

## RELIGIOUS SERVICES

### FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 3, 7:30 PM

Shabbat Service

Music: Marilyn Zelcer and Steve Mason

### SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 4

9:30 am – Torah Study

10:30 am – Shabbat Service

4th/5th/6th Grade Shabbaton

Torah Portion: *Bo*, Exod. 10:1-13:16

### FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 10

#### FAMILY SHABBAT TU B'SHEVAT CELEBRATION

6:00 pm – Tu B'shevat Seder

6:30 pm – Dinner – for those with reservations

7:30 pm – Shabbat Family Service

Music: David Snyder

### SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 11

9:30 am – Torah Study

10:30 am – Shabbat Service

Torah Portion: *B'shalach*, Exod. 13:17-17:16

### FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 17, 7:30 PM

Shabbat Service

Music: Bob Pollack and Marilyn Zelcer

### SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 18

9:30 am – Torah Study

10:30 am – Shabbat Service

Torah Portion: *Yitro*, Exod. 18:1-20:23

### FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 7:30 PM

7:30 pm – Shabbat Service

Music: Music: Friday Night Live

Oneg Shabbat hosted by Jon and Susan Hoffheimer  
in memory of Murray Seasongood.

### SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 25

9:30 am – Torah Study

10:30 am – Shabbat Service

Torah Portion: *Mishpatim*, Exod. 21:1-24:18

## TU B'SHEVAT SEDER FOR ALL—NOT JUST KIDS!



*Tu B'shevat* literally means the 15th of the Hebrew month of *Shevat*. That is the holiday that commemorates the “new year of the trees.” The Mishnah teaches us that we count years when trees are planted until we are able to accept the produce they yield. The time for counting the age of a tree happens on *Tu B'shevat*. Huh!

There is much to celebrate regarding God's creations—including trees and all they produce. Our tradition developed the “*Tu B'shevat Seder*” to help us appreciate the bounty of nature. Different than Sukkot, this is really focused on trees and some include other environmental issues, too. We will have a *Tu B'shevat Seder* for EVERYONE (adults and/or kids) on **Friday, February 10, 2017 at 6:00 p.m.** just as *Tu B'shevat* begins. We will have a 30 minute service and then a festive dinner, followed by our 7:30 Shabbat service. Join us and come see what a *Tu B'shevat seder* is.

## THE SISTERHOOD USED BOOK SALE SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 12





FROM THE RABBI ...  
Sandford R. Kopnick

**There's more to the Covenant than a Bris...**

It is no secret that many are uncomfortable with the ritual of circumcision as a way to welcome a baby boy into the Jewish faith. Some find it to be an odd way to welcome anyone—while others prefer an egalitarian style ceremony that leaves the blood and surgical procedures out. I understand the issues on both sides, and also understand that this is one of the ways that Jews of all persuasions connect to the tradition and to each other.

However, one of the most important aspects of the *Brit Milah* (*Brit* or *Bris* means covenant and *Milah* means circumcision) is the idea of being brought into the covenant. Entering the Covenant between God and the Jewish people is an important commitment.

Our Covenant with God expects that we will affirm God's presence and seek to do God's will.

Our Covenant with God expects that we function as a holy people, thereby reflecting the holy within all of us.

Our Covenant with God expects that we will embrace a value system filled with justice and advocating for justice for all.

It is wonderful to accept an infant into the Covenant. Yet, we as parents and community members are charged to be certain that there is meaning not only in that moment of welcome, but also in a lifetime filled with exploring the Covenant.

This concept of Covenant has been sidelined from time to time. If we have a Covenant with God, then some infer that others do not. That is not the point. Others may have a covenant with God, too. Yet, in our search for acceptance in the wider community, it is important to remember that the burden of this Covenant between God and the Jewish people creates a guideline for living a very full and meaningful life. All are welcome into our Covenant. But, more importantly, when we seek peace and pursue it, when we act according to the morals of our faith, we make the world better.

