



NOVEMBER 2016/
TISHREI 5777–CHESHVAN 5777

RELIGIOUS SERVICES

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 4, 7:30 pm

Shabbat Service

Music: Orin Reynolds

Oneg Shabbat hosted by the Family of Noah Festenstein in honor of his becoming a *Bar Mitzvah*

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 5

9:30 am – Torah Study

10:30 am – Shabbat Service

Noah Festenstein, son of Rachel Hodesh and Robert Festenstein, grandson of Ricki and Stuart Hodesh, and great grandson of Dorothy Siegel, will become a *Bar Mitzvah*.

Torah Portion: *Noach*, Gen. 6:9-11:32

Music: Bob Pollack and Marilyn Zelcer

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 11, 7:30 pm

6:00 pm – Tot Shabbat

7:30pm – Shabbat Family Service

Music: David Snyder

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 12

9:30 am – Torah Study

10:30 am – Shabbat Service

Torah Portion: *Lech L'cha*, Gen. 12:1-17:27

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 18, 7:30 pm

Shabbat Service

Music: Marilyn Zelcer

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 19

9:30 am – Torah Study

10:30 am – Shabbat Service

Torah Portion: *Vayeira*, Gen. 18:1-22:24

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 25

7:30 pm - Shabbat Service

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 26

9:30 am – Torah Study

10:30 am – Shabbat Service

Torah Portion: *Chayei Sarah*, Gen. 23:1-25:18

Adult Education Fall 2016 / 5777

“When Powerful Men Encounter Strong Women: Divine Discontent in the Biblical Stories of Tamar and BatSheva”

Tuesday, Nov. 1 at 7:30 p.m.

“The Parable of the poor man’s ewe lamb: What happens when a great king abuses his power?”

Gila Safran Naveh, Ph.D., UC Judaic Studies Professor

Judaism 101 with Rabbi Kopnick

We will explore all of the basics of Judaism in five hours! We’ll discuss basic beliefs, how to think about holidays and life-cycle events, God, Israel, and there will be lots of time for questions. No experience expected, and no test at the end!! Join us!

Sundays Mornings, Nov. 6, 13 (NOTE CHANGE OF DATE) at 11:00 a.m.

Lunch and Learn

Monday, Nov. 7, at Noon at Valley!

Bring your lunch as we explore contemporary issues with a Jewish spin... everything from politics to Israel to Jewish ritual in the 21st Century, and more. Join us!

Movie: The Green Prince

based on the book, *Son of Hamas*

Thursday, Nov. 10 at 7 p.m. at Valley
Popcorn included.

Jewish Meditation

Tuesday, Nov. 29 and Dec. 6 at 7:30 p.m.

A two-session journey to learn about a Jewish approach to meditation. Why do some Jews love it, and what are ways into this spiritual expression?

Rabbi David Burstein



FROM THE RABBI ...
Sandford R. Kopnick

Having Faith...

We Jews are a people of action. Historically, Jews respond to fulfilling commandments. *Whether* we believe is rarely asked, but doing as we are commanded by God is valued. *Whether* we actually believe in God is immaterial. Most mitzvot, or commandments are pretty good ideas, so whether there is actually a commander doesn't seem to come into the conversation with one who seeks to fulfill as many commandments as possible.

Some Reform Jews misunderstand our approach to religion. They think we are not bound by the commandments. Yet, this is where faith comes in. We do not simply accept all traditionally held commandments as the current will of God. Rather, we study and listen to determine those commandments that are important and have ongoing relevance. Because our approach requires a reexamination of the mitzvot, we are forced to confront our faith—specifically the idea that God is the Commander.

It was never the case that the word mitzvah is correctly translated as “good deed.” Most commandments are good deeds, but they are more—they are deeds that are expected by God. While it is true that one does not need to believe in God to fulfill a mitzvah, the faith we bring to the task generally creates greater intention and consistency in fulfilling the commandment. When we hear that “still small voice” that helps motivate us to do the right or the Jewish thing, we are better motivated.

Judaism is at its best when we are all thinking of the corpus of moral deeds required of us. Whether one feels commanded, compelled by a need to be a link in the chain of Jewish tradition, or even to honor the memory of a loved one who behaved as a strong and affirmative Jew, engaging in the moral actions of Judaism makes the world a better place.

