



**Chanukah First Candle:
Sunday, December 18**

**DECEMBER 2022 - JANUARY 2023 /
KISLEV - SH'VAT 5783**

RELIGIOUS SERVICES

DECEMBER

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 2, 7:30 p.m.

Shabbat Service
Music: Marilyn Zelcer

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 3

9:30 a.m. Torah Study
10:30 a.m. Shabbat Service
Torah Portion – *Vayeitzei*, Genesis 28:10-32:3

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 9

Family Shabbat Service
Music: Friday Night Live

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 10

9:30 a.m. Torah Study
9:45 a.m. Tot Service
10:30 a.m. Shabbat Service
Music: Charlene Gubitx
Torah Portion – *Vayishlach*, Genesis 32:4-36:43

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 16, 7:30 p.m.

Shabbat Service with *Chanukah*
Celebration & Consecration
Music: Leslie Gubitx
Oneg Shabbat hosted by the families
of our consecrants in honor of this special occasion

**SEE BACK PAGE
FOR RSVP**

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 17

9:30 a.m. Torah Study
10:30 a.m. Shabbat Service
Torah Portion – *Vayeishev*, Genesis 37:1-40:23

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 23, 7:30 p.m.

Shabbat Service
Music: Marilyn Zelcer

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 24

9:30 a.m. Torah Study
10:30 a.m. Shabbat Service
Torah Portion – *Mikeitz*, Genesis 41:1-44:17

TOT SHABBAT

Saturday, December 10 at 9:45 a.m.



Join us for puppets, prayers, songs
and a story for children birth to 6.

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

Shabbat Service

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 31

9:30 a.m. Torah Study
10:30 a.m. Shabbat Service
Torah Portion – *Vayigash*, Genesis 44:18—47:27

JANUARY 2023

FRIDAY, JANUARY 6, 7:30 p.m.

Shabbat Service
Music: Marilyn Zelcer

SATURDAY, JANUARY 7

9:30 a.m. Torah Study
10:30 a.m. Shabbat Service
Torah Portion – *Vayechi*, Genesis 47:28-50:26

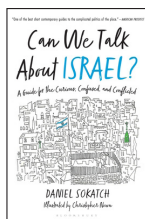
FRIDAY, JANUARY 13

Family Shabbat Service
Music: Leslie Gubitx

SATURDAY, JANUARY 14

9:30 a.m. Torah Study
10:30 a.m. Shabbat Service
Torah Portion – *Sh'mot*, Exodus 1:1-6:1

**Turn to p. 2 for
more services**



**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.**



FROM THE RABBI... Sandford R. Kopnick

Transliteration... Really?

Chanukah is a holiday that brings light in a dark time of the year. *Chanukah* is a time where the theme of rededication permeates and inspires us to double down on our Judaism. *Chanukah* is a time of joy and dreidel. And, sadly, *Chanukah* is a time where the holiday is frequently mispronounced.

I blame Hallmark. When buying a *Chanukah* card, frequently the holiday is spelled “Hannukah.” English does not have a letter that makes that guttural “ch” sound, like at the end of “Baruch.” Stick with me, here, we’re learning together!

Transliteration systems vary. Hebrew has a few letters that make the same sounds. There are two ways to make “k” and “v” sounds, and two ways to make a “ch” sound. Transliteration helps pronounce words, but it also needed to help readers know which letters form the words. So, “K and Q” were used, “v” and “W(!)” were used, and “Ch” and an “h” with a dot under it were used. The “H with the dot under it” is the culprit.

As I write this, there is no way that I can find to put a dot under an “h” on this keyboard. So, the dot was dropped by printers the world over, and, therefore, the holiday of *Chanukah* has been mispronounced ever since. Then, unwitting Jews trying to be kind, sent these poorly spelled cards, party banners, gift tags, and balloons throughout the world.

So, have some milk or put cream in your coffee to help get your “ch” going, and rev up to say it loud and proud: *Chanukah*. We don’t say *Barooh atah Adonai*, we say *Baruch atah Adonai*. So, we should say *Chanukah*, not Hannukah. What a public service this has been.

Regardless of whether you change the way you say it, I pray that *Chanukah* will be meaningful to you and yours. I pray that you’ll find ways to be generous to those who celebrate more important holidays in December, and ways you’ll add light to those who find their paths forward too dark. And I pray that you’ll rededicate yourselves to helping us and our country build community through the joy of our Jewish heritage.

