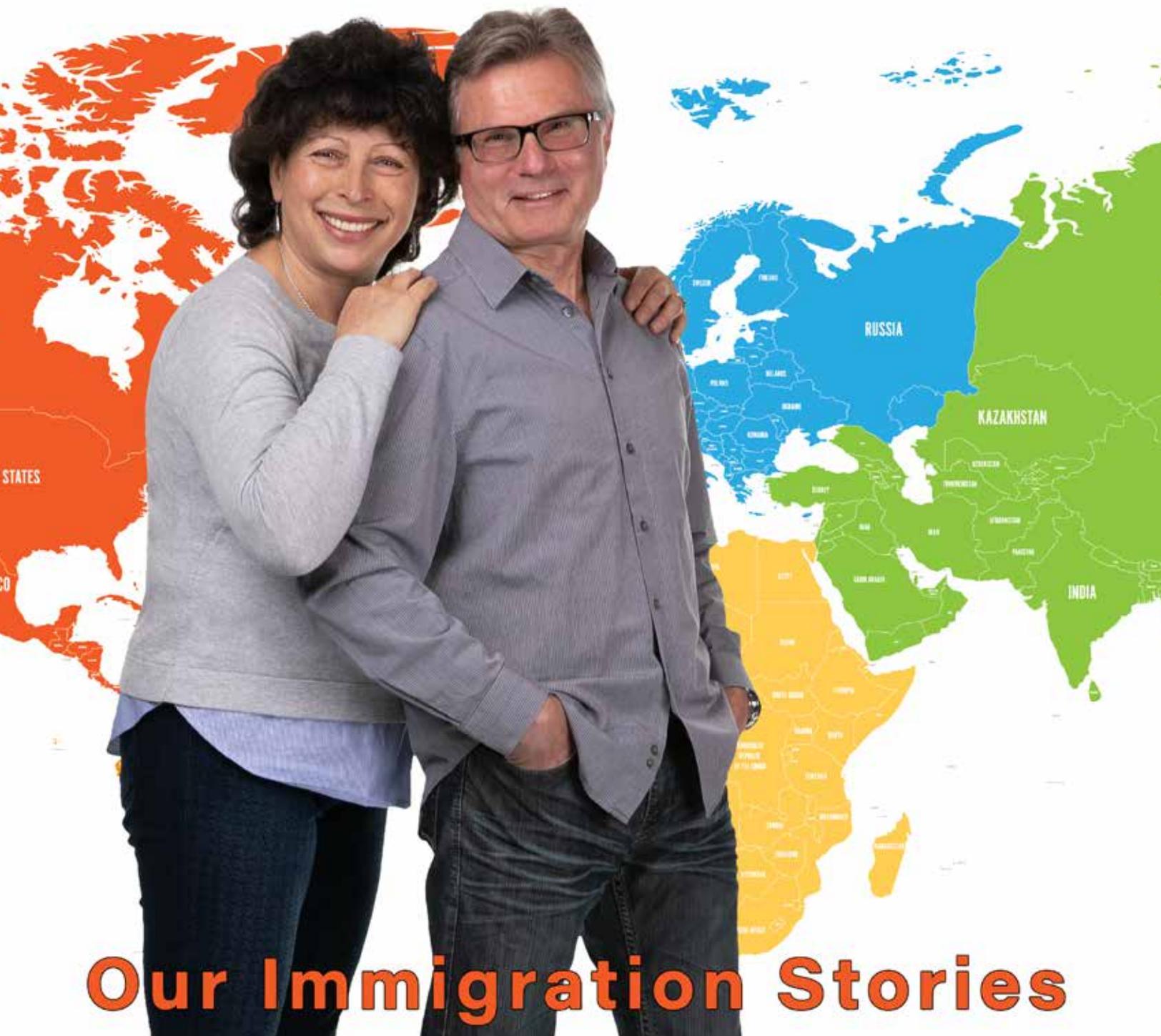


# Wise Temple Keshher

WORSHIP | STUDY | SOCIAL JUSTICE | COMMUNITY



## Our Immigration Stories



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**Lena and Boris Makutonin** both grew up in Moscow. They met at college where they were studying mechanical engineering. In 1989, when their daughter Julie was eight, the family immigrated to the U.S. They settled in Cincinnati, and a few years later their son Daniel was born. Their immigration was a blessing. The Makutonins became members of Wise Temple shortly after their arrival, crediting temple staff and congregants with helping them adjust to their new, different, and rewarding life in America.

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## From Rabbi Kamrass



D'varim Min HaLev דְּבָרִים מִן הַלֵּב

### Words from the Heart

–by Rabbi Lewis Kamrass

*“Remember...you were slaves in the land of Egypt.”*

These profound words are among the phrases most often mentioned in Torah.

They are brought to mind so often when we gather, such as in the narrative at the Passover Seder, or in our daily prayers throughout the year. Morning, noon and afternoon, weekday, Shabbat or holiday, the admonition of our prayers turns our collective memory to when we fled Egypt – fleeing slavery and turning spiritually toward a new beginning of freedom.

Our tradition consistently admonishes, reminds, and indeed, inspires us to recall that moment – not to live in the past, but to bring its wisdom into the present.

Remembering that we were slaves in the land of Egypt, fleeing for our safety causes us to:

- Link ourselves personally to our ancestors in a shared plight and shared destiny
  - Always cherish the precious gift of freedom
  - Have empathy for the plight of others who live without freedom and security
  - Lift up the values we hold dear and insist that the world affirm those values for all people
  - Personally feel the story, the journey, and the hope of our immigrant generations who left their homes and families for the promise of a better life here, which they have bequeathed to us
  - Feel connected to those who are fleeing their own “Egypt” today: refugees, immigrants, asylum seekers.
- Because we are all refugees, ours is shared human plight. When we link ourselves to their journeys and their hopes, we connect deeply on a universal human level and with accompanying spiritual insight.