As we enter the month that the United States celebrates Thanksgiving (the American version of Sukkot), let us be thankful for a country that allows us our faith and the freedom to exercise it. And while we also have the freedom to “not” exercise our faith, I am thankful for how many of you feel commanded and work hard at making the world a better place.

Faithfully,

Sandford Kopnick, Rabbi

SPECIAL THANKS TO...

Members of the Congregation who hosted the Rosh Hashanah reception. Thanks to Clare Deutsch and Sue Bortz for chairing this event.

Members of the congregation who hosted the Yom Kippur Break the Fast. Thanks to Jenny Broh and Sharon Kollasch for chairing this event.

The following for sponsoring our High Holy Day Music:

- Nancy and Dolph Berman in memory of Leon Cohen, Ces Berman and I.A. Berman
- Bernice and Harold Blatt
- Jan and Mark Sass and Helen Sass in memory of Robert Sass
- Sue and George Trenkamp in memory of Laurie Ruskin

Bobbie Reckseit for her donation of the flowers for the Yom Kippur services in memory of her beloved husband, Bernard (Reggy) Reckseit

Members of the Men's Club for serving as ushers

Members of our congregation who donated food to our food drive and helped deliver it to the Valley Interfaith Food and Clothing Center



Volunteers (above) deliver Valley Temple's annual contribution (left) from our High Holiday Food Drive to the Valley Interfaith Food and Clothing Center.



WHAT'S HAPPENING IN Religious School?

Taking A New Look at What We Do

As I write this message, I am deep into a new process of analyzing and interpreting some (not so new) data. Each week, when Religious School classes end, the teachers answer some prompts that help us begin a reflective conversation about their teaching. *What was the highlight today? Describe something that was challenging. What did you notice about your teaching today? What did you notice about one of your students?* We use the reflective process on a weekly basis to celebrate great classroom experiences, problem solve lessons and techniques that may need improvement, plan upcoming classes, and approach teaching with an inquiry stance. I reflect on my role as a learner, a teacher of students and also a teacher of teachers.

Through our conversations, the teachers and I engage in a process that although we borrowed from the secular education world, is quite Jewish in nature. Judaism asks us to examine, describe, and (re)interpret texts and traditions. We are looking at the Jewish learning in our classrooms in this way. We can change the narrative that we may carry with us from the time class ends to when we are sitting in front of our computers thinking about the day. We push ourselves to think a little deeper or to reframe what happened and look through a different lens all to the end of improving our teaching practice and improving the experience for the students.

While our weekly read of our teaching practices influence us the next time we step into a room with our learners, I have been wondering what else I can find in this collection of reflective conversations.

The analysis I am currently doing involves both digging deeper into and looking wider at the reflections the teachers wrote during the last school year. What themes can I find? Is there evidence of growth or changed thinking about teaching? About learning? About the Jewish content we teach? How will my findings influence the professional development (weekly faculty meetings, which I consider to be my classroom) we have this year?

Ruth Hubbard and Brenda Power (2003) point out the root of the word question is quest and that this means in answering a question (such as one in a teaching reflection), we are not looking for a quick-fix solution, but rather, we are exploring and discovering to lead to a deeper understanding. My favorite part of the reflections and faculty meetings is when the teachers ask the questions.

How do you put early childhood principles and strategies in place 2 hours a week?

How do students feel learning Hebrew? (thinking about

risk-taking)

How has the week been for my students? (and how will that impact the classroom environment today?)

How many students will show up today?

How will I tweak this lesson for next year?

Is my lesson meaningful to them? Are they learning? Is there something I can be doing differently for some of the kids to help them learn?

Will they remember what I teach them for the following year? If so, what will they remember?

Are they enjoying what they learn... is Sunday school valuable to my students?

Am I giving/covering enough information?

There is a tension I feel in professional development because while it is helpful to offer teachers tools and techniques that they think will impact their teaching immediately, I wonder if we are really developing practices that will advance our overall goals of facilitating a Jewish experience for our students that helps them build positive Jewish identities. Last year, as we grew our professional development practice to include weekly meetings, we moved from a toolbox model to one that helps us keep sight of long-term goals for teacher development in this setting. We certainly cannot ignore questions of classroom management, materials, content and facility because answering those concerns ensure successful experiences on a weekly basis. But problem solving is not inquiry and does not lead to transformational learning which Raider-Roth, Stieha, Kohan & Turpin (2014) describe as a process that "reexamines and potentially deconstructs previous understandings about teaching and learning" (p. 55).

