



NOVEMBER 2017/
CHESHVAN 5778 - KISLEV 5778

RELIGIOUS SERVICES

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 3, 7:30 p.m.

Shabbat Service

Music: Bob Pollack and Marilyn Zelcer

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 4

9:30 a.m. – Torah Study:

10:30 a.m. – Shabbat Service

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

Music: Orin Reynolds

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 10, 7:30 p.m.

Family Shabbat Service

Music: Friday Night Live

Oneg Shabbat hosted by members of the congregation in honor of Alison Weikel, Director of Education and Jeff and Kathy Schlaeger in honor of Ella becoming a *Bat Mitzvah*

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 11

9:30 a.m. – Torah Study

10:30 a.m. – Shabbat Service

Ella Schlaeger, daughter of Jeff and Kathy Schlaeger, will become a *Bat Mitzvah*

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

Music: Orin Reynolds

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 17, 7:30 p.m.

Shabbat Service

Music: Charlene Gubitz

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 18

9:30 a.m. – Torah Study

10:00 a.m. – Tot Shabbat

10:30 a.m. – Shabbat Service

Torah Portion: *Tol'dot*, Gen. 25:19-28:9

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 24, 7:30 p.m.

Shabbat Service

Music: Bob Pollack

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 25

9:30 a.m. – Torah Study

10:30 a.m. – Shabbat Service

Torah Portion: *Vayetzei*, Gen. 28:10-32:3

Valley Temple Adult Learning

Jewish Comedy

Why are Jews so funny?

Thursdays, November 2, 9 at 7:30 p.m.

With Robert Maltz, M.D., Temple member

Join Dr. Maltz for a two-session look at American comedy through Jewish eyes. Dr. Maltz has been researching Jewish comedians and will present some of his findings (and some of the material now on You-Tube). Focus will be on Jewish comedy from pre-World War II through the 1990s (and beyond). Would it kill you to laugh a little?

Jewish Thought

The Teachings of Mordecai Kaplan, Founder of Reconstructionist Judaism

Tuesdays, November 7 and 14 at 7:30 p.m.

With David Reinhart, Rabbinic Intern

Join David as we take two sessions to learn about Rabbi Mordecai Kaplan's understanding of the Jewish People and Jewish theology.

Let's Read the Bible

Continues Nov. 13th & 27th at 11:00 a.m.

With Rabbi Sandford Kopnick

We're starting with the books of the Prophets — (beginning with Joshua) and reading and understanding the Bible. Discussion of modern day relevance will be included.

Lunch and Learn

Nov. 13th Noon at the Temple

Lively discussion about Judaism and modern life. We take issues about ritual and observance, Israel, science and religion, and even world events and discuss them from a Jewish point of view. Discussion is encouraged. Bring your own lunch; we'll provide the coffee!



FROM THE RABBI ... Sandford R. Kopnick

OK, It's time....

There is a story of loyalty that goes above and beyond what could have been expected. It is the Biblical story of Ruth, who showed extraordinary devotion to her mother in law Naomi. Ruth declared her loyalty by saying, "Your people will be my people, your God, my God...." When we say farewell to our beloved Director of Education, Alison Weikel, I'm pretty sure we are saying goodbye to someone who rivals Ruth for devotion and loyalty.

Alison Weikel and her family came to Valley around 2001. She and her wonderful husband Rob had met in college and found themselves in the Cincinnati area for Rob's job. Alison already had earned her Master's of Education and was raising two beautiful kids, Joshua and Madeline. They affiliated with our congregation, and Alison was an instant source of creativity and dedication. She quickly became involved in our Sisterhood, and ultimately rose to the presidency. She succeeded Jan Rosenbaum Sass as Religious School Committee Chair, where her creativity and love of education supported our director of education in unique and vital ways.

When the educator's position was open, I suggested to Alison that she apply for the job. She wondered why she was being encouraged to apply, given that she had really never been to Sunday School as a kid. But truth is, having watched her work with the Sisterhood on their marvelous Haggadah project, and the way she supported the school as the committee chair, it was clear that she would grow into the job. And wow, did she.