Our Covenant is not about being better than anyone else. It is about being better than we, ourselves, would be without it.

Have a great month.

*B'shalom,*

Sandford R. Kopnick, Rabbi

**MITZVAH CORPS  
CHICAGO RETREAT OVER  
MLK, JR. WEEKEND**



**HELP NEEDED  
CONGREGATIONAL  
PASSOVER SEDER**

**Tuesday, April 11 – 6:00 pm**

**Volunteers are needed to help with the Seder -- See List Below**

**Volunteers are also needed for set up**

**Contact Kara Schneider to say you will help**

Donate one or more of the items listed below, and help us keep our Temple Seder costs to a minimum. Choose an item on the list below (feel free to provide one item or as many as you wish to donate) and drop your donation off at the Temple IN ADVANCE OF THE SEDER BY TUESDAY, MARCH 28. Desserts by MONDAY, APRIL 10. Please call the Temple office or email [admin@valleytemple.com](mailto:admin@valleytemple.com) as soon as possible to let us know what you will be donating. Thank you so much for your donations.

(Please list how many of which you choose to donate.)

Jars of prepared horseradish \_\_\_\_\_

Boxes of Matzah \_\_\_\_\_

Bottles of kosher red wine \_\_\_\_\_

Bottles of kosher grape juice \_\_\_\_\_

Jars of Gefilte Fish \_\_\_\_\_

Passover desserts \_\_\_\_\_



# WHAT'S HAPPENING IN Religious School?

## Routines and Rituals

It is no great revelation of educational or parenting theory and practice that children like and need routines. Caron Blau Rothstein \* writes:

Routines are essential building blocks of life. Parenting books, pediatricians, and ... childhood experts will tell you that routines provide ... children with a measure of predictability that is necessary and comforting. They give children a sense of safety in an unsafe world (www.myjewishlearning.com).

Children's need for routines may be axiomatic, but that does not mean establishing routines is easy. It takes some thought and planning to create routines that are meaningful and long lasting. Our wonderful Religious School teachers *all* have routines in the classroom that help the students transition from other activities into their Jewish community and learning experiences each Sunday and Tuesday. In any given classroom as classes begins, you might find students sharing *mitzvot* and hanging them on their class *Mitzvah* Tree, doing a puzzle to reveal the theme for the day, making Hebrew letters and Jewish shapes from pattern blocks, making *Havdallah* (a ceremony separating Shabbat from the rest of the week), listening to the teacher read a Jewish story, playing a Jewish trivia game, answering a thought-provoking question on an index card to discuss later in class, or "checking in" as a way to hear everyone's voice to start class.

Outside of the classroom, Judaism offers us some special routines grounded in our sacred texts and the traditions of our ancestors and families. These routines are rituals and they have the potential to bring great meaning to our Jewish lives.

One of Judaism's lesser known, but beautiful rituals is a *Tu B'Shevat seder*. *Tu B'Shevat*, literally the 15th of the Hebrew month *Shevat*, may have originally been a festival marking the beginning of spring. The holiday is often called the "New Year of the Trees" or the "Birthday of the Trees" and is connected to the practice of tithing and sending offerings to the Temple in Jerusalem. Once the Temple was destroyed and Jews dispersed, people kept their connection to the land of Israel by continuing to savor the various fruits and nuts found there. In modern times, Jews have created a *seder*, or ceremonial meal eaten in a certain order, to honor and mark the



significance of trees and their fruits in our Jewish story. The Jewish National Fund\*\* helps people plant trees in Israel, not just on *Tu B'Shevat*, but all year long. Valley's Men's Club plants a tree in honor of every *bar* and *bat mitzvah* in our congregation.

I hope you will join us as we experience the beautiful ritual of a *Tu B'Shevat seder* on Friday, February 10 at 6PM, followed by dinner at 6:30PM and Shabbat services at 7:30PM. It is sure to be a wonderful addition to your repertoire of Jewish rituals.