I am energized by the work I do with the teachers and inspired by the work they do with their students. My weekly read of their reflections helps us prepare for upcoming weeks and I am finding great meaning in this new, deeper examination. I hope to find ways for us to experience transformational Jewish learning together.

Alison

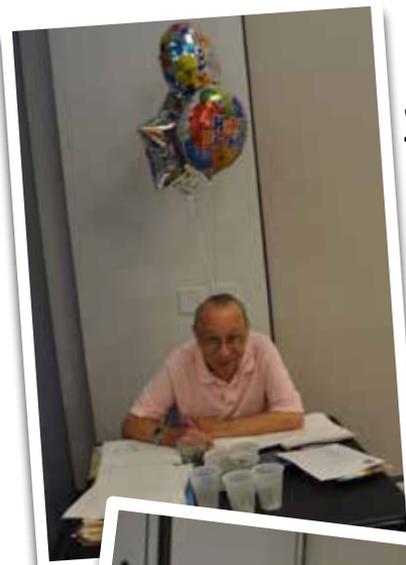
Alison Weikel, Director of Education

Sources:

Hubbard, R. & Power, B. M. (2003) *The art of classroom inquiry: A handbook for teacher-researchers*. Portsmouth, NH: Heinemann.

Raider-Roth, M., Stieha, V., Kohan, M. & Turpin, C. (2014). "The False Promise of Group Harmony": The Centrality of Challenging Practices in Teachers' Professional Development. *Journal of Jewish Education* (80)1, 53-77

SCENES FROM RELIGIOUS SCHOOL...



Happy
Birthday,
Barry!



Valley Temple Youth Group

Hey! Valley Youth Group co-president Alex Woosley is back again! This past weekend, co-president Alex Kopnick, and others from our youth group, and I were given the amazing opportunity to once again go back to one of our favorite places; GUCI! We were there attending a joint OV-MV NFTY event, Fall Kallah. Throughout the weekend I was able to reconnect with my camp friends, help out regional board, and lead a few programs. I planned a program before hand with the OV president Stephanine Blumenthal called OVHanas (which is supposed to sound like *ohana* meaning families). We split the OV participants into "families" where they were able to bond through similar things they like and some fun games. After this, I also group lead two more programs, one about being open minded and one recreating the experience of *Gadna*, a program from Israel that teaches participants what it's like to be in the IDF. I had an amazing time this weekend and I'm looking forward to bringing back what I learned to our temple youth group!

—Alex Woosley



I had so much fun this weekend. Not only did I get to see all of my friends from Avodah and meet a lot of new people from the Missouri Valley region, but I was able to learn a lot about feminism and the criminal justice system during social action programs. As a song leader, I was able to work with Dan Nichols and even played with him at his concert! Overall, this weekend was a great experience.

—Alex Kopnick



WOMEN OF REFORM JUDAISM
stronger together

Greetings!

As I write this, we are getting ready for Sukkot and Simchat Torah, and by the time you read it, we are probably starting to plan for Thanksgiving. After the contemplative season of Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur, we enter a time of joyful gratitude in both the Jewish and secular calendars. During the harvest festival of Sukkot we are actually commanded to rejoice, and the meaning of Simchat Torah is "rejoicing in the Torah." We join together in these celebrations and the year continues to turn.

The repetition of annual cycles can bring a sense of comfort, anticipation, and joy, but it can bring difficulty as well. It might be the first Chanukah with a new baby, or the first after the loss of a loved one. We may be facing the first Thanksgiving after a divorce, or looking forward to the first Passover in a new home. Whether we are looking ahead to the next event or festival with anxiety or great enthusiasm, being part of a community can be a powerful thing. We may increase our joy by sharing it with those around us. Or we might depend on the comfort and support offered by others.

