

November 2025  
Cheshvan - Kislev 5786



## RELIGIOUS SERVICES

### SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 1

9:30 a.m. – Torah Study  
10:30 a.m. – Shabbat Service  
Torah Portion – *Lech L'cha*, Genesis 12:1-17:27

### FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 7, 7:30 p.m.

Shabbat Service with  
Friday Night Live

### SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 8

9:30 a.m. – Torah Study  
10:30 a.m. – Shabbat Service  
Torah Portion – *Vayeira*, Genesis 18:1-22:24

### FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 14, 7:30 p.m.

Shabbat Family Service  
Oneg hosted by Steve & Nicole Deutsch in honor  
of their son, David becoming a *Bar Mitzvah*

### SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 15

9:30 a.m. – Torah Study  
10:30 a.m. – Shabbat Service; David Deutsch, son of  
Steve & Nicole Deutsch will become a *Bar Mitzvah*  
Torah Portion – *Chayei Sarah*, Genesis 23:1-25:18

### FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 21, 7:30 p.m.

Shabbat Service

### SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 22

9:30 a.m. – Torah Study  
10:30 a.m. – Shabbat Service  
Torah Portion – *Tol'dot*, Genesis 25:19-28:9

### FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 28, 7:30 p.m.

Shabbat Service

### SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 29

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

# The Z Word

JOIN SIX OF CINCINNATI'S  
LEADING JEWISH VOICES FOR A  
PROGRESSIVE EXPLORATION OF  
ZIONISM & JEWISH PEOPLEHOOD

All seminars are on Wednesdays.  
Be sure to check locations.

## The Evolution of Zionism in the Reform and Conservative Movements in America

November 5 at 6:30 p.m.  
at Rockdale Temple  
with Rabbi Sandford Kopnick, of Valley

## Moral Injury and Loving Israel

November 12 at 6:30 p.m.  
at Beth Adam Congregation  
with Rabbi Ari Jun, of Temple Sholom

## Creative Voices from Israel (Music & Poetry)

November 19 at 6:30 p.m.  
at Adath Israel Congregation  
with Rabbi Meredith Kahan, of Rockdale

## Building Bridges Out of Our Pain

December 3 at 6:30 p.m.  
at The Valley Temple  
with Rabbi Lauren Werber, of Beth Adam



## From the Rabbi Sandford R. Kopnick

There is a story of a young kid who gets in the car after religious school. Her parents ask, “what did you learn today?” The student’s response included a tale of Moses who went up to heaven in a spaceship and met aliens. The tale went on to explain other fantastical things Moses did while still in outer space.

The parents, “is that really what you learned in Sunday School?”

The kid replied, “no, but you wouldn’t believe me if I told you.”

Religion requires a leap of faith. The Torah also requires both a leap of faith, but also the ability to interpret. We have always been a people who value the stories our Rabbis taught about the Torah. We value the inconsistencies of the authors as opportunities to fill in the gaps, to make sense out of the stories, and to make the timeless literature timely. I don’t really believe God actually wrote the Torah and handed it to Moses, but I do believe that God had something to do with the Torah, and believe that the Teachings (capital T intended) are sacred and worthy of our consideration.

That said, we now find ourselves in the first half of Genesis, having just completed Deuteronomy at *Simchat Torah*.

I have always been intrigued by the first few chapters of Genesis. Genesis 1 teaches about the days of creation. Genesis 2 begins with the Seventh Day (Shabbat) and then tells the story of Adam and Eve, Eden, and the problem of evil in the world. Why? Why does a document begin with two seemingly different creation stories while intending for us to believe in God? Why?

So here’s another Kopnick Theory Unencumbered by the Facts: I believe that the brilliance of Genesis, among other things, is that it, indeed, has two creation narratives. When the world is created from having been “unformed and void,” and when Genesis 1 also relies

on the development of each day being dependent on the previous creation—we learn that the ancients knew about a universe that existed and the world was created—maybe even with a bang. We also learn that those days could be eras, and the days of creation are a primitive theory of evolution.

But then, we learn about multiple genders, human mortality, pain and suffering, jealousy, murder, and so much more—and that’s just the first Torah portion of the year! While a fundamentalist might suggest that the Torah is historically accurate, I profess that—especially the first few chapters—are replete with questions that have no answers. Furthermore, I think we are being taught that they’re not even good questions.

