

Selichot
September 28



the
valley
temple

September 2024
Av - Elul 5784

RELIGIOUS SERVICES

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 6, 7:30 P.M.

Shabbat Service
Oneg to celebrate the return of
Rabbi Sanford Kopnick.
Hosted by Susan & Andrew Sphor
and the congregation.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 7

9:30 a.m. – Torah Study
10:30 a.m. -- Shabbat Service
Torah Portion – *Shof'tim*,
Deuteronomy 16:18-21:9

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 13, 7:30 P.M.

Shabbat Service
Friday Night Live Band

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 14

9:30 a.m. – Torah Study
9:45 a.m. – Tot Shabbat
10:30 a.m. -- Shabbat Service
Torah Portion – *Ki Teitzei*,
Deuteronomy 21:10-25:19

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 20, 7:30 P.M.

Shabbat Service

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 21

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

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 27, 7:30 P.M.

Shabbat Service

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 28

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

SEPTEMBER 28 - SELICHOT

8:00 p.m. Adult Education Program
9:30 p.m. Dessert Buffet
10:00 p.m. Havdalah/Torah Cover
Changing/Selichot Service

Prospective Member

Open
House

SEPTEMBER 13,
7:00 p.m.

Do you know someone who is looking for a new synagogue or who is new to town? Bring a prospective member, show them our beautiful building, and attend services on September 13.

The open house will begin at 7:00 p.m., followed by a service featuring the Friday Night Live Band at 7:30 p.m. As usual, our band will help us worship with a *ruach* (spirit) that is both inspiring and contagious.

Bring a friend – help us welcome some new Temple members and let's celebrate Shabbat together.



REGISTRATION IS OPEN!

JOIN US ON SUNDAY MORNINGS!

Begins Sunday, September 8 at 9:45 a.m.

Also offering Pre-K classes for 3, 4 & 5 year olds
and Gan Emek for children under 3 years old.

To register or for more information, contact Rabbi Zoot at
rabbizoot@valleytemple.com or call the office at 513-761-3555



Bakers needed for Rosh Hashanah

Contact the Temple office to volunteer.





From the Rabbi Sandford R. Kopnick

I LOVE OUR MUSIC!

I was raised in a congregation with a strong music program. The sanctuary had a marble entry way with the words, “Come before God’s presence with singing.” (taken from the Psalms). My dad was a high school band and choral director, and music is the language that I find most prayerful. So I am proud of the evolution of our music program at Valley.

I am not naïve. I understand that there are various musical styles that are easier to embrace than others. People love to sing along—and I love it when you do. However, some of our prayers are set to music by some composers that make it more difficult to join in. Yet, if we simply allow the trained voice to interpret the prayer, it can usually help convey what the composer intended. Not all melodies require us to sing.

This is especially true on the High Holy Days. As you know, we continue to mourn the loss of our dear friend, Lincoln Chapman. Lincoln’s voice was a constant for the last 20 years, and his sudden death to cancer last January is still on our minds. Marilyn Zelcer, our soloist has engaged two new voices to join her for the High Holy Days. We have found a few new pieces of music to replace a few older settings, and are reworking a few of the choices, too. Two new singers creates a mountain of repertoire that will need to be learned, and Marilyn and accompanist Matthew Umfreys are helping our new folks to learn what they need. I am grateful to Marilyn for her help and understanding.

Our early Rosh Hashanah Service allows for a very different High Holy Day service. I attend both the early and the 8:00 services on Rosh Hashanah—and find the two together to be inspiring and surprisingly complimentary. The early service and its very participatory music allows for a deeper dive into the liturgy and music of the 8:00 service—who woulda thunk??

Regardless of your taste or preference, please know that we heard those who responded to last fall’s survey. Some had strong feelings about music, but by no means was there a loud and clear message from a majority. We will continue to evolve our music—taking into account the various resources that go into a well-rounded music program. This includes human and financial resources. We are lucky to have talented temple members who so joyfully give of their time for our Friday Night Live style of music, and talented professionals who share their skill and gifts with us, too.

