



the valley temple

October 2024
Elul 5784 - Tishrei 5785

RELIGIOUS SERVICES

EREV ROSH HASHANAH, WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 2

6:00 p.m. – Musical Experience at
20th CENTURY THEATER IN OAKLEY

8:00 p.m. Mishkan HaNefesh Service at
THE VALLEY TEMPLE

ROSH HASHANAH, THURSDAY, OCTOBER 3

9:00 a.m. Family Service
10:15 a.m. Tot Service
10:45 a.m. Mishkan HaNefesh Service

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 4, 7:30 P.M.

Shabbat Service

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 5

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

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
1:00 p.m. – Study Session
2:45 p.m. – Afternoon Service
4:15 p.m. – Memorial/Concluding
Light Break the Fast
following the Concluding Service

SUKKOT CELEBRATION WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 16

5:00 p.m. *Sukkah* Building & Decorating
6:00 p.m. Dinner for those
with reservations
7:00 p.m. Service & Campfire

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 17

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

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 18, 7:30 P.M.

Shabbat Service

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 19

9:30 a.m. - Torah Study
10:30 a.m. - Shabbat Service
Torah Portion – *Chol Ha-Moed Sukkot*,
Exodus 32: 12 - 34: 26; Numbers 29:17 -22

SIMCHAT TORAH WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 23

7:00 p.m. *Simchat Torah* Celebration
With special Musician-in-Residence,
Dan Nichols

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 24 10:00 A.M. SIMCHAT TORAH

Festival Service with *Yizkor* prayers
With special Musician-in-Residence,
Dan Nichols

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 25, 7:30 P.M.

Shabbat Service

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 26

9:30 a.m. – Torah Study
10:30 a.m. – Shabbat Service
Torah Portion – *Bereishit*,
Genesis 1:1 - 6:8

SIMCHAT TORAH CELEBRATION

WITH MUSICIAN-IN-RESIDENCE DAN NICHOLS

**WEDNESDAY,
OCTOBER 23
AT 7:00 P.M.
AND
THURSDAY,
OCTOBER 24
AT 10:00 A.M.**

GUCI Families and Alumni are also invited to a citywide Sukkot celebration with Dan Nichols at Tuesday, October 22, at 7:00 p.m. at The Valley Temple.

Sponsored by
The Valley Temple,
Rockdale Temple and GUCI.



From the Rabbi Sandford R. Kopnick

TOO MANY ANNIVERSARIES

Soon after Rosh Hashanah, we will commemorate the first anniversary of the massacre of Israelis by Hamas which occurred on October 7, 2023, coinciding with the 50th Anniversary of the Yom Kippur War. September 11 recently passed as we marked 23 years since the U.S. was brought into the family of victims of terrorism on a national scale. Every Olympics that pass reminds many of the 1972 Munich games when the PLO took the Israeli athletes hostage and ultimately murdered them.

I think about how Israelis so joyously commemorate the establishment of the state of Israel with Yom HaAtzmaut, while their Palestinian neighbors remember that same event as the *Nakba* (the Catastrophe). We remember December 7, 1941, “the day that will live in infamy.” This past summer, we recalled the Hiroshima and Nagasaki bombings in 1945.

Too many communities are now changed by the violence of school or community shootings all across our country. Many of us focus on these terrible events, and the ways our world has been inoperably changed. Too much terrorism. Too much conflict. Too many opportunities to create pain.

It is time to repent. Judaism teaches that we have an important anniversary to commemorate: the last time we were commanded to repent—last Yom Kippur. Would that we all take it seriously. Would that the world takes the opportunity to breathe deep, look inward, evaluate, repent, and resolve to solve problems without violence, bloodshed, and the deaths of the innocent.

Every conflict has two sides. When the more powerful in a conflict repents rather than overpowers, hope can emerge. When the one who “wrongs” owns their role in a conflict, hope can emerge. When we respect each other enough to want what’s best for everyone, not just for ourselves, conflicts can dilute to something manageable. Seems pretty optimistic, simple and even naïve. Yet, the alternative is too destructive and too painful.

