

Nitzavim–Vayelekh: What Doesn’t Kill Us

Many of us were fortunate enough to sit in these pews this past Wednesday not to worship but to watch the premiere of *Tovah*, a documentary on the prolific career of Broadway star Tovah Feldshuh. The film was almost as entertaining and enlightening as the discussion with the woman herself (moderated by our own Rabbi Guzik). When asked to comment on her zest for life, she had this to say:

“We have such an advantage, those of us who are Jewish: we have the fear of extinction.”

Her point was provocative and profound—but not new. It’s at least as old as the Torah itself. Moses exhorts the Israelites before they enter the Promised Land:

“When all these things befall you—the blessing and the curse that I have set before you—take [it] to heart ...” (Deuteronomy 30:1)

What’s the “it”? Says the Hungarian rabbi known as the Ketav Sofer, it is “the great miracle that the blessing lies within the curse,” that the Jewish people has not only survived a history of relentless persecution but become the stronger-willed for it. If we take to heart “that even in exile, we have with us the great Divine Providence” to protect us from outer defeat and inner defeatism, we cannot but return to God in repentance.

His message is for each one of us, but Tovah’s is for all of us:

“Always remember: We may be the smallest minority in the world, but we are the largest *mishpacha*, the largest family.”

What doesn’t kill us makes us stronger—and strongest together.

Shabbat Shalom.
Rabbi Moe Howard



Sinai Temple, 10400 Wilshire Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90024
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Affiliated with the United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism

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Max Webb Emeritus Rabbi
Moe Howard
Rabbinic Intern

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
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Sam Parsi, Sinai Temple President



23 ELUL 5786 | 5 SEPTEMBER 2026



PARASHOT NITZAVIM-VAYELECH | נצבים וילך THE BAT MITZVAH OF JOELLE KOHAN

Torah reading begins: Deuteronomy 29:9 (page 1165)
Maftir: Deuteronomy 30:11-14 (page 1170)
Haftarah: Isaiah 61:10-62:7 (page 1180)
(The Seventh Haftarah of Consolation)
“Why We Should All Like Selichot”: Sermon by Rabbi Erez Sherman

From Selichot to Tomorrow: The Future of Judaism

Join us **TONIGHT, Saturday, September 5** at 8:15 PM for *Selichot*, an evening of prayer, music, reflection, and conversation about the future of Jewish life. Gather with rabbis, cantors, and musical leaders from across the Los Angeles Jewish community as we come together to reflect on where Judaism is headed and imagine its future.

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: 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.

Feit Family Live: Tashlich on the Beach
Tuesday, September 15, 2026 | 5:00 PM

Join us at the beach for a meaningful Tashlich experience featuring a musical service led by Sinai Temple clergy and our Music Director. Afterward, enjoy a pizza dinner with the community as we welcome the new year together. All ages are welcome, and families with kids of all ages are encouraged to join us! Location will be provided in future communications.

Feit Family Live: Shabbat Dinner in the Sukkah
Friday, September 25, 2026 | 5:45 PM

Join us for a special evening of Shabbat, delicious food, and community at Sinai Temple! Enjoy services with our clergy, a dinner by Western Kosher, children's entertainment, and the opportunity to fulfill the mitzvah of dining in one of our sukkot.

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](https://www.sinaitemple.org) to place your order.

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

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.

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.

Our High Holy Days Site Is Live

From Selichot on September 5 through Yom Kippur, find every service, venue, and leader clearly detailed in one place on our website.

Explore meaningful experiences for every age and stage, including services in **Ziegler Sanctuary** and **Barad Hall**, **Torah in the Round**, the **Traditional Family Minyan**, **Rosh Hashanah Learning**, **Dor Chadash/Shofar Blast**, and special programming for teens, families, and young adults.

Ready for your High Holy Days? Explore the full schedule, locations, and everything you need to find the experience that's right for you.

Please Visit: [sinaitemple.org/high-holy-days/](https://www.sinaitemple.org/high-holy-days/)

SINAI TEMPLE RELIGIOUS SCHOOL

High Holy Days Children's Programming

Make the High Holy Days meaningful and engaging for your children with Sinai Temple's Children's Programming. On Rosh Hashanah, Yom Kippur, Kol Nidre, and Neilah, children can participate in age-appropriate programming designed to help them connect with the holidays, community, and traditions.

See full details at [sinaitemple.org/high-holy-days/](https://www.sinaitemple.org/high-holy-days/)

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.

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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