\* See: [www.myjewishlearning.com/article/jewish-routines-for-children/](http://www.myjewishlearning.com/article/jewish-routines-for-children/) where Rothstein offers some ways to make your child's everyday routines Jewish.

\*\* Check out the Jewish National Fund's work at [www.jnf.org](http://www.jnf.org).

*Alison*

Alison Weikel, Director of Education



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE  
Jon Hoffheimer

Dear Congregants,

In 1900 the average American lived 47 years; in 2000 the life expectancy increased to 77. In 1900 the average work week was 50 - 60 hours. Now it may be about 47 hours. What does this mean? Thirty extra years. Some of that can be attributed to a longer period for maturation. Yet what do we accomplish with this extra time? Where does Valley fit into your life?

Jon Hoffheimer  
President, Board of Trustees

# MEN'S CLUB

**PLEASE MARK YOUR CALENDARS  
FOR THESE UPCOMING EVENTS:**

- Monthly trivia at Wings and Rings in Finneytown – Wednesday February 22. Contact Jeff Schlaeger or Scott Steinberg if interested in joining the current champs!

- Super bowl party (with families) will be Sunday, February 5th (see below)



- Cincinnati Cyclones game – Saturday, February 25 (with families) - contact Elliott Spieler if interested (4th annual!)

- Denim & Diamonds is Saturday, March 18 - Jeff/Aron as emcees; come battle your friends in trivia, eat, bid on cool stuff, listen to a live band, and laugh a little bit!

- Brotherhood Work Weekend at GUCI April 27-29 - contact Jeff Schlaeger if interested

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

The Valley Temple Presents



Denim & Diamonds  
2017  
March 18

7:00 PM AT THE VALLEY TEMPLE  
\$30 / INDIVIDUAL OR \$200 / TABLE OF 8

FEATURING:

Trivia with Jeff Schlaeger & Aron Schneider

Silent Auction

Appetizers

Bluegrass Music by White Line Fever

Chili Cook-Off Presented by the Men's Club

Desserts Presented by the Sisterhood

Split-the-Pot

BYOB • Mixer Bar Provided

RSVP by Wednesday, March 1st

(See enclosed card for your best option to respond)

**BENEFITTING HAPPEN, INC.**

Please contact Rabbi Kopnick for confidential financial assistance



YES! The 2nd Annual **SUPER BOWL** party is Sunday, February 5th from 5:30-10 at Valley! Email Jeff if you'd like to attend...open to families. Come watch with us on the big screen while we nosh and wonder what decade the Bengals might be in this thing!

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



**The Valley Temple Men's Club  
is on Twitter! @vt\_men**

## DONATIONS NEEDED FOR PURIM CARNIVAL

New toys and gift certificates are needed for raffle and/or game prizes are needed for this year's Purim Carnival on Sunday, March 12. Contact Brian Meeron, Youth Group Advisor. Cakes for the cake walk would also be appreciated. Proceeds benefit Youth Group programs.





WOMEN OF REFORM JUDAISM  
*stronger together*

Greetings!

We're barely into 2017, but believe it or not we're already halfway through the Sisterhood year! There is a lot coming up, so hopefully there is a little something for everyone.

We just had a wonderful creative event with the Gary Rosenthal glass mosaic fundraiser. The afternoon brought people from Valley and the larger community together to create beautiful keepsakes for their families. Our own Debby Hoffheimer was kind enough to create an item that will be offered from the Sisterhood for auction at next month's Denim and Diamonds event!

There are several things happening on February 12. At 9:30 we'll have a chance to braid challah with the guidance of Erika Hecht. The annual Used Book Sale starts at 10:00, chaired by Helen Waits. We also have a short meeting planned for this day, so come join the group, prepare some delicious challah, and do a little shopping!

Hamantaschen baking is on February 26. It is always great fun! Contact Clare Deutsch to ask how you can help.

