

Chayei Sarah: Burying Parents and Hatchets

Chayei Sarah, “The Life of Sarah” is a misnomer, for no sooner does this *parsha* begin than it bids farewell to our founding matriarch, Sarah, and later to our patriarch, Abraham. The spiritual parents of our people gave birth to monotheism and to what would become the Judaism we now practice some four thousand years later. Their passing marks a new chapter in our story and our history—and not only our own. Ishmael, the outcast son of Abraham by his concubine Hagar, makes a surprising reappearance at the end of this Torah portion. “Abraham breathed his last,” we are told, and “His sons Isaac and Ishmael buried him in the cave of Machpelah ... And Isaac settled near Beer-lahai-roi.” (Genesis 25:9–11)

The remaining verses list the twelve sons of Ishmael who would, according to Islamic tradition, become the forefather of the Arab people. Jewish tradition also recognizes this lineage. The Midrash, the collected interpretations of the Torah throughout the centuries, tells of Abraham twice visiting Ishmael. The first time, he meets Ishmael’s wife, Ayesha, who refuses him bread and water. The second time, he meets not Ayesha (whom Ishmael had divorced in the meanwhile) but Fatima, who offers Abraham food and drink. Abraham blesses Ishmael’s house “with all good things,” and Ishmael knew that “his father still loved him.”

Ayesha and Fatima are familiar—not in the Torah, but the Quran, as the wife and daughter of the prophet Muhammad. That the Midrash names them and, at least in Fatima’s case, regards her positively, suggests a rapport between the Judaism and Islam of the time. That Isaac reunited with Ishmael at their father’s funeral and went on to live in Beer-lahai-roi, the home of Hagar (whom another midrash imagines remarried Abraham), shows that reconciliation was possible then. Perhaps, as our two peoples attend the final funerals of those lost in the last two years, it will be possible now.

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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Mehrzad Roshan, Sinai Temple President

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. 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

24 CHESHVAN 5786 | 15 NOVEMBER 2025



PARASHAT CHAYEI SARAH | חיי שרה

Torah reading begins: Genesis 23:1 (page 127)

Maftir: Genesis 24:5-9 (page 131)

Haftarah: I Kings 1:22-31 (page 145)

“Jewish Gratitude”- Sermon by Rabbi Nicole Guzik

SHABBAT SERVICE

in Ziegler Sanctuary at 9:00 a.m.

The Bat Mitzvah of Kayla Farin

Also available to watch on [YouTube](#)

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 MEHRZAD ROSHAN

One of the greatest blessings of Sinai Temple is knowing that we are part of a community where everyone is welcomed and valued.

In a world that often feels fast-paced and uncertain, Sinai remains a place of comfort, safety, and connection.

Whether through prayer, learning, or simply showing up for one another, we remind ourselves that true strength comes from community.

May we continue to build a space where every member feels supported, valued, and at home.

Shabbat Shalom

SOVA Food Drive

Join Sinai Temple's Social Action Committee as we spread kindness this holiday season! Support the JFS SOVA Community Food & Resource Program.

Now through Friday, November 22, drop off donations from the list below at the front desk of Sinai Temple — all items will be delivered directly to SOVA.

Items include: canned tuna, nut butter, 100% juice, low-sodium canned vegetables, cooking oil, whole grain cereal (hot or cold), shelf-stable milk and milk alternatives, low-sodium canned tomato products, low-sodium canned soups, personal hygiene items, and household goods.

Kosher products preferred. **No glass containers or opened goods, please.**

Sinai Temple Sisterhood

Sinai Temple Sisterhood enriches members' lives through programs, classes, and volunteer opportunities. We run the Gift Shop and cater luncheons, with proceeds supporting Sinai Temple, its schools, partial Jewish camp scholarships for members' families, and the wider community. Classes include Mah Jongg, Arts & Crafts, Balance, Calligraphy, and Needlepoint.

For more information, contact Marilyn Stern at marilynstern1@yahoo.com or visit sinaitemple.org/sisterhood. To receive our monthly newsletter, email Natalia Rojas at nrojas@sinaitemple.org.



TEMPLE EVENTS

Taking Charge of Your Finances:

What Everyone Needs to Know

This Tuesday, November 18 | 9:15 AM

Join moderator Adam Bakhash and a panel of financial experts, Jessica L. Sibony, Randy Schwab, and Roxana Maddahi, for "Taking Charge of Your Finances: What Everyone Needs to Know", this will be an informative morning at Sinai Temple designed to help you navigate financial planning with confidence.

Foundations Class:

Introduction to the Siddur with Cantor Feldman

This Tuesday, November 18 | 7:00 PM | In-Person Only

Learn how the Siddur guides Jewish prayer and tradition with Cantor Marcus Feldman.

505 Days: Omer Shem Tov's Story of Survival from Gaza

This Thursday, November 20 | 7:00 PM

For over a year, Omer Shem Tov was held captive in Gaza. Since his release, he has made it his mission to share his story of survival and resilience.

Enhanced Kiddush with Rabbi Wolpe & Shmuel Rosner

Next Saturday, November 22 | Immediately following services

Join Max Webb Emeritus Rabbi David Wolpe and Shmuel Rosner for a thought-provoking conversation on Jewish identity, community, and contemporary challenges, featuring insights from Rosner's new book, *Why I Am a Jew*.

Thanksgiving Volunteer Opportunity

Wednesday, November 26 | 11:00 AM – 12:30 PM

Help bring joy to our community as we hand out lunches at senior centers across West LA. Bring your warmth, compassion, and holiday spirit -all ages are welcome!

Sinai Speaks: Rabbi Guzik in Conversation

with Rabbi Angela Buchdahl

Thursday, December 4 | 7:00PM

Co-Senior Rabbi Nicole Guzik will speak with Rabbi Angela Buchdahl on *Heart of a Stranger: An Unlikely Rabbi's Story of Faith, Identity, and Belonging*, recently featured on *The New York Times* Best Seller list.

Siddur Project

Share your personal prayers, art, or music for a new Sinai Temple Siddur created by and for our community. Enrich our collective prayer experience. Submit your original works to siddurproject@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

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