



June - July 2025
Sivan - Av 5785

RELIGIOUS SERVICES

SUNDAY, JUNE 1, 7:30 P.M.

Shavuot Service with *Yizkor* prayers
No morning service on Monday

FRIDAY, JUNE 6, 8:00 P.M.

**PLEASE NOTE LATER TIME
DUE TO ANNUAL MEETING
AT 7:00 P.M.**

Shabbat Service

Oneg Shabbat hosted by Jenny Broh
& Family in memory of Bob Broh and
Dolph Broh

SATURDAY, JUNE 7

9:30 a.m. Torah Study
10:30 Shabbat Service
Torah Portion – *Naso*,
Numbers 4:21-7:89

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

Shabbat Service

SATURDAY, JUNE 14

9:30 a.m. – Torah Study
10:30 a.m. – Shabbat Service
Torah Portion – *B'haalot'cha*,
Numbers 8:1-12:16

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

Shabbat Service

SATURDAY, JUNE 21

9:30 a.m. - Torah Study
10:30 a.m. – Shabbat Service
Torah Portion – *Sh'lach L'cha*,
Numbers 13:1-15:41

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

Shabbat Service

SATURDAY, JUNE 28

9:30 a.m. – Torah Study
10:30 a.m. – Shabbat Service
Torah Portion – *Korach*,
Numbers 16:1-18:32

FRIDAY, JULY 4, 6:00 P.M.

PLEASE NOTE EARLIER TIME
Shabbat Service

SATURDAY, JULY 5

9:30 a.m. Torah Study
10:30 Shabbat Service
Torah Portion – *Chukat*,
Numbers 19:1-22:1

FRIDAY, JULY 11

6:00 p.m. Tot Shabbat
6:30 p.m. Community Pot Luck Dinner
7:30 p.m. Shabbat Service
Special Music: Marc Rossio

SATURDAY, JULY 12

9:30 a.m. – Torah Study
10:30 a.m. – Shabbat Service
Torah Portion – *Balak*,
Numbers 22:2-25:9

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

Shabbat Service

SATURDAY, JULY 19

9:30 a.m. - Torah Study
10:30 a.m. – Shabbat Service
Torah Portion – *Pinchas*,
Numbers 25:10-30:1

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

Shabbat Service

SATURDAY, JULY 26

9:30 a.m. – Torah Study
10:30 a.m. – Shabbat Service
Torah Portion – *Matot-Mas'ei*,
Numbers 30:2-36:13



THE PEOPLE AND THEIR BOOKS

*Join Rabbi Zoot as we explore the evolution of writing
throughout Jewish history. From the Torah to modern
philosophy, let's discover how Jews have told our story.*

Tuesday, July 1st and 8th at 7 PM

1 | JUNE / JULY 2025 | SIVAN - AV 5785



Celebrating Torah: Shavuot

One of our three main festivals is *Shavuot*—when we celebrate the receiving of Torah. Whether we believe the story of the Torah coming down from Mount Sinai with Moses as stated in Torah, or believe the Torah to be a compilation of a few authors—the value we place on the Torah’s lessons are not in dispute.

I like the idea that the revelation on Sinai was one of many. I believe that our study of Torah as a lifelong endeavor gives us the opportunity to experience “revelation” as we gain deeper understanding of Torah’s lessons. When Torah transforms from an old book to a relevant modern guide—that process can lead to an “ah-ha” moment that is revelation. When we see the Torah’s rules as commandment, rather than suggestion—the fulfillment of those mitzvot have a deeper meaning than just following the rules.

Shavuot is the opportunity to remind ourselves of the wonderful gift that is Torah. That we continue to pour over its words and extract its lessons is a strong testament to both its enduring quality, and ongoing relevance. We can easily find ways to discount its lessons as “not with the time.” And yet, engaging with each week’s lessons and challenges makes even the moments of “no longer applicable,” to be worth the discussion.

So, join all summer long in the Torah study. Celebrate our sacred text as special and valuable. And let’s be a community that starts with Torah at the center—and moves from strength to strength by embracing our timeless values in a timely way.

Have a great summer!

Sandford R. Kopnick, Rabbi

RABBI KOPNICK TO BE ON SABBATICAL FOR THE SUMMER

Rabbi Kopnick will be at camp for the first weeks of June and then will be taking the second of his two sabbaticals this summer. Rabbi Kopnick will be away from the Temple until September 4. He will be back for a weekend in August. Should you need anything in the meantime, please be in touch with Rabbi Austin Zoot by calling the Temple office.

