

Wise Temple Keshher

WORSHIP | STUDY | SOCIAL JUSTICE | COMMUNITY



A Peek Into Learning

page 4



7



9



4



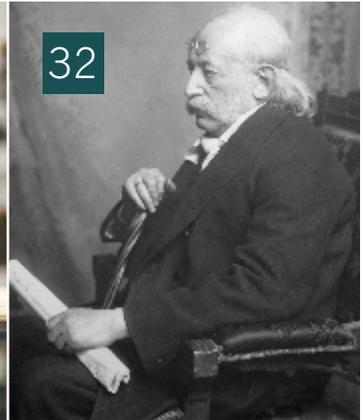
12



20



13



32

TABLE OF CONTENTS

page Features

- 3 From Rabbi Lewis Kamrass
- 3 From Elissa Habib, Temple President
- 4 A Peek Into Learning
- 13 A Case for Learning: Scott Kadish
- 28 A Touch of Torah with Rabbi Karen Thomashow
- 31 Coming Full Circle: Christine Katzman

page Community

- 7 Soup's On: Chicken Soup Cook Off
- 14 Sisterhood Gift Shop
- 19 Empty Nester: Say Yes. Try it Out
- 22 Wise at Work and Play
- 24 Contributions
- 26 Wise Temple Member Portal
- 30 Mazel Tov
- 30 Condolences

page Social Action

- 7 It's Good to Do Good

page Study

- 10 Adults, Start Your Path to Learning Here
- 12 Learning Curves
- 20 Winter is a Family Affair at Wise Temple
- 27 Distance-Wise
- 29 A Tale of Two Torah Scrolls
- 32 We're Celebrating Rabbi Isaac Mayer Wise's 200th Birthday

page Worship and Holidays

- 8 A Special Multi-Generational Chanukah Service for All Ages
- 14 B'nai Mitzvah
- 15 Worship Services

page Calendar/Listing of Events

- 15 4-Page Pull-out



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

Jennifer Immerman, Cody Feldman, and Louis Claybon load up on the latest and best in Jewish learning from Wise Temple's Ralph & Julia Cohen Library, one of the largest synagogue libraries in North America and home to over 22,000 items for all ages. The library is a place for inspiration, exploration, relaxation, and education. For more information including hours, visit www.wisetemple.org/library.

From Rabbi Kamrass



דְּבָרִים מִן הַלֵּב – D'varim Min HaLev Words from the Heart

—By Rabbi Lewis Kamrass

As the people of the Book, we Jews are *always* learning. Our sages taught that even with the Torah, we should “turn it” over and over 70 times (the length of one’s adult life), in order to

keep learning from the words already familiar to us; even if the text itself does not change, we are changing through the years, always bringing new eyes, potentially different perspectives, or more able to absorb a new insight. Jewish learning is never simply about knowledge, facts, or material to ingest. It is about turning the questions, exploring deeper, probing for other insights beneath the printed word. And the most extraordinary element of that learning, is that it is always accessible. Often people reason that they do not possess enough Jewish knowledge to attend a Jewish class or that they feel inadequate to others who may be in the course. However, tradition reminds us that Rabbi Akiva, one of our greatest Jewish scholars in our history, was an illiterate shepherd, not knowing even the Hebrew Alef Bet until the age of 40. But at midlife, he felt a deep desire to know more about life’s meaning, values, and purpose, and began his life long process of discovery. Starting at the very beginning, he was introduced to a world that captivated his imagination and more than fulfilled his hopes. This illustrates that our best learning occurs not when we are young and attending school, but when we are ready, even eager for something more in life, or put more simply, when the heart is ready.

Last year, your congregation offered over 140 different adult learning sessions. They were not for scholars, nor were they geared for people who already knew a great deal of Jewish knowledge. But they were offered for people who desired to understand where our Jewish values come from, to explore what our history means in our own life, to discover personal meaning or grasp some insight. They were meant to bring a richer and deeper perspective to our lives. Jewish learning in general, and certainly at Wise Temple, is accessible to all because it starts not with what you already know, but what you seek to gain, what you hope to find, and what discovery you are eager to make.

It all begins with bringing an open and curious mind, and a ready soul that seeks just a little more meaning. It begins with simply bringing your full self. If you are hesitant or unsure, please call or email, and know that it would be my delight to personally be your guide to help you find the best place in which to take those initial steps in that wondrous journey and to be surprised at how enjoyable and fulfilling it can be.

Faithfully yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lewis H. Kamrass".

הרב לב בן דוד וחנה לאה

Rabbi Lewis H. Kamrass

From the President



The Joy of Learning

—By Elissa Habib, Temple President

Trying something new can be very rewarding and provide a pleasant surprise. For many of us, it has been years since we were learners in a classroom. And, of course it has been even longer since we attended Hebrew school or Religious School.

Adult education at Wise Temple enables individuals to explore new areas of Jewish learning and get the added benefit of building stronger connections within our congregation. The learning experience is based on collective knowledge building, so no one will call on you, or put you on the spot, and you can participate however you are comfortable. This allows the class to examine the materials together and learn in an environment tailored for adults.

I know we all recognize that in Torah we can find comfort and answers to questions we have as adults that we did not consider as children. The ability to develop a better understanding of Judaism and Jewish life in a positive and nurturing environment is what makes adult education at Wise Temple so inviting. Simply getting answers to why we practice some of our rituals and making a new friend in the congregation will make the time you invest worthwhile.

I encourage every congregant to try at least one of the many options we provide for adult Jewish Education. Programs like Distance-Wise, Downtown Lunch and Learn, Saturday morning Torah Study, or Tuesdays with Torah provide tremendous variety. These programs are described in this issue of *Kesher* and of course, on our website. I am confident that everyone who takes up the challenge and participates in one of these programs will find a renewed joy in learning. 



Danielle with her new granddaughter Sloane, beside her hibiscus that she's wintered over for four years, hauling up the deck stairs every spring with the help of her husband Kenneth.

“If I were rich, I’d have the time that I lack to sit in the synagogue and pray And maybe have a seat by the Eastern Wall, And I’d discuss the Holy Book with the learned men Several hours every day That would be the sweetest thing of all.”

“If I Were a Rich Man” from *Fiddler on the Roof*, lyrics by Sheldon Harnick, music by Jerry Bock, book by Joseph Stein.

A Peek Into Learning

In one of *Fiddler on the Roof*’s most beloved songs, Tevye wistfully asks God to make him a rich man so he can spend his time soaking up the knowledge of “the learned men.”

Fortunately for us, we don’t have to wonder what it would be like to access Judaic scholars, and to improve our understanding of Judaism, its history, and its religion. At Wise Temple, there are myriad Jewish learning opportunities with learned rabbis and other experts, and ***you don’t have to be rich or a scholar, you don’t have to do homework or write papers, and you won’t be called on “in front of the class.”*** All you have to do is show up.

Whether you have only a little time, or all the time in the world, you have options.

Learn how Jewish history affects your present. Discover how Jewish learning can guide your daily life.

In this *Kesher*, we feature congregants who are eager to tell you how easy, enjoyable, and powerful learning at Wise Temple is.

“If you rest, you rust.”

Although her conversion studies provided her with a backdrop for Judaism, Danielle Revelson says it was just the tip of the iceberg, and too long ago to have any meaningful memories of the knowledge she acquired. Fast forward through marriage,

two very different careers, childrearing and retirement, and Danielle is finally able to pursue her Jewish education for her own pleasure.

“My father was a self-made man of modest means,” Danielle describes. He put himself through school and earned several masters degrees, rising to the level of president of a local bank. It was from him that Danielle was inspired to learn, and from him that she first heard the famous words attributed to Helen Hayes, “If you rest, you rust.”

In her second career as a compliance analyst for 401K plans (her first was psychiatric social work), she would read about the classes Wise Temple offered in WiseBytes and think “if only...” and wryly notes “try getting any place from downtown by 5:00!” But now that her career is no longer an impediment to her personal learning goals, she’s jumped feet first into what the temple offers. And she’s loving it. “It’s not like going back to school, nobody calls on you or makes you sit in the corner if you give a wrong answer. I’d be in the corner a lot! We have a treasure trove of staff who are scholarly and excellent teachers. We’re so lucky.” She learns not just from the teachers, but from others in the class, and has observed that there are people there of all levels of learning.

She especially enjoys learning the nuts and bolts of Israeli history, how Israel evolved as a country. The classes have reinvigorated her desire to learn about Judaism, and she’s grateful to have access to a quality education that she would have to pay for at a university. She smiles and says “but don’t tout it too much, I don’t want the classes to get too big!” She enjoys the intimacy of the groups.

Danielle not only improves her intellect through the temple, she’s an avid gardening aficionado, and continues to accrue knowledge through gardening classes at the county extension associated with the University of Kentucky. Just ask her for her list of deer-resistant plants! What’s next on her learning horizon? She would love to learn how to use her camera, and plans to get to that next.



Marrying Into a Jewish Family: Worth Every Minute Exploring Judaism Through First Trip to Israel: Priceless!

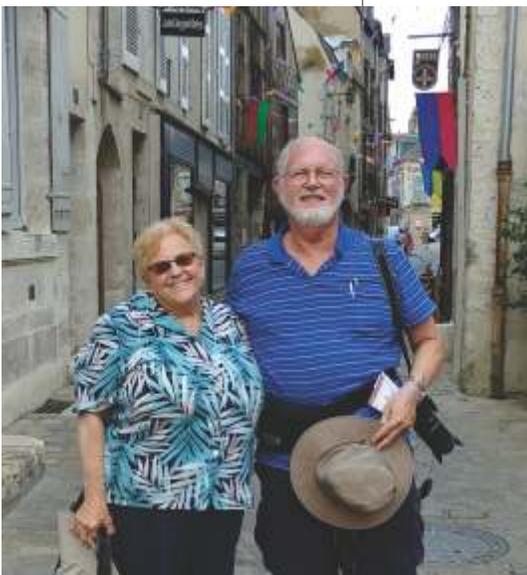
Louis, Eliana, Isaac, and Christy Goldner at Eliana’s Bat Mitzvah.

Christy Goldner’s mother-in-law Harriet lived for intellectual challenge. From the big challenges to the smaller ones (like creating her own Haggadah for Seder to involve the small children in their family during their enormous Passover celebrations). Harriet transferred her love of learning to her son Louis (Christy’s husband) and to her grandchildren (Isaac and Eliana) as well. And while Harriet’s love of learning also impacted Christy, there may have been some reverse inspiration too – when Christy began learning Hebrew, Harriet was inspired to study for her own Bat Mitzvah, which she didn’t have as a child.

Learning is a central value for the Goldner family. And having come from a small congregation, Christy appreciates the resources available at Wise Temple. Everyone in her family has had a B’nai Mitzvah except Christy, so she’s excited to be enrolled in the Adult B’nai Mitzvah class. “It’s a good time for me to make this commitment. My youngest is a teenager, so I have more time to dedicate to the preparation and learning required.” She’s looking forward to the role reversal with her children – the kids helping their mother achieve this milestone. “It’s important for kids to realize that even grown-ups have a lot to learn. There’s so much left to know – I’m starting to realize all I don’t know!” Christy notes with candor.

