



## RELIGIOUS SERVICES

**FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 2, 7:30 P.M.**  
Friday Night Live Shabbat Service

**SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 3**  
9:30 a.m. – Torah Study  
10:30 a.m. – Shabbat Service  
Torah Portion – *Yitro*  
Exodus 18:1 - 20:23

**FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 9, 7:30 P.M.**  
Family Shabbat Service

**SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 10**  
9:30 a.m. – Torah Study  
10:30 a.m. – Shabbat Service  
Torah Portion – *Mishpatim*  
Exodus 21:1 - 24:18

**FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 16, 7:30 P.M.**  
Shabbat Service

**SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 17**  
9:30 a.m. - Torah Study  
10:30 a.m. - Shabbat Service  
Torah Portion – *T'rumah*  
Exodus 25:1 - 27:19

**FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 7:30 P.M.**  
Shabbat Service

**SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 24**  
9:30 a.m. – Torah Study  
10:30 a.m. – Shabbat Service  
Torah Portion – *T'tzaveh*  
Exodus 27:20 - 30:10



## ADULT ED

Tuesday, February 6, 13, and 20 at 7:30 p.m. at Valley Temple

## JEWISH VIEWS OF THE AFTERLIFE WITH RABBI DR. HAIM O. RECHNITZER

Rabbi Dr. Haim O. Rechnitzer is a Professor of Jewish Thought at HUC-JIR in Cincinnati, Ohio, and a poet. He earned his doctorate at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem and his rabbinical ordination from HUC-JIR (Jerusalem) in 2003. His research is dedicated to themes of political theology, theological trends in Hebrew poetry, Israeli theology, and Jewish education. Previously, Rabbi Dr. Rechnitzer taught in several academic institutions in Israel and was on the faculty of the Franklin and Marshall College (PA).





## From the Rabbi Sandford R. Kopnick

### HOW TO THINK ABOUT THIS MOMENT:

Right before the new year began, we received an email that threatened us. We called the police, evacuated the building, and prayed that it was a false alarm. It was. Synagogues and other Jewish institutions throughout the country all received the same email. It happened one more time, and we were advised to keep calm, others had received it, too—another false alarm.

The events of October 7 and the Israeli response has promoted a sharp increase in anti-Semitism. I hosted a lunch with a bunch of our college kids during the winter-break to check-in, and heard about the myriad of ways our students are impacted by the attitudes of their friends and college communities. It is difficult to understand where compassion for residents of Gaza, loyalty to the Jewish people, and a sense of personal safety can coexist in one person. Our college students are not the only people trying to navigate this moment.

This history of our people is familiar with anti-Semitism even in societies in which we've found ourselves to be welcomed and assimilated. It is true that many of us are too young to remember the last time there was this much anti-Jewish and anti-Israel talk. It has been a long time since anti-Semitism has been this publicly discussed and so easily perpetrated.

### There are a few things to remember:

1. It is OK for us to be critical of Israel without losing our sense of loyalty. We are Jews. Family matters—and Israel is family. Families disagree and even disapprove. And sometimes, hopefully often, family looks closer at the behaviors to be sure that we understand what motivates our brethren without relying on hearsay and uninformed news reports.
2. It is important to connect with each other and our sense of community. Attending services, adult ed, and other opportunities can give us all a sense of security and calm. We are not alone and we need each other. I need you, too.
3. The Jewish Federation and the Jewish Community Relations Council are doing wonderful work on our behalf. There is a subsidiary of the Federation called Safe Cincinnati which initiated an Ohio network to keep track of threats and incidents. We are frequently briefed and we all are benefiting from this system.

4. Engaging in arguments about the Israeli response to the October massacre does not help. Reading reliable information does. I've been very impressed by Thomas Friedman of the *New York Times* and his perspectives. If you post anything, post a link to a verified reliable source. Do not respond to posts. Instead, be sure that you and your circle are informed appropriately, and use the tools available to us to be sure we are safe.

5. Check in. let me or Rabbi Zoot know what you need—and let us help.

These are tougher times than we imagined were likely in a post-holocaust world. And yet, here we are. We are still commanded "to remember the strangers, for we were strangers in the land of Egypt," and that "all of the Jewish people are responsible one for the other." May God bring the fighting in the middle east to an end. May God inspire peace rather than conflict, love rather than hate. And may Am Yisrael Chai—the Jewish people live. I hope to see you soon!