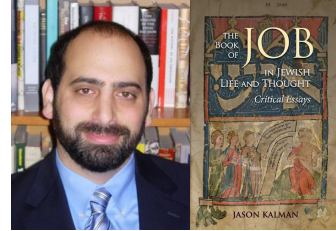
May God bless us all with a wonderful *Chanukah*, and help us all to get our “ch” back!

Chag (not Hag) *Samayach* (Happy Holiday)

Sandford R. Kopnick, Rabbi

ADULT EDUCATION

PROFESSOR JASON KALMAN: A NEW LOOK AT THE BOOK OF JOB



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 sessions.

No prior experience expected. Join us as we explore the insights of this most challenging book.



To answer your questions about the Jewish Legacy Program and to complete a one-page Letter of Intent, contact any member of the CYJL Committee, Rabbi Kopnick or Wendy Walsh. The committee members are: David Feldstein, Linda Lazar, Sam Lobar, and Elliot Spieler. Your participation in the Create Your Jewish Legacy program is a mitzvah that will help Valley Temple now and for many years into the future.

RELIGIOUS SERVICES CONTINUED

FRIDAY, JANUARY 20, 7:30 p.m.

Music: Friday Night Live

SATURDAY, JANUARY 23

9:30 a.m. Torah Study

10:30 a.m. Shabbat Service

Torah Portion – *Va-eira*, Exodus 6:2-9:35

FRIDAY, JANUARY 27, 7:30 p.m.

Shabbat Service

Music: Marilyn Zelcer

SATURDAY, JANUARY 28

9:30 a.m. Torah Study

10:30 a.m. Shabbat Service

Torah Portion – *Bo*, Exodus 10:1-13:16



RABBI/EDUCATOR'S MESSAGE

Austin Zoot

“The Valley Temple Religious School’s mission is to develop in each child a positive Jewish identity through the joy of learning together, inspiring all of them to weave Jewish ideals into the rest of their lives.”

The Valley Temple



ושנתם לבניך

I keep a piece of paper with this mission statement within arm’s reach on my desk at all times. Because, as we approach the end of the first semester of our program, I am constantly called to remember our reason for being. There are so many targets that we can hit as a school: we can try to teach as much information about Judaism as possible, can offer encounters with rituals, can have a ton of fun. But one of the easiest (and most intimidating) things we can do is grow complacent. It is so easy for us to get stuck in the routine of teaching the same things year in and year out, and allowing our students to get stuck in the monotony of supplemental education.

This is of course not to say that we are growing stale. Quite far from it. Our program, especially in the face of recent challenges brought on by the pandemic, has proven to be resilient, vibrant, and a source of endless joy and celebration. During these past two years, it has been a unique gift to be able to see the great qualities of our school shine through, even when circumstances made so many of our traditions less accessible than ever before.

But as we continue to explore what the future holds, I love the opportunity to constantly re-center to the target. When I read our mission statement, my eyes are drawn to two distinct words.

The first is “positive.” This doesn’t mean that everything we teach is happy and cozy. It does mean that when we give the gift of Judaism to our learners of all ages, we are obligated to do so in a way that makes their lives better. We owe it to our learners to keep their needs in mind at all times, and to ensure that the things we teach are actually applicable to the lives that they are living. There are plenty of spaces in a person’s life that makes them feel obligated, put-upon, condescended, and undervalued. Your synagogue should never be one of those places.

The other striking word to me is “weave.” Judaism, when done best, is not something you take off and put on at convenient moments. Rather, it is a part of our identity, something we carry in the very fabric of our identity. This requires that we be fully present and attentive to the needs of our everyday reality. We can’t force Judaism into a person’s life, nor can we force a person into Judaism.

When we are at our best, we are finding ways to integrate the two, to build something that is sustainable and impactful and fluid to the changing circumstances in which we find ourselves.

There are lots of ways to serve our mission statement on a day-to-day basis, and there are a lot of choices to be made. I can’t promise that we are always going to make the right decisions, because perfection is not a Jewish value. But I can promise that, as we make decisions, our guiding principles will continually give us the opportunity to ask the right questions, and to constantly remember why it is that we are doing this in the first place. We, at the Valley Temple Religious School in particular and the congregation as a whole, are here to provide a meaningful, positive, and holistic relationship to Judaism and to the sacred, in order that we may be able to give one another the gift of purpose, joy, and love. That’s a high bar to clear, but I have plenty of faith in each of us to do great things with great intention.