“It’s important for kids to realize that even grown-ups have a lot to learn.”

“It’s a low level of commitment for us, plus there’s no prep or homework, and it’s a wonderful way to meet new people and make new friends.”



Christy added to her knowledge during the 2016 congregational trip to Israel that she and Louis attended. “It was the first time for both of us. We learned so much about Jewish history while standing in the places where much of that history took place. The whole experience was priceless.” In addition to the educational component, Christy developed amazing friendships with others on the trip, and remains close with them to this day.

One of the benefits of marrying into a Jewish family is, well, the family! Besides Louis’s immediate family, the Goldners delivered a large circle of relatives who lovingly refer to each other as cousins, regardless of the family connection or how many generations “removed.” Christy is grateful for the comfort that the Goldner clan provides, as well as the support she has received from her Temple family. When she lost her mother and her mother-in-law within a year, the Wise Temple Rabbis and community were there for the entire family, helping to make the unbearable less devastating. “They know when to wrap their arms around you,” she says. Christy knows she was meant to be part of a large, loving Jewish community, and to experience all the Jewish learning that comes with it. She and Louis determined

early on that they would have a one-religion home, and from kids in diapers to kids in college, she’s been all in, looking forward to taking the next big step on her Jewish journey.

“Two-fer” Time

It’s almost always more fun to do something with a partner. And it’s doubly satisfying to accomplish more than one goal at a clip. Sandy and Rick Stern have figured out how to bundle adult learning at Wise Temple with a work out at the JCC. “We

bring our gym bags and get a ‘two-fer’ – exercising our bodies and our brains!” Sandy says, smiling. “On the same drive we get to take advantage of two incredible resources in our community and it’s such

a joy!”

Retirement has brought many pleasures including making her own schedule (says Sandy) and watching the birds at the feeders outside (says Rick). But don’t think that’s the extent of it for this energetic duo. Their temple to-do list has included Tuesdays with Torah, Talmud Study, Distance-Wise, iEngage, Living Room Learning, Hornstein Lectures, social action, Sisterhood and Brotherhood memberships, and then some.

Adult learning has a special place in both their hearts. Sandy spent her professional life as a teacher of both deaf and learning disabled students. After earning a BA in Economics and an MBA, Rick worked as a Senior Vice President and consultant in the mass transit sector. Both were raised to value the importance of school and learning. As an example, Rick remembers his mother taking him to see movie versions of Shakespeare plays starring Basil Rathbone when he was studying the Bard in high school.

Both Rick and Sandy are enthusiastic about the rewards they reap from the multitudinous programs they’ve attended. “Our rabbis are so knowledgeable. They’re always prepared and we learn a lot in a short amount of time. It’s a low level of commitment for us, plus there’s no prep or homework, and it’s a wonderful way to meet new people and make new friends,” Sandy notes. Rick appreciates the tremendous perspective the learning gives him, especially when Jewish history is placed in the context of the entire world. Rick hales from Long Beach, California and Sandy grew up in Cincinnati. Although she attended Wise Temple as a child, what brought them to the temple as adults was the education of their children, Bernard and Julia, who are both now grown. Sandy exhaustively researched many congregations and was drawn to Wise Temple’s stellar Religious School system and curriculum.

In true “two-fer” fashion, both the Sterns and their children have made good use of Wise Temple learning programs, a bargain by any measure. 🎉

Soup's On

15th Annual Cincinnati Chicken Soup Cook Off
Presented by Wise Temple Brotherhood



“Chicken soup is the Jewish penicillin – it cures everything.”

—Rick Seelig, Chicken Soup organizer and Brotherhood member

Sunday, January 27
12:15 PM – 2:15 PM

Come for all-you-can-eat soup, silent auction, and live music and stay for the camaraderie. An afternoon of fun that helps support the Brotherhood's ongoing charity work. Leftover soup is given to the Walnut Hills soup kitchen. **(Last year, more than 95 gallons were donated!)**

Visit www.chickensoupcookoff.org for details on how you can volunteer or enter your soup in the competition.



It's Good to do Good

We have a sacred obligation to repair the world. When we do this, we bring meaning to our lives and to the lives of others.

Together, we go out into the community with faith that our service will bring peace and comfort, and maybe a miracle or two for those in need (and perhaps for ourselves.) No matter your passions, your skills, or your location, we have projects that are right for you.

See WiseUp section on page 18 for over a dozen ways you can give back in the coming months.

January Diaper Collection

Babies in Cincinnati need your help.

Diapers are expensive. For those living in poverty, babies are often left in the same diaper all day long. You can help by dropping off your diaper donation at Wise Center (any size diapers, but size 4 most needed). Donations will reach those in greatest need via Sweet Cheeks Diaper Bank.



February Dress for Success Collection

Women need your used clothing for their fresh start.

Many women don't have money for clothing that will make a good impression when applying for a job. You can help by donating new and gently used business wear (clean, in good repair, and current) – for women only.



Interview appropriate blouses, slacks, skirts, suits, dresses, blazers, jackets, shoes, jewelry, scarves, handbags, undergarments, (new and in original packaging only).

A Special Multi-Generational

Bring your menorah and help illuminate the chapel



Don't forget to bring your menorah and six candles!

And Don't Miss...

YoFI Shababa Service and Chanukah Brunch Party

Saturday, December 8
10:00 AM

Chanukah games, donut bar, mini-latkes and more!
RSVP at www.wisetemple.org/yofichanukah

Senior Adults' Chanukah Dinner

Wednesday, December 5
5:00 PM

Eat latkes, enjoy great entertainment, and kibbitz with friends!

RSVP to Alex Burte:
aburte@wisetemple.org or
513-793-2556

Imagine menorahs of every design – from a child's fire truck theme to your great-grandmother's ornate gold.

Imagine the chapel aglow with the flickering lights from hundreds of Chanukah candles.

Imagine sharing this beautiful moment with your family – your entire Wise Temple family.

Don't miss this powerful and spiritual opportunity to experience the light of Chanukah.

This memory making, family-friendly evening has dinners on either side of the service, so you can create a schedule that works best for your family.

Chanukah Dinner – Seating #1

5:30 PM – 6:15 PM

RSVP: www.wisetemple.org/chanukahdinner1

Congregational Chanukah Shabbat Service (including Chanukiah candle lighting)

6:15 PM – 7:15 PM

Chanukah Dinner – Seating #2

7:15 PM – 8:30 PM

RSVP: www.wisetemple.org/chanukahdinner2

RSVP by Monday, December 3 to enjoy a delicious dinner, as well as both a latke bar and donut bar. There will be Chanukah activities, crafts, treats and entertainment. The celebration is intended for all ages.

•\$10 for Adults •\$6.50 for children (age 2 and under free) •\$35 maximum per family

Chanukah Service for All Ages

... and our hearts



“My family attended the Menorah lighting last year and loved it – this will now become part of our Chanukah traditions! The event was a perfect way to celebrate the holiday as a community, while also feeling intimate and small. The beauty of the space with the glow of all of our collective menorahs brought home how special spending Chanukah with friends and family can be.”—Rachael Cross

Donate Light

Make your gift before the end of Chanukah on December 10

Plum Street Temple is in need of paint and plaster repairs. It costs over \$80,000 to erect scaffolding in your historic sanctuary, so while this scaffolding is in place, all of the lights will also be replaced for the first time in 25 years. Your gift will ensure that new LED lights are installed and the beauty of Plum Street Temple is preserved.

Chanukah is when the Temple in Jerusalem was rededicated and has since been known as the Festival of Lights. As we enter this season of giving, of hope, and of light, your gift will ensure that Plum Street Temple is luminous for years to come.

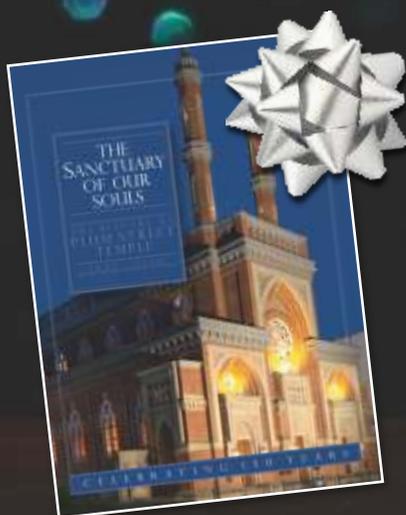
- Shining \$50 per bulb
- Illumination* \$500 (ten bulbs)
- Brilliance** \$2500

* To receive an invitation to a special reception/tour at Plum Street Temple

**To receive the reception/tour “behind-the-scenes” surprise

Make your donation in honor or in memory of a loved one, or as a Chanukah gift for the person who has everything.

Checks: Plum Street Temple Historic Preservation Fund, Wise Temple,
8329 Ridge Road, Cincinnati, OH 45236
Online: www.wisemple.org/donatelight.



Give the Gift of Plum Street

Searching for a meaningful Chanukah gift? For just \$36, you can purchase Wise Temple's hardcover photobook dedicated to Plum Street Temple, *The Sanctuary of Our Souls*, featuring:

- 112 pages of never-before-seen photographs taken by professional and amateur photographers alike, as well as some unique angles taken by drone technology.
- Little-known historical facts about how the 150-year-old sanctuary came to be.
- Special architectural details you may never have noticed.

It is the perfect gift for a fellow congregant, architecture aficionado, or history buff. Visit www.wisemple.org/PSTphotobook or call the Temple office at 513-793-2556 to get your copy today.

Adults, start your path

4 ways to learn more about

1



What are you doing on Saturday mornings?

Why not try Torah Study? It's a creative and engaging investigation into the weekly Torah portion and how it impacts our lives today. The environment is informal. The content is approachable. The people are welcoming. Come with your curiosity. Ask questions or simply listen. Try it – just once. You'll be glad you did.

Every Saturday

10:45 AM (following an informal Shabbat service which begins at 9:30 AM)

Italian Jews and World War II

The amazing story of how southern Italians saved 4,000 Jews

Sunday, December 2

10:15 AM

Rabbi Barbara Aiello will discuss the experience of Italian Jews during World War II, focusing on the southern region of Calabria, home to Italy's largest concentration camp, Ferramonti. She will share stories of the Calabrian villagers and other Italians who protected their Jewish neighbors at great personal risk.

"Those who grew up in the tiny village nearby offer an overview of the humane elements of camp life and the love local Italians had for what they termed "our Jewish neighbors" – a phenomenon strongly tied to Calabria's crypto-Jewish past." —Rabbi Barbara Aiello

Rabbi Barbara Aiello is the first and only woman rabbi in Italy, and the first and only modern liberal rabbi who lives and works in Italy. There she serves congregation Ner Tamid del Sud, The Eternal Light of the South, the first active synagogue in Calabria in 500 years. In 2017 the synagogue was recognized as a member of the Reconstructionist Jewish movement and welcomes Jews of all backgrounds.

Rabbi Barbara is an internationally featured lecturer and scholar in residence for synagogues and for Italian and Jewish organizations throughout Europe and the US.