Truth is, our congregation has always had great education directors, but few have grown in the job the way Alison has. When she took the job and supported the approach to positive Jewish identity building of our education program, she declared her loyalty to our temple and our children—in a way reminiscent of Ruth. She engaged in real learning for herself as she learned the job and sought to be a true resource to our teachers, the rabbinic students who graced our building, and Wendy and me, too. She defined the role of team player, and did so with a joy and sense of humor that enhanced the place.

Alison's sacrifice to our synagogue included working way more than her job description, balancing her remarkable parenting with the needs of our members, and dealing with her husband's commute—which had him out of the city most weekdays for the majority of Alison's tenure as director of education.

We will all miss her remarkable commitment and dedication. Truth be told, the Alison Weikel that leaves us now is not quite what we hired those many years ago. We hired someone with a potential that was way more than we could have expected, and we really benefitted from her skill, professionalism, and manner.

So now, we are transitioning from being spoiled by Alison's selfless devotion of giving us more time than we could afford, and, therefore, deserved. I am so thankful that Rabbi Judy

Spicehandler has accepted the role of interim director in order to help us all get used to Alison's absence. I also asked Rabbi Judy to help us get used to a director who will put in the hours that job description says, so that the new director will not be held to the extraordinary devotion and time commitment that Alison allowed. Rabbi Judy is a great educator, and we are lucky to have her.

So we are forced to say *L'hitraot* to a true gem of our Valley Temple. I hope you'll join us as we celebrate the Weikels' time with us at the dinner and service in their honor on November 10. We are better for having had Alison Weikel as our teacher, friend, and co-worker—and are confident that she has helped us all grow. May Alison, Rob, Maddie and Josh all move and grow from strength to strength—knowing that we will always be there for them—as family does!

Rabbi Sandford Kopnick

TORAH STUDY

Every Week – All Year

Saturdays, 9:30 a.m.



Followed by Shabbat Service at 10:30 a.m.
No experience necessary.

COMING IN DECEMBER

Bimah Book Club

Trouble in the Tribe by Dov Waxman

Tuesday, December 5 at 7:30 p.m.

Trouble in the Tribe explores the increasingly contentious place of Israel in the American Jewish community. In a fundamental shift, growing numbers of American Jews have become less willing to unquestioningly support Israel and more willing to publicly criticize its government....

Israel used to bring American Jews together. Now it's driving them apart. *Trouble in the Tribe* explains why. (from the book jacket)

EVENING HONORING

ALISON WEIKEL

Friday, November 10

Dinner – 6:00 p.m.

(for those with reservations)

Family Shabbat Service - 7:30 p.m.

Join us as we say *L'hitraot* (goodbye) to our beloved Director of Education

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN Religious School?

The High Holy Days are behind us and we are well into the new school year. Things are off to an excellent start in the school, with many happy children finding exciting ways to explore their Jewish identity and build community, with the help of an excellent teaching staff. I have been the interim Religious School director since October 1, but this is my first opportunity to introduce myself in print!

I come by the Jewish Educator role naturally. My father was a rabbi and a teacher of rabbis. (He was a professor at Hebrew Union College, and the dean of the branch of the college in Jerusalem between 1966 and 1980.) I graduated from Yavneh Day School (now Rockwern Academy), and attended High School at the Hebrew University High School in Jerusalem. After high school, I served in the Israeli Army before returning to the U.S. My first teaching job was actually teaching English to Israeli children on the Kibbutz where I served!

Even though I spent the first half of my adult life as a visual artist, (I have an MFA in painting from the School of the Art Institute of Chicago), I always taught Religious School and Hebrew School, and eventually I became the religious school principal at Temple Emanu-El in Haverhill, MA. I left Haverhill to attend Hebrew Union College, and was ordained in 1999. After ordination, I served Congregation B'nai Tzedek for three years before returning to my first love, Jewish Education. I took the position of Rabbi Educator at North Shore Congregation Israel, just north of Chicago, where I ran a school of 800 students. I was there for nine years.

When my daughter graduated high school, I decided that it was time to find a smaller, cozier, community in which to finish out my career, and I ended up back where I started in Massachusetts, this time at Congregation Beth El in Sudbury, MA, where I remained until I retired in 2015 to return to Cincinnati and care for my elderly mother. She passed away this year, and I find myself in Cincinnati, missing my mom, but enjoying the slower pace of life and the warmth of the Cincinnati Jewish community.