We recently had the annual Sisterhood Brunch, which is always a wonderful opportunity to connect or re-connect with other women. Many thanks to Kathy Klein for organizing, the Kopnicks for opening their home for the event, and everyone who brought a dish to share! When we attend monthly meetings, participate in social action projects, or meet up just for fun, we gather to support the Temple and religious school, but also each other. Our Sisterhood is an amazing group of women who are always ready to help each other celebrate, or to offer a shoulder to lean on. And isn't that what we all need, all through the year?

L'hitraot! Til we meet again!

Chrissy

Christine Knarr, Recording Secretary

We hope to see you on these upcoming dates:

November 13 – Meeting

December 11 – Meeting and Chanukah party

January 8 – Meeting

February 12 – Used Book Sale

February 26 – Hamantaschen Baking

March 5 – Meeting

April 9 – Meeting

May 21 – Closing Day Meeting and Picnic

MEN'S CLUB

The Valley Temple Men's Club is back and better than ever! Through meetings and consultations, these goals have been laid out for the next year:

- Get people to come in – make VT more than a dropoff lane;
- Have events to draw people in;
- Continue to have camaraderie while supporting some needs of the Temple;
- Have more frequent Sunday breakfast get-togethers;
- Expand our membership – we would love to have a larger diversity of ages, interests and ideas.

PLEASE MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR THESE UPCOMING EVENTS:

Monthly trivia at Wings and Rings in Finneytown – Wednesday, November 16

Candlepin bowling – Sunday, January 29th



Super Bowl party – Sunday, February 5th (w/families)

Cincinnati Cyclones game – Saturday, February 25th (w/families)



Denim & Diamonds is Saturday, March 18th, with Jeff Schaelger and Aron Schneider as

emcees; come battle your friends in trivia, eat, bid on cool stuff, and laugh a little bit!

Brotherhood Work Weekend at GUCI – Likely weekend of Friday, April 21 – Saturday, April 22

Other events being planned – or why not send us your ideas?!?!

Thanks to all the VT brothers and board members who gave their time and energy to ushering for the High Holy Days!!!

Feeling left out? Wanna join the VT Men's Club? Please contact Jeff Schlaeger, President.



The Valley Temple Men's Club is on Twitter! @vt_men

SUSTAINING THE GENERATIONS ...

We gratefully acknowledge the following contributions:

RABBI'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

In appreciation of Rabbi Kopnick; *from Jenny Dapper*
In appreciation of Rabbi Kopnick; *from Brian and Val Meeron*
In appreciation of Adult Hebrew; *from Tom Steger*
In memory of Harvey Price; *from Jay and Sue Price*
In appreciation of the High Holy Days; *from Andrea Frieder*

CAMP SCHOLARSHIP FUND

In honor of Carol & Julian Magnus' 60th Anniversary;
from Mary & George Croog
In honor of Ella and Sara Naveh going to GUCI;
from Gila & Michael Naveh

BRYNA SCHWARTZ MEMORIAL ONEG & HOSPITALITY FUND

In memory of Leonard M. Goldberg; *from Jenny Broh*

SEINSHEIMER MUSIC FUND

In honor of Nancy & Dolph Berman's Anniversary;
from Marilyn Randman
In memory of Jean Ehrle; *from Laurel & Marvin Fischbaum*
In memory of Rheda Harris; *from Sam & Laura Lobar*

RABBI SOLOMON GREENBERG PRAYERBOOK FUND

In memory of Minnie Ran; *from Ronald & Sharon Ran*

A GIFT TO VALLEY TEMPLE IN HONOR OF THE HIGH HOLY DAYS

From Mark Klein
From Ken & Diane Mitman
From Adela Jaffee
From Lisa Sommer
From Rob & Paula Rapport



SPONSORING AN ONEG SHABBAT



Sponsoring an Oneg Shabbat (the reception following services) is a lovely way to celebrate a special occasion or honor the memory of a loved one or "just because." Please help us maintain this tradition by calling Wendy at the Temple office.

For sponsoring a recent oneg, thank you to:

- Sandy Hatfied and Family in memory of Herbert B. Geltner
- Leonard and Susan Elgowsky in honor of Jenna becoming a *Bat Mitzvah*



Remember, whether you shop at Kroger or at Remke, you can help support Sisterhood just by doing your regular grocery shopping. When you link your shopper card to either the *Kroger Community Rewards Program* or to the *Remke Caring Neighbor Program*, every time you swipe your card or enter your alternate ID at the checkout, a portion of the sale goes to Sisterhood, which in turn helps to support Valley Temple programming.

