Finding Spirituality in Nature

page 4
Cover Photo: MJS Photography Limited
www.mjsphotography.photoshelter.com

Brian Kerstine takes a quiet breather at a local Loveland park. The creative genius behind this issue’s cover photo is photographer Michael Snyder, who dreamed up the concept and scouted around to find this pensive point, a confluence of two creeks that merge in a sharp V shape, reminding him of the southernmost tip of Israel. Adding a little twist of technology in the midst of this contemplative, natural setting, images were captured with the assistance of drone operator Howard Pinsky. Our thanks to all three congregants!

Got snaps of Temple events you want to share? Contact Nina Kieffer at nkieffer@wisetemple.org.

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From Rabbi Kamrass

Words from the Heart
—By Rabbi Lewis Kamrass

You may have heard me speak with joy about how much I love visiting America’s National Parks, in order to be in the most natural and majestic settings. In full days of hiking trails there, I feel something change within me, the “motor slowing down,” the “waves of gratitude” quietly washing over me. Whether it is striking vistas of beauty and awe, the quiet crunching of leaves and dirt beneath one’s feet, the beautiful trees and fauna, or even coming face to face with a bear, moose, elk, or other wildlife, what I also feel in these most natural settings is a deeper sense of humility. Unlike most other days when we live with the mirage that we control our world, in those settings it is clear that we are not in our world, but rather, that we are visitors in the world of nature, guests in a larger venue that we do not direct or control. And in such moments, I feel the greatest sense of humility, a measure of glorious and freeing smallness, which connects me ever more deeply to something larger than myself. Perhaps that is why those moments on the trails of national parks are always a journey of spiritual renewal for me, when gratitude flows fully, when a sense of our smallness leads to a renewed sense of humility.

Whether in a national park, or in one’s backyard listening to the birds sing, or enjoying a quiet moment of Shabbat renewal, or through prayer, spiritual moments cannot be born until we release our sense of control and embrace a rich sense of humility. Only when we self-contract and relinquish our sense of greatness or importance, do we feel connected to what is truly Great, to a Larger Soul of the Universe. And when we do, our souls are renewed with an energy that can remain with us. That is the power of being connected to nature, and to its Creator, who “day by day, renews the work of Creation.” And every now and then, we realize that power and that wonder in ways that sustain us. That is spirituality.

Faithfully,

Rabbi Lewis H. Kamrass

From the President

Spirituality and Farming
—By Elissa Habib, Temple President

As this issue of Kesher explores spirituality, the one comment I feel confident making is that spirituality is a very personal topic, and I believe it means very different things to each of us. My spirituality is a reflection of my relationship with God and the importance I place in having faith.

There are many times in my life that I am aware of my spirituality, but I wanted to share one that introduces one of my personal passions, one that I got from my father, and that’s farming. For me it begins every winter as I consume all of the gardening magazines and websites I can get my hands on. In late March, with spring around the corner, I get excited about the peonies and other perennials about to bloom, but as much as I enjoy the beauty of my floral garden, my family has never enjoyed eating flowers.

So in early May, it’s all about the vegetables, and for me – besides being at synagogue – there is no time when I feel closer to God than when I am tilling the soil, planting seeds, and digging my hands in the earth. But, as you know, that is just the beginning of the process. I work every day keeping the weeds and insects out of my beds and keeping the soil properly hydrated. I do most of this work by myself, and it provides me with reflective moments that an otherwise hectic schedule does not. In July, the benefits are amazing, as faith is rewarded with the harvest. That first crop (especially tomatoes!) is coveted by every member of my family. The joy of using these vegetables in meals we prepare together and share together strengthens our family, our faith and our relationship with God, which makes the time I spend farming truly spiritual for me.

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Finding Spirituality in Nature

The definition of spirituality can be painted using a broad brush - from those who have a relationship with God, to those who simply ponder how they fit into this vast universe. Some of us actively seek spirituality in our lives; and some of us may not consider ourselves spiritual, but stumble upon it, sometimes by accident, and sometimes by grace.

Let’s face it. The world can be a crazy, stressful place. Modern life is hectic, and it can deal some bad hands. How do you manage when you’re given more than you can handle? Retail therapy? Food gluttony? Netflix binging? While these short-term fixes may provide momentary distraction, they rarely provide the strength or solutions needed to cope with life’s complications.

We all need a place of refuge and peace. A place that transports us away from the noise of life and into a stillness that soothes our souls. A spiritual place where we can connect with that which is bigger than ourselves.

A story is told of a young boy who wondered off into the woods every day by himself. His father, who was worried about his son’s safety, asked what he did each day in the woods. “I go into the forest to find God,” the boy said. His father was deeply moved, “That’s beautiful, but don’t you know that God is the same everywhere?” “God is,” the boy answered, “but I’m not.”

There is power in finding a place that changes us – a spiritual place that shapes our souls so we are more in tune to and in harmony with God. In this Kesher, we focus on one place where many of us, like the boy in the story, find that spiritual comfort and connection – Nature.

Thinking Her Thoughts

Sarah Brownlee looks like a normal 17-year-old girl. But spend a few minutes with her, and you will notice a lurking maturity behind the curtain. For example,
Let the heavens rejoice and the earth exult; the sea and all within it thunder. The fields and everything in them exult; then shall all the trees of the forest shout for joy.

~ Psalm 96 11-12

Sarah Brownlee taking in the joys of nature.

what would possess a girl on summer break to agree to come into the temple to be interviewed by someone she doesn’t know for something as old school as a magazine? Printed on paper? About something as non-concrete as finding spirituality in nature? However, Sarah seems to be perfectly comfortable, and her answers are succinct and elegant.

That’s not to say that she doesn’t engage in typical behavior for her age. She says she spends too much time on her phone and she binge-watches Netflix, but she exudes an unwavering sense of herself. She’s even patient and polite with the question she’s heard a million times already: Where are you going to college? She knows she wants to go in a liberal arts direction, but she’s still thinking, because Sarah is a person who places value on thinking.

In addition to thinking about colleges, Sarah has also thought about prayer. She describes the prayer class she took in Kulanu, the Reform Jewish High School. “We looked for ways to find our own meaning in prayer. We talked about our relationships with God, about spirituality, and about where we find connection. For me, I find those things in nature.”

Some of Sarah’s most spiritual moments have come while surrounded by the beauty of her summer camp – Camp Hess Kramer, located on the coast of southern California. Her favorite camp hide-away is a monumental menorah perched on a hilltop overlooking the Pacific Ocean – a perfect place for Sarah to sit in peace, contemplating life’s meaning. “I definitely feel a sense of awe when I’m there. I look out at the ocean and the mountains, and they’re so big and I’m not. Just feeling that sense of awe can be very spiritual. I think it’s also about a sense of belonging – like knowing that I fit into all of this.”

Sarah speaks enthusiastically about the spiritual moments she’s had at summer camp and sleeping under the stars in the Israeli desert. But she doesn’t need an exotic locale to find a place of quiet contemplation. “Sometimes I just go to a park and sit.” She understands the value of dragging her eyes away from electronic screens and taking in the physical world around her. “I think I’m a lot less connected

How many are the things You have made, O Lord: You have made them all with wisdom: the earth is full of Your creation. There is the sea, vast and wide, with its creatures beyond number, living things, small and great.

~ Psalm 104 24-25
But ask the animals, and they will teach you; or speak to the earth, and it will teach you, or let the fish in the sea inform you. Which of all these does not know that the hand of the Lord has done this? In [God’s] hand is the life of every creature and the breath of all mankind.

~ Job 12 7-10

plane with fixed gear became routine, he moved on to planes with propellers he could control for more power and then one with two engines. Every step created a new goal. “I got my multi-engine rating. Then I learned to fly a helicopter. Then I bought an aerobatic airplane and started teaching myself to go upside down.”

Steve will tell you he doesn’t think of himself as a spiritual guy. He’s an engineer, a mechanic, and he wasn’t raised to be religious. But there’s no doubt he has spiritual moments, which he believes is probably the case for most of us, if we’re simply paying attention. For Steve, some of those spiritual moments happen in the air. “When you’re flying, even commercially, and you get just above a cloud layer – and there’s no earth, just cotton below and blue sky above as far as you can see, it’s beautiful. It makes me think, ‘how can this be?’; ‘what made this all happen?’”