We “remember that we were slaves in the land of Egypt” not to be historians, and not to dwell in the past, but to live our values boldly, passionately, and spiritually today, in a world in need of those who hold up the light of Torah, of human hopes and aspiration, of values that reach toward possibility for each generation.

That is why our Torah reminds us of this so often, and our prayers return us to the message of welcoming strangers into our midst. We can take great pride in our congregation’s efforts to work with new Americans being resettled in our community, not simply because it is an act of hospitality, but because it is the bold living of our timeless values, that began at the edge of the Sea of Reeds, and whose waves and wisdom still echo in the values expressed in our hearts, our souls and our deeds.

Faithfully,

הרב לב בן דוד וחנה לאה  
Rabbi Lewis H. Kamrass

## From the President



### From Where We Come

–by Stuart Susskind, Temple President

My parents and brother arrived in the United States in 1939, leaving

their home in Cologne, Germany. I was about eight years old when I realized that, unlike many kids my age, I did not have any uncles, aunts, or cousins. Soon after, I began to understand why, as my parents explained that much of my family perished in the Holocaust. When my paternal grandmother was liberated from Theresienstadt, she came to live with us. Soon after, my maternal grandparents also arrived to live with us. There were three children and five adults under the same roof in a small house, but I was happy to be surrounded by the few family members remaining.

My parents were conservative in their religious practice in Germany; however, once they arrived in the U.S., grateful to be alive, they decided to practice a more traditional form of Judaism. They observed the Sabbath and all the other Jewish holidays, which meant on those days closing the business they started. And I was kept out of school for two days at the start and the end of each holiday.

As I grew older, I felt an obligation not to wander from the religious practices of my family, perhaps feeling the need to perpetuate what I had been taught. In honor of my lost relatives, I needed to keep alive the faith they would have practiced.

I was not exposed to Reform Judaism as a child, but as a married adult, I quickly became enamored with how nicely Wise Temple fit my religious needs. Fortunately, our children are continuing much of the Jewish heritage my wife, Terry, and I have instilled in them.

I will always remember my grandmother’s admonition that we should never take our religious freedom for granted. Being actively involved in Temple life (including regularly attending services and serving in leadership roles) is my way of honoring my grandmother’s words. I hope we all find ways to exercise our religious freedom through wholehearted participation in Jewish life here at Wise Temple – it is one powerful way to honor the lives of those who died in the Holocaust and those who survived and began again as immigrants in our country.

# Our IMMIGRATION Stories

Immigration is at the forefront of today's most important discussions. Here are three powerful stories of Wise Temple congregants born around the globe who immigrated to America with hopeful hearts.

## Never Forget

*Life in America is better than Conrad Weiner's best dreams.*

In 1941, when Conrad Weiner was just 3-½, he and his mother, uncle, aunt, and cousin were sent from their homes in Russian-occupied Bukovina, Romania, to a labor camp in the Ukraine. Conrad's father had been conscripted into the Russian army and died on the front line.

In this fraught time, Conrad was saved from death twice. His uncle Oscar alternated between carrying him and his older cousin on the march to the camp. Anyone who couldn't keep up was shot on the spot. At the camp, Conrad once became desperately ill, and his mother was urged to let him die, but she fought for his survival, climbing a cherry tree to make him a tea brewed from twigs and stems.

"I remember always being very hungry and very cold; I remember people being sick and dying all around us; and most of all, I remember my mother struggling to keep me alive." Conrad was eight when WWII ended and the camp was liberated.

During the chaos that followed, they wandered, rejected, from place to place. Israel was not yet born.

Most countries refused refugees, but finally Conrad, his mother, uncle, aunt, and cousin were repatriated to Romania, resettling in his grandfather's

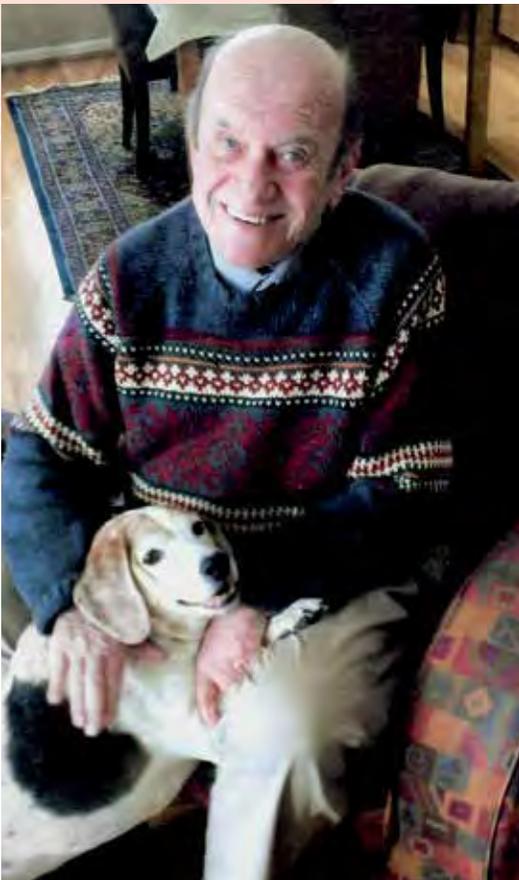
half-destroyed house with other family survivors.

Conrad's mother remarried and they moved to Arad in Transylvania. Conrad did well in high school, but college wasn't possible - he was Jewish and considered a "bad risk", with relatives in both Israel and the U.S. His only option was the trades, and luckily, he secured an entry level position in a clock factory.

Conrad's stepfather's parents lived with them, and were too old to travel, so they stayed in Romania, as Jews all over Europe flooded into the newly-founded Israel. Then the borders closed, and for 14 years, Conrad annually petitioned the Romanian government for exit visas. In 1960, Conrad and his parents were sponsored by a distant in-law in Pittsburgh.

"When we finally arrived in the United States, it was an indescribable feeling to actually see the Statue of Liberty, not just on a postcard. I felt like a bird spreading my wings. I just felt free."