I am dreading October 7. My heart is broken for the hostages who were killed and the families that were destroyed. I mourn the loss of so many innocent Palestinians who lived too close to Hamas operatives, leadership, and terrorists. I mourn the loss of *ahavat Yisrael* (love of Israel) among too many of our fellow Jews, and especially our younger adults.

As I contemplate Yom Kippur this year, I will repent for

the times I did not support our People enough. I will repent for the times that I allowed too much negativity to be the focus of our lives, and the times I did not do enough to move us from strength to strength. Yet, I will also pray that those who continue to value “others” less than they value themselves to be inspired to repent. I pray that we all realize that not only are we all created in God’s image, but we can only be true heirs to the world God created when we value everyone.

L’shanah Tovah!

Sandford R. Kopnick, Rabbi

DISAGREEMENTS FROM TANAKH TO TODAY WITH RABBI ARI JUN

**ADULT
EDUCATION**



A session on biblical disagreements; a session on disagreements in Talmud and medieval legends; a session on how we manage our disagreements today.

**Tuesday October 29, THURSDAY, November 7,
Tuesday, November 12 at 7:30 p.m. at the Temple.**

If you would like to join us on Zoom,
please call the Temple for details.

Rabbi Ari (Ballaban) Jun is a respected spiritual leader, scholar, and community activist. As the son of two rabbis, Rabbi Jun was born and raised in a vibrant Jewish household, and from a young age he developed a deep passion for Judaism and serving others.

Trained in advanced religious studies and equipped with a compassionate heart, Jun has dedicated his life to guiding and inspiring individuals on their spiritual and cultural journeys.



Rabbi/Educator's Message Austin Zoot

There is an expansive gulf between “have to” and “get to.” And never is that a more important distinction than in the run-up to the High Holy Days.

I grew up in a community where the holidays inspired a deep sense of “have to.” Services weren’t something to be enjoyed or invested in, they were something to endure, to overcome. The whole process was drenched in layers of obligation that put the reason for participation squarely on service to others, with no particular benefit to the individual. That wasn’t how my family saw things; my family tried diligently to embrace the themes of thoughtfulness and renewal that are inherent to this season. But it became something of a tradition for me to see certain peers from high school show up to services looking like they were being punished for something.

Of course, some of this is developmentally appropriate; the themes of repentance, spiritual wholeness, and new beginnings can occasionally fly over the head of a younger person. But uncomfortably often, the children are learning the sense of joyless duty from their parents, who themselves struggle to figure out how to frame these observances as an opportunity.

Yet, the Jewish people have participated in these rituals for thousands of years. We wouldn’t be doing it if there weren’t an inherent value in the rites and traditions that we have polished over the centuries. This is ever more the case as we live in an era of near constant activity. Our cell phones demand our attention at every moment. Our calendars are jam packed with expectations, meetings, events, and experiences that we would be remiss to miss. We are, collectively, trying to drink in life through a firehose, and more and more often we are finding that it is impossible to keep up.

When we put the High Holy Days through this frame, what an incredible gift it is to have the opportunity to invest in ourselves, to give ourselves the gift of some time and space to reflect on the essence of our humanity. When was the last time you were able to stop and ask yourself: What kind of person have I been? What kind of person do I want to be? What do I need to do to get there? The shelves at Barnes and Noble are crumbling under the weight of all the self-help books that nobody has time to read, and yet this only adds to our never-ending to-do lists. At the synagogue, meanwhile, we are encouraged to put our distractions aside for a little while, to instead turn inward and do the sacred work of connecting ourselves to the sacred, to the timeless, to the eternal.