“There are some big questions that can’t be answered,” Steve says as he considers the philosophies of religion and science. “So maybe being spiritual means being ok with the questions, especially when you’re wondering what makes all this happen. This little earth, this little speck of dust you see as you pull away up into the sky – that little speck of dust is life. And for me, God is a force – the good in life, in the world, in the universe.”

Pretty heady stuff, for someone who’s not sure he’s spiritual. Steve’s spiritual musings aren’t just the result of a perspective that can only be achieved from thousands of feet above the planet. Back on the ground, Steve sees things that some are often too busy to notice. “Not too long ago I was driving down the street and saw a beautiful red fox above a culvert. And popping out of the culvert were her two pups. That’s just cool. That’s what spirituality is to me.”
Celebrating the High Holy Days at Wise Temple

Options abound for all ages and locations

Everything you need to know about the High Holy Days schedule, resources, and ticket policies can be found in your High Holy Days Brochure which was mailed with your tickets in mid-August.

Here are a few additional things to consider:

Options Abound for All Ages

Wise Temple offers thirty-three services, events, or programs during the High Holy Days.

Any age is welcome to attend any service, but we do offer ten special worship options that are tailored especially to families—grandparents, extended family, and special friends are also welcome to attend.

With advanced registration, we also offer babysitting for members’ children ages 6 months—age 3 during 11:00 AM Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur services at Wise Center.

Special Moments at Plum Street Temple

While we offer services at both of our locations, there’s something special about the High Holy Day services at Plum Street Temple. Eleven High Holy Day worship experiences are offered at Plum Street Temple, so we hope to see you there for one or more options. It’s worth the drive and the parking to experience at least one of the holidays in the awe of our uniquely special and historic space where Cincinnati Jews have been marking these holidays for over 150 years.

A View from Afar

Out of town or home bound? You can still enjoy services via live stream at www.wisetemple.org/livestream:

- Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur Eve
  - 8:15 PM Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur Eve
  - 8:15 PM Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur Day
  - 11:00 AM Yom Kippur Day

Live stream also available every Friday evening throughout the year.

Tashlich – A Meaningful Experience for all Ages

Tashlich – meaning “to send”– is a special Jewish ritual for the High Holy Day season. During this ritual we throw small pieces of bread into a natural body of flowing water in order to symbolically cast off the previous year’s sins and mistakes. On Saturday, September 15th, Wise Temple families will meet at French Park and stand by the water’s edge, poised between the year that is gone and the year that is yet to be. We will release our sins into the water and face the year ahead with courage and faith.

Best Kept Secret – No Tickets Needed for S’lichot Services

That’s right. Bring any guest to S’lichot services at Plum Street Temple. No tickets required. Share this reflective holiday, this historic building, this spiritual service, and this peaceful experience with neighbors, co-workers, relatives, and friends.

Saturday, September 1
- 8:30 PM Dessert Reception
- 9:30 PM S’lichot Service

Plum Street Temple

This Service of Forgiveness officially ushers in the Days of Awe and Repentance. If you’ve never been to this service, say yes this year— you’ll be glad you did.
Sukkot from Start to Finish

Start on Sunday under a Sukkah in a congregant’s home
Finish on Friday under the stars in the Wise Temple field

Family Sukkot Open Houses

Sunday, September 23
4:30 PM – 7:30 PM
Bring your family to celebrate Sukkot under another congregant’s sukkah! Choose the location that best fits your family, and join together for food, fun, and the mitzvah of shaking the lulav and etrog. At each location, you will find kid-friendly food, age-appropriate activities, a Wise Temple rabbi or educator, and other friendly Wise Temple families!

Address details will be provided upon registration. RSVP at www.wisetemple.org/sukkotopenhouse.
Questions? Contact Rabbi Elana Perry, Director of Family Engagement: eperry@wisetemple.org

Sukkah #1 – Oakley
Hosted by Jenna, Seth, and Aidan Shaffer

Sukkah #2 – Montgomery
Hosted by Michelle, Matt, Evelyn, Audrey, and Charlotte Debevec

Sukkah #3 – Mason
Hosted by Tammy, Ron, Shoshana, Lilah, and Micah Ploetz

J.WOOT Sukkah – “Pizza in the Hut” – Special for 6th, 7th, and 8th Graders – Mason
Hosted by Danielle, Jason, Colby, and Sophie Levine

Friday, September 28th
6:15 PM Sukkot Shabbat service
7:15 PM Cookout, campfire, and optional campout
Sponsored by the Brotherhood
Put on some comfortable clothes for a casual Shabbat service celebrating Sukkot! Afterward, enjoy a free cookout dinner – simply bring a side dish, salad, or appetizer to share. Then gather at the field for songs and s’mores by the campfire. Continue the fun with an optional overnight campout! Bring tents and sleeping bags to “live in booths” just as our ancestors did, and wake the next morning to a breakfast of bagels, lox, and coffee.
RSVP at www.wisetemple.org/sukkotcampout.
Questions? Contact Rob Alpern at 513-871-9880

“This is one of our family’s favorite Wise Temple events”

“I always wanted to try the Sukkot campout with my family. Then one year, I just said, ‘we can do this.’ Now it’s become one of my favorite things to do at Temple. I had never slept in a tent before, but here I was with my kids in the Temple field with our sleeping bags. The moon was out, the campfire was crackling. It was just so awesome. Now we do it every year. It’s both calming and community building. It’s just a different feeling than being inside the Temple walls.”
—Amanda Rosenberg
Nearly three decades ago, our very own Rabbi Lewis Kamrass pioneered the Yom Kippur Mitzvah Bag Project, encouraging Wise Temple congregants to bring in bags of non-perishable food and personal care items to be distributed to those less fortunate in the Cincinnati area, via the Freestore Foodbank.

Since its inception, we have donated more than 670,000 pounds of such items to assist our neighbors in need at local shelters and soup kitchens in the tri-state. And that number rises significantly when you consider the hundreds of congregations around the country who followed our lead and adopted this practice.

Keep the momentum going with your contribution.

Carry the Mitzvah: Bring Bags to Yom Kippur Services
A Freestore Foodbank representative will be on hand to collect your bag(s) at both Wise Center and Plum Street Temple. Want to drop items off early? We’ll take them! A donation bin is currently located in the Wise Center lobby.

Click the Mitzvah: Buy Online
Difficulty transporting heavy bags? Simply purchase items online and they’ll be shipped directly to Wise Temple. Go to www.wisetemple.org/clickthemitzvah before September 16.

WHAT TO DONATE:

Non-perishable food items like*:
- Canned meats
- Canned soups
- Boxed cereals

Personal care items such as:
- Toothpaste/toothbrush
- Deodorant
- Disposable diapers

*No glass jars or containers please.
Nefesh Mountain, the Hottest New Jewish Musical Group, Comes to Wise Temple

Old time, bluegrass mountain music + Jewish traditions and heritage = a game-changing blend of spiritual and uniquely American sound!

Husband and wife team Eric Lindberg and Doni Zasloff have pioneered a unique style melded from ancient, time-honored musical traditions. Tablet Magazine calls it “The Sound of Appalachia and the Soul of Judaism.” Nefesh Mountain’s newly released album, “Beneath the Open Sky” received national recognition and rave reviews from renowned music publications like Billboard.

“A deeply Jewish spiritual flavor which combines lively bluegrass melodies and tempos played on banjos, dobros, and other stringed instruments. A rustic, traditional American music that is honest and genuine, with original compositions that evoke an earnest and heartfelt appeal to love and acceptance, no matter your background. With several opportunities to savor Nefesh Mountain, there’s sure to be an event that’s right up your alley, and a chance to make a memory you’ll never forget.