Conrad began learning English (one of the five languages he now speaks), and in 1961 was drafted into the U.S. Army. He was happy to pay back Uncle Sam. "The Army, in their wisdom, of all the places in the world, sent me to Germany. But it was a wonderful experience. I knew the language, formed lifelong friendships, and didn't experience any anti-Semitism. I learned the difference between the Nazis and the Germans of the day."



Conrad with his favorite dog, Mr. Hound.

# Photos Are Her Prized Possessions

After the army, he moved to Cincinnati and the gifts of American life began to manifest. He met his wife, got two degrees, and began a successful career. "Coming to the United States turned out better than I imagined in my best dreams. I have two sons, college educated and on their own, two beautiful granddaughters, and a comfortable life, all because of the opportunities we had in America."

Today, Conrad travels the region, speaking about the Holocaust for the Holocaust & Humanity Center, where he says he gets a more engaged response from gentile kids than Jewish kids. "Maybe they're over-exposed or just trying to get over it, but I try to help all kids understand that indifference can do as much damage as hate, and that they should actively stand up for what's right."

"I agreed to start sharing my story 13 years ago. I was substitute teaching and a student who learned I was from Europe asked if I had met Hitler. I responded that Hitler and I traveled in different circles. The student then asked what I did during the war, so I told him I was in a concentration camp. In total seriousness, the kid asked, 'What were you concentrating on?' He truly had no clue. This was at a school that prepares our future leaders. I knew then that I had to start telling my story." Conrad has given hundreds of presentations about his experience, including to a two-night crowd of 1000 Kentuckians where he stayed for an extra hour to answer endless questions from those eager to learn.

His recollections, bolstered by the memories his mother, aunt and uncle shared at Friday night family dinners once they were gathered the U.S., are a haunting reminder to us all. His family admonished him, with tears in their eyes, to "Never forget, never forget."

*Ora Forusz wouldn't change a thing about her life.*

At age 13, Ora left Israel with her family and immigrated to Montreal, Canada. But she boarded the plane with a secret. Tucked inside her underwear, hidden from security and from her mother, were three black and white photos. "I was forbidden to take pictures with me. It was just after the 1948 Israel War, and there was concern that there may be things in the background that were not to be seen." But Ora couldn't resist taking a little of her childhood with her – a childhood she describes as fully Jewish, joyous, and special. She reminisces as she delicately points out each person in the treasured photos and recounts her memories of them.

This move to Montreal was not Ora's first experience leaving her life and possessions behind. Her father's jobs in the sugar cane industry, and even one in the American Embassy, were a mystery to Ora, but his employment took their family all over the world. Born in Jerusalem, Ora was first uprooted at age two when her family moved to Argentina. Later, they settled in Chicago, then feeling the pull of home, they returned to Israel. It was there that she, her mother and sister struggled through the 1948 War of Independence, while Ora's father was away in Italy. "It was rough during the war. I had friends and a teacher who were killed. That could have been me – I was saved by a neighbor when a bomb landed where I had been playing."

After Montreal, Ora made her last big move with her husband and first child to the U.S. for his job. At each move, Ora felt she was going to something, not running from something. And she speaks passionately about the people who were there to help with every transition.



*continued on page 6 >*

# Grateful Every Day

*Monique Rothschild was a babe in arms during her perilous journey to freedom.*

## How It Began

My parents were German Jews who didn't know each other in Germany. Coincidentally, they both left Germany on the same day in 1933. As fierce Libertarians, they left for freedom of expression, after seeing overt signs of Nazism. My father, a renowned journalist who had openly criticized Hitler, was even on a watch list. They each went to Paris, where many intellectuals went, and met at a literary cafe.



Everything changed when Germany invaded France in 1940. Starting in late 1939, my father was sent to a series of labor camps in France. At first my mother lost touch with him; after finally locating him, she stayed in a town close to the camp so they could be together whenever possible. I was born in 1940 and shortly thereafter, my parents made plans to flee Europe.

## Into the Night

My father had heard of Varian Fry, an American who rescued hundreds of writers and painters including Chagall. My father and mother must have had help from Fry to get across the border. My mother walked across the Pyrenees into Spain to catch a ship to freedom. My father was in a disciplinary camp, so my mother made the trip alone, carrying me across this dangerous

terrain in the night. Fortunately, the ship was delayed and my father, with help from HIAS, was released from prison and able to join her before the ship took sail.

## A Parent's Protection

My parents and I boarded this notorious freight ship, SS Navemar, along with 1,120 other refugees, although the ship was built for just 15 passengers. The bunks were up the wall in unventilated holds, there was no sanitation, little water, and even less food. We traveled like this for 52 days from Spain to Bermuda to Cuba and finally arrived in NYC. People died but somehow, we survived.

## Unconditional Love

My fervent childhood dream was to know my grandparents (who were killed by the Nazis), not just for myself, but because I knew the only thing that would ever make my mother happy again was to have her mother back. My mother always had a big smile, but sad, sad eyes.

## Nostalgia

At the dinner table, I spoke English, my father spoke German, and my mother spoke French because she said she would never ever speak German again as long as she lived. Yet, I know she missed Europe. Immigrants, even those who fled the Nazis, are nostalgic in a way. I find this nostalgia very strange and yet understandable. Home is home, right? I was born in France and although I didn't grow up there, I feel at home when I'm there. I know there were collaborators and that my father was in camps there, but kind French people helped save our lives.

## An Immigrant Perspective

Being an immigrant was embarrassing to me. We were poor. My clothes were hand-me-downs. I was always conscious of being an immigrant, of feeling less somehow. That was me then, and it still is me to an extent. I can look at myself and say I've accomplished a lot and that I'm no longer living in poverty. But I'm still careful. The United States didn't really want us, the Jewish refugees. I'm grateful every day to be one of those who got in.

