



RELIGIOUS SERVICES

FRIDAY, MARCH 1, 7:30 P.M.

Oneg Shabbat hosted by
John and Greer Schneider

SATURDAY, MARCH 2

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

FRIDAY, MARCH 8, 7:30 P.M.

DAN NICHOLS- Musician-in-Residence
Family Shabbat Service

SATURDAY, MARCH 9

DAN NICHOLS-Musician-in-Residence
9:30 a.m. – Torah Study
10:30 a.m. – Shabbat Service
Baby naming in honor of Sophie Zoot
Torah Portion – *Vayak'heil*,
Exodus 35:1-38:20

FRIDAY, MARCH 15, 7:30 P.M.

Shabbat Service

SATURDAY, MARCH 16

9:30 a.m. - Torah Study
10:30 a.m. - Shabbat Service
Torah Portion – *P'kudei*,
Exodus 38:21-40:38

FRIDAY, MARCH 22, 7:30 P.M.

Shabbat Service

SATURDAY, MARCH 23

9:30 a.m. – Torah Study
10:30 a.m. – Shabbat Service
Torah Portion – *Vayikra*,
Leviticus 1:1-5:26
7:00 p.m. – Megillah/Schpiel

FRIDAY, MARCH 29, 7:30 P.M.

Shabbat Service

SATURDAY, MARCH 30

9:30 a.m. – Torah Study
10:30 a.m. – Shabbat Service
Torah Portion – *Tzav*, Leviticus 6:1-8:36



DAN NICHOLS

artist-in-residence



FRIDAY MARCH 8

7:30 p.m. Shabbat Service

SATURDAY MARCH 9

9:45 a.m. Tot Shabbat

10:30 a.m. Shabbat Service

7:30 p.m. Havdalah and
Coffeehouse-Style Concert

for adults - bring a dessert to share

SUNDAY MARCH 10

9:45 a.m. Adult conversation with Dan Nichols

11:00 a.m. Concert for Families

Our thanks to the Sass Family in memory of Robert and
Helen Sass and a friend of The Valley Temple whose
donations help to make Dan's visit possible



From the Rabbi Sandford R. Kopnick

PURIM DURING THE GAZA WAR

Yes, we're going to have a Purim Schpiel. Yet, writing our spoof with this year's theme seemed more difficult than usual. With the rise of anti-Semitism, and especially the aggressive criticism of Israel—the idea of writing in Haman's voice is even more distasteful.

Throughout my life, anti-Semites have been fringe and generally a minority with an opinion that does not resonate among mainstream Americans. The last seven or eight years has seen the rise of anti-Semitism to alarming rates. Furthermore, the Israeli response to the *Hamas* driven Israeli massacre and kidnappings has created must stronger opinions. Israel is being likened to the worst actors of historical events—Haman, if you will.

I am not among those. While I wish to God that *Hamas* did not put so many Palestinians into harm's way in Gaza, *Hamas* cannot expect anything less than a ferocious response to October 7. Furthermore, the world's powers would never ever respond differently. After 9-11, the U.S. entered a 20-year war. You and I both know that much of the criticism of the Israelis is because they are Jews, not because they are unjustified in neutralizing the target even though it hides behind civilians in hospitals.

So, this year, we will again celebrate the victory of Esther and Mordecai over the evil Haman. We will remember that changing just one letter of Haman—we find the word *Hamas*. Sadly, both had/have similar goals. We will bring our Jewish senses of humor to our celebration with hopes that for an evening, we can celebrate our people's unique will to survive—even when asked to do difficult things in order to accomplish the task.

And then, we will begin the road to Passover, when we remember that we were strangers in the land of Egypt, and that we're not the only ones who have ever prayed for release and redemption. But until then, bring on the carnival, the schpiel, and the hamantashen. And let's pray that all peoples will find peace enough to relegate stories of winning over oppression to history once and for all.

I hope to see you soon!

Sandford R. Kopnick, Rabbi

ADULT EDUCATION



Hot Topics & Hot Coffee

Dan Nichols: A Conversation
Sunday, March 10 at 9:45 a.m.



Join Dan and Rabbi Kopnick for a lively discussion of the American Judaism that noted singer/song-writer Dan Nichols sees when touring the country. A family concert follows at 11:00 a.m.