Sandford R. Kopnick, Rabbi

## CONSECRATION 2023 - 2024



# Rabbi/Educator's Message Austin Zoot



Across North America, there has been a large push to see mid-week Hebrew School transitioned online. There are a few obvious logistical reasons why many communities have found this to be a helpful adjustment, flexibility chief among them. Online Hebrew learning could, many believe, save people time and energy, and perhaps even cut down on absences.

But anyone who has proposed these kinds of changes hasn't spent enough time at Valley Temple on a Tuesday night. Because from 6:30 to 7:30 every week, there is an incredibly special feeling that fills the building. In the half-hour leading up to class beginning, learners of all ages arrive and schmooze and eat the candy that I provide (I am not above bribing people to enjoy being at Temple...) After the first two days of the week, there is something beautifully cathartic about being able to come into shared space and feel the warmth of community, the reminder that while the rest of the world has all kinds of expectations and obligations of us, for this one hour we get to come together and enjoy the simple joy of learning as a family.

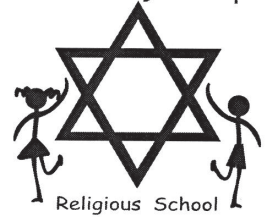
As the Director of Education, I am ironically one of the only people in the building who ISN'T in class on a Tuesday night. Which means I get the chance to walk around to each of the classrooms and hear the beautiful sound of conversation, prayer, study, and text, all intersecting as people gain access to the language that has underwritten our people for millennia. From 4th graders learning the foundational building block letters to adults advancing into the depths of our textual tradition, there is a place for every learner at every level on Tuesday night. Anyone who wants to find a way to explore Judaism more deeply can find a speed that works for them.

Because at the end of the day, it is vital that we remember that we are not simply teaching language skills. Sure, Duolingo might be able to teach practical

linguistics more efficiently and effectively than we can. But we are not in the business of passing tests or hitting arbitrary milestones. Instead, we continue to create learning environments where we put people at the center of what we do, where the connections we forge and the intimacy we facilitate is essential to the entire process. None of this can be done nearly as well nor as meaningfully as it can in face-to-face interaction.

In the 18th century, there was fear that Hebrew would become a dead language. It wasn't until Eliezer Ben-Yehuda came along and revitalized what we know as modern Hebrew that we were able to reconnect with the structures that had lifted up our people for thousands of years before. And every Tuesday night, I'm reminded of just what it means to be a living language: a one that conveys the values of a people, that helps us better understand one another and ourselves. On Tuesday nights, our congregation comes together to join in the ancient practice of learning our shared tongue, and in so doing continue to remember what it means to sustain ourselves on the sweetness of Torah. Because sometimes the studying of words is about something so much more important than letters on the page.

*The Valley Temple*



ושנתהם לבניך

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.*





## President's Message Jody Finley

I read an interesting statistic: **Just 48 percent of adults report attending at least one arts/cultural event from July 2021 to July 2022.** This is a six point drop from 2017. Since the pandemic, people have stepped away from many in-person events. Informally, I feel this may be a trend at The Valley Temple and other religious organizations are experiencing this as well.

### Maybe now is your time to re-engage:

**Friday night services** – This an intimate, personal opportunity to connect. There are now a variety of music options to appeal to everyone. Plus you can enjoy cookies and conversation afterward!

**Saturday morning Torah study** – We are commanded to busy ourselves with the study of Torah and Saturday mornings are the perfect opportunity. No experience or Hebrew knowledge is necessary.

**Saturday morning services** - Saturday morning services are a great opportunity to start the weekend off on a positive note. This warm, welcoming atmosphere supports thought, contemplation and connection.

These are just three enriching ways to better connect with your Valley Temple community.

I am a Torah studier and a Saturday morning services person. I hope to see you there soon!!

*Jody*

Jody Finley



Join sisterhood today at

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

Membership season is going well – if you have not yet sent your dues it is not too late

### February 11th MEETING Book Talk with Nancy Illman:

Nancy will be talking about her book *Instigator of Joy*. We have invited the sisterhoods of Rockdale and Wise Temple to join us for the talk – so, it is an opportunity to hear an author talk about her book and bond with other Jewish women in Cincinnati. It is not required to read the book prior to the event, but if you want to purchase a copy at this link: <https://nancyillman.com/#book> (please indicate on your order that you are attending the Valley Temple Book Talk).

