the valley temple

FEBRUARY 2019 /
SH'VAT - ADAR 1 5779

RELIGIOUS SERVICES

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 1, 7:30 p.m.
Shabbat Service
Music: Marilyn Zelcer and Steve Mason

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 2
9:30 a.m. – Torah Study
10:30 a.m. – Shabbat Service
Torah Portion – *Mishpatim*, Exodus 21:1–24:18

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 7:30 p.m.
Family Shabbat Service
Music: David Snyder
Oneg Shabbat hosted by Sam and Laura Lobar in memory of Miriam Lobar, Esther Lobar and Ruth Levenson

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 9
9:30 a.m. – Torah Study
10:00 a.m. – Tot Service
10:30 a.m. – Shabbat Service
Baby Naming of Zora Katz, daughter of Myron & Rachael Katz
Torah Portion – *T'rumah*, Exodus 25:1–27:19

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 15, 7:30 p.m.
Shabbat Service
Music: Bob Pollack and Marilyn Zelcer
Oneg Shabbat hosted by Jenny Broh and Family in memory of Betsy and Henry Broh

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 16
9:30 a.m. – Torah Study
10:30 a.m. – Shabbat Service
Torah Portion – *T'tzaveh*, Exodus 27:20–30:10

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 7:30 p.m.
Shabbat Service
Music: Friday Night Live
Oneg Shabbat hosted by Brian and Randi Kaplan in honor of their son Donnie becoming a *Bar Mitzvah*

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 23
9:30 a.m. – Torah Study
10:30 a.m. – Shabbat Service
Donnie Kaplan, son of Brian and Randi Kaplan will become a *Bar Mitzvah*
Music: Charlene Gubitz
Torah Portion – *Ki Tisa*, Exodus 30:11—34:35

HOOSHIR: JEWISH A CAPPELLA

Hooshir is the Jewish A Cappella singing group from Indiana University

Saturday, February 2
7:30 p.m. • Adult Night Out - Bring a dessert!

Sunday, February 3
11:15 a.m. • Family Concert

This program funded by
The Jewish Foundation of Cincinnati

COVENANT THEOLOGY
(CONTINUES)

With Rabbi Rachel Sabath Bet-Halachmi, Ph.D.

Tuesdays, February 5 & 12
At 7:30 p.m.

The idea that we're in covenant with God and the Jewish people: past, present and future, and how it interacts with the modern Jewish self.

TOT SHABBAT

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 9
10:00 a.m.

Join us for puppets, prayers, songs and a story.
For children birth to 6. Parents and grandparents welcome.

FROM THE RABBI... Sandford R. Kopnick

Hardening Pharaoh's Heart

In just a few weeks, we'll be getting our homes and synagogue ready for Passover. The holiday asks us to retell the tale of our people's journey from slavery to peoplehood. Recently, our Torah study tackled the issue of the "hardening of Pharaoh's heart."

During the Ten Plagues, the Torah says either "Pharaoh's heart was hardened," or "God hardened Pharaoh's heart." The former suggests that Pharaoh's nature was to be stubborn, while the latter suggests that God was manipulating Pharaoh to refuse to allow the Israelites to leave.

The text obviously teaches us that Pharaoh is no fan of the Israelites; he's worried about their growing numbers, enslaves them, and then needs their slave-labor. Allowing them to leave because he is fearful of God shows a weakness that the monarch would clearly resist. Yet, even though it is his nature to be stubborn and not allow Moses and God to "win," the text persists with plagues that do not convince Pharaoh to capitulate, because "God hardened Pharaoh's heart." On the surface this seems to put the refusal as God's will.

Some suggest that the phrase, "God hardened Pharaoh's heart" is an idiom for "was stubborn." After all, being "mule-headed" means that someone is stubborn, but unlikely has the snout and ears of a mule. But the text also says that God will harden Pharaoh's heart in order to show the Israelites God's power—thus giving God ten chances to convince the Israelites to follow, *and* the Egyptians to let them go.

Following Moses out of the known to the unknown is risky. The Israelites only knew Egypt and slavery by the time Moses arrives on the scene. And while leaving slavery was desired, leaving what is familiar to the great unknown that follows was likely unattractive, too.

