



OCTOBER 2022 / TISHREI - CHESVAN 5783

RELIGIOUS SERVICES

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 1

9:30 a.m. Torah Study
10:30 a.m. Shabbat Service
Torah Portion – *Vayeilech*, Deuteronomy 31:1-30

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 4, 8:00 p.m.

Erev Yom Kippur / Kol Nidre

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 5

Yom Kippur
9:00 a.m. Family Service
10:15 a.m. Tot Service
10:45 a.m. *Mishkan HaNefesh* Service
2:45 p.m. Afternoon Service
4:15 p.m. *Yizkor* & Concluding Service

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 7, 7:30 p.m.

Shabbat Service

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 8

9:30 a.m. Torah Study
10:30 a.m. Shabbat Service
Torah Portion – *Haazinu*, Deuteronomy 32:1-52

**Sukkah Building with the Men's Club on
Sunday, October 9th after Religious School**

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 9, 7:00 p.m.

Outdoor *Sukkot* Service
(Dinner & Sukkah decorating at 6:00 p.m., RSVP required)

MONDAY, OCTOBER 10, 9:00 a.m.

Sukkot Festival Morning Service

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 14

Family Shabbat Service
Music: Charlene Gubitzi

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 15

9:30 a.m. Torah Study
10:30 a.m. Shabbat Service
Music: Charlene Gubitzi
Torah Portion – *Chol HaMo'ed Sukkot*,
Exodus 33:12-34:26

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 16, 7:00 p.m.

Simchat Torah Family Service for all ages

MONDAY, OCTOBER 17, 9:00 a.m.

Simchat Torah Morning Service
Yizkor prayers will be read

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 21, 7:30 p.m.

Shabbat Service
Music: Marilyn Zelcer

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 22

9:30 a.m. Torah Study
10:30 a.m. Shabbat Service
Torah Portion – *B'reishit*, Genesis 1:1-6:8

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 28, 7:30 p.m.

Shabbat Service
Music: Friday Night Live

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 29

9:30 a.m. Torah Study
10:30 a.m. Shabbat Service
Torah Portion – *Noach*, Genesis 6:9-11:32

VALLEY TEMPLE GOES TO THE
ZOO
FAMILY EDUCATION FIELD
TRIP TO THE CINCINNATI ZOO
(NO SCHOOL AT TEMPLE)
OCTOBER 30TH
10 TO 12
RSVP TO RABBI ZOO(T)
IN PARTNERSHIP WITH ROCKDALE
TEMPLE AND TEMPLE SHOLOM





FROM THE RABBI... Sandford R. Kopnick

Yizkor...how it helps.

Some in our midst have endured remarkable loss. We all know death is a part of life, and comforting the bereaved is a mitzvah that helps us care for each other. Just as our presence at shiva or the graveside can help our friends, mourners who attend *Yizkor* services can connect with emotions and memories in ways that help structure our relationship with a world without our loved one's physical presence.

Yizkor services happen on *Yom Kippur* afternoon, and at the conclusion of *Sukkot*, Passover, and on *Shavuot*. That means, four times a year, our tradition intends for us to give ourselves a chance to remember among members of the community who have also lost loved ones. It gives us liturgy to help us find perspective as we contemplate the enormity of our loss. And it also helps us reconnect with God.

Truth is, death is a challenge to faith in God unlike any other. We intellectually know that life ends, no one lives forever. Our mortality is something we understand, yet are furious about when it includes pain, suffering, randomness, and more. And our anger can be directed at a human who (in rare cases) are actually responsible for the death. But frequently our faith in God is tested. Questions are thrust toward God who is unlikely to give us a direct answer. *Yizkor* is to replace the question of why, and place in front of us the reality that death is part of life, and it is up to us to acknowledge it, without allowing death to remove us from the community and from God.

So, we have *Yizkor* four times a year. We have *yahrtzeit* on the anniversary of the death. Surviving family members frequently try to honor the death of a loved one by living their lives with even greater purpose and by remembering their departed family as they were in their highest moments. Connecting with the community of mourners at *Yizkor* also allows us all to check in on our mourning and the progress we've made since the death and/or the last *Yizkor* service.

Consider being part of our prayer community at all of the *Yizkor* services this year. Consider the way it can help with mental health of yourself—or of members of the community who will value your presence when they are participating. And if there are questions, please do call and let's talk.

G'mar Chatimah Tovah—May we all be sealed in the Book of Life for another year!

