

# Shemini: The Other Half

What lies at the very center of the Torah? Some might say the holiness of God or the worthiness of humanity. The Sages listed three things: justice, truth, and peace. Hillel famously answered, "Don't do to another what you yourself hate—and the rest is commentary."

In fact, at the center of the Torah—the exact midpoint, counting by words—is this that you're reading: a *drash*, a search for deeper meaning. We read in our parsha:

"Then Moses diligently inquired (*darosh darash*) about the goat of the sin offering ..." (Leviticus 10:16)

Diligent inquiry, the habit of mind that gets to the heart of the matter, is both literally and figuratively half the Torah. "Half the observance of the Law," writes Rabbi Aharon Levine, "depends upon careful deliberation." The Torah itself is only half the story; we supply the other half by probing it, interrogating it, "turning it over and over, for all is within it."

What's true of Torah is true of people. Tradition compares the death of a human being to the destruction of a Torah scroll, for both of which we tear our clothes in mourning. So too in life, we owe both the respect of "diligent inquiry," of seeking to understand rather than jumping to conclusions, of reading between the lines and beneath the surface, of appreciating that within every parsha and every person is another, subtler half longing to be sought out—and a *drash* waiting to be written.

Shabbat Shalom.  
Rabbi Moe Howard



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Affiliated with the United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism

## SINAI TEMPLE CLERGY

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- Max Webb Emeritus Rabbi
- Moe Howard
- Rabbinic Intern

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

- Jessica Green - Executive Director
- Jay Harwitt - Ritual Director
- Benjamin Fingerhut - Musical Director
- Cantor Keith Miller - Cantorial Support & B'nai Mitzvah Mentor
- Roy Regev - Director of Media and Communications
- Christopher Princivalli - Audio Visual Tech
- Natalia Rojas - Communications Manager
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- Amanda Harrison - Program & Engagement Coordinator
- Hannah Buckland - Atid Program Coordinator
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- Michael Silberstein
- Ebby Tabariai
- Michael Nazarian
- David Matloob
- Faith Gershbock
- Jacob Gershbock

Mehrzad Roshan, Sinai Temple President



## MISSION STATEMENT

Sinai Temple is dedicated to providing a welcoming and caring community for its members, devoted to Jewish learning and support for Israel and the Jewish people, and committed to improving ourselves and the world through a growing relationship with God from generation to generation. We are committed to the principles and values of Conservative Judaism and we welcome Jews of all backgrounds and affiliations to observe life cycle events, and pursue our mission through prayer, rituals, learning, music and the other gifts God has given us.

## SHABBAT CHILDCARE

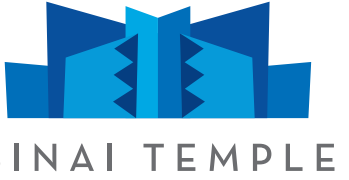
- Ages Potty Trained - 5 Years Old
- 9:45 AM | Room 114
- Ages 6 - 10 Years Old
- 9:45 Am | Youth Lounge

## 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.



24 NISAN 5786 | 11 APRIL 2026



PARASHAT SHEMINI | שמיני  
THE NINTH DAY OF THE OMER  
Torah reading begins: Leviticus 9:1 (page 630)  
Maftir: Leviticus 10:8-11 (page 635)  
II Samuel 6:1-7:17 (page 645)  
"AI and Your Soul" - Sermon by Rabbi Nicole Guzik

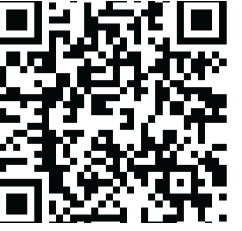
## SHABBAT SERVICE

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.

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](http://www.youtube.com/@SinaiTemplePresents)



## A MESSAGE FROM PRESIDENT MEHRZAD ROSHAN

Once a month, on Sundays, we open our doors at Sinai Temple to children and young adults with disabilities for a day of connection, play, and community. These gatherings give them a chance to build friendships, stay active, and simply enjoy being together in a welcoming environment.