From the Rabbi Sandford R. Kopnick

CORRECTIONS:

Thank you to Beth Schwartz and Gene Smiley for being Georgia O’Keeffe Sponsors to Valley’s A Night of Art Fundraiser

Anna Schrager, daughter of Marty Schrager and Kathy Klein was inadvertently left off the list of high school graduates.

WELCOME KELLI GLEINER, NEW TEMPLE ADMINISTRATOR



Kelli Gleiner joins our Valley Temple professional staff on June 11. She will be our full time administrator, and joins Amanda Rosenberg in our office. Kelli and her husband Nate have been members of Valley for a while now, and their son, Ezra, is a student in our religious school.

Kelli has worked in the non-profit world for a number of years, and brings many skills to her position. We are thankful to Jody Finley, who chaired the search committee, and Dedra Perlmutter, an executive at JVS Careers, and long-time Temple member for coordinating the search, and helping us secure a wonderful new Temple Administrator. We ask for your patience during the next few months as Kelli transitions into her new role. Amanda will return (at her insistence) to her part-time position, and will remain the remarkable resource she has been for our congregation.

MISHEIBERACH

Bernice Blatt
Michael Gelfand
Ron Kull
Pam Levinson
Jan Rosenbaum Sass

Sharon Feldstein
Ken Mitman
Jenny Broh
Laura Beasley



Rabbi/Educator's Message Austin Zoot

During his tenure as the leader of Starbucks, Howard Schultz spoke frequently about the notion of the "Third Space." Schultz wanted his chain of coffeeshops to become a refuge for people looking to get away from home and the office in favor of a more comfortable, welcoming environment. One of the major ways the company put this idea into practice was through the use of real mugs personalized to the individual customers, a far cry from the cheap paper cups with misspelled names on them. Schultz and his team hoped that your local Starbucks would come to be an extension of your neighborhood, a place for gathering, for productivity, for purpose.

Alas, the past decade has not maintained this attention to the personal touch. Instead, Starbucks has become a kind of symbol of capitalism, the ultimate place for the transactional relationship: I give you money, you give me coffee, end of experience. But that does not change the brilliance of the original idea. In fact, in an age where our digital realities are far more often for our detriment, we sure could use a Third Space that allows us to feel safe and nurtured beyond the walls of our home.

This can be the role our synagogue plays in our lives. Of course the most normal time to visit Valley Temple is when there is an event happening or a service. Yet, the synagogue has historically afforded people the chance to have a shared place where we can go to be together, where we can co-work or meet up for lunch or coffee.

Throughout Jewish history, we have used a variety of terms to describe the shared space of a synagogue. A Beit Midrash is a house of study. A Beit T'filah is a house of prayer. A Beit K'nesset is a house of assembly. All of

these are synonyms for the same physical structure, each used in a different way to denote its function. But central to all of them is the word Beit or Bayit: we want this place to feel like a home, open and available for all of our needs.

There are some churches that have figured out how to do this, with coffee stations and soda machines. But the size and shape of Valley allow us the unique ability to allow intimacy to be our calling card. As the TV show told us, there is something powerful about being able to go somewhere where everybody knows your name. And we certainly will be glad to see you, whether it be for one of our learning opportunities or a worship service, to host a meeting or simply to know that the coffee machine is always primed and ready to go.

This summer, I hope your adventures take you to lots of new and exciting places. And when you need a break from it all, when you need to feel connected to our people, our community, and your own sense of self, stop on by; we can't wait to welcome you home.

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.



FAMILY HAVDALLAH

June 28th at 6:30 at Factory 52 in Norwood

Let's end Shabbat with an evening of play, community, and ice cream! Families of all sizes and ages welcome!

RSVP to Rabbi Zoot



President's Message Neil Berman

I want to thank the Valley Temple Board for all that we have accomplished in a very busy fiscal year ending June 30th. This year the Board has worked through a transparent and extensive process to retain Rabbi Zoot as Associate/Successor beginning July 1, 2026. The Board has worked through hiring a new Administrator, which will be completed by the publication of this bulletin. The Board also collectively contributed to a successful fundraiser, A Night of Art, this Spring. And, as always, the Board has managed our budget in a responsible manner and promoted multiple events throughout the year. A special thanks to the Executive Committee for their work in a busier than normal year.

Additionally, I want to thank the Hiring Committee for the new Administrator position and the Nominating Committee for creating a great slate for next year's Board.

I also want to thank Rabbis Kopnick and Zoot, who have had to take on additional responsibilities during the transition following the passing of Wendy Walsh. And, of course, I want to thank Amanda Rosenberg, who kept the office running as Acting Administrator and will be staying with us in her prior role as Administrative Assistant.

