

Sukkot: Redeeming God

Today marks the first day of Sukkot, when—were it not also Shabbat—we would take up our lulavs and shake them all around. Yet we still make our prayers known in no uncertain terms: *ana Adonai hoshia na* “O God, deliver us!”

Ordinarily, we refrain from petitionary prayer on Shabbat; we omit the middle blessings of the weekday Amidah for this reason. Why, then, do we recite this line from the Hallel service, which begs God to act for our sake? Perhaps because the deliverance we beg for is not only for our sake. As the Mishnah recounts:

“Each day of Sukkot they would circle the altar once and say: ‘O God, deliver us (*ana Adonai hoshia na*). O God, grant us success.’ Rabbi Yehuda says that they would say: ‘ani va-ho, deliver us.’”

Ho (in Hebrew, הוּ) is a shorthand for the name of God. According to Rabbi Yehuda, what we mean to say is not “O God, deliver us” but “Me and You, God—deliver us both.” God, too, is in need of deliverance. Our prayers are for God’s sake as much as our own.

To say that God needs saving is to say that we matter to Him. Our God is not the “unmoved mover” of Aristotle’s metaphysics; ours is the “most moved mover,” to quote Rabbi Abraham Joshua Heschel, Who delights in our pleasure and despairs in our suffering. Our rejection is His, just as our redemption is His.

This *zman simchatenu*, this “time of our joy,” may our joy be His, too.

Hag Sameach and Shabbat Shalom.

Rabbi Moe Howard

SINAI TEMPLE CLERGY

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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
Roy Regev - Director of Media and Communications
Christopher Princivalli - Audio Visual Tech
Natalia Rojas – Communications Manager
Rebeka Small – Senior Operations Manager
Amanda Harrison – Program Director
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Michael Silberstein
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Faith Gershbock
Jacob Gershbock
- Sam Parsi, Sinai Temple President



SINAI TEMPLE



15 TISHREI 5787 | 26 SEPTEMBER 2026



THE FIRST DAY OF SUKKOT | סוכות

Torah reading begins: Leviticus 22:26 (page 723)
Maftir: Numbers 29:12-16 (page 934)
Haftarah: Zechariah 14:1-21 (page 1253)
“In Risk There is Joy”: Sermon by Rabbi Nicole Guzik

Sukkot at Sinai Temple

Join us **tonight, Saturday, September 26, and Sunday, September 27** as we continue celebrating Sukkot together. Come together for meaningful services, community, and opportunities to celebrate throughout the holiday.

To learn more and view the full schedule, visit <https://www.sinaitemple.org/high-holy-days/>

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

CHAG SERVICES
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.

TORAH IN THE ROUND
in Kohn Chapel at 9:30 a.m.
The Bat Mitzvah of Talia Passman

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

Lulavpalooza with Jason Mesches
This Sunday, September 27 | 10:00 AM

Join Dor Chadash for a fun-filled Sukkot celebration for our youngest members and their families, featuring music with Jason Mesches. Enjoy time together in the sukkah, followed by coffee and snacks for the whole family.

ROCK Wednesday: Magen David Adom
Wednesday, September 30, 2026 | 6:00 PM

Join American Friends of Magen David Adom for ROCK Wednesday as we come together to create care packages and heartfelt cards to support those in need in Israel. Join us for an evening of meaningful action, community, and support.

Sinai Speaks: October 7 and the Courage to Defend Israel
Wednesday, September 30, 2026 | 7:00 PM | Online only
Join Co-Senior Rabbi Erez Sherman for a meaningful conversation with Daniel Elbaum, Executive Director of IDF Widows and Orphans USA, and Revital Djaoui Ben Yaakov about October 7, the courage to defend Israel, and the enduring impact on those who serve and their families. Revital's husband, Master Sergeant Lior Ben Yaakov (z"l), was killed defending his community on October 7.

Niv Raviv z"l Simchat Torah Festival
Saturday, October 3, 2026 | 5:00 PM

Take the celebration to the streets! Join us for an extra-special Simchat Torah celebration, sponsored by the Sharf Family, filled with live music, singing, dancing, and plenty of joy for the whole family. We'll come together to dance with the Torahs, celebrate our community, and mark this special holiday in true Sinai Temple style!

Sinai Speaks: An Evening with Nili Margalit: Hero, Nurse, and Released Hostage
Thursday, October 8, 2026 | 7:00 PM

Join us for a powerful evening with Nili Margalit, an Israeli nurse and former hostage, as she shares her extraordinary story of courage, resilience, and hope. Through personal reflection and conversation, Nili will offer a firsthand account of survival, healing, and the strength of the human spirit in the face of unimaginable adversity.

Miller Introduction to Judaism

Join the Miller Introduction to Judaism Program at Sinai Temple for an engaging, in-person learning experience open to everyone, regardless of background or prior Jewish knowledge. Classes meet Tuesdays, November 3 through March 16, from 6:30–8:30 PM, with weekly topics including Shabbat, Torah, prayer, holidays, Israel, and more.

Early Bird: Individual \$300 through October 6
After October 6: Individual \$360 | Couple \$540
Additional family/friend: \$180

Questions or interested? Contact Gabriel at gprunty@sinaitemple.org or 310-481-3200.

Help Israel This Sukkot: Blood Drive

Join us on **Wednesday, September 30 from 11:30 AM–5:30 PM** at Sinai Temple. This blood drive, hosted in partnership with American Friends of Magen David Adom, helps ensure lifesaving blood is available to Magen David Adom, Israel's emergency medical service, whenever it is needed.

Appointments are encouraged, with walk-ins available for Sinai Temple members only. Donors will receive a limited-edition T-shirt and their choice of an Amazon or Target gift card.

Interested in donating? Visit donatebloodcedars.org and use group code STMP.

Team Sinai Temple: Sharsheret West Coast Dash

Join Team Sinai Temple on **Sunday, October 25 at 8:00 AM** for Sharsheret's 5th Annual West Coast Dash, featuring a 5K, 10K, and Family Fun Race. Come together with our community to support Sharsheret and its incredible work improving the lives of those affected by breast and ovarian cancer. Register or donate and help Team Sinai Temple make a difference.

Register or donate: runsignup.com/sinaitemple
Family Fun Race begins at 9:15 AM.

Your Sukkot Guide Is Here

As we continue celebrating Sukkot, join us **tonight** and **Sunday, September 27** for meaningful services and opportunities to gather as a community.

Join us for our Sukkot Day 2 Evening Service at 9:00 PM tonight, streamed on YouTube, followed by Sukkot Day 2 Chag Service at 9:00 AM Sunday in Kohn Chapel and Mincha/Ma'ariv at 5:45 PM.

Please Visit: sinaitemple.org/high-holy-days/

SINAI TEMPLE RELIGIOUS SCHOOL

Save the Date: Purim Carnival 2027

Get ready to unleash your inner superhero! **Purim Carnival 2027** is coming to Sinai Temple on **Sunday, March 14**, and this year's theme is **Superheroes**.

More details to come...mark your calendar now!

SINAI AKIBA ACADEMY

Save the Date: SAA Shabbat with Sinai Temple

Join us for SAA Shabbat with Sinai Temple on **October 31, 2026, and April 3, 2027**, led by **Rabbi Avi Taff**. Enjoy a spirited Shabbat experience bringing our school and temple communities together through services, singing in the sanctuary, and lunch together.

TORAH IN THE ROUND KIDDUSH IS SPONSORED BY

The Passman family in honor of Talia's Bat Mitzvah

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



SINAI TEMPLE
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