## Prized Possessions *continued from page 5*

"When I arrived in the U.S., I walked into an apartment with my baby in an unfamiliar country and I just started to cry. The apartment owner said to me, 'Stop it. If you need anything, I'm your mother here.' That's all I needed – just someone to say they'd be there for me." In addition to the support of others, Ora's positive personality helped her with the immigration process. "You could drop me anywhere and

I'd be comfortable." Maybe it's no coincidence that Ora's second career (after first being a chemist and a mom) is as a realtor, helping people, often Israelis, find their homes here. Ora also found new love and has been married to her husband Harry Dornheggen for 21 years.

Ora's positive attitude isn't because her life was easy. She had a lifetime of leaving possessions and people

behind and the biggest blow came in 1989 when her husband died, leaving her with four young children. But Ora is resilient. The very next week she dove into realty full time in order to support her kids. "Even with these challenges, I wouldn't change anything about my life," Ora says as she cradles the black and white photos from Israel in her palm and their memories in her heart.

# ARE YOU READY FOR SOME FOOTBALL?

## TAILGATE SHABBAT IS BACK!

Hey, all you Buckeyes, Bearcats, Hoosiers, Wildcats, Redhawks, Wolverines, Bengals and even Steelers fans! Whether you shout "Who Dey" or "O-H...I-O" or something else entirely, huddle up for Tailgate Shabbat!

Wear your favorite jersey or spirit wear to Shabbat services. Then head out back for an evening of spirited but friendly tailgate fun. Show off your cornhole skills, your touchdown dance, or your perfect spiral.

Not a sports fan? This event is for you too. Swapping stories of our alma maters is a great way to make friends.

\$8/person for an unforgettable tailgate spread cooked up by the Brotherhood. Tailgate treats provided by the Sisterhood. \$4 additional/person (age 21+) for beer.

**RSVP:**  
[wisetemple.org/tailgate](http://wisetemple.org/tailgate)

Friday, August 23

6:15 PM Casual Shabbat Service

7:15 PM Tailgate



### GOT SPIRIT GEAR? WE NEED YOU!

Be part of the fun by setting up your spirit gear at the event. Call Alex Burte (513-793-2556) who will make sure you have the space to show off your team pride.



## Celebrate Shavuot

**Saturday, June 8 | 7:30 PM**  
Wise Center

Following a brief, meaningful erev Shavuot service, join Rabbis Kamrass, Thomashow, and Danziger for a dessert buffet and Torah study.

**Study Topic:** What part of our rabbinate is inspired by Rabbi Isaac Mayer Wise?



In this final event of the 200th birthday season of Rabbi Isaac Mayer Wise, our rabbis will each teach about, and reflect upon, an aspect of Rabbi Wise's legacy that inspires them in their work and informs 21st century Reform Judaism in Cincinnati and America today.

**RSVP:** [wisetemple.org/shavuotsensation](http://wisetemple.org/shavuotsensation)

### Shavuot, Adult B'nai Mitzvah, and Yizkor Service

**Sunday, June 9 | 9:00 AM**  
Wise Center

**Join in community as we support our Adult B'nai Mitzvah Students!** At Shavuot Morning Service, the most recent Adult B'nai Mitzvah class will be called to the bimah to read Torah. After a year of learning Judaism and Hebrew, each participant will celebrate their own b'nai mitzvah, a ceremony that, for many reasons, they never had. Wise Temple extends a mazel tov to them all! Please join the class to celebrate at a light brunch following the service.

# your path to engagement at Wise Temple

With 737 Wise Temple events last year, there's no question that there's a place for you.

Perhaps it's in an area of interest or growth like worship, learning, or social action where congregants of all ages come together to share Jewish life. Check out the diagram at right for examples in each area.

Perhaps it's in one of the cohort programs where you can connect with others who are at the same life stage, experiencing similar milestones, and willing to share in your common joys and challenges. Statistics show that the greatest level of engagement happens in these ways. Check out the diagram below for how we've got every age/stage covered!

## Small Group Approach Yields Deeper Engagement:



WORSHIP



182  
Services

Shabbat Services:  
Regular, Alternative,  
Family Fridays, Shababa  
High Holy Days  
Holidays: Chanukah, Sukkot,  
Simchat Torah  
Shabbat Dinners: Tailgate,  
Wine Tasting

ADULT LEARNING



140  
Sessions

Torah Study | Distance Wise  
Downtown Lunch & Learn  
iEngage | Talmud Study  
Tuesdays with Torah

SOCIAL ACTION



63  
Programs

Wise Family Shelter (IHN)  
Sweet Cheeks Diaper Bank  
LaSoupe | Soup Kitchens  
Matthew 25 Ministries  
FreeStore FoodBank



Young Family



Family and Teen



NextGen



Empty Nesters



WiseGen



Sisterhood



Brotherhood

MULTI - GENERATIONAL

\* 125 Life Cycle Events  
\* 84 Religious and Hebrew  
School Sessions

COHORT-SPECIFIC

143  
Events

Pick your path(s) to engagement.  
With no shortage of options, perhaps you'll try just  
three new experiences this year. Perhaps you'll discover  
a new inspiration, learn something new, better  
someone's life, connect with a new person, share a  
common experience, or find a new community.

*We'll see you along the path.*

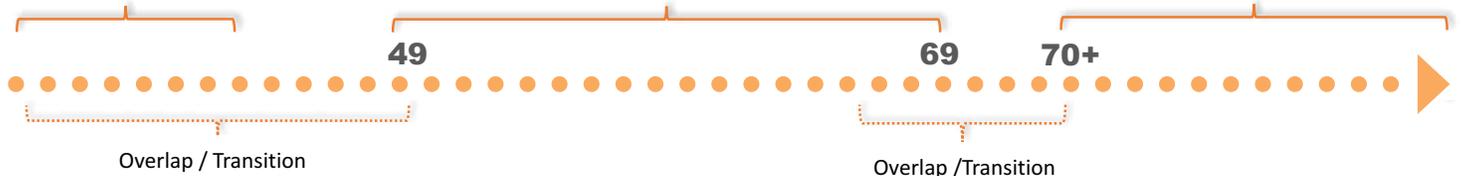


Empty Nesters



WiseGen

Parents of High Schoolers



# A New Life in the U.S.

Powerful immigration stories are plentiful at Wise Temple. Here are three more congregants whose stories help us understand the emotional and physical struggles of the immigration experience.

