Vayeitzei: Wherever You Go, There You Are

I have a book on my shelf called *Wherever You Go, There You Are*, which is about mindfulness: "paying attention … on purpose, in the present moment, and nonjudgmentally" (much more simply said than done). The title bespeaks the truth that wherever we go, we carry our thoughts—for better and worse—along with us.

As Jews, we carry something else. The outset of this parsha sees Jacob set out from the only home he has ever known:

"Jacob left (*vayetzei*) Beer-sheba, and set out for Haran." (Genesis 28:10)

Hebrew readers might object to the Torah's word choice. Jacob didn't leave just anywhere; he left *Eretz Yisrael*, the Land of Israel. If *aliyah* (ascent") means coming to Israel, then *yeridah* (descent) should mean going from it. Why doesn't the Torah use this verb to describe Jacob's departure?

Says Rabbi Levi Yitzhak of Berditchev, Jacob may have left Israel, but Israel didn't leave him. "The holiness of the land of Israel accompanied Jacob on his journey abroad," he writes; "wherever Jacob was, the Land of Israel was there also."

Jacob carried Israel, the land that would become his namesake and identity, wherever he went—and so do we. We represent our people and our place, consciously or not. It's our duty to do so mindfully: on purpose, in the present, without judgment. At a time when Israel's sanctity (let alone its survival) isn't taken for granted, we owe it to our past and our future to pay attention.

Wherever we go, *there* we are.

Shabbat Shalom.

Rabbi Moe Howard

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

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11 KISLEV 5787 | 21 NOVEMBER 2026

PARASHAT VAYEITZEI | ויצא

THE B'NAI MITZVAH OF SARAH AND JONATHAN WALD

Torah reading begins: Genesis 30:14 (page 176)
Maftir: Genesis 31:14-16 (page 181)
Haftarah: Hosea 13:1-15 (page 189)
"Are You Prepared?" - Sermon by Rabbi Nicole Guzik

Hanukkah Holiday Concert: A Festival of Light — Tuesday, December 8

***Tuesday, December 8 at 7:00 PM**, join us at Sinai Temple for the world premiere of Yoni Fogelman's A Festival of Light, performed by Adoro Ensemble. This eight-movement work retells the Hanukkah story through music, bringing the miracle of the menorah to life. The holiday concert also features Benjamin Britten's "A Ceremony of Carols."*

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.

EVENING MINYAN
in Kohn Chapel
Every Friday at 5:45 PM
Also available to watch on YouTube

SHABBAT SERVICES
in Ziegler Sanctuary at 9:00 AM
Also available to watch on YouTube

TORAH AT THE TABLE
in Blumenthal Library Classroom at 9:00 AM

SHABBAT CHILDCARE
Ages 18 Months - 5 Years Old
9:45 AM | Room 112

DAILY MINYAN
in Kohn Chapel
Monday–Friday at 7:30 AM
Sunday morning at 8:30 AM
Sunday-Friday evenings at 5:45 PM
Saturday evenings 9:00 PM (online only)
Please consult the website for holiday locations and times.

TEMPLE EVENTS

Feit Family Live Hanukkah Community Shabbat Dinner

Friday, December 4, 2026 | 5:30 PM

Join us for a special Hanukkah celebration filled with delicious food, meaningful prayer, and community! The evening begins with an enhanced Shabbat service led by Sinai Temple clergy at 5:30 PM, followed by a festive Hanukkah-inspired dinner provided by Western Kosher at 6:30 PM. Enjoy engaging children's entertainment and celebrate the joy of Hanukkah together! This event is for Sinai Temple members only. $18 per child | $25 per adult.
Register here: https://bit.ly/48gFhkc

Sinai Speaks: Hanukkah Through the Eyes of Our Rabbis

Wednesday, December 9, 2026 | 7:00 PM | Online Only

Join Co-Senior Rabbis Nicole Guzik and Erez Sherman for a special Sinai Speaks conversation exploring the meaning of Hanukkah and its relevance to our lives today. Together, we'll reflect on the holiday's enduring messages of light, hope, and Jewish resilience.
Register here: https://bit.ly/4kzBZQa

A Special Hanukkah Celebration with Elkana Bohbot

Thursday, December 10, 2026 | 7:00 PM | Kohn Chapel

Join Co-Senior Rabbi Erez Sherman as released hostage Elkana Bohbot shares his story of courage, survival, and faith. A Nova festival organizer, Bohbot stayed behind on October 7 to help others escape and spent 738 days in Hamas captivity. The in-person evening includes a live talk, a film, and an audience Q&A.
Register here: https://bit.ly/4ztOjWd

Dor Chadash Hanukkah, Havdalah & The Beat Buds

Saturday, December 12, 2026 | 5:00 PM | Sinai Temple

Join Dor Chadash for a family Hanukkah celebration with Havdalah, dinner, and live music from The Beat Buds! Sing and dance together, make an art project, and enjoy face painting and activities for the whole family. Registration is required.
Register here: https://bit.ly/48qabXo

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.

Pieces of Peace: A Conversation About Building Shared Society in Israel

Join Sinai Temple and Temple Beth Am for an in-person conversation about Jewish-Arab relations in Israel. Mohammad Darawshe, Director of Strategy at Givat Haviva, will join Rabbi Erez Sherman and Rabbi Adam Kligfeld to discuss what it takes to build a shared society and how Jewish and Arab citizens can work toward greater understanding, cooperation, and equality.

Thursday, December 3, 2026 | 7:00–8:00 PM | Sinai Temple

Register here: https://bit.ly/4AJcbpI

Sinai Temple Presents Mini Minyan: Our New Album Is Here!

We are excited to announce the release of Sinai Temple Presents **Mini Minyan**, a new album co-produced by **Cantor Marcus Feldman and Benjamin Fingerhut!** Featuring the uplifting voices of our Douglas Family Early Childhood Center preschoolers and the Sinai Temple Youth Choir, this special album captures the joy of music and prayer shared each Wednesday morning. Bring the music of Sinai Temple home and enjoy listening with your family!

Listen here: https://bit.ly/4kwX4en

Zooz Fitness Volunteer Opportunity at Sinai Temple

Sundays, December 13, 2026 & January 10, February 7, March 21, April 11, and May 16, 2027
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

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.

December 15, 2026 & January 26, February 23, March 16, and April 6, 2027

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

Thanksgiving Break | November 25 - November 27, 2026

Wednesday, November 25–Friday, November 27, 2026

Sinai Akiba Academy will be on Thanksgiving break beginning Wednesday, November 25. Classes will resume on Monday, November 30. Wishing our Sinai Akiba families, faculty, and staff a happy Thanksgiving and a restful break!

WANT TO PLAN AN EVENT?

Host your next event at Sinai Temple. Our kitchen handles everything from a kiddush lunch to a wedding, and Barad Hall seats up to 650 people. For more information, 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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