

RELIGIOUS SERVICES

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

Shabbat Service
Music: Friday Night Live

SATURDAY, MARCH 4

9:30 a.m. Torah Study
10:30 a.m. Shabbat Service; Aubrey Yeazell, daughter of Jackie & Dan Yeazell will become a *Bat Mitzvah*
Torah Portion – *T’zaveh*, Exodus 27:20-30:10

MONDAY, MARCH 6

5:30 p.m. *Purim* Carnival
6:15 p.m. Dinner
7:00 p.m. *Purim Schpiel* & *Megillah* Reading
Music: *Purim* Band



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

Family Shabbat Service
Music: Leslie Gubitzi

**Turn to p. 4 for
more services**

Valley & Reform:

Where they were, where they are, and where they could be going.



**With Rabbi Ken Kanter,
Director Roots of Reform Judaism**

Thursdays, March 16 & 23 at 7:30 p.m.

PURIM

MONDAY, MARCH 6

Carnival for kids starts at 5:30 p.m.
Pizza Dinner and Hamentashen
for everyone at 6:15 p.m.
Schpiel and service begin at 7:00 p.m.



Wristband for games \$11
Dinner
\$5 for kids | \$10 adults

RAFFLE FOR EVERYONE!

Proceeds from the dinner, carnival,
and raffle go to the Youth Group



FROM THE RABBI... Sandford R. Kopnick

Recently, I had the pleasure of traveling to Chicago with our middle school kids and to Washington D.C. with some of our high school students. One of the worst parts of the pandemic has been to cancel these trips since 2020. When people ask me what about the Valley Temple is most special, I speak about the relationships, but I especially speak about our kids.

Being a small synagogue, our brand is the personal attention we give to our students when they are in our religious school. Rabbi Zoot has been exceptional in embracing our culture and enhancing this value. The *b'nai mitzvah* program addresses individual learning needs and allows for a huge step forward in becoming a part of the Jewish community as a more educated and more connected emerging adult.

And these trips. Watching our middle school group connect with each other at a large Chicago temple, over dinner at the deli, and by sharing their feelings about God and Creation at the Adler Planetarium was overwhelming. Thanks to the Jewish Foundation of Cincinnati, we were able to elevate the experience so that the kids were safe, well-fed, and happy the entire weekend. Students from many districts connected—some for the first time—with each other—and with Austin, Brian Meeron, and me. Thank God. I didn't realize how much I missed them.

Washington D.C. had us finally come together as high school students. We gathered with hundreds from across the country, but had plenty of time to reconnect with each other, too. Our students are growing into remarkable people, and I love that we could finally reestablish our bond through worship, study, over a few meals, and by having the time to be together. I was inspired to say the *Shehechyanu* often. Thanks to the Jewish Foundation and the Stark Family Youth Fund, we were able to keep the cost of the trip to each family at a fraction of the real cost, and the experience was one I won't soon forget.

Being with our students reminded me that while I love much of what I do, working with our students and facilitating Jewish experiences gives me a sense of joy and purpose that I always strive for as a rabbi. Many reports show that the interruptions caused by COVID-19 protocols have affected school-aged children and their socialization and growth. Getting back to these trips, the family education that Rabbi Zoot is so talentedly creating, and more will continue to help undo what the pandemic wrought. Thank God.

So, as we approach Purim, allow this serious moment of my gratitude to God for helping us through these last few years. And my gratitude extends, also, to our parents for trusting your kids with us; and to our congregation which upholds our commitment to our children. *Shehechyanu*, indeed.

Sandford R. Kopnick, Rabbi



VALLEY TEMPLE HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS TAKE PART IN THE RELIGIOUS ACTION CENTER'S L'TAKEN



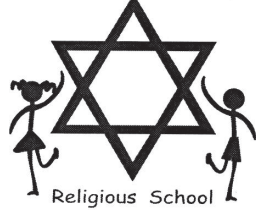


RABBI/EDUCATOR'S MESSAGE

Austin Zoot

Religious communities are very good at taking themselves seriously. Which might be why so many members of our congregation like to bring guests and loved ones to the Valley Temple Purim celebration.

The Valley Temple



ועונתם לבניך

On the surface, this is a TERRIBLE idea. Because if you want to get a sense for what Judaism has to offer your life, maybe showing off our weirdest, wildest night isn't the best foot forward. We are particularly irreverent that night, and I can imagine it is hard to take your rabbis seriously when we are wearing Oscar the Grouch trash cans, Blueberry Suits, and the King of Hearts attire. But what is it about Purim that seems to resonate with so many members of our community? Why do we keep bringing our non-Jewish partners to give THIS as our first foot forward?