## I Came Here to Work

*Being Jewish is in Yan Krayterman's blood.*

It's impossible to tell Yan's powerful immigration story without beginning with his parents' stories, as they may explain Yan's incredible resilience, perseverance, and passion. When Yan's father was just six years old, his parents were killed in a Jewish pogrom during the post-Bolshevik Revolution Civil War. He and his brother somehow survived in the streets of Odessa, Ukraine. Yan's father went on to be a Russian Naval hero, who two times saved the wounded captains of ships that had been struck by enemy fire. Yan's mother was also left without a father when she was just a child. Her father was accused of anti-Soviet actions, arrested and sent to a GULAG camp during Stalin's repressions, where he vanished without a trace. The family was stripped of everything they owned and declared the "Enemies of the People".

"My parents were very smart people even though they had little education," Yan recalls. "They understood the devil's regime we were living under. They talk about what an anti-Semitic country we lived in. I remember when I was just three years old, Stalin died. Everybody in the country was crying – people needed to cry because they were afraid not to show support. In my family it

was celebration." From this early age, Yan knew what he could and couldn't say outside the home to remain safe. "All my life I was involved in political conversations and nobody told me that I shouldn't say anything. I just knew."

Despite experiencing extensive anti-Semitism and living in poor conditions (Yan and his family lived in one room of a two-room apartment), Yan excelled. "I graduated with gold medal, which is the highest honor in the Soviet Union for high school graduates. I'm not saying this to boost my value, but under the Soviets for a Jew to get this gold medal was significant." This led Yan to the prestigious Odessa Polytechnic University where he got a master's degree in heat transfer engineering.



After many attempts to emigrate from the Soviet Union, Yan, his mother, sister, and extended family finally received

permission to leave. "The Soviets would give to you with the right hand and the left would pull it back. So I didn't believe it." Despite his skepticism, Yan and his family got on a bus with dozens of others from Odessa to Slovakia, then took a train to Vienna. At the border, Yan got his first look at the three rows of metal fencing around the border. They were taken off the bus and kept outdoors in the August heat for two days – the elderly and infants suffering the most, and Yan's heart broke for them. Everyone was searched, some stripped naked. "All my life, 38 years in Soviet Union, was in two suitcases. They see that I dressed poorly, and they still ask, 'Do you have gold?' They ask why I didn't bring gold. I tell them, 'You need money to buy gold. This is why I'm leaving here. I want to live a normal life. Earn money. Buy gold if I wish.' This was my last conversation with Soviets."

In disbelief and overwhelming gratitude, Yan stepped off the train in Vienna to

# A Better Life

*Claudio Hanna is here to stay.*

begin his new life. At that point, he could have opted for placement in Israel. He was a young, single man who wanted nothing more than to express his Judaism without constraints, but his sister was set on America. She was afraid that if Yan went to Israel, their mother would go with him and she would never see them again. So, to keep his family intact, he chose America, a destination that would have made his father beam. His father's dying words were, "When are we going to America?"

Once in Cincinnati, Jewish agencies tried to set Yan up on welfare until he could learn English. "I told them, 'No. I came here to work!' so they got me a job as a bus boy. In a few months, I felt that I'm ready to present myself verbally and who I am professionally, so I sent resumé's and quickly received a job with the number one supplier of liquid hydrogen to NASA." Yan didn't stop there, soon he was recruited by P&G who became aware of his drive and expertise. As further proof of Yan as a bright and accomplished man, he later taught himself computer networking, which led to his current career in cyber security, where he is a sought-after expert in the industry.

Greater than his drive for career achievement is Yan's commitment to Judaism. "In Soviet Union, some wanted to forget they are Jews because it brought a lot of problems in life. But the Soviets would never let you forget you were a Jew. Here, it's easy to forget you are a Jew, but I don't ever want to forget. I want to be a Jew and I want my son to be a Jew. It's so much in my blood to be who I am and I want my son to carry it on."

**In a country** where military dictators ruled, a "better life" seemed an elusive, if not impossible, dream. But Claudio Hanna's father was intent upon just that. Claudio was six when his family moved from Buenos Aires, Argentina to Sao Paulo, Brazil. "My dad knew that at some point as we grew up, it would become more difficult for us. The opportunities are hit or miss. You can't just go to college, graduate and be anything you want." When Claudio was eleven, the family moved again, this time to Norwich, New York, where Claudio's father was offered a job.

Small town American life in Norwich was quite different for the Hanna family. Elementary-age kids walked to school unaccompanied, a new experience unlike big city life. No one in the family spoke English so the first year was devoted to learning the language. The introduction of the Apple computer and TV in English were great for that. With no public transportation, Claudio's mom learned to drive. Technology was also more prevalent, even at home. "My mom had to have someone teach her how to use the dishwasher, and we bought our first microwave. My mom and grandmother always cooked from scratch, so I thought frozen TV dinners were just awful."

Claudio recalls the many people who helped his family along the way, from English tutors to classmates shepherding them through the school day. "All this was done through volunteers helping us get established. Because so many people were supporting us, we immediately felt like a part of the community." A small conservative temple became their spiritual home, and Claudio and his sisters had their b'nai mitzvah there.

When Claudio was a college freshman, the day finally came when he and his family became citizens together, swearing their allegiance to the United States with other new citizens. "Recently, my son had to write a God, flag and country speech and I asked him if he wanted to see our American flag. It made me proud to pull out this enormous flag that was a gift to us the day we became citizens, and to tell him about this part of my history. I'll never forget the feeling that I was here to stay. We're loyal to the U.S. This is who we are."

