Vayeira: Love Before It's Too Late

The Torah is sparing in its expression of emotion. Look no further than the episode of the *akedah*, the binding of Isaac, in this parsha. A harrowing account of narrowly-missed filicide, it's pregnant with fear and trembling (to quote Kierkegaard)—none of it said, but all of it felt.

That one, and only one, emotion is made explicit for the first time in these nineteen verses is the more striking by contrast. It's not fear or grief—it's love. Says God to Abraham:

"Take your son, your favored one, Isaac, *whom you love*, and go to the land of Moriah, and offer him there as a burnt offering on one of the heights that I will point out to you" (Genesis 22:2).

The first love is not of God for humanity at the moment of creation, nor of husband for wife at marital union, nor of mother for child at birth, but of father for son on the verge of loss. Love is given voice when it's almost gone. Notably, it's still left unspoken; Abraham doesn't share it with Isaac, and the angel that intercedes on God's behalf does not repeat it. Only God knows the love that lives within the human heart, writes Rabbi Meir Simcha of Dvinsk, even if we ourselves don't.

Let the *akedah* be a lesson for us all—fathers and sons, mothers and daughters, brothers, sisters, and friends—to put our love into words while we can. We might have to read between the Torah's lines, but our loved ones needn't read between our own.

Shabbat Shalom.
Rabbi Moe Howard

SINAI TEMPLE
Sinai Temple, 10400 Wilshire Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90024
310-474-1518 | www.sinaitemple.org
Affiliated with the United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism

SINAI TEMPLE CLERGY

Rabbi Nicole Guzik and Rabbi Erez Sherman
Senior Rabbis
Gary Fayman
Senior Rabbinic Manager
gfayman@sinaitemple.org | 310-481-3234

Rabbi Avi Taff

Rabbi Gavriella Kornsgold
Gabriel Prunty
Administrative Clergy Asst. for Rabbis Taff & Kornsgold
gprunty@sinaitemple.org | 310-481-3200

Cantor Marcus Feldman
Senior Cantor
Ashley Soltys
Cantor's Office Assistant and B'nai Mitzvah Coordinator
cantorsoffice@sinaitemple.org | 310-481-3235

Rabbi David Wolpe
Max Webb Emeritus Rabbi
Moe Howard
Rabbinic Intern

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

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20 CHESHVAN 5787 | 31 OCTOBER 2026

PARASHAT VAYEIRA | וירא

Torah reading begins: Genesis 19:1 (page 104)
Maftir: Genesis 20:15-18 (page 112)
Haftarah: II Kings 4:1-37 (page 124)
"Parenthood"- Sermon by Rabbi Nicole Guzik

Why Are Israelis So Happy? The Soundtrack of Israeli Joy — November 4

***Wednesday, November 4 at 7:00 PM**, join us at Sinai Temple for a musical multimedia presentation with **Josh Shron**, "Israel's Soundtrack Storyteller." Through powerful music videos, heartfelt stories, and insights into Israeli culture, Josh explores how Israel's music reflects the nation's optimism, resilience, and hope, even in difficult times. With more than 30 years of sharing Israeli music and as host of the popular podcast "Israel Hour Radio", Josh brings the songs and stories of Israel to life.*
This event is in person only in Kohn Chapel. To reserve your spot, visit: https://bit.ly/4i2d6ex

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

TORAH AT THE TABLE
in Blumenthal Library Class at 9:00 a.m.

SAA SHABBAT WITH SINAI TEMPLE
in Gold Hall at 9:00 a.m.

SHABBAT CHILDCARE
Ages 18 Months - 5 Years Old
9:45 AM | Room 112

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 Temple Visits *The Beautiful Game* at the Holocaust Museum

Sunday, November 8, 2026 | 10:00 AM

Join Sinai Temple for a special visit to Holocaust Museum Los Angeles and explore *The Beautiful Game*, an exhibition highlighting the often-overlooked connection between Jewish life and soccer and its role in belonging, resistance, survival, and renewal. Space is limited. Advance registration required. $25 per person.

Rosh Hodesh Kislev: An Evening of Music with Richard Kahn

Thursday, November 12, 2026 | 6:00 PM

Join Sinai Temple Sisterhood for a special evening celebrating Rosh Hodesh Kislev and our Sisterhood community. Enjoy acclaimed pianist Richard Kahn's Moonlight Serenade, a musical program exploring the stories and meanings behind popular songs about the moon.

Shabbat Lunch & Learn with Max Webb Emiritus Rabbi David Wolpe

Saturday, November 14, 2026 | Approximately 12:30 PM

Reflections on Israel: What I Learned in Israel

Join us for a special Shabbat lunch and an engaging conversation with Max Webb Emiritus Rabbi David Wolpe. Enjoy some light nosh, meaningful learning, and the opportunity to connect with our community as we gather together for Shabbat.

Sinai Speaks: The Story of a Lone Soldier in the Gaza War

Tuesday, November 17, 2026 | 7:00 PM

Join Rabbi Taff for a conversation with former IDF Lone Soldier and *Once a Paratrooper* Author Ira Kohler. Hear his firsthand account of October 7, including combat with Hamas, the loss of friends, and his experiences at Kibbutz Be'eri. Explore themes of courage, sacrifice, and loss, and hear his perspective on Israel. Books will be available for purchase and signing at the event.

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: https://bit.ly/4BskK9M

Rabbi Josh Warshawsky Musical Concert

Saturday, November 7, 2026 | 7:00 PM

Join us for a special musical concert featuring Rabbi Josh Warshawsky, with a special appearance by the Colker-Klein/Shapiro family. Hosted at Temple Beth Am, this community-wide event brings together congregations for an evening of music and connection.

Location: Temple Beth Am, 1039 S. La Cienega Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90035

Register here: https://bit.ly/4BzTZQv

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.

November 18, 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

Holiday Boutique: Shop, Create & Celebrate at Sinai Akiba Academy

Wednesday, November 18 | 8:30 AM
Barad Hall

Join us for the **Sinai Akiba Academy Holiday Boutique**, featuring a variety of special shopping experiences and ticketed activities for all to enjoy! Start your day with SculptCult Pilates or a Latin Fusion dance class, get creative with a butterfly dip bowl workshop, enjoy Mahjong with friends and lunch from Hatch Kitchen, or add some sparkle with hair tinsel. Whether you're looking to shop, create, dance, or spend time with friends, there's something for everyone!

Advance tickets required. Purchase tickets by November 16 at: sinaiakibaholidayboutique.com

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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Los Angeles, CA 90024
310-475-6401 | www.sinaiakiba.org

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Sinai Temple, 10400 Wilshire Blvd.,
Los Angeles, CA 90024
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