Our Torah study group objected to the use of Pharaoh as a pawn in the story. And while that is understandable, I worry that the compassion for Pharaoh is still misplaced. Pharaoh enslaved the Israelites. Pharaoh sought to kill newborns and limit the population growth. Pharaoh was not interested in the partnership that was created when Joseph lived and helped navigate the famine that took out all of the surrounding groups. Pharaoh was stubborn, not because God made him that way, but because Pharaoh was a threatened ruler who was stubborn. God's timing took someone's personality and used it for the purpose of establishing God's legitimacy to save our people and move us forward.

A student a long time ago said to me, "Hitler was entitled to his opinion." No, sorry—he was not. Pharaoh is not entitled to our compassion, because he created the situation that necessitated Divine intervention by enslaving our people. Sometimes, people are bad.

It is my fervent prayer that as we prepare for the Passover festival in April, we will treat everyone with compassion. Yet, when "a pharaoh arises who knows not Joseph," and evil befalls a group, we remember the lessons of Passover that result in a freedom celebration. We are to be the "light to the nations," that calls out "pharaohs" when they oppress. Thankfully, the Israelites got to the sea and it parted, thereby drowning their pursuers – the Egyptians. Rather than wait for God to part another sea, perhaps we can work toward insuring the miracle of freedom for all who are oppressed by limiting the opportunity of any modern-day pharaoh to succeed. To me, it's not so important that God might have further hardened the heart of a stubborn despot who needed to go. To me, it is important that we not forget that the miracle of freedom comes at a cost, but it is worth the risk.

Just thinkin….

Sandford R. Kopnick
Rabbi

Saturday, April 13 at 6:30 p.m.

Featuring a night of MYSTERY!
Presented by The Murder Mystery Co.

Silent Auction • Appetizers • Dinner • Desserts
Split-the-Pot • BYOB • Mixer Bar Provided

Watch your mailbox for your invite!
$40 / individual • $280 / table of 8

NEW THIS YEAR:
Early Bird Esther Pricing: RSVP by Purim (March 20) and indivudual tickets are $35!

Please contact Jenny Dapper if you are interested in a sponsorship or donating a basket/item for the Silent Auction.

Benefitting The Valley Temple General Fund
and Starfire Cincinnati

DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION'S MESSAGE

Robyn Friend

I hope everyone had a restful winter break and a chance to step away from the typical routine in order to reconnect with loved ones. Although the Religious School had a delayed start due to weather, our students jumped right back into learning with contagious excitement and enthusiasm.

In honor of MLK Day, our learning largely focused on peace and acceptance with an emphasis on civil rights leaders. Students learned about Rabbi Abraham Joshua Heschel, a civil rights leader who believed in and honored many of the same values as Martin Luther King Jr. Classes also learned about *Tu Bishvat,* the Jewish new year for trees, and some students even planted their own.

Coming up in February we have an exciting visit from Hooshir, Indiana University's awesome Jewish a capella group, on February 3 at 11:15 a.m. This is a wonderful opportunity for children and parents alike to enjoy great music together and connect with our community. Fifth grade parents are also invited to join their child as they continue their life cycle curriculum with the Wedding Family Ed program on February 24.

For grades K-8, we have another visit from our *Chaverim* (Friends from Israel), to continue learning about and establishing a connection with our holy land. Also, the Men's Club will be sponsoring Donuts with Dad on February 24th before Religious School begins, which should be a wonderful treat for all kids and their dads or special father figures. More information will be sent home. Looking forward to seeing you and your children at these upcoming Valley Temple events.

Robyn Friend

The Valley Temple

Religious School

וּשְׁנַנְתָּם לְבָנֶיךָ

DONATIONS NEEDED FOR PURIM CARNIVAL COMING SOON

New toys and gift certificates are needed for raffle and/or game prizes are needed for this year's Purim Carnival on Sunday, March 17. Contact Brian Meeron, Youth Group Advisor. Cakes for the cake walk would also be appreciated. Proceeds benefit Youth Group programs

CONSECRATION

CREATE YOUR JEWISH LEGACY

When you look into your heart as 2019 begins, may you discover a new sense of possibility, a new belief in the gifts you have to share, and a renewed commitment to your dreams.

