

Tol'dot: Widen Your Tent

While the debate over “nature versus nurture” might never be settled finally, no one can argue against the reality of the former. Any sibling (myself included) knows that two children raised by the same parents in the same household inevitably turn out differently. Even twins identical in body are never identical in mind and spirit.

Such is the case of the Torah’s first twins, Jacob and Esau. One is smooth-skinned, the other hairy; one is a mild-mannered pastoralist and the other a brash hunter. It’s only natural that they be dissimilar. So why does God so strongly favor the one over the other?

Perhaps it’s not for their natures but for the traits they nurtured (or failed to) in themselves. We’re told that Jacob grew to be a *yoshev ohalim* “dwelling in tents.” Radak (Rabbi David Kimchi), a 13th-century biblical commentator, takes this to mean that Jacob was indiscriminating in whom he learned with and from—that he had an “open-tent policy,” so to speak. Esau, on the other hand, is described as *yodea tzayid* “a skillful hunter.” In light of Radak’s comment, we might read tzayid instead as *tzad* “side”: Esau was one who took sides—in his case, against the Jewish tradition that was his birthright.

As our patriarch and namesake, Jacob sets the example for us to follow. We must widen our tents to include those with whom we disagree, and not choose sides to keep those we want in and those we don’t out. Granted, we must also have boundaries; those, like Esau, who spurn their heritage and their people might not be part of our tribe. But even they are our siblings. Though their natures might differ markedly from our own, we can and must still nurture our respect for, relation to, and reconciliation with each other. Shabbat Shalom.

- Rabbi Moe Howard



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Affiliated with the United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism

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Rabbinic Intern

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

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Immediately After Services:
Join us for a special Enhanced Kiddush with Rabbi David Wolpe and Shmuel Rosner.

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.

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.



SINAI TEMPLE

2 KISLEV 5786 | 22 NOVEMBER 2025



PARASHAT TOL'DOT | תולדות

Torah reading begins: Genesis 28:10 (page 166)

Maftir: Genesis 26:19-22

Haftarah: Malachi 1:1-14 (page 163)

“Tribal Truths”- Sermon by Rabbi David Wolpe

SHABBAT SERVICE

in Ziegler Sanctuary at 9:00 a.m.

The Bar Mitzvah of Jacob Javaheri

The Bar Mitzvah of Raphael Simantob

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

In 2026, Sinai Temple will celebrate its 120th anniversary — a remarkable milestone in the life of our community.

Reaching this moment invites us not only to celebrate but also to reflect with gratitude, pride, and hope.

For more than a century, Sinai Temple has stood as a center of Jewish life in Los Angeles. Generations have walked through our doors seeking meaning, comfort, knowledge, and connection.

They found clergy who guided them, teachers who inspired them, friends who supported them, and a community that welcomed them. The mission that began in 1906 continues to shape who we are today: to deepen Jewish learning, strengthen Jewish identity, and advocate for Israel.

From Shabbat services that lift our spirits to schools that nurture our children to programs that challenge our minds, we are the beneficiaries of a sacred legacy.

If you are a member, we thank you for partnering with us. If you're not a member, we encourage you to join or support Sinai Temple with a tax-deductible contribution. We hope we step forward together into our next chapter.

Shabbat Shalom.



UPCOMING ISRAEL TRIPS

Hanukkah in Israel with Rabbi Kornsgold:

Join Rabbi Gavriella Kornsgold for a meaningful Hanukkah volunteer mission in Israel from December 14–18, 2025. Highlights include rebuilding communities affected by October 7, preparing meals for IDF soldiers, visiting farms and local markets, and meeting Israelis, survivors, and influential leaders. Contact Rabbi Kornsgold at gkornsgold@sinaitemple.org

Info + registration: my.jnf.org/volunteer-in-israel-mission/Donate/Tickets

Men's Volunteer Trip with Rabbi Taff:

Rabbi Taff will lead a hands-on volunteer trip to Israel from January 10–18, 2026, featuring time with soldiers on the front lines, visits to injured IDF soldiers, community service programs, and learning from voices shaping post-war Israel, including a Shabbat in Jerusalem.

For questions or to register, contact Rabbi Taff at ataff@sinaitemple.org

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

Foundations Class:

Introduction to the Siddur with Cantor Feldman

This Tuesday, November 25 | 7:00 PM | In-Person Only

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

Thanksgiving Volunteer Opportunity

This 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: *I am Andre*

This Wednesday, November 26 | 7:00 PM | Online Only

Join Rabbi Moe Howard for an online-only conversation with author, Diana Mara Henry, about her book, *I am Andre*. Learn about the remarkable life of Holocaust survivor Andre Joseph Scheinmann and the legacy captured in Henry's work.

Sinai Speaks: Rabbi Guzik in Conversation with Rabbi Angela Buchdahl

Next 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.

Dreidelmania!

Sunday, December 14 | 10:00 AM

Come break the world record for the most dreidels being spun at the same time! The current record is 734. Help us get to 735! Bring your family and friends! We'll have sufganiyot, popcorn, and latkes for sale.

ROCK Wednesday! & Hanukkah Songfest

Wednesday, December 17 | 6:00-7:30 PM

Celebrate Hanukkah with the joy of giving as we come together to collect and wrap toys for Chai Lifeline, enjoy a festive sing-along led by Cantor Marcus Feldman, Benjamin Fingerhut, and Dr. Michelle Green Willner, and share pizza, latkes, and sufganiyot.

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.

SHABBAT KIDDUSH IS SPONSORED BY

Azzy and David Simantob in honor of their son Raphael'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