A book discussion is planned for March. Pick up a copy of *The Nightingale* by Kristin Hannah, and join the conversation!

A social jewelry-making event is in the works at The Silver Diva – look for information on the Sisterhood facebook page or go to [thesilverdiva.com](http://thesilverdiva.com) and sign up for the February 25 Ladies Night Out!

Check your calendars – we hope to see you soon!

One more thing - You should have gotten an email from me containing the minutes from the January meeting, as well as information about the upcoming Fried Leadership Conference, and a link to the WRJ Central District website. If you did not get that message and would like me to send it, please contact me and I'll be sure to add you to the email list.

*L'hitraot!*

*Chrissy*

Christine Knarr, Recording Secretary

**We hope to see you on these upcoming dates:**

- \* **February 12** – Used Book Sale, Challah-making, short meeting
- \* **February 26** – Hamantaschen Baking
- \* **March 5** – Meeting, Book Discussion
- \* **April 9** – Meeting
- \* **May 21** – Closing Day Meeting and Picnic

## THE SISTERHOOD USED BOOK SALE SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 12



### HAMANTASCHEN BAKING

Sunday, February 26 at 10 am

Hamantaschen will be used for the Purim dinner and Purim Carnival as well as our members in need of cheer.

Join the Fun -- No Experience Necessary  
12 - 2 PM- Chai Life Hamantaschen baking  
Stay for lunch immediately following RS and bake with your kids.

Cost to join Chai Life is \$9 per child with a maximum of \$18 per family and \$5 per child for lunch with a maximum of \$10 per family.

**PLEASE RSVP TO AMANDA STEIN.**

**WE MUST KNOW HOW MUCH FOOD TO ORDER FOR LUNCH**

**PLEASE, PLEASE, PLEASE RSVP!!!**



## SOUP KITCHEN

Sunday, February 19

Help needed to bake brownies, cook and serve

**Contact Jeannie Hiller**



## Noon at the Temple Monday, February 6

Topics include Anti-Semitism and News from the Religious Action Center

# SUSTAINING THE GENERATIONS ...

We gratefully acknowledge the following contributions:

