

March 2025
Adar - Nisan 5785



PURIM IS MARCH 13
SEE PG. 7 FOR DETAILS



Memorial Tribute
Fund In Formation
Details to follow

In Loving Memory Wendy Walsh

1950-2025

Temple Administrator 1982-2025



RELIGIOUS SERVICES

SATURDAY, MARCH 1

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

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

Shabbat Service
Friday Night Live

SATURDAY, MARCH 8

9:30 a.m. Torah Study
9:45 a.m. Tot Service
10:30 Shabbat Service
Torah Portion – *T'tzaveh*,
Exodus 27:20-30:10

THURSDAY, MARCH 13

7:00 p.m. *Purim Schpiel* &
Megillah Reading

FRIDAY, MARCH 14 7:30 P.M.

Family Shabbat Service

SATURDAY, MARCH 15

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

FRIDAY, MARCH 21, 7:30 P.M.

Shabbat Service

SATURDAY, MARCH 22

9:30 a.m. – Torah Study
10:30 a.m. – Shabbat Service
Torah Portion – *Vayak'heil*,
Exodus 35:1-38:20

FRIDAY, MARCH 28, 7:30 P.M.

Shabbat Service

SATURDAY, MARCH 29

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



From the Rabbi Sandford R. Kopnick

How do we say goodbye and thank you to Wendy? Wendy Walsh became the Valley Temple administrator in 1982. Her daughter, Emily, now an accomplished Jewish professional in her own right, was a baby. Rabbi Greenberg and Wendy worked together for 20 years until Rabbi Greenberg's retirement.

When I came to the Temple in 2001, Wendy was used to a certain pace and a certain way. Yet, hiring a new rabbi who is 25 years younger than the previous rabbi makes for a few differences. Technology, additional programming, and new initiatives were all part of those first few years, and Wendy only looked forward. She had a good sense of this wonderful place and how to advance as a congregation. Wendy's communal knowledge of your history with the Temple proved to be valuable for the continuity of the Valley culture.



Wendy worked with many presidents—probably 20. Each had their own style—and each their own way to vision and move us forward. Wendy supported fundraisers, capital campaigns, CYJL, restructuring of various financial systems, audits, your life-cycle events, high holy day building transformations, Seders for 100 people and Shivas for just a few. Wendy was the calm voice (albeit loud) on the other end of the phone when you called with a question about dues or a dinner, or just how to get additional tickets for Rosh Hashanah.

For 43 years she took care of you and me—and Sol before me. For 43 years her family shared Wendy with us. And for 43 years Wendy showed remarkable loyalty, love, and care for the sacred mission of our congregation—so that when you came into the building, you didn't wonder whether we'd be ready for you—you just understood we would be.

Very few places can boast that their administrator was on the job for 43 years. And while I wish that Wendy's life would have been far longer—complete with a well-earned retirement which would allow undivided time with her beautiful granddaughters, her husband Jim, and their daughter Emily and husband Ari, this was not to be. Instead, we will take these next months to honor Wendy's memory with an appropriate way to remember her. We will honor her memory with the patience she

had for all of us—by having patience as we figure out a few things that only Wendy knew. And we will find our footing to move from strength to strength—because Wendy would be mortified if her death somehow put a roadblock in our Congregation's path toward the future.

Oh, and we'll celebrate Purim as we normally do.... because Wendy loved our Valley Temple Purim celebrations.

Thank you, Wendy Walsh, for all you did to make the Valley Temple great. I pray most sincerely that the memory of Wendy Walsh will be for an eternal and abiding blessing!

Faithfully,

Sandford R. Kopnick, Rabbi

THANK YOU TO...

Linda Lazar, Elizabeth Woosley, Amanda Rosenberg, Jenny Broh, Nancy Kopnick and all who helped, organize and baked goodies for the shivas for Wendy Walsh and Peggy Barrett.

A special thank you to Amanda Rosenberg, our Administrative Assistant, Donna Thress, our long-time bookkeeper, and Jody Findley, past president for taking on additional tasks and responsibility to help our congregation during this time of transition.

And thank you to all who have already made donations in Wendy's memory—and to all who have offered to help out. A special thank you to the Valley Temple Executive Committee who are working diligently to be sure that we move forward efficiently and productively during this transitional time.

MISHEIBERACH

Bernice Blatt
Michael Gelfand
Ron Kull
Pam Levinson

Jan Rosenbaum Sass
Sharon Feldstein
Ken Mitman
Jenny Broh



Rabbi/Educator's Message Austin Zoot

There are many reasons I decided to become a rabbi: my love for caring for people, my enthusiasm for history and sacred texts, my priority of education. Yet, if I'm being perfectly honest, one of the biggest draws was that I would never have to do math homework ever again.