Sandford R. Kopnick, Rabbi

MAZAL TOV MARK SASS



During a recent meeting of URJ North American Board (NAB), Mark Sass, was recently honored by the URJ North American Board for his now-completed service as a NAB trustee. Thank you, Mark for all your contributions to our Reform Movement. Below is the tribute that was paid to Mark:

Even before he joined the board in 2013, Mark was engaged in camp and youth activities. Mark served on the URJ Goldman Union Camp Institute (GUCI) Committee from 2007. And in 2014, he joined the URJ North American Camping (NAC) Committee. "To whatever extent I was involved, working on youth issues and in particular, overnight camp, was most appealing. I saw first-hand through my children how impactful it could be and I've been as supportive as possible ever since. This also overlapped with my professional life, given the work I continue to do for the Foundation for Jewish Camp."

Mark serves on the NAB Trustees Committee and is a member of its Surveys & Evaluations working team. For Mark, personal connections were among his most meaningful Board experiences. He also savored experiences ranging from delicious BBQ in San Antonio to high-level conversations, such as a small group discussion with Larry Hogan, Governor of MD. Mark recalls, "listening to Rabbi Jacobs describe his discussions while in Israel and thinking how fortunate I was to be up close and personal hearing his description of events and personal insights."

Mark is past president and a member of The Valley Temple in Cincinnati, Ohio. Mark wants to share these thoughts with our board, "I love your dedication and commitment. And I think we are blessed with outstanding leadership."

MAZAL TOV to Mark and thank you for all you have done for the Union and for Valley Temple.

A SPECIAL THANK YOU

Thank you to Craig and Debby Hoffheimer and family and Minette Hoffheimer for their donation for the flowers for our *Rosh Hashanah* services in memory of Philip Goldsmith and Arthur Hoffheimer, Jr.

Thank you to Bobbie Reckseit for her donation for the flowers for the *Yom Kippur* services in memory of Bernard "Reggie" Reckseit.



RABBI/EDUCATOR'S MESSAGE

Austin Zoot

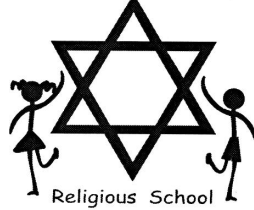
We spend a lot of our time in Jewish spaces praying. But we don't spend quite so much time talking about how we, as individuals, experience prayer. After all, services are meant to be a pathway for us to communicate with the Divine, and many of us have complex, conflicting conceptions of God in the first place. Yet, the system and the structures that we use as our foundation of worship is foreign to many of us, both in language and in practice. Explaining and describing prayer within the confines of a service can often distract us and pull us out of the spiritual moment in and of itself. So how do we create a strong relationship with our liturgy without over-explaining in the moment?

In preparation for the *B'nei Mitzvah* experience, we have started a new curriculum for our 5th and 6th graders to try to build that comfort and familiarity with the prayer service as early as possible. Each week, the students will get to read one of the essential prayers that they will encounter during their upcoming tutoring sessions. Learners will get to read the prayer, in English and in Hebrew, and process how it makes them feel. They will get to see a selection of interpretations, the likes of which they are going to be able to find in our prayer book, *Mishkan T'filah*. Then, based on what they learn about their connection to a particular piece of liturgy, the class will create art projects that depict their interpretation of what the prayer means to them. The hope is that by the end of the year, we will have created individualized museum exhibits, each representing how one child encounters the worship service that they will one day lead as part of their *B'nei Mitzvah* ceremony.

Over the course of the year, the students will get to work with a variety of different media, including a few fun "challenges." One prayer, for example, might require them to create an Audio/Visual project, rather than a physical piece, using the iPads the school has specifically for this type of hands-on learning. One week, the students will be expected to create art with exclusively things they can find in nature. Other weeks, the students will be able to go "shopping" in our Religious School store room, and place orders for any materials they can imagine that we don't have at their disposal. Both literally and symbolically, we are going to show our students that the only limit to their ability to encounter the beauty of prayer is their own creativity. By the time a student has their *B'nei Mitzvah*, they will be able to find the service more accessible and maybe even more rewarding.

When prayer is facilitated well, it can be an incredibly

The Valley Temple



ועזנתם לבניך

powerful way to connect with Jewish tradition, with community, and with God. Our ultimate goal as a learning congregation is to provide the key to this magnificent language of meaning-making, and this curriculum has the potential to create a lasting connection between prayer and pray-er. If I know anything about Judaism, the class will wind up with more questions than they have answers. But that is exactly the point. We hope to inspire in our students such a curiosity for our rituals that Judaism can continue to remain a vibrant and beautiful part of their identity, well beyond their preparation for their coming-of-age ceremony.

