

Noach: Unity, Not Uniformity

Could you tell if these words were written by AI? They say a sign is a preference for formulaic sentence structures. It’s not a closed case, it’s a clue. (Did you catch that one?) So too an overuse of punctuation—especially dashes—of magniloquent language, and of groupings in threes. But the greatest giveaway is its ubiquity: it’s everywhere, and it all starts to sound the same.

Perhaps it’s to AI that the Torah refers when it says, “Everyone on earth had the same language and the same words” (Genesis 11:1). The Babylonians were quite advanced, after all; it takes ingenuity to build a tower like Babel “with its top in the sky.” Although they didn’t have ChatGPT to guide them, there was something artificial about their intelligence: it was artificially uniform. That uniformity came at a high price, explains Rabbi Naphtali Tzvi Yehudah Berlin:

“Since the opinions of people are not identical, they feared that people might abandon this philosophy and adopt another. [Therefore] one who veered from this uniformity among them was judged with burning ... and they would kill whoever did not think like them.”

Extreme, yes—but unfortunately not unfamiliar. History has its fill of regimes that have sacrificed individuals on the altar of ideas. Such is what happens when unity, itself a virtue, hardens into uniformity. The challenge is to maintain the former without mandating the latter.

When we lose sight of this fact, we have a reminder: the rainbow, the symbol of God’s covenant with all of humanity. What looks pure white is in truth a spectrum of colors, each one necessary to see the beauty of this world in full light. There’s nothing more natural than that.

Shabbat Shalom.
Rabbi Moe Howard

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

- Jessica Green - Executive Director
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SINAI TEMPLE



26 CHESHVAN 5787 | 17 OCTOBER 2026



PARASHAT NOACH | נח
THE BAR MITZVAH OF ZACHARY DOV SHERMAN

Torah reading begins: Genesis 8:15 (page 48)
Maftir: Genesis 10:26-32 (page 57)
Haftarah: Isaiah 54:1-10 (page 65)
Lessons from Our B'nai Mitzvah - A Presentation from the Clergy

Understanding Israel Today: History, Law & Perspective — October 20

This Tuesday, October 20 at 7:00 PM, join us at Sinai Temple for the second installment of our three-part Sinai Speaks series, “The Legal History of the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict and Its Relevance Today,” with Professor Steve Zipperstein, Faculty Director of the UCLA Younes and Soraya Nazarian Center for Israel Studies. Explore key historical events and legal developments from the Balfour Declaration through today, gaining valuable context for understanding the conflict and its ongoing relevance.
To reserve your spot, visit <https://stla.shulcloud.com/form/legalhistory>.

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 SERVICES
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: The Braided Prescription with Dr. Beth Ricanati and Rabbi Nicole Guzik
Wednesday, October 21, 2026 | 7:00 PM | Online Only
Join Rabbi Guzik and Dr. Beth Ricanati for challah-making and a conversation about how simple rituals can help us slow down, reconnect, and live with greater intention and purpose. Drawing on her forthcoming book, *The Braided Prescription*, Dr. Ricanati will share how small, meaningful practices can deepen our relationships and reduce stress.

Sinai Speaks: The Legal History of the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict and Its Relevance Today
Tuesdays, October 27, 2026 | 7:00 PM
Explore the legal history of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict with Professor Steven E. Zipperstein, Director of the UCLA Younes and Soraya Nazarian Center for Israel Studies. In this third and final class, trace key events and legal developments from the Balfour Declaration through today.

Rock Wednesday: Breast Cancer Awareness
Wednesday, October 28, 2026 | 6:00 PM
Join us for Rock Wednesday as we partner with Sharsheret in honor of Breast Cancer Awareness Month. Together, we'll assemble care packages for women undergoing treatment and learn more about the vital support and resources Sharsheret provides to individuals and families facing breast and ovarian cancer.

Sinai Speaks: The Road to the Games with Olympian Mitch Gaylord
Wednesday, October 28, 2026 | 7:00 PM
Join Co-Senior Rabbi Erez Sherman for a conversation with Olympic Gold Medalist Mitch Gaylord as they look back on his journey to the 1984 Los Angeles Olympics. Hear stories from his athletic career, the road to the Games, and his experiences competing on the world stage as Los Angeles prepares to welcome the Olympics once again in 2028.

Weekly Parsha Class
Every Thursday | 8:30 AM
Every Thursday for 30 minutes, a member of Sinai Temple's clergy will lead an in-depth exploration of the weekly Parsha, drawing out contemporary insights that can be applied to everyday life. This class is offered exclusively online.

Miller Introduction to Judaism Program

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.

Individual \$360 | Couple \$540
Additional family/friend: \$180

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

Zooz Fitness Volunteer Opportunity at Sinai Temple
Sundays, November 8, December 13, January 10, February 7, March 21, April 11, and May 16 | 12:30–2:00 PM
Join Sinai Temple's Social Action Committee for a fun and meaningful volunteer opportunity with Zooz Fitness! Volunteers will join Keen+ members for a fun basketball experience led by Zooz Fitness coaches, helping build connections and make a difference through the power of play.

Location: 3rd Floor, Weinberg Gym at Sinai Temple
No basketball experience necessary—just bring your energy, enthusiasm, and willingness to have fun!
Register here: stla.shulcloud.com/form/volunteerkeen

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.

Torah on Tap
Join Rabbi Avi Taff's learning circle for men in their 20s–40s for meaningful conversation, learning, and community. Sessions take place from 7:00-8:30 PM in a private home, with the address shared before each gathering.

October 20, November 3, December 15, January 26, February 23, March 16, and April 6

Membership required. RSVP required. For questions, contact Gabriel at gprunty@sinaitemple.org or 310-481-3200.

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.

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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