Israel Update
With Rabbi Sandford Kopnick
Sunday, April 28 at 10:00 a.m.



Join Rabbi Kopnick as he explores the situation in Gaza and in Israel. The fallout and the prognosis for moving forward. We'll look at news and opinions from trusted journalists and Israeli and American opinion makers.



Rabbi/Educator's Message Austin Zoot

Every month or so, the Education Directors from the various synagogues get together to talk about the great and the challenging parts about our jobs. We share best practices, make suggestions, and generally keep one another informed as to what is happening in other communities throughout the city. Considering we have such similarly aligned goals, it is a nice chance to have a collegial relationship with others and to allow a rising tide in Cincinnati to raise all of our boats.

During our most recent meeting, one of my peers noted that she is seeing more behavioral challenges than she has ever encountered in her career. There was a chorus of agreement; over the past few years, we are seeing students struggle more than many of us can remember to remain focused, to behave with kindness, and to "fit in" to school culture. It seems that, in the wake of the pandemic, none of us are spared from the deeply damaging social implications of isolation, tumult, and strain.

Valley is certainly not exempt from encountering our fair share of, shall we say, behavioral complications. Any time we try to encourage children to learn we are, at some level, asking them to stretch their creativity and patience in a way that can be difficult, especially as a supplementary program after a whole week of concentration and learning in the secular school world. We are, then, tasked with figuring out how to do good, meaningful Jewish learning in a way that feels like an invitation, like an opportunity, rather than a burden or a restriction.

Our first priority is always health and safety. And our next priority is the cognitive and emotional well-being of our students. We, as a school, are less concerned with whether or not the students can pass a test that we have no intention of giving them. Instead, our ultimate goal is to create an environment in which each student can feel intellectually safe. A student who is in fear of reprimand and punishment is not going to engage with Judaism

from a place of love. Fear is a terrible motivator for religious engagement, as recent history has made abundantly clear. Instead, we constantly strive to create a culture in which students know that they can have big feelings, that they can do hard things, that they can see challenges and know that their rabbi, teacher, and community is there to support them.

"The Principal's Office" is where we keep the candy and the dad jokes. Sure, some students need to come to my office to find a sense of calm, to recalibrate after something made them feel uncentered. There are, of course, times when a child needs to be able to process their feelings without being a distraction to other students. But it is our ultimate goal that no child will ever leave the Valley Temple believing that they are a "problem." Instead, we strive to ensure that every student goes home knowing they are cherished, respected, and cared for, even when they are in need of some assistance and guidance. Because at the end of the day, isn't that what we all need? A place to figure out how to be a person in safety and peace.

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.

We mourn the loss of our long-time High Holy Day vocalist Lincoln Chapman who died in January after a short illness. May his memory be for a blessing.





President's Message
Jody Finley

What's my advice to you for this year's Valley Temple spring fundraiser? Stay at home!

That's right! This year's fundraiser is one to be enjoyed in the comfort of your own home. We'll be having a "Stay-at-home luau party non-event." The Temple will be sending you goodies in order to have your own luau party at home. We ask that you please donate what you would have spent for an evening out at a fundraiser: ticket costs; a sitter; a new outfit, perhaps; donations of auction items, etc.

Members of The Valley Temple Board of Trustees have generously supported this stay-at-home fundraiser through pledges of over \$6,000. We hope everyone in the congregation will participate so that we can exceed our \$8,000 goal.

We've heard everyone is busy and a stay-at-home fundraiser would be welcome this year. Don't worry: We have great plans for an in-person event next year. Want extra points? Email a picture of your stay-at-home luau party to wendy@valleytemple.com. It will be fun to see what everyone is doing!

So get out your Hawaiian shirts and get ready to watch old episodes of Hawaii Five-O! The Valley Temple stay-at-home luau party non-event is coming to a couch near you!!

Jody

Jody Finley



SAVE THE DATE
Saturday, April 13

Valley Temple's
NON EVENT
FUNDRAISER 2024

Watch for your invitation
Support Valley Temple
by NOT attending



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

March 17th Meeting:
Cooking with Jaime Carmody

Please join us when Jaime Carmody will do a demonstration of a Bloody Mary Brunch. We will eat and have a drink while Jaime shares recipes and shows us how to put together a boozy brunch. No drinking required! (If you are able to bring \$5 to offset the cost of the food, please do so, but come to the meeting either way).