Open to the entire community

RSVP: Lisa Shusterman

Ishusterman@holocaustandhumanity.org or
513.487.3055

This lecture is a part of the Hornstein Memorial Holocaust Lecture Series, which was established in memory of Lusia and Stephen Hornstein, longstanding Wise Temple members and Holocaust survivors who believed that the victims and survivors of the Shoah should not be forgotten. It is co-sponsored by the Holocaust & Humanity Center.

2



Rabbi Barbara Aiello

to learning here. yourself and your history.

Why attend a Limmud (Learning) Shabbat?

- To explore Jewish values and how they speak to our lives.
- To better understand the whys behind prayers, rituals, and texts.
- To experience the joy and calm of Shabbat combined with thinking, questioning, and learning.
- To have a unique Shabbat experience.

You won't be called on. You don't have to have any answers. You just have to be curious. Instead of a sermon, we'll take some time to explore a topic. The goals: deeper understanding, greater meaning, enhanced worship. Give it a try!

Limmud Shabbat

Friday, December 14, 6:15 PM

The Wardrobe of Prayer

We all know the symbols of prayer: a kippah, a tallit, even t'fillin. But as Reform Jews with a responsibility to make our own individual informed choice, do we know the reasons, the origin, or the symbolism of the physical items or the wardrobe of prayer? Come to Limmud Shabbat, where in one hour, we have the prayers of the Shabbat service and the opportunity to learn with Rabbi Kamrass about these ritual items, so we can make our own choices with knowledge, understanding and meaning.

Next Limmud Shabbat: March 29

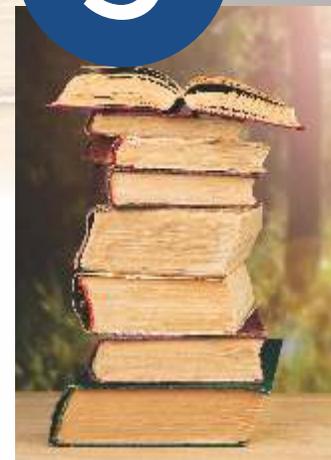
What don't you know about your Plum Street Temple?

When you schedule a tour at Plum Street Temple, you are guaranteed to learn something about your historic synagogue that you didn't know before. Arrange a tour with neighbors or co-workers who will be in awe of the space we call home. Arrange a tour with other congregants who are also eager to learn the stories of this sacred space which will help you all feel connected to your history in new and meaningful ways.

All tours are led by our amazing Wise Temple docents who went through their own extensive learning to be able to lead fascinating tours. In fact five new docents were trained this summer for a total of eleven congregants who volunteer their time to share the stories of Plum Street Temple. Our docents have educated: Wise Temple congregants, the Boy and Girl Scouts, school groups of nearly every age, church groups, architects, and individuals from other cities or countries who have heard of our special space.

Go beyond what you already know about Plum Street Temple. Schedule a tour by contacting Alex Burte 513.793.2556 or aburte@wisetemple.org.

3



4



Thanks to our docents: Cindy Burgin, Lester Burgin, Mary Ezra, Burt Gross, Meryl Gruber, Marcia Goldsmith, Ken Kabel, Liz McOsker, Andrea Rapp, Dick Snyder, and Chessie Vigran.

LEARNING CURVES

Every Jewish Journey Has Its Unique Twists and Turns

AARON FRIEDMAN: Bar Mitzvah

Just last year, this young man stood confidently on the bimah at Plum Street Temple, read from the Torah, and led the congregation in worship. He and others like him are our Jewish future.

Smooth Sailing

Seeing how much I improved over the course of 5 months was my favorite part of preparing for my Bar Mitzvah. I studied most nights. It's neat to think back to when I started and had difficulties pronouncing some of the words. When it got close to my Bar Mitzvah, I was then reading Hebrew very smoothly.

Family Ties

The best thing about my Bar Mitzvah was having my whole family cheering for me and supporting me on my special day. I'm lucky to have some of my mom's family live in Cincinnati so they were all there. All of my dad's family is from Philadelphia and they came in for the weekend too. It was great to have everyone in one place and to spend time with all of my cousins on both sides of my family.



Aaron Friedman with his grandparents Phyllis and Howard Ringel, showing off his tallit made extra special by Phyllis, who needlepointed the design.

Unstoppable

The most important thing I learned during my Bar Mitzvah experience is that if you put in effort and practice, you can accomplish whatever the challenge is.

SAM NITZBERG: Madrich

Kids of all ages are looking up to this young man who is kicking off a great first year as a Wise Temple madrich. He's setting a great example for our youngest Jewish learners.



Sam Nitzberg enjoys soccer, basketball, track, his friends and gaming when he's not busy with school and Team Madrachim.

Making It Count

I've always enjoyed the atmosphere at Wise Temple and thought I could contribute to the experience of others. I had years of watching and working with Madrichim when I was a student in Sunday school, and it always looked interesting. The best part of being a Madrich is getting to know more people, and spending time with both kids and adults.

Take it from me, kid

If other kids want to know if they should get up on Sunday morning and go to Religious School, I say do it! You'll make long-lasting friendships and learn about Jewish history and culture.

Oh, Brother!

I look up to a lot of people, but I'll specifically call out my brother, Jacob. I feel like many of the things I've done and enjoyed, like sports, music, and my Jewish education, started with me watching him do them first.

SARAH AND ERIK HEIDT: Adult B'nai Mitzvah

This married couple will go through Wise Temple's adult B'nai Mitzvah class together, while their 5 year old twins launch their Jewish education in the Open Room.

A Family Affair

We decided to pursue adult B'nai Mitzvah because we thought this would be a meaningful experience both individually and as a couple. Although I attended religious school growing up, I never had a Bat Mitzvah, and I've always felt like that was something missing. Erik converted to Judaism within the past few years so he's not had a Bar Mitzvah. It's a great connection for our whole family because our children are also at the beginning of their religious education. We've made a very deliberate decision to have a Jewish household, and this feels like an important step at the right time. I see my Bat Mitzvah as a formal way of acknowledging the importance of Judaism in my life.

Jewish Values Every Day

We look forward to our children learning more and more about Judaism. We'd love to see their Jewish values seamlessly incorporated into everyday life, because Jewish life and culture are very important to our family life. More and more, I appreciate Jewish traditions as guideposts for navigating both important life cycle events and the more mundane parts of life that are easy to take for granted.



Sarah and Erik Heidt, and their twins, Helen and Alexander

A Man Has to Eat...and Learn

It's tough to balance work, family, and extra-curriculars. Wise Temple's Lunch and Learn makes it easy to schedule learning. I have to eat anyway! These classes have had a real impact on my daily life. One key principle of Reform Judaism is to question everything. Challenging and thinking through my beliefs, and considering different viewpoints, have often caused me to change my opinions. Questioning rather than accepting ideas verbatim introduces the element of choice. I have to *choose* to be a good person. Thinking it through is harder, but more worthwhile. This practice has also helped me become more understanding of other people's positions.

From Point Guard to Case in Point

My father ingrained in me from an early age that being an attorney was the best job for me (although I wanted to be a point guard for the Boston Celtics). When I became an attorney, I found it intellectually challenging and gratifying to help someone achieve their objectives.

A Perfect Match

People are placed in our lives for a reason, sometimes to save us. I think this was the case for my wife, Melissa. Meeting and marrying her led me down the right path. I was pretty self-centered when I met her and my priorities were not where they should be. She reminds me what is really important in life – family and relationships and helping others.

Next in Line

All four of my sons (Ian, Kendall, Max and Cooper) had a Bar Mitzvah with Wise Temple. The experiences were incredible and moving for them, and for me. I've watched them develop as students and people. I'm incredibly proud of who they have become, and how well they incorporated their Jewish knowledge into their lives.

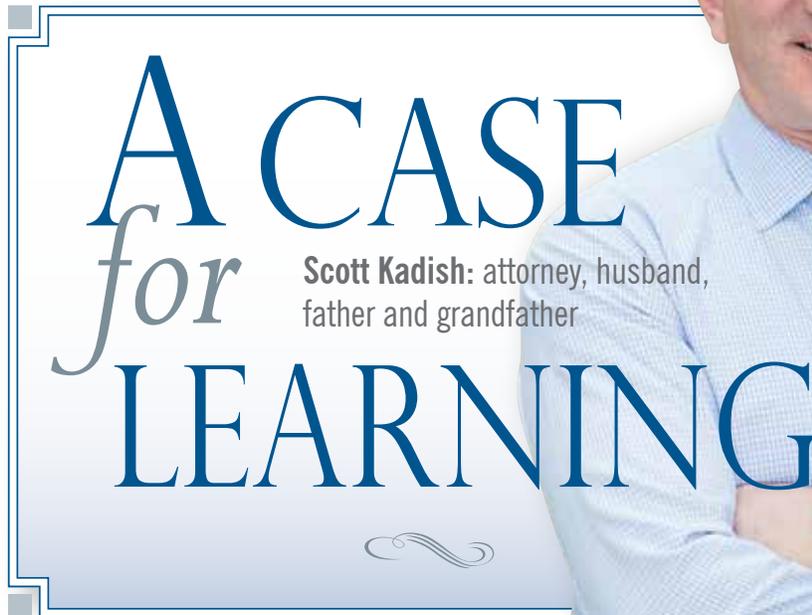
In March, we're expecting a granddaughter who will be the first female Kadish born in nearly 100 years. Melissa is busy buying girls' clothes, which she never got to do before! I hope Knox Jamison and his little sister grow up to love Judaism and learning as much as the rest of the Kadish family.

A Classroom in Israel

I'm really eager to travel to Israel. I never had the opportunity to make that all important trip, which I think would be the perfect culmination of all I've learned about my religion.

The Character of Characters

I like to read suspense books in which the detectives have a character flaw they are trying to overcome. It reminds me that most people are just trying to do the best they can, and that I should try to be better too. My favorite quote from a book is, "Though a man may sometimes escape the public consequences of his acts, he cannot escape his character."



Good For a Laugh

I was especially impressed with how my sons mastered Hebrew during their B'nai Mitzvah studies. I'm bad at foreign languages. During a recent trip to France, I tried my hand at French, which I took in high school. To the amusement of the waiter, instead of scallops, I actually ordered the "red head of a rooster". Turns out he knew English better than I knew French, and he made sure I got something I could eat (the Dover Sole)!

Best Advice

Keeping the brain engaged is the key to staying young.

B'nai Mitzvah

December 1, 2018
Wise Center, 10:45 AM

Bar Mitzvah of **Daniel Cooper**
son of Lisa and David Cooper
grandson of Lorraine and
the late David Forst



January 5, 2019
Wise Center, 10:45 AM

Bat Mitzvah of **Maya Max**
daughter of Dr. Josh Max and
Mrs. Jinny Max



December 8, 2018
Plum Street Temple, 10:45 AM

Bar Mitzvah of **Jonathan Kaseff**
son of Dr. Ben and Lynn Kaseff



February 9, 2019
Wise Center, 10:45 AM

Bat Mitzvah of **Maya Davis Kirzner**
daughter of Aimee and David Kirzner



December 15, 2018
Plum Street Temple, 10:45 AM

Bat Mitzvah of **Elizabeth Anne Michelman**
daughter of Andrew and
Jenny Michelman
granddaughter of John and
Robbie Michelman



February 23, 2019
Plum Street Temple, 10:45 AM

Bar Mitzvah of **Aaron Jacob Fershtman**
son of Alan and Ann Fershtman



Sisterhood Gift Shop

Special gifts for B'nai Mitzvah, wedding, house warming, graduation, holiday, or just because. Unique gifts for kids (Jewish music, games, toys, and books.) You'll find it all here.

