



the
valley
temple



**SEPTEMBER 2023 /
ELUL 5783 - TISHREI 5784**

RELIGIOUS SERVICES

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

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 2
9:30 a.m. – Torah Study
10:30 a.m. – Shabbat Service
Torah Portion – *Ki Tavo* - Deuteronomy 26:1-:29:8

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 8, 7:30 p.m.
Family Shabbat Service

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 9
9:30 a.m. – Torah Study
10:30 a.m. - Shabbat Service
Torah Portion – *Nitzavim-Vayeilech* -
Deuteronomy 29:9-30:20, 31:1-30

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 15, 8:00 p.m.
Erev Rosh Hashanah & Shabbat Service

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 16
9:30 a.m. - Torah Study
10:15 a.m. - Tot Service
10:45 a.m. - *Mishkan HaNefesh* Service

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

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 23
9:30 a.m. – Torah Study
10:30 a.m. – Shabbat Service
Torah Portion – *Ha'azinu* - Deuteronomy 32:1-52

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 29, 7:30 p.m.
Erev Sukkot & Shabbat Service

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 30
9:30 a.m. – Torah Study
10:30 a.m. - Festival Morning & Shabbat Service
Torah Portion – Leviticus 23:33-44

HIGH HOLY DAY SERVICES 5784/2023

Selichot, Saturday, September 9
8:00 p.m. - Jewish Mysticism
9:30 p.m. - Grand Dessert Buffet
10:00 p.m. - Havdalah/Torah Cover Changing/
Selichot Service

Erev Rosh Hashanah, Friday, September 15
Musical Experience at 6:00 p.m.
at 20th CENTURY THEATER IN OAKLEY
Mishkan HaNefesh Service at 8:00 p.m.
at THE VALLEY TEMPLE

**Rosh Hashanah Morning,
Saturday, September 16**
9:00 a.m. - Family Service
10:15 a.m. - Tot Service
10:45 a.m. - *Mishkan HaNefesh* Service

Erev Yom Kippur, Sunday, September 24
8:00 p.m. - *Kol Nidre* Service

Yom Kippur, Monday, September 25
9:00 a.m. - Family Service
10:15 a.m. - Tot Service
10:45 a.m. - *Mishkan HaNefesh* Service
1:30 p.m. - Study Session
2:45 p.m. - Afternoon Service
4:15 p.m. - Memorial/Concluding



**SUKKOT CELEBRATION
Friday, September 29**
6:00 P.M. Dinner & Sukkah decorating
7:00 P.M. – Outdoor Sukkot Service

Saturday, September 30
10:30 a.m. -Sukkot Festival Morning Service

**SIMCHAT TORAH CELEBRATION
Friday, October 6**
7:30 p.m. – Shabbat Service and
Simchat Torah Celebration

Saturday, October 7
10:30 a.m. – Shabbat Service and
Simchat Torah Festival Service
Yizkor prayers will be recited



FROM THE RABBI... Sandford R. Kopnick

Choosing Life, Again

Every year, as we conclude the book of Deuteronomy and read the Torah on *Yom Kippur* morning, we confront the choices that God gives to us. The idea of selecting between blessing and curse, life and death, culminates in the commandment to “choose life, that you and your offspring might live.” This is not a political statement, and has literally nothing to do with anything to do with abortion. Rather, it is a commandment to exercise free will to seek blessing and not curse, for that is the way to a life worth living.

We all know people who have a terrible outlook on life. Their choice to seek a couple that is more than half empty is a way to seek the curse and not the blessing. The seat I have as a rabbi watching the lives of so many has taught me that everybody has tragedy in their lives. Everyone has bad times. But bad times do not need to be curses. Similarly, I know some affluent people who have found success—even riches in professional endeavors who are bereft of joy, and unable to count their blessings.

Our tradition teaches us the need to choose a path toward righteousness, blessing, and—yes—life. Perhaps the phrase in Deuteronomy should be, “...therefore, choose a life worth living.” When I was a kid, my mother, father, and my brothers and I were in the Friday night receiving line to wish our rabbis a *Shabbat Shalom*. One of the older rabbis looked at my mother and our family and said to her, “you are a very rich woman.” She never forgot how important that phrase was. Our family was not affluent (to say the least), and frequently felt like the entire *shul* was filled with fur coats. However, my mother knew what our rabbi meant: She had good guys in her life, and we all knew how to be a family. What blessing is better than that?

As we begin our High Holy Day period, it is time for self-examination. Where has our perspective been? How have we contributed to the world’s problems, and where have we acted to undermine society’s curses? When have we done the right thing—not because others were watching—but because it was the right thing to do? How is our outlook shaped toward choosing life and blessing—and when do we default to curse?

