



RELIGIOUS SERVICES

DECEMBER 2023

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 1, 7:30 p.m.
Shabbat Service

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 2
Shabbat Service at HUC
Rocki Schy, Rabbinic Intern,
will deliver the sermon
Torah Portion – *Vayishlach*,
Genesis 32:4-36:43
NO SERVICES AT VALLEY

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 8, 7:30 p.m.
Chanukah/Consecration
Shabbat Service

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

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 15, 7:30 p.m.
Shabbat Service

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 16
9:30 a.m. - Torah Study
10:30 a.m. - Shabbat Service
Torah Portion – *Miketz*,
Genesis 41:1-44:17

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 22, 7:30 p.m.
Shabbat Service

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 23
9:30 a.m. – Torah Study
10:30 a.m. – Shabbat Service
Torah Portion – *Vayigash*,
Genesis 44:18-47:27

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 29, 7:30 p.m.
Shabbat Service

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

JANUARY 2024

FRIDAY, JANUARY 5, 7:30 p.m.
Shabbat Service

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

FRIDAY, JANUARY 12, 7:30 p.m.
Family Shabbat Service

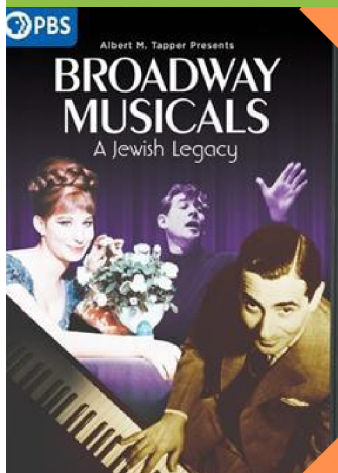
SATURDAY, JANUARY 13
9:30 a.m. – Torah Study
10:30 a.m. -- Shabbat Service
Torah Portion – *Va-eira*,
Exodus 6:2-9:35

FRIDAY, JANUARY 19, 7:30 p.m.
Shabbat Service

SATURDAY, JANUARY 20
9:30 a.m. - Torah Study
10:30 a.m. - Shabbat Service
Torah Portion – *Bo*, Exodus 10:1-13:16

FRIDAY, JANUARY 26, 7:30 p.m.
Shabbat Service

SATURDAY, JANUARY 27
9:30 a.m. – Torah Study
10:30 a.m. – Shabbat Service
Torah Portion – *B'shalach*,
Exodus 13:17-17:16



MOVIE NIGHT AT VALLEY

BROADWAY MUSICALS

A JEWISH LEGACY

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 12 AT 7:30 P.M.
FREE POPCORN AND SOFT DRINKS INCLUDED.

CHANUKAH CANDLE LIGHTING AT 7:15 P.M.
COME CELEBRATE OUR HERITAGE WITH US!





From the Rabbi Sandford R. Kopnick

Some ideas about making *Chanukah* meaningful this year:

As you know, our feast of rededication is called *Chanukah*. The *Bubbe Misa* (grandmother's tale) suggests that the festival is eight days long because of oil that was supposed to last for only one day—and lasted for eight. More likely, it is eight nights because the Festival of *Sukkot* was postponed until the ancient Temple was re-captured, and the first act was to celebrate that festival—showing our thanks for the blessings that are ours.

So let's spend eight days figuring out ways we can count our blessings. Here are some suggestions:

- Volunteer to help gather food for the poor/needful and bring it to the Valley Interfaith Center in Lockland.
- Light the *menorah* each night, finding some *Chanukah* music on-line.
- Zoom or Facetime with family or friends in other cities when you light your *Chanukiyah*
- Determine as a family that each candle is significant to a Jewish and/or a family value.
- Perhaps you can light the candle for Israel, hope, kindness, *tikkun olam*, community, education, family, etc.
- Join us as we celebrate *Chanukah* as a congregation at our annual *Chanukah* dinner.
- Donate to an NGO helping Israel, the Jewish Federation, or a Jewish cause which you find meaningful.
- Donate to a Soup Kitchen or Food Pantry that helps the homeless.
- Have kids or grandkids donate some used toys or clothes to the Goodwill or Salvation Army and bring the items there together.

When you do something fun, meaningful, or both, send me a picture from your activity or *Chanukah* lighting ceremony so we can use it to share with others.

