

Nitzavim: Circumcise Your Heart

As Moses continues his parting soliloquy to the people of Israel, he makes them this promise:

“The LORD your God will open up (literally ‘circumcise’) your heart and the hearts of your offspring to love the LORD your God with all your heart and soul, in order that you may live.” (Deuteronomy 30:6)

Yet only chapters earlier, Moses invoked the same metaphor not as a promise but an exhortation:

“And now, O Israel, what does the LORD your God demand of you? [Only] to serve the LORD your God with all your heart and soul ... Circumcise, therefore, the foreskin of your heart and stiffen your neck no more.” (10:12–16)

So, which is it? Will God open up their hearts—and our own—or will we?

The Midrash comes to reconcile the discrepancy, and in so doing teaches a profound truth about the teshuvah “repentance” that is our task in this season:

“The Holy Blessed One said to Israel: My children, open for Me a door of repentance like the eye of a needle, and I will open for you gates through which wagons and carriages can pass.”

In true rabbinic fashion, the answer is both. We must open up our hearts to honest reflection, sincere repentance, and earnest repair as much as we are able—if only by a pinhole—and God will find a way in, opening us up to the noblest, worthiest, and holiest of ourselves from the inside out.

Shabbat shalom and Shanah Tovah.
- Rabbi Moe Howard



Sinai Temple, 10400 Wilshire Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90024 310-474-1518 | www.sinaitemple.org

Affiliated with the United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism

SINAI TEMPLE CLERGY

Rabbi Nicole Guzik and Rabbi Erez Sherman
Senior Rabbis

Senior Clergy Administrator:
Gary Fayman gfoyman@sinaitemple.org or
310-481-3234

Rabbi Avi Taff
Rabbi

Rabbi Gavriella Kornsgold
Rabbi

Administrative Clergy Assistant:
Gabriel Prunty

gprunty@sinaitemple.org or 310-481-3200
Cantor Marcus Feldman
Senior Cantor

Cantor’s Office Assistant and
B’nai Mitzvah Coordinator: Ashley Soltys cantorsof-
fice@sinaitemple.org or 310-481-3235

Rabbi David Wolpe
Max Webb Emeritus Rabbi
dwolpe@sinaitemple.org
Moe Howard

Rabbinic Intern mhoward@
sinaitemple.org

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

Executive Director – Jessica Green
Ritual Director – Jay Harwitt
Musical Director – Benjamin Fingerhut
Director of Media and Communication – Roy Regev
Audio Visual Tech – Christopher Princivalli
Natalia Rojas – Communications Manager
Rebeka Small – Operations Manager
Amanda Harrison – Program & Engagement Coordinator
Hannah Buckland – Atid Program Coordinator
Judy Begin – Temple Administrator
Sharona Rachmani
Mansour Eslamboli
Michael Silberstein
Ebby Tabariai
Michael Nazarian
David Matloob
Faith Gershbock
Jacob Gershbock

Mehrzad Roshan, Sinai Temple President mro-
shan@sinaitemple.org



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

Shabbat Lounge

9:45-11:45 a.m.

Grades: 3rd-5th| Youth Lounge & Rickles Gym

18 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

27 ELUL 5785 | 20 SEPTEMBER 2025



PARASHAT NITZAVIM| נצבים

Torah reading begins: Deuteronomy 29:9 (page 1165)

Maftir: Deuteronomy 30:18-20 (page 1171)

Haftarah: Isaiah 61:10-62:12 (page 1180)

“To Listen and to Know:” Sermon by Rabbi Erez Sherman

SHABBAT SERVICE

in Ziegler Sanctuary at 9:00 a.m.

Also available to watch on [YouTube](#)

TORAH AT THE TABLE

in CC 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 MEHRZAD ROSHAN

As we prepare to welcome Rosh Hashanah, I want to extend my heartfelt wishes to each of you for a sweet, healthy, and meaningful New Year. This sacred season invites us to pause, reflect, and renew both as individuals and as a community.

As we sit around the table with our loved ones, we remember Israeli hostages kept in captivity, and we pray for their return. We also hold in our hearts the families affected by war and displacement, and we pray for peace and healing for all.

I am grateful to all of you who show up week after week for Shabbat services. Your presence fills our sanctuary with prayer, song, positive energy, and spirit. You are the heartbeat of our community.

May this new year bring you and your loved ones peace, health, and blessing. May Sinai Temple continue to thrive as a place of prayer, learning, and connection. And may we enter 5786 with open hearts, gratitude, and hope for the year ahead.

Shana Tovah U’Metukah

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

Monday, 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.

Feit Family Live: Tashlich at the Beach

Sunday, September 28th | 10:00 am - 12:00 pm

Santa Monica Beach

Join us for a morning of games, arts and crafts, and a service for people of all ages. We encourage that you bring a shofar (if you have one), a water bottle, a beach towel or chair, and sun protection. If you can, please wear white.

Feit Family Live: Shabbat Dinner in the Sukkah

Friday, October 10 · 6:30 - 8:30pm PDT

Join us for a special evening of community and delicious food at Sinai Temple. Shabbat services with Sinai Temple clergy at 5:45 PM in Kohn Chapel. Engaging entertainment for children. The opportunity to fulfill the mitzvah of eating in the Sukkah.

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

In honor of Fred Rollman’s birthday by Bruce and Jane Rollman

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