Be a part of Create Your Jewish Legacy and help us sustain a bright future for Valley Temple and our Jewish Community.

Thanks to those who have made their commitment to this important project.

If you have questions or wish to discuss this, please call Jon Hoffheimer, 321-3219, Wendy Walsh at the Temple office, or pick up a brochure at the Temple.

SOUP KITCHEN

February 24

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Cooks, Servers and Brownie-Bakers needed.
Contact Jeannie Hiller to say you can help!

WOMEN OF REFORM JUDAISM
stronger together

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

• **February 3rd -** Meeting and Challah Baking
Everything will be provided and you will make a loaf of Challah to take home and bake. Event is free to Sisterhood members and $36 to non-members. Please RSVP to Karen Rosenfield

• **February 21 & March 21** - Dinner @ 7:00 p.m., place TBD

• **April 7th -** Meeting

• **April 28th or May 5th -** Last Meeting and Picnic

ONGOING EVENTS

• Mah Jongg – Second Sunday of each month from 1:00-4:00 p.m. at rotating homes

• Sisterhood Dinners – Third Thursday of each month, usually at 7:00 p.m. RSVP through the evite!

• Sisterhood meetings – Gather at 9:45 a.m., get snacks, meetings begin at 10:00 a.m.

Remember to link your Kroger Plus card to support the Valley Temple Sisterhood. We no longer need to renew each spring - once you're signed up, you stay signed up!

THE SISTERHOOD USED BOOK SALE

SUNDAY, MARCH 3
9:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

DONATE YOUR USED BOOKS

Drop in the bin in the Temple lobby during the next few weeks.

HAMANTASCHEN BAKING

SUNDAY, MARCH 3
at 10:00 a.m.

Hamantaschen will be used for the Purim Dinner and Purim Carnival, as well being delivered to our members in need of cheer.

MEN'S CLUB

I am honored to be the new president for the Men's Club. Joining me on the Executive Committee are Treasurer - Barry Goldhoff, Social Media - Len Elgowsky, Immediate Past President - Scott Steinberg and Past President - Sam Lobar.

The Men's Club is off to a fast start in 2019. Our first event of the year was on Sunday, January 27 when we went candlepin bowling at the Wyoming Civic Center. All who attended enjoyed a great morning of socializing and bowling.

Our next event is Dads and Donuts on Sunday, February 24 at 9:15 AM. All dads, uncles, guardians, grandfathers and men over 18 are welcome to join their children before Sunday School for free donuts, juice and milk. After the children begin Sunday School we will have a general meeting at 10:00. You do not need to be a paid member to attend this event.

All families are welcome to join us at The Cincinnati Cyclones game on Saturday, March 16. Please watch for more information on how to purchase tickets and additional details for the event.

Finally, we are pleased to have a dinner and private tour of the Green Diamond Gallery in Montgomery on Monday, March 25. This member-only event will begin at 6:30 PM with dinner followed by a private tour given by our own David Clark. Stay tuned for more information on this great program.

If you are new to the temple, haven't participated in the Men's Club in the past or took a break from the Men's Club, I invite you to join us. If you have any ideas for the Men's Club, are interested in a leadership position, need more information or have any questions regarding the Men's Club, please contact me.

Wishing you a Happy and Healthy 2019!

Dan Perlmutter
President, Valley Temple Men's Club

MEN'S CLUB DADS AND DONUTS

Sunday February 24
9:15–9:45 am

Enjoy some donuts and drinks before religious school. Kids will still get to religious school on time. This is open to all Dads, Grandads, Uncles, and Guardians. Please also stay for the Men's Club General Meeting at 10:00am to find out more about Men's Club. Should you not get to Dad's and Donuts, you are welcome to attend the Men's Club meeting.

Men's Club Membership not required to attend, and all Valley Temple Men are welcome to join our meeting.

ADULT EDUCATION

WINTER/SPRING 2019

ADULT HEBREW CONTINUES...

א ב ג ד ה

Hebrew Aleph – Tuesdays at 6:30 p.m.
With Rabbi Sandford Kopnick

Knowledge of the Hebrew Alphabet required for second semester.