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.

RECENT FAMILY EDUCATION WITH RELIGIOUS SCHOOL



WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

Matthew Diamond

Betty Rosenthal

Brett Schwartz and Deena Abernathy,
Sadie, Oliver and Naomi

Alicia and John Stoughton, Ruth, Jack and Maia

Mackezie Rocquemore and Nicholas Hall

Lawrence and Marsha Schneider



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE Jody Finley

On behalf of the Board of Valley Temple Trustees, wishing everyone in our Valley Temple family, a warm and joyful Chanukah. I hope to see everyone at the *Chanukah* dinner and service.

Best for now,

Jody Finley

VALLEY TEMPLE TIKKUN OLAM

There are multiple ways to engage in Tikkun Olam, in ways that reflect our Reform Jewish values.

If you've been in the Valley Temple lobby recently, you may have noticed a large blue barrel. We are collaborating with Sisterhood, to provide monthly donations to community agencies. Each month we will identify a specific agency to collect items for: In November we provided food for our yearly Thanksgiving donations to the Valley Interfaith Community Resource Center. December will be a toy donation for West End Sisters For Life, and January will be diaper donations for families that can't afford diapers for their children, through the "Sweet Cheeks" Diaper Bank of Cincinnati. We have tentative plans for the rest of the 2023 year, so please watch the newsletters and emails for more details and opportunities to be involved.

Valley Temple Sisterhood members and other congregants were deeply engaged in promoting the very Jewish value of voting, having sent out about 750 postcards for the "Every Voice, Every Vote" campaign of the Religious Action Center (RAC) and the Center for Common Ground/ Reclaim Our Vote. We will continue to work with RAC/URJ on state and national Social/ Racial justice priorities, including the No Death Penalty Ohio campaign; encouraging Congress to permanently expand the Child Tax Credit; addressing Racism, Homophobia, Ableism and more in our communities; and other issues as they arise.

If you are interested in receiving emails from RAC-OH to be notified of upcoming events, please email Amanda Rosenberg (admin@valleytemple.com) or Linda Lazar (lazarjl1@fuse.net)

בְּרוּךְ אַתָּה, יי אֱלֹהֵינוּ, מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם,

שָׁנָתָן לָנוּ הַזְדַּמְנוּת לְתַקֵּן אֶת הָעוֹלָם

*Baruch atah Adonai, Eloheinu Melech ha-olam
Shenatan lanu hizdamnut l'takein et ha olam.*

Blessed are You, Adonai, our God, Ruler of the universe,
for giving us the opportunity to mend the world.



Sisterhood Happenings

It is so nice to be back in person at our sisterhood meetings. Our monthly meetings are structured with business for the first hour and a speaker or activity for the second hour. I have enjoyed seeing so many familiar women and to welcome new women.

Our membership dues are coming in right now. It is great to see so many people sending in their dues at the sustaining level. Moreover, more than 10 women, who did not join last year, have joined (or re-joined) this year. I am so excited to see this greater level of involvement.

If you have not yet sent in your membership dues – it is not too late – just renew at <https://www.valleytemple.com/sisterhood/> and find the section "Pay your Sisterhood Dues with PayPal" or, If you would prefer a mail membership form – print one off from this link:

https://bit.ly/2022_Sisterhood_form and return it to the temple. For questions reach out to Sue Mantel at mantelsp@ucmail.uc.edu.

DINNER OUT

Prior to COVID, Sisterhood had monthly "dinner out" – these were fun evenings with our Sisterhood friends to enjoy a meal. During COVID, we could not do that – so we started "cooking with sisterhood" and got together via zoom to cook together. Now, we have resumed the "dinner out" option and will be at Oriental Wok on Madison on December 7. We hope you can join us this month or in future months.

MAHJONG

We have also started to play Mahjong once per month. All levels of play are welcome. For more information reach out to Susan Hoffheimer at shoffheimer@gmail.com.