The point of the creation stories—and the significant common thread—is that God created the world and all that’s in it. The pain of childbirth, why create humans with a lifespan rather than immortality, why is there evil in the world, what was the story before the earth, and so much more—are all questions that can drive us crazy—but not necessarily questions with answers.

Some questions may seem important, but truly why were we created the way we were should not be a question even close to being as important as: Since we were created, how do we make the most of being alive? Should we dwell on why certain things are painful and other moments are needlessly challenging, or should we focus on the best way to live this life we are given? You know what my answer is.

Join us these next weeks and explore the Genesis stories with us. Help us find relevance in our tradition that has spoken to us for so long. Who knows, you may even develop your own theory unencumbered by the facts. I hope to see you soon!

Sandford R. Kopnick, Rabbi



## NEW ADULT SINGING GROUP OF VALLEY CONGREGANTS

Ability to read music helpful | Ability to sing in tune required

If you’re interested, please send Rabbi Kopnick an email.

Group will be led by Amanda Stein Enneking & Rabbi Kopnick

Group will practice on Sunday at NOON. Come sing with us!



## Rabbi/Educator's Message Austin Zoot

There is a tradition in Judaism that says that a person attending a shivah should not ring the doorbell. The thinking is that we don't want to make the mourners in the home come greet us, but rather we are meant to go in and serve them. In today's world, the idea of entering someone's home without being formally "let in" feels rude. But from the Jewish worldview, our tribe jumps into action in times of need. We know what to do and how to do it.

How, though, do we know these things? As a religion of deeds as much as creeds, we have so many rituals and practices that we pass from one generation to the next. As Andrea Beck put it, these are the things your bubbe teaches you. But what happens, she wondered, when you don't have the classically Ashkenazi bubbe?

This led Andrea and I to craft this year's Valley Temple *Mitzvah* Corps (Middle School program) curriculum around the practical knowledge that makes Judaism an experiential tradition. What does it mean to host a Shabbat dinner for friends and family? What makes something Jewish art? Why do Jews like whitefish so much? (That one is particularly central to Andrea's Jewish identity...)

Our tradition has survived for centuries because one generation has taken the time and energy to invest in showing the next the beauties of living a life of ritual and practice. Our culture today inundates young people with so many messages, most of them espousing the centrality of the self, the power of individualism. But, as David Brooks warns us in his book, *The Second Mountain*, "when you build a whole society on an

overly thin view of human nature, you wind up with a dehumanized culture in which people are starved of the things they yearn for most deeply." Each of us as individuals can only be so strong. It is through the connective tissue of our communal practices that we are able to reach higher, to strive for the more profound.

At the most basic, our middle schoolers are learning the building blocks of how Jews make Judaism come to life. On another level, though, this curriculum helps to remind our children of their sacred place in the chain of our peoplehood. Today they learn what has been passed down to them. And if all goes according to plan, one day they will have the chance to pass their interpretation of our tradition to the generations that follow them. As we read in our prayerbook, *Mishkan T'filah*, "Let us learn in order to teach. Let us learn in order to do."

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.*

## Upcoming Religious School Dates

Sundays at 9:45 a.m.

November 2, November 9,  
November 16, November 23

Hebrew School - Tuesdays at 6:30 p.m.

November 4, November 11, November 18

**We are having a great year!**





The Men's Club will be hosting an NFL football game on the big screen between the Cincinnati Bengals and the Buffalo Bills. This event will take place on Sunday December 7th with the game beginning at 4:25 pm. Pizza and soda will be provided and the cost is only \$5.00 per person. Please RSVP to Steve Deutsch by December 1st at [deutschsteve100@yahoo.com](mailto:deutschsteve100@yahoo.com). Please include the number of people that will be in your party. Looking forward to seeing y'all and GO BENGALS!!

## MAZAL TOV

Mazal Tov to Jeffrey Levine on being named to the Cincinnati Business Courier's 40 Under 40 list for 2025.

## MISHEIBERACH

Bernice Blatt  
Michael Gelfand  
Ron Kull  
Pam Levinson  
Jan Rosenbaum Sass  
Sharon Feldstein  
Ken Mitman  
Jenny Broh  
Laura Beasley



Valley collected 1,524 lbs of food during our High Holy Day Food Drive for the Valley Interfaith Resource Center.