I look forward to greeting you during our holidays—and working together to pray for absolution from vows meant sincerely but not kept anyway, forgiveness from unintentional sins, and awareness of times we fell short. And as we do, let us seek to double down on our efforts to acknowledge that we daily face choices surrounding good and evil, but that the command is to choose life and blessing—that we all might live a life worth living.

L’shanah Tovah,

Sandford R. Kopnick, Rabbi

Rosh Hashanah EXPERIENCE



FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 15 AT 6:00 P.M.

20th Century Theatre in Oakley

SUKKOT DINNER & CAMPFIRE SERVICE



**Friday, September 29
Decorate the Sukkah**

6:00 p.m. Dinner

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

**7:00 p.m. Outdoor Service
with s’mores**

**Saturday, September 30
10:30 a.m. Festival Service**

**Reservations at admin@valleytemple.com
or see form on page 6.**

DIANE MITMAN HONORED WITH THE HELEN AND MARTY LEVY VOLUNTEER AWARD

Each year the Helen and Marty Levy Volunteer award goes to a deserving member of the congregation who epitomizes the love and care of the Valley Temple that Helen and Marty showed over the many years of their membership by volunteering in numerous ways. Marty blew the shofar at High Holy Day services for over 40 years and Helen served in multiple capacities. In later years, they also volunteered in the office and were “on call” at almost a moment’s notice.

This year’s recipient is a long time member of Valley Temple who has served in numerous capacities over the years including past Sisterhood President. This person is also “on call” also at a moment’s notice always willing to help in various capacities around the temple, especially as my right arm in the Temple office, both doing office work and giving advice on HR matters.

We are very excited to name Diane Mitman as this year’s recipient of The Helen and Marty Levy Volunteer Award. She truly exemplifies her love of The Valley Temple. Mazal tov and thank you for all you do.



2023 ANNUAL PICNIC AT BECHTOLD PARK



Sophie Lev Singer
Zoot

Born 8.16.23

Mazal Tov



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Jody Finley

Please come back.

The Covid public health emergency changed many things. One thing Valley Temple staff members have noticed since Covid is a reduction in in-person attendance at services and events.

I'm here to ask you: Please come back. The High Holidays are a perfect time to re-engage with service attendance. There are many great reasons to attend in person, if you can:

- The power of praying together. Traditional Judaism calls for a minyan, a group of ten men required for public worship. While a minyan isn't required in Reform Judaism, there is still strength in a group of people convening to make a unified declaration of faith.
- The ongoing connection of generations. Traditions bring us closer to those around us and those who came before us. Knowing parents, great-grandparents, friends and other family members embraced opportunities for communal prayer helps up build a link to them and to Judaism. There are also family-friendly services to attend with children and grandchildren.
- Connecting with friends. A wonderful part of High Holiday services is seeing people we haven't seen for a while. Kibbitzing in the temple hallway, a lunch after services – meaningful interactions like this bring us joy and memories.
So, please join me. I look forward to seeing everyone at an upcoming High Holidays service.

Best,

Jody Finley

MISHEIBERACH

Bernice Blatt
 Michael Gelfand
 Ron Kull
 Minette Hoffheimer
 Alberta Hemsley
 Peggy Barrett
 Danny Stempler
 George Dilworth
 Margie Schneider
 Pam Levinson
 Barry Goldhoff



Meetings and Programs

Join sisterhood today send your 23-24 dues right now at <https://valleytemple.com/sisterhood/>

Our Rosh Hashanah Honey sale was a huge success – thank you to everyone that ordered honey for their friends and family.

Don't miss our Monthly meetings and look for fun activities each month as well

September 10th
 October 8th
 November 12th
 December 10th (Chanukah Exchange)
 January 7th
 February 11th
 March 17th
 April 14th
 May 19th (Brunch)

SAVE THE DATE

7th Cincinnati Mega Challah Bake: November 23, 2023
We will have a VTS table again this year.

If you have any questions, contact one of our co-presidents for the 23-24 year.

Co-Presidents: Sue Mantel (mantelsp@ucmail.uc.edu) ,
Robyn McCarrick (mccarrick626@yahoo.com)

KROGER COMMUNITY REWARDS POINTS

PLEASE ALLOCATE your Kroger community rewards to Valley Temple Sisterhood (you still get all of your same personal rewards – they just allocate a donation to us based on your spending).

How do you do that? Simply follow this link <https://www.kroger.com/ii/community/community-rewards>
If you have an account – sign in; if not, create an account.

Then, click the link your shopper's card – 'Get Started' button

Under "organization name" choose Valley Temple Sisterhood (PP126).