And if you'd like to have some help with the blessings, I am available through Youtube (with darker hair) at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sGmlbIF9hU0>.

Have a meaningful and joyful—and most of all healthy and peaceful *Chanukah*.

Sandford R. Kopnick, Rabbi



valley temple
SISTERHOOD

Join sisterhood today at

<https://valleytemple.com/sisterhood/>

DECEMBER 10th MEETING

Chanukah Gift Exchange: Don't forget your gift for a fun event after the regular business meeting.

FUTURE MEETING:

January 7th Meeting we will have a fun educational introduction to Mahjong in preparation for our Mahjong fundraiser in May.

SAVE THE DATES:

February 11th: Book Talk with the sisterhoods of Wise and Rockdale (we need to show up strong)

May 19th: Mahjong tournament / Fundraiser.

If you have any questions, contact one of our co-presidents for the 2023-2024 year.
Co-Presidents: Sue Mantel (mantelsp@ucmail.uc.edu), Robyn McCarrick (mccarrick626@yahoo.com)



Rabbi/Educator's Message Austin Zoot

It isn't a regular thing that college students ask to chat with me at 9 o'clock at night. But when Jacob texted me as I was putting my child to bed, I was happy to answer the phone. After exchanging pleasantries, Jacob explained the purpose of his call: he had just attended a lesson at Hillel and had heard some things about Judaism that he had never encountered before. He wanted to know how this new information lined up with what he had been taught at camp and in his congregation.

We spent a few minutes unpacking the Kabbalah that the guest educator had explored, and looked at some of the ways the ancient mystical expressions of our tradition differed from the more mainstream Judaism that we generally teach in our more mainstream settings. It was powerful to be able to explain, using terms and prayers and concepts that I knew Jacob was familiar with, to explore how a mystical lens would deepen, morph, and adapt what he knew into something that looked dramatically different. By the end of the call, Jacob seemed like he was able to properly contextualize what he didn't know with what he did, and was at a renewed sense of peace with his Jewish knowledge.

I, meanwhile, couldn't have been more proud of the whole situation. It is a simple reality that there are not enough hours in a human lifetime to teach a young person everything there is to know about Jewish learning, wisdom, and tradition. We can show students the best of what Judaism has to offer and we can teach students how to think about the world around them, but we can't download the entire library onto their mental hard-drives. But what happened with this situation was that Jacob was able to confront something he had never encountered before, and knew where to go to get the help and support that would make the foreign seem a little more accessible. I was incredibly proud that, based on the strong relationship and comfort level that we had developed at camp, Jacob was willing to call me and ask

in-depth questions, and know that I was more than happy to fill in the gaps.

Religion is far too often infused with great judgement and condescension. That doesn't help anyone have a safe and healthy relationship with our tradition. Instead, this interaction was proof that when we are willing to treat exchange of knowledge as a gift rather than a short-coming, when we see a willingness to learn as far more beautiful than a crime of not knowing in the first place, Judaism has a strong and beautiful future.

Even more beautifully, I can speak from first-hand experience what it is like to be treated with this kind of care. I am where I am in life because the rabbis and educators who came before me were able to answer my questions with love and compassion. Nobody embodies this better than Rabbi Kopnick, who maintains strong and caring partnerships with campers and staff he nurtured over his career. The best gift Judaism can give is this kind of chain of tradition: Sandford has taught me so much, and I am so grateful to get to do the same for Jacob and his peers. And I know that one day, it will be Jacob's turn to pass along that care and love of learning to my children.

The Valley Temple



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.

CONSECRATION WILL BE HELD ON FRIDAY, DECEMBER 8 DURING SHABBAT SERVICES

MAZAL TOV TO OUR CONSECRANTS AND THEIR FAMILIES:

LUCAS DORNHEGGEN

Son of Grant and Samantha Dornheggen
Grandson of Nancy and Donald Dornheggen

RAFAEL RABINOVICH

Son of Princessa and Salomon Rabinovich

ENZO RABINOVICH

Son of Princessa and Salomon Rabinovich

JACK STOUGHTON

Son of Alicia and John Stoughton
Grandson of Neil and Lynne Kravitz

חג חנוכה שמח



חג חנוכה שמח

Happy Chanukah

First candle: Thursday, December 7th

Candles are added to the *Chanukiyah* (*menorah*) from right to left, and are kindled from 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 so, say or sing:

ברוך אתה יי אלהינו מלך העולם, אשר קדשנו
במצותיו, וצונו להדליק נר של חנוכה.

