

Shoftim: A Heart of Many Rooms

I learned recently that a colleague of mine is an Aquarius (no surprise). Her weekly horoscope says that her relationships are “happier than usual”—and that it’s a great year for Aquarians to get married. Don’t tell her husband that.

The Torah says something else: “Let no one be found among you ... who is an augur, a soothsayer, a diviner or a sorcerer, who casts spells, who consults ghosts or familiar spirits, or who inquires of the dead.” It goes on:

“You must be wholehearted (*tamim*) with the Lord your God.” (Deuteronomy 18:13)

What does this mean, and why is it here? The commentators interpret it negatively: don’t try to predict the future; accept what comes as God’s plan. Seems like horoscopes are out.

But Rabbi Isaac Elchanan interprets it differently. *Tamim* is used in a psalm we read on Shabbat morning to describe the Torah: “The Torah of God is perfect (*temimah*), renewing life.” The Torah and the Jewish people are one, he concludes. Just as a scroll is invalid if it’s missing a single letter—whether that letter is from the verse “Moses commanded us with the Torah” or “a man was [illicitly] gathering wood on the Sabbath day”—so is the nation incomplete and imperfect if it’s missing a single person, no matter their religiosity (or lack thereof). *Tamim* is an adjective of the collective. We are, as Rabbi David Hartman wrote, “a heart of many rooms.”

Astrology is still out. But Aquarians—and Leos, Libras, Capricorns, Scorpios, and every sign under the stars—are all in.

Shabbat Shalom.
Rabbi Moe Howard

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Moe Howard
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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
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Jacob Gershbock
- Sam Parsi, Sinai Temple President



SINAI TEMPLE



2 ELUL 5786 | 15 AUGUST 2026



PARASHAT SHOFETIM | שופטים
THE BAT MITZVAH OF HALEY SMALL
Torah reading begins: Deuteronomy 16:18 (page 1088)
Maftir: Deuteronomy 18:3-5 (page 1084)
Haftarah: Isaiah 51:12-23 (page 1108)
(The Fourth Haftarah of Consolation)
“Are You Awake?”: Sermon by Rabbi Nicole Guzik

Los Angeles Premiere of *TOVAH* + Live Discussion with Tovah Feldshuh
*Join us **Wednesday, September 2 at 7:00 PM** for the Los Angeles Premiere of **Tovah**, a powerful documentary exploring the extraordinary life and legacy of actress and activist Tovah Feldshuh. Following the screening, enjoy a conversation with Tovah Feldshuh, director David Serero, and Co-Senior Rabbi Nicole Guzik. **And don’t miss the new season of Netflix’s Nobody Wants This, filmed right here at Sinai Temple!***

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



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

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.

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: A Holy/Wholly Different Relationship with God

Wednesday, August 19, 2026 | 7:00 PM | Online

How do we relate to the world around us, to the people present in our lives, and to God? In this teaching, Rabbi Moshe Smolkin explores a Jewish path of connection, wholeness, and holiness.

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.

From Selichot to Tomorrow: The Future of Judaism
Saturday, September 5, 2026 | 8:15 PM

Gather with our community for an evening of prayer, music, reflection, and conversation about the future of Jewish life with rabbis, cantors, and musical leaders from across the Los Angeles Jewish community.

Joy and Jerry^z! Monkarsh Family Erev Rosh Hashanah
Friday, September 11, 2026 | 7:00 PM

Welcome the New Year with our Joy and Jerry^z! Monkarsh Family Erev Rosh Hashanah service, featuring acclaimed Jewish musician Rick Recht. Join us as we gather to reflect, celebrate, pray, and Elevate: A New Year Rising. Open to everyone, no ticket needed.

Order Your Lulav and Etrog Set for Sukkot

Reserve your lulav and etrog set today and prepare to welcome Sukkot, beginning Friday evening, September 25.

Early bird special for orders placed before 9/1/26: \$45.00 per set. \$50.00 thereafter. Order deadline: Tuesday, September 22. Visit sinaitemple.org to place your order.

Questions? Call Jay: (310) 481-3201 or email jharwitt@sinaitemple.org



Sisterhood Torah Fund Scholarship Campaign

Please support the **Sisterhood Torah Fund Scholarship Campaign**. These scholarships make it possible for future clergy, educators, and Jewish lay leaders in the Conservative/Masorti movement to pursue their calling. Sinai Temple clergy received these scholarships when they were students.

Please join **Sisterhood for Torah Fund Pin Day on August 29** as we recognize donors during Shabbat services.

Donate online: sinaitemple.org/community/sisterhood. Contributions are tax-deductible pursuant to IRS regulations. Please forward your emailed receipt to Carole Kahn, Sisterhood Torah Fund VP: carole@carolekahnlaw.com.

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.

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.



Rosh Hashanah 5787 Elevate: A New Year Rising

Welcome the New Year at Sinai Temple with a variety of meaningful services and experiences for all ages. From inspiring services in **Ziegler Sanctuary** and **Barad Hall to the Traditional Family Minyan, Torah in the Round Musical Service**, and special programming for children, teens, young adults, and families, there are many ways to celebrate the High Holy Days together.

Rosh Hashanah Day 1: Saturday, September 12, 2026
Rosh Hashanah Day 2: Sunday, September 13, 2026

For more information and the complete schedule, visit sinaitemple.org.

SINAI TEMPLE RELIGIOUS SCHOOL

Registration for STARS Ends August 21!

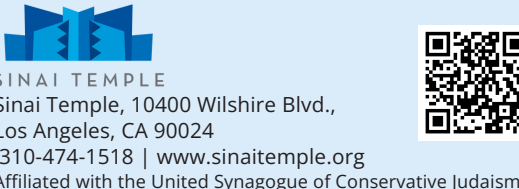
Give your child a joyful start to their Jewish journey with Sinai Temple Religious School STARS. From TK through 7th grade, students learn, connect, celebrate, and belong while building friendships and becoming part of a warm and welcoming community. Registration for the 2026–2027 school year closes **August 21**.

To register, contact Shanti Piper at 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 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