GIFTWRAPPING RETURNS

Sisterhood will be wrapping presents again this holiday season – this is a fun event and it makes us a lot of money. Save the dates of December 23 and 24 – more details to follow. For more information: Sue Spohr at saspohr222@gmail.com

UPCOMING MEETINGS

December 11 - Chanukah gift exchange

January 8 - "Stop the Bleed" Presentation

by Wyoming Police

Social Action: Toy donations for West End Sisters For Life

MISHEIBERACH

Bernice Blatt

Michael Gelfand

Ron Kull

Minette Hoffheimer

Irving Harris

Alberta Hemsley

Danny Stempler

Nancy Dornheggen

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Laurie Marks	12/01
Karin Gelfand O'Neill	12/01
Larry Wolf	12/03
Corey Denham	12/03
Randy Russell	12/04
Andrea Beck	12/06
Rachel Ran	12/08
Ben Verchick	12/08
Judy Silverman	12/09
Barbara Stewart	12/12
Micah Nourie	12/13
Helen Spieler	12/13
Dori Zoot	12/13
Rachel Stewart	12/15
Alex Spohr	12/15
Jonah Raider-Roth	12/15
Carenjean Walter	12/15
Jean Amber	12/17
Kathy Schlaeger	12/17
Jeff Sweren	12/17
Talia Raider-Roth	12/18
Sally Waxman	12/19
Robert Hiller	12/19
John Schneider	12/20
Harrison Knarr	12/20
Donald Pollack	12/22
Barry Goldhoff	12/22
Marsha Pinsky	12/25
Alan Schneider	12/27
Emma Heines	12/28
Sydney Dornheggen	12/28
Daniel Valentini	12/29
Barbara Morgenstern	12/29
Leah Joos	12/31

DECEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

Barb & Harvey Katz	12/02/1962
Jody & Kent Finley	12/08/1984
Brad & Karen McClelland	12/16/1995
Alan & Margie Schneider	12/18/1965
Corrine & Tyler Friedman	12/20/2020
Arn & Sue Bortz	12/22/1979
Robert & Clare Deutsch	12/22/1991
Michael & Rose Apseloff	12/26/1971
Lynn & Tom Wertheimer	12/27/1964
Mike & Jessica Wagner	12/28/2002
Leon & Judy Silverman	12/30/1979

OUR SYMPATHY

Dr. Larry Freeman on the death
of his beloved wife, Donna

Charles Pierce (Barbara) on the death
of his brother, Thomas Star Pierce

Diane Kabakoff and Ashlee Justice-Cromwell (Kevin) on
the death of their father and grandfather, Benson Litwak

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

Jacob Clark	01/01
Brian Sefferino	01/02
Leon Silverman	01/04
Carol Kramberg-Walker	01/06
Bernice Pollack	01/08
Sue Price	01/09
Deby Sweren	01/10
Michael Mannheimer	01/12
Erika Hecht	01/14
Monica Valentini	01/15
Grant Dornheggen	01/15
Aubrey Herman	01/15
Thomas Sherman	01/16
Elliot Spieler	01/18
Jim Cronin	01/19
Michael Green	01/21
Randi Solomon	01/23
Janelle Gelfand	01/24
Tom Enneking	01/25
Mindy Sefferino	01/26
Chad Munitz	01/26
Steven Deutsch	01/29
Susan Levy	01/31
Joseph Deutsch	01/31

JANUARY ANNIVERSARIES

Jerry Newfarmer & Amy Paul	01/01/2001
Don & Cheryl Moeller	01/03/1998

SUSTAINING THE GENERATIONS

We gratefully acknowledge the following contributions:

SASS FAMILY MUSIC FUND

In memory of Nathan Sass; *from Diane & Ken Mitman*

In memory of Stacy McAnulty; *from Mark Sass
& Jan Rosenbaum Sass*

VIDEO STREAMING FUND

In honor of Debby & Craig Hoffheimer;
from Daniel Hoffheimer

In memory of John & Ruth Terhar; *from Jody & Kent Finley*

*Thank you to Lois Benjamin for sponsoring an
Oneg Shabbat in memory of Thomas S. Benjamin*

NOW GIVING IS EVEN EASIER:
Go to ValleyTemple.com and click on "Giving"

Happy Chanukah

5783/2022



First Candle: Sunday, December 18

- ★ Candles are added to the *Chanukiyah* (*menorah*) from right to left, and are kindled left to right. The newest candle is lit first.
- ★ On the *Shabbat* of *Chanukah*, kindle the *Chanukah* lights first, and then the *Shabbat* candles.

Light the shamash (helper candle) first, using it to kindle the rest of the Chanukah lights. As you do, say or sing:

בָּרוּךְ אַתָּה יי אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם, אֲשֶׁר קִדְּשָׁנוּ
בְּמִצְוֹתָיו, וְצִוָּנוּ לְהַדְלִיק נֵר שֶׁל חֲנֻכָּה.