Gift Shop Hours:

Sundays 9:00 AM – Noon
(during school)

Tuesdays 9:30 AM – 1:30 PM

Thursdays 9:30 AM – 1:30 PM

Some Fridays 5:00 PM – 6:00 PM
(before services)

Many new, interesting and affordable items!



Holiday

Congregational Chanukah Dinners and Community Menorah Lighting

Friday, December 7

See page 8 for details.

Worship Services

Shabbat Evening Services

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

December

December 7 – Chanukah Shabbat and Community Menorah Lighting
5:30 PM Chanukah Dinner Seating 1
7:15 PM Chanukah Dinner Seating 2

December 14 – Shabbat service

December 14 – Limmud (Learning) Shabbat – “Wardrobe of Prayer”

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

December 21 – Shabbat service

December 28 – Shabbat service with birthday and anniversary blessings

January

January 4 – Family Shabbat 6:45 PM service; 6:00 PM dinner

January 4 – Shabbat service

January 11 – Shabbat service

January 11 – NextGen Shabbat 6:30 PM, Plum Street Temple

January 18 – Shabbat service

January 25 – Shabbat service with birthday and anniversary blessings

January 25 – Music Shabbat service

February

February 1 – Family Shabbat 6:45 PM service; 6:00 PM dinner

February 1 – Shabbat service

February 8 – Shabbat service

February 8 – NextGen Shabbat 6:30 PM, Plum Street Temple

February 15 – Shabbat service with Brotherhood participation

February 15 – Ohm Shalom Shabbat service

February 22 – Shabbat service with birthday and anniversary blessings

Shabbat Morning Services

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

December 1, 8, 15, 22, 29
January 5, 12, 19, 26
February 2, 9, 16, 23

YoFI Shababa Services
2nd and 4th Saturdays, 10:00 AM
December 22
January 12, 26
February 9, 23

December 8 – YoFI Shababa service and Chanukah brunch party

Shabbat Morning B'nai Mitzvah Services

See page 14.

Brotherhood

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

Monthly Meeting

Thursdays, 6:00 PM –7:00 PM
December 13
January 10
February 14

Lighthouse Youth Services Dinner

Thursday, December 20
5:30 PM; Offsite

Chicken Soup Cook Off

Sunday, January 27
12:15 PM – 2:15 PM
See page 7 for details

Shabbat Service with Brotherhood Participation

Friday, February 15
6:15 PM

Community

Chanukah Boutique – Sponsored by Sisterhood
Sunday, December 2
11:45 AM – 12:15 PM

Christmas Day Bowling – Sponsored by Brotherhood
Tuesday, December 25
12:00 PM – 2:00 PM
Crossgate Lanes
Fun for the whole family.

Chicken Soup Cook Off – Sponsored by Brotherhood
Sunday, January 27
12:15 PM – 2:15 PM
See page 7 for details

Eitz Chayim – Adult Education

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

Italian Jews and World War II; The amazing story of how southern Italians saved 4,000 Jews (A Hornstein Lecture)
with Rabbi Barbara Aiello from Italy
Sunday, December 2
10:15 AM
See page 10 for details

Tuesdays with Torah

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

Explaining Reform Judaism to Others – Guiding Principles For Two Centuries

Rabbi Kamrass
November 20,
27, 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 as we discern the timeless significance of those basic principles and through them, the ability to better understand the basis of Reform Judaism for ourselves and articulating those principles to others.

Jewish Community Organizing

Rabbi Lindsey Danziger and Joseph Rosen Rabbinic Intern
December 11, 18

We are a people imbued with the radical idea that God is not perfect and needs our help improving the world. From the time of the Exodus, the Jewish People have strategically built power and organized to change the world. After a brief introduction to the concepts of community organizing, we will look at different aspects of our ancient and modern narrative through the lens of Jews as community organizers.

Genesis

Joseph Rosen, Rabbinic Intern
January 15, 22, 29

Survey of Jewish interpretation on Genesis 4:3-17 from 2nd Temple to medieval literature.

Shakespeare's The Merchant of Venice

Courtney Anthony, Religious School Director
February 5, 12

For the past 400 years, Shakespeare's play – which features the famously controversial Jewish character of Shylock – has sparked discussion about Judaism and anti-Semitism in Western culture. It has also raised questions that are still hotly debated: Is The Merchant of Venice an anti-Semitic play, or a play about anti-Semitism? Is Shylock a sympathetic character or a villain?

How has the play continued to influence our society since it was first performed in 1605? Add your voice to the discussion!

Ritual Reimagined

Rabbi Michael Danziger
February 19, 26, March 5

Study the texts that serve as a foundation for kashrut, mikveh, and more. Then examine their historical practice, as well as ways they are being creatively reimagined to add meaning to modern practice.

iEngage

Jewish Values and the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict

Rabbi Karen Thomashow

Mondays, 5:15 PM – 7:00 PM
December 3
January 7
February 4

This 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.

Talmud Study

Rabbi Lewis Kamrass
Tuesdays, December 4, January 8, February 5
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. This once a month class 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 in fact, how those holidays are transformed and reimagined at the hands of our rabbinic sages in enduring ways that shape Jewish life today.

Distance-Wise

www.wisetemple.org/distancewise
See page 27 for details

Can People of Faith Help Reduce Gun Violence?

with Rabbi Joel Mosbacher
Thursday, December 13
7:00 PM – 8:00 PM

American Values Religious Voices: 100 Days, 100 Letters

with Rabbi Andrea Weiss
Sunday, January 13
10:00 AM – 11:00 AM

Twelve Tribes of Isaac: The Children of Isaac Mayer Wise

with Dr. Jonathan Sarna
Sunday, February 10
10:00 AM – 11:00 AM



Downtown Lunch and Learn

Antebellum Isaac: Rabbi I.M. Wise and the Run Up to Civil War



Rabbi Michael Danziger
 Thursday, January 24
 11:45 AM – 1:00 PM
 1 East Fourth Street, 14th Floor
 Optional lunch available
 On the occasion of his 200th birthday, we'll explore Isaac M. Wise's views and interactions on issues such as slavery and states' rights as he built our congregation on the banks of the Ohio.
 RSVP:
www.wisetemple.org/lunchandlearn

Empty Nesters

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

Fiddler on the Roof – Behind the Scenes

Rabbi Lewis Kamrass
 Sunday, December 9
 10:00 AM – 11:45 PM
 See page 19 for details.

American Sign Museum Tour and Camp Washington Chili

Saturday, January 12
 3:00 PM
 See page 19 for details.

70's Dance Party

Saturday, February 9
 7:30 PM – 11:00 PM
 Little Red School House – Indian Hill
 See page 19 for details.

Families

Questions? Call the Temple office at 513-793-2557 or visit any of the URLs listed.
www.wisetemple.org/familyengagement

Congregational Chanukah Dinners and Community Menorah Lighting

Friday, December 7
 5:30 PM Chanukah Dinner Seating 1
 6:15 PM Chanukah Shabbat service and Chanukah candle lighting
 7:15 Chanukah Dinner Seating 2
 See page 8 for details.

Family Shabbat

First Friday of each month
 6:00 PM dinner; 6:45 PM service
 January 4
 February 1

Jewish Parenting Programs

Sunday, December 9
 9:30 AM – 10:45 AM

Sunday, February 24
 9:30 AM – 10:45 AM

Family Social Action

Sunday, January 20
 11:45 AM – 1:30 PM

Family Retreat

Saturday, February 16 (1:00 PM) – Sunday, February 17 (1:00 PM)
 Great Wolf Lodge
 See page 20 for details.

Religious School

Sundays, 9:15 AM – 11:45 AM
 December 2, 9, 16
 January 6, 13, 20, 27
 February 3, 10, 24

YoFI (ages 0-5)

www.wisetemple.org/yofi

YoFI Shababa Worship Services

2nd and 4th Saturdays of the month
 10:00 AM – 11:00 AM
 December 22
 January 12, 26
 February 9, 23

YoFI Shababa Service and Chanukah Brunch Party

Saturday, December 8
 10:00 AM
 See page 8 for details.

Three's Classes

Sundays, 9:30 AM – 11:30 AM
 December 2, 16
 January 6, 20
 February 3

Challah Bakeshop

Thursdays, 5:00 PM – 6:30 PM
 January 3
 February 7
 RSVP: tperkins@wisetemple.org

Open Room – Grade 3

Family Programs

Sundays, 9:30 AM – 11:45 AM
 3rd Grade – December 2
 1st Grade – January 6
 2nd Grade – February 3

1st Grade Pajama Party

Saturday, January 12
 5:30 PM – 8:00 PM

2nd and 3rd Grade Social Event

Sunday, February 10
 11:45 AM – 2:00 PM

Grades 6 – 8

J. WOOT 67 Chanukah Party

Sunday, December 2
 12:00 PM – 2:00 PM

6th Grade B'nai Mitzvah Family Program

Sunday, December 16
 9:15 AM – 11:45 AM

7th and 8th Grade Tubing at Perfect North Slopes

Sunday, January 6
 9:30 AM – 2:00 PM

J. WOOT 67 Event

Sunday, February 3
 12:00 PM – 2:00 PM

8th@Wise Event

Sunday, February 10
 12:00 PM – 1:00 PM

Grades 9 – 12

www.wisetemple.org/youthengagement

WOOTY Lock In

Sunday, January 20 – Monday, January 21

NFTY Winter Kallah

Saturday, January 26 – Sunday, January 27
 Hebrew Union College Cincinnati

Kulanu

Sundays, 5:30 PM – 7:10 PM (except on February 3*)
 Optional dinner, 5:00 PM – 5:30 PM
At Wise Center:
 December 2, 9, 16

At Valley Temple:

January 27
 February 3 – from 1:00 PM – 2:40PM*
 February 10, 24

NextGen (Young Professionals)

Rabbi Michael Danziger:
 513-793-2556
 mdanziger@wisetemple.org
 www.wisetemple.org/nextgen

Shabbat Services

2nd Friday of the month
 6:30 PM, Plum Street Temple
 December 14
 January 11
 February 8

Senior Adults

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

Chanukah Dinner and Celebration

Wednesday, December 5
 5:00 PM – 6:00 PM

The Sid Caesar Show

Wednesday, January 9
 12:00 PM – 1:00 PM

A Conversation with Andrea Rapp, Temple Librarian

Wednesday, February 13
 1:00 PM – 2:00 PM

Sisterhood

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

Board Meetings

Wednesdays, 9:45 AM – 10:45 AM
 December 5
 February 6

Chanukah Boutique

Sunday, December 2
 11:45 AM – 12:15 PM

Sisterhood Dinner Program

Monday, January 7
 6:30 PM
 Trio Bistro

Cooking Series Part 2 with Beck's Catering

Sunday, February 3
 9:30 AM – 11:00 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

IHN

Sunday, December 23 – Sunday, December 30
 Sunday, February 3 – Sunday, February 10

When a family experiences temporary homelessness, they can feel helpless and alone. You can help by making families feel at home at Wise Center which becomes a temporary refuge for these families in need. Share a meal with a family, play a game with a child, or be an overnight host.