If you have any suggestions or constructive comments, please do not hesitate to let me know directly, or by contacting the Temple office. It is your synagogue, and we want to hear from you so the Board can continue to best serve the interests of the entire congregation.

Have a great summer!
Best,

Neil Berman,
President

The Valley Temple Annual Meeting

June 6, 2025 at 7:00 p.m.
Shabbat Services at 8:00 p.m.

Please plan to join us for our annual meeting as we hear reports from the past fiscal year and vote on the new slate of Board Members. A quorum is needed – that means you!



Sustaining the Generations

We gratefully acknowledge
the following contributions:

RABBI'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

In memory of Wendy Walsh; *from Lynn & Neil Kravitz*
In memory of Pauine Kallek; *from Lynn & Neil Kravitz*

FRANCIE BROWN MEMORIAL OFFICE FUND

In memory of Wendy Walsh; *from Sue & Arn Bortz*

SASS FAMILY MUSIC FUND

In memory of Wendy Walsh; *from Nancy & Dolph Berman*
In memory of Ellen Dunsker; *from Nancy & Dolph Berman*
In memory of Alfred Cohen; *from Nancy & Dolph Berman*
In honor of Elle Messer becoming a Bat Mitzvah;
from Nancy & Dolph Berman

ALLEN & SELMA WIENER BERKMAN SOCIAL ACTION FUND

In memory of Edward Mulloy; *from Kathie & Ivan Tamarkin*
From Jocelyne Jason
From Craig & Debby Hoffheimer

LOUISE MARKS RELIGIOUS SCHOOL FUND

In memory of Clara Hochstein; *from Jenny Broh*

BRYNA SCHWARTZ MEMORIAL ONEG & HOSPITALITY FUND

In memory of Marney Wasserman;
from Ken & Diane Mitman
In memory of Betty Bachman; *from Ken & Diane Mitman*

ROBERT & CHARLOTTE LANZIT ADULT EDUCATION FUND

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

VALLEY TEMPLE GENERAL FUND

In appreciation of The Valley Temple;
from Marc & Julie Silverman

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

**We will soon announce a special fund
in memory of Wendy Walsh.**

**THANK YOU FOR SPONSORING
AN ONEG SHABBAT**

**Jenny Broh and Family in memory
of Bob Broh and Dolph Broh.**



BLUE BIN DONATIONS

For June, July and August of 2025, we will be collecting school supplies for Crayons to Computers, Valley Interfaith, and Project Connect, which serves homeless children in Greater Cincinnati. In August we will divide the donations among these three important agencies. The following items can be donated:

Colored Pencils

- 24-Count Crayons* (teachers prefer Crayola brand)
- #2 Pencils
- Dry Erase Markers
- 150-Count Packs Filler Paper
- Glue Sticks
- 1-Subject Notebooks
- Pocket Folders
- Washable Markers

Another huge part of our Social Action work is providing lunch four times a year, approximately 40-50 meals to individuals and families at Queen City Kitchen in Walnut Hills. Food is provided by temple members and money from our social action fund, and volunteers serve the meals. Upcoming dates will be found in the monthly newsletters and weekly emails.

Our Tikkun Olam committee has ideas for the other months of the year, all of which contribute to the welfare of residents in our community who have become marginalized. The current situation is leaving more and more people in that category, and we must weigh which non-profits to support each month. We are currently working on our donation calendar for 2025-2026 and would love to have more people join us, sharing your ideas and passions!

For any 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 and have them delivered to the temple.

***All the non-profits that we support throughout the year need volunteers. Several of our temple members are already doing this. If you have any extra time during the week, please check the websites of each of these agencies and see how you can help!

SOCIAL JUSTICE ACTIVITIES

We work closely throughout the year with the Religious Action Center of Reform Judaism (RAC). RAC is the Social Action arm of the Union of Reform Judaism (URJ) and the Central Conference of American Rabbis (CCAR). RAC works to educate, inspire, and mobilize around federal, state, provincial, and local legislation on more than 70 pressing socioeconomic issues, including gun violence prevention, immigration, reproductive rights, criminal justice reform, and climate change.

Ohio is one of 7 states, plus Washington DC, to have a RAC affiliate. For RAC-OH, the key issues we've mobilized around for the past year were reproductive rights and fair elections.

THE RAC WEBSITE REMINDS US: "As Jews, we believe that all people are made in the image of God, and each of us is holy and sacred. As Reform Jews, we believe that caring for the most marginalized members of our communities is part of tikkun olam, repairing the world."

Since October 2024, we have actively engaged in supporting immigrants who have come to our city and state, often with protected status, to escape terrifying conditions in their home country. This has included the Haitian immigrants in Springfield, and others in greater Cincinnati through Heartfelt Tidbits. We will continue to be involved in these efforts.