Now, we have to identify my bias. As a rabbi, you might assume that I am predisposed to enjoy the process of the holidays. After all, you have to be a particular flavor of nerd to study Judaism for a living at the depth that is required of a clergy person. Sadly, though, I find that

many of my colleagues spend this time allowing the to-do list of preparation get in the way of their ability to do the holy work for themselves. After all, it is far easier to obsess over the sermon-writing process, or pour over yet another version of the service outline. Even those who have invested their lives into making Jewish prayer a priority can be known to struggle with how to contextualize their work with the sanctity of this moment.

The world reminds us far too often that it is incredibly difficult to be a human being. We have so many expectations to manage, so many obligations to fulfill. What a gift it is that Jewish tradition has created an annual opportunity to center ourselves, to come together as a community and do the sacred work of recalibrating our priorities. And what a gift it is that we get to come together as a Valley Temple congregational family to do the profound and powerful work of spiritual growth together.

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.

GUCI, VALLEY, AND ROCKDALE TO SPONSOR SUKKOT EVENT AT VALLEY

Attention all GUCI alumni and current GUCI families: Dan Nichols will be here on Tuesday, October 22, 2024 from 7-9 p.m. to help us continue to celebrate Sukkot. We hope all GUCI alumni, current families, and their friends throughout Cincinnati will join in the fun. We anticipate a food truck with dessert, singing, and some time in the Sukkah. RSVP preferred.

Then join us on Wednesday, October 23 at 7:00 p.m. for our annual Simchat Torah celebration. Dan Nichols is staying to be our musician in residence for the Valley celebration. No need to RSVP for the Simchat Torah Service--just join us. Dan will also be with us for our end of festival/Yizkor service on Thursday morning, October 24 at 10:00 a.m.

Break the rule: come to Valley as much as you can to celebrate with us!



President's Message
Neil Berman

As I am writing this, the High Holidays are almost here. As I look back on the last year, the news has been dominated by Hamas' heinous attack on Israel and the war that has continued almost unabated since last October. The year has also demonstrated all too clearly that antisemitism does not truly go away, even in the United States. While the conduct of the war divides some in the Jewish community and in the United States on the proper response by Israel, it is also clear that antisemitism has been rising, particularly on college campuses, and can never be justified or tolerated.

This pattern goes beyond the Jewish community of course. As just one example, the national news in the last week has included baseless slander against legal Haitian American immigrants in Springfield, Ohio. This is a story so ridiculous that if a fiction author included it in a novel, their editor would tell the author that the chapter needs some work. But that fiction has led to bomb threats and other real-world consequences.

Gun violence in the United States continues at an epidemic rate. Just in the last few months, school shootings have continued to be "routine", and two attempts on a presidential candidate's life have occurred.

I live in Wyoming, a mostly peaceful suburb in which political discourse centers around building new elementary schools or creating a new park. And unlike the casual cruelty one can easily find on social media, generally people in-person, at least in my little world, are kinder than I probably give them credit for. And although you can't ignore the larger world, I can appreciate the smaller world that I am very fortunate to live in.

And, although sometimes it is easy to forget, the larger world is filled with good stories as well, if we look hard enough to find them. Miracle medicines, technological breakthroughs, selfless acts of bravery, and if you ask some people in my household, miniature horses.

Valley Temple strives to be a community to enrich its congregants. Social action or tikkun olam gives members an opportunity to improve the larger world. But I also think Valley Temple also serves as a place to put the outside world down for a time, and be a part of our small Jewish community. Of course, the world does not go away, but sometimes we can let that world be a little smaller for a few moments. Valley Temple does not always get it right, but most of time I think we do, and we are always striving to with the best of intentions.

L'Shanah Tovah, 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
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 (<i>Religious School Picnic</i>)

We hope you can join us in person (we typically have food), but if you cannot all meetings are streamed live at bit.ly/GeneralMeetingsVTS

As in the past, we will have many exciting things this year including (but not limited to):

- Rosh Hashanah Challah
- Hosting WRJ Heartland District Dinner Nov 8th
- Sisterhood Shabbat – Nov 8th – if you would like to help contact Sue Mantel(mantelsp@ucmail.uc.edu)
- Sisterhood Brunch – Nov 17th to help contact Sue Mantel (mantelsp@ucmail.uc.edu).
- Rummage Sale – Summer 2025
- Volunteer Opportunities
- Other events throughout the year.