After college, Claudio enjoyed traveling for work around the world. As an immigrant, travel is in his blood, but his home is the U.S. He moved to Cincinnati for a job and met his wife. "As important as it is to adjust to American life, I think exposing people to your culture is a great value to everybody. In our home, people get a taste of some Latin culture and Jewish culture. You should never lose a part of what you brought to the U.S. My wife has embraced a lot of our Latin and Jewish ways. So we keep mixing things up. I think that's what makes a reform community like Wise Temple so important. It's the perfect place for us and our kids, a religiously tolerant and culturally accepting American place."



Karen, Claudio, Matthew, and Mallory Hanna

# With \$5, a Wing and a Prayer

*Anna Lerhaupt's good life in America*



## Family Tree

Many Polish Jews survived Nazi annihilation by fleeing to Russia. My mother's whole family, due to her brother's foresight, escaped to Russia. My father was not so lucky, he was the only one of his whole family to flee Poland, and the only one to survive.

## Returning

In 1945, when the war ended, my mom's family (except for her brother who was sent to the "trud army"), came back to Poland. My dad also returned around the same time. Since it was not safe to settle in their home towns, completely depleted of Jewish population, most survivors went to few large cities, forfeiting their family homes and property. My parents ended up in Wroclaw, formerly a German city known as Breslau, much of it destroyed in the war. They married, and I was born in 1948.

## Jewish Life in Poland

After the war, the Jewish community in Wroclaw tried to establish a Jewish life for themselves and their children. Our

city had one of the few Jewish schools in Poland, which I attended through high school graduation. We were not allowed to learn Hebrew or have religious education. But we learned Yiddish, and Jewish history.

In addition to a Jewish school, for high holidays we attended a beautiful nineteenth-century German synagogue, "The White Stork Synagogue," which was not burned down by the Nazis, only because it was attached to office and apartment buildings.

The Polish Jewish community, with financial help from Jewish American organizations, organized sleep away summer camps for kids from all over Poland. That's how I met Jewish kids from other cities.

It all sounds very nice, but it was not always so. There were many instances of anti-Semitism including local kids calling us names or throwing stones at us. Life under communism was not easy. Not only were there food shortages, but anything of daily use was extremely hard to get. The black market flourished.

## Diaspora

From 1951 to 1956, emigration from Poland was not allowed. In 1956, coinciding with the Hungarian uprising, the borders opened, and most of my Jewish schoolmates immigrated to Israel. We were also preparing to leave, but my dad got sick and needed surgery. By the time he recuperated, the borders were closed again.

In 1967 – 1969, an "anti-Zionist" (anti-Semitic) campaign in Poland led to a second opening of the borders, and an emigration of most of the Jews from Poland.

We left in October of 1968; I was almost 20 years old. A Jewish agency arranged a work contract for my dad with a company in Cincinnati. My dad worked for this company until he retired.

Poles allowed emigrants to take only \$5.00 per person. My dad smuggled out an additional \$100. Jews emigrating from Poland were harassed and aggressively searched, so he was terrified. Luckily, the border patrol did not find this money, or he would have ended up in a Polish jail. We came to America with \$120. Poles also took away our citizenship. For five years, until we received U.S. citizenship, my family and I were stateless. We were refugees.

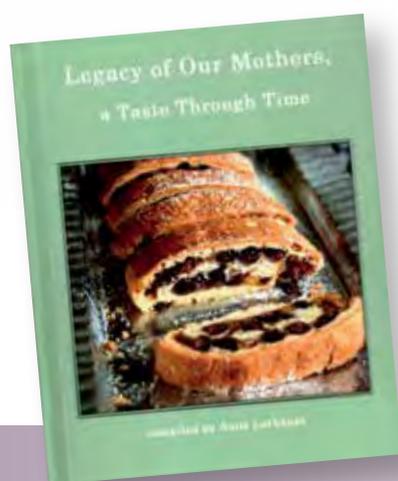
## A Good Life

I've been here 50 years. After arriving, I went back to school, graduated and got married. Later I got an MBA. I met my husband Ben, when I was here just three days. His background was similar to mine. His parents were Polish Jews, who fled to Russia, survived in Siberia, then relocated to Kazakhstan where Benny was born. After the war they came back to Poland, then immigrated to Israel. In 1967 Benny immigrated to the U.S.

We were married 48 years. Benny died suddenly last May. We have two

great kids. My daughter is a doctor here in Cincinnati; my son is a founder of a start-up in San Francisco. I have three wonderful grandkids, and a fourth on the way. I have a great group of friends with a long history, for some of us it's friendship going back almost fifty years.

“We worked hard to create a good life in America, one that would never have been possible in Poland. I truly love this country. From the moment I came here I realized what a treasure democracy is.”



Anna compiled a book called *Legacies of Our Mothers, a Taste Through Time*. Her family and friends contributed old world, Jewish or other cherished recipes of their mothers' and grandmothers', and included stories and memories attached to the recipes to pass on to their own children, so they would not be forgotten.

## Feeling inspired to make an impact on the life of an immigrant?

### Contact Wise Temple about the Refugee Connect program.

Opportunities to help include working with adults or with families on activities like assisting with college applications or resumés, exploring free community events together (the local library, parks, or entertainment), or providing instructions on technology (cell phone usage and translation apps). This important work helps refugees reach their full potential as individuals, families, and civic and community leaders.

Volunteer your time as an individual, couple, or family, or share the responsibilities with other Wise Temple members.

Greater Cincinnati has 25,000 refugees, with over 200 new refugees resettling to this area every year. This transition can be overwhelming, and success is largely dependent on their adjustment to cultural norms. You can help by mentoring these families in ways that help them thrive.