Learn about volunteer roles and RSVP at www.wisetemple.org/ihn

Matthew 25 Ministries

Saturday, December 1
 12:00 PM – 2:00 PM
 11060 Kenwood Road

You will provide disaster relief and humanitarian aid to the poorest and most impacted populations of catastrophes. The packages of critical items you prepare for shipment can change the outcome for a struggling community.

St. Francis Seraph Soup Kitchen

Wednesday, December 19
 3:30 PM – 6:00 PM
 1615 Republic Street

Hunger is a common problem for our Cincinnati neighbors. You can help by preparing and serving a hot meal in this safe space.

Over-the-Rhine Soup Kitchen

Tuesday, December 25
 9:45 AM – 2:00 PM
 1620 Vine Street

The holidays can be especially hard for those in need. You can help by preparing and serving a hot meal and a warm smile.

Shelter House

Tuesday, December 25
 11:00 AM – 1:00 PM
 411 Gest Street

When homelessness occurs, the most basic needs go unmet. You can help by providing a warm meal to the men staying at the Shelter House while they search for housing and employment.

Sunday Morning Club (previously Mental Health of Northern Kentucky)

Tuesday, December 25
 Northern KY Convention Center

• **Gift Wrap**

7:30 AM – 10:00 AM

For many kids, holidays are a sad reminder of what they don't have. You can help by wrapping gifts (donated by other organizations) for kids in need.

• **Soup Kitchen**

10:00 AM – 1:00 PM

For some, the warmth of a holiday meal is absent. You can help by serving a delicious meal to hundreds in need.

LaSoupe

Sunday, January 20
 1:00 PM – 4:00 PM
 Wise Center Kitchen

When a child is hungry, concentrating on school becomes impossible. You can help by turning rescued food into meals for hungry schoolchildren.

Sweet Cheeks Diaper Bank

Saturday, February 23
 1:00 PM – 4:00 PM
 1615 Republic Street

Diapers are expensive. Struggling parents are often left with no choice but to leave their child in the same diaper all day. You can help by packaging diapers so they can be delivered to those in greatest need.

Miscellaneous

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

Alcoholics Anonymous Meeting

Tuesdays and Thursdays, 5:30 PM, except December 25 and January 1

Empty Nesters. Say Yes. Try It Out.

Why should I go to these events? Sure, there's the people you'll get to know, the fun you'll have, and the things you'll learn. But honestly, with all our words of encouragement, it simply comes down to you. It's when you put yourself out there, when you say yes, when you choose to be a part, that you'll find connection and meaning that will answer the why. And you don't have to go it alone, invite another empty nester to come along with you.



What's in a name? The Empty Nest team spent a lot of time debating this group's name. In all publicity, there's a delicate balance between clear names that may be less exciting and clever names that require an explanation each time they're used. In the end, the team decided on clear vs. clever, opting for "Empty Nest" which is a common nation-wide term.

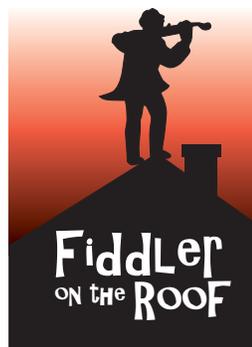
Who actually is an Empty Nester? Glad you asked. Single or married adults. Those whose kids left the nest recently or fairly recently. And those who did not have kids but are of a similar age (about 49-69).

Fun fact: about 750 people fit this category at Wise Temple!

ATTENTION THEATER

GOERS: Explore the deeper meaning of the beloved Broadway musical, Fiddler on the Roof, as Rabbi Kamrass shares fascinating little known references, themes, and nuances of this highly acclaimed classic.

Sunday, December 9
10:00 AM – 11:45 PM



Encore. At the December event you'll discover others attending Fiddler on the Roof at the Aronoff. Make arrangements to gather at a downtown bar before or after the show with those attending on the same night.

January 15 – 27, 2019

SIGNS, SIGNS, EVERYWHERE THERE'S SIGNS.

Customized tour of the American Sign Museum for Wise Temple Empty Nesters

Tour this 20,000 square foot museum, the largest museum dedicated to signs in the United States! Learn the stories behind more than 100 years of American sign history. Enjoy an often overlooked part of our culture that hides in plain sight as part of our daily lives.

There's More. After the tour, head over to the local legend, Camp Washington Chili, for a beer and chili that's been rated among the best chili experiences.

Saturday,
January 12
3:00 PM

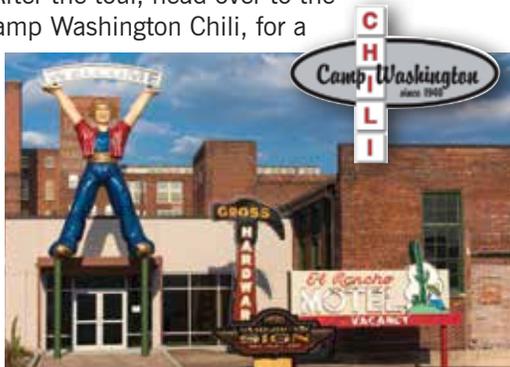


Photo courtesy of Alias Images



WISE TEMPLE.

This themed dance party will bring you back to the music, memories, and fun of all things 1970's.

Bust out your bell bottoms, wide collars, and tie dye (Costumes welcome but not required). Hop in your VW bug and boogie on over for an evening of dancing and retro fun.

Saturday, February 9, 2019
7:30 PM – 11:00 PM

Little Red School House, Indian Hill
Just \$18 for beer/wine, light bites/desserts, laughs, and memory-making.

Winter Is a Family Affair

We're busy this winter building relationships, playing,

Attention College Students:

The Wise Temple Brotherhood is proud to administer the Oscar Lerner Fund Award. This one-time award is given to Wise Temple students who have completed a college course in Judaic studies and earned an A or B in the course. Simply send a copy of your transcript to: president@wisebrotherhood.org.

Established by the late Mrs. Freida Lerner, the grant honors the memory of her late husband, Oscar Lerner who was a long time member of Wise Temple and the Brotherhood.

Note: Students of first year Hebrew are not eligible, but more advanced Hebrew students may apply.



Last Year's Family Retreat Was So Much Fun, We're Doing It Again!

Enjoy quality time with your loved ones and other Wise Temple families, engage in fun and creative Jewish learning, AND swim, splash and slide! – The Wise Temple Family Retreat will be so warm, wet and wonderful, you'll forget all about winter!

Saturday, February 16 – Sunday, February 17
Great Wolf Lodge, Mason, OH

This two-day event, designed for families with kids ages 4 – 14 (younger siblings always welcome!), will include:

- Interactive family activities • Music • Art • Social action
- A dedicated "teen track" for those in 6th – 8th grade
- A beautiful Havdalah service • Jewish learning
- Meaningful discussions • Water park time and more!

Come for two days and one night of bonding, community, and family fun. You'll create lasting memories for your family as you connect with one another and with friends, new and old.

Register: www.wisetemple.org/familyretreat

Thanks to the generosity of The Jewish Foundation of Cincinnati, the cost of the Family Retreat is highly subsidized.



at Wise Temple

working, and learning together!

Hebrew Connect: Merging ancient Hebrew with New World Tools

Beginning this year, all of Wise Temple's Hebrew education is online using exciting virtual classroom technology. This progressive change has many benefits to our 4th, 5th and 6th grade learners and their parents:

- Greater scheduling flexibility, as classes are conducted on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays in late afternoons and evenings, providing families with a choice as to the most convenient time for them.
- Lower student/teacher ratio (as low as 6:1), as there are 12 classes with only 6-8 children in each class.
- Easy access, as classes can be accessed anywhere that internet is available.
- Greater convenience, as parents (many managing work schedules) no longer need to transport children during stressful high-traffic hours.

But where's the community building, you may ask? Perhaps surprisingly, there is a unique and deep community that is built in this online environment. Because students see one another in

their home environments, they get to know each other in a special way. Through this virtual classroom, kids can see a fellow student's home, see the posters on their bedroom walls, meet their dog who sits in the student's lap, or wave to their sister who walks through the frame. All of these interactions help students get to know one another more personally, not just as another student in a classroom.

And the learning is truly interactive. The teacher and kids can see each other, converse live, and see various learning materials provided by the teacher during the class, via a virtual "whiteboard." Hebrew Connect isn't a passive video training – it's an interactive classroom that allows kids to participate fully, ask questions, and share ideas with the teacher and other students – all in real time.



The goal of Hebrew Connect is the same as it was for Hebrew school – to equip our kids with the Hebrew skills they need to be able to walk into any synagogue in the world and participate in the service. After completing Hebrew Connect, each child should be able to fluently read a "siddur" (prayer book) and understand what key prayers mean. Courtney Anthony, Religious School Director, explains that "learning Hebrew is a way to connect our students to our history, and to Jewish communities around the world; it's something we all share." 

Your Jewish Parenting Go-To

Wise Temple's Jewish Parenting program offers resources, guidance from trained professionals, and opportunities for discussions with other parents on important topics relevant to parents today, all through a Jewish lens.

 **Mark your calendars!**

December 9, 2018
(Topic to be determined)

February 24, 2019
(Topic to be determined)



WISE *at* WORK &



TAILGATE SHABBAT

We kicked off football season by throwing ourselves into the spirit of Shabbat and everyone who attended was a winner!



**WE LOOKED AT,
BOUGHT & WON**
some beautiful art at the
Israeli Art Show and Sale

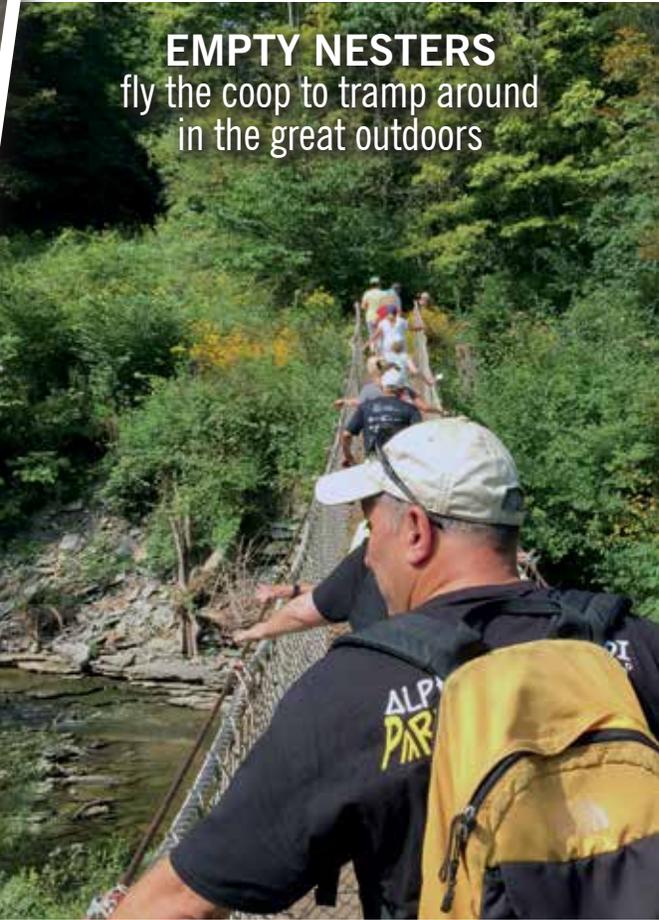
play!