## UPCOMING MEETINGS & PROGRAMS

### Join Sisterhood Today!

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](http://bit.ly/GeneralMeetingsVTS)

### MONTH

November  
December  
January  
February  
March  
April  
May

### MEETING DATE

Nov. 2nd Program with Project Connect  
December 7th (Chanukah Exchange)  
January 11th  
February 1st  
March 1st  
April 12th  
May 3th (Religious School Picnic)

### Some exciting things to look forward to:

- Sisterhood Shabbat
- Mah Jong Party / Hanukkah Party
- HER Cincinnati Party
- Other events throughout the year.

Our annual Dues mailing have already been mailed out. Dues can either be mailed in, or can be sent to: <https://valleytemple.com/sisterhood/> via Paypal

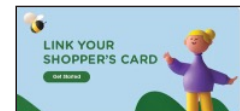
### If you have any questions, contact any of our officers for the 25-26 year.

- Co-Presidents: Elizabeth Woosley and Linda Lazar
- VP Programming: Stacey Spivak
- VP Membership: Sharon Kollasch
- Recording Secretary: Sue Mantel
- Co-Corresponding Secretary: Laura Beasley, Helen Waits
- Treasurer: Cindy Cronin
- Past President: Robyn McCarrick

### Join Sisterhood Today!

To find out more, or pay your 2025-26 Sisterhood dues, visit [valleytemple.com/sisterhood/](http://valleytemple.com/sisterhood/)

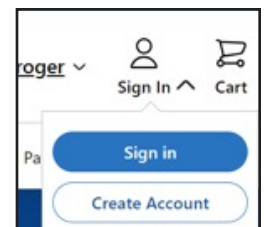
## KROGER COMMUNITY REWARDS POINTS



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







# Tikkun Olam

NOVEMBER

Rabbi Zoot and the Tikkun Olam Committee have met and have chosen **Project Connect** as a year-long focus to achieve *gemilut hasadim* (acts of loving kindness) to engage families, and achieve measurable outcomes.

**Project Connect**, founded in 1996, provides advocacy, health and safety needs, and educational needs for children in CPS experiencing homelessness. Last year they served over 4,000 students, with services including tutoring, school supplies, housing support, enrichment programming, summer programs, wellness screenings, parent engagement, FAFSA services, and preschool services. They are currently developing a "Safe Sleep Lot" for families who have been sleeping in their cars because all the shelters are full.

Valley Temple plans to be involved in a diverse array of projects supporting **Project Connect**, including family education, adult education, advocacy and other forms of engagement.

## BLUE BIN DONATIONS

Our Blue Bin donations for November will be coats and toys for holiday gifts for **Project Connect** students.

We are collecting new coats, especially in sizes 7/8 and 9/10. For toys/ gifts, they've asked us to focus on teenagers (ages 13 to 18), as this is the age group that they typically have less to offer during the holidays.

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.

We are excited to announce two upcoming dates for congregants to learn more about Project Connect:

**November 2** - Sisterhood Meeting, at 11:00 am.

All are welcome.

**December 7** - Religious School Family Education Day  
More details to follow.

After Rabbi Zoot's Rosh Hashanah sermon, and the recent media coverage for this critical project, many

people have asked for ways they can be of further help. Project Connect has countless ways to volunteer. Please refer to their website to find an option that works for you:

<https://www.cps-k12.org/our-community/project-connect>

## 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, LGBTQ rights, 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." Current campaigns include "Advocating for Immigration Justice" and "Advocating for LGBTQ+ Rights". You'll also find Reform movement statements on Gaza and the West Bank in Israel.

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](mailto:lazarjl1@fuse.net)  
(513) 260-1026

Helen Waits  
[bindywaits@gmail.com](mailto:bindywaits@gmail.com)  
(513) 310-7633

IT IS NOT ENOUGH TO BE CONCERNED FOR THE LIFE TO COME. OUR IMMEDIATE CONCERN MUST BE WITH JUSTICE AND COMPASSION IN LIFE HERE AND NOW, WITH HUMAN DIGNITY, WELFARE AND SECURITY.

