# the **Valley**

## **RELIGIOUS SERVICES**

#### DECEMBER

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 6, 7:30 P.M. Shabbat Service

#### **SATURDAY, DECEMBER 7**

9:30 a.m. – Torah Study 10:30 a.m. – Shabbat Service Torah Portion – *Vayeitzei*, Genesis 28:10-32:3

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 13, 7:30 P.M. Family Shabbat Service

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 14 9:30 a.m. - Torah Study 10:30 a.m. - Shabbat Service Torah Portion – *Vayishlach*, Genesis 32:4-36:43

**FRIDAY, DECEMBER 20, 7:30 P.M.** Shabbat Service, with Consecration and pre-*Chanukah* service

The Real Differences Between

Gen Z, Millennials, Gen X,

Boomers, and Silents and What They Mean

for America's Future

enerations

JEAN M. TWENGE, PHD

author of *iGen* 

#### **SATURDAY, DECEMBER 21**

9:30 a.m. – Torah Study 10:30 a.m. – Shabbat Service Torah Portion – *Vayeishev*, Genesis 37:1-40:23 FRIDAY, DECEMBER 27, 7:30 P.M. Shabbat Service

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 28 9:30 a.m. Torah Study 10:30 a.m. Shabbat Service Torah Portion – Mikeitz, Genesis 41:1-44:17

### JANUARY

FRIDAY, JANUARY 3, 7:30 P.M. Shabbat Service

#### SATURDAY, JANUARY 4

9:30 a.m. Torah Study 10:30 Shabbat Service Torah Portion – *Vayigash*, Genesis 44:18-47:27

FRIDAY, JANUARY 10, 7:30 P.M. Shabbat Service

**SATURDAY, JANUARY 11** 9:30 a.m. – Torah Study 10:30 a.m. – Shabbat Service Torah Portion – *Vayechi*, Genesis 47:28-50:26 December 2024 - January 2025 Cheshvan - Tevet - Sh'vat 5785

**FRIDAY, JANUARY 17, 7:30 P.M.** Family Shabbat Service

SATURDAY, JANUARY 18 9:30 a.m. - Torah Study 10:30 a.m. - Shabbat Service Torah Portion – Sh'mot, Exodus 1:1-6:1

FRIDAY, JANUARY 24, 7:30 P.M. Shabbat Service

#### **SATURDAY, JANUARY 25**

9:30 a.m. – Torah Study 10:30 a.m. – Shabbat Service Torah Portion – Va-eira, Exodus 6:2-9:35

FRIDAY, JANUARY 31, 7:30 P.M. Shabbat Service



## A Boomer Rabbi and a Millennial Rabbi walk into a classroom...

...and you get to see what happens next! In December, Rabbi Kopnick and Rabbi Zoot will be teaching about the new book, "Generations: The Real Differences Between Gen Z, Millennials, Gen X, Boomers, and Silents – and What They Mean for America's Future," written by renowned social scientist Jean Twenge. This will be an invigorating conversation about the ways that generational differences create both challenges and opportunities for Jewish communities, and how we can more thoughtfully and strategically engage those of all ages. This will be a learning highlight of the year, so don't miss the chance to join the discussion!

## Tuesdays, December 3, 10, and 17 at 7:30 p.m.

# *From the Rabbi* Sandford R. Kopnick



## L'Dor VaClosed Dor?

In December, we're reading the book *Generations*, by Jean M. Twenge. In preparing, it seems that the younger generations—those raised in the Iphone age, without remembering a time before e-mail—have some different values. This generation is more likely to have some emotional and anxiety issues—and are more individualistic and less connected to religion than ever recorded. And this list of the differences goes on.

When I think about our current membership—and the demographics of our congregation, it is not clear that the findings of the book are not the reality of our Valley experience. I have been blessed to be the officiant at many weddings of our graduates, and have welcomed these newly married folks into our midst as they expand their families with children. This creates an optimism for the future, to be sure.

However, we have to be careful. We are a smaller congregation—where the growth of our "Babies and Their Adults" class—our PreK class are all showing that the religious continues to rebound after the difficult years of the Great Recession and the horror of the pandemic. Yet, the national trends show people getting married much later, having fewer kids, and valuing social media more—frequently at the expense of in-person gatherings and religion.

I love that Valley continues to be a strong place to connect with each other personally. We have worked diligently to provide an above average streaming experience for services, some classes both on-line and in person as a hybrid. We also are an increased presence on social media. That said, nothing replaces that feeling of a hug gained from seeing family and friends in person. Recently my 10th grade Valley class reiterated this. They have experienced services online, but they much prefer the in person experience (and they were told they could tell me the truth)!