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

valley temple SISTERHOOD Year in Review



This year, Sisterhood had many fun and meaningful activities. Here is a quick summary of our events from last year:

SEPTEMBER ACTIVITIES:

Rosh Hashanah was a great success for sisterhood. We distributed close to 150 challah loaves to the Valley Temple families. Sisterhood also teamed with the Men's club to support the Picnic marking the opening of Religious School.

NOVEMBER ACTIVITIES:

November was a very busy month: about 10 of us participated in the 8th Cincinnati Mega Challah Bake and had a lot of fun baking Challah with hundreds of other women from all around Cincinnati. Our annual Brunch was a huge success. Many women came together for great food, conversation, and community at Sue Mantel's home. We ended the month by hosting a Sisterhood Shabbat Service while also hosting the WRJ Heartland District Women for dinner.

DECEMBER ACTIVITIES:

Our annual Chanukah gift exchange was great fun and everyone went home with something special.

FEBRUARY ACTIVITIES:

About 11 sisterhood members hosted a fall party for the women staying at Anna Louise Inn (HER Cincinnati). About 30 women showed up and ate snacks and played bingo. Everyone loved the program, helping to make it a great success. We hope to make this a recurring event.

MARCH ACTIVITIES:

We came together for a session of learning Mahjong in preparation for our Mahjong Fundraiser on June 22.

APRIL ACTIVITIES:

We had an awesome opportunity to listen to guest speaker, Sheryl Rajbhandari, founder and director of Heartfelt Tidbits. The organization supports immigrants in the greater Cincinnati area.

MAY ACTIVITIES:

We closed religious school with the end of school picnic on May 4th. We also had the opportunity to host Izar Spivak and a team from the Jewish Cemeteries where we handed them a check for the money we collected from the *Tzedakah* Box.

JUNE / JULY ACTIVITIES:

We will also be hosting our Mahjong party on June 22nd. We have invited people from Valley Temple and the com-

munity to join us in a fun afternoon of Mahjong. There will be tables for beginners learning the game and tables with more experienced people playing for fun. We will finish our year with our annual Rummage Sale (July 20th).

PLANNED 2025 - 2026 ACTIVITIES:

We're excited to kick off the year with our Honey Sale and Challah distribution. This fall, we'll come together for our annual Shabbat Services and our much-anticipated Brunch. We look forward to a year filled with meaningful, educational, and enjoyable activities.

2025 - 2026 Leadership Slate:

Co-President (returning): Elizabeth Woosley

Co-President (entering): Linda Lazar

Recording Secretary: Sue Mantel

Membership: Sharon Kollasch

Communications: Laura Beasley, Bindy Waits

Programming: Stacey Spivak

Treasurer: Cindy Cronin

Past President: Robyn McCarrick

If you want to get a start on next year (all memberships received now will be marked for 2025 - 2026 year!), join here <https://valleytemple.com/sisterhood/>

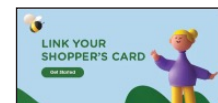
If you have any questions, contact one of our co-presidents for the 2025 - 2026 year.

Co-Presidents:

Elizabeth Woosley (efwooz@gmail.com)

Linda Lazar (lazarjl1@fuse.net)

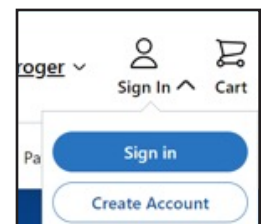
KROGER COMMUNITY REWARDS POINTS



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





On April 26th The Valley Temple annual fundraiser “Night of Art” was a rousing success with a dinner, silent auction, art trivia and “Rock” Ross painting. Thanks to our sponsors, our committee, and to all who contributed to the auction, and to all who attended!





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wyoming, oh 45215

Sandford R. Kopnick, Rabbi
Austin Zoot, Rabbi/Educator
Solomon T. Greenberg, Rabbi Emeritus
Amanda Rosenberg, Admin. Assistant
Neil Berman, President
Linda Lazar & Elizabeth Woosley,
Co-Presidents, Women of Reform Judaism
Steve Deutsch & Scott Steinberg,
Co-Presidents, Men's Club
Wendy Walsh, 1950 - 2025

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**Tot
Shabbat
with
Marc Rossio
& Rabbi Zoot**



**Friday, July 11
at 6:00 p.m.**

followed by a

**Congregational
Potluck at 6:30 p.m.**

Lunch & Learn
with Rabbi Zoot

**Judaism &
Technology**

**June 27th at Noon
at The Temple**