For Kroger:

<https://www.kroger.com/communityrewards>
Click to sign in or create an account.

For Remke:

<http://www.remkes.com/Community.aspx>
Options to sign in or register are at the top right corner of the webpage.

**If you have any questions,
please contact Chrissy Knarr.**

NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Lisa Sommer	11/02
Kira Gruenhagen	11/03
Charlyne Gaynor	11/03
Cheryl Hecht	11/04
Rae Nourie	11/04
Jennifer Pennix	11/04
Jonathan Kopnick	11/06
Pam Greenberg	11/06
Brad Greenberg	11/06
Paula Braverman	11/06
Sue DuCovna	11/07
Herb DuCovna	11/07
Rachel Habbert	11/08
Ellen Schaengold	11/09
Ron Weitzenkorn	11/09
John Habbert	11/10
Ella Schlaeger	11/11
Sam Greenberg	11/11
Aleeza Schneider	11/11
Noah Festenstein	11/11
Alan Solomon	11/12
Alison Weikel	11/13
William Cusack	11/14
Doug Sandor	11/15
Sophia Pennix	11/15
Kathryn Beasley	11/16
David Feldstein	11/16
Randi Kaplan	11/17
Harvey Katz	11/22
Peggy Markstein	11/26
Ian Cronin	11/26
Ernest Waits, Jr.	11/27
Micki Springer	11/27
Jeannie Hiller	11/28
Amy Levy	11/28
Nancy Dornheggen	11/28
Charles Powers	11/29
Kenneth Mitman	11/29
Jacob Hodesh	11/30

NOVEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

Miriam & Jacob Hodesh	11/03/2007
Bill & Nina Strauss	11/04/1969
Gila & Michael Naveh	11/08
Barbara & David Neman	11/12/2000
Bobby & Linda Denham	11/17/1984
Chad Munitz & Michelle Lightfoot	11/17
Lou & Marjorie Rauh	11/21/1959
Jeff & Laurie Marks	11/22/1980
John & Susan Frank, Jr.	11/22/1997
Linda Kean & Ronn Mervis	11/26/1983
Barry & Arlene Goldhoff	11/27/1966
Sidney & Joanne Cohen	11/28/1985
David & Sharon Feldstein	11/30/1985

☆ MAZAL TOV! ☆

Bill and Barbara Klein on the marriage of their daughter, Rebecca, to Andy Reves.

Rachel Hodesh, Robert Festenstein, Ricki and Stuart Hodesh and Dorothy Siegel on their son, grandson and great grandson, Noah, becoming a *Bar Mitzvah*.

OUR SYMPATHY

Laurie Marks on the death of her Father,
Henry Verboomen

Sharon Kollasch on the death of her Father,
Leonard M. Goldberg

MISHEBEIRACH

Evelyn Essig	Joanne Cohen
Joan Reckseit	Kim Stark
Donna Levi	Jon Hoffheimer
Jay Price	

ANNUAL RAKE DAY

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 13, NOON
following Religious School

Help us rake leaves for our neighbors unable to do so. Bring rakes, gloves and wear appropriate clothing. Drivers are also needed. Seniors or those in a situation unable to rake their own leaves, who live within 10 miles of the Temple and would like members of the congregation to help, please contact the Temple office.





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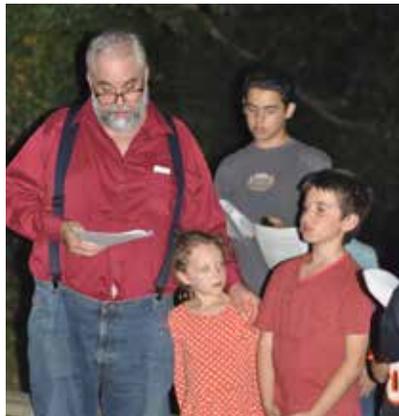
Sandford R. Kopnick, Rabbi
Solomon T. Greenberg, Rabbi Emeritus
Wendy Walsh, Temple Administrator
Alison Weikel, Director of Education
Jon Hoffheimer, President
Laura Beasley, President, Women of Reform Judaism
Jeff Schlaeger, President, Men's Club

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or use links at valleytemple.com



Sukkot 2016