My academic career allowed me to take the last math class of my life as a Freshman at Indiana University. I took Finite Mathematics, and when I asked what Finite math was, exactly, I received the profoundly helpful answer: it is math that is not infinite. 14 years later, I still don't know what that means.

In reality, math is a form of logic that uses balance and systems of rules to understand the order of things. Geometry can be downright fascinating when the problems we face in the real world require calculation and evaluation. As a baseball fan, I am rather obsessed with statistics and the way they help us predict outcomes based on past experience. But almost every math class I ever took failed to answer the ultimate question: why do I need to know this? Other than those who make math a profession, I could never understand what good algebra or calculus would do for me, and nobody else seemed to have a satisfying answer. The response, "you are learning how to learn" was perhaps the most common reaction, but there are lots of ways to learn that don't involve adding alphabet soup to my counting.

This central question, why should we bother learning this, is a guiding question for us in our religious school. Because the perception for far too long was that our learning was based in "supposed to." This is what all Jews SHOULD know, and there is an enormous sense of enforced obligation to the learning. It's no wonder that so many of the parents I encounter remember their religious school experience with the same nostalgic pleasure as I remember math class (that is to say none at all).

When I review lesson plans each week, I am constantly asking myself and our staff why this content is worth the time and attention of our learners. How does the material we are teaching improve the experience of Judaism for a young American? How can having ownership of the information we're conveying help to shape the identity of a person who is trying to figure out what role Judaism should play in their life? This is, of course, not the only question. We are consistently trying to find ways to make class as engaging, exciting, intriguing, and communal as possible. But at the end of the day, if a student graduating our program can't answer why this was worth their time and attention, we have profoundly failed at our mission.

Just like math, when taught well, can be a gateway to a whole new way of seeing the world, so too can Jewish education be a significant frame through which a person can make sense of the meaningful moments we

encounter throughout our lives. If we are doing our job correctly, we are giving our students a language through which they can express their feelings, their hopes, their connections to others, and so much more. There is a mountain of value we offer, but if we can't articulate what that value is, we are putting far too much pressure on our students to be able to identify it for themselves. At the end of the day, students will buy into that which is worthy of their time. It is, then, our sacred task to rise to that mandate.

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.

Tot Shabbat



Saturday, March 8

★ **at 9:45 a.m.** ★

music ★ puppets ★ fun



President's Message Neil Berman

I am writing this message for the March bulletin in the middle of February. The congregation has faced a difficult couple of weeks and has had to reflect upon the sudden loss of Wendy Walsh, our beloved Administrator. Wendy worked for The Valley Temple for 43 years. Her presence could be felt in every aspect of our synagogue life: B'nai mitzvahs, High Holiday services, weddings, funerals, holiday dinners, and so much more. Wendy ensured the bills were paid, expenses were kept in check, and congregants' contributions were used to further The Valley Temple's important mission. The job she did was multi-faceted and challenging. One day Wendy would be addressing a Congregant's personal concern and the next moment she might be figuring out whom to contact about a broken appliance in the kitchen. I worked with Wendy as a member of the Board of Valley Temple, and more closely as Treasurer and most recently as President. I witnessed her willingness to address so many issues with grace and a sense of humor. I learned a lot from her on how a synagogue is actually run day to day.

In the past few weeks, we have been blessed to have Amanda Rosenberg, the Administrative Assistant for Valley Temple step up to Acting Administrator. The Executive Committee, the Board, and so many helpful members of our congregation have volunteered their time during this transition. The Board is currently working toward finding a new Administrator for The Valley Temple as we continue to move forward. Wendy would expect nothing less. I am grateful for everyone's extraordinary efforts.

Sometimes, you have to address multiple issues at the same time. Therefore, we are continuing to work toward a determination concerning Rabbi Zoot becoming our Associate/Successor Rabbi upon Rabbi Kopnick's retirement as Senior Rabbi. We are accepting any and all comments through the end of March, and the Board intends to reach a determination by this June.

Although it has been unavoidably delayed, I am looking forward to a successful and fun fundraiser, a Night of Art, on April 26th. The Board deeply appreciates all the support for this event.

As always, please contact the Temple office with any questions.