Rabbi Austin Zoot
Rabbi/Educator



We are grateful to the Jewish Federation of Cincinnati's S.E.E.D. Program, The Jewish Foundation of Cincinnati and an anonymous donor for their support in funding this position.



Sisterhood Happenings

We had a wonderful start to the year in September! Our first meeting had a great turnout and was very productive. We have some great ideas of programming to bring to all of you for the coming year. Then, in partnership with the Men's Club, we had a wonderful congregational picnic with lots of food and laughter. A big thank you to all our volunteers who helped out! We were also grateful that we were able to distribute challah to the congregation at *Rosh Hashanah* again this year. We had missed that tradition the past few years.

Every year, the Mayerson JCC hosts a community art exhibit celebrating the festival of *Sukkot*. This year, an amazing group of our sisters designed a beautiful panel to be displayed. This year's theme was *L'dor v'dor*, from generation to generation. Please join us on Sunday, October 9th at 10 am in the Mayerson JCC courtyard for a reception and food drive where you can see our panel along with many others from around the Jewish community. A huge thank you to Andrea Beck, Dedra Perlmutter, Kathy Schlaegar and Jan Goldstein for creating this wonderful piece. You can register for the reception here: <https://mayersonjcc.org/register/under-one-roof-art-reception-jfs-food-drive/>

Towards the end of the month we will have our next meeting. Join us on Sunday, October 23rd at 10:00 a.m. for the meeting. It will be followed by an hour of programming at 11:00 a.m. Look for more details on that soon. Our meeting will be in person in the Boardroom or you can use our Zoom option with the following link. <https://bit.ly/GeneralMeetingsVTS>

Finally we will have Mahjong from 12:30 to 3:30 pm on the 23rd. If you are interested in Mahjong, please email Susan Hoffheimer at shoffheimer@gmail.com.



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Jody Finley

Food donation at *Yom Kippur* is a Valley Temple tradition. Bringing a bag of food to the Temple between *Rosh Hashanah* and *Yom Kippur* is a concrete thing we can do to help our community. We're asking for your help again this year. The need is great and, during this time of year, the food pantry shelves are empty.

Unfortunately, food insecurity is with us year round, but Valley volunteers are working to help address the need. Jeannie and Bob Hiller lead a group of wonderful volunteers who now prepare and serve food at the Queen City Kitchen. Jeannie and Bob took over leading these efforts back in 2012 and have been organizing the Valley Temple volunteer crew ever since.

I know from personal experience that community food resources change lives. My grandmother was widowed and penniless during the Great Depression. Unable to feed her children, she made arrangements to place my mother and her two brothers in an orphanage. Fortunately, my grandmother received a job offer from a local soup kitchen at the last minute. This allowed her to be able to keep, and feed, her children.

I asked Jeannie why it's so important to her to volunteer. "We like working with other Temple members and we feel good when the clients are so appreciative of our donation, time and energy," Jeannie said. "We enjoy the staff working with the kitchen and it's always a rewarding experience. It's important because there are many people struggling to feed themselves and their families." I have prepped and served food with the Valley volunteers, and I strongly agree with Jeannie – you meet wonderful people and fill an important community need.

Gemilut chasadim (acts of loving kindness) are an important part of our Jewish tradition. I hope this High Holiday season inspires you to consider embracing the difference you can make.

Best for now,

Jody Finley

OUR SYMPATHY

Janelle Gelfand (Michael), Karin O'Neill (Michael) and Katy and Jack O'Neill on the death of their mother, grandmother and great grandmother, Ruth Magnuson

Linda Lazar on the death of her cousin, Edward Kimball

Barbara (Harvey) Katz on the death of her brother, Edward Levy

VALLEY TEMPLE TIKKUN OLAM

Our Valley Temple *Tikkun Olam* will offer many opportunities for members of our community to experience *T'Shuvah*, a return to our highest selves, by helping create a better future for ourselves, our families, our friends, and our communities.

Plans are still being finalized, but goals include:

- Having a barrel in the lobby for monthly donations to various recipients, such as Valley Interfaith Community Resource, Interfaith Hospitality Network, Shelter House, Bethany House
- An Adult Education session featuring the movie "Just Mercy" and discussion of death penalty.
- Promoting and participating in Queen City Soup Kitchen (led by Jeannie Hiller)
- Participating in the RAC/ URJ "Every Voice, Every Vote" campaign.

We need more input and more participants as we plan for the upcoming year.

If you are interested in working on these issues or have ideas of other avenues to pursue, contact:

Linda Lazar - lazarjl1@fuse.net

Helen Waits - bindywaits@gmail.com

Please check out the websites of the Religious Action Center of Reform Judaism or the Union for Reform Judaism under "Advocacy" for ways to be involved in all the issues above and more.

RAC | Religious Action Center of Reform Judaism

<https://rac.org>

Union for Reform Judaism: URJ

<https://urj.org>

"There's no way to get from here to there except by joining hands, marching together"

MISHEIBERACH

Bernice Blatt
Michael Gelfand
Ron Kull
Minette Hoffheimer

Gila Naveh
Irving Harris
Alberta Hemsley
Danny Stempler

THANK YOU!



Thank you to Andy and Sue Spohr for their generous contribution to build the Torah showcase in our Atrium Room to display our Holocaust Scroll.

OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

Scott Steinberg	10/01
Judy Levy	10/01
Diane L. Mitman	10/01
Austin Zoot	10/01
Phil Sawin	10/02
Henry Bernay	10/03
Steven Hecht	10/04
Joelle Luebbers Levine	10/04
Izar Spivak	10/05
Richard Blatt	10/06
Charles Steed	10/09
Connor McClelland	10/09
Jeffrey Marks	10/12
Zoe Nourie	10/13
Jennie Waits	10/15
David S. Levine	10/15
Ron Kull	10/17
Logan Fritsch	10/17
Carol Appel	10/17
Sara Naveh	10/20
Alex Kopnick	10/21
Ari Buchwald	10/21
Neil Bortz	10/21
Bette Sherman	10/22
Sandy Hatfield	10/23
Lillian Plum Gartenlaub	10/23
Judy Green	10/24
Max Kravitz	10/26
Micah Schneider	10/27
Cindy Pinsky	10/28
William Klein	10/29
Rebecca Klein	10/31
Donald H. Dornheggen II	10/31

OCTOBER ANNIVERSARIES

Mark & Ellen Kovacic	10/07/1979
David & Shannon Clark	10/12/2002
Marnie & Steve Hayutin	10/16/1994
Chad Munitz & Michelle Lightfoot	10/17
Ernie & Helen Waits, Jr.	10/19/1986
Daniel & Dedra Perlmutter	10/22/2000
Jeff & Kathy Schlaeger	10/21/1994
John & Jean Amber	10/26/1962

SUSTAINING THE GENERATIONS

We gratefully acknowledge the following contributions:

RABBI'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

In memory of Erwin Colish; *from Lynn & Neil Kravitz*
In memory of Ruth Kravitz; *from Lynn & Neil Kravitz*

RABBI/EDUCATOR DISCRETIONARY FUND

In memory of Thomas Green; *from Sandra Green*

ROBERT & CHARLOTTE LANZIT ADULT EDUCATION FUND

In appreciation of Valley Temple; *from Tom Steger*

ALLEN & SELMA WIENER BERKMAN SOCIAL ACTION FUND

In memory of Sarah Singer Nourie;
from Ron & Alice Weitzenkorn

CAMP SCHOLARSHIP FUND

In memory of Jack Kerman; *from Helen & Elliot Spieler*
In memory of Caryl Festenstein; *from Rob Festenstein*

CONGREGATIONAL CARE FUND

In memory of Florence Goodman; *from Donna Goodman*

ESTELLE WIGSER FLOWER FUND

In memory of Jane Hoffheimer Allen; *from Minette Hoffheimer*

NOW GIVING IS EVEN EASIER:

Go to ValleyTemple.com and click on "Giving"

Thank you to the following for sponsoring recent onegs:

Julie & Kyle Niemeier and Aaron & Julie Fritsch
in honor of Kyle Fritsch becoming a Bar Mitzvah

Amy Paul & Jerry Newfarmer in
honor of the baby naming of Garrett Paul.

Brad & Melissa Singer in honor of Rabbi Zoot's birthday.

ANNUAL HIGH HOLY DAY FOOD DRIVE

HELP US FILL THE SHELVES OF THE VALLEY INTERFAITH COMMUNITY RESOURCE CENTER

A reminder to bring your grocery bag(s) filled with non perishable food items to Yom Kippur services (Erev Yom Kippur, Yom Kippur Family or Morning Service) or during the week between Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur.

BRING YOUR BAGS INTO THE TEMPLE LOBBY OR LEAVE ON CART OUTSIDE.



Volunteers will be needed Thursday, October 6 at 1:00 p.m.
to load the truck and deliver the food. Please volunteer!