Congregational Shabbat Service and Dinner Experience
Friday, November 2
6:15 PM Shabbat Service led by Nefesh Mountain
7:15 PM Shabbat Dinner and Special Post Dinner Experience with Nefesh Mountain

Register for dinner: www.wisetemple.org/nefeshmountain

NextGen Concert with Nefesh Mountain
Saturday, November 3
Time and location to be announced

YoFi Concert with The Mama Doni Experience
Saturday, November 3
3:30 PM Child-friendly snack reception
4:00 PM Concert

During The Mama Doni Experience, Doni and Eric invite the YoFi community into a world of laughter, love, dancing, and singing for the inner Jewish child in everyone.

Religious School Concert with Nefesh Mountain
Sunday, November 4
11:00 AM – 11:45 AM
For students in grades 1-6. Parents and grandparents welcome!
Kindred Spirits on the Road Again

He knew the minute he laid eyes on her that she was the one. The moment was at the University of Cincinnati, where he was studying special education, the same major as the mystery woman he instantly fell in love with. “When someone tells you over and over that it was love at first sight, you start to believe him,” says Sharon Kleymeyer of her now husband, Ted.

But it wasn't just chemistry or a common interest in education that made this couple a perfect match. The pair quickly discovered their shared passion for nature. And after having raised a family, they’ve arrived at a destination they mapped out as newlyweds.

“Before we got married we talked about our bucket list,” Sharon explains. “On that list was buying an RV and exploring New England and out west. This was a pie-in-the-sky dream – we were just 20 years old then. But as retirement got closer, we said, ‘let’s do this!’”

And so they did. A 28-foot RV became part of their lives, bringing new adventures, new places, faces, and an even greater connection with nature. Their affection for each other comes in handy when traveling hundreds of miles in the close quarters of a box on wheels! Sharon draws a beautiful parallel between RV living and nature itself.

“Life is simpler in the RV. Just like in nature, everything has its place. Honestly, there’s something spiritual about that!” Sharon admits.

The RV purchase was a logical progression in their journey with nature that began when they were both kids. Ted’s early experiences included Boy Scouts and family camping adventures. Ted’s family would park the family camper at Houston Woods park the family camper at Houston Woods for a month at a time while his dad taught at Miami University as a visiting professor. Ted’s early experiences included Boy Scouts and family camping adventures. Ted’s family would park the family camper at Houston Woods for a month at a time while his dad taught at Miami University as a visiting professor. The Kleymeyers began when they were both kids. Ted’s early experiences included Boy Scouts and family camping adventures. Ted’s family would park the family camper at Houston Woods for a month at a time while his dad taught at Miami University as a visiting professor. Sharon's parents weren't campers, but she became an extreme Girl Scout camper and a lover of GUCI, where she especially appreciated Friday evening outdoor services – her shorts settled on cut log benches with the view of trees all around her.

It's clear that these outdoor experiences are not just about the adventure for this couple; there's something greater. “I notice all the subtleties around me when I'm outdoors – the sunrise, the stars, the sound of the birds in the morning or crickets at night. I can’t look at all the beauty without thinking about how I’m a part of God’s earth and God’s plan,” Sharon says with certainty.

Ted chimes in with a similar belief, “I think as humans we strive for that feeling of being part of something greater than ourselves. When I’m in nature – surrounded by mountains in Bar Harbor or the huge ocean on the coast of Florida or a sky that goes on forever – I feel like I’m part of something bigger – something spiritual.”

In fact, the Kleymeyers spent last fall on the road, witnessing the miracle of autumn on a Yom Kippur hike. “We went to services at congregations along the coast of Maine, but planned it so we could hike in the afternoon,” Sharon explained. “Being out in nature brought everything together and brought even greater meaning to the holiday.”

The Kleymeyers describe RVing as “a bug” – they have a real need to get away, to breathe. But until their next adventure, they find ways to observe the spirituality all around us every day. Their advice? “Start small. Just go for a walk on Shabbat. Talk about God and your lives and plans,” Sharon advises. Ted agrees, “Leave your cell phone inside, go sit in the backyard, and just be aware.”

Ask the Kleymeyers about:

• Their son’s job teaching kids how to find Judaism in nature.
• Their adventures to Asheville, Nashville, New England, and Williamsburg.
• Their plans to experience the Grand Canyon and all the majesty the west has to offer.
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<th>Date</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Parents or Grandparents</th>
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<td>Plum Street Temple</td>
<td>10:45 AM</td>
<td>Bar Mitzvah of Matthew Drasnin</td>
<td>Lori and Dr. Jeff Drasnin, late Dr. Ronald Drasnin</td>
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<td>Plum Street Temple</td>
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<td>10:45 AM</td>
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<td>Bar Mitzvah of Simon Fisher</td>
<td>Jill and Danny Fisher</td>
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High Holy Day Services

High Holy Day and Festival Services
Please see tickets for specific programs and service times.

S’lichot
Saturday, September 1

Rosh Hashanah Evening
Sunday, September 9

Rosh Hashanah Day
Monday, September 10

Yom Kippur Evening
Tuesday, September 18

Yom Kippur Day
Wednesday, September 19

Sukkot Evening
Sunday, September 23

Sukkot Day
Monday, September 24

Simchat Torah Evening/Consecration
Sunday, September 30

Simchat Torah/Yizkor
Monday, October 1

Shabbat Sukkot Cookout and Campout
Friday, September 28
See page 8 for details.

Worship Services

Shabbat Evening Services
Fridays, 6:15 PM at Wise Center
(unless otherwise indicated)

SEPTEMBER
September 7 – “Back to School” Family Shabbat
6:45 PM service; 6:00 PM dinner

September 7 – Shabbat service

September 14 – Shabbat service

September 14 – NextGen Shabbat
6:30 PM, Plum Street Temple

September 21 – Shabbat service

September 28 – Sukkot Shabbat service with birthday and anniversary blessings

OCTOBER

October 5 – Family Shabbat
6:45 PM service; 6:00 PM dinner

October 5 – Shabbat service

October 12 – Shabbat service

October 12 – NextGen Shabbat
6:30 PM, Plum Street Temple

October 19 – Shabbat service

October 19 – Limmud Shabbat (Learning)

October 26 – Shabbat service with birthday and anniversary blessings

October 26 – Musical Shabbat service

NOVEMBER

November 2 – Family Shabbat
6:45 PM service; 6:00 PM dinner

November 2 – Congregational Shabbat service and dinner with Guest Musicians Nefesh Mountain
(See page 10 for details)

November 9 – Shabbat service

November 9 – NextGen Shabbat
6:30 PM, Plum Street Temple

November 16 – Shabbat service

November 16 – Healing Shabbat

November 23 – Shabbat service

November 30 – Shabbat service with birthday and anniversary blessings

November 30 – Ohm Shalom Shabbat (meditative)

Shabbat Morning Services

Saturdays at Wise Center
9:30 AM service
10:45 AM Torah study

Shabbat Morning B’nai Mitzvah Services

See page 12.

B’nai Mitzvah Services

October 1, 8, 15, 22, 29
October 6, 13, 20, 27
November 3, 10, 17, 24

Brotherhood

Joel Fogel, President
president@wisebrotherhood.com
www.wisetemple.org/brotherhood

Monthly Meeting and Dinner

Thursdays, September 13, October 11, November 8
6:00 PM

Lighthouse Youth Services Dinner

Thursday, September 20
5:30 PM, Offsite

Eitz Chayim – Adult Education

Alex Burte: 513-793-2556
aburte@wisetemple.org
www.wisetemple.org/adulteducation

Tuesdays with Torah

Noon – 1:00 PM
RSVP:
www.wisetemple.org/tuesdayswithtorah

The Poetry of Yehuda Amichai

Rabbi Karen Thomashow
October 9, 16, 23

Israeli Poet Yehuda Amichai is given the distinction of having been the greatest poet of the modern State. His poetry reflects his struggle with faith and politics, his attachment to his homeland, and his evolution of identity. If you desire a class about Israel and are curious about exploring a number of her topics through the medium of the language arts, consider attending this first class of the year.
Tremendous Texts of Judaism
Rabbi Michael Danziger
October 30, November 6, 13
Based on the teachings of Rabbi Aaron Panken (z”l) at HUC-JIR, we will explore several key Talmudic passages, each of which opens understanding of key Jewish ideas, perspectives, or debates.