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



We celebrated Sukkot for several days in many ways

EMPTY NESTERS
fly the coop to tramp around in the great outdoors



WOO-HOO FOR WOOTY
Wise Organization of Temple Youth



PUPPY LOVE

Wise Up volunteers shared the puppy love at United Pet Fund project.



NEW ADVENTURE
Volunteers planted & weeded at The Giving Fields

CONTRIBUTIONS

We acknowledge with appreciation...

Bess Shavzin Library Fund

In honor of:

Birthday of Steve Marshall by Mary Lee and Louie Sirkin

Engagement of Jared Kamrass by Julie and John Cohen

Birthday of Mel Frieman by Mary Lee and Louie Sirkin

Birthday of Jon Marshall by Mary Lee and Louie Sirkin

Tzedakah by Marion Rosenbaum

Anniversary of Phyllis and Ray Fine by Mary Lee and Louie Sirkin

Birthday of Helene Ohren by Mary Lee and Louie Sirkin

Birthday of Bob Kanter by Mary Lee and Louie Sirkin

In loving memory of:

Alan Spencer by Marion Rosenbaum

Roslyn Brant by Mary Lee and Louie Sirkin

Julian Hirschberg by Mary Lee and Louie Sirkin

Chaiken Family Fund

In honor of:

25th wedding anniversary of Randi and Jon Chaiken by Roz Chaiken

Fine/Marshall/Allen Scholarship Fund

In honor of:

Birthday of Pete Mendelsohn by Jon Marshall

50th wedding anniversary of Natalie and Jack Schwab by Sharon and Steve Marshall

50th wedding anniversary of Natalie and Jack Schwab by Jon Marshall

Birthday of Jon Marshall by Margie and Alan Schneider

Birthday of Jon Marshall by Dee Dee and Rick Abraham

In loving memory of:

Marlin Marshall by Sharon and Steve Marshall

Marlin Marshall by Jon Marshall

Julian Hirschberg by Arlene and Bill Katz

Julian Hirschberg by Ann and Bob Unger

Julian Hirschberg by Diane and Alan Weber

General Fund

In honor of:

Mona and Dick Kerstine by Nancy and Jeff Barrad

In loving memory of:

Rosemary Safdi by Sherry and Mark Kaplan

Julian Hirschberg by Karen and David Hoguet

Hunger Task Force/I.H.N. Fund

In honor of:

Stuart Susskind by Harriet and Alan Lazarus

Birthday of Lou Margolis by Charlotte Bishop

Birthday of Lou Margolis by Ilene Ness

Birthday of Lou Margolis by Rhea Preschel

Sloane Emery Rice by Ida Schwartz

Mitzvah Bag Project by William Lucas

In loving memory of:

Dolly Levine by Ethel Zemsky

Judith S. Carsch Library Fund

In honor of:

Ethan and Olivia Lindsey's Confirmation by Judy Lucas

Anniversary of Jean and Dave Simmons by Gail and Louis Fred Zeifman

In loving memory of:

Dolly Levine by Ann Rubenstein

Ernestine N. Schwartz by Alice Rosenberg and Family

Eileen Goret by Jean and Dave Simmons

Eileen Goret by Shirley and Herb Behr

Louis Dollin by Jean and Dave Simmons

Julian Vigran Learning Resource Fund

In loving memory of:

Marlyn Weinstein by Margo and Jerry Itkoff

Marlyn Weinstein by Margie and Alan Schneider

Marlyn Weinstein by Jane Friedman

Marvin B. Steinberg Fund

In loving memory of:

Sue Stern by Susan and Barry Somerstein

Mother of Luck Reckseit by Susan and Barry Somerstein

Orla Mielziner GIVTY Fund

In honor of:

Tzedakah by Jody Stancliff

Retirement of Judi Evans by Saranne Funk

In loving memory of:

Lillian Voos, Wilhelm Voos, and Bessie Jacobs by Sue Voos, Judi and Mack Evans

Julian Hirschberg by Valerie Friedman

Julian Hirschberg by Barry and Pam Meyer

Playground Fund

In honor of:

New Playground by Aurora and Eugene Kellogg

New Playground by Sarah and Erik Heidt

Barbara Dragul by Debbie and Dick Westheimer

New Playground by Alexis and Michael Wintrob

New Playground by Rachel and Rob Callif

Birthday of Bob Betagole by Danielle and Ken Revelson

Tzedakah by Jessica and Brent Carroll

Lynn and David Callif by Erica and Doug Messer

In loving memory of:

Julian Hirschberg by Lana Grossman

Julian Hirschberg by Julie and Rick Kantor

Plum Street Temple Historic Preservation Fund

In honor of:

Speedy recovery of Ann Mezibov by Sepha and Hal Silverman

Birthday of Bob Betagole by Susan, Jon, Kathy, and Bill Shorr and Family

Sally Harding Schott by Susan, Jon, Kathy, and Bill Shorr and Family

New home of Lynn and Alex Warm by Mary Lee and Louie Sirkin

Birthday of Bob Betagole by Karen and David Hoguet

Birthday of Bob Kanter by Roberta Fisher

Temple tour by Abraham Synagogue

Tzedakah by Sylvia and Michael Sears

Birthday of Bob Kanter by Ted Silberstein and Jackie Mack

Birthday of Bob Kanter by Helene and Tom Ohren

Tzedakah by Mimi Lerner and Andrew Lerner

Bat Mitzvah of Emma Silverman by Paula Holstein

Birthday of Bob Kanter by Ellen and Stewart Dunsker

Birthday of Bob Kanter by Arlene and Bill Katz

Birthday of Bob Kanter by Irene Block

Bar Mitzvah of Matthew Drasnin by Mary and George Croog

Birthday of Bob Kanter by Lynn and Alex Warm

Tzedakah by Cincinnati Marathon Inc

Birthday of Bob Kanter by Judy and Marshall Ruchman

In loving memory of:

Martha Friedman Mervis by Jackie Mack

Rosemary Safdi by Sepha and Hal Silverman

Melvin Schulman by Phyllis and Ray Fine

Dora Fine by Phyllis and Ray Fine

Elaine Schiffer by BJ and Arthur Foreman

Louis L. Mervis by Jackie Mack

Julian Hirschberg by Ruth and Steve Coppel

Julian Hirschberg by Lorie Kleiner Eckert

Julian Hirschberg by Ina and Ed Loftspring

Julian Hirschberg by Marjorie and Steven Adler

Julian Hirschberg by Barbara and Jack Hahn

Julian Hirschberg by Bob Betagole

Donate online at www.wisetemple.org/donate

CONTRIBUTIONS

We acknowledge with appreciation...

Julian Hirschberg by Marty Betagole
Howard Bame by Andrea and Michael Rapp
Julian Hirschberg by Amy Cohen

Prayerbook Fund

In honor of:

Birthday of Richard Greenberg by Sherry and Mark Kaplan
Tzedakah by Elizabeth and William Kingery
Tzedakah by Jody Stancliff
Retirement of Glen Meyer by Lorie Kleiner Eckert

Rabbi Danziger Discretionary Fund

In honor of:

Bar Mitzvah of Matthew Drasnin by Lori and Jeff Drasnin
Bat Mitzvah of Emma Silverman by Galite and Ryan Silverman
A happy and healthy year by Patti and Fred Heldman
Rita and Shawn Quinn's wedding by Rita and Shawn Quinn

In loving memory of:

Stephen Mason by Mason Family
Melvin Nadler by Linda and Jerry Sacks, Arrianna and Steve Sacks, Debbie and Alan Friedman, Joy and Tom Nadler
Jeannette Mickenberg by Linda and Bill Cooperstein

On the occasion of:

Conversion to Judaism by Jody Stancliff

Rabbi Kamrass Discretionary Fund

In honor of:

Tzedakah by Micah Parker (Artworks)
Tzedakah by Lena and Boris Makutonin
Bar Mitzvah of Matthew Drasnin by Lori and Jeff Drasnin
Eileen Magenheimer's unveiling by Amy and Doug Magenheimer
Marriage of Dana Askin and Jake Hiudt by Herschell Levine
Bat Mitzvah of Emma Silverman by Galite and Ryan Silverman

In loving memory of:

Marvin Pravda by Renee and Brad Lemberg
Florence Bloom by Ellen Heines
Helen Benjamin by Ruth and George Barham
Dolly Levine by Linda, Larry, and Steve Levine
Melvin Nadler by Debbe Lane, Linda and Jim Kreindler
Rosemary Safdi by Judy and Steve Stein
Julian Hirschberg by Sherry and Mark Kaplan
Julian Hirschberg by Marlene Kantor
Mary Stern by Dr. Peter and Sandy Stern
Diane Marowitz by Hank Marowitz

Donate online at www.wisetemple.org/donate

Eileen Goret by Danielle and Ken Revelson
Chuck, Jerome, and Ruth Teller by Betsy Bigelow-Teller and Family
Julian Hirschberg by JoEllen and Bob Cohen

Rabbi Thomashow Discretionary Fund

In honor of:

Tzedakah by Nancy and Marshall Macks
Bar Mitzvah of Benjamin Schwartz by Jon Schwartz and Shelly Schadick
Meryl Gruber by Amy Perlman
Bar Mitzvah of Matthew Drasnin by Lori and Jeff Drasnin
Bat Mitzvah of Emma Silverman by Galite and Ryan Silverman
Tzedakah by Bradley Cohen
A happy and healthy year by Patti and Fred Heldman
In loving memory of:
Harry Jack Kahn by Sandy Kahn
Julian Hirschberg by Danielle and Ken Revelson
Esther and Donald Zeldin by Eric Zeldin

Renee and Rabbi Lewis Kamrass Social Action Fund

In honor of:

Anniversary of Renee and Lewis Kamrass by Karen and David Hoguet
Anniversary of Renee and Lewis Kamrass by Mary Lee and Louie Sirkin
Engagement of Jared Kamrass and Emma Drongowski by Mary Lee and Louie Sirkin
Bar Mitzvah of Ben Vigran by Mary Lee and Louie Sirkin
Engagement of Jared Kamrass by Paula Holstein
Stuart Susskind by Eve Susskind Pearl
A happy and healthy year by Patti and Fred Heldman

In loving memory of:

Dolly Levine by Miriam Block
Dolly Levine by Eddie Tessel
Dolly Levine by Bob Betagole
Dolly Levine by Dee and Michael Selker
Dolly Levine by Joan Tennenbaum
Dolly Levine by Nathan Doctrow
Dolly Levine by Helene and Harold Kirzner
Dolly Levine by Roberta Fisher
Dolly Levine by Susan Levin
Dolly Levine by Harriet and Sanford Wolf
Dolly Levine by Jean and Gary Bronstein
Dolly Levine by Gloria Frankie
Dolly Levine by Thelma Bergman
Dolly Levine by Mary Ganulin
Dolly Levine by Kristi, Gary, and Edith Selker
Dolly Levine by Patricia and Morris Passer

Julian Hirschberg by Ellen and Joel Golub
David Kamrass by Margie and Chuck Kessel

Ruth Strull Youkilis Fund

In loving memory of:

Ruth and Victor Youkilis by Charlie and Nancy Postow

Sisterhood Caring Corps

by Beatrice Winkler

Sisterhood General Fund

by Alice Rosenberg
by Dianne Rosenberg

Special Programs Fund

In honor of:

Birthday of Bob Kanter by Joanne and Larry Essig
Birthday of Bob Kanter by Inez Allen and Stefan Eckert

In loving memory of:

Dolly Levine by Lynne and Bob Kanter

Wise Temple Youth Scholarship Fund

In honor of:

Cara Alpern by Debbie and Hamilton Lempert

In loving memory of:

Julian Hirschberg by My Doctor LLC

Rabbi Hillel said: "Do not say, 'when I have time I will study' because you may never have the time."