Hebrew Bet – Tuesdays at 6:30 p.m.
With Rabbi Judith Spicehandler

Continuing to read from the prayer book with an eye toward understanding what we're reading.

Hebrew Gimmel – Thursdays at 5:30 p.m.
With Rabbi Sandford Kopnick

For those who have toiled in Adult Hebrew for a while and want some understanding of prayers and Torah

Advanced Hebrew – Thursdays at 6:30 p.m.
With Rabbi Sandford Kopnick

Reading and translating Bible, Midrash, and a few selections from more modern sources.

SEMINARS

Israel through Jenny's Eyes....
Tuesday, February 19 at 7:30 p.m.

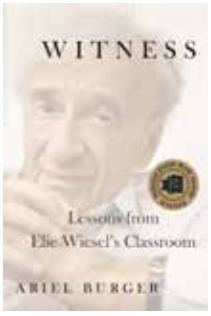
Last summer, Jenny Dapper went to Israel for an exchange program with other Cincinnatians and our Sister City of Netanya. The trip began with Israelis in Cincinnati, then immediately followed with a trip to Israel. The theme was pluralism. Join Jenny as she shares some of her experiences with the challenging issue of pluralism in Israel.

Israeli Hero in the American Mind....
With Dr. Mark Raider, UC History Professor

Mondays, February 25, March 4, and March 11 at 7:00 p.m.

The Israeli has been portrayed as an heroic figure in American culture. This seminar traces Zionism and Israel in American Jewish and general American consciousness over the course of the 20th century. Join Dr. Raider as we examine the Israeli hero as portrayed in cinema and other American art forms.

Dr. Raider is a faculty member of the University of Cincinnati History Department and recently finished a semester on Sabbatical in Haifa.



Witness: Three Lessons of Elie Wiesel
with Rabbi Sandford Kopnick

Tuesdays, April 9, 16, 23 at 7:30 p.m.

We will exam three of the lessons compiled from Elie Wiesel's Boston College classroom.

Jewish Poetry
Mondays, April 29 and May 6 at 7:00 p.m.

What is Jewish poetry? Dr. Norman Finkelstein of Xavier University will explain!

Norman Finkelstein is a poet, literary critic, and Professor of English at Xavier University, where he has taught since 1980.

Torah Study
Every Saturday at 9:30 a.m.

No previous experience expected!

Dan Nichols Musical Weekend
March 8-10, 2019

Including:
A Shabbat Lunch and Learn
About the Future of Jewish Prayer

We are grateful to the Robert and Charlotte Lanzit Adult Education Fund for sponsoring our presenters.

Dan Nichols Weekend sponsored by the Sass Family in memory of Robert Sass and the Seinsheimer Music Fund.

SUSTAINING THE GENERATIONS

We gratefully acknowledge the following contributions:

RABBI'S DISCRETIONARY FUND
A Chanukah gift; *from Andy & Sue Spohr*
In appreciation of Rabbi Kopnick; *from Chuck & Ricklie Vordenberge*
In appreciation of Rabbi Kopnick; *from Andy Stark*
In memory of Richard Solgan; *from Jeff & Linda Lazar*
In memory of Ann Waxman; *from Ernie Waxman*
In memory of Eugene Lazar; *from Jeff & Linda Lazar*
In memory of Louis Kaller; *from Neil & Lynn Kravitz*
In memory of Alan Bellintoff; *from Ivan & Kathie Tamarkin*
In memory of Joan Reckseit; *from Barry & Susan Austern*
In memory of Robert F. Stewart; *from Buz & Barb Stewart*
In memory of Mimi Berkowitz; *from Buz & Barb Stewart*
In memory of Sidney Berkowitz; *from Buz & Barb Stewart*
A gift from Bob Harris
In appreciation of Rabbi Kopnick; *from Marcia Chetwood*

SEINSHEIMER MUSIC FUND
A Chanukah gift
from Donna Goodman
from Chuck Frank and Jan Goldstein

In memory of Joseph Kanofsky; *from Judith Kanofsky*
In memory of Harold Blatt; *from Bernice Blatt*
In memory of Nathan Goodman; *from Donna Goodman*
In memory of John Siegel; *from Mark & Ellen Kovacic*
In memory of Robert D. Shore; *from John Shore*