### Future Meeting: March 17th

We will be Cooking with Jaime Carmody. We aren't sure what we will cook, but it is sure to be delicious and fun!

### Save the Date: April 14th Sisterhood Brunch

This fun event will be held at Nancy Kopnick's house and we encourage all women of Valley Temple to come, mingle, and celebrate spring.

### May 19th Mahjong Tournament / Fundraiser.

**Leadership Slate:** It is that time of the year where the nominating committee is gathering to look for our next leadership team. We have jobs to fit every need – some large and very rewarding, other smaller — but equally rewarding. If you would like to get involved in the leadership of sisterhood, reach out to Stacey Spivak ([staeyce@gmail.com](mailto:staeyce@gmail.com)). I have truly enjoyed being Sisterhood Co-President for the past two years and look forward to working with the next group of leaders!

If you have any questions, contact one of our co-presidents for the 2023-2024 year.

Co-Presidents:

Sue Mantel ([mantelsp@ucmail.uc.edu](mailto:mantelsp@ucmail.uc.edu)),  
Robyn McCarrick ([mccarrick626@yahoo.com](mailto:mccarrick626@yahoo.com))

SAVE THE DATE

# Sisterhood Mahjong Party



**SUNDAY, MAY 19**  
SISTERHOOD ANNUAL MAHJONG FUNDRAISER

GET YOUR FOURSOME TOGETHER  
AND SEE YOU THERE!

MORE INFORMATION COMING SOON





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

#### February 2024: Bethany House Services

Bethany House Services (BHS) provides comprehensive family-centered homelessness services, all of which are provided by staff trained in trauma-informed care and focused on empowering families to reach self-sufficiency.

BHS has addressed the unprecedented need for homeless services due to the pandemic and the economy. Their new facility can serve up to 43 families and 220 individuals at one time.

To help them settle families into stable housing, the following bathroom and cleaning items are requested for our “Blue Bin” donations for February:

Towels (hand/face/body), cleaning products, bathroom waste basket, paper towels, shower curtain sets, dish washing supplies, laundry detergents.

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. Getting out the vote in 2024 will be crucial to all these endeavors.

The Reform Jewish Movement’s 2024 Every Voice, Every Vote Campaign will be launching soon. Held every two years, the campaign is a nonpartisan effort, grounded in our Jewish values and commitment to racial justice, to strengthen our democracy by encouraging and protecting voter participation. The 2022 campaign resulted in a record level of voter engagement in which the Reform Movement mobilized to reach out to over 650,000 voters, and we expect to exceed our goals in 2024.

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](mailto:lazarjl1@fuse.net) / (513) 260-1026

Helen Waits - [bindywaits@gmail.com](mailto: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 Jacqueline Cohen; *from Sharon Dorman*  
Our gratitude to Renee Buckingham and family;  
*from BCG Health Care Team*  
In memory of Barry Goldhoff; *from Kim Slaton*  
In memory of Louis Kallek; *from Lynn and Neil Kravitz*  
In appreciation of Rabbi Kopnick;  
*from Beth Schwartz and Gene Smiley*  
In memory of Don Miller; *from Mark and Robin Miller*  
In appreciation of Rabbi Kopnick;  
*from Sue and Andy Sphor*  
In memory of JoAnne Steinberg; *from Larry Steinberg*  
In memory of Sybil Kerman; *from Elliot and Helen Spieler*

## RABBI/EDUCATOR DISCRETIONARY FUND

In memory of Temple Chai; *from Susan and Ivan Zoot*  
In memory of Janice Spieler; *from Elliot and Helen Spieler*

## ALLEN & SELMA WIENER BERKMAN SOCIAL ACTION FUND

In memory of Barry Goldhoff; *from Anthony Vamvas*  
In memory of Barry Goldhoff; *from Jenny Schoenfeld*  
In memory of Ruth Goldstein; *from Sharlene Stempler*  
In memory of Ruth Goldstein; *from Jenny Broh*  
In memory of Ruth Kutcher Goldstein;  
*from Craig and Debby Hoffheimer*  
In memory of Ruth Goldstein; *from Mark and Ellen Kovacic*  
In memory of Ruth Goldstein; *from Sam and Laura Lobar*  
In memory of Ruth Goldstein; *from Sue and Mike Mantel*  
In memory of Anne Michelle Lovell;  
*from Linda and Jeff Lazar*