—Pirkei Avot 2:5



WISE TEMPLE MEMBER PORTAL ...

Serving our congregants better, bringing people together,
and strengthening our community.

How you can benefit from the Portal:

- **You met someone at Temple and would like to invite them to dinner after services on Friday, but you only remember their first name.**

The Portal can help. Simply search the directory by first name.

You can also search by zip code to find someone in your area for a carpool, or by grade to see who is in your child's religious school class.

- **You want to observe your aunt's yartzeit but can't remember the date.**

The Portal has the answer. It lists the details of every yartzeit you observe.

- **You want to see what you've contributed to your temple over the last year.**

The Portal's got this. Your confidential billing and payment history is at your fingertips.

- **You recently changed your email address and want to make sure you continue to get Wisebytes and other temple news.**

The Portal makes that a breeze. Update personal information for yourself and your kids including emails, phone numbers, addresses and more.

- **You're out of checks and need to pay your membership contribution.**

The Portal's got you covered. You can now make all membership contribution payments online.

- **It's midnight and you realize you forgot to make a contribution in honor of your niece's bat mitzvah.**

You guessed it – the Portal can help. Donate to any Wise Temple fund whenever it comes to mind – day or night.

- **You're looking for ways to create meaning in your life:**

This may sound like a stretch, but the Portal can help with that too!

When you complete the Gifts, Passions, and Skills section of the Wise Member Portal, your talents, experience, and interests can then be matched with opportunities in the Wise Temple community, and you get the satisfaction of using your skills in a meaningful way.

3 reasons why you should enter your *Gifts, Passions and Skills*:

1. We care about each other. We support one another. We contribute to the sacred work of our congregation. And each of us plays an important role in this community.
2. When you share your talents with other congregants, you'll get to know people on a deeper level. Next thing you know, you've got a new friend, or two, or three.
3. You get the satisfaction of using your skills in a meaningful way. It seems we're all looking for meaning in our lives. Find yours here.

Think about your *Gifts*...

what can you bring to this space, to this community?

Think about your *Passions*...

what ideas mean the most to you?

Think about your *Skills*...

what abilities, strengths, and experiences can you contribute to the work of your congregation?

Access the Portal today.

www.wisetemple.org/memberportal

Not Tech Savvy?

We can help.

If technology is daunting, simply call the office and we'll gather your information over the phone.

Distance-Wise

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



Rabbi Joel Mosbacher



Rabbi Andrea Weiss



Dr. Jonathan Sarna

You don't have to go far to learn something new. Live video interaction with the most renowned Jewish thinkers of our day. Speakers from all over the world, right here at Wise Center.

Can People of Faith Help Reduce Gun Violence?

Thursday December 13, at 7:00 PM

Rabbi Joel Mosbacher

The scourge of gun violence plagues Americans across our nation and across every demographic. Is this just the price we pay for being Americans? Will we stand idly by while more than 30,000 citizens of our nation die each year by gun? Explore one strategy for reducing gun violence in America—starting in Cincinnati.

Rabbi Mosbacher is the senior rabbi of Temple Shaaray Tefila in NYC. He is on the national strategy team of the Metro Industrial Areas Foundation, and is one of the national co-chairs of the Do Not Stand Idly By campaign.

American Values Religious Voices: 100 Days, 100 Letters

Sunday January 13, at 10:00 AM

Rabbi Andrea Weiss

Dr. Weiss discussed her highly innovative response to the emerging political landscape known as American Values Religious Voices: 100 Days, 100 Letters, which will be published by the University of Cincinnati Press this Fall.

Dr. Andrea Weiss is the Jack, Joseph and Morton Mandel Provost at Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion. Previously, she served as Associate Professor of Bible at the New York campus. She served as Associate Editor of *The Torah: A Women's Commentary* (URJ Press, 2008), which won the Jewish Book Council's 2008 Everett Family Foundation Jewish Book of the Year Award.

The Twelve Tribes of Isaac:

The Children of Isaac Mayer Wise

Sunday February 10, at 10:00 AM

Dr. Jonathan Sarna

Learn fascinating facts of Rabbi Isaac Mayer Wise's life and his descendants from an expert in American Jewish history and the chair of the American Jewish Archives in Cincinnati.

Dr. Jonathan Sarna is University Professor and the Joseph H. & Belle R. Braun Professor of American Jewish History and Chair of the Hornstein Jewish Professional Leadership Program at Brandeis University. He is past president of the Association for Jewish Studies and Chief Historian of the National Museum of American Jewish History in Philadelphia.



3 reasons why you should enter your *Gifts, Passions and Skills*:

1. We care about each other. We support one another. We contribute to the sacred work of our congregation. And each of us plays an important role in this community.
2. When you share your talents with other congregants, you'll get to know people on a deeper level. Next thing you know, you've got a new friend, or two, or three.
3. You get the satisfaction of using your skills in a meaningful way. It seems we're all looking for meaning in our lives. Find yours here.

Think about your *Gifts*...

what can you bring to this space, to this community?

Think about your *Passions*...

what ideas mean the most to you?

Think about your *Skills*...

what abilities, strengths, and experiences can you contribute to the work of your congregation?

Access the Portal today.

www.wisetemple.org/memberportal

Not Tech Savvy?

We can help.

If technology is daunting, simply call the office and we'll gather your information over the phone.

Distance-Wise

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



Rabbi Joel Mosbacher



Rabbi Andrea Weiss



Dr. Jonathan Sarna

You don't have to go far to learn something new. Live video interaction with the most renowned Jewish thinkers of our day. Speakers from all over the world, right here at Wise Center.

Can People of Faith Help Reduce Gun Violence?

Thursday December 13, at 7:00 PM

Rabbi Joel Mosbacher

The scourge of gun violence plagues Americans across our nation and across every demographic. Is this just the price we pay for being Americans? Will we stand idly by while more than 30,000 citizens of our nation die each year by gun? Explore one strategy for reducing gun violence in America—starting in Cincinnati.

Rabbi Mosbacher is the senior rabbi of Temple Shaaray Tefila in NYC. He is on the national strategy team of the Metro Industrial Areas Foundation, and is one of the national co-chairs of the Do Not Stand Idly By campaign.

American Values Religious Voices: 100 Days, 100 Letters

Sunday January 13, at 10:00 AM

Rabbi Andrea Weiss

Dr. Weiss discussed her highly innovative response to the emerging political landscape known as American Values Religious Voices: 100 Days, 100 Letters, which will be published by the University of Cincinnati Press this Fall.

Dr. Andrea Weiss is the Jack, Joseph and Morton Mandel Provost at Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion. Previously, she served as Associate Professor of Bible at the New York campus. She served as Associate Editor of *The Torah: A Women's Commentary* (URJ Press, 2008), which won the Jewish Book Council's 2008 Everett Family Foundation Jewish Book of the Year Award.

The Twelve Tribes of Isaac:

The Children of Isaac Mayer Wise

Sunday February 10, at 10:00 AM

Dr. Jonathan Sarna

Learn fascinating facts of Rabbi Isaac Mayer Wise's life and his descendants from an expert in American Jewish history and the chair of the American Jewish Archives in Cincinnati.

Dr. Jonathan Sarna is University Professor and the Joseph H. & Belle R. Braun Professor of American Jewish History and Chair of the Hornstein Jewish Professional Leadership Program at Brandeis University. He is past president of the Association for Jewish Studies and Chief Historian of the National Museum of American Jewish History in Philadelphia.





A TOUCH OF TORAH

—By Rabbi Karen Thomashow



Yes, historically speaking our ancestors battled other nations, but our true strength has always rested in the values of our people.

The Spirit of Study

The story of Chanukah is in fact a layered story. In its first description in the Book of Maccabees in the year 167 before the Common Era, the holiday is described as the re-dedication of the Temple following the eviction of the Jews during a war between the Hasmonean Dynasty and the Jewish Maccabees. You could say that the first time Chanukah is depicted, it is portrayed as a celebration of a military victory.

In its second description in the Talmud in the first centuries of the Common Era, the holiday is described as a spiritual celebration of God’s miracle in the Temple. Oil designated for the Menorah was so depleted that it would likely only last one or two days, but it lasted for eight. This second time that Chanukah is depicted, it is portrayed as a celebration of the spirit.

I believe that most of us privilege the second layer of the story in our own retelling each Chanukah. That in and of itself is an indication that stories of the spirit are especially heartwarming, moving, and inspiring.

The biblical book Zechariah explains the message in its own words, which we happen to read on the Shabbat of Chanukah: *“Not by might, nor by power, but by My spirit,” said the Eternal God.* (Zechariah 4:6) These words by the prophet Zechariah form a statement about what resources in our lives are truly powerful: our faith, our values, and our character traits. Yes, historically speaking our ancestors battled other nations, but our true strength

has always rested in the values of our people.

One of our values has been study.

“On three things the world stands: worship, loving kindness, and study.” (Pirkei Avot 1:2)

“The study of Torah leads to all of the other deeds.” (Babylonian Talmud Shabbat 127a)

“Don’t say you will study when you have free time for you may never acquire free time.” (Pirkei Avot 2:4)

The stories of Chanukah remind us that it is not our physical prowess with which we are to lead but rather it is our spirit and our values with which to equip ourselves. 🌍

A TALE OF TWO TORAH SCROLLS

All Torah scrolls start with Genesis and end with Deuteronomy, have the same 304,805 letters on 42 lines per page, and are scribed by a sofer, using a quill and special ink on parchment made from the skin of a kosher animal.

With all these similarities one might think all Torah scrolls are alike. But are they? Who was the sofer who toiled over those hundreds of thousands of characters? How did the scroll get from its point of origin to where it lives now? Who has dressed it? What rabbis, B'nai Mitzvah students, or others have poured over the holy relic, absorbing or sharing its wisdom? How have its words impacted the lives of its readers?