So, remember, there is a time for singing—and a time for allowing the artistry to transform you when you listen. A good balance of both can lead to a great experience. I’ll see you soon!

Sandford R. Kopnick, Rabbi



HIGH HOLY DAY SERVICES 5785/2024

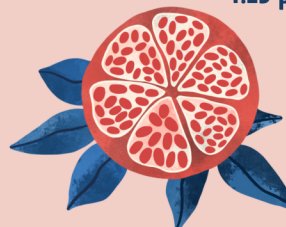
Selichot, Saturday, September 28
8:00 p.m. - Adult Education
9:30 p.m. - Grand Dessert Buffet
10:00 p.m. - Havdalah/Torah Cover Changing/Selichot Service

Erev Rosh Hashanah, Wednesday, October 2
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, Thursday, October 3
9:00 a.m. - Family Service
10:15 a.m. - Tot Service
10:45 a.m. - Mishkan HaNefesh Service

Erev Yom Kippur, Friday, October 11
8:00 p.m. - Kol Nidre Service

Yom Kippur, Saturday, October 12
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. - Concluding



שנה
טובה

Rabbi/Educator's Message Austin Zoot



If you're really quiet, you can probably hear it: the pitter-patter of the High Holy Days getting ever closer. Maybe that's just a rabbi thing, feeling the immensity of the spiritual work of these holidays approaching, bringing with them plenty of logistics, sermons, outlines, and more. Regardless of your to-do list in leadup to this season of renewal, this is a time that invites us to take a kind of inventory of our lives, to decide who we have been for the past year and who we want to be as we move forward.

On September 4th, we will begin the Hebrew month of *Elul*, the final month before *Rosh Hashanah*, which begins on the first day of *Tishrei*. Traditionally, Jews spend the month of *Elul* getting ready for the work that is ahead. We blow the *shofar* each morning as a kind of alarm clock, waking us up to the importance of that which lies ahead. But curiously, there aren't a lot of other specific rituals during this month. For a religion that LOVES a structured practice, I am sometimes surprised that *Elul* doesn't have more built-in customs.

That hasn't prevented people from trying to write their own. Every year, Jewish organizations around the world put together social media campaigns, learning systems, and spiritual practices to help ground us in the opportunity to connect with our deepest spiritual selves. Even the Valley Temple has created videos to help build a setting for the kind of intention-setting and thoughtfulness that this period expects of us. But in Judaism, there is no such thing as an accident; I believe it is exactly the point of *Elul* that we aren't commanded to do specific things, that there isn't a RIGHT way to go about the work of preparing for the holidays. Instead, we are invited to find that which works best for us.

I am someone who finds deep meaning in journaling. I haven't gone anywhere in the past decade without a notebook close at hand. Writing helps me to make sense of the world around me, to help me adjust my focus and lift up the most important aspects of my life. During the month of *Elul* and the subsequent High Holy Days, my notebook gets plenty of extra attention. It is a helpful receptacle for all of the processing that makes the work I do in the synagogue all the more meaningful. One of my favorite traditions is to make a final journal entry right before the *Rosh Hashanah* service that we host at the 20th Century Theater, because it helps put a stamp on the end of the year.

This, of course, is what works for me. Journaling is one of the ways that I make sense of this period of transition and introspection. But there are plenty of Jews who find the idea of journaling their thoughts totally alien. For some, spiritual attention is best maintained in nature. For others, it might be through music or poetry. For others, it is in doing acts of *Tikkun Olam*, of finding ways to repair the world. The vagueness of the ritualization of *Elul* isn't

a failure to give us what we need during this period, but rather a reminder of our own spiritual power; so often, Judaism invokes the whole community to come together around shared values and practices. In this month leading up to *Rosh Hashanah*, we are instead invited to find our own ways to make things meaningful, to be able to do our own personalized work to get us ready for the moments that matter most in our spiritual year.