Just because tuning in via the streaming is easier, it doesn't mean it should be the norm. People who are ill, who have trouble driving at night, or when the weather's bad—these are the ones who should be streaming. (OK, I guess if you live out of town—you, too!) But please, return to joining us in the building whenever you can. Let's continue to provide our younger generations with a robust community experience whenever we are celebrating, mourning, or learning together.

Let's not close the door on *l'dor vador* (from generation

to generation). And by all means, join us as we discuss the ways the various generations perceive each other and are influenced by the world in which we live—when we begin our series on Tuesday, December 3 at 7:30 p.m. Oh, and by the way—have a great *Chanukah*, too!

Faithfully,

sudfaced

Sandford R. Kopnick, Rabbi

# TAX DONATION REMINDER

A reminder that sending your donation to Valley Temple by December 31 may be advantageous for you to maximize your tax deductions\* and would be very beneficial to the Temple.

You may further benefit your tax position by donating appreciated stock\*. For information to donate stock, feel free to call Wendy at the Temple office at 513-761-3555.

In addition, if you must take a required minimum distribution from your IRA based on your age, it may be advantageous for you to have your donation sent directly from your IRA to the Temple.\*

Thank you for your support of Valley Temple and all good wishes for a wonderful 2025.

\*Please consult your tax advisor regarding your individual situation.

# **MAZAL TOV**

Andrea Frieder and Blake Maslin on their recent marriage. Congratulations to parents, Rabbi Sol and Sue Greenberg

Rocki Schy and MK Brunson on their recent marriage.

# **MISHEIBERACH**

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



# Rabbi/Educator's Message Austin Zoot

When was the last time that you had a day with nothing on the calendar? A day when you didn't have a to-do list a mile long, a day when your only obligation was to yourself? It seems like this is a rare idea, especially for young families. We bounce from activity to activity, from expectation to expectation, and are forced to figure out how to rejuvenate on the fly without missing a beat. This is the way of the modern world. But it isn't sustainable, and it isn't healthy. Luckily for us, Judaism has a built in system for breaking out of this chain of hustle and bustle.

Shabbat has been our collective way to give ourselves a chance to breathe for thousands of years. Unfortunately, there are many who see Shabbat as an obligation unto itself. Having to get dressed up to go to services, having to go to the trouble of making a special meal, having to go to the trouble even to clear the calendar to give everyone the chance to make Shabbat. It seems that sometimes our rest can be exhausting too.

We are coming to that time of the year, though, where things naturally slow down. The days get shorter, the weather gets colder, and we often have collective opportunities for some time away from work and school. It is certainly a normal inclination to fill that time with adventures, vacations, and activities. But we also have the chance to consider what it would mean to use the natural slowing-down of the calendar to craft moments of intentional stillness and reflection. Rather than filling those empty pockets of time with extra chances to engage, what would it look like if we reserved those sacred moments as the time for family togetherness,

for investment in the self, for the quiet that allows us to better know ourselves?

All winter long, Valley Temple will be right here on Shabbat. Services will be a sacred space for calm and reflection. Oneg Shabbat will be a continuous place of laughter and community. Saturday mornings will continue to be the time for learning and thinking and praying and meditating. However we can help you to invest in your own healing and rejuvenation, we are here to make it happen. Abraham Joshua Heschel once put it this way: "Six days a week we wrestle with the world, wringing profit from the earth; on the Sabbath we especially care for the seed of eternity planted in the soul...Six days a week we seek to dominate the world; on the seventh day we try to dominate the self."

The world asks a lot of us. During these next few weeks, how can we ask less, and instead give ourselves the space to find some answers?

Rabbi Austin Zoot Rabbi/Educator



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# CONSECRATION WILL BE HELD ON FRIDAY, DECEMBER 20 DURING SHABBAT SERVICES MAZAL TOV TO OUR CONSECRANTS AND THEIR FAMILIES:

## JONAH LEVINSON

Son of Jamie and Phillip Levinson Grandson of Sue Price and Jim and Pam Levinson

> **EZEKIEL HOFFMAN** Son of David and Hilary Hoffman

**CHARLOTTE HOFFMAN** Daughter of David and Hillary Hoffman

JONAH MEERON Son of Brian and Valerie Meeron

# OLIVIA SPIVAK

Daughter of Stacey and Izar Spivak Granddaughter of Sue Price





## President's Message Neil Berman

Hi everyone. Winter will soon be here! I thought I would highlight some upcoming events at Valley Temple for you to consider attending.