# B'nai Mitzvah

June 8, 2019  
Wise Center, 10:45 AM

Bat Mitzvah of **Carsyn Elizabeth Auer**  
daughter of Kurt and Dana Auer,  
granddaughter of  
Dr. and Mrs. Michael Lipson



August 24, 2019  
Plum Street Temple, 10:45 AM

Bar Mitzvah of **Samuel Jacob Smith**  
son of Michelle and Tom Smith

August 3, 2019  
Plum Street Temple, 10:45 AM

Bar Mitzvah of **Wyatt Parker Reece**  
son of Adam Reece and Jessie Kloos



August 31, 2019  
Plum Street Temple, 10:45 AM

Bat Mitzvah of **Samantha Pinsky**  
daughter of  
Michelle and Howard Pinsky

August 10, 2019  
Plum Street Temple, 10:45 AM

Bar Mitzvah of **Samuel Ploscowe**  
son of Dr. Jennifer Kaplan and  
Mr. Aaron Ploscowe, grandson of  
Susan and Rodney Kaplan



## Not Pictured:

June, 2019  
Service in Israel

Bat Mitzvah of **Zoe Abroms**  
daughter of Gabrielle Joubert  
and Eric Abroms

August 8, 2019  
Wise Center, 10:45 AM

Bar Mitzvah of **Conner Bain**  
son of Casey and  
Jennifer Bain

*Where are  
you headed?*

## Wise Temple GPS can direct you.

When you complete the **Gifts**, **Passions**, and **Skills** section of the Wise Member Portal, your talents, experience, and interests can be matched with opportunities in the Wise Temple community.

**What you get:** the satisfaction of using your skills in a meaningful way, of contributing to the sacred work of your Temple, and of connecting with others in your Temple community.

Access the Portal today. [wisetemple.org/memberportal](http://wisetemple.org/memberportal)

*Wise Temple Member Portal...*  
serving our congregants better, bringing people  
together, and strengthening our community.



## WIN a High Holy Days parking spot!

Anyone who has completed GPS for their entire household before August 31 will be entered to win.

# Holidays

## Erev Shavuot Service and Sensation

Saturday, June 8  
7:30 PM – 9:30 PM  
*See page 7 for details.*

## Shavuot Service with Adult B'nai Mitzvah, and Yizkor

Sunday, June 9  
9:00 AM – 10:00 AM  
*See page 7 for details.*

# Worship Services

## Shabbat Evening Services

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

## JUNE

- 7 Shabbat service
- 14 Shabbat service
- 21 Shabbat service with Board of Trustees Installation
- 28 Shabbat Service with birthday and anniversary blessings

## JULY

- 5 Shabbat service
- 12 Shabbat service
- 19 Shabbat service
- 26 Shabbat service with birthday and anniversary blessings

## AUGUST

- 2 Shabbat service
- 9 Shabbat service
- 9 NextGen@Wise Shabbat  
6:30 | Plum Street Temple
- 16 Shabbat service
- 23 Shabbat service with Tailgate to follow
- 30 Shabbat service with birthday and anniversary blessings

## Shabbat Morning Services

### Saturdays

9:30 AM Shabbat service  
10:45 AM Torah study  
June 1, 8, 15, 22, 29

July 6, 13, 20, 27  
August 3, 10, 17, 24, 31

## NextGen@Wise Morning Service

**Shabbat in the Park**  
Saturday, June 15 | 11:00 AM  
Offsite

## YoFi Shababa Services

August 24 | 10:00 AM

## Shabbat Morning B'nai Mitzvah Services

*See page 14.*

## Brotherhood

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

## Lighthouse Youth Services Dinner

Thursday, June 20  
5:30 PM, Offsite

## Monthly Meeting and Dinner

Thursdays | 6:00 PM – 7:00 PM  
July 11 | August 8

## Community

## Tailgate Shabbat

August 23  
6:15 PM Service  
7:15 PM Tailgate  
*See page 7 for details.*

## HUC Ordination

Saturday, June 1  
9:00 AM | Plum Street Temple

## Eitz Chayim – Adult Education

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

## iEngage

### Jewish Values and the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict

Rabbi Karen Thomashow  
Monday, June 3 | 5:15 PM – 7:00 PM

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.

## Downtown Lunch and Learn

1 East Fourth Street, 14th Floor  
**RSVP:**  
wisetemple.org/lunchandlearn

## Thomas Jefferson, Religious Freedom, and the Levy Family

Courtney Anthony  
Thursday, June 6  
11:45 AM– 1:00 PM

The Declaration of Independence may be Thomas Jefferson's best known document, but he also wrote and was equally proud of the Virginia Statute for Religious Freedom. This statute laid the groundwork for separation of church and state in the U. S., opening the door for Jewish citizens to participate fully in all aspects of American life. The prominent Levy family – including Uriah Levy, the first Jewish Commodore in the U.S. Navy – were so grateful to Jefferson that they purchased Monticello after he died and preserved it for the American people. Explore this fascinating story from our nation's history.

### Talmud Study Class

Tuesday, June 18 | 5:00 PM – 6:00 PM

#### Ancient Rabbis Reshaped Biblical Judaism

Rabbi Lewis Kamrass

The ancient rabbis completely reshaped biblical Judaism to respond to new needs and 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. While no prior knowledge is required, bring curiosity, questions, and a desire to learn deeply.

### Empty Nesters

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

### The Great Outdoors Hikes

Sunday, June 9 | 1:00 PM  
 Sunday, August 4 | 10:00 AM  
 See page 26 for details.

### Yappy Hour

Saturday, June 22 | 7:30 PM  
 Wise Center Field  
 See page 26 for details.

### Families

513-793-2997  
 wisetemple.org/familyengagement

### Religious School

#### Madrichim Orientation

Sunday, August 25 | 12:00 PM – 3:00 PM

#### Hebrew Connect

##### Family Orientation #1

Wednesday, August 28  
 5:00 PM – 8:00 PM

#### Hebrew Connect

##### Family Orientation #2

Thursday, August 29  
 5:00 PM – 6:45 PM

### YoFi (ages 0 – 5)

wisetemple.org/yofi

#### YoFi Shabarbeque

Saturday, June 8 | 11:00 AM – 1:00 PM  
 See page 24 for details.