That is it! – your purchases will start earning a donation for sisterhood.

We look forward to a great year with you participating in our activities.

TIKKUN OLAM SEPTEMBER

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:

In 2022- 23 we provided a large blue bin in the temple lobby, where members and guests could contribute specific items to fulfill the wish lists of local non-profits and social service agencies. These included: The Ronald McDonald House, Valley Interfaith Community Resource Center, Caracole, Bethany House, Sharsheret, Found House (Interfaith Hospitality Network), West End Sisters 4 Life, and Sweet Cheeks Diaper Bank.

For the High Holidays, we will be doing our annual food donations for the Valley Interfaith Community Resource Center. You will receive bags on Rosh Hashanah to fill with non-perishable items, that will be delivered to the center at the end of Yom Kippur. More information to follow.

For this 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 you can place an order with Amazon and have it sent directly to the Temple.

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

The Devastation in Maui

Many are wondering how they can help! Monetary donations can be sent to: Jewish Community Service of Hawaii @www.jcs-hi.org, the Red Cross of Maui, and the Maui Humane Society to support displaced animals.

SOCIAL JUSTICE ACTIVITIES:

We are working 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. We are currently engaged with Cincinnati Jewish community partners (Rockdale, Wise Temple, Temple Sholom, JCRC and Bend the Arc) on the Reproductive Rights initiatives in Ohio, and welcome more involvement in this!

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

lazarj1@fuse.net / (513) 260-1026

RONALD MCDONALD HOUSE DONATION



MEN'S CLUB

I am excited to take on the position of President of the Men's Club. I am looking forward to its challenges and helping shape its direction for the future. I am always looking for new ideas and of course, new members. We will be meeting several times during the 2023-2024 calendar year and are hoping to see many of you there.

The High Holy Days will be upon us in the near future. Please be on the lookout for information regarding ushering both *Rosh Hashanah* and *Yom Kippur*.

If you need to reach out to me at any time please feel free to email me at deutschsteve100@yahoo.com or call me at 513 252 5333. Together, we can make this the best Men's Club ever at Valley Temple.

Steve Deutsch



YOUTH GROUP OPENING PICNIC AT RABBI KOPNICK'S HOUSE

SUSTAINING THE GENERATIONS

We gratefully acknowledge the following contributions:

RABBI'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

In memory of James Steed; *from Michelle and David Steed*
In memory of Gilbert Linver; *from Michelle and David Steed*
In memory of Ivan Gartenlaub; *from Kimberly Berry*
In appreciation of Rabbi Kopnick; *from Robert Maltz*
In memory of Jack Herman; *from Helen and Elliot Speiler*
In memory of Sue Ducovna; *from her family*

LOUISE MARKS RELIGIOUS SCHOOL FUND

In honor of the birth of Sophie Zoot; *from Sharon and David Feldstein*
In honor of the birth of Sophie Zoot; *from Rabbi Gerry and CarenJean Walter*
In honor of the birth of Sophie Zoot; *from Sam and Laura Lobar*
Congratulations on the wedding of Logan and Annie Zoot; *from Sam and Laura Lobar*
In honor of the arrival of Miriam Morning; *from Sam and Laura Lobar*
In honor of the birth of Sophie Zoot; *from Carol and Les Appel*
In honor of the birth of Sophie Zoot; *from Sue and Mike Mantel*

ALLEN & SELMA WIENER BERKMAN SOCIAL ACTION FUND

In memory of Ethel Lazar; *from Jeff and Linda Lazar*

ROBERT & CHARLOTTE LANZIT ADULT EDUCATION FUND

In memory of Alfred Spieler; *from Elliot and Helen Spieler*

CAMP SCHOLARSHIP FUND

In memory of Ivan Gartenlaub; *from Dan and Dedra Perlmutter*
In memory of Arlene Goldhoff; *from Barry Goldhoff*
In honor of the birth of Sophie Zoot; *from Cheryl and Steve Hecht*
In honor of the birth of Sophie Zoot; *from Andrea and David Knarr*

BRYNA SCHWARTZ MEMORIAL ONEG & HOSPITALITY FUND

In memory of Jonathan L. Harris; *from Selma Harris*
In memory of Diane Bongard; *from Ken and Diane Mitman*
In memory of Anne Siegel; *from Ellen and Mark Kovacic*
In memory of Herman N. Wasserman; *from Ken and Diane Mitman*

SASS FAMILY MUSIC FUND

In memory of Florence Goodman; *from Donna Goodman*
In memory of Florance Mitman Rubin; *from Ken and Diane Mitman*

VALLEY TEMPLE GENERAL FUND

In memory of Robert and Charlotte Lanzit; *from Ned Lanzit*

ESTELLE WIGSER FLOWER FUND

In memory of Saul Schottenstein; *from Selma Harris*

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



SUKKOT

DINNER & CAMPFIRE SERVICE



Friday, September 29

Decorate the Sukkah, Dinner & Service | Dinner - 6:00 p.m. • Service - 7:00 p.m.

