

Re'eh: God Bless You

On the way out of a restaurant in Manhattan the other week (Polanco Social, if you're looking for decent kosher Mexican), a man in need approached my colleague, Daniel, and I begging for change. Daniel, an Orthodox rabbi and utmost mensch, reached for his wallet, drew out a dollar bill, and handed it to the man with a "God bless you" as we parted ways.

I'm reminded of this unremarkable encounter as I read the Torah's remarkable exhortation to do precisely what Daniel did:

"If there is a needy person among you ... do not harden your heart and shut your hand against your needy kindred. Rather, you must open your hand and lend whatever is sufficient to meet the need." (Deuteronomy 15:7-8)

Tzedakah, righteous giving of the kind described here, is among the highest obligations we have to fulfill. So, why don't we recite a blessing for it as we do for other commandments? Surely it's at least as important as lighting Shabbat candles or eating matzah. Shouldn't we sanctify the act of our hands with the words of our lips? The very pious indeed say multiple blessings before giving tzedakah, says Rabbi Simcha Bunim of Peshischa—"and in the meantime, the one in need wearies from hunger." Religiosity fails when it displaces what should be common, human decency. The spiritual is higher than the material, teaches Rabbi Yisrael Salanter, but the material wellbeing of others is itself a matter of our own spiritual wellbeing.

Daniel was right to say "God bless you." Let God do the blessing—and let us do the giving.

Shabbat Shalom.
Rabbi Moe Howard

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Special thanks to the staff and lay leaders who make Shabbat services exceptional:

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25 MENACHEM AV 5786 | 8 AUGUST 2026



PARASHAT RE'EH | ראה
THE BAR MITZVAH OF BLAKE TOOBIAN

Torah reading begins: Deuteronomy 11:26 (page 1066)
Maftir: Deuteronomy 15:19-16:17 (page 1101)
Haftarah: Isaiah 54:11-55:5 (page 1113)
(The Third Haftarah of Consolation)
"Seeing, Not Solving": Sermon by Rabbi Nicole Guzik

ISRAEL 360° SPECIAL PRESENTATION

Join us immediately following today's Shabbat morning services for a special Israel 360° presentation with **Benjamin Anthony**, CEO of The MirYam Institute, IDF veteran, and internationally respected voice on Israel, followed by a Q&A and light refreshments in Kohn Chapel.

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.

SHABBAT SERVICE
in Ziegler Sanctuary at 9:00 a.m.
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: “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.

Meet Your Mensch: Anti-Semitism Training

Thursday, August 13, 2026 | 6:30 PM

Join Jewish singles ages 35–65 for an engaging evening led by ADL staff member Farnaz Golshani. Explore the realities of antisemitism today, learn how to recognize it, and gain practical tools to respond with confidence, compassion, and resilience. Connect with others over light appetizers and drinks, and enjoy a meaningful conversation while building community.

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.

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

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

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

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.

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.

Today's Shabbat kiddush is sponsored by the Feldman family in honor of their daughter Emie.



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



323-469-6000 | <https://mountsinainparks.org>



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