What makes Purim so special is that it is a time when we name our appreciation for the full spectrum of emotion. In Judaism (like other faiths) we are well practiced at solemnity, seriousness, and gravitas. But there is also something beautifully human about being able to enjoy a good laugh, to not take ourselves so seriously. Purim is that chance to acknowledge that we are whole people, and that it is not only acceptable, but encouraged to be goofy, silly, and steer into the fun.

The Purim story isn't exactly the most sacred text in our Bible. The book of Esther is rife with sexual innuendo, slap-stick comedy, mockery, and tomfoolery. How can we take ourselves too seriously when we are reading the equivalent of a Mad Magazine that got inserted into the Holiest Book in the world? The simple answer is that we don't. We enjoy a festive environment that allows us to embrace the fun of being human, and to enjoy the glow of creating senseless fun with those we love.

If you're trying to show a person in your life why you love Judaism, there are a lot of ways to do that. Yom Kippur expresses the deep spiritual work of trying to find the best version of the self. Passover is one of the most tactile, accessible rituals in our history. And Shavuot makes learning and education a full-day affair. But Purim gives us a glimpse of something that is so often missing when we talk about faith: a love of joy. But joy is central to what we do here at Valley, and is a big part of what makes it so special to be a member of our community. We come by joy pretty easily. Not because we don't take ourselves seriously, or because we aren't prepared to handle the moments when life can be challenging, but rather BECAUSE we need to balance those things with special times of enthusiastic celebration. So I guess, in that way, there is no better time to understand what makes Valley such a wonderful congregation than Purim.

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.



Mitzvah Corps Chicago Trip 2023



SERVICES CONTINUED

SATURDAY, MARCH 11

9:30 a.m. Torah Study
10:30 a.m. Shabbat Service
Torah Portion – *Ki Tisa*, Exodus 30:11-34:35

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

Shabbat Service
Music: Marilyn Zelcer

SATURDAY, MARCH 18

9:30 a.m. Torah Study
10:30 a.m. Shabbat Service
Torah Portion – *Vayak'heil P'kudei*, Exodus 35:1-40:38

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

Shabbat Service
Music: Marilyn Zelcer

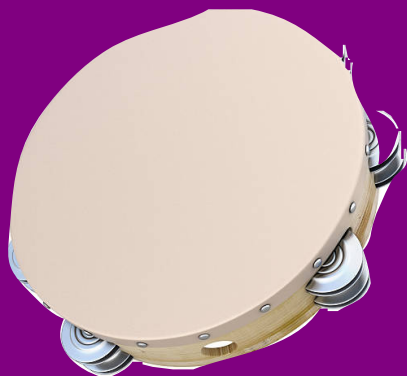
SATURDAY, MARCH 25

9:30 a.m. Torah Service
10:30 a.m. Shabbat Service
Torah Portion – *Vayikra*, Leviticus 1:1-5:26

FRIDAY, MARCH 31, 7:30 p.m.

Shabbat Service
Music: Marilyn Zelcer
Oneg Shabbat hosted by Linda & Jeff Lazar in honor of their 45th wedding anniversary; Helen & Elliot Spieler in honor of their 23rd wedding anniversary; and Ben Crane and Megan Simons in honor of their wedding

Sisterhood Shabbat



A big thank you to the Sisterhood Shabbat Committee, including Jan Goldstein, Linda Lazar, Sue Mantel, Sue Spohr, and the Chair of the committee, Kathy Schlaeger for creating a memorable Sisterhood Shabbat service in which so many Sisterhood members and congregants participated.



MEETINGS AND PROGRAMS

Our March meeting is Sunday, March 19. Mark your calendar. The meetings are efficient and there is always an interesting and fun program after the business meeting. Please drop in at 10:00 a.m. Meetings are always completed by noon.

We hope you can join us in person for camaraderie and treats. To join the meeting virtually, please use the following link. bit.ly/GeneralMeetingsVTS

Plan to attend our May 21st meeting when we vote on next year's budget and the slate of officers.

DINNER OUT

Sisterhood plans on going out to dinner every other month. Our next social dinner will be March 15 at 6:30pm. The location will be broadcast on the Sisterhood Facebook group and the Sisterhood email blast.