Explaining Reform Judaism to Others – Guiding Principles For Two Centuries
Rabbi Lewis Kamrass
November 20, 27, and December 4
While Reform Judaism stands for ongoing change and responsiveness to the needs and urgencies of the day, it is also founded upon enduring principles and ideals, articulated by the early Reform leaders, Rabbi Isaac Mayer Wise, among them. Rabbi Kamrass will lead us in learning and in discerning the timeless significance of those basic principles. Through those principles, we gain the ability to better understand the basis of Reform Judaism for ourselves and articulate those principles to others.

iEngage
Jewish Values and the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict
Rabbi Karen Thomashow
Monday, October 8
Monday, November 5
5:15 PM – 7:00 PM
The Video Lecture Series explores one of the most divisive issues affecting the Jewish people today. Through the study of Jewish narratives about Israel and the unpacking of the complex meanings of peace in Jewish tradition, we explore the ideas and values that animate different attitudes toward the conflict and how these values shape their own political understandings. Though a common political platform may not be attainable, this course strives to achieve a shared respect for our differences.

Participants will view one short video lecture per month, study the texts it raises, and engage in group discussion— all the while building community. No prior iEngage experience necessary.

Downtown Lunch and Learn
11:45 AM – 1:00 PM at 1 East Fourth Street, 14th Floor
Optional lunch available.
RSVP: www.wisetemple.org/lunchandlearn

Two Thousand Year Old Social Justice Wisdom
Rabbi Karen Thomashow
October 25
A Social Justice Commentary (Pirkei Avot) was recently published by the press of the Central Conference of American Rabbis, authored by Rabbi Shmuely Yanklowitz. This class will explore a handful of the sayings of our sages through the lens of justice. Please help kick off the year of Downtown Lunch and Learn at this moving class!

The Rabbinic Reinvention of Chanukah
Rabbi Lewis Kamrass
November 29
Explore the origins of how Chanukah began. Using layers of early rabbinic period history and texts, explore how the rabbis shaped a complete reinvention of the story, the values, the narrative, and the observance of Chanukah. Rabbi Kamrass will lead us in an exploration of how our holidays were reimagined by our ancient rabbis and the legacy of reinvention that shapes our understanding and our observance today.

Talmud Study Class
Rabbi Lewis Kamrass
Tuesdays, October 2, November 6
5:00 PM
The ancient rabbis completely reshaped biblical Judaism to respond to new needs and to changing times. Their work through the centuries sets the foundation for the Judaism we practice and follow. Learn Talmud, Midrash, and other areas of their creative, intellectual, and spiritual genius that shapes who we are as Jews today. Join Rabbi Kamrass once a month for a class that will open your eyes to the enduring richness and origins of Jewish ideas and practice.

While no prior knowledge is required, bring curiosity, questions, and a desire to learn deeply. This year we will examine our various Jewish holidays. We will learn how much of our current practice, customs, and ideals were not only shaped by the ancient rabbis, but how those holidays are transformed and reimagined at the hands of our rabbinic sages in enduring ways that shape Jewish life today.

Distance-Wise
The Midterm Elections: What the results suggest about the Trump Presidency and American Jews.
Dr. Steve Windmueller
Thursday, November 15 at 7:00 PM
Remaining 2018 – 2019 of Distance-Wise season will be on our website soon.

Community
Congregational Shabbat Service and Dinner with Guest Musicians Nefesh Mountain
Friday, November 2
6:15 PM Shabbat Service
7:15 PM Shabbat Dinner and Special Post Dinner Experience
See page 10 for details.

Israeli Art Show and Sale
Thursday, October 4 – Sunday, October 7
See back cover page.

Empty Nesters
Kari Fagin: 513-793-2556
kfagin@wisetemple.org
www.wisetemple.org/emptynest

Yellow Springs Hike and Brewery
Saturday, September 29
1:00 PM at Yellow Springs

Under the Market Tour
Sunday, October 7
2:00 PM at Findlay Market and Underground Brewery

Bourbon Trail
Sunday, November 4
10:30 AM at Buffalo Trace
### Families

**Questions? Call the Temple office at 513-793-2556 or visit any of the URLs listed.**

www.wisetemple.org/familyengagement

#### Family Shabbat
First Friday of each month 6:00 PM dinner; 6:45 PM service
- September 7
- October 5
- November 2

#### Sukkot Family Open Houses
Sunday, September 23 4:30 PM – 7:30 PM
Various locations, see page 8.

#### All School Parent Meeting
Sunday, September 30 9:30 AM – 10:45 AM

#### Parents’ Night Out Social Event
**Thursday, October 18**
7:00 PM – 9:00 PM

#### Nefesh Mountain Religious School Concert
Sunday, November 4 During Religious School Parents welcome. See page 10 for details.

#### Jewish Parenting Program
Sunday, November 18 9:30 AM – 10:45 AM

#### Religious School
Sundays 9:15 AM – 11:45 AM
- September 16, 23, 30
- October 7, 14, 21, 28
- November 4, 11, 18

### YoFI (ages 0-5)
www.wisetemple.org/yofi

#### YoFI Shabababa Worship
10:00 AM – 11:00 AM
- September 8, 22
- October 13
- November 10

#### 3s Classes
Sundays at 9:30 AM
- October 7, 21
- November 4, 18

### Grades 9 – 12
www.wisetemple.org/youthengagement

#### Kulanu
Sundays at Wise Center
- September 23, 30 1:00 PM – 2:40 PM
- October 7, 14, 21, 28
- November 4, 11 5:30 PM – 7:10 PM
Optional dinner, 5:00 PM – 5:30 PM

#### NFTY Fall Kallah
Friday, October 5 – Sunday, October 7
GUCI

### NextGen (Young Professionals)
Rabbi Michael Danziger: 513-793-2556
mdanziger@wisetemple.org
www.wisetemple.org/nextgen

#### Shabbat Services
2nd Friday of each month
- 6:30 PM, Plum Street Temple
- September 14
- October 12
- November 9

### Senior Adults
Alex Burte: 513-793-2556
aburte@wisetemple.org
www.wisetemple.org/seniors

### Sukkot Brunch with Rabbinic Presentation
Monday, September 24
10:45 AM – 11:30 AM
Matthew 25 Ministries
Thursday, October 18
1:00 PM – 3:00 PM
11060 Kenwood Road

Truth Is Stranger than Fiction: Making Documentaries in Cincinnati
Wednesday, November 14
1:30 PM – 3:00 PM

Sisterhood
Claire Eichner, President
claireeichner@gmail.com
www.wisetemple.org/sisterhood

Board Meeting
Wednesdays, 9:45 AM – 10:45 AM
September 5
October 3
November 7

Opening Dinner
Thursday, September 27
7:00 PM – 9:00 PM

Bedtime Bundles
November 1 – November 30

A Tour of the Mosque
Saturday, November 10
1:00 PM – 2:30 PM
Offsite

Chanukah Boutique
Sunday, November 18 and December 2
9:15 AM – 11:45 AM

Mah Jongg
Thursdays at 11:00 AM
Sherri Tieger: 513-821-8881;
stt105@fuse.net

WiseUP – Social Action Projects
Alex Burte: 513-793-2556
aburte@wisetemple.org
www.wisetemple.org/wiseup

United Pet Fund
Sunday, October 14
2:00 PM – 5:00 PM
11336 Tamarco Drive

IHN (Interfaith Hospitality Network)
October 14 – 21

Over-the-Rhine Soup Kitchen
Sunday, October 28
9:45 AM – 2:45 PM
1620 Vine Street

Sweet Cheeks
Saturday, November 10
1:00 PM – 4:00 PM
1615 Republic Street

Freestore Foodbank Warehouse
Saturday, November 17
1:00 PM – 3:30 PM
1250 Tennessee Avenue

St. Francis Seraph Soup Kitchen
Wednesday, November 21
3:30 PM – 6:00 PM
1615 Republic Street

Miscellaneous
Temple Office: 513-793-2556
welcome@wisetemple.org

Alcoholics Anonymous Meeting
Tuesdays and Thursdays, 5:30 PM
Except November 22

A Personal Look at IHN
If you’re thinking about how to make an impact in the world, but aren’t sure how to accomplish it, check out Wise Temple’s three new IHN videos. These videos paint a picture of what IHN does and what it means to both volunteers and guests. Making a difference in the lives of people who just need a little help might change their life, and maybe yours too.