Three weeks ago, I had the privilege of joining this meaningful program alongside our lay leaders, Sindy Paikal, Brian Ghodsian, Michelle Taus, and a few others. It was a powerful reminder of what community truly means. This is what we do at Sinai Temple: create spaces where people feel seen, supported, and connected.

Many of you call Sinai Temple your spiritual home and attend our Shabbat services regularly.

Membership dues alone do not cover the full cost of sustaining our synagogue, offering inspiring Shabbat services, and the programs that enrich so many lives. Your generous tax-deductible donations allow us to keep building these meaningful experiences and invest in a vibrant future together.

Please support our fundraising efforts and become an active partner.

Together, we can make a difference. Please scan the QR code below to contribute.



## TEMPLE EVENTS

### Sinai Speaks: Echoes of Memory with Maria Ross This Monday, April 13, 2026 | 7:00 PM

Join us on Yom HaShoah for a conversation led by Rabbi Gavriella Kornsgold and Holocaust survivor Maria Ross, honoring the memory of Holocaust victims through personal stories and reflections, followed by a candle lighting to commemorate the six million lives lost.

### Let's Talk: A Men's Group with Dr. Michael J. Whitman, Psy.D. Understanding Dreams and the Unconscious This Tuesday, April 14, 2026 | 7:00 PM

Join other members of Sinai Temple for an informal gathering focused on understanding dreams and the unconscious while exploring relevant mental health topics. Exclusively for men, all ages welcome.

### Wine & Wisdom Wednesday, April 15, 2026 | 7:30 PM

Join Rabbi Taff's Learning Circle for meaningful Torah study in a warm and intimate setting, accompanied by a glass of wine. Gather with community, deepen your learning, and enjoy thoughtful conversation.

Private Home (address provided upon registration) | RSVP Required

### Teen Center Challah Bake Thursday, April 16, 2026 | 7:30 PM

Join us for a meaningful and hands-on evening as we make shlissel challah (key-shaped) together. This program, for ages 12 and up, will also feature a powerful and inspiring story shared by a Holocaust survivor.

### Sinai Temple Park Day Saturday, April 18, 2026 | 3:00 PM

Come enjoy a relaxed afternoon at the park! We will provide light snacks and water with activities for kids of all ages led by sports coaches. Come spend time connecting with community in the sunshine!

Location Disclosed After Registration

### Come and Visit the BAPS Hindu Temple in Chino Hills Sunday, April 19, 2026 | 10:00 AM

Join Rabbi Sherman and leaders of President Herzog's Voice of the People Council from 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM for a meaningful visit to the BAPS Hindu Temple in Chino Hills.

## Learning with Rabbi David Wolpe

Join Rabbi David Wolpe to explore the wisdom, texts, and teachings that have shaped Jewish life across generations. Together, participants will trace Jewish thought from its ancient foundations through medieval interpretation and into its enduring relevance today.

**The next session will take place at 7:00 PM on April 30 in Kohn Chapel.**

## Sinai Temple Sisterhood

Join Sinai Temple Sisterhood for two meaningful opportunities to connect, learn, and celebrate together.

On **Thursday, April 16**, gather for a special **Rosh Hodesh Iyar** evening with Rabbi Gavriella Kornsgold, featuring dinner, community, and reflection in an intimate Westwood setting.

Then, continue the connection at our **Sisterhood Book Group on May 5**, as we come together for a thoughtful discussion of *Spinning Silver* by Naomi Novik.

Both events offer a warm and welcoming space to build community and engage with one another.

For more information or registration, please visit [sinaitemple.org/community/sisterhood/](https://sinaitemple.org/community/sisterhood/).

## RSVP TODAY

Join us on May 17 for the annual Sinai Temple Gala, a festive dinner and dance honoring President Mehrzad Roshan. To RSVP, call (310) 481-3225.

## 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](mailto: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 from the bimah on Shabbat.

To sponsor, contact Judy Begin at [jbegin@sinaitemple.org](mailto: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](mailto:aharrison@sinaitemple.org) or 310-481-3246