FLYING PIG

About 15 Valley members volunteered at the Flying Pig last May and had a great time. We brought food and music; we cheered on the runners. We really helped give them a boost of energy to make it to the finish line. Sisterhood got paid for this fun.

We are volunteering again Sunday, May 7. We will be notified the time and location closer to the event. Please contact valleytemplesisterhood@gmail.com to let us know you'll volunteer.

END OF THE YEAR PICNIC

Sisterhood is hosting this fun picnic to wind up Religious School Sunday, May 7 at noon. Please contact valleytemplesisterhood@gmail.com to volunteer

SISTERHOOD BRUNCH

Join other women of Valley Temple Sisterhood at Café Alma Sunday, May 21 for brunching and schmoozing.

SUMMER RUMMAGE SALE

The Rummage sale June 9th and 11th. Please save items you would like to donate. Contact valleytemplesisterhood@gmail.com for more information or if you need them stored until this summer.

WOMEN OF REFORM JUDAISM HEARTLAND DISTRICT CONVENTION

March 9 - 13

Eaglewood Resort & Spa, Itasca, Illinois

The WRJ Heartland District has planned a fabulous weekend of leadership development, motivation, recognition, networking, prayer, and the blessing of joining together as a community of dedicated Jewish women. Early bird registration through February 15 is \$299. Valley Temple Sisterhood has funds to help with the early bird registration. Register at wrj.org/our-community/wrj-districts/central/news-events

MARCH BIRTHDAYS



Pam Levinson	03/01
Karen Rosenfield	03/02
Bernice Blatt	03/02
Barbara Neman	03/03
Marnie Hayutin	03/03
Dr. Michael Gelfand	03/04
Dr. Lawrence C. Freeman	03/06
Beth Schwartz	03/06
Anne Weitzenkorn	03/06
Avery Frank	03/08
Greer Schneider	03/08
Andrew Enneking	03/10
Rainie Perlmutter	03/11
Josiah Dapper	03/11
Barbara Pierce	03/11
Helen Waits	03/12
Rachel Katz	03/13
Samuel Lobar	03/13
Nicole Deutsch	03/13
Phillip Levinson	03/14
Michelle Lightfoot	03/14
Ann Shulman	03/14
Cheryl Moeller	03/15
Richard Magnus	03/19
Betty Rosenthal	03/19
Karen Frecker	03/21
Sharon Ran	03/22
Leah Joos	03/22
Ella Naveh	03/23
David Neman	03/23
John Shore	03/23
Lynn Wertheimer	03/25
Mike Wagner	03/25
Max Pennix	03/26
Princesa Rabinovich	03/23
Marjorie Rauh	03/26
Dr. Martin Fritzhand	03/28
Sharon Kollasch	03/28
Avi Schneider	03/30
Don Moeller	03/30

MARCH ANNIVERSARIES

John & Greer Schneider	03/18/2000
Dr. Michael & Janelle Gelfand	03/24/1973
Mike & Judy Green	03/25/1964
Marsha & Larry Schneider	03/31/1969

VALLEY TEMPLE TIKKUN OLAM

We continue to seek donations for the “Blue Bin” in the lobby. In February we supported Found House Interfaith Housing Network.

Tikkun Olam has two projects for March:

JFS Passover Project Food Bank - no longer accepts food donations. Monetary donations can be made on JFS website or sending check to JFS. They need VOLUNTEERS to deliver the food on April 2 between 9:30 and 12:30. Sign up info to follow.

Sharsheret is a national Jewish non-profit organization benefitting people diagnosed with breast cancer or ovarian cancer. Our March Blue Bin collection will be of donations to their Best Face Forward project, providing kits of gentle cosmetics to patients. To help, we can:

- 1) Purchase specified cosmetics online through our link at <https://www.amazon.com/registriies/custom/2S8R7LPGU5LST/guest-view>
- 2) Purchase the specified cosmetics locally and put them in the Blue Bin
- 3) Donate monetarily to Sharsheret for the Best Face Forward project. Contact Helen Waits for details at 513-310-7633.

We continue to work closely with RAC-OH and URJ, which will be focusing on reproductive rights in Ohio. More information to follow.

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.

RAC | Religious Action Center of Reform Judaism
<https://rac.org>

Union for Reform Judaism: URJ

ברוך אתה יהוה אלהינו
מלך העולם אשר קדשנו במצותיו וצננו לרדוף צדק.

*Baruch atah Adonai, Eloheinu Melech ha'olam asher
kidshanu b'mitzvotav v'tzivanu lirdof tzedek.*

Blessed are You Adonai our God,
Ruler of the universe, who sanctifies us
with *mitzvot* and commands us to pursue *tzedek*.

