

Mishpatim: Do and Hear

As they stand at the foot of Mount Sinai, Moses reads aloud to the Israelites the laws of the covenant (many more than just the “Big Ten”). In one of the most well known phrases of the Torah, the people respond: *na’aseh v’nishma*, “We will do and we will hear” (Exodus 24:7). Doing precedes “hearing” or understanding; *act* comes before *fact*. Two words convey the essence of Jewish faith.

But even more instructive than their content is the consensus with which they are spoken. Rabbi Lord Jonathan Sacks notes that this is the third time the people have assented to the covenant—and the first that they’ve changed their tune. In both prior instances, their response is unanimous: “All the people answered *as one*, saying, ‘All that GOD has spoken we will do (*na’aseh!*)’” (19:8); “all the people answered *with one voice*, saying, ‘All the things that GOD has commanded we will do (*na’aseh!*)’” (24:3). When it comes to doing, all are in agreement (more or less). Not so with hearing; each hears God’s voice in his or her own way.

Such is also an article of Jewish faith. Judaism is famously non-dogmatic. Perhaps the only tenet agreed upon is the sanctity of disagreement. *Mahloket l’shem shamayim*, “argument for Heaven’s sake,” is both a treasured pastime and a sacred value. Our devotion is expressed not in blind conformity but in questioning and challenging—with reverence for God and for each other as created in God’s image.

Na’aseh v’nishma, then, is not an affirmation but an exhortation: the only way we will hear each other is if we first do together. Shabbat is the perfect place to start.

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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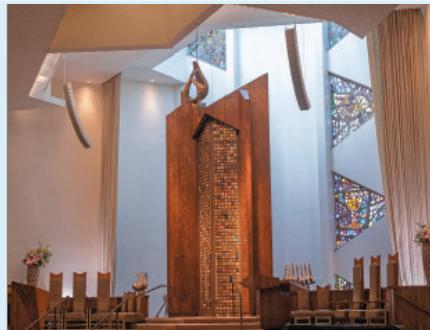
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SINAI TEMPLE

27 SH’VAT 5786 | 14 FEBRUARY 2026

משפטים | שבת שקלים

SHABBAT SHEKALIM

BLESSING THE NEW MONTH OF ADAR (MONDAY EVENING, TUESDAY, AND WEDNESDAY)

Torah reading begins: Exodus 21:1 (page 456)

Maftir: Exodus 30:11-16 (page 523)

Haftarah for Shabbat Shekalim: II Kings 12:1-17 (page 1277)

“No Sabbatical from This”- Sermon by Rabbi Nicole Guzik

SHABBAT SERVICE

in Ziegler Sanctuary at 9:00 a.m.

Also available to watch on [YouTube](#)

TORAH AT THE TABLE

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

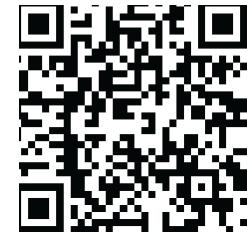
TORAH IN THE ROUND

in Kohn Chapel at 9:30 a.m.

The Bar Mitzvah of Alex Benjamin

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

TEMPLE EVENTS

2026 Abner (z'l) and Roslyn Goldstine Scholar-in-Residence

Lecture Series: AI & Judaism

February 17-19, 2026

Sinai Temple welcomes Dr. David Zvi Kalman as the 2026 Abner (z'l) & Roslyn Goldstine Scholar in Residence. Over three days, he will lead timely conversations exploring AI, Judaism, ethics, and human dignity—and how Jewish wisdom can guide us in a rapidly changing world.

Learn with Rabbi David Wolpe

Next Thursday, February 19, 2026 | 7:00 PM

Rabbi Wolpe will trace the wisdom, texts, and teachings that have guided Jewish life, from ancient foundations to medieval depth and modern relevance.

The Middle East's Regional & Global Strategic Transition with IDF Major General (ret.) Oded Bassiuk

Tuesday, February 24, 2026 | 8:15 AM

Join the Flesh Family Sinai Temple Israel Center and the Jewish Institute for National Security of America (JINSA) for breakfast with IDF Major General (ret.) Oded Bassiuk. Don't miss this opportunity for high-level analysis and community discussion.

Rock Wednesday!

Wednesday, February 25, 2026 | 6:00 PM

Sinai Temple is partnering with the American Heart Association's Kids Heart Challenge for Rock Wednesday. Participants will learn about heart health, hear from a leading cardiologist, jump rope to raise lifesaving funds, and discover the power of connection through sports while supporting children with special hearts.

Sinai Speaks: Maintaining Brain Health With Yael Wyte, MSW, Alzheimer's Association

Wednesday, February 25, 2026 | 7:00 PM

We will explore key findings from the 2025 U.S. POINTER Study on strategies to support and enhance cognitive health as we age. This program will take place on Zoom, with the link provided upon registration. We look forward to an engaging and informative evening together.

Invitations are now open.

Purim Carnival

Sunday, March 1, 2026 | 10:00 AM - 1:00 PM

Step into a world of high-energy fun at Sinai Temple's Purim Carnival J-Pop Joy Level Up: Adar Edition with festive games and family-friendly activities to celebrate the holiday together.

Purim at Sinai Temple

Monday, March 2, 2026 | 5:00 PM

Celebrate Purim at Sinai Temple with programs for all ages throughout the evening, including family celebrations, a traditional Megillah reading, and an adults-only Purim party. Events are designed for young families, older children, adults, and the entire community.

SAVE THE DATE

Join us on May 17 for the annual Sinai Temple Gala, a festive dinner and dance honoring President Mehrzad Roshan.

Sinai Akiba Academy Masquerade Ball

February 21 | 6:30 PM

Join us for an Enchanting Evening Honoring Three Exceptional Leaders: Jessica & Brad Smiedt and Jonah Platt

WINE & WISDOM

Join Rabbi Taff's Learning Circle for an intimate and enriching series that blends thoughtful Torah study with meaningful conversation in a warm, relaxed setting. Each session offers an opportunity to explore Jewish wisdom, ask big questions, and connect with fellow members over a shared glass of wine.

The next gathering will take place on **Wednesday, March 4, from 7:30–8:30 PM**, with additional sessions continuing through the spring. This members-only learning circle is hosted in a private home to foster open dialogue and community.

RSVP is required. Address will be provided upon registration.

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 marilynsterne1@yahoo.com or visit sinaitemple.org/sisterhood. To receive our monthly newsletter, email Natalia Rojas at nrojas@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 jbbegin@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 jbbegin@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