

Shavuot: Happiness Grows on Trees

Today we gather not only to observe Shabbat but the summertime festival of Shavuot. What does Shavuot commemorate? In the Torah, it is *Hag ha-Bikurim*, "the Feast of First Fruits," when offerings of newly ripened grain were brought to the Temple in Jerusalem in gratitude for the harvest. In the prayers of the *siddur*, it is *zman matan Torateinu*, "the season of the giving of our Torah," when our ancestors received the laws of the covenant at Sinai—and when we celebrate receiving them anew.

But in the Mishnah, the first major work of rabbinic literature, Shavuot is not necessarily a cause for celebration. "At four times of year the world is judged," it reads: "on Shavuot, concerning fruits that grow on trees." The yield destined for the coming year is determined—for better or worse—on this day.

And perhaps that yield is not only agricultural. Indeed, the Torah itself is compared to an *etz hayim*, "a tree of life to those who grasp it." What, then, are its fruits? They are the kinder, wiser, holier lives we lead because of it.

It's true that money does not grow on trees. The Torah does not promise material prosperity. It promises something much greater: *v'omcheha meushar*, "whoever holds onto it is happy." Happiness is the product (and the produce) of learning, loving, and living a tradition that connects us across time and space, gender and race, class and culture and politics.

May it continue to bear fruit for many years to come.

Shabbat Shalom and Chag Sameach.
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

cantorsoffice@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
- Roy Regev - Director of Media and Communications
- Christopher Princivalli - Audio Visual Tech
- Natalia Rojas - Communications Manager
- Rebeka Small - Membership & Operations Manager
- Amanda Harrison - Program & Engagement Coordinator
- Hannah Buckland - Atid Program Coordinator
- Judy Begin - Temple Administrator
- Sharona Rachmani
- Mansour Eslamboly
- 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.



SINAI TEMPLE

7 SIVAN 5786 | 23 MAY 2026



THE SECOND DAY OF SHAVUOT | שבועות יזכור

Torah reading begins: Deuteronomy 14:22 (page 1074)
Maftir: Numbers 28:26-31 (page 932)
Haftarah begins: Habakkuk 3:1-19 (page 1326)
"Yizkor and Revelation: For Those at the Mountain and Those Not at the Mountain"- Sermon by Rabbi Gavriella Kornsgold

SHABBAT SERVICE

in Ziegler Sanctuary at 9:00 a.m.
"Yizkor and Revelation: For Those at the Mountain and Those Not at the Mountain"- Sermon by Rabbi Gavriella Kornsgold
Also available to watch on [YouTube](#)

TORAH AT THE TABLE

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

TORAH IN THE ROUND

in Gold Hall at 9:30 a.m.
The Bar Mitzvah of Noah Auerbach

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

Our thoughts, prayers, and deepest condolences are with the Barlava family and all related families on the tragic loss of their beloved son, brother, husband, father, uncle, and friend to hundreds, Mr. Morris Barlava, of blessed memory.

During this difficult time, our hearts are heavy as we come together in mourning this profound loss.

May they find strength, comfort, and support in the love of family, friends, and community in the days ahead.

As a community, we stand together in compassion and solidarity, holding the Barlava family close in our hearts.

TEMPLE EVENTS

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 online 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, and Inspirational Thought Leader. Join us for an engaging conversation with Donna whose extensive experience in sports and creative leadership will spark our imagination to reach for our own Positive and Possible.

Navigating Jewish Life on Campus in 2026 Saturday, June 6, 2026 | 12:00 PM

Enjoy a special Shabbat gathering with bagels and fruit, good company, and thoughtful conversation between Emeritus Rabbi David Wolpe, UCLA Chancellor Julio Frenk and Associate of the Chancellor Dr. Felicia Marie Knaul as they share insights and reflections in a warm, welcoming setting. This is a meaningful way to continue the spirit of Shabbat together after services.

Dodger Game with Sinai Temple Sunday, June 7, 2026 | 1:10 PM

Join us at Dodger Stadium for an exciting game as the Dodgers take on the Los Angeles Angels! Get ready for a day filled with fun, food, and of course, baseball! We will be seated in section 164LG in the shade!

This will take place at Dodger Stadium.

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

Sisterhood Installation & Volunteer Appreciation Breakfast

Join us for the Sisterhood Installation & Volunteer Appreciation Breakfast at Sinai Temple as we install President Estelle Marco and welcome the incoming Board of Directors. We will also take time to honor and celebrate our volunteers, followed by a festive breakfast together.

Tuesday, June 9, 2026 at 10:00 AM in Gold Hall
\$20 per person | Registration required

To RSVP, please visit <https://www.sinaitemple.org/community/sisterhood/>

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