rabbi Avi Taff's learning circle for men in their 20s–40s for meaningful conversation, learning, and community. Sessions take place from 7:00-8:30 PM in a private home, with the address shared before each gathering.

November 3, December 15, January 26, February 23, March 16, and April 6

Membership required. RSVP required. For questions, contact Gabriel at gprunty@sinaitemple.org or 310-481-3200.

SINAI TEMPLE RELIGIOUS SCHOOL

Save the Date: Purim Carnival 2027

Get ready to unleash your inner superhero! **Purim Carnival 2027** is coming to Sinai Temple on **Sunday, March 14**, and this year's theme is **Superheroes**.

More details to come...mark your calendar now!

SINAI AKIBA ACADEMY

SAA Shabbat with Sinai Temple

Saturday, October 31 | 9:00–11:45 AM
Followed by Shabbat lunch

Join Sinai Akiba Academy and Sinai Temple for a special, student-led Shabbat service on **Saturday, October 31**. Students from kindergarten through middle school will lead prayers, participate in the Torah service, and fill the sanctuary with song. Celebrate the joy of Shabbat and the strength of our community as we come together for a meaningful morning of prayer, music, and connection, followed by Shabbat lunch.

Register Here: <https://bit.ly/4kc61Jy>

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



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STARS
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