Valley Temple has a special place in my heart because of the warm welcome you extended to me and to my daughter Lizzie when we came back to Cincinnati in 2015, so I am thrilled to be able to step in as interim director while you seek a new director in the coming year. I am committed to maintaining the high quality of support and leadership of the school that you have come to expect from Alison. Alison and I share an educational vision that puts relationships first, and is designed around meeting the needs of each child who enters our doors. She has left the school in excellent shape, and I look forward to supervising its growth and watching it thrive, as we move forward into the next chapter in the story of this vibrant religious school. I also look forward to partnering with Rabbi Kopnick, and the rest of the teaching staff, whose wonderful enthusiastic involvement in the school guarantees a successful year for us all.

Rabbi Judy Spicandler
Interim Director of Education

Gan Emek Opening Day



**SCENES FROM RELIGIOUS SCHOOL
OCTOBER 2017**





PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Jon Hoffheimer

We have shared the High Holy Days as well as *Sukkot* and *Simchat Torah*. The big one comes every week. Shabbat. Shabbos. Sabbath. We need not wait for Thanksgiving to give thanks. Join us for Shabbat services on Friday evenings and Saturday mornings as well as all that is going on at Valley Temple. Check the monthly newsletter, the Temple website and your emails for all that is happening!

SENIORS LUNCH GROUP



Seniors Lunch Group at Valley: 3rd Wednesday of the month, November 15; 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m..

If you want lunch, please RSVP to jon@jonhoffheimer.com.

You are welcome to ask others to join us.



Thanks to our recent participants who sent in their letter of intent to the Create Your Jewish Legacy program.

Please remember a legacy gift to The Valley Temple. It can be a gift in your will, a portion of a trust or retirement plan, or life insurance policy. A legacy gift may be the most important gift you ever make... What will your legacy be? For more information how you can participate in this important program, contact Bob Hiller or Jon Hoffheimer.

Please remember The Valley Temple with a gift in your will, trust, retirement or life insurance policy. What will your legacy be?

MEN'S CLUB

It is an exciting time to be in the Men's Club! Please join us for our monthly Trivia Nights—and big events are coming up soon including: bowling, hockey outing, breakfast guest discussion, diversity outing, and so much more. Please contact Jeff Schlaeger with membership questions.



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



WOMEN OF REFORM JUDAISM
stronger together

Book Club

Our first book this year will be *Casting Lots: Creating a Family in a Beautiful, Broken World* by Rabbi Susan Silverman. Book club will meet November 19th from 11 a.m. - 12 p.m. in the 2nd hour of the Sisterhood meeting at Valley Temple.

Sisterhood Meeting November 19

Hosting: Julie Niemeier and Karen Rosenfield

Please plan to come early to get your food and drinks. We will start at 10:00 a.m. The agenda will be sent out in advance. Please review it before the meeting.

Pay Your Dues With PayPal

You may now pay your Sisterhood dues by PayPal. There is a link on the Sisterhood page of the Valley Temple website. You will choose your membership level and Paypal will give you several options of how to pay. You can also pay the regular way with a check made out to Valley Temple Sisterhood. Please put membership on the envelope so it goes to the correct person.

Monthly Mah Jongg

November 12 from 1:30 - 4:30 p.m.

We have a Mah- Jongg game at the Valley Temple the 2nd Sunday of the month from 1:30 - 4:30 p.m. in the board room. Whether you are an experienced player or want to learn, all are welcomed. Contact Susan Hoffheimer to RSVP or for more information.

Vote Volunteer November 3 & 17

Alberta Hemsley would love to have members of Sisterhood join in the fun of the League of Women Voters at the November Naturalization ceremonies. They usually get almost 70 new citizens registered to vote on these times. She will send paperwork to any who are interested. Contact Alberta Hemsley.