## **RABBI'S DISCRETIONARY FUND**

In memory of Ann Waxman; *from Ernie & Sally Waxman*

In memory of Louis Kallek; *from Neil & Lynn Kravitz*

In memory of Marti Sue Bovard; *from Davine Levy*

In memory of Jim Miller; *from Marlene & Gary Albert*

In memory of Jim Miller; *from Sharon & Steve Marshall*

In memory of Jim Miller; *from Ruth Miller*

In memory of Jim Miller; *from Charles Miller*

In memory of Fan Colish; *from Neil & Lynn Kravitz*

*A gift from Jacqueline Frank*

## **CAMP SCHOLARSHIP FUND**

*A gift from Lois Benjamin*

*A gift from Phyllis Bossin & Robert Strauss*

*A gift from Jenny Broh*

*A gift from Donna Goodman*

*A gift from Craig & Debra Hoffheimer*

*A gift from Dave & Mandy Katz*

*A gift from Donna Levi*

*A gift from Laura & Sam Lobar*

*A gift from Diane & Ken Mitman*

*A gift from Gila & Michael Naveh*

*A gift from John & Hank Rosenthal*

*A gift from Mark & Jan Sass*

*A gift from Sue & Jay Price*

*A gift from Helen Sass*

*A gift from Izar & Stacey Spivak*

*A gift from Ivan & Kathleen Tamarkin*

*A gift from Sue & George Trenkamp*

*A gift from Noah Festenstein*

*A gift from Tom & Debra Steger*

In memory of Marti Sue Bovard; *from Judy McHenry*

In memory of Meyer Silver; *from Sue & Jay Price*

In memory of Jim Miller; *from Stuart & Faye Tobin*

In memory of Jim Miller; *from Stephen Casper*

In memory of Jim Miller; *from Harvey & Barb Katz*

In memory of Jim Miller; *from Dan & Dedra Perlmutter*

In memory of Jim Miller; *from Paul & Colleen Granick*

In memory of Jim Miller; *from Edward & Andrea Herzig*

In memory of Jim Miller; *from Sally & Gerry Korkin*

In memory of Jim Miller; *from Robert & Nancy Johnston*

In memory of Jim Miller; *from Jenny Broh*

In memory of Jim Miller; *from Betty Gooten*

In memory of Jim Miller; *from Mary Lee & Louie Sirkin*

In memory of Jim Miller; *from Anonymous Fund of the Greater Cincinnati Foundation, Joseph A. Brant*

In memory of Jim Miller; *from Tracy Waltman Schusterman*

In memory of Jim Miller; *from Laura & Sam Lobar*

In memory of Jim Miller; *from Tova and Lenny Singer*

In memory of Jim Miller; *from Kathy & Jeff Schlaeger & Family*

In memory of Jim Miller; *from Andrea & David Knarr*

In memory of Freda Rubin;  
*from Kathy & Jeff Schlaeger & Family*

## **BRYNA SCHWARTZ MEMORIAL ONEG & HOSPITALITY FUND**

In memory of Leonard M. Goldberg; *from Sharon Kollasch*

In memory of Fanny Chernoff; *from Alan Schwartz*

## **SEINSHEIMER MUSIC FUND**

In memory of Esther Kanofsky; *from Judith Kanofsky*

In memory of John Siegel; *from Mark & Ellen Kovacic*

## **LOUISE MARKS RELIGIOUS SCHOOL FUND**

In memory of Jim Miller; *from Ernie & Helen Waits*

In memory of Katie Freedman's brother;  
*from the Hecht/Brafman Families*

## **RABBI SOLOMON GREENBERG PRAYERBOOK FUND**

High Holy Day Prayerbooks will be inscribed in memory of  
Jean Ehrle; *from Marvin & Laurel Fischbaum*

## **L'CHAYIM FUND**

In memory of Jim Miller; *from Susan and Philip Kahn*

## **ETTA AND HARRY STARK YOUTH ACTIVITIES FUND**

In memory of Nathan Goodman; *from Donna G. Goodman,  
George Dilworth, Laurie Herstig & Felicia Ross*

## **ALLEN AND SELMA WIENER BERKMAN SOCIAL ACTION FUND**

In memory of Jim Miller; *from Helen & John Habbert*

In memory of Verna Wall; *from Gail Lewin*

In memory of Jim Miller; *from Laurel & Marvin Fischbaum*

In memory of Jim Miller; *from Ivan Tamarkin*

In memory of Jim Miller; *from Gail Lewin*

## **VALLEY TEMPLE GENERAL FUND**

*A gift from John & Hank Rosenthal*

*A gift from Sharlene Stempler*

## FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

Marc Deitsch	02/01
Devon Brandt	02/01
Harold Blatt	02/02
Jon Hoffheimer	02/02
Alanna Schlaeger	02/02
Stephen Kovacic	02/03
Richard Gaynor	02/04
Alice Weitzenkorn	02/06
Joanne Steinberg	02/06
Jenny Broh	02/07
Judith Kanofsky	02/07
Lois Benjamin	02/08
Emmeram Morning	02/10
Rica Hodesh	02/10
Rick Michelman	02/11
Dan Perlmutter	02/12
Karen Blatt	02/12
Gil Kaufman	02/13
Gerald Springer	02/13
Donald Kaplan	02/14
Benjamin Zellhuber	02/14
John Amber	02/15
Emma Weitzenkorn	02/17
Betsy Cusack	02/18
Clare Deutsch	02/18
Barbara DelMauro	02/19
Sydney Zwick	02/19
Jonathan Sass	02/22
Shelly Morning	02/22
Katie Freedman	02/22
John Rosenthal	02/23
Isabelle Clark	02/23
Rebecca Clark	02/23
Katherine O'Neill	02/23
Ronn Mervis	02/24
Donna Goodman	02/25
Aubrey Yeazell	02/25
Alicia Stoughton	02/26
Meghan Jones	02/26
Shayna Codd	02/27
Dedra Perlmutter	02/27
Sidney Cohen	02/28
Nancy Magnus Kopnick	02/29
Jan Rosenbaum	02/29
Evan Powers	02/29