Visit www.wisetemple.org/ihn
Interfaith Hospitality Network (IHN). Providing shelter and compassion to Cincinnati families experiencing temporary homelessness.

Social Action for Animal Lovers: United Pet Fund
Sunday, October 14
2:00 PM – 5:00 PM
Help our furry, four-legged friends in need. Meet animals and their rescuers. United Pet Fund supplies animal shelters, rescue operations, and individuals with vital resources of food, bedding, leashes, etc. for dogs, cats, and some wild animal rescues. Hand out donated items on distribution day. A great experience for adults and kids age 13+.
When I was in rabbinical school, I served a student pulpit in Big Bear, California. Every month, I drove over three hours to reach this remote ski village with a sparkling lake nestled on a beautiful mountain. It was a nature lover’s paradise. When I think about the physical beauty of that place, however, it is not the slopes, trees or wildlife that I remember most. It is the drive up the mountain. On one occasion, I encountered terrible traffic that caused a significant delay. I was feeling stressed, as Shabbat was quickly approaching and it looked like I would be late for the Shabbat evening service I was to lead. Just when I wanted to scream and pull my hair out, I rounded a bend on the mountainside to witness the most magnificent sunset over the valley below. As my face became bathed in the orange glow of the evening sky, I forgot about the traffic and the stress. Instead of cursing the cars around me, I found myself searching for words of blessing. Fortunately, we have a Jewish blessing for just about everything, including a glorious sunset. I quietly uttered to myself, “Baruch Atah Adonai, Eloheinu Melech ha’olam, Oseh ma’aseh v’reisheet – Blessed are You, Eternal God, Sovereign of the universe, who makes the works of creation.” After that moment, I never thought about that road in the same way; it had become holy ground.

Recently, I visited Niagara Falls and experienced the “wow” factor for which it is famous. The magnitude of the falls was a humbling and amazing sight to behold, and I was prepared to be impressed. What caught me by surprise was seeing the raging Niagara River just a few miles north.

Standing beside these Class 6 rapids (among the fastest and most extreme waters in the world), the ground beneath my feet trembling from the rushing waves, I felt completely stunned by the power of nature. I found myself thinking of Genesis, of the great primordial waters that had the creative capacity to “bring forth swarms of living creatures” (Gen. 1:20); the chaotic force whose unwieldy strength was subdued as “a wind from God swept over the face of the waters” (Gen. 1:3). In my mind, power and beauty such as this could only come from the Divine, and once again, words of blessing crossed my lips: “Mah rabu ma’asecha, Adonai, kulam b’chochmah asita, mal’ah haaretz kinyanecha – How great are Your works, Adonai! In wisdom, You formed them all, filling the earth with Your creations.”

These experiences are not unique. So many of us feel awed by the splendor of nature, sensing spirituality while breathing fresh air. This is a very Jewish thing to do, after all. Judaism’s roots are in nature. God spoke to Moses from a burning bush in the wilderness. God gave the Torah to the Israelites on top of a mountain. Like our ancient ancestors, when we allow ourselves to open our eyes to the world around us, we also open our hearts to holiness around us. So whenever afforded the opportunity, let us get outside and take notice of God’s creation. And when we do, I hope we can remember to express gratitude, whether with words from Jewish tradition or whatever words come to mind in the moment. As Rabbi Abraham Joshua Heschel said, “It is gratefulness that makes the soul great.”

“So many of us feel awed by the splendor of nature, sensing spirituality while breathing fresh air.”
YAPPY HOUR!
Empty nesters enjoyed a dog friendly evening of fun and friendship, with “Have Doggie Havdalah” and a bonfire.

WE SAID “I DO” ALL OVER AGAIN at Wise Temple’s Marriage Reconsecration service.
play!

A look back at all the kibitzing, kvelling, and schmoozing that happened at Wise Temple these past few months.

NEXTGEN@WISE celebrates Shabbat at Plum Street Temple — worshipping, socializing, and sharing oneg together.

GUCI was hot, but it was still a blast!

THE BROTHERHOOD marked Lag b’Omer, symbolizing the light Rabbi Simeon Bar Yohai brought into the world, with music and a bonfire.

A SPECIAL GUEST made YoFI Shababa even more fun!
When Is the Last Time You Learned Something New?

Distance-Wise

From Hundreds of Miles Away, Great Thinkers and Ideas Up Close and Personal

The Midterm Elections: What the Results Suggest about the Trump Presidency and American Jews
Dr. Steven Windmueller
Thursday, November 15
7:00 PM

Dr. Steven Windmueller is the Rabbi Alfred Gottschalk Chair in Jewish Communal Service at HUC-JIR in Los Angeles. During his 30 year career he has held a number of prominent positions within the Jewish community.

Dr. Windmueller has written extensively on the Middle East, Jewish public and civic affairs, and global social trends. Currently, he is writing about Jewish political behavior, having released several studies on Jewish voting patterns. As a result of his research on Jewish political affairs, he is frequently quoted in publications like the Los Angeles Times, the Atlanta Journal Constitution, and Newsweek.

Bedtime Bundles

Providing comfort to children ages 0-16 at the YWCA Domestic Violence Shelter
Donate your bundle in the crib located in the Wise Center lobby from November 1 – November 30.

How to make a Bedtime Bundle
Fill a new pillowcase (available at the Temple office) with the following NEW items:

- Pajamas
- Underwear or diapers/wipes
- Socks
- Toothpaste/toothbrush
- Small toy, stuffed animal, or book

Other ways to help:

- Ongoing Needs: Donate new bath towels, washcloths, twin bed sheets, toiletries, shampoo, deodorant, diapers, and baby bottles.
- Cash Donations: Help Sisterhood to make additional Bundles and fulfill other shelter needs.

Checks payable to: Wise Temple Sisterhood
Mail to: Wise Temple Sisterhood Bedtime Bundles; ATTN: Cindy Burgin
8329 Ridge Road, Cincinnati, OH 45236
Questions? Margie Burgin at 513-891-0610 or Cindy Burgin at cburgin@cinci.rr.com

Sisterhood Gift Shop Sales
September – 20% off everything
November 11 – December 2 – 20% off Chanukah items
Sales not valid on books or cards.

Do Your Holiday Shopping at Wise Temple
Sisterhood Chanukah Boutique
Sundays, November 18 and December 2
9:15 AM – 11:45 AM
A variety of unique gifts from $1 to $20.
Great Thinkers and Ideas Up Close and Personal

When Is the Last Time You Learned Something New?

Dr. Steven Windmueller

The Midterm Elections: What the Results Suggest about the

Bedtime Bundles

Mail to: Wise Temple Sisterhood Bedtime Bundles; ATTN: Cindy Burgin
Checks payable to: Wise Temple Sisterhood

needs.

• Cash Donations: Help Sisterhood to make additional Bundles and fulfill other shelter
• Ongoing Needs: Donate new bath towels, washcloths, twin bed sheets, toiletries,
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• Small toy, stuffed animal, or
• Underwear or diapers/wipes (at the Temple office) with the

Donate your bundle in the crib located in the Wise Center lobby from November

From Hundreds of Miles Away, the Constitution
global social trends. Currently, he is
Jewish public and civic affairs, and
prominent positions within the
Jewish community.

Dr. Steven Windmueller is the

20% off Chanukah items
November 11 – December 2 –
September – 20% off everything
Sales
$1 to $20.