First, we have some special Shabbat services coming up in December. December 6th will feature the Friday Night Live band. December 13th will be a Family Shabbat service. December 20th will be our annual pre-Chanukah dinner followed by an evening service where we will have Consecration for our students who are new to our Religious School. Look for more detail in the bulletin or a separate mailing. Chanukah begins this year on the evening of December 25th. As a side note, I prefer "later" Chanukah so it doesn't come too close to Thanksgiving, and because I am usually on vacation later in December and school is out!

Also, there will be adult education on December 3rd, 10th and 17th at 7:30 p.m., which will have a book discussion on "Generations: The Real Differences Between Gen Z, Millennials, Gen X, Boomers, and Silents – and What They Mean for America's Future" by Jean M. Twenge, PhD. The program will be run by Rabbis Kopnick and Zoot. All generations welcome! Finally, we are preliminarily working on a fun fund raising event for March 1, 2025. Nothing is finalized yet, but save the date and hope to have more details soon!

Best,

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

December	December 8th (Chanukah Exchange)
January	January 12th
February	February 9th
March	March 9th
April	April 6th
May	May 4th (Religious School Picnic)

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

Upcoming and exciting activities this year including (but not limited to):

- Rummage Sale Summer 2025
- Volunteer Opportunities

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)



Having already served as president of the club, and with Steve Deutsch being new to the executive committee, I was asked to assist Steve for the first year as he got his feet wet as co-president of the

men's club. I am pleased to announce that Scott Steinberg has agreed to replace me as co-president along with Steve on a permanent basis.

I am working with Scott on the transition, and I know the club will be in great hands with Steve and Scott at the helm. It was an honor to assist Steve over the past year and I look forward to the great ideas the two of them bring to the club.

## \*\*\*SAVE THE DATE\*\*\*

We will once again be going candlepin bowling!! Please save Sunday, February 2, 2025 for this always fun event. Additional information will be provided as we get closer to the date.

Should you have ideas, questions or need additional information regarding the men's club, please contact either Steve or Scott at deutschsteve100@yahoo.com or scottydoc6@zoomtown.com.

Respectfully submitted,

Dan Perlmutter Immediate Past President, Valley Temple Men's Club



# **DECEMBER - JANUARY**

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**

This month we are collecting donations for the Jewish Family Service Heldman Family Food Pantry. Per their website, "we try to solve food struggles as quickly as possible, but that's only the beginning. We develop real relationships with clients—and try to learn why a situation might have got out of balance in the first place. By collaborating on sound strategies, we work together to restore this balance."

Jewish Family Service Heldman Family Food Pantry is in need of personal care items, cleaning products and food donations throughout the year.

See the list below for most needed items. Please no items beyond their "Best Buy" date. Kosher and non-kosher food items are accepted.

- Bar Soap
- Canned/Tinned Fish: salmon, sardines, tuna
- Cereal
- Coffee, Instant
- Countertop Cleaner
- Depends + Poise
- Diapers All sizes
- Dish Liquid
- Period Care Products: tampons, pads & pantiliners
- Jelly
- Juice
- Ketchup
- Laundry Detergent
- Mayonnaise
- Pancake/Baking Mix, such as Bisquick
- Nut Butters: Almond, Peanut and Sunflower

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.

The results of the November election have left our Reform Jewish community with many questions, concerns and worries about what the future will hold. Our congregation can feel some gratification that we sent out over 1,000 postcards, in Ohio to support fair districting, and in other states to promote reproductive rights, and other issues of justice. We also have collected ~\$1,000 worth of gift cards to provide essential goods to the Haitian community in Springfield, Ohio.

Our congregation will continue to advocate for justice in our community and our country.

We do not know what challenges will face us in 2025, but let's join together in meeting them head-on!

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 DONATIONS FOR DECEMBER AND JANUARY Jewish Family Service Heldman Family Food Pantry SEE LIST ABOVE



First Candle: Wednesday, December 25

Candles are added to the *Chanukiyah (menorah)* from right to left, and are kindled left to right. The newest candle is lit first.

On the *Shabbat* of *Chanukah*, kindle the *Chanukah* lights first, and then the *Shabbat* candles.

Light the shamash (helper candle) first, using it to kindle the rest of the Chanukah lights. As you do, say or sing:

# ַּבָּרוּדְ אַתָּה יְיָ אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֱלֶדְ הָעוֹלָם, אֲשֶׁר קִדְּשֶׁנוּ בְּמִצְוֹתָיו, וְצְוֵנוּ לְהַדְלִיק וֵר שֶׁל חֵנֻכָּה.

Baruch Atah, Adonai Eloheinu, Melech haolam, asher kid'shanu b'mitzvotav v'tsivanu l'hadlik nehr shel Chanukah.