## ROBERT & CHARLOTTE LANZIT ADULT EDUCATION FUND

In memory of David Hochstein;  
*from Cheryl and Steve Hecht*  
*A Chanukah Gift*  
*from Tom Steger*

## CAMP SCHOLARSHIP FUND

In memory of Eugen Lazar; *from Jeff and Linda Lazar*  
*In memory of Richard Solgam; from Jeff and Linda Lazar*  
In memory of Ruth Kutcher Goldstein;  
*from Jeff and Linda Lazar*  
In memory of Ruth Kutcher Goldstein;  
*from David and Sharon Feldstein*  
In memory of Barry Goldhoff;  
*from Barry and Marsha Pinsky*  
In memory of Nathan Goodman; *from Donna Goodman*  
In memory of Roberta Berman;  
*from Beth Schwartz and Gene Smiley*  
In memory of James Mulloy; *from Andrea and David Knarr*  
In memory of Ruth Goldstein; *from Andrea and David Knarr*  
In memory of James Mulloy; *from Ivan and Kathie Tamarkin*  
In memory of Ida Tamarkin; *from Ivan and Kathie Tamarkin*

In memory of James Mulloy;  
*from Amy Paul and Jerry Newfarmer*  
In memory of James Mulloy;  
*from Arlene and Aubrey Herman*

### A Chanukah Gift

*from Barry and Marsha Pinsky*  
*from Ken and Diane Mitman*  
*from Rabbi Gerry and Carenjean Walter*  
*from Lynn and Neil Kravitz*  
*from Sam and Laura Lobar*  
In memory of Minette G. Hoffheimer and  
Arthur Hoffheimer Jr.;;  
*from Craig and Debby Hoffheimer*  
In memory of Nathan and Florence;  
*from Donna Goodman*  
In honor of Rabbi Kopnick & Rabbi Zoot;  
*from Jenny Broh*  
In honor of Harriet Sass;  
*from Mark and Jan Rosenbaum Sass*  
In memory of Julian Magnus; *from Carol Magnus*  
In memory of Ruth "Rikki" Goldstein;  
*from Amy Paul and Jerry Newfarmer*

## SASS FAMILY MUSIC FUND

In memory of Helen Sass; *from Mark and Jan Sass*  
In memory of Minette Hoffheimer; *from Stephen Schwartz*  
For parent's Yahrzeits; *from Barb and Buz Stewart*  
In memory of John Siegel; *from Mark and Ellen Kovacic*

## STARK FAMILY YOUTH ACTIVITIES FUND

In memory of Barry Goldhoff; *from Rena Beyer*

## MEN'S CLUB

In memory of Barry Goldhoff; *from Jenny Broh*  
In memory of Barry Goldhoff;  
*from Craig and Debby Hoffheimer*  
In memory of Barry Goldhoff; *from Sam and Laura Lobar*

## L'CHAYIM FUND

In memory of Stacy Sass McAnulty;  
*from Jan Rosenbaum Sass and Mark Sass*  
In memory of Barry Goldhoff; *from Samantha Wolkoff*  
In memory of Barry Goldhoff; *from Rachel Greco*  
In memory of Barry Goldhoff; *from Carol Wolkoff*  
In memory of Barry Goldhoff; *from Amanda Rosenberg*  
In memory of Barry Goldhoff;  
*from Jeanne and Scott Aronoff*

## A GIFT TO THE VALLEY TEMPLE

In memory of Robert and Charlotte Lanzit; *from Ned Lanzit*  
In memory of Irving Harris; *from Selma Harris*  
In memory of John and Henrita (Hank) Rosenthal;  
*from the Rosenthal Family*

## CONTRIBUTIONS (CONTINUED)

### BRYNA SCHWARTZ MEMORIAL ONEG & HOSPITALITY FUND

In memory of Annabel Rosenthal Levy; *from Barb Katz*  
In memory of Sam Darnell; *from Elliot and Helen Spieler*  
In memory of James Mulloy; *from Ken and Diane Mitman*