9:15 AM – 11:45 AM
Sisterhood Chanukah Boutique

CONTRIBUTIONS
In honor of:
Ann and Bob Unger
Wedding of Adam Safdi and Jimmie Manning by
Marshall
Birthday of Natalie Schwab by Sharon and Steve
Birthday of Breck Unger by Ann and Bob Unger
Stefan Eckert
Birthday of John Michelman by Inez Allen and
Stefan Eckert
Birthday of Alan Zeff by Inez Allen and Stefan Eckert
Birthday of Renee Lemberg by Inez Allen and
Stefan Eckert
Birthday of John Michelman by Inez Allen and
Stefan Eckert
Birthday of David Wolf by Inez Allen and
Stefan Eckert
Birthday of Debbie Ackerman by Inez Allen and
Stefan Eckert
Birthday of Steve Marshall by Inez Allen and
Stefan Eckert
Birthday of Steve Marshall by Margo and Alan Zeff
Birthday of Jon Marshall by Margo and Alan Zeff
Birthday of Breck Unrner by Jon Marshall
Birthday of Breck Unrner by Danny Unrner and family
Birthday of Breck Unrner by Joni and Dan Green
Birthday of Breck Unrner by Ann and Bob Unrner
Birthday of Natalie Schwab by Sharon and Steve
Marshall
Wedding of Adam Safdi and Jimmie Manning by
Ann and Bob Unrner

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CONTRIBUTIONS
We acknowledge with appreciation...

Marilyn Weinstein by Lois Klein
Marilyn Weinstein by Ann and Bob Unger
Marilyn Weinstein by Lori and James Teater
Marilyn Weinstein by Mert and Rick Friedman
Marilyn Weinstein by Donna and Ken Hyams
Marilyn Weinstein by Melanie, Colin and Slevin Slaxva
Marilyn Weinstein by Dianne and David Rosenberg
Marilyn Weinstein by Karin Susskind
Marilyn Weinstein by Ann Meranus
Marilyn Weinstein by Linda and Donald Siekmann
Marilyn Weinstein by Lynn, David, Rachel, and Rob Calif
Marilyn Weinstein by Irene Block
Marilyn Weinstein by Sandy and Stephen Joffe
Marilyn Weinstein by Monika and Brad Vigran
Marilyn Weinstein by John Frank
Marilyn Weinstein by Joan and Steve Guttmann
Marilyn Weinstein by Chessie Idinopulos Vigran
Marilyn Weinstein by Lynn and Alex Warm
Marilyn Weinstein by Amy and David Susskind
Marilyn Weinstein by Gloria and Alter Peerless
Marilyn Weinstein by Wise Temple Neighbor to Neighbor Committee
Marilyn Weinstein by Cherie Rosenzweig
Marilyn Weinstein by Sue and Stephen Lipson
Marilyn Weinstein by Phyllis and Bob Lappin
Marilyn Weinstein by Paula Holstein
Marilyn Weinstein by Sepha and Hal Silverman
Marilyn Weinstein by John and Katie Stewart
Marilyn Weinstein by Pam and Frank Gottschall
Marilyn Weinstein by Julie and Rick Ruskin
Marilyn Weinstein by Tammy and Mark Slutzow
Marilyn Weinstein by Friends of Marilyn Weinstein
Marilyn Weinstein by Anne and Alan Safdi
Marilyn Weinstein by Barbara and John Camino
Marilyn Weinstein by Abby (Marshall) and Matt Masinter
Marilyn Weinstein by Leslie Brenner
Marilyn Weinstein by Arlene and Ron Shulman
Marilyn Weinstein by Romanow Zelermeyer Family (Dan, Andrew, Isaac, and Julia)
Marilyn Weinstein by Carolyn and Steve Cohen
Marilyn Weinstein by Dean Houston, Cincinnati
Marilyn Weinstein by Ronnie and John Shore
Marilyn Weinstein by Barb and Ron Solomon
Marilyn Weinstein by Family and Friends of Alpha Omega
Marilyn Weinstein by Janet Berg
Marilyn Weinstein by Barbara Brown
Marilyn Weinstein by Irene and Mel Frieman
Marilyn Weinstein by Carol and Stan Ullner
Marilyn Weinstein by Donna Pike
Marshall Rozin by Dian Levine
Melvin Nadler by Barbara Brown
Rosemary Safdi by Alan Weinstein

Steve Jacobs by Rachel Jacobs
Lifelong Learning Endowment Fund
In loving memory of:
Marilyn Weinstein by Rebecca and Michael Friedman

Natalie Feld Floral Fund
In loving memory of:
Saul Freedman by Rhoda Young and Family

Ora Mietzinger GITVY Fund
In loving memory of:
Mel Nadler by Saranne and Tom Funk

Wise Center Playground Fund
In honor of:
Eliza Shmoel by Sarah and Oren Shmoel
Leona Markiewicz by Markiewicz Family
Shababa by Sarah and Oren Shmoel
New playground by Ethel and Sam Garber Foundation
New playground by Lindi Vernick
New playground by Blair and Micah Kamrass
New playground by Melanie and Jeff Blumenthal
New playground by Rabbi Karen Thomashow and Yonatan Eyal
New playground by Jenna and Jacob Morvay
New playground by Rabbis Lindsey and Michael Danziger
New playground by Wise Temple Sisterhood
New playground by Brandy and Jeffrey Kaufman
New playground by Gloria Lipson
Barbara Dragul by Maggie and Mike Oestreicher
Barbara Dragul by Mel Marmer
Barbara Dragul by Sherr and Mark Weiss
Barbara Dragul by Sue Voos
Barbara Dragul by Patricia and Scott Joseph
Barbara Dragul by Susan Glas
Barbara Dragul by Morissa and Mitchell Cohen
Barbara Dragul by Randy and Peter Bloch
Barbara Dragul by Renee and Lewis Kamrass and Family
Barbara Dragul by Mary Lee and Louie Sirkin
Barbara Dragul by Helene and Tom Ohren
Barbara Dragul by Brennocks Family
Barbara Dragul by Barb, Stuart, Alison, and Nicole Goret
Barbara Dragul by Liss Family
Barbara Dragul by Laura and Harry Wright
Barbara Dragul by Susan Fried
Barbara Dragul by Michelle and Tom Smith
Barbara Dragul by Lynne Haber
Barbara Dragul by the Pollak Family
Barbara Dragul by Beth, Hamilton and Finley Schwartz
Barbara Dragul by Diane Cummins

Barbara Dragul by Ann and Howard Mintz
Barbara Dragul by Jan and Don Shuller
Barbara Dragul by Carol Dragul and Saul Friedman
Barbara Dragul by Edie Shapiro
Barbara Dragul by Kirzner Family
Barbara Dragul by Tarshis Family
In loving memory of:
Gert Lieberman by Rozakis Family
Marilyn Weinstein by Sara and Julian Hirschberg
Stuart Warm by Dianne and David Rosenberg
Stuart Warm by Tarshis Family

Plum Street Temple Historic Preservation Fund
In honor of:
100th birthday of Ray Fine by Gloria and Sam Nadel
100th birthday of Ray Fine by Agnes and Stan Richter
100th birthday of Ray Fine by Charlotte and Allen Lofspring
100th birthday of Ray Fine by Lois and Ed Drill
100th birthday of Ray Fine by Dian Levine
Bar Mitzvah of grandson of Ellen and Stewart Dunsker by Nancy and Howard Starnbach
Bar Mitzvah of Jack Ringel by Karen and Eddie Saeks
Bat Mitzvah of Lissa Kerstine by Nancy and Howard Starnbach
Birthday of Maxine Berkman by Leah Levine
Birthday of Ray Fine by Kim, Dan, Mandy and Alex Toole
Birthday of Marilyn Braude by Pam, Brad, Sophie, and Sam Greenberg
Birthday of Peter Bloch by Lynn and Alex Warm
Birthday of Maxine Berkman by Jackie Mack
Elizabeth Hastie by Kim, Dan, Mandy and Alex Toole
Tzedakah by YPO-WPO Cincinnati
Tzedakah by Summit Country Day School
Tzedakah by Eva and Steven Padgett
In loving memory of:
Arthur Lauber Stern by Paula Holstein
Buddy Boster by Mert and Rick Friedman
Dr. Marvin Pravda by Lois Klein
Edwin Kerstine by Jackie and Ted Mack
Edwin Kerstine by Kathy and Louis Claybon
Edwin Kerstine by Renee and Lewis Kamrass
Edwin Kerstine by Karen and Eddie Saeks
Edwin Kerstine by Hildy and Bob Clayton
Edwin Kerstine by Jackie and Dick Snyder
Edwin Kerstine by Ellen and Stewart Dunsker
Irwin Lichtenstein by Kathy and Louis Claybon
Isak Jeruzalmi by Paula Schlat- Holstein
Margaret Reif by Karen and David Hoguet
Marguerite Feibelman by Elizabeth Schmitz
Marguerite Feibelman by Mary Jo and Ray Dyer
Marguerite Feibelman by Ellen and Herbert Lenk
Marilyn Weinstein by Jackie and Dick Snyder
Marilyn Weinstein by Irene Block
Marshall Rozin by Paula Holstein

