Tol'dot: A Good Sign

There is a saying of the rabbis: *ma'aseh avot siman l'banim* "The story of the fathers is a sign for the sons." Nowhere is this plainer than Abraham and Isaac: the one endured a famine, and so did the other; the one's wife was barren, and so the other's; the one was blessed that his heirs be "as numerous as the stars of heaven," and so was the other in precisely the same words.

If that's not enough, the text makes explicit yet another similarity:

"Isaac dug anew the wells that had been dug in the days of his father Abraham and that the Philistines had stopped up after Abraham's death; and he gave them the same names that his father had given them." (Genesis 26:18)

Those names—*Esek* "contention" and *Sitnah* "harassment"—are themselves portents of strife to come. Like Isaac and the Philistines fought over water, writes the *Kli Yakar*, Israel and its adversaries would fight over worship: with Babylon over the First Temple and Rome over the Second. Trade 'Philistine' for 'Palestine' and water from a well for "from the river to the sea," and the fight continues to this day.

But there was a third well—and a third way: *Rehovot* "expanses," so called because it was dug without dispute. This, too, is a sign for our times; Rehovot exists today as a thriving city in the modern state of Israel. So may it be a sign for our children and theirs, that our homeland be expansive enough to hold all who hold it in esteem, engage it in good faith, and welcome it in peace.

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:

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
Natalia Rojas – Communications Manager
Rebeka Small – Senior Operations Manager
Amanda Harrison – Program Director
Hannah Buckland – Membership Engagement Coordinator
Judy Begin – Temple Administrator

Sharona Rachmani
Mansour Eslamboly
Michael Silberstein
Ebby Tabariai
Michael Nazarian
David Matloob
Faith Gershbock
Jacob Gershbock
Sam Parsi, Sinai Temple President

SINAI TEMPLE

Sinai Temple STARS Religious School | MOUNT SINAI MEMORIAL PARKS AND MORTUARIES | SINAI AKIBA ACADEMY

4 KISLEV 5787 | 14 NOVEMBER 2026

PARASHAT TOL'DOT | תולדות

THE BAT MITZVAH OF AVA HANNAH KAMRAVA
Torah reading begins: Genesis 26:23 (page 152)
Maftir: Genesis 27:24-27 (page 156)
Haftarah: Malachi 1:6-14 (page 163)
"Isaac, the Election and the Jews" - Sermon by Rabbi David Wolpe

Shabbat Lunch & Learn with Max Webb Emeritus Rabbi David Wolpe — TODAY After Services

***TODAY, Saturday, November 14, immediately following Shabbat services**, join us for a special Shabbat Lunch & Learn with Max Webb Emeritus Rabbi David Wolpe! Enjoy a light nosh and an engaging conversation, "Reflections on Israel: What I Learned in Israel." Gather with our community for meaningful learning, thoughtful discussion, and connection.*

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.

EVENING MINYAN
in Kohn Chapel
Every Friday at 5:45 PM
Also available to watch on YouTube

SHABBAT SERVICES
in Ziegler Sanctuary at 9:00 AM
Also available to watch on YouTube

TORAH AT THE TABLE
in Blumenthal Library Classroom at 9:00 AM

STARS SHABBAT
in Gold Hall at 10:00 AM

TOT SHABBAT
in Weinberg Gym at 10:00 AM
No Shabbat Childcare This Week

DAILY MINYAN
in Kohn Chapel
Monday–Friday at 7:30 AM
Sunday morning at 8:30 AM
Sunday-Friday evenings at 5:45 PM
Saturday evenings 9:00 PM (online only)
Please consult the website for holiday locations and times.

TEMPLE EVENTS

Sinai Temple Attends a Clippers Game!

Sunday, November 15, 2026 | 1:30 PM | Intuit Dome

Sinai Temple is heading to the Intuit Dome to cheer on our favorite team, the Clippers, as they take on the Charlotte Hornets. Early access to the game! Arrive at 11:30 AM to watch your Clippers warm up. Game starts at 1:30 PM.
Register here: https://bit.ly/4iAwPB3

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

Tuesday, November 17, 2026 | 7:00 PM | Kohn Chapel

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.
Register here: https://bit.ly/4isVvg4

Feit Family Live Hanukkah Community Shabbat Dinner

Friday, December 4, 2026 | 5:30 PM

Join us for a special Hanukkah celebration filled with delicious food, meaningful prayer, and community! The evening begins with an enhanced Shabbat service led by Sinai Temple clergy at 5:30 PM, followed by a festive Hanukkah-inspired dinner provided by Western Kosher at 6:30 PM. Enjoy engaging children's entertainment and celebrate the joy of Hanukkah together! This event is for Sinai Temple members only. $18 per child | $25 per adult.
Register here: https://bit.ly/48gFhkc

Sinai Speaks: Hanukkah Through the Eyes of Our Rabbis

Wednesday, December 9, 2026 | 7:00 PM | Online Only

Join Co-Senior Rabbis Nicole Guzik and Erez Sherman for a special Sinai Speaks conversation exploring the meaning of Hanukkah and its relevance to our lives today. Together, we'll reflect on the holiday's enduring messages of light, hope, and Jewish resilience.
Register here: https://bit.ly/4kzBZQa

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.

Sinai Temple Presents Mini Minyan: Our New Album Is Here!

We are excited to announce the release of Sinai Temple Presents **Mini Minyan**, a new album co-produced by **Cantor Marcus Feldman and Benjamin Fingerhut!** Featuring the uplifting voices of our Douglas Family Early Childhood Center preschoolers and the Sinai Temple Youth Choir, this special album captures the joy of music and prayer shared each Wednesday morning. Bring the music of Sinai Temple home and enjoy listening with your family!

Listen here: https://bit.ly/4kwX4en

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 through March 16, 2027, 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, December 13, 2026 & January 10, February 7, March 21, April 11, and May 16, 2027
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

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, 2026 & January 26, February 23, March 16, and April 6, 2027

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, 2026 | 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. Our kitchen handles everything from a kiddush lunch to a wedding, and Barad Hall seats up to 650 people. For more information, 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
Sinai Temple, 10400 Wilshire Blvd.,
Los Angeles, CA 90024
310-474-1518 | www.sinaitemple.org
Affiliated with the United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism

MOUNT SINAI
MEMORIAL PARKS AND MORTUARIES
323-469-6000 | https://mountsinaiparks.org

SINAI AKIBA ACADEMY
Sinai Akiba Academy, 10400 Wilshire Blvd.,
Los Angeles, CA 90024
310-475-6401 | www.sinaiakiba.org

Sinai Temple STARS Religious School
Sinai Temple, 10400 Wilshire Blvd.,
Los Angeles, CA 90024
310-481-3271| www.sinaitemple.org