

Ki Tavo: Confession of the Good

The central prayer of Yom Kippur, the Day of Atonement, is the *vidui*: the confession of our collective sins, from A to Z (or *alef* to *tav*), before God. Confession is a necessary step in the work of teshuvah, or repentance—better defined as “return”—that is our task in this season.

Parshat Ki Tavo presents a confession of an altogether different sort. This *vidui* is recited not on Yom Kippur but in the third year of the sabbatical cycle. After setting aside a tithe of their produce for the poor, every Israelite would make this declaration:

“I have given to the Levite, the stranger, the fatherless, and the widow [and] have obeyed the LORD my God. I have done according to all You commanded me.” (Deuteronomy 26:14)

This *vidui* is not a confession of sin but an affirmation of virtue. Perhaps the fact that we read about it in the days leading up to the Days of Awe is to serve as a reminder as we take stock of the life we lived in the past year: while it’s important to admit what we did wrong, it’s essential to acknowledge what we did right. Recognizing the good in ourselves is as conducive to our happiness as it is to our spiritual growth—and to our goal in these Holy Days of “returning” to who we really are and who we most want to be.

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:

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Celebrate the High Holy Days with Sinai Temple—explore our full schedule of services, programs, and experiences at sinaitemple.org/high-holy-days

Shabbat Daycare
9:45-11:45 a.m. | First come first serve!
Potty trained- 5 years old
The Parenting Center: Room 114
12 kids max

MINCHA & KABBALAT SHABBAT
in Kohn Chapel
Every Friday at 5:45
Also available to watch on [YouTube](#)

DAILY MINYAN
in Kohn Chapel
Monday–Friday at 7:30 a.m. and
5:45 p.m. (in person)
Saturday 9:00 p.m. (online only)
Sunday (and National Holidays, when
held in-person) 8:30 a.m.



SINAI TEMPLE

20 ELUL 5785 | 13 SEPTEMBER 2025



PARASHAT KI TAVO | כי תבוא

Torah reading begins: Deuteronomy 24:14 (page 1130)
Maftir: Deuteronomy 29:6-8 (page 1159)
Haftarah: Isaiah 60:1-10 (page 1161) | The Sixth Haftarah of Consolation
“Sorry, Not Sorry:” Sermon by Rabbi Nicole Guzik

SHABBAT SERVICE

in Ziegler Sanctuary at 9:00 a.m.
The Bat Mitzvah of Hannah I. Kogan
Also available to watch on [YouTube](#)

TORAH AT THE TABLE

in CC Library Classroom at 9:00 a.m.

FAMILY MINYAN

in Kohn Chapel at 9:30 a.m.
The Bar Mitzvah of Jaden Bahari

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

One of the greatest blessings of Sinai Temple is our deep sense of community. Each Shabbat, as we gather in prayer, song, and study, and as we hold each other in L’dor Vador, we are reminded that Judaism thrives in connection.

At Sinai Temple, community means showing up for one another in times of joy and in times of challenge. It means welcoming the stranger, supporting the vulnerable among us, and celebrating milestones.

Another guiding value of our congregation is mentorship. Whether through our Religious School, youth programs, young professional groups, or volunteer leadership, members of all ages can find guidance, friendship, and role models. Mentorship creates a bridge, allowing wisdom, stories, and Jewish values to pass to the next generations.

I invite you to look around this Shabbat and see the faces that are familiar and new, young and not so young. Each one of us has the potential to be a teacher, a student, a friend, and a role model.

I invite you to join our family and share in this sacred journey.

Together Again at Sinai Temple

As we look toward the beginning of a new year together at Sinai Temple, we want to take a moment to reach out to you. Our synagogue is more than just a building—it’s a community, a family, and a place where we celebrate, learn, and support one another through every stage of life.

We know that life can get busy, and sometimes membership falls to the side. But we would truly love to welcome you back. By renewing your membership, you’ll not only stay connected to meaningful traditions and services, but you’ll also help strengthen the very community that has always been at the heart of Sinai.

This coming year is filled with opportunities—holiday celebrations, adult learning, youth programs, volunteer projects, and so much more. Your presence makes a difference.

If you’d like to rejoin, you can renew online at sinaitemple.org or call our office at (310) 474-1518. And if you have any questions or concerns, please don’t hesitate to reach out—we’d be happy to talk with you.

We miss you, and we hope to see you back soon.

Shabbat shalom,

Jamie Berman

Membership Vice President

A Single Ember

By *Jennifer Malvin*

One member
a single ember
Yearns to spend its light,
Making the world a bit more bright,
Welding together what needs repair,
Illuminating words of prayer,
Warming grief’s cold embrace,
And revealing hidden acts of grace.

A beacon for Kiddush, Kaddish, and community,
Am Yisrael Chai, simchas, and unity,
You are, each and every one, a single Ner Yachid,
But, together, we become a Ner Tamid.

TEMPLE EVENTS

The Final Countdown: 6 Days for Reflection and Renewal with Nili Salem and Rabbi Kornsgold

Wednesday, September 17th | 7:00 PM

Online Only| Join Nili Salem, author of *Awesome Blast*, in dialogue with Rabbi Gavriella Kornsgold as they explore the spiritual journey from Elul to Yom Kippur through Torah, personal stories, and deep reflection.

Meet Your Mensch: Wine Tasting with Transport Sunday, September 21, 2025 | 2:00–6:00pm

Join us for an afternoon of great wine and even better company at Tierra Sur at Herzog Wine Cellars. This event is intended for individuals ages 35–60. We kindly ask that you respect this age range as we continue to build a strong singles community.

The Joyce & Jerry (z”l) Monkarsh Family Erev Rosh Hashanah Service

Sunday, September 22, 2025 | 7:00–9:00pm

Start the new year WITH A BEAT! Celebrate Erev Rosh Hashanah with a moving and musical evening featuring the Sinai Temple Clergy, Israeli soloist Bat Ella, and LA’s best drumline. Doors open at 7:00 pm, and the service is open to the public—no ticket required.

Weekly Parsha Class

Every Thursday at 8:30 a.m. starting Aug. 7th

Join us as Sinai Temple’s rotating clergy lead an in-depth exploration of the weekly Parsha. This class is offered exclusively online.

SISTERHOOD

Sisterhood New Members Event

Thursday, October 9, 2025, 7:00 – 9:00 p.m.

Jacki & Jeff Karsh Terrace, Sinai Temple

Join Rabbi Nicole Guzik and Carolyn Hoffman, LCSW, for Building and Enhancing Satisfying Relationships: How to Give and Receive Feedback. Enjoy an evening of connection with fellow Sisterhood members, light dinner, and live music by Benjamin Wald.

SHABBAT KIDDUSH IS SPONSORED BY

The Bahari family in honor of Jaden Bahari’s Bar Mitzvah

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

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