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In loving memory of:
Benjamin Lerhaupt by Anna Lerhaupt, Gary Lerhaupt and Dr. Karen Klugo
David P. Kamrass by Helene and Mike Elkus
Elaine Rosenberg by Steve and Pam Slutzky
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Birth of Lia Berg by Jeanne and Mike Schmerler
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Stuart Warr by Claire, Hallie, and Sarah Fleisch
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Stuart Warr by Alice and Barry Lucas
Stuart Warr by Karen and Eddie Saeks
Stuart Warr by Betsy and Marvin Schwartz

Prayerbook Fund
In honor of:
Nancy and Howard Sarnbach by Barbara and Spencer Fried
Nancy and Howard Sarnbach by Terry and Stuart Susskind

In loving memory of:
Dorie and Jack Kassel by Margie and Chuck Kessel
Edwin Kerstine by Lyne and Bob Kanter
Helen Fabe by Jody and Joel Tsevat
Margaret Reif by Caryn and Denny Baum
Stan Boster by Lyne and Bob Kanter

Rabbi Danziger Discretionary Fund
In honor of:
Baby naming of Lia Berg by Marlene and Albert Shmalo
Bar Mitzvah of Jack Ringel by Jennifer and Bob Ringel
Tzedakah by Michael Ganson
Unveiling of Jon Boskind by Marilyn and Cory Boskind

In loving memory of:
Marvin Pravda by Myra Pravda and Family
Melvin Nadler by Linda and Jerry Sacks
Melvin Nadler by Arianna and Steven Sacks
Melvin Nadler by Joy and Tom Nadler
Melvin Nadler by Debbie and Alan Friedman

Rabbi Kamrass Discretionary Fund
In honor of:
Bar Mitzvah of Aaron Friedman by Amy and Jeff Friedman
Bar Mitzvah of Jack Ringel by Jennifer and Bob Ringel
Bar Mitzvah of Matthew Leader by Leader Family
Bar Mitzvah of Elle Fischer by Lori and

Special Programs Fund
In loving memory of:
Benjamin Lerhaupt by Lynne and Bob Kanter
Jay Price by Lynne and Bob Kanter
Margaret Reif by Lynne and Bob Kanter
Marlyn Weinstein by Lynne and Bob Kanter
Stuart Warr by Lynne and Bob Kanter

Wise Journey
In honor of:
Tzedakah by Linda and Michael Rothstein

Wise Temple Youth Scholarship Fund
In honor of:
David Seth Kamrass by Karen and John Sim
Great granddaughter of Shirley Fingerman by Joyce and Bernie Weiner

In loving memory of:
Stuart Warr by Dori Mendel and Family
Margaret Reif by Haas Family

Y.E.S Fund (Youth, Education, Special Projects)
In honor of:
Engagement of Brian Ross and Jessica Melowsky by Nancy and Donald Seltz

In loving memory of:
Elaine Schiffer by Margie and Glen Meyer
Elaine Schiffer by Elissa and Mitchell Habib
Elaine Schiffer by Marcy and Mark Kanter

SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER/NOVEMBER 2018 | 23
Let’s be honest. Empty nesting is a life stage filled with joys, challenges, and questions.


Maybe you’re searching for meaning. Maybe you’re searching for friendships, fun, support, or...

Stop searching and start connecting at Wise.

Empty Nesters, Wise Temple is focused on you. The following initiatives were planned for Empty Nesters and by the Empty Nesters shown here.

Now you just need to say yes.

“The empty nest group is focused on personal invitation, which is the key to the group’s success. I challenge each of us to invite someone to empty nest events. If you’re waiting to be invited, turn the tables – make the first move. You’ll be amazed at the impact your invitation has on others, on you, and on the community as a whole!”

~ Jon Chaiken

“Want to do more than attend? Contact Kari Fagin, Director of Member Engagement, to volunteer. kfagin@wisetemple.org or 513.793.2556.

Say Yes. Try It Out. Get Involved.

**The Great Outdoors & Brew**
Get away from it all, get some exercise, and get back to nature with others who share a love of the great outdoors.

Saturday, September 29, 2018 1:00 PM
Yellow Springs

After the hike, enjoy a cold one with your new friends at Yellow Springs Brewery.
Register: Email Kari Fagin, kfagin@wisetemple.org

**Underground Market Tour**
Explore some of Cincinnati’s treasures at this one-of-a-kind, behind the scenes tour of Findlay Market & Underground Brewery. Designed specifically for empty nesters at Wise.

October 7, 2018 2:00 PM – 4:30 PM
Register: www.wisetemple.org/findlaymarket

“Wise Temple already offers hundreds of worship, social action, and learning opportunities that empty nesters can take advantage of each year. Now, we’re also offering more purely social activities that will bring people together in new ways. In addition to prayer, mitzvah, and study, the empty nest group has adventure, laughs, and entertainment!”

~ Elissa Habib

“I’ve started to think about what real meaning in my life looks like – a pretty common thought for empty nesters. Wise Temple as a whole, and this group in particular, can provide the meaning I’m looking for. I like that I can be with others who share my values and are experiencing similar joys and challenges of this life stage.”

~ Karen Sim

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Want To Do More Than Attend?
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“It can be hard to put yourself out there…to come to something where you don’t know anyone. Two years ago, I didn’t know a single person at Wise, but I just kept coming to events and now I have a lot of really special friendships. My best advice is to show up and keep showing up.”

~ Teresa Deutsch

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~ Teresa Deutsch
Hit the Bourbon Trail
Bourbon tours and tastings are all the rage, and a unique way to make Temple friends with a shared interest. A charter bus from Wise Center will take you to and from Buffalo Trace distillery for a private tour, tasting, and time to shop. No boring bus ride – bourbon trivia and other fun activities will fill our travel time.

$30 includes transportation, boxed lunch, snacks, tour, and tasting. Register early - space is limited to the first 50 people.

Sunday, November 4, 2018
10:30 AM – 5:30 PM
Register: www.wistemple.org/bourbontrail

Looking Ahead

Attention Theater Goers
Explore the deeper meaning of the beloved Broadway show Fiddler on the Roof as Rabbi Kamrass shares little known references and nuances. Sunday, December 9, 2018
10:00 AM

Encore
Discover others attending Fiddler on the Roof, gather at a downtown bar for drinks and reminiscing about the show. January 15 – 27, 2019

American Sign Museum Happy Hour
Designed specifically for empty nesters at Wise. Saturday, January 12, 2019

Relive Your Bar/Bat Mitzvah Party
This themed dance party will bring you back to the music, memories, and fun of all things 1970s. Saturday, February 9, 2019
Little Red School House, Indian Hill

Adult Purim
Throw back some craft brew at Fretboard, a trendy microbrewery. Hear a hilarious retelling of the Purim story. Sure, it’s a Wednesday night, but you don't have kids at home to rush home to. March 20, 2019

Beatles Shabbat
Meet at the intersection of Abbey Road and Plum Street for a Shabbat all in Beatles tunes. Come dressed in your best ‘60s attire. Friday, May 3, 2019

Looking further ahead
• Adult Summer Camp • Advocacy Groups • Life Cycle team • Wise Network