ROBERT AND CHARLOTTE LANZIT ADULT EDUCATION FUND
In honor of Emmeram Morning; *from Kent & Jody Finley*
In appreciation; *from Thomas Steger*

LOUISE MARKS RELIGIOUS SCHOOL FUND
In memory of David Hochstein; *from Jenny Broh*

FRANCIE BROWN MEMORIAL OFFICE FUND
In appreciation of Wendy Walsh; *from Bob Harris*

CAMP SCHOLARSHIP FUND
A Chanukah gift
from Ken & Diane Mitman,
from Donna Levi
from Rob Strauss & Phyllis Bossin
from Jacqueline Frank
from Sam & Laura Lobar
from Mark Sass and Jan Rosenbaum-Sass
from Chuck Frank and Jan Goldstein
from Robert Levinson Minette Hoffheimer
from Bill & Rita Clark

In memory of Meyer Silver; *from Sue Price*

ALLEN AND SELMA WIENER BERKMAN SOCIAL ACTION FUND
A Chanukah gift
from Bob & Sylvia Maltz
from John & Helen Habbert

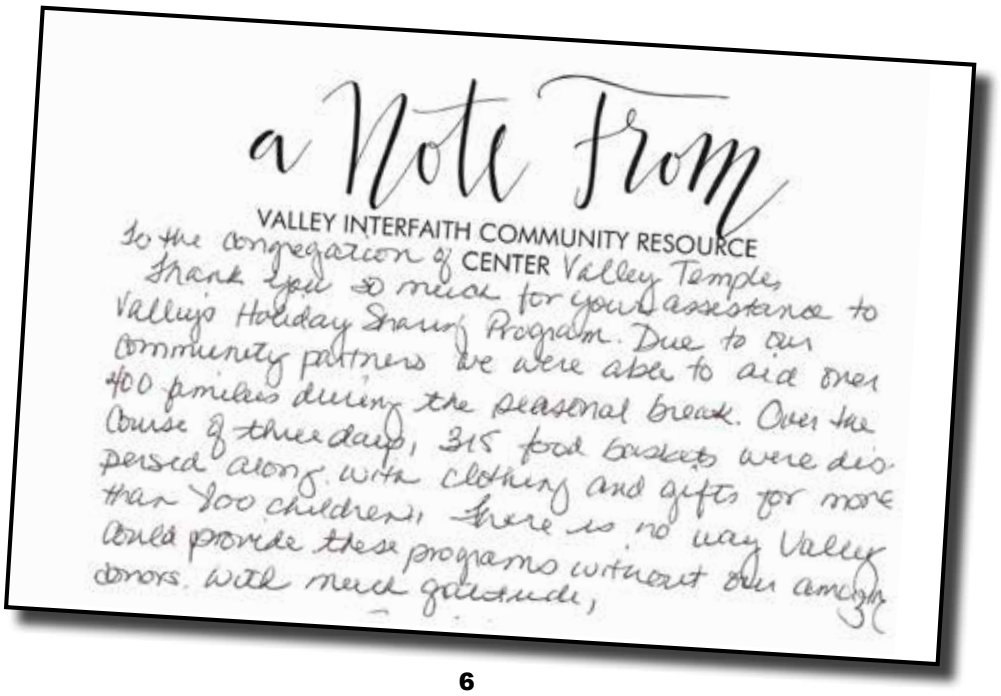
CONGREGATIONAL CARE FUND
In memory of Betty Lindenberg; *from David & Sharon Feldstein*

JANE MUNICK MEMORIAL GARDEN FUND
In memory of Esther Kanofsky; *from Judith Kanofsky*

VALLEY TEMPLE GENERAL FUND
In memory of John Terhar and Ruth Terhar; *from Kent & Jody Finley*

A Chanukah gift
from John Rosenthal
from Emmeram & Shelly Morning
from Mark & Robin Miller
from Jessica Dreskin
from Jenny Broh

ESTELLE WIGSER FLOWER FUND
In memory of Kim Stark; *from Andy Stark*


a Note From
VALLEY INTERFAITH COMMUNITY RESOURCE CENTER
To the congregation of Valley Temple,
Thank you so much for your assistance to Valley's Holiday Sharing Program. Due to our community partners we were able to aid over 400 families during the seasonal break. Over the course of three days, 315 food baskets were dispersed along with clothing and gifts for more than 900 children. There is no way Valley could provide these programs without our amazing donors. With much gratitude,