RABBI ABRAHAM JOSHUA HESCHEL





## Sustaining the Generations

We gratefully acknowledge the following contributions:

### RABBI'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

In memory of Arn Bortz; *from Sam & Laura Lobar*  
 In honor of Nancy & Dolph Berman;  
*from Michael & Maryann Berman Sanders*  
 In appreciation of Josiah Dapper; *from Jenny Broh*  
 In appreciation of Rabbi Kopnick; *from Donna Goodman*  
 In appreciation of the High Holy Day Cemetery Service;  
*from Lawrence Cane*  
 In honor of Leo Bernay becoming a *Bar Mitzvah*;  
*from Emma & Aaron Bernay*  
 In honor of Ethan Barzman becoming a *Bar Mitzvah*;  
*from Drew & Eris Barzman*

### RABBI/EDUCATOR DISCRETIONARY FUND

In honor of Ethan Barzman becoming a *Bar Mitzvah*;  
*from Drew & Eris Barzman*

### ALLEN & SELMA WIENER BERKMAN

#### SOCIAL ACTION FUND

In appreciation of The Valley Temple;  
*from Ron & Alice Weitzenkorn*  
 In honor of Linda & Jeff Lazar; *from Daniel & Anne Lovell*

### L'CHAYIM CONGREGATIONAL CARE FUND

In appreciation of The Valley Temple; *from Dan Perlmutter*  
 In appreciation of The Valley Temple;  
*from Denise Weinstein*

### LOUISE MARKS RELIGIOUS SCHOOL FUND

In memory of Maegan Amann; *from Donna Goodman*

### SASS MUSIC FUND

In memory of Jimmy Miller; *from Nancy & Dolph Berman*

### BRYNA SCHWARTZ MEMORIAL ONEG & HOSPITALITY FUND

In memory of Janice Wright; *from Jon & Susan Hoffheimer*  
 In memory of Anne Siegel; *from Mark & Ellen Kovacic*

### THE VALLEY TEMPLE GENERAL FUND

In appreciation of The Valley Temple;  
*from Jocelynn Jason*  
 In appreciation of The Valley Temple; *from Alice Fegelman*

### STARK YOUTH ACTIVITIES FUND

In memory of Maegan Amann; *from Sam & Laura Lobar*

**Thank you to Mark Sass & Jan Rosenbaum Sass  
 for sponsoring a recent oneg  
 in memory of Helen A. Sass**



**NOW GIVING IS  
 EVEN EASIER**



Go to [ValleyTemple.com](http://ValleyTemple.com) & click on "Giving"

# Additional Thank Yous



## Jenny Broh and Sharon Kollach

for organizing the congregational  
 Break-the-Fast at the end of Yom Kippur

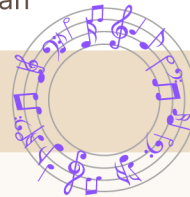


## Bobbie Reckseit

for sponsoring the Yom Kippur flowers  
 in memory of Bernard Reckseit

## Nancy & Dolph Berman

for sponsoring the music in memory  
 of Leon Cohen, Mae Cohen, Ces Berman,  
 and I.A. Berman



## Mark Sass & Jan Rosenbaum Sass

for sponsoring the music in memory  
 of Robert & Helen Sass and  
 Harold & Dorothy Rosenbaum

## George Trenkamp & Family

for sponsoring the music in memory  
 of Sue Trenkamp & Laurie Ruskin











145 springfield pike  
wyoming, oh 45215

Sandford R. Kopnick, Rabbi  
Austin Zoot, Rabbi/Educator  
Solomon T. Greenberg, Rabbi Emeritus  
Kelli Gleiner, Administrator  
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

513-761-3555

WEBSITE: [www.valleytemple.com](http://www.valleytemple.com)

E-MAIL: [kelli@valleytemple.com](mailto:kelli@valleytemple.com)

NON PROFIT ORG.  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
CINCINNATI, OHIO  
PERMIT NO. 2333

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

# The **Kopnick/Zoot** **Perspective on...**

**Tuesdays,  
November 4, 11 & 18 at 7:30 p.m.**

Join our rabbis as we study this remarkable approach to understanding this moment in which we Jews find ourselves. In *Who Are The Jews – And Who Can We Become?*, Rabbi Donniel Hartman observes the birthright and covenantal (including conversion) ways that Jews have historically understood Judaism. He offers an approach for the future that will be interesting to discuss with our rabbis who represent different generations and Jewish experiences. Please read the book -and if you need to borrow one - contact Rabbi Kopnick as soon as you can.