“I think some people become less involved in Temple when their kids leave the house. I loved being active during my kids' religious school experiences and their life cycle events like B’nai Mitzvah and Confirmation, but Judaism isn't just for my kids; it's for me too. I’m eager to be involved in the empty nest group as a way to stay active in Temple life and make even more friends.”
~ Marc Silverman

“Building relationships takes time and effort, but the empty nest group provides the environment for this to happen. There are hundreds of high quality experiences at Wise. Then it's up to me to say, 'Sure, I'll try that.' When I do, I always meet someone new or get to know someone better. Great friendships have come out of me simply saying 'yes' to participating.”
~ Carol Tenenholtz

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~ Carol Tenenholtz

“As a soon-to-be empty nester, I’m eager to participate in events for me, not just for my kids. Wise Temple is where I want to start building those new experiences for myself. I’m looking forward to establishing traditions, habits, and memories with other Wise Temple empty nesters.”
~ Amy Magenheim

“It’s important to me to reengage with the Temple at this stage of life. There are people I know and really like from Temple – people I first met when the kids were young. Now that the kids are grown, I don't often do things with those people, and I miss that. The empty nest group gives me opportunities to be with those friends and deepen those relationships.”
~ Barry Elkus

“I have loved every life stage and Empty Nester is no exception. It is a great time of exploration, new beginnings and additional challenges. Getting involved in Wise Temple's empty nest group catalyzes old and new friendships, and increases opportunities for advice and support from an enhanced networks as we traverse this exciting new period.”
~ Phyllis Jackson

SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER/NOVEMBER 2018 | 25
Mazel Tov...

**Engagements:**

Suzy and Bill Goldberg on the engagement of their daughter, Jacquelyn Goldberg to Eric Shepard.

Mark Levine on the engagement of his son and Herschell Levine on the engagement of his grandson, Joshua Levine to Devra Laserson.

Susan and Fred Melowsky on the engagement of their daughter, Jessie Melowsky to Ben Ross.

Gerry and Marvin Kraus on the engagement of their granddaughter, Emilee Kraus to Jake Maxwell.

Debby and Jeff Rosen on the engagement of their son, Ben Rosen to Tess Plona.

**Weddings:**

Helene and Mike Elkus on the marriage of their son, Adam Elkus to Callie Homel.

Hope Mendelsohn and Tom Evans on their marriage.

**Births:**

Margie and Glen Meyer on the birth of their granddaughter, Yara Valentina Centomani Meyer.

Lauren and Justin Berg on the birth of their daughter and Marlene and Albert Shimalo on the birth of their granddaughter, Lia Jane Berg.

Elaine and Dr. Richard Brown on the birth of their grandson, Micah Phillip Harnage.

Liz and Dan Feldman on the birth of their daughter, Lucy Myra Feldman.

Condolences To...

Alison and Randy Moss on the death of her father, Luca, Sari and Emori Moss on the death of their grandfather, and Lynn and Alex Warm on the death of his brother, Stuart Warm.

Mary and Scott Boster on the death of his father and Madeline, Annie and Ellen Boster on the death of their grandfather, Stanford Boster.

Dr. Mary and Frank Chaiken on the death of her sister, Laura Therese Fedor.

Nimet Jeruzalmi on the death of her husband, Rabbi Isak Jeruzalmi.

Dr. Alan Weinstein on the death of his wife, Kristen and Mark Weinstein on the death of his mother, Juna Weinstein and Betty Vigran on the death of her daughter, Marilyn Weinstein.

Diane Oestreicher on the death of her mother, Jenny and Robert Oestreicher on the death of his grandmother, David Oestreicher on the death of his grandmother, and Stella Oestreicher on the death of her great-grandmother, Margaret Reif.

Dr. Richard and Mona Kerstine on the death of his brother, Edwin E. Kerstine.

Anna Lerhaupt on the death of her husband, Dr. Karen and Michael Klugo on the death of her father, and Chase and Alexis Klugo on the death of their grandfather, Benjamin Lerhaupt.

Family of Marguerite Feibelman.

Sandy and Dr. Peter Stern on the death of his mother, Mary Stern.

Linda and Bill Cooperstein on the death of her mother, Jeannette Mickenberg.

Myra Pravda on the death of her husband, Dr. Marvin Pravda.

Linda and Jerry Sacks on the death of her father, Arrianna and Steve Sacks on the death of his grandfather, and Lillian and Sadie Sacks on the death of their great-grandfather, Melvin Nadler.


Jean Rozin on the death of her husband, Marshall Rozin.
Measuring Life in Growth Rings

When Lou, one of Amanda Rosenberg’s three kids, was a young child, he was fascinated by nature. “He would look at a tree and say, ‘that’s a really pretty tree, mom.’ He noticed rocks. He noticed bugs. So I started looking at the world differently. I was never in touch with that piece of me before – I didn’t know I had it in me. But I do. Lou awakened that in me.”

And so began Amanda’s passion for the great outdoors. Hiking is her primary go-to for comfort and solace. “I just love it. It brings me an amazing calmness. As soon as I get home, I think, ‘Oh, I want to go back!’” Her hiking bug led to a women’s only backpacking trip at Red River Gorge, where she watched the sun rise over the gorge while sipping coffee made over a campfire. “It was amazing!” She frequents hiking MeetUp groups where she connects with other nature lovers, and has even completed a 3 day, 60 mile fundraising hike with the Susan G. Komen Walk for the Cure. “Every hike has taught me something about myself.”

Amanda likens the spiritual feeling she gets in nature to the indescribable feeling of childbirth. “After each of my kids were born, I vividly remember them being handed to me and thinking, ‘Okay there is something bigger than me that made this happen, something beyond us.’ I feel that same way when I’m out in nature. Nature helps me recognize the impermanence of life. I realize all of this beauty was here before me and it’s all going be here after me.”

Recently, the Rosenberg family took a trip to California. Even though Amanda and her husband Dov (high school sweethearts) attended college in southern California, they didn’t take advantage of the natural wonders the state had to offer. Prior to the trip, the family discussed everyone’s wish list which included the big cities, but Amanda put her foot down. “Okay, we’ll go to L.A., we’ll go to San Francisco, but I want two days. Just two days. I have to see the Sequoias and Yosemite!”

Amanda got her way, and describes the experience as “mind blowing.” “You don’t even feel like you’re in this world. It was just so perfect. I can’t stop talking about it. I could have stayed there the whole week. So I told Dov, ‘When I turn 50, I’m finding a guided trip and I’m going back!’” There’s no doubt she will go back. She speaks about nature with such enthusiasm – her passion is almost contagious.

Even though Amanda’s family is “not very outdoorsy”, she has found a way to share her passion. “After Rosh Hashanah services, we go with three other Jewish families on a nature hike – kids and adults. It’s a great way to start the new year, and a fun tradition that has become really important to our family.”

Every step Amanda hikes deepens her spirituality. She values the beauty in the world and her place in it. She realizes her fragility as she ponders the enormity of General Sherman, the Sequoia that holds the record for largest living organism on the planet. And she bubbles with excitement as she ponders the new places she will explore next. Her experiences on trails, in the mountains, and among the forests have deepened her awareness of the mystery that is life. “I often find myself going for a walk at night and looking up at the stars and wondering about what is beyond what we can see. I think we don’t have to know what it is to appreciate that it’s out there and it can bring us some sort of peace.”

SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER/NOVEMBER 2018 | 27
ISRAELI ART SHOW AND SALE

Over 1000 works of art available for exhibition and sale!

Wise Center will be transformed into a beautiful gallery featuring the finest in Israeli art. A comprehensive collection of original oil paintings, watercolors, original lithographs and etchings designed by over 100 different Israeli artists will be at the show, curated by Safrai Gallery of Jerusalem.

OPENING NIGHT:
Thursday, October 4, 7:30 PM – 10:00 PM

SHOW HOURS:
Friday, October 5, 9:00 AM – 2:00 PM
Saturday, October 6, 8:00 PM – 10:30 PM
Sunday, October 7, 9:00 AM – 4:00 PM

Wise Temple’s proceeds to benefit the Wise Center Playground Fund. The new playground will include an expanded, accessible, and up-to-date outdoor complex with a multi-generational community space.