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)



The Men's Club would like to thank Scott Steinberg, Mark Sass and Izar Spivak for helping with our Annual Picnic. With the High Holidays approaching we are asking for any help with ushering for services. Further information will be provided regarding dates and times.

Happy New Year!



Tikkun Olam

OCTOBER

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 FOR VALLEY INTERFAITH

The High Holidays are in October this year, and we will again be doing our HHD Food Drive to benefit the Valley Interfaith Community Resource Center in Lockland. Bags will be distributed at the Rosh Hashanah services, to be filled with non-perishable food items, and returned on Yom Kippur.

In addition, we are requesting donations of gift cards to Kroger, Meijer, Walmart or Kohl’s to benefit the Haitian immigrants in Springfield, Ohio. We are working with the Haitian Community Help and Support Center in Springfield to facilitate this.

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!

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

ANNUAL HIGH HOLY DAY FOOD DRIVE

*TO BENEFIT 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 October 15 at 12:00 p.m. to load and deliver the food.

A huge thank you to Andy Spohr for his hard work making the Temple grounds look so beautiful. His enormous efforts are greatly appreciated. Thanks also to Jon and Susan Hoffheimer for their work and Peggy Barrett for her continuing supervision.



OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

Scott Steinberg	10 / 01
Judy Levy	10 / 01
Diane L. Mitman	10 / 01
Rabbi Austin Zoot	10 / 01
Phil Sawin	10 / 02
Henry Bernay	10 / 03
Steven Hecht	10 / 04
Joelle Luebbbers Levine	10 / 04
Izar Spivak	10 / 05
Richard Blatt	10 / 06
Charles Steed	10 / 09
Jeffrey Marks	10 / 12
Zoe Nourie	10 / 13
Jennie Waits	10 / 15
David S. Levine	10 / 15
Ron Kull	10 / 17
Logan Fritsch	10 / 17
Carol Appel	10 / 17
Sara Naveh	10 / 20
Alex Kopnick	10 / 21
Ari Buchwald	10 / 21
Neil Bortz	10 / 21
Bette Sherman	10 / 22
Charlotte Hoffman	10 / 22
Sandy Hatfield	10 / 23
Lillian Plum Gartenlaub	10 / 23
Judy Green	10 / 24
Max Kravitz	10 / 26
Micah Schneider	10 / 27
Cindy Pinsky	10 / 28
William Klein	10 / 29
Rebecca Klein	10 / 31
Donald H. Dornheggen II	10 / 31

OCTOBER ANNIVERSARIES

Mark & Ellen Kovacic	10/07/1979
David & Shannon Clark	10/12/2002
Marnie & Steve Hayutin	10/16/1994
Chad Munitz & Michelle Lightfoot	10/17
Ernie & Helen Waits, Jr.	10/19/1986
Daniel & Dedra Perlmutter	10/22/2000
David & Hillary Hoffman	10/30/2009

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

ADULT HEBREW BEGINS ON TUESDAY, OCTOBER 8, THURSDAY, OCTOBER 10, AND SUNDAY, OCTOBER 20

If you are wanting to learn Hebrew for the first time, or refine your knowledge of Hebrew, come to one of our four levels of adult Hebrew this year!

TUESDAYS, AT 6:30 A.M. (BEGINNING OCTOBER 8)

Hebrew Bet with Rabbi Kopnick

If you know the Hebrew Alphabet and are ready to start learning what some of the prayers mean and how the language works, this is the class for you.

Hebrew Gimmel (with Rabbi Judith Spicehandler)

If you've been studying Hebrew for a few years, and are familiar with some of the prayer and Hebrew grammar, give Rabbi Spicehandler's class a try. She's good!