MAZAL TOV

Jackie and Dan Yeazell on their daughter,
Aubrey, becoming a *Bat Mitzvah*.

SUSTAINING THE GENERATIONS

We gratefully acknowledge the following contributions:

RABBI'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

In memory of Fan Colish; *from Lynn & Neil Kravitz*
In memory of Irving Harris; *from Bobbie Reckseit*
In memory of Bernard Katz; *from Barbara & Harvey Katz*

BRYNA SCHWARTZ MEMORIAL ONEG & HOSPITALITY FUND

In memory of Arthur Hoffheimer, Sr. and Abraham Wolpo;
from Debby & Craig Hoffheimer and Minette Hoffheimer

CAMP SCHOLARSHIP FUND

In honor of Joseph Rippe; *from Diane & Ken Mitman*
In memory of Toby Cohen; *from Linda & Jeff Lazar*

ROBERT & CHARLOTTE LANZIT ADULT EDUCATION FUND

In appreciation of Valley Temple; *from Tom Steger*

ALLEN & SELMA WIENER BERKMAN SOCIAL ACTION FUND

In memory of Anne Michelle Lovell; *from Linda & Jeff Lazar*
In memory of Gerri Lewin; *from Helen & Ernie Waits*

VIDEO STREAMING FUND

In appreciation of The Valley Temple; *from Elizabeth Coombe*

Consider honoring an event or memorializing a loved one...
Go to ValleyTemple.com and click on "Giving"

MISHEIBERACH

Bernice Blatt
Michael Gelfand
Ron Kull
Minette Hoffheimer
Alberta Hemsley
Danny Stempler
Michelle Lightfoot

OUR SYMPATHY

The family of Les Waltman



CREATE YOUR JEWISH LEGACY

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, Elliot Spieler, Craig Hoffheimer and Jody Finley. 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.

SAVE THE DATE!



DAN NICHOLS

APRIL 14 – 16

Watch for more info!



*Save the Date
April 29th at 7:00*

Our annual Denim and Diamonds fundraiser is back for 2023. The silent auction is a large part of the night, and how we raise the most money. We need your help to make it a success! We would appreciate if everyone could donate an item, service, or an experience to the silent auction. Ideas include gift cards, prepared food/meals for a future date, tickets to shows and events, themed baskets, valuable artwork, luxury items or services such as tax preparation, photo shoots, hair cut and styling, babysitting, yard work/gardening and more. If you are interested in joining the Fundraising committee, please reach out to Jody or Allison,

Thank you,
Jody Finley and Allison Schneider

Introduction to Judaism

JOIN US FOR A 12-WEEK CLASS

For those new to Judaism, converting to Judaism, or just wanting to know more about Judaism.

SUNDAYS AT 10:00 A.M.

Please call 513-761-3555
for more information.

**With Rabbi Sanford Kopnick and
Rabbinic Intern Ben Crane**



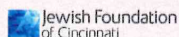
Join Cincinnati in Israel

July 7-16, 2024

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Beth Israel Congregation
Chabad Blue Ash
Congregation Beth Adam
Congregation Etz Chaim
Congregation Sha'arei Torah
Golf Manor Synagogue
Jewish Discovery Center
Jewish Federation of Cincinnati
& Mayerson JCC
Northern Hills Synagogue
Rockdale Temple
Temple Sholom
Valley Temple
Wise Temple

GENEROUS SUBSIDIES AVAILABLE!

For more information:
jewishcincinnati.org/mission



Questions? Jan Evans, jaevans@jfedcin.org or 513-985-1528





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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

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Passover

CONGREGATIONAL SEDER

THURSDAY, APRIL 6

6:00 P.M.

Traditional Seder Meal

RSVP by
March 30th!



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

Name(s) _____

NUMBER OF ADULTS ____ @ \$46.50 each for total of \$ ____

NUMBER OF CHILDREN 12 & UNDER ____ @ \$15.00 each for total of \$ ____

NUMBER OF CHILDREN 3 & UNDER ____ Free if no meal ordered

Please indicate meal choices below:

CHICKEN Adult ____ Child ____

#BRISKET Adult ____ Child ____

VEGETARIAN Adult ____ Child ____

Please consider a suggested additional \$5.00 donation/person to Mazon to feed the hungry

TOTAL ENCLOSED \$ ____

Dietary restrictions? Allergies? Please let us know: _____