Dinner – \$12.00 - adults and children 12 and over; \$5.00 - children 3-11

Please bring fruits and vegetables to help decorate the Sukkah!

RSVP by Tuesday, September 26

NAME(S) of those attending _____

_____ # of adults and children 12 and over @ \$12.00 _____ # of children age 3-11 @ \$5.00

_____ # of children under 3 (free) TOTAL AMOUNT FOR SUKKOT: _____

Please let us know if you need a veggie meal or have other dietary restrictions: _____

SUKKOT Morning Service • Saturday, September 30, 10:30 a.m.

SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Keith Pennix	09 / 03
Chad Vordenberge	09 / 03
Sarah Sawin	09 / 04
Tyler Friedman	09 / 04
Martin Schragar	09 / 06
Zola Makrauer	09 / 06
Amy Frank	09 / 07
Neil Kravitz	09 / 07
Dolph Berman	09 / 07
Donald Dornheggen	09 / 08
Stephanie Kaufman	09 / 08
Anne Straus	09 / 09
Pamela Geller	09 / 09
Wendy Walsh	09 / 12
Rabbi Gerry Walter	09 / 12
Jerry Newfarmer	09 / 13
Nicole Menkhaus	09 / 14
Charles Frank	09 / 14
Aaron Levy	09 / 16
Bruce Walker	09 / 16
Nathan Berman	09 / 18
Amanda Stein	09 / 18
Brian Cusack	09 / 18
Sam Mantell, III	09 / 21
Kelli Gleiner	09 / 21
Tony Capurro	09 / 22
Lucy Schragar	09 / 22
Parker Levinson	09 / 23
Aron Schneider	09 / 23
Marsha Schneider	09 / 23
Zoe Codd	09 / 23
Mark Sass	09 / 23
Barry Pinsky	09 / 24
Debra Hoffheimer	09 / 25
Annaliese Levy	09 / 26
Susan Kahn	09 / 26
Ezra Gleiner	09 / 26
Sarah Mather	09 / 28
Sam Hecht	09 / 29
Ellen Siegel Kovacic	09 / 30

SEPTEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

Craig & Debby Hoffheimer	09/02/1972
Rabbi Sandford & Nancy Kopnick	09/02/1990
Mark & Robin Miller	09/02/2001
Nick & Maya McNair	09/03
Phyllis Bossin & Dr. Rob Strauss	09/04/2011
Sarah & Ryan Mather	09/05/2015
Karen & Joe Frecker	09/05/1999
Leah & Steve Joos	09/05/2009
Amanda Stein & Tom Enneking	09/07/2003
Dr. Charles & Barbara Pierce	09/11/1994
Emily & Adam Brown	09/13/2011
Jan Goldstein & Chuck Frank	09/15/2007
Dolph & Nancy Berman	09/16/1961
Dave & Amanda Katz	09/17/1989
Ben & Karen Rosenfield	09/17/2000
Dorian & Cindi Naveh	09/22/2000
Bill & Barbara Klein	09/24/1972

MAZAL TOV

Rabbi Austin Zoot and Dori Zoot on
the birth of their daughter, Sophie

Shelly and Emmeram Morning
on the arrival of their daughter, Miriam

Sue and Mike Mantel on the engagement
of their son, Tyler, to Sarah Lerner

Matthew Diamon on his engagement

OUR SYMPATHY

Jean Amber on the death of her husband, John

Herb Ducovna on the death of his wife, Sue

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 Tuesday, September 26 at 10:00 a.m.
to load the truck and deliver the food. Please volunteer!

THE NEED IS GREAT – PLEASE BE GENEROUS!





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

513-761-3555

WEBSITE: www.valleytemple.com
E-MAIL: wendy@valleytemple.com

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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Selichot: Preparing for the High Holy Days

Rabbi Joe Rooks Rapport
Rabbi Emeritus
The Temple in Louisville, KY

Will discuss:
"The Invisible Chariot: The
Mystical Journey of Kabbalah"

Saturday, September 9
Adult Education and Service to
welcome the High Holy Days

8:00 p.m. - Adult Education
9:30 p.m, Grand Dessert Buffet -
Bring a dessert to share
10:00. p.m. *Havdalah*/Torah Cover
Changin/*Selichot* Service



Join us for a wonderful
evening of learning and
preparation for the *Yamim
Noraim* - The High Holy Days