THURSDAYS AT 6:00 P.M. (BEGINNING OCTOBER 10)

Advance Hebrew (with Rabbi Kopnick)

For those who really want to get into the way Hebrew works through translating Bible selections.

If you are uncertain which class would work for you, contact Rabbi Kopnick at the Temple.



Sustaining the Generations

We gratefully acknowledge the following contributions:

RABBI'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

In memory of Harry A. Bossin; *from Phyllis Bossin*
In memory of Norman Wasserman; *from Sue Price*
In memory of Edward Kimball; *from Linda & Jeff Lazar*
In memory of Norman Wasserman;
from Lynn & Glen Mayfield
In memory of Ruth Kravitz; *from Lynn & Neil Kravitz*
In memory of Erwin Colish; *from Lynn & Neil Kravitz*
In appreciation of Rabbi Kopnick;
from the family of Ralph Mannheimer

RABBI / EDUCATOR DISCRETIONARY FUND

In memory of Harold M. Rosenbaum;
from Mark Sass and Jan Rosenbaum Sass
In memory of Mildred C. Rosenbaum;
from Mark Sass and Jan Rosenbaum Sass
In appreciation of Rabbi Zoot;
from the family of Norman Wasserman

ROBERT & CHARLOTTE LANZIT ADULT EDUCATION FUND

In memory of Jack Kerman; *from Helen & Elliot Spieler*
In appreciation of The Valley Temple; *from Tom Steger*

SASS FAMILY MUSIC FUND

In memory of Penny Kassar; *from Nancy & Dolph Berman*
In memory of Steven Schild; *from Nancy & Dolph Berman*
In memory of Norman Wasserman;
from Nancy & Dolph Berman
In memory of Linda Drasin; *from Nancy & Dolph Berman*

RABBI SOLOMON T. GREENBERG PRAYERBOOK FUND

In memory of Norman Wasserman;
from Marlene & Sonny Pierce

CAMP SCHOLARSHIP FUND

In memory of Bill Robinson;
from Donna Goodman & George Dilworth
In memory of Norman Wasserman;
from Kathie & Ivan Tamarkin

ESTELLE WIGSER FLOWER FUND

In memory of Jerry Springer; *from Susan Waddle*
In memory of Norman Wasserman;
from Fred and Anne Straus

THE VALLEY TEMPLE NON EVENT FUNDRAISER

In appreciation of The Valley Temple; *from Stephanie Beck*

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

THANK YOU FOR SPONSORING AN ONEG SHABBAT

Ivan & Kathie Tamarkin in memory of Samuel Tamarkin

Mark Sass and Jan Rosenbaum-Sass in honor of the naming of their granddaughter, Sophie Quinn Sass

Susan & Andrew Spohr and members of the congregation in honor of Rabbi Kopnick's return from sabbatical.

MAZAL TOV

Mike and Jessica Deitsch on birth of twins, Hannah and Henry. Happy grandmother is Marcia Chetwood

OUR SYMPATHY

Wendy Wasserman and Todd Wasserman (Gretchen) on the death of their husband and father, Norman Wasserman

Nick Koucky (Abby Bortz Koucky) on the death of his grandfather, Raymond David Harten

Mike Mannheimer (Dr. Janet Zydney) and Bradley on the death of their father and grandfather, Ralph Mannheimer

MISHEIBERACH

Bernice Blatt
Michael Gelfand
Ron Kull
Peggy Barrett
Pam Levinson
Jan Rosenbaum Sass

Davine Levy
Sharon Feldstein
Carol Magnus
Ken Mitman
Allison Schneider

VALLEY TEMPLE ANNUAL PICNIC 2024





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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



SUKKOT



DINNER & CAMPFIRE SERVICE WITH S'MORES

Wednesday, October 16

Decorate the Sukkah, Pizza 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 Monday, October 14

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 • Thursday, October 17, 10:00 a.m.