

Behar–Bechukotai: The True Test of Holiness

I recently moved from a studio into a one-bedroom apartment. It feels like a mansion: no longer is my bed in my living room nor my office in my closet. There is more space to move around—and more space to fill. I've spent hours browsing catalogues for the perfect color couch (forest green), the best dining table (oak? glass? stone?), the goldilocks mattress (6.5 out of 10 on the firmness scale, no more and no less).

I've been so caught up with what I need to buy that I've nearly forgotten what I want my home to be: a place of community, of serenity, of sanctity. Leave it to the Torah to remind me. We read in *parshat* Behukotai:

“When anyone consecrates his house as holy to GOD, the priest shall assess it. Whether good or bad, as the priest assesses it, so it shall stand.” (Leviticus 27:14)

The verse clearly refers to the consecrated house as “holy” property. But Rabbi Menachem Mendel of Kotzk reads it differently: “When anyone consecrates his house to GOD, *he* is holy.” Our household—including everything and everyone in it—is the real proving ground of holiness. “One who behaves in an elevated manner in one’s own house,” says the Kotzker, “is truly a holy person.”

To be holy in the sanctuary is one thing. To be holy in our home—a *mikdash me’at*, a “small sanctuary”—is another. Do we speak kindly to our spouses and children? Do we share our Shabbat table with guests? Do we open our door to the poor and the stranger?

In absence of the priest to assess our house’s worth, we must be the judges. May our homes—and ourselves—stand for good.

Shabbat Shalom.
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
- Gary Fayman
- Senior Clergy Administrator
gfayman@sinaitemple.org | 310-481-3234
- Rabbi Avi Taff
- Rabbi Gavriella Kornsgold
- Gabriel Prunty
Administrative Clergy Asst. for Rabbis Taff & Kornsgold
gprunty@sinaitemple.org | 310-481-3200
- Cantor Marcus Feldman
- Senior Cantor
- Ashley Soltys
Cantor’s Office Assistant and B’nai Mitzvah Coordinator
cantoroffice@sinaitemple.org | 310-481-3235
- Rabbi David Wolpe
- 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
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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.



SINAI TEMPLE

22 IYAR 5786 | 9 MAY 2026



PARASHOT BEHAR-BECHUKOTAI | בהר - בחוקתי
SISTERHOOD SHABBAT
Torah reading begins: Leviticus 25:1 (page 738)
Maftir: Leviticus 25:35-38 (page 743)
Haftarah: Jeremiah 16:19-17:14 (page 763)
“Just Like a Girl” - Sermon by Rabbi Nicole Guzik

SHABBAT SERVICE

Sisterhood Shabbat
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 Evan Yafai

STARS SHABBAT

in Gold Hall at 10:00 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



TEMPLE EVENTS

Calligraphy Class with Rabbi Kornsgold

This Tuesday, May 12, 2026 | 7:00 PM

Join us for a Calligraphy Class with Rabbi Kornsgold, who will be leading a hands-on and inspiring exploration of this beautiful art form.

Sinai Speaks: Music After October 7th with Jake Gillis

This Wednesday, May 13, 2026 | 7:00 PM

Join us for a cultural deep-dive into the songs helping Israelis process grief, express unity, and rediscover hope.

Learning with Rabbi David Wolpe

Thursday, May 14, 2026 | 7:00 PM

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

Feit Family Live Generations Shabbat

Saturday, May 16, 2026 | 10:45 AM

Come join us for services at 10:45 AM and a special Shabbat lunch at 12:00 PM where we bring together all generations for a delicious meal and meaningful conversations. Please bring a photo album to share during lunch as we reminisce and connect through cherished memories.

Sinai Temple 2026 Annual Gala: An Evening Honoring Mehrzad Roshan

Sunday, May 17, 2026 | 5:00 PM

Join Sinai Temple for the 2026 Annual Gala, an elegant evening honoring Mehrzad Roshan and celebrating the community's continued vision and leadership.

Let's Talk: A Men's Group with Dr. Michael J. Whitman, Psy.D.

Tuesday, May 19, 2026 | 7:00 PM

Join fellow Sinai Temple members for an engaging and thoughtful gathering exploring the meaning of love and romance, with space for reflection, conversation, and connection.

Tikkun Leil Shavuot

Thursday, May 21, 2026 | 7:00 PM

Join us for an inspiring evening where Sinai Temple learners will come together to reflect, share, and grow through Jewish learning. Sinai Temple clergy will be teaching throughout the evening, sharing their favorite line of text from one of the Five Books. We will conclude the evening together over cheesecake.

Meet Your Mensch Bowling Night

Tuesday, May 26, 2026 | 7:00 PM

Join us for a fun and easygoing Meet Your Mensch Bowling Night where making connections comes naturally. For \$50 per person, you'll get two hours of bowling, a kosher pizza dinner, and a drink ticket to keep things social and relaxed.

Sinai Speaks: Awake, Awake, Deborah!

Wednesday, May 27, 2026 | 7:00 PM

Join us for a powerful and thought-provoking conversation between Rabbi Gavriella Kornsgold and Rabbi Nancy Myers as they explore the enduring story of Deborah, prophet, judge, and leader. Together, they will reflect on themes of courage, voice, and leadership, drawing connections between this ancient text and the challenges and opportunities of our world today.

Life is a Team Sport: Choosing to Show Up, Work Hard, and Believe you Can

Thursday, May 28, 2026 | 7:00 PM

The Sinai Temple Mental Health Center invites you to join us for our Fifth Annual May event as we welcome Donna Orender, Professional Athlete, Respected CEO and Entrepreneur, Inspirational Thought Leader. Join us for an engaging conversation with Donna Orender whose extensive experience in sports and creative leadership will spark our imagination to reach for our own Positive and Possible.

Learning with Rabbi David Wolpe

Why do good people suffer? What does Jewish wisdom really say about faith, justice, and the world we live in? Rabbi Wolpe's beloved 6-part series continues on **May 14**, and it only gets deeper.

Join us in person or online. RSVP now to reserve your spot and receive the private streaming link.

Scan the QR below.



Calling All Young Voices!

Sinai Temple children **ages 8 to 11** have an exciting new opportunity to lead our congregation in prayer. Every Shabbat morning, students are invited to arrive early at **8:30 a.m.** to meet in Cantor Feldman's office and receive a solo for that day's service.

Whether it is singing Romemu, Baruch Sheamar, Ashrei, or Yotzer Or, just show up and the solo is yours! Family and friends can proudly watch in person or via our livestream. As an added bonus, participants will receive a special assortment of sweet treats.

No RSVP is needed. Step into your Jewish roots, enjoy some baked goods, and let your voice be heard in the Ziegler Sanctuary!

L'Shalom,

Cantor Marcus Feldman and Benjamin Fingerhut

Expand Your Mind with the Community Scholar Program

Learning doesn't stop. It evolves, deepens, and inspires. Sinai Temple is proud to partner with the Community Scholar Program (CSP), now in its 24th year, to bring members dynamic online learning with renowned scholars, authors, and thought leaders exploring Jewish history, culture, and ideas that resonate today. With engaging programs coming this May, there is something for everyone to learn, connect, and be inspired.

Explore upcoming programs and register at

www.sinaitemple.org/adult-education-classes-2025-26/

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 from the bimah on Shabbat.

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