Over the course of the next month, I invite you to find what it is that makes you feel most deeply engaged. There are no right answers, only answers that are right for you. And if you aren't sure how you connect most deeply to the holiness of this season, all you have to do is ask. You have a pair of rabbis who are deeply invested in making sure that this season is as meaningful, uplifting, and impactful as possible. Because while this time is unique to each of us, none of us are alone on the journey. We are right there alongside you, doing the practices, figuring out what works best for us, and looking forward to another sacred, special new year.

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.

GAN EMER
FOR CHILDREN UNDER 3 YEARS OLD

SIGN UP NOW!

CONTACT RABBI ZOOT AT
RABBIZOOT@VALLEYTEMPLE.COM OR 513-761-3555



President's Message
Neil Berman

Hi all. Happy end of summer and early fall. The High Holidays will soon be here, Religious School is back, and Rabbi Kopnick is returning from his summer sabbatical. Activity at Valley Temple tends to pick up as summer ends, and this year looks to be no different.

Have you ever wanted to know what the Valley Temple Board of Trustees does? [The advantage of writing this message in advance is I can assume or pretend you do!]. The Board is made up of 12 to 18 of your fellow synagogue members. The Board also includes the immediate Past President of the Board, and the current President of Sisterhood and the Men's Club.

First and foremost, the Board reviews monthly financial statements to ensure each dollar spent is in the best interest of the Congregation. Second, the Board approves a budget each year for this same purpose, and reports to the congregation at the annual congregational meeting in June. Other topics are wide ranging: changes to services, ways to strengthen the Religious School, issues in the larger Jewish community, social action, hiring a new employee, organizing various Temple events, and maintenance issues with the building and outside grounds. The Board listens to both positive comments and constructive criticism from congregants. Your voice matters.

Under the umbrella of the Board of Trustees, committees take the lead on topics such as Adult Education, Membership, the Budget, and many others. The Rabbis and Wendy Walsh, our Office Administrator are not Board members, but attend almost all of the meetings to update the Board on the events of the last month, and to share ideas for the future betterment of Valley Temple. Even during the pandemic, the Board continued to function and address challenges.

As a small synagogue, we are very fortunate to have many board members and committee members volunteering their time. Many of them have expertise in finance, the law, non-profit organizations, and fundraising. Others benefit the Board from their long standing relationship with Valley Temple and connections to the larger Jewish community in Cincinnati. We are grateful to all of them.

Neil Berman, President



Join sisterhood today at

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

MEETINGS & PROGRAMS

Don't miss our Monthly Sunday morning meetings and look for fun activities each month as well! This year, we'll hold our activities/monthly catch up at 10:00 and our business meeting at 11:00. We're trying something new!

MONTH	MEETING DATE
September	September 15th
October	October 20th
November	November 17th
December	December 8th (<i>Chanukah Exchange</i>)
January	January 12th
February	February 9th
March	March 9th
April	April 6th
May	May 4th (Religious School Picnic)

Save the date: Annual Cincinnati Mega Challah Bake: November 21, 2024. We will have a VTS table again this year!

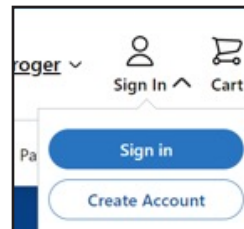
If you have any questions, contact one of our co-presidents for the 24-25 year. Co-Presidents: Robyn McCarrick (mccarrick626@yahoo.com) and Elizabeth Woosley (efwooz@gmail.com)

KROGER COMMUNITY REWARDS POINTS

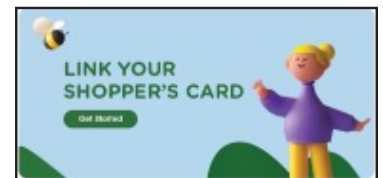
PLEASE ALLOCATE your Kroger community rewards to Valley Temple Sisterhood (you still get all of your same personal rewards – they just allocate a donation to us based on your spending).