Best,
Neil Berman, President

A REMINDER: As we consider our future, please send First Vice President & President Elect Beth Schwartz an email to valleytemplefeedback@gmail.com, with any comments by March 31.



valley temple
SISTERHOOD

MEETINGS & PROGRAMS

Join sisterhood today! Please send your 2024 – 2025 dues right now at <https://valleytemple.com/sisterhood/>.

March is the month we nominate next year's officers. If you want to get involved, please call either President!!

MONTH	MEETING DATE
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

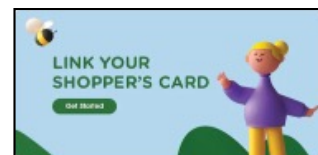
Upcoming exciting activities:

- March 9th MAH JONG Training for Party on March 23
- Rummage Sale – July 2025 – Please start to save large furniture items. We need many donations to help make this a success. If you have any items now you want to get rid of, call us and we can get it.
- We're hosting a Plant Sale for all members. Please consider going to the website and buying some of these beautiful flowers: vtsisterhood.fpfundraising.com

Co-Presidents:

Robyn McCarrick (mccarrick626@yahoo.com) and Elizabeth Woosley (efwooz@gmail.com)

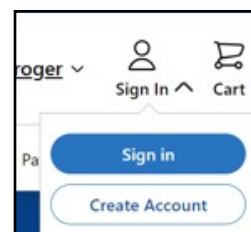
KROGER COMMUNITY REWARDS POINTS



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/i/community/community-rewards>

If you have an account – sign in;
if not, create an account





BLUE BIN DONATIONS

Our Blue Bin donations for the month of March will be for Bethany House Services (BHS), which provides comprehensive family-centered homelessness services for families in the Greater Cincinnati area.

More than 2,200 families sought help with housing in 2024. Of these, 697 were deemed appropriate for a shelter, but only 266 found shelter, highlighting a critical shortage of affordable housing in Cincinnati. An increasing number of those seeking shelter are larger families - including 7.6 % of CPS students (likely an undercount).

Bethany House, the largest family shelter in the area, has 43 bedrooms with a total of 222 beds, offering each family their own room. Lack of affordable housing and rental properties has led to longer stays at all area shelters, including BHS.

ITEMS REQUESTED:

TWIN SIZE SHEET SETS and COMFORTERS
MUG SETS
MIXING BOWLS - PLASTIC
OVEN MITTS, POTHOLDERS & KITCHEN TOWELS
KITCHEN SPONGES

****Healthy snacks for kids - who are often hungry after school and before bed!**

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

Our Torah tells us: "You shall not wrong a stranger or oppress him, for you were strangers in the land of Egypt" (Ex.22:20)

Because of this obligation, we have remained in contact with the Haitian community in Springfield, Ohio, and will continue to accept donations of Kroger's Meijer's and gasoline gift cards.

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

BLUE BIN FOR FEBRUARY: BETHANY HOUSE SERVICES

Sisterhood Flower Sale

We are selling flowers online to help with your spring planting! There is a huge selection that includes flowers, herbs, fruits, vegetables, gardening tools and more. They all come with a 100% replacement guarantee if they don't grow. You can order anytime from now until **May 15th** and everything will be shipped directly to you. Orders start shipping April 1st. If you have any questions please reach out to valleytemplesisterhood@gmail.com

ORDER AT VTSISTERHOOD.FPFUNDRAISING.COM



Sustaining the Generations

We gratefully acknowledge
the following contributions:

RABBI'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

In memory of Peggy Barrett; *from Sam & Laura Lobar*
In memory of Fan Colish; *from Lynn & Neil Kravitz*
In memory of Peggy Barrett; *from Ivan & Kathie Tamarkin*
In memory of Kathleen Mulloy;
from Ivan & Kathie Tamarkin
In memory of Betty DuCovna; *from Herb DuCovna*
In memory of Carol Magnus; *from Ellyn Grober*
From George Trenkamp
In memory of Wendy Walsh; *from Andrea & David Knarr*
In memory of Luetta Elsass; *from David & Sharon Feldstein*
In memory of Wendy Walsh; *from Andy & Sue Spohr*
In appreciation of Rabbi Kopnick;
from the family of Sharon Solomon