Blessed are you, Adonai our God, Sovereign of all, who hallows us with mitzvot, commanding us to kindle the Chanukah lights.

# בָּרוּדְ אַתָּה יְיָ אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶדְ הָעוֹלָם, שֶׁעָשָׂה נִסִּים לַאֲבוֹתֵינוּ וְאִמוֹתֵינוּ בַּיָּמִים הָהֵם בַּזְּמַן הַזֶּה.

Baruch Atah, Adonai Eloheinu, Melech haolam, she-asah nisim laavoteinu v'imoteinu bayamim hahaeim ba-zman hazeh.

Blessed are you, Adonai our God, Sovereign of all, who performed wonderous deeds for our ancestors in days of old at this season.

On the first night only

# בָּרוּדְ אַתַּה יְיָ אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶדְ הָעוֹלָם, שֶׁהֶחֶיָנוּ וְקַיְמָנוּ וְהִגִּיעָנוּ לַזּמַן הַזֶּה.

Baruch Atah, Adonai Eloheinu, Melech haolam, shehecheyanu v'kiy'manu v'higianu laz'man hazeh.

Blessed are you, Adonai our God, Sovereign of all, for giving us life, for sustaining us, and for enabling us to reach this season.





## **RABBI'S DISCRETIONARY FUND**

In memory of Harvey Price; from Sue Price In memory of Hilda Price; from Sue Price In appreciation of Rabbi Kopnick; from Rocki Schy & MK Brunson

#### **RABBI / EDUCATOR DISCRETIONARY FUND**

In appreciation of Rabbi Zoot; from Barbara DelMauro In appreciation of The Valley Temple; from Suzy Verchick In appreciation of Rabbi Zoot; from Laurie & Neil Dubin In honor of Sophie & Danny Habif; from Mindy Rosenbloom

#### SASS FAMILY MUSIC FUND

In memory of Tom Wertheimer: from Lynn Wertheimer & Family

**ESTELLE WIGSER FLOWER FUND** In memory of Thomas S. Benjamin; from Lois Benjamin

**ALLEN & SELMA WIENER BERKMAN** SOCIAL ACTION FUND In memory of Patricia Hassell; from Jeff and Linda Lazar

#### **ROBERT & CHARLOTTE LANZIT** ADULT EDUCATION FUND

In appreciation of The Vallev Temple: from Tom Steger In memory of Tom Wertheimer; from Jenny Broh

### THE VALLEY TEMPLE

In memory of Tom Wertheimer; from Lynn Wertheimer & Family In appreciation of The Valley Temple: from Kandice Wainer

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

## THANK YOU FOR SPONSORING **AN ONEG SHABBAT**

Marcia and Mark Chetwood in honor of the baby naming of their grandchildren Hannah and Henry Déitsch

Rocki Schy and MK Brunson in honor of their wedding

The Valley Temple Sisterhood

Helen & Ernie Waits in memory of Ernie Waits, Sr.

# DECEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

Jody & Kent Finley Brad & Karen McClelland Alan & Margie Schneider Corrine & Tyler Friedman Arn & Sue Bortz Robert & Clare Deutsch Mark & Rose Apseloff Mike & Jessica Wagner Leon & Judy Silverman

12/08/1984 12/16/1995 12/18/1965 12/20/2020 12/22/1979 12/22/1991 12/26/1971 12/28/2002 12/30

# DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

# **JANUARY BIRTHDAYS**

## JANUARY ANNIVERSARIES

Jerry Newfarmer & Amy Paul Don & Cheryl Moeller

01/01/2001 01/03/1998



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 & Scott Steinberg, Co-Presidents, Men's Club

513-761-3555 WEBSITE: www.valleytemple.com E-MAIL: wendy@valleytemple.com NON PROFIT ORG. U.S. POSTAGE PAID CINCINNATI, OHIO PERMIT NO. 2333

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



6:30 p.m. Chanukah Dinner (Chicken & Latkes) • 7:30 p.m. Shabbat Service & Consecration

Return form to: The Valley Temple, 145 Springfield Pike, Wyoming, OH 45215

Names:

## Cost is \$6 - \$36 / person depending on what you wish to pay. Temple's costs for the dinner run about \$20/adult and \$12/child.

Adults (ages 12 & up)

Children (ages 3-11)

Ages 3 & Under

Total Enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_

# fried chicken meals \_\_\_\_

# grilled chicken meals \_\_\_\_ # grilled chicken meals \_\_\_\_\_ # Attending \_\_\_\_

# fried chicken meals \_\_\_\_ Free if not ordering a meal

Dietary restrictions? Allergies? Please let us know: