



the
valley
temple



October 2025
Tishrei - Cheshvan 5786

RELIGIOUS SERVICES

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 1, 8:00 p.m.
EREV YOM KIPPUR
Kol Nidre Service

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 2
YOM KIPPUR
9:00 a.m. – Family Service
10:15 a.m. – Tot Service
10:45 a.m. – *Mishkan Hanefesh* Service
2:45 p.m. – Afternoon Service
4:15 p.m. – *Yizkor*/Concluding Service
A light break-the-fast will follow
the Concluding Service

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 3, 7:30 p.m.
Shabbat Service

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 4
9:30 a.m. – Torah Study
10:30 a.m. – Shabbat Service
Torah Portion – *Ha'azinu*, Deuteronomy 32:1-52

MONDAY, OCTOBER 6
SUKKOT
6:00 p.m. Dinner in the *Sukkah* (with RSVP)
7:00 p.m. Outdoor Service

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 7, 10:00 a.m.
Sukkot Festival Morning Service

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 10, 7:30 p.m.
Shabbat Family Service

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 11
9:30 a.m. – Torah Study
10:30 a.m. – Shabbat Service
Torah Portion – *Chol HaMo-eid Sukkot*,
Exodus 33:12-34:26

MONDAY, OCTOBER 13, 7:00 p.m.
Simchat Torah Service

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 14, 10:00 a.m.
Simchat Torah Festival Morning Service
with *Yizkor* prayers

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 17, 7:30 p.m.
Shabbat Service with Friday Night Live

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 18
9:30 a.m. – Torah Study
10:30 a.m. – Shabbat Service
Torah Portion – *B'reishit*, Genesis 1:1-6:8

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 24, 7:30 p.m.
Shabbat Service

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 25
9:30 a.m. – Torah Study
10:30 a.m. – Shabbat Service
Torah Portion – *Noach*, Genesis 6:9-11:32

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 31, 8:00 p.m.
PLEASE NOTE TIME CHANGE
Shabbat Service



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 mornings at 11:00 a.m.
on non-Sisterhood Sundays. Come sing with us!



From the Rabbi Sandford R. Kopnick

Shalom!

As we approach *Sukkot* and *Simchat Torah*, our thoughts turn to the concept of homelessness. The *Sukkah* is a temporary dwelling, first thought to be used during the harvest. It allows us to become one with nature--as we enjoy meals and visiting in the *sukkot* that we erect at our homes.

That said, some would say that the sukkah at some Jewish homes feels like a palace in comparison to the various temporary spaces people occupy when unable to secure a roof over their heads. Those who are forced to the streets due to mental illness, economic worries and deficits, and more are not able to celebrate the bounty of the year--for they were not so fortunate.

At his season of Thanksgiving, it is up to us to remember that we were homeless as we wandered in the desert for 40 years anticipating our entrance into the "promised land." We recently provided a truck-load of food for the Valley Interfaith Center. With the help of Jeannie and Bob Hiller--and many volunteers, we take our turn at a soup kitchen to provide meals for those in need.

And then there are the folks on the street who ask for money. This rarely feels comfortable, and many feel accosted when approached for spare change. Yet, there are times we can anticipate being in an area where we are likely to be asked. Having some change or a dollar bill in our pockets can allow for us to give this *tzedakah*--and help. The myth of folks buying inappropriate items with our donation should not deter us from safely helping when we can.

The Torah teaches that when we reap the harvest of the land, we shouldn't reap to the corners of the field, but leave them for the stranger, the poor, widow, and the orphan. We allow them the dignity of picking the crops that were left behind. In our urban settings, we can adapt to helping those in need without sacrificing their dignity. When we do what we can, we can be the ones who help feed the hungry and clothe the naked. We can be the ones who know that one way to give thanks for our bounty is to pay it forward.

At this season of *Sukkot*, may we all find ways to give thanks by helping those in need.

Have a great month

Sandford R. Kopnick, Rabbi



Join Valley Temple group
**Thursday, October 30 at
10:30 a.m.** for an audio-led
tour. You can save your
spot and send \$26.50 for a
discounted ticket to Valley
Temple.

The largest collection of artifacts from Auschwitz outside Europe is coming to Cincinnati.

This exhibit highlights the profound humanity of those who survived, and those who perished, in one of the most infamous sites of the Holocaust. Featuring more than 500 artifacts from the Auschwitz-Birkenau State Museum and more than 20 international museums, the exhibition traces the rise of Nazi ideology and the transformation of Auschwitz from an ordinary Polish town into a place where unimaginable atrocities and extraordinary human resilience intersected.



Rabbi/Educator's Message Austin Zoot

This year, something is happening that has only happened one other time in the past 35 years. *Kol Nidre* 5786 falls on October 1st, which means that I will, at least partially, be celebrating my birthday with all of you. Ironically, the last time this happened was in 2006, the same year that I had my bar mitzvah. Now, the initial reaction to thinking about a *Yom Kippur* birthday is to receive pity; after all, refraining from eating sure does put a damper on one's birthday cake experience. Yet, there is something profound about the juxtaposition of personal year-marking and the Jewish communal process of the same kind.

This year also marks the 10th anniversary of the publication of *Mishkan HaNefesh*, the Reform *Makhzor* that most congregations in our movement use. While we haven't used it quite for the entire 10 years, we have certainly developed a comfort and familiarity with the book that we dust off once a year, engaging with its unique themes and metaphors. Much like re-reading a favorite book, returning to our High Holy Day prayer book allows us the opportunity to see the same themes repeated in the same language as the past, yet strike us in the particular ways that have shaped our worldview since our last encounter.

Marking time is, perhaps, one of the greatest gifts that Jewish tradition affords us. Without the structure of Shabbat, Jewish holidays, and ritual practices, it is so easy to lose track of our own progress, the way that our experiences help to shape the way we experience the world around us. Have we grown more compassionate or more rigid in the past year? Have we grown stronger or weaker? Does the world inspire more joy or more

agitation? Not only does engaging in the cyclical process of our tradition ask these essential questions, but it also affords us the chance to have a space to engage in the conversations they inspire, surrounded by others who may have been where you are before or at the very least have compassion as they navigate their own journeys.

While I might not have a full 24-hours of eating to celebrate the day of my birth (a true Jewish tragedy), I will have the beautiful opportunity to see each of you on that special day. Special not because of the personal, self-centered nature of my particular day, but rather because it is a communal invitation to engage in the sacred work of reflecting on who we are, who we have been, and who we yet hope to be. We are all, in a sense, having the chance at rebirth together, and how beautiful it is that we get to do that 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.

Upcoming Religious School Dates

Sundays at 9:45 a.m.

October 5, October 12, October 19, October 26

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

October 7, October 14, October 21, October 28

We are off to a great year!

ADULT HEBREW

**Begins the week
of October 5th.**

X

Beginning Hebrew **Sundays at 10:00 a.m.**

with Rabbi Sandford Kopnick
No prior experience expected

ב

Hebrew II **Tuesday at 6:30 p.m.**

with Rabbi Sandford Kopnick
For those who can read
haltingly and want to
understand more

א

Hebrew III **Tuesdays at 6:30 p.m.**

with Rabbi Judy Spicehandler
For those who can read well
and want to understand more.

ת

Advanced Hebrew **Thursdays at 6:00 p.m.**

with Rabbi Sandford Kopnick
For those who can translate
some and read well.



valley temple
SISTERHOOD

Join Sisterhood Today!

To find out more, or pay your 2025-26 Sisterhood dues, visit valleytemple.com/sisterhood/

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

MONTH

October
November
December
January
February
March
April
May

MEETING DATE

October 12th
November 2nd
December 7th (Chanukah Exchange)
January 11th
February 1st
March 1st
April 12th
May 3th (Religious School Picnic)

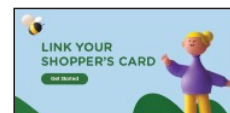
Some exciting things to look forward to:

- Sisterhood Shabbat
- Sisterhood Brunch
- Rosh Hashanah Honey & Challah
- Mah Jong Party / Hanukkah Party
- HER Cincinnati Party
- Other events throughout the year.

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

KROGER COMMUNITY REWARDS POINTS

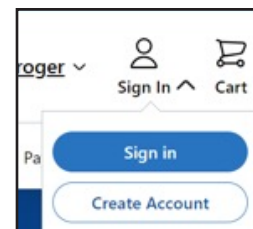


PLEASE ALLOCATE your Kroger community rewards to Valley Temple Sisterhood (you still get all of your same personal rewards – they just allocate a donation to us based on your spending).

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

OCTOBER

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. In August, we provided 70 Backpacks for returning students!!

BLUE BIN DONATIONS

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

We don't know the specific coat needs yet - we will send out postcards and emails with these details. 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. Again, more details to follow.

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.

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.

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
(513) 260-1026

Helen Waits
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/EDUCATOR DISCRETIONARY FUND

*In memory of Erwin Colish; from Lynn & Neil Kravitz
In memory of Ruth Kravitz; from Lynn & Neil Kravitz*

ALLEN & SELMA WIENER BERKMAN SOCIAL ACTION FUND

*In memory of Edward Kimball; from Linda & Jeff Lazar
In memory of Arn Bortz; from Kathie & Ivan Tamarkin'*

BRYNA SCHWARTZ MEMORIAL ONEG & HOSPITALITY FUND

In memory of Ruth Magnuson; from Janelle & Michael Gelfand and Family

SASS MUSIC FUND

In honor of Dolph Berman; from Murray H. Newman

CAMP SCHOLARSHIP FUND

*In memory of Arn Bortz; from Jenny Broh
In memory of Maegen Amann; from Andrea & David Knarr*

THE VALLEY TEMPLE GENERAL FUND

In memory of Harriet Josselson; from Harold Kirzner



**NOW GIVING IS
EVEN EASIER**



Go to ValleyTemple.com & click on "Giving"

*Thank you to Leticia Baltes & Family for
sponsoring a recent Oneg Shabbat.*

*Thank you to Janelle & Michael Gelfand
and Family for sponsoring a recent Oneg
Shabbat in memory of Ruth Magnuson.*

*Thank you to The Mannheimer Family
for sponsoring a recent Oneg Shabbat in
memory of Ralph Mannheimer.*

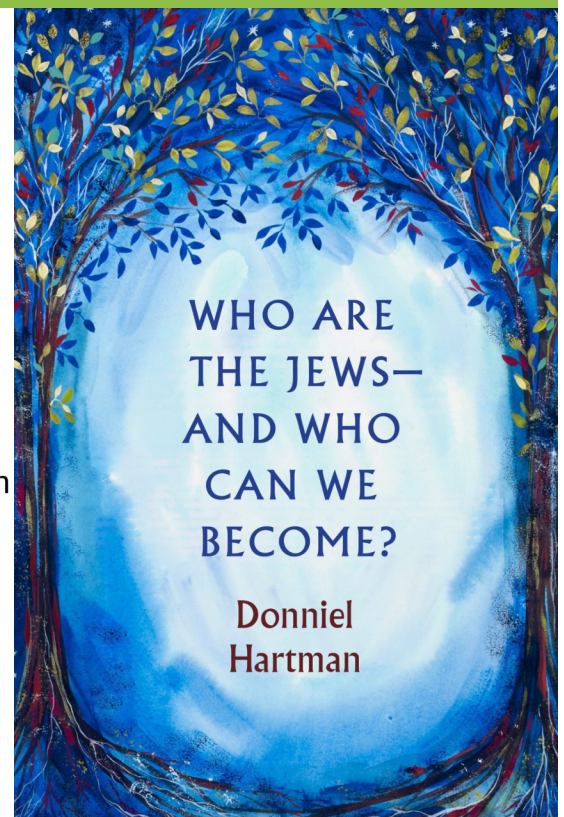
MISHEIBERACH

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

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. Hartman, a traditional rabbi and head of the Shalom Hartman Institute, 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.



ADULT EDUCATION



2025 - 2026 / 5786



The Z Word

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

Facts, Feelings, and Labels in Jewish-Arab Relations

October 22 at 6:30 p.m.
at Temple Sholom
with Rabbi Noah Farro, of Northern Hills

Moral Injury and Loving Israel

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

Gray Areas, Nuance, and Constructive Conversations

October 29 at 6:30 p.m.
at Northern Hills Synagogue
with Rabbi Scott Shafrin, of Adath Israel

Creative Voices from Israel (Music & Poetry)

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

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

Building Bridges Out of Our Pain

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

Lunch & Learn

Thursdays, October 23, November 13,
and December 11 at Noon at Valley Temple

Join us as we explore contemporary issues through the lens of Jewish tradition. Bring your own lunch, and be ready to have a lively discussion. All are welcome. Issues like medical ethics, social issues, and how to adapt tradition to modern Judaism are just some of the topics we'll tackle.





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

E-MAIL: kelli@valleytemple.com

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Sukkot Celebration

Monday, October 6

6:00 P.M. – Dinner & Sukkah Decorating

7:00 P.M. – Outdoor Sukkot Service

To RSVP for dinner, email
kelli@valleytemple.com

Tuesday, October 7

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

Simchat Torah Celebration

Monday, October 13

7:00 p.m. – Simchat Torah Celebration

Tuesday, October 14

10:00 a.m. – Simchat Torah Festival Service

Yizkor prayers will be recited



שמחת
טורה