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

Devon Brandt	02/01
Jon Hoffheimer	02/02
Alanna Schlaeger	02/02
Simon Gunyan	02/03
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
Joel Davis	02/11
Dan Perlmutter	02/12
Karen Blatt	02/12
Gil Kaufman	02/13
Josh Knarr	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
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
Jackie Frank	02/26
Shayna Codd	02/27
Dedra Perlmutter	02/27
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

MISHEIBERACH

Barry Essig	Eveyln Essig	Danny Stempler
Barbara Swift	Bernice Blatt	Judy McKinny
Linda Lazar	Sue Spohr	

MAZAL TOV

Neil and Lynn Kravitz on the engagement of their son, Max to Felicia Rinaldi.

Rachel and Myron Katz on the birth of their daughter, Zora Jane

Fred and Anne Straus on the marriage of their son, David to Charla Heeren

Emily Ehrle upon receiving her LISW (Licensed Mental Health Social Therapist)

John Frank who will be inducted as a Great Living Cincinnatian by the Cincinnati USA Regional Chamber of Commerce

Marcia Deitsch on her marriage to Mark Chetwood

Amy Paul and Jerry Newfarmer and Howard Paul (of blessed memory) on the engagement of their son, Martin to Beverly Luedeker

Randi and Brian Kaplan on their son, Donnie, becoming a *Bar Mitzva*h

Scott Friend on receiving tenure at Miami University

OUR SYMPATHY

Cheryl Hecht and Sam Hecht on the death of their father and grandfather, David Hochstein

Peggy Barrett on the death of her mother, Betty Lindenberg

Jeannie Hiller on the death of her aunt, Mary Reilman

Susan Mantel on the death of her father, Robert L. Powell

Marcia Deitsch on the death of her father and Michael and Mark Deitsch on the death of their grandfather, James Weiss

Alicia Harris on the death of her grandfather, Ruben Harris

Miriam Raider-Roth on the death of her father, Walter Roth

SPONSORING AN ONEG SHABBAT

Help us continue our lovely tradition of providing delicious "goodies" at our Oneg Shabbats (the reception following services). These "onegs" are wonderful ways to celebrate the joy of the Sabbath, schmooze with members, meet new people and have a "nosh." Please help us maintain this tradition by calling Wendy at the Temple office for more information, or to say that you will sponsor an oneg. It can be in honor of a loved one, a special occasion, or just because!

Our thanks to the following families for sponsoring a recent oneg, a wonderful way to celebrate the joy of the Sabbath.

- Buz and Barbara Stewart and family in memory of Miriam and Sidney Berkowitz
- Sandy Hatfield and Aron Hatfield in memory of Marcia E. Geltner
- Ivan and Kathy Tamarkin in memory of Ida Tamarkin
- Jenny Dapper in memory of Mark Dapper

the valley temple
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Sandford R. Kopnick, Rabbi
Solomon T. Greenberg, Rabbi Emeritus
Wendy Walsh, Temple Administrator
Robyn Friend, Director of Education
Laura Lobar, President
Allison Schneider, President, Women of Reform Judaism
Dan Perlmutter, President, Men's Club

513-761-3555
WEBSITE: www.valleytemple.com
E-MAIL: wendy@valleytemple.com
or use links at valleytemple.com

Dan Nichols

musician-in-residence

SAVE THE DATE

FRIDAY, MARCH 8 – SUNDAY, MARCH 10

Friday, March 8
7:30 p.m. - Shabbat Service

Saturday, March 9
10:00 a.m. - Tot Service
10:30 a.m. - Service
11:30 a.m. Lunch and Learn: The Future of Jewish Prayer
7:30 p.m. – Havdalah & Adult Coffee House.
Bring a dessert to share.

Sunday, March 10
11:00 a.m. – Family Concert

Our thanks to the Sass Family in memory of Robert Sass, a friend of Valley Temple and a grant from the Jewish Foundation of Cincinnati whose donations helped to make Dan's visit possible.