

Ki Teitzei: To See with Mensch’s Eyes

I recently taught an introductory class for those interested in converting to Judaism. The topic was “from generation to generation” (*l’dor vador*, as is Sinai Temple’s theme song), about raising Jewish children from birth to Bar and Bat mitzvah.

We began with the end in mind: what it means to be a *mensch*, the kind of person we hope our children grow to become. Perhaps you would name the same traits we did: honesty, integrity, humility, selflessness, love.

Rabbi Donniel Hartman defines “mensch” differently. In a recent episode of his podcast, *For Heaven’s Sake*, he points to a commandment that appears in this parsha:

“If you see your fellow’s ox or sheep gone astray, do not ignore it ... and so too shall you do with anything that your fellow Israelite loses and you find: *you must not remain indifferent.*” (Deuteronomy 22:1–3)

“The essence of the mensch,” Rabbi Hartman explains, “is somebody who doesn’t disappear and doesn’t remain indifferent.” To be a mensch is to show up for the other, regardless of our feelings; to speak up for what is true, right, and just, no matter the consequences; to step up when the moment demands a response, whether or not we bear responsibility. “To be a mensch,” he says, “is to walk with others and to recognize that I have to see.”

The obstacle to seeing is not blindness—but busyness. We are preoccupied by our own oxen, our own obligations. Fortunately, we are given one day on which we, our animals, and our burdens must rest: Shabbat. May we take this day to see each other with mensch’s eyes.

Shabbat Shalom.
Rabbi Moe Howard

SINAI TEMPLE CLERGY

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- Rabbi David Wolpe
- Max Webb Emeritus Rabbi
- 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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Sam Parsi, Sinai Temple President



SINAI TEMPLE



9 ELUL 5786 | 22 AUGUST 2026



PARASHAT KI TEITZEI | כִּי תֵצֵא
THE BAR MITZVAH OF LONDON GHATAN
Torah reading begins: Deuteronomy 21:10 (page 1112)
Maftir: Deuteronomy 23:4-7 (page 1122)
Haftarah: Isaiah 54:1-10 (page 1138)
(The Fifth Haftarah of Consolation)
“Through My Eyes or Through Your Eyes”: Sermon by Rabbi Erez Sherman

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

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 Ethan Aynehchi

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.

SHABBAT SERVICE
in Ziegler Sanctuary at 9:00 a.m.
Also available to watch on YouTube

TEMPLE EVENTS

Sinai Speaks: Re-Release of *Art Will Set You Free* with Tomer Peretz

Wednesday, August 26, 2026 | 7:00 PM | Online

Celebrate the re-release of *Art Will Set You Free* with artist Tomer Peretz and Rabbi Gavriella Kornsgold. Explore the transformative power of creativity, resilience, and Jewish wisdom in an inspiring evening of conversation.

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.

Sinai Speaks: High Holy Day Prep with Rabbi Moe and Remi Haik Weinberg

Wednesday, September 9, 2026 | 7:00 PM | Online

Join a powerful conversation about personal renewal with Rabbi Moe and teacher and author of *The Lost Wisdom of Rambam*, Remi Haik Weinberg. During this session, attendees will learn how to release habits that no longer serve us and set intentions for the year ahead. We will explore the connection between spiritual reset, mindset, and practical lifestyle shifts that support a fresh start.

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.

Teen Rosh Hashanah Service with Rick Recht For Grades 7-12

Join us for an incredible teen-led Rosh Hashanah service with **Rick Recht** on **Saturday, September 12 at 10:30 AM in Kohn Chapel**. This meaningful and energetic service is hosted and created by teens, with Kiddush in the Youth Lounge following the service.

Interested in participating? Contact Atara Rush at arush@sinaitemple.org or Rabbi Moe Howard at mhoward@sinaitemple.org

Club Z: Israel Education. Stronger Together For 10th Graders

Club Z partners with Sinai Temple to empower Jewish teens through engaging, relevant, and impactful education programs that build knowledge, confidence, and a deeper connection to Jewish identity and Israel. Programming includes Israel education, trivia nights, debate training, public speaking, and more.

For more information, 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

Religious School Starts August 30!

We're excited to welcome our STARS families back for a new school year beginning **Sunday, August 30!** We look forward to seeing familiar faces, welcoming new families, and filling our classrooms with learning, laughter, and Jewish connection.

Here's to another wonderful year of growing, learning, and celebrating together!

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.

SHABBAT TORAH IN THE ROUND KIDDUSH IS SPONSORED BY

Tiffany and Shahrad Aynehchi in honor of the Bar Mitzvah of Ethan Aynehchi

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



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