*A Chanukah Gift  
from Leticia Baltes  
from Kent and Jody Finley  
from Sam and Laura Lobar*  
In honor of Harriet Sass;  
*from Mark and Jan Rosenbaum Sass*  
In memory of Irving Harris; *from Selma Harris*  
In memory of Adele Broh,  
Phyllis Boering, Todd Boering;  
*from Jenny Broh*

### THANK YOU

*Thank you to Josiah Dapper for sponsoring  
an Oneg Shabbat in memory of Daniel Swanson*

*Thank you to Laura and Rick Beasley for sponsoring  
an Oneg Shabbat in memory of Sandy and Jim Miller*

*Thank you to Sue and Mike Mantel for sponsoring  
an Oneg Shabbat in memory of Robert Powell*

**NOW GIVING IS EVEN EASIER**  
**Go to [ValleyTemple.com](http://ValleyTemple.com) and click on "Giving"**

## MAZAL TOV

Abby Bortz on her engagement to  
Nicholas Koucky. Congratulations also to  
Abby's parents, Arn and Sue Bortz

Laura and Rick Beasley on the birth of  
their grandson, Lucas Scott Beasley

Beth Schwartz on the marriage of her son  
Daniel Valentini and Eliza

Alex Spohr and Shelby Spitz on their engagement.  
Congratulations also to the happy parents,  
Sue and Andy Spohr.

Jim and Pam Levinson on the birth of their  
granddaughter, Phoebe Jane Levinson

## MISHEIBERACH

Bernice Blatt  
Michael Gelfand  
Ron Kull  
Alberta Hemsley  
Peggy Barrett  
George Dilworth

Pam Levinson  
Ricki Hodesh  
David Feldstein  
Erika Hecht  
Jean Amber

## FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

Devon Brandt	02/01
Marc Deitsch	02.01
Jon Hoffheimer	02/02
Stephen Kovacic	02/03
Richard Gaynor	02/04
Alice Weitzenkorn	02/06
Jenny Broh	02/07
Lois Benjamin	02/08
Olivia Spivak	02/08
Emmeram Morning	02/10
Rica Hodesh	02/10
Rick Michelman	02/11
Joel Davis	02/11
Dan Perlmutter	02/12
Karen Blatt	02/12
Gil Kaufman	02/13
Josh Knarr	02/13
Emma Weitzenkorn	02/17
Betsy Cusack	02/18
Clare Deutsch	02/18
Barbara DelMauro	02/19
Shelly Morning	02/22
Isabelle Clark	02/23
Rebecca Clark	02/23
Katherine O'Neill	02/23
Donna Goodman	02/25
Jonah Levinson	02/25
Aubrey Yeazell	02/25
Salomon Rabinovich	02/26
Alicia Stoughton	02/26
Jackie Frank	02/26
Shayna Codd	02/27
Dedra Perlmutter	02/27
Nancy Magnus Kopnick	02/29
Jan Rosenbaum Sass	02/29

## FEBRUARY ANNIVERSARIES

Bill & Betsy Cusack	02/06/1988
Rick & Karen Michelman	02/18/1996
Ashlee Justice Crowell & Kevin Crowell	02/22
Aubrey & Arlene Herman	02/20/1972
Norman & Wendy Wasserman	02/24/1963
Chuck & Ricklie Vordenberge	02/25/1984
Aron & Kara Schneider	02/26/2000

## OUR SYMPATHY

Dedra (Dan) Perlmutter and Rainie Perlmutter on the  
death of their father and grandfather, Barry Goldhoff

Jan Goldstein (Charles Frank) on the  
death of her mother, Ruth Goldstein

Kathie Tamarkin (Ivan Tamarkin) on the  
death of her brother, James Mulloy

Shelby Spitz (Alex Spohr) on the  
death of her mother, Lisa



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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-Presidents, Men's Club

513-761-3555

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# Find your personal Power!



Join Sisterhood for an interesting talk about finding your personal power. Join Cincinnati Native former Valley member Nancy Illman who will talk about her personal journey to Find her personal joy. All are welcome. You don't have to have read the book to enjoy the talk, but if you want to read the book, you can get it at <https://nancyillman.com/#book> (put Valley Temple in the comments if you order).

**WHEN: February 11th | 10 a.m. – 12 noon**  
**Valley Temple | ALL are WELCOME!**