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're excited about the upcoming year and look forward to you participating in our activities!



Tikkun Olam

SEPTEMBER

BLUE BIN DONATIONS

For September, we continue to support the work of HER-Cincinnati by providing clothing for children and mothers residing in "Scholar House".

"The Cincinnati Scholar House is an affordable housing community designed to provide a stable living and learning environment for low-income single parents and their dependent children while the parent attends post-secondary classes. While the parents are in school, their children will be enriched by an on-site infant to pre-K child development center. By providing this support, the Cincinnati Scholar House can assist single parents in achieving full-time employment and economic stability. Their mission is to break the cycle of poverty and achieve transformative change through education – two generations at a time."

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.

The staff at Scholar House will be providing us with a list of specific clothing items needed - please check the weekly temple emails for details.

SOCIAL JUSTICE ACTIVITIES

We work closely with the Religious Action Center of Reform Judaism nationally, and in Ohio (RAC-OH) throughout the year, to coordinate advocacy activities, including postcard-writing, canvassing, and education

related to public policies that have been identified by the Union of Reform Judaism (URJ) and local/state congregations.

We are currently involved nationally in the "Every Voice, Every Vote" (EVEV) campaign, and in Ohio on passing the "Citizens Not Politicians" (CNP) amendment to combat gerrymandering in the state.

There are many opportunities to be involved!

Nationally, RAC will again be working on voting rights, through the "Every Voice, Every Vote" campaign, which was so successful last year in promoting reproductive rights.

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.

Religious Action Center of Reform Judaism (RAC)
<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

BLUE BIN FOR SEPTEMBER: WATCH FOR MORE INFO



HOUSING ANNA LOUISE INN

HER CINCINNATI provides housing to women experiencing chronic homelessness and long-term health conditions.

EDUCATION CINCINNATI SCHOLAR HOUSE

Cincinnati Scholar House provides safe and affordable housing to single parent college students, along with on-site childcare and the supportive services needed to succeed.

RECOVERY OFF THE STREETS

Off the Streets is an award-winning, evidence-based program dedicated to serve the needs of women with histories of sex trafficking and exploitation.

SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Keith Pennix	09 / 03
Chad Vordenberge	09 / 03
Sarah Sawin	09 / 04
Tyler Friedman	09 / 04
Martin Schrage	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
Dr. Charles Frank	09 / 14
Aaron Levy	09 / 16
Bruce Walker	09 / 16
Nathan Berman	09 / 18
Amanda Stein	09 / 18
Brian Cusack	09 / 18
Oliver Dornheggen	09 / 18
Sam Mantell, III	09 / 21
Kelli Gleiner	09 / 21
Tony Capurro	09 / 22
Lucy Schrage	09 / 22
Parker Levinson	09 / 23
Aron Schneider	09 / 23
Marsha Schneider	09 / 23
Zoe Codd	09 / 23
Mark Sass	09 / 23
Maximillian Baltes	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

OUR SYMPATHY

Laurel Fischbaum and Aaron Ehrle and Emily Ehrle
on the death of their husband and grandfather,
Marvin Fischbaum.