## FEBRUARY ANNIVERSARIES

Bill & Betsy Cusack	02/06/1988
Richard & Marsha Kuhr	02/14/1982
Rick & Karen Michelman	02/18/1996
Aubrey & Arlene Herman	02/20/1972
Norman & Wendy Wasserman	02/24/1963
Chuck & Ricklie Vordenberge	02/25/1984
Brian & Mindy Sefferino	02/29/1999
Aron & Kara Schneider	02/26/2000



Bruce and Carol Kramberg-Walker on the engagement of their daughter, Marissa to Nic Hall.

Helen and John Habbert on the birth of their grandson, Ian Frederick Romash

### OUR SYMPATHY

Linda Lazar on the death of her uncle, Richard Solgan

Mark Miller on the death of his father, Don Miller

Helen Spieler on the death of her father, Sam Darnell

Cindi Miller and Laura Beasley on the death of their husband and father, Jim Miller

Katie Freedman on the death of her brother,  
Charles Robert Drucker

### MISHEBEIRACH

Harold Blatt

Fred Ross

Dr. Joan Reckseit

Barry Essig

Danny Stempler

### 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.

Thank you to:

- Sandy Hatfield and Family in memory of Marcia E. Geltner
- Laura and Rick Beasley and family in memory of Jim and Sandy Miller
- Lance Corporal Adam McCarrick's family to wish him good luck
- Jenny Broh in memory of Phyllis Boering and Todd Boering



145 springfield pike  
wyoming, oh 45215

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

513-761-3555

WEB SITE: [www.valleytemple.com](http://www.valleytemple.com)

E-MAIL: [wendy@valleytemple.com](mailto:wendy@valleytemple.com)

or use links at [valleytemple.com](http://valleytemple.com)

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## TU B'SHVAT SEDER

Friday, February 10

6:00 PM Seder • 6:30 PM Dinner

\$10.00 / adult \$5.00/ child (ages 3-12)

Send in your reservation for the dinner  
to the Temple office.

Vegeterian Meal

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Adults @ \$10 \_\_\_\_\_ No. of Children (3-12) @ \$5 \_\_\_\_\_

No. of Children under 3 (free) \_\_\_\_\_

We wish to order a vegan meal \_\_\_\_\_ (how many) \_\_\_\_\_

Other food allergies (please specify) \_\_\_\_\_

Amount Enclosed \_\_\_\_\_

Please send payment & reservation to the Temple office,  
145 Springfield Pike, 45215 by February 8.

## PURIM

Purim dinner and schpiel  
Saturday, March 11

6:00 PM DINNER • 7:00 PM SERVICE & SCHPIEL

\$10.00 / adult \$5.00/ child (ages 3-12)

Bring your friends -- Costumes invited! Send in your  
reservation for the dinner to the Temple office.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Adults @ \$10 \_\_\_\_\_ No. of Children (3-12) @ \$5 \_\_\_\_\_

No. of Children under 3 (free) \_\_\_\_\_

We wish to order a vegetarian meal \_\_\_\_\_ (how many) \_\_\_\_\_

We wish to order a vegan meal \_\_\_\_\_ (how many) \_\_\_\_\_

Other food allergies (please specify) \_\_\_\_\_

Amount Enclosed \_\_\_\_\_

Please send payment & reservation to the Temple office,  
145 Springfield Pike, 45215 by March 8.