Many Torah scrolls are shrouded in mystery, with histories limited to the memories of their current caretakers. Wise Temple has accumulated a rather large number of scrolls (nine at Plum Street and five at Wise Center). Rabbi Lewis Kamrass figures the size of the collection is due to Wise Temple's age and a few smaller congregations that ceased to exist and brought their small number of members and their scrolls with them.

A recent inspection of our Torah scrolls determined that two of them were no longer "ritually fit". Rabbi Kamrass notes that even if one letter is unclear, it must be repaired or retired from use in worship. In the case of these two scrolls, repair was cost prohibitive, so it was decided they would go on permanent loan to Xavier University and to the Holocaust & Humanity Center. "This decision keeps the scrolls local and allows them to be used to great effect as educational assets. Everything about Judaism is rooted in Torah, so what better way for the community to learn about our faith than to see a Torah," says Rabbi Kamrass.

Why Xavier University?

"Wise Temple has a close, long-standing relationship with Xavier," explains Rabbi Kamrass. "A Wise Temple rabbi has taught there every year since Vatican II." Xavier is already in possession of its loan, which is thought to be 230 years old, and stylistically consistent with Bavarian Torah scrolls of that time period.

Ken Gibson, Xavier's Library Director, is enthusiastic about the loan: "Xavier University is honored to receive this wonderful Torah scroll. The size, age, and style are ideal to engage our students about Judaism's most sacred text. This Torah has also already been used for a Theology class as an

aid to teach students about the Jewish holidays. Beyond serving an important educational purpose, the Torah will help promote interfaith dialog and engagement among our wider campus community. A planned building renovation in the next few years will permit greater visibility to the Torah. We look forward to many future programs, classes and other opportunities where [this Torah] may make a difference in the lives of many, both educationally and spiritually."

Why the Holocaust & Humanity Center?

"The Torah loan to the Holocaust & Humanity Center will provide the community at large with exposure to the most representative icon of Judaism," Rabbi Kamrass points out. This Torah is thought to be 230–240 years old, on calfskin and in the "Bohemian" style.

Sarah L. Weiss, the center's Executive Director, has big plans for the scroll: "The Nancy and David Wolf Holocaust & Humanity Center is

honored to care for the Wise Temple Torah. As we prepare to relocate to Union Terminal, the city's most visited cultural site, we are excited to have a wider reach. It is our hope that the Torah display will

foster a greater understanding of Judaism in a public space that provides visitors with the resources necessary to learn more about the Holocaust. This will help ensure that visitors understand that Judaism isn't only understood from the context of the Holocaust, but also the richness of the history and future."

So for these two scrolls, their story, already hundreds of years old, will continue. We have been a part of their story, and now we can wonder who else might be touched along their journey. 



Mazel Tov...

Engagements:

Meryl Gruber and Bruce Maisel on the engagement of their daughter, Hayley Maisel to Kyle Fatoullah.

Renee and Rabbi Lewis Kamrass on the engagement of their son and **Anna Lee Kamrass** on the engagement of her grandson, Jared Kamrass to Emma Drongowski.

Karen and David Lefton on the engagement of their daughter, Nicole Lefton to Jay Short.

Weddings:

Joni and Gary Askin on the marriage of their daughter, **Lois Askin** on the marriage of her granddaughter, and **Herschell Levine** on the marriage of his granddaughter, Dana Askin to Jacob Hiudt.

Robbin and Chuck Dell on the marriage of their son, Alex Dell to Kristen Clegg.

Births:

Danielle and Ken Revelson on the birth of their granddaughter, Sloane Emery Rice.

Linda and Andy Berger on the birth of their granddaughter and **Betsy Berger** on the birth of her great-granddaughter, Lillian Elsener.

Jake and Miriam Hodesh on the birth of their daughter and **Gloria Lipson** on the birth of her granddaughter, **Pearl Aviva Hodesh**.

Condolences To...

Maureen Mason on the death of her husband, and **Jim and Suellen Mason** on the death of his brother, **Stephen Mason**.

Rachel Lyon and Chris Brown on the death of her father, Harvey T. Lyon.

Diana Herbe on the death of her brother, Jim Herbe.

Family of **Dolly Levine**.

Jacqueline and Spencer Konicov on the death of his brother, Barrie Konicov.

Teresa and Ron Hess on the death of her mother, and **Noah, Sami, & Hannah Hess** on the death of their grandmother, Rose Judd.

Linda and Brian Canteel on the death of her mother, Sandra B. Goldstein.

Stuart and Barbara Goret on the death of his mother and **Nicole and Alison Goret** on the death of their grandmother, Eileen Goret.

Barbara and Greg Sherman on the death of her father, **Julian Hirschberg**.

Fran and Arnie Stern on the death of her father and **Jo Anne and Scott Pennington** on the death of her father, Howard Bame.

Hildy and Bob Clayton on the death of her mother and **Stefanie and Josh Clayton** on the death of their grandmother, Helene S. Cohen.

Mary Ezra on the death of her husband, **Fouad Ezra**.

—“There is divine beauty in learning... To learn means to accept the postulate that life did not begin at my birth. Others have been here before me, and I walk in their footsteps. The books I have read were composed by generations of fathers and sons, mothers and daughters, teachers and disciples. I am the sum total of their experiences, their quests. And so are you.” —Elie Wiesel

Coming Full



LEFT: The Katzman family in Israel. Below: Josh, Alex, Katie, and Christine Katzman celebrate Rosh Hashanah at Wise Center.

With two school-aged children and a job as founder and publisher of *Halftime Magazine* (a print magazine and online platform showcasing the competitions, school spirit and traditions of the marching arts), one wonders how Christine Katzman finds time to learn anything new, let alone delve deeply into Jewish learning.

“I’m not sure if I love to learn because I’m a journalist, or I’m a journalist because I love to learn,” she muses. Christine, who wasn’t raised Jewish, began exploring Judaism long before she met and married her husband Josh, who was raised Reform. As a budding high-school journalist, Christine was involved in the student Holocaust/Genocide Project as the editor of the magazine *An End to Intolerance*. She was also part of a team of students who founded an international news magazine called *The Contemporary*, just when the internet was taking off, teleconferencing with students all over the world, including Israel. By the end of high school, Christine had established special friendships with Israeli students and developed a good understanding of Jewish faith, culture and history.

She had no idea that this Jewish beginning would become such an important foundation for her future. But it seemed a bit *b’sheret* (*meant to be*) when she met Josh their freshman year at Northwestern University. It wasn’t long before they were attending holiday services together at the campus Hillel and planning their Jewish wedding.

Christine’s childhood also involved a deep love of music. She began playing the flute at age eight, and proudly marched in the Northwestern University Marching Band, which gave her the once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to perform in the 1996 Rose Bowl, along with the inspiration for *Halftime Magazine*.

Christine and Josh fell in love with California on that Rose Bowl trip (he came along as an NU student and Wildcats fan), and a year after she and Josh married, they settled in Los Angeles. Josh traveled constantly, while Christine took care of the kids, got her MBA, and developed and produced *Halftime Magazine* along the way. She good-naturedly remarks that “I called myself a single working mom who was happily married.” 11 years later, they made the momentous

decision to move to Cincinnati. The move allowed Josh to transfer to an administrative job in his company, and spend more time with the family. It also placed Christine conveniently in the Midwest, in what she calls “the hot bed of the marching arts.”

It took no time for the Katzmans to become fully immersed at Wise Temple. Engagement in Jewish life with her family is paramount to Christine. Many of her learning experiences involve and revolve around the kids (Alex, 13 and Katie, 9), like the family programs and family retreats, which emphasize Jewish values and culture. She especially appreciates subjects focused on Jewish parenting, attending Danya Ruttenberg’s talk on “Nurturing the WOW”, and the Eitz Chayim Sunday Series “Nurturing the Faith of Your Child.” One of her favorite events was the Wise Journey Street Fair. “I love activities where people can connect,” she says. She feels that these connections nurture bonds of friendship based on common ground such as children’s grade levels.

Christine thinks fondly back to those first experiences with Jewish learning. The classmates she worked with on *An End to Intolerance* went to Israel as a group, but she was unable to go with them. She finally saw the City of Gold on the congregational trip in 2016. Experiencing that journey with her husband and kids helped her to realize she had come full circle.





Isaac M.
Wise Temple
ק.ק. בני ישורון

8329 Ridge Road, Cincinnati, Ohio 45236
www.wisetemple.org

Non Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Cincinnati, Ohio
Permit No. 1414

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

Founded in 1842 | **AFFILIATE:** Union for Reform Judaism

Board of Trustees

Elissa Habib, President

Stuart Susskind, Vice President

Sue Voos, Secretary

David Snyder, Treasurer

Julie Kantor, Executive Board Member at Large

J. David Rosenberg, Executive Board Member at Large

Gayle Warm, Executive Board Member at Large

Jon Chaiken, Immediate Past President

Lisa Cooper | Marcia Goldsmith | Hon. Brad Greenberg | Shelley Heinen

Phyllis Jackson-Murray | Howard Kaplan | Amy Magenheim | Andrew Markiewitz, M.D.

Ken Revelson | Sherri Weiss | Caroline Wells | Felicia Zakem

Claire Eichner, Sisterhood President

Joel Fogel, Brotherhood President

Karen Sim, URJ Representative

Past Presidents

Bruce J. Baker | **Amy J. Katz** | **Mark S. Kanter** | **Mitchell B. Cohen, M.D.**

Andrew R. Berger | **Deborah R. Herman** | **Suzanne S. Teller** | **Dianne M. Rosenberg**

Michael R. Oestreicher | **Lynn W. Warm** | **Patricia H. Passer** | **Peter M. Bloch**

James J. Friedman | **Richard Snyder** | **Louis J. Ullman** | **David J. Schiebel**

Robert Kanter | **Edward H. Saeks, M.D.** | **Jacob K. Stein**

Senior Staff

Lewis H. Kamrass, Senior Rabbi

Karen R. Thomashow, Associate Rabbi

Michael E. Danziger, Assistant Rabbi

Sally Harding Schott, Executive Director

Kari R. Fagin, Director of Member Engagement and Communication

Elana E. Perry, Director of Family Engagement

Temple Office 513-793-2556 | Religious School 513-793-2997 | Rabbinic Line 513-793-2559



We're Celebrating Isaac Mayer Wise's 200th Birthday!

Enjoy over a dozen learning opportunities and events in honor of the birthday of our founder, Rabbi Isaac Mayer Wise, born on March 29, 1819.

- Tuesdays with Torah
- Distance-Wise
- Religious School Programs
- Twitter Feeds
- Shavuot Sensation
- And more!

“During his lifetime Wise was regarded as the most prominent Reform Jew of his time in the United States. His genius for organization was of a very high order; and he was masterful, rich in resources, and possessed of an inflexible will.

More than of any of his contemporaries, it may be said of him that he left the imprint of his personality upon the development of Reform Judaism in the United States.”

—Jewish Encyclopedia

Look for this logo identifying Isaac Mayer Wise events.