The family of Alberta Hemsley

MISHEIBERACH

Bernice Blatt
Michael Gelfand
Ron Kull
Peggy Barrett
Pam Levinson
Jan Rosenbaum Sass
Davine Levy
Sharon Feldstein
Carol Magnus
Ken Mitman

SEPTEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

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 & Dr. Charles 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

Rosh Hashanah Musical Experience

INFORMAL | CREATIVE | NO TICKET REQUIRED

Wednesday, October 2
6:00 p.m.
20th Century Theater
3021 Madison Road

Sukkot Celebration

**Wednesday,
October 16**

5:00 P.M. - Sukkah
decorating
6:00 P.M. - Dinner
7:00 P.M. - Outdoor
Sukkot Service

Thursday, October 17

10:00 a.m. - Sukkot Festival
Morning Service

Simchat Torah Celebration

Wednesday, October 23

7:00 p.m. - Simchat Torah Celebration

Thursday, October 24

10:00 a.m. - Simchat Torah Festival Service
Yizkor prayers will be recited



Sustaining the Generations

We gratefully acknowledge the following contributions:

RABBI'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

In memory of Jean Amber; *from Barbi Stenacker*
In memory of Marvin Fischbaum;
from Ellen & Mark Kovacic
In memory of Marvin Fischbaum; *from Ken & Diane Mitman*
In honor of Will Pinsky's Bar Mitzvah;
from Ken & Diane Mitman
In memory of Sue DuCovna; *from Herb DuCovna*

RABBI/EDUCATOR DISCRETIONARY FUND

In memory of Marvin Fischbaum; *from Jenny Broh*

ALLEN & SELMA WIENER BERKMAN SOCIAL ACTION FUND

In memory of Barbara Knowlen; *from Elliot & Helen Spieler*

ROBERT & CHARLOTTE LANZIT ADULT EDUCATION FUND

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

SASS FAMILY MUSIC FUND

In memory of Freddie Linder;
from Andrea Beck & Fred Gartenlaub
In memory of Marvin Fischbaum; *from Sam & Laura Lobar*
In memory of Alberta Hemsley; *from Sam & Laura Lobar*
In memory of Alberta Hemsley; *from Barbara Morgenstern*
In honor of birthday of Laurel Fischbaum;
from Ellen & Mark Kovacic
In memory of Herman Wasserman;
from Ken & Diane Mitman

LOUISE MARKS RELIGIOUS SCHOOL FUND

In honor of Will Pinsky's Bar Mitzvah; *from Ilene Witt*

BRYNA SCHWARTZ MEMORIAL ONEG & HOSPITALITY FUND

In memory of Diane Bongard; *from Ken & Diane Mitman*
In memory of Anna Siegel; *from Ellen & Mark Kovacic*

CONGREGATIONAL CARE FUND

In memory of Florence Goodman; *from Donna Goodman*

ESTELLE WIGSER FLOWER FUND

In memory of Laurie Setzler; *from Sam & Laura Lobar*

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

THANK YOU FOR SPONSORING AN ONEG SHABBAT

Drene and Phil Levinson in honor of Sophie Zoot's first birthday

Ben and Erin Pnsky in honor of Will's Bar Mitzvah

Ilene Witt in memory of Selma Hirschberg

TOT SHABBAT



SATURDAY
SEPTEMBER 14
9:45 A.M.

CHILDREN BIRTH TO AGE 6 ARE INVITED TO JOIN US FOR A LIVELY SHABBAT SERVICE FILLED WITH PUPPETS, PRAYER & MUSIC



145 springfield pike
wyoming, oh 45215

Sandford R. Kopnick, Rabbi
Austin Zoot, Rabbi/Educator
Wendy Walsh, Temple Administrator
Solomon T. Greenberg, Rabbi Emeritus
Neil Berman, President
Robyn McCarrick & Elizabeth Woosley,
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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SELICHOT 5784



“A GOOD MAN LEAVES AN INHERITANCE
FOR HIS CHILDREN'S CHILDREN”:
LESSONS FROM THE ETHICAL WILLS OF AMERICAN JEWS

WITH GUEST SCHOLAR RABBI DR. GARY P. ZOLA



8:00 P.M. ADULT EDUCATION PROGRAM

9:30 P.M. DESSERT BUFFET

10:00 P.M. HAVDALAH/TORAH COVER CHANGING/SELICHOT SERVICE

SEPTEMBER 28