FRANCIE BROWN MEMORIAL OFFICE FUND

In memory of Wendy Walsh; *from John & Helen Habbert*
In memory of Wendy Walsh; *from Sue Marsh-Shikiar*
In memory of Wendy Walsh;
from Jan Goldstein & Chuck Frank
In memory of Wendy Walsh; *from Vivien Carmichael*
In memory of Wendy Walsh;
from Sam, Laura, Matt and Marcelle Lobar
In memory of Wendy Walsh; *from the Chest/Deshe Family*
In memory of Wendy Walsh;
from Early Childhood Directors Network
In memory of Wendy Walsh; *from Diane & Ken Mitman*
In memory of Wendy Walsh; *from Cheryl & Steve Hecht*
In memory of Wendy Walsh; *from Andy Stark*
In memory of Wendy Walsh; *from Helen & Elliot Spieler*
In memory of Wendy Walsh; *from Carol & Les Appel*
In memory of Wendy Walsh; *from Buz & Barb Stewart*
In memory of Wendy Walsh; *from Stuart & Rica Hodesh*
In memory of Wendy Walsh; *from Tim & Robyn McCarrick*
In memory of Wendy Walsh;
from Janelle & Michael Gelfand
In memory of Wendy Walsh; *from Kandy Wainer*

ALLEN & SELMA WIENER BERKMAN SOCIAL ACTION FUND

From Sam & Laura Lobar

RABBI SOLOMON T. GREENBERG PRAYERBOOK FUND

In memory of Wendy Walsh; *Robin Guethlein*

L'CHAYIM CONGREGATIONAL CARE FUND

In memory of Wendy Walsh; *from Congregation Etz Chaim*
In memory of Wendy Walsh; *from Laurie Rothenberg*
In memory of Wendy Walsh; *from Melissa & Brad Singer*
In memory of Wendy Walsh; *from Jennie Rubin*

JANE MUNICK GARDEN FUND

In memory of Peggy Barrett; *from Donna Goodman*
In memory of Peggy Barrett; *from Jenny Broh*

CAMP SCHOLARSHIP FUND

In memory of Fern & Jack Kopnick
and Julian & Carol Magnus; *from The Weikel Family*
In memory of Wendy Walsh; *from Rachel Hodesh*
In memory of Wendy Walsh; *from Sari Levin*
In memory of Helen Silver; *from Sue Price*
In memory of Dorothy Landberg;
from Stuart & Rica Hodesh
In memory of Wendy Walsh; *from Rachel Hodesh*
In memory of Wendy Walsh; *from Sari Levin*

BRYNA SCHWARTZ MEMORIAL ONEG & HOSPITALITY FUND

In memory of Edith Brenner, Murray Brenner & Lenore
Brenner Molay; *from Sally & Ernie Waxman*

VALLEY TEMPLE GENERAL FUND

In memory of Wendy Walsh;
from The Jewish Federation of Cincinnati

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

**We are grateful to the Stark Youth
Fund and the Jewish Foundation of
Cincinnati for subsidizing our recent
high school trip to the Religious
Action Center in Washington, D.C.**

OUR SYMPATHY

The family of Peggy Barrett

Helen Waits (Ernie) and family on the death of her
brother Jonathan Marks, and sister-in-law, Tovah Marks

Jim Walsh on the death of his wife,
Wendy Walsh and Emily (Ari) Fox on the death
of her mother, and Mabel & Sadie Fox
on the death of their grandmother.

Randi Solomon, on the loss of her
sister-in-law, Sharon Solomon

Susan Elgowsky on the death of her father, Rolf Stutzer

A festive collage of Purim-themed items including hamantaschen (triangular pastries), colorful confetti, a large ornate mask, a box of colorful beads, blue noisemakers, and a blue and white braided knot, all set against a light blue background.

PURIM

at Valley

Purim Schpiel

Thursday, March 13 at 7:00 p.m.

Purim Carnival

Sunday, March 16

12:00 p.m. - 1:30 p.m.

Wristbands for Games.

Lunch, Hamentashen, Fun!

(Fundraiser for the Youth Group)

ADULT ED



Fundamentals without Fundamentalism

Finding a healthy relationship with God through Jewish tradition.
Join Rabbi Zoot as we explore different conceptions of God from
across the Jewish landscape and find one that works for you.

TUESDAYS

MARCH 4TH AND 11TH AT 7:30



145 springfield pike
wyoming, oh 45215

Sandford R. Kopnick, Rabbi
Austin Zoot, Rabbi/Educator
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: admin@valleytemple.com

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NEW DATE!
SAME GREAT TIME!

JOIN US ON

APRIL 26 at 6:30 p.m.

Tickets are \$54 / person.

This includes a dinner and dessert, a silent auction, a split the pot, art trivia and fun participating in a Bob Ross style painting project (google him if you are too young to remember!) You will be receiving an invitation and rsvp card in the mail shortly. Feel free to bring your friends!