THE NEED IS GREAT – PLEASE BE GENEROUS!



ADULT EDUCATION FALL 2022

ADULT HEBREW

אבג

Aleph: Josiah Dapper Sundays at 10:00 a.m. in the Temple Library

Bet: With Rabbi Sanford Kopnick on Tuesdays at 6:30 p.m.

Gimmel: With Rabbi Judy Spicehandler on Tuesdays at 6:30 in the Temple Board Room

BEGINS WEEK OF OCTOBER 9

SEMINARS

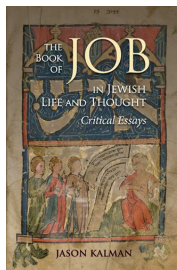
PROFESSOR GILA NAVEH: JEWS AND FILM: HOW DID JEWS GET THERE AND WHY?



Three Tuesdays, October 18, 25, November 1 at 7:30 p.m.

Professor Naveh is a celebrated professor emerita from the University of Cincinnati and immediate past chair of the UC Judaic Studies Department

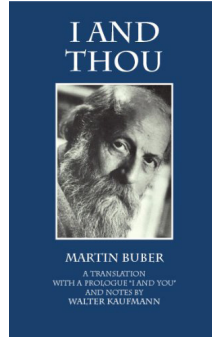
JASON KALMAN: A NEW LOOK AT THE BOOK OF JOB



3 Tuesdays, November 29, December 6, December 13 at 7:30 p.m.

Dr. Kalman's new book examines the Biblical Book of Job in Jewish Life and through critical essays. His book, published in January of 2022, will serve as our guide for these three sessions. No prior experience expected. Join us as we explore the insights of this most challenging book.

BOOK REVIEW: I AND THOU BY MARTIN BUBER WITH RABBI SANDFORD KOPNICK

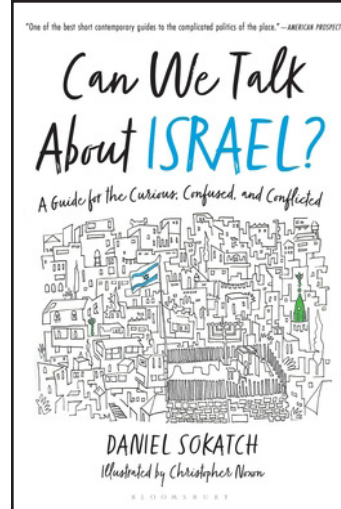


Thursday, November 10 at 7:00 p.m.

Martin Buber is one of the 20th Century's most celebrated modern Jewish philosophers. His famous understanding of the relationships described in *I and Thou* have helped Jewish people connect with God and more. While not easy, we will try to understand some of what Dr. Buber intends for us to learn. Feel free to look at *I and Thou* prior to joining us on November 10.

You are not required, however, to read in advance.

SPECIAL NIGHT WITH THE AUTHOR: CAN WE TALK ABOUT ISRAEL: A GUIDE FOR THE CURIOUS, CONFUSED, AND CONFLICTED. BY DANIEL SOKATCH



Thursday, December 1 at 7:00 p.m.

Daniel Sokatch is the CEO of the New Israel Fund and author of the new book on Israel. He has traveled the country promoting the book, and, thereby, promoting an understanding of Israel, with the successes and flaws that come with it. Daniel is an accomplished Jewish professional, having founded the Progressive Jewish Alliance. He has published works in various periodicals, and is being well received for his book on Israel. Daniel Sokatch was raised from age 11 at the Valley Temple and is an alum of Goldman Union Camp.



145 springfield pike
wyoming, oh 45215

Sandford R. Kopnick, Rabbi
Austin Zoot, Rabbi/Educator
Wendy Walsh, Temple Administrator
Solomon T. Greenberg, Rabbi Emeritus
Jody Finley, President
Sue Mantel & Stacey Spivak, Co-Presidents,
Women of Reform Judaism
Ari Buchwald, President, Men's Club

513-761-3555

WEBSITE: www.valleytemple.com

E-MAIL: wendy@valleytemple.com

NON PROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
CINCINNATI, OHIO
PERMIT NO. 2333

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

SUKKOT

CELEBRATION



Sunday, October 9

Decorate the Sukkah

6:00 p.m. Dinner

Adults \$10 | Kids \$5 (12 and under)

7:00 p.m. Service

Monday, October 10

9:00 a.m. Festival Service

Reservations at admin@valleytemple.com



Sunday, October 16

7:00 p.m. Service

Monday, October 17

9:00 a.m. Festival Service

Simchat Torah

CELEBRATION