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.

ברוך אתה יי אלהינו מלך העולם, שעשה נסים לאבותינו
ואמותינו בימים ההם בזמן הזה.

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 wonderful deeds for our ancestors in days of old at this season.

On the first night only:

ברוך אתה יי אלהינו מלך העולם, שהחיינו וקימנו
והגיענו לזמן הזה.

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.



Tikkun Olam

DECEMBER - JANUARY

The Tikkun Olam Committee organizes a variety of Social Action and Social Justice projects throughout the year. There are opportunities for volunteers of all ages and areas of interest, to engage in “repairing the world”.

BLUE BIN DONATIONS

December 2023: “Rosemary’s Babies”

Rosemary’s Babies was founded in 2013, with the mission of helping teen parents with education, resources and life skills, and “master the concept of self-leadership to leave a legacy.” This United Way agency has served thousands of teen parent families, and has been named by Cincy Magazine as the “Best Parent Resource in Pregnancy & Childbirth” 3 years in a row.

This November, they opened “Holloway House”, a facility that includes business & educational resources, and a supportive housing center for teen moms and their babies. The items we are collecting for Holloway House are their requests for Learning Items, including:

Alarm Clock, Pens, Pencils, Tape, Paper Clips, Scissors, Highlighters, Permanent Markers, Rulers, 3-Hole Punch, Desk Drawer Organizers, Sticky Notes, Notebooks, Calculators, Calendar/Planners, Desk Lamp, Phone Charger, Backpacks

January 2024: “Sweet Cheeks”

This January we will again be requesting donations for Sweet Cheeks, the Diaper Bank for the Greater Cincinnati area. Sweet Cheeks distributes ~ 200,000 / month, ~ 2,000,000 per year - through their partner organizations. Diapers are donated from individuals, businesses,

& community groups. The items needed:

Opened and unopened diapers, esp need sizes 4, 5, and 6 but will take any size; New (unopened) wipes; Period products

For these and other donations throughout the year, if delivering to the temple is not convenient, you can send a check to the Valley Temple Social Action fund and we will make sure it goes to the designated agency, or order items through Amazon and have it delivered to the temple.

Our Tikkun Olam committee has ideas for the other months of the year, including climate change actions, LGBTQ+ rights, and others, but we’d love to have more people join us, and bring your ideas and passions!

SOCIAL JUSTICE ACTIVITIES

We work closely with RAC-OH throughout the year, to coordinate advocacy activities, such as letter-writing, calling on legislators, and education related to public policies that have been identified by the Union of Reform Judaism (URJ) and local congregations. While we are gratified that our many months of hard work by us and our coalition partners helped insure the passage of Issue 1 in Ohio. But there are clearly many more struggles ahead, both nationally and in the world, including Israel’s war against Hamas, and the rising antisemitism in the US. As more opportunities/ needs for engagement arise, we will be alerting the congregation.

Please check out the websites of the Religious Action Center of Reform Judaism or the Union for Reform Judaism for more information on these campaigns.

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

Union for Reform Judaism: URJ - <https://urj.org>

For information about any and all Tikkun Olam projects, please call or email:

Linda Lazar - lazarjl1@fuse.net / (513) 260-1026

Helen Waits - bindywaits@gmail.com / (513) 310-7633

ברוך אתה יהוה אלהינו מלך העולם
אשר קדשנו במצותיו וצונו לרדוף צדק

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



Sustaining the Generations

We gratefully acknowledge the following contributions:

RABBI'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

In memory of Hilda Price and Harvey Price; *from Sue Price and Family*
In appreciation of Rabbi Kopnick; *from John and Greer Schneider*

RABBI/EDUCATOR DISCRETIONARY FUND

In appreciation of Rabbi Zoot; *from John and Greer Schneider*

JANE MUNICK MEMORIAL GARDEN FUND

In memory of Roberta Berman; *from Robert Krebs*

CAMP SCHOLARSHIP FUND

In memory of Mary Lou Nourie; *from Beth Schwartz and Gene Smiley*
In memory of Roberta Berman; *from Linda and Jeff Lazar*
In memory of Roberta Berman; *from Sam and Laura Lobar*
In memory of Mary Lou Nourie; *from Sam and Laura Lobar*
In memory of Roberta Berman; *from Craig and Debby Hoffheimer*