Save the Date:
April 14th Sisterhood Brunch

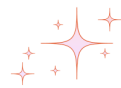
This fun event will be held at Nancy Kopnick's house and we encourage all women of Valley Temple to come, mingle, and celebrate spring.

Sisterhood
Mahjong Party

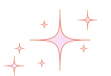


SUNDAY, MAY 19
SISTERHOOD ANNUAL MAHJONG FUNDRAISER

GET YOUR FOURSOME TOGETHER
AND SEE YOU THERE!
AN AFTERNOON OF PLAY, FOOD,
PRIZES AND FUN.



QUESTIONS? CALL/TEXT AMY LEVY
☎ 513-317-5955



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). 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),
Robyn McCarrick (mccarrick626@yahoo.com)



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

BLUE BIN DONATIONS

Blue Bin donations in March will go to Cincinnati Animal Care. This center provides animal control, shelter, foster and adoption services, dog licensing, microchipping and other benefits to animals in Hamilton County. Nearly 8,000 pets go through their doors annually. Please donate PET FOOD and SUPPLIES to the Blue Bin, or you may order from wish lists through Amazon and Chewy. Cash/checks and Amazon gift cards are welcomed. Available at grocery stores or consider a field trip to PetCo or PetSmart!

SUGGESTIONS:

- | | |
|--|--|
| Iams and Pedigree dry and canned foods | Heavy-duty leashes with padded handles |
| Greenies Pill Pockets | Stainless steel water dishes |
| Pupperoni and other dog treats | Potty pads |
| KMR powdered kitten milk | Cat litter |
| Canned tuna | Laundry soap |
| Jars of peanut butter | Dryer sheets |
| Jars of chicken and gravy baby food | Poop bags |
| | Garbage bags |

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.

The Religious Action Center of Reform Judaism (RAC) is launching the 2024 Every Voice, Every Vote Campaign (EVEV) on March 20:

“In 2024, we must come together once again to make sure that all voters have an equal say in decisions that impact our lives. By following the lead of those most impacted, we will break down the barriers set up by voter suppression laws that overwhelmingly impact BIPOC, poor, disabled, young, and elderly voters and build a democracy we can all be proud of.”

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 Fan Colish; *from Lynn and Neil Kravitz*
In memory of Donald Pollack; *from Jenny Broh*
In memory of Betty DuCovna; *from Herb DuCovna*
In appreciation of Rabbi Kopnick; *from Leticia Baltas*
In memory of Kathleen Mulloy;
from Kathie and Ivan Tamarkin

RABBI/EDUCATOR DISCRETIONARY FUND

In appreciation of Rabbi Zoot and the birth of Sophie Zoot;
from Bernice Pollack
In memory of Sue Trenkamp; *from George Trenkamp*

ROBERT & CHARLOTTE LANZIT ADULT EDUCATION FUND

In appreciation of The Valley Temple; *from Tom Steger*

CAMP SCHOLARSHIP FUND

In memory of James Mulloy;
from Craig and Debby Hoffheimer
In memory of Dr. Donald Pollack;
from Craig and Debby Hoffheimer
In memory of James Mulloy; *from Jean Amber*
In memory of Ruth Goldstein; *from Sue and Andy Spohr*
In memory of James Mulloy; *from Jenny Broh*

SASS FAMILY MUSIC FUND

In memory of Laurie Ruskin; *from George Trenkamp*

MEN'S CLUB

In memory of Barry Goldhoff; *from Sue and Andy Spohr*

A GIFT TO THE VALLEY TEMPLE

In memory of Donald Pollack; *from Laura and Sam Lobar*

BRYNA SCHWARTZ MEMORIAL ONEG & HOSPITALITY FUND

In memory of Harold, Christine, and Janice Wright;
from Susan and Jon Hoffheimer

ESTELLE WIGSER FLOWER FUND

In memory of Herbert Bronster;
from Rabbi Sol and Sue Greenberg

THANK YOU

Thank you to Steve and Nicole Deutsch for sponsoring an Oneg Shabbat in memory of Lore Deutsch

Thank you to Marnie and Steve Hayutin for hosting an Oneg Shabbat in memory of Stephen Engel

Thank you to John and Greer Schneider and Family for sponsoring an Oneg Shabbat

Thank you to Sisterhood for sponsoring an Oneg Shabbat

NOW GIVING IS EVEN EASIER

Go to ValleyTemple.com and click on "Giving"