SPONSORING AN ONEG SHABBAT

Sponsoring an Oneg Shabbat (the reception following services) is a lovely way to celebrate a special occasion, 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:

- Laurel and Marvin Fishbaum in memory of Jean Ehrle

OUR SYMPATHY

Sally Waxman on the death of her brother, William Brenner

MISHEBEIRACH

Fred Ross
Dr. Joan Reckseit
Jay Price
Barry Essig
Evelyn Essig

Kim Stark
Alan Solomon
Laura Beasley
Ben Sandor
Jon Hoffheimer



SUKKOT





SIMCHAT TORAH



NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

| | |
|-------------------|-------|
| Lisa Sommer | 11/02 |
| 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 |
| Sue DuCovna | 11/07 |
| Herb DuCovna | 11/07 |
| Rachel Habbert | 11/08 |
| Penina Gunyan | 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 |
| Les Swift | 11/30 |

יום הולדת שמח!

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 |

We inadvertently left out Abe and Olga Marchevsky's anniversary on October 11.

SUSTAINING THE GENERATIONS ...

We gratefully acknowledge the following contributions:

RABBI'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

In honor of the High Holy Days; *from Judy Levy*
 In memory of Ann Arnoff; *from Jenny Broh*
 In honor of Alison Weikel; *from Helen & John Habbert*
 In memory of Ann Arnoff; *from Carol & Julian Magnus*
 In appreciation of Rabbi Kopnick; *from Sue and Andy Spohr, Rachel and Alex*
 In appreciation of Rabbi Kopnick; *from Stephen and Gloria Block*
 In honor of Barry Pinsky's 70th birthday; *from Ivan & Kathy Tamarkin*
 In appreciation of Rabbi Sandford Kopnick; *from Harvey & Barbara Katz*
 In memory of Ann Arnoff; *from Sue Pliskin*
 In memory of Jack J. Heines; *from Sue & Herb DuCovna*
 In honor of the High Holy Days; *from Judy Levy*

SEINSHEIMER MUSIC FUND

In honor of Nancy & Dolph Berman's grandchild's marriage; *from Judy & Dick Roth*
 In memory of Ann Arnoff; *from Linda & Jeff Lazar*
A gift from Jan Goldtsein & Chuck Frank
 In memory of Ann Arnoff; *from The Monday Mah Jong Group at the Seasons: Sue Pliskin, Ellen Kleinfeld, Maureen Sayre & Sandy Leftwick*
 In memory of Ann Arnoff; *from The Lobar Family*
 In memory of Sally Waxman's brother; *from The Lobar Family*

ALLEN AND SELMA WIENER BERKMAN SOCIAL ACTION FUND

In memory of Ann Arnoff; *from Laurel & Marvin Fischbaum*
 In honor of Cody Hiller's marriage; *from Helen & John Habbert*

CAMP SCHOLARSHIP FUND

In honor of Cody Hiller's marriage; *from Ricki & Stuart Hodesh*
 In honor of Aliyahs for Moeller Family; *from Sydney Brunschwig*

LOUISE MARKS RELIGIOUS SCHOOL FUND

A gift from Tom Steger
 In memory of Ernest Jacob Waits, Sr.; *from Ernie Waits, Jr. & Helen Waits*

BRYNA SCHWARTZ MEMORIAL

ONEG & HOSPITALITY FUND
 In honor of the birth of Mabel Rose Fox; *from Harold & Bernice Blatt*

TO THE VALLEY TEMPLE

In honor of the High Holy Days; *from Denise Bartick*
 In honor of the High Holy Days; *from Michael and Bonnie Katz*
 In honor of the High Holy Days; *from Steve Strauss*
 In honor of Susan and Jon Hoffheimer; *from Dr Paul Potter*



Kathy and Jeff Schlaeger on their daughter, Ella, becoming a *Bat Mitzvah*

Mark Sass and Jan Rosenbaum Sass on the engagement of their son, Jonathan to Rachel Christian.

Congratulations to Nancy and Dolph Berman and Mae Cohen on the marriage of their grandson and great grandson, Alexander to Erika



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Sandford R. Kopnick, Rabbi
Solomon T. Greenberg, Rabbi Emeritus
Wendy Walsh, Temple Administrator
Rabbi Judy Spicehandler, Interim Director of Education
Jon Hoffheimer, President
Allison Schneider, President, Women of Reform Judaism
Jeff Schlaeger, President, Men's Club

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or use links at valleytemple.com



**HIGH HOLIDAY
FOOD DRIVE
DELIVERY**