SASS FAMILY MUSIC FUND

In memory of Minette Hoffheimer; *from Neil Berman and Susan Marmo*
In memory of Nathan Mitman; *from Ken and Diane Mitman*

POLICE SECURITY FUND

In appreciation; from Tom Steger

L'CHAYIM FUND

In memory of Helen Sass; *from Jan and Mark Sass*

BRYNA SCHWARTZ MEMORIAL ONEG & HOSPITALITY FUND

In memory of Thomas Benjamin; *from Lois Benjamin*
A gift from John and Greer Schneider

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



The Men's Club will be sponsoring Dads and Donuts on December 3rd at 9:15 am. Please feel free to share a donut with your child before Religious School begins at 9:45 am. This will be followed by our quarterly Mens Club meeting at 10:00 am. We look forward to seeing everyone there.

Steve Deutsch & Dan Perlmutter
Men's Club Co-Presidents



ROSH HASHANAH & YOM KIPPUR FOOD DRIVE 2023

A massive thanks to our friends at Valley Temple in Wyoming for another successful food drive! 2,250 pounds of food were collected.

We are overwhelmed and overjoyed with the tremendous show of support via the food drive.

We received so much, it is taking us some time to weigh.

Thank you to all who participated in this effort.

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Laurie Marks	12/01
Karin Gelfand O'Neill	12/01
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 Welch	12/15
Alex Spohr	12/15
Jonah Raider-Roth	12/15
Carenjean Walter	12/15
Jean Amber	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
Samanthan Dornheggen	12/27
Emma Heines	12/28
Sydney Dornheggen	12/28
Daniel Valentini	12/29
Barbara Morgenstern	12/29
Leah Joos	12/31

DECEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

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
Mark & Rose Apsehoff	12/26/1971
Lynn & Tom Wertheimer	12/27/1964
Mike & Jessica Wagner	12/28/2002
Leon & Judy Silverman	12/30/0000

OUR SYMPATHY

The family of Henrita (Hank) Rosenthal

Amanda Stein (Tom Enneking) on the death of her stepfather, Hugh Dougan

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

Jacob Clark	01/01
Brian Sefferino	01/02
Leon Silverman	01/04
Carol Kramberg-Walker	01/06
Joseph Deutsch	01/06
Bernice Pollack	01/08
Sue Price	01/09
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
Randy 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

JANUARY ANNIVERSARIES

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

MISHEIBERACH

Bernice Blatt	George Dilworth
Michael Gelfand	Pam Levinson
Ron Kull	Barry Goldhoff
Alberta Hemsley	Ricki Hodesh
Peggy Barrett	

TAX DONATION REMINDER

A reminder that sending your donation to Valley Temple by December 31 may be advantageous for you to maximize your tax deductions* and would be very beneficial to the Temple.

You may further benefit your tax position by donating appreciated stock*. For information to donate stock, feel free to call Wendy at the Temple office at 513-761-3555.

In addition, if you must take a required minimum distribution from your IRA based on your age, it may be advantageous for you to have your donation sent directly from your IRA to the Temple.*

Thank you for your support of Valley Temple and all good wishes for a wonderful 2024.

*Please consult your tax advisor regarding your individual situation.



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wyoming, oh 45215

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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
Robyn McCarrick & Sue Mantel, Co-Presidents,
Women of Reform Judaism
Steve Deutsch & Dan Perlmutter,
Co-Presidents, Men's Club

513-761-3555
WEBSITE: www.valleytemple.com
E-MAIL: wendy@valleytemple.com

RSVP for dinner
by 12/1/23



Chanukah

Celebration & Consecration

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 8



Bring your
family menorah!

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

Names: _____

**Cost is \$6 - \$36 / person depending on what you wish to pay.
Temple's costs for the dinner run about \$20/adult and \$12/child.**

Adults (ages 12 & up)	Children (ages 3-11)	Ages 3 & Under	
# grilled chicken meals ____	# grilled chicken meals ____	# Attending ____	Total Enclosed \$ _____
# fried chicken meals ____	# fried chicken meals ____	Free if not ordering a meal	

Dietary restrictions? Allergies? Please let us know: _____