Baruch Atah, Adonai Eloheinu, Melech haolam, asher kid'shanu b'mitzvotav v'tsivanu l'hadlik nehr shel Chanukah.

Blessed are you, Adonai our God, Sovereign of all, who hallows us with mitzvot, commanding us to kindle the Chanukah lights.

בָּרוּךְ אַתָּה יי אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם, שֶׁעָשָׂה נִסִּים לְאַבוֹתֵינוּ
וְאִמּוֹתֵינוּ בַּיָּמִים הָהֵם בְּזִמַּן הַזֶּה.

Baruch Atah, Adonai Eloheinu, Melech haolam, she-asah nisim laavoteinu v'imoteinu bayamim hahaeim ba-zman hazeh.

Blessed are you, Adonai our God, Sovereign of all, who performed wondrous deeds for our ancestors in days of old at this season.

On the first night only

בָּרוּךְ אַתָּה יי אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם, שֶׁהַחַיָּנוּ וְקִיְּמָנוּ
וְהִגִּיעָנוּ לַזִּמַּן הַזֶּה.

Baruch Atah, Adonai Eloheinu, Melech haolam, shehecheyanu v'kiy'manu v'higianu laz'man hazeh.

Blessed are you, Adonai our God, Sovereign of all, for giving us life, for sustaining us, and for enabling us to reach this season.

Mazal Tov

Marcia Chetwood on the marriage of her son, Marc Deitsch to Kimmy Reynolds

Andrea Frieder and Michael Heines, Rabbi Sol and Sue Greenberg and Arlene and Bill Katz on the wedding of their daughter and granddaughter, Jessie Heines, to Freddie Wolf

MAZAL TOV TO OUR CONSECRANTS AND THEIR FAMILIES

OSCAR BERNAY

Son of Aaron and Emma Bernay

NAOMI CAPURRO

Daughter of Tony and Sarah Capurro
Granddaughter of Hildie Reynolds
and Bob Reynolds (of blessed memory)

ZAYN DAVIS

Son of Sarah and Joel Davis

CORALIE JOOS

Daughter of Steve and Leah Joos
Granddaughter of Hildie Reynolds
and Bob Reynolds (of blessed memory)

PARKER LEVINSON

Son of Phillip and Jamie Levinson
Grandson of Sue Price
and Jay Price (of blessed memory)
Grandson of Jim and Pam Levinson
Great Grandson of Robert Levinson (of blessed memory)

AVIAH NIEMEIER

Daughter of Kyle and Julie Niemeier

ALEXANDRA PINSKY

Daughter of Steve and Cindy Pinsky
Granddaughter of Barry and Marsha Pinsky

NOAH PINSKY

Son of Steve and Cindy Pinsky
Grandson of Barry and Marsha Pinsky

TALIA PINSKY

Daughter of Ben and Erin Pinsky
Granddaughter of Ivan and Kathie Tamarkin
Granddaughter of Barry and Marsha Pinsky

OLIVER SCHWARTZ

Son of Brett Schwartz and Deena Abernathy

SADIE SCHWARTZ

Daughter of Brett Schwartz and Deena Abernathy

ELLIE SPIVAK

Daughter of Izar and Stacey Spivak
Granddaughter of Sue Price
and Jay Price (of blessed memory)

RUTH STOUGHTON

Daughter of John and Alicia Stoughton
Granddaughter of Lynn and Neil Kravitz



**Thank you to Jeannie & Bob Hiller,
all of the volunteers, and bakers
who helped out with
this month's Soup Kitchen!**





145 springfield pike
wyoming, oh 45215

NON PROFIT ORG.
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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

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

Chanukah

CELEBRATION & CONSECRATION



Bring your family menorah!

RSVP for dinner by 12/12/22

Friday, December 16th
6:30 p.m. Chanukah Dinner (Chicken & Latkes)
7:30 p.m. Shabbat Service & Consecration

Return form to: The Valley Temple, 145 Springfield Pike, Wyoming, OH 45215

Name(s) _____

Cost is \$5-\$25/person depending on what you wish to pay. Temple's costs for the dinner run about \$15/adult.

Adults (ages 12 & up)
grilled chicken meals ____
fried chicken meals ____

Children (ages 3-11)
grilled chicken meals ____
fried chicken meals ____

Ages 3 & under
Attending ____
Free if not ordering a meal

TOTAL ENCLOSED \$ ____

Dietary restrictions? Allergies? Please let us know: _____