

# Devarim: Build With Love

Next Wednesday evening begins the Ninth of Av, the day on which our people commemorate the destruction of the Temple in Jerusalem. We solemnize our mourning by chanting the Book of Lamentations, a dirge that recounts the aftermath of the tragedy in lurid and heartbreaking detail.

The book's Hebrew name is taken from its first word: *Eicha*, "How?" How can the city once thriving lie in ruin? It is the same word with which Moses vents his grievance against the Israelites:

"How (*eicha*) can I bear unaided the trouble of you, and the burden, and the quarrel!" (Deuteronomy 1:12)

For "a man of impeded speech," Moses sure seems fluent in kvetch. But his complaint is not unfounded. A midrash expounds the extent of the "trouble" he bore:

If Moses arose early, they said: *Why did he leave so quickly, while his wife and children are picking the choicest manna?* If he left late, they said: *He ate and drank and is snoozing!* If he walked in the middle, they said: *He wants us to rise before him!* If he walked to the sides, they said: *It's a mitzvah to rise before an elder, yet he wants to do away with it!*

The people were quick to assume the worst intentions of their leader and of each other. It is for this same reason—*sinat hinam*, "baseless hatred"—that tradition says the Temple was destroyed millennia later. Some lessons are learned the hard way.

Have we learned the lesson? Are we quick to assume the worst, or do we strive to confirm the best? Do we make up reasons to hate, or do we seek out reasons to love?

The Temple might be built with stone, but "the world is built with love" (Psalms 83:9). May we begin rebuilding now.

Shabbat Shalom.  
Rabbi Moe Howard

## SINAI TEMPLE CLERGY

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- 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 - Music 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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- David Matloob
- Faith Gershbock
- Jacob Gershbock
- Sam Parsi, Sinai Temple President



SINAI TEMPLE



4 MENACHEM AV 5786 | 18 JULY 2026



**PARASHAT DEVARIM | דברים**

Torah reading begins: Deuteronomy 1:1 (page 981)

Maftir: Deuteronomy 1:39-2:1 (page 988)

Haftarah: Isaiah 1:1-27 (page 1000)

(The Third Haftarah of Rebuke)

Sermon by Rabbi Avi Taff

## EMERGENCY SECURITY GRANT

Thank you to the Jewish Community Foundation of Los Angeles and Jewish Federation Los Angeles for supporting Sinai Temple's ongoing security efforts.

*The Emergency Security Grant was made possible through funding from the Jewish Community Foundation of Los Angeles and Jewish Federation Los Angeles.*

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



## 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.

**MINCHA & KABBALAT SHABBAT**  
in Kohn Chapel  
Every Friday at 5:45 PM  
Also available to watch on YouTube

**TORAH AT THE TABLE**  
in Blumenthal Library Classroom at 9:00 a.m.

**SHABBAT SERVICE**  
in Ziegler Sanctuary at 9:00 a.m.  
"Vision"- Sermon by Rabbi Avi Taff  
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.

## TEMPLE EVENTS

**Sinai Speaks: “Religious Responses to Technology”**  
**Wednesday, July 29, 2026 | 7:00 PM | Online**  
As AI transforms society, religious communities are working to develop thoughtful responses and formal policies. Join Dr. David Zvi Kalman and Co-Senior Rabbi Erez Sherman for a conversation on the challenges of applying ancient wisdom to modern technology, exploring key ethical questions, points of tension, and paths forward.

**Sinai Speaks: “The High Holiday Spark with Nili Salem”**  
**Wednesday, August 5, 2026 | 7:00 PM | Online**  
Join us for an inspiring conversation with Nili Salem as we prepare for the High Holidays. Explore meaningful ideas, practical insights, and fresh perspectives to help you connect more deeply with this season of reflection, renewal, and growth.

**Sinai Speaks: “Kick Off Elul with Rabbis Guzik and Sherman”**  
**Wednesday, August 12, 2026 | 7:00 PM | Online**  
Join Co-Senior Rabbis Nicole Guzik and Erez Sherman for a meaningful evening as we enter the month of Elul, a time for reflection, renewal, and spiritual preparation. Together, we'll explore the themes of the season and prepare our hearts for the High Holy Days.

**Feit Family Live: Welcome Back BBQ**  
**Friday, August 21, 2026 | 5:00 PM**  
Join Sinai Temple clergy and our community for the third Annual Feit Family Live: Welcome Back BBQ! Enjoy a delicious BBQ by Beverly Catering, bounce houses, sports coaches, a special tour for new members, and a meaningful Kabbalat Shabbat service. Pre-registration is required, and tickets **will not** be available at the door.

**Beren Scholars Fellowship**  
The Beren Scholars Fellowship is a selective leadership program for rising 11th and 12th graders who want to deepen their understanding of Israel, strengthen their Jewish identity, and develop the confidence to navigate today's complex conversations. Through engaging seminars, expert speakers, and a national cohort of peers, students gain the knowledge and skills to become thoughtful Jewish leaders.

To join, contact Rabbi Tori Greene at [tgroene@sinaitemple.org](mailto:tgroene@sinaitemple.org).

**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 for July, 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/](http://www.sinaitemple.org/adult-education-classes-2025-26/)

**David and Angella Nazarian Youth Leadership Program**  
The David and Angella Nazarian Youth Leadership Program empowers 9th and 10th graders to grow as Jewish leaders through meaningful conversations, mentorship, immersive travel opportunities, and connections with leading Zionist organizations. Fellows build leadership skills, deepen their Jewish identity, and join a vibrant community of engaged teens.

To join, contact Atara Rush at [arush@sinaitemple.org](mailto:arush@sinaitemple.org).

## SINAI TEMPLE RELIGIOUS SCHOOL

**A Wonderful Start to Jewish Learning**  
Give your four-year-old the gift of joyful Jewish learning with Sinai Temple STARS Religious School's Transitional Kindergarten (TK) Class. Through baking challah, singing Israeli music, celebrating Jewish holidays, and engaging in hands-on activities, children build friendships, explore Jewish traditions, and grow as part of a caring community. Classes meet Sundays from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., with special introductory membership rates available for families brand new to Sinai Temple.

Contact us at (310)-481-3271 or [sprovost@sinaitemple.org](mailto:sprovost@sinaitemple.org).

## SINAI AKIBA ACADEMY

Sinai Akiba Academy is on **Summer Break!**

We wish our students, families, faculty, and staff a wonderful summer and look forward to sharing upcoming events and programming as we prepare for the new school year.

**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