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
Sophie Habif	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
Logan Zoot	03/25
Marjorie Rauh	03/26
Dr. Martin Fritzhand	03/28
Sharon Kollasch	03/28
Avi Schneider	03/30
Don Moeller	03/30
Jessica Anten	03/30

MARCH ANNIVERSARIES

John & Greer Schneider	03/18/2000
Rachel & Andrew Welch	03/18/2023
Dr. Michael & Janelle Gelfand	03/24/1973
Mike & Judy Green	03/25/1964
Marsha & Larry Schneider	03/31/1969

MISHEIBERACH

Bernice Blatt
Michael Gelfand
Ron Kull
Peggy Barrett
George Dilworth
Pam Levinson
Jean Amber

LET US LEARN IN
ORDER TO TEACH...

ADULT EDUCATION SPRING 5784

LET US LEARN IN
ORDER TO DO...

TUESDAY NIGHT SEMINARS

Jewish Exile in the Tanakh

With Rocki Schy, Rabbinic Intern
Tuesdays, March 5, 12, 19 at 7:30

These sessions will explore the experience of Jews outside the land of Israel that can be found in the Hebrew Bible (Tanakh). These texts—sometimes mournful, sometimes satirical—give an insight to the tenacity of the Jewish people and the early days of working out how Judaism would exist without a Temple.

Together we will read and uncover the relevance these stories and the historical moment they portray have to our lives!

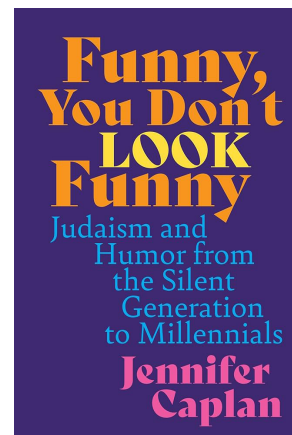
The Advocate, The Poet, and the Man: Abraham Joshua Heschel's Legacy During a Period of Jewish Upheaval

With Rabbi Austin Zoot
Tuesdays, April 9, 16, and 30 at 7:30 p.m.

The middle of the 20th Century was one of the most dynamic and challenging periods in Jewish history. In the aftermath of the Holocaust, the worldwide Jewish community was tasked with figuring out how to balance our Jewish identities with our civic responsibilities and moral theologies. Few had a greater impact on that process than Abraham Joshua Heschel. Through his theology, his social activism and his extensive writings, Heschel helped to set the focus for global Jewish perspectives even to this day. We will explore the ways that Heschel has echoed through recent Jewish history and what he has to teach us during our own moments of ideological transition.

Bimah Book Club

Tuesday, May 7 at 7:30 p.m.
With Rabbi Sanford Kopnick



In this comprehensive approach to Jewish humor focused on the relationship between humor and American Jewish practice, Jennifer Caplan calls us to adopt a more expansive view of what it means to “do Jewish,” revealing that American Jews have turned, and continue to turn, to humor as a cultural touchstone. Caplan frames the book around four generations of Jewish Americans from the Silent Generation to Millennials, highlighting a shift from the utilization of Jewish-specific markers to American-specific markers.

Adult Hebrew Continues thru May 14

Hebrew Bet—Mondays at 6:00 p.m.
Advanced Hebrew—Tuesdays at 5:30 p.m.
Hebrew Gimmel—Tuesdays at 6:30 p.m.
Hebrew Aleph—Tuesdays at 6:30 p.m.

Call Rabbi Kopnick for details.
New classes forming this Fall!

We are grateful to the Robert & Charlotte Lanzit Adult Education Endowment and the Jewish Foundation of Cincinnati for supporting The Valley Temple's adult learning.



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-Presidents, Men's Club

513-761-3555

WEBSITE: www.valleytemple.com

E-MAIL: wendy@valleytemple.com

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PURIM CELEBRATION

Saturday, March 23

5:00 p.m. Carnival & Pizza
Dinner with Hamantaschen

7:00 p.m. Schpiel & Service

Wristband for games \$11
Dinner: \$5 Kids | \$10 Adults

RAFFLE FOR EVERYONE!

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



Save the date!

**Tuesday
April 23**

*Congregational
Passover Seder*