

Matot–Masei: Before You Judge, Pray
Among the many gifts of this country that we celebrated a week ago—and that we should continue to appreciate—is its judicial system. Though far from perfect, it is a far cry from the system of justice detailed in the Torah (which is itself an improvement upon others of its time). Case in point: to restrain vengeance and vigilantism, an involuntary manslayer would flee to a “city of refuge,” where he would be granted amnesty and where he “must remain until the death of the high priest” (Numbers 35:25).

What did the high priest have to do with it? Some say that his death served to atone for the life the of the victim; for others, that it appeased the anger of the avenger. The Talmud suggests that the priest himself might bear responsibility. He could have prayed that the manslayer be exonerated but didn't.

One could ask: Would such a prayer—to declare innocent a man who might well have been guilty—not have been in vain? Not so, writes Rabbi Elazar Fleckeles, on account of a peculiar law of the rabbinic court: a unanimous conviction yielded an automatic acquittal. The priest could have prayed that the judges see the truth. Whether blameless or liable for exile, the defendant would go free.

In our own time, when the jury of public opinion is quick to convict, let us learn from the high priest’s mistake. May we pray to see the truth as it really is; to overturn the unanimity of rash judgment, and, as the prophet Micah adjures us, “to do justice, to love goodness, and to walk humbly with our God.”

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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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](#)

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

26 TAMMUZ 5786 | 11 JULY 2026



PARASHOT MATOT-MASEI | מטות-מסעי

WE CONCLUDE THE BOOK OF NUMBERS AND BLESS THE MONTH OF MENACHEM AV (WEDNESDAY NIGHT AND THURSDAY)

Torah reading begins: Numbers 30:2 (Page 941)

Maftir: Numbers 36:11-13 (Page 967)[חזק]

Haftarah: Jeremiah 2:4-28 and 3:4 (Page 973)

(The Second Haftarah of Rebuke)

“The Journey Requires Both”- Sermon by Rabbi Nicole Guzik

SHABBAT SERVICE

in Ziegler Sanctuary at 9:00 a.m.

“The Journey Requires Both”- Sermon by Rabbi Nicole Guzik

[Also available to watch on Youtube](#)

TORAH AT THE TABLE

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

FAMILY MINYAN

in Kohn Chapel at 9:30 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

Sinai Speaks: “Re-Release of Navigating Jewish Life on Campus in 2026”

Wednesday, July 15, 2026 | 7:00 PM | Online

Join Rabbi David Wolpe, UCLA Chancellor Julio Frenk, and Dr. Felicia Knaul for a timely conversation marking the re-release of Navigating Jewish Life on Campus. This special event will explore Jewish student life, campus culture, and the future of inclusive, thoughtful university communities.

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.



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.

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. 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/

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.

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 tgreene@sinaitemple.org.

Miller Intro to Judaism Program

Discover the richness of Jewish life through the Miller Introduction to Judaism Program at Sinai Temple. Open to all, this engaging in-person course welcomes individuals of every background and level of Jewish knowledge. Explore topics including Shabbat, Torah, prayer, holidays, Israel, and more while learning in a warm, interactive community. Classes meet Tuesdays, November 3 through March 16, from 6:30 to 8:30 PM. Early bird pricing is available through October 6.

Contact Gabriel Prunty at gprunty@sinaitemple.org or 310-481-3200.

SHABBAT KIDDUSH IS SPONSORED BY

Anne Rosenblat in honor of her father-in-law Samuel Rosenblatt (z”l).

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