#### YoFi Playdate

Saturday, June 29 | 3:00 PM  
 Cincinnati Zoo  
 See page 24 for details.

#### YoFi Summer Music Class

Sundays, 10:00 AM  
 July 14, 21, 28 | August 4  
 Blue Ash Summit Park Community Room  
 See page 24 for details.

#### YoFi Shababa Reunion

Saturday, August 24 | 10:00 AM – 11:00 AM  
 See page 24 for details.

### NextGen@Wise

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

#### Shabbat Services

Plum Street Temple  
 August 9 | 6:30 PM

#### Shabbat in the Park

Saturday, June 15 | 11:00 AM  
 Offsite  
 NextGen@Wise's June Shabbat moves outside for sunshine, spirit, food, and fun.

#### Study/Sip

Wednesday, June 26 | 5:30 PM  
 Offsite  
 Tradition is on tap as we gather around town for drinks and discussion, friends and fun!

#### Havdalah Cookout and Bonfire

Saturday, July 13 | 6:30 PM  
 Wise Center Field  
 Bring your cooler and a tasty side or dessert for summer fun, food, frisbees, and fire! We'll cook, eat, play, sing, and mark the start of a new great week!

#### Happy Hour

Thursday, August 22 | 5:30 PM  
 Offsite  
 End the day with some fun on the town with friends. Join us for food, drink, and friends!

### Sisterhood

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

#### Sisterhood Mah Jongg

Thursdays, 10:30 AM  
 Sherri Tieger: 513-821-8881  
 sherritieger@gmail.com

### WiseUP – Social Action Projects

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

#### Wise Family Shelter

*A Partner with IHN*  
 Sunday, June 2 – Sunday, June 9  
 Sunday, July 28 – Sunday, August 4  
 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. Share a meal with a family, play a game with a child, or be an overnight host.  
 Learn more and RSVP at [wisetemple.org/wisefamilysHELTER](http://wisetemple.org/wisefamilysHELTER).

#### Fatherhood Community Celebration

Sunday, June 16 | 10:15 AM – 12:15 PM  
 Sawyer Point  
 Assist Talbert House, the host of this free yearly event for dads and families as they enjoy a day of games and entertainment, arts and crafts, food and beverages, live music, sports activities and more.

#### Queen City Kitchen

Sundays | 10:00 AM – 1:45 PM  
 July 7 | August 25  
 1620 Vine Street  
 Hunger is a real problem for our Cincinnati neighbors. You can help by preparing and serving a warm meal.

#### The Giving Fields

Saturday, July 27 | 12:00 PM – 2:00 PM  
 The Giving Fields, Freestore Foodbank's community farm, depends on over 2,000 volunteers each season to plant, water, weed, and harvest the ten acres of crops. Great social action for families. All ages welcome.

### Miscellaneous

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

#### Alcoholics Anonymous Meeting

Tuesdays and Thursdays | 5:30 PM



# a touch of *Torah*

—by Rabbi Karen Thomashow

## *You know the Soul of the Stranger: We are all immigrants.*

I write this article during the season of Passover: the time of the year when we truly are obligated to see ourselves as if we went out of every difficult land and situation we've ever lived in—from Egypt to the Ukraine to today—and then traveled to every free place we've ever desired—from Israel to the U.S. to peace. One year ago, during Passover, I visited Ellis Island for the first time, and did so with my daughter, Alma.

On the ferry between the Statue of Liberty and Ellis Island, it occurred to me that I hadn't prepared my daughter for what she was going to visit and its special history. I decided to prepare her by sharing with her how three of my four grandparents came to America through Ellis Island; making her the great-granddaughter of immigrants to New York.

After we arrived, we stopped at a brief introductory video, which let out into the main hall of Ellis Island. Alma rattled off to me that she remembered learning in the video that the hall was built to accommodate 3,000 people to eat daily but that they ended up accommodating and serving close to 6,000. For a moment, we both pictured all of the people who came from Europe with dreams to make a better life in the U.S. and who were literally spending their first days on the way to finalizing those dreams in that hall.

And then I turned to my daughter and told her how I bet her great-grandparents, at that time, could never have imagined that their granddaughter and great-granddaughter would return together for a visit to that very room and remember them and their experiences. Just saying that out loud made me want to burst into tears! That thought was so moving to me.

When we read the biblical injunction “You shall not oppress a stranger, for you know the soul of the stranger, for you were strangers in the land of Egypt”, we are to be reminded of three things: immigrants require our support, immigrants are vulnerable until they aren't anymore, and we are all immigrants. In our tradition, we hold this up as a point of pride and a call to compassion. Let's teach *this* to all of our children.

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We are to be reminded of three things: immigrants require our support, immigrants are vulnerable until they aren't anymore, and we are all immigrants.

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Michael Schmerler  
at age 8

# The Bounties of America

*Michael Schmerler's vivid memories  
of coming to the land of plenty*

Eight-year-old Michael Schmerler stood in the produce section of an Ohio grocery store and marveled at the seemingly endless supply of fruits and vegetables.

His childhood experience reminds us all to be appreciative of all we have.

"People here complain about silly things, but they have no idea how bad it can be. In Poland, we had to be at the grocer at 5:00 a.m. to grab maybe one apple. I never even saw a banana in Poland, but here there were racks of them! The pleasures of America are so bountiful."

Michael, now in the U.S. for 60 years, solemnly recalls his family's life in Poland. "During the war, my dad wanted his family to run away from Poland but only he and his sister did. Everyone else perished in the concentration camps. My mom fled Odessa with her family when Hitler invaded Russia." After the war, Michael's parents met in central Asia but didn't stay in the area because work was hard to find. "Because my father spoke so many languages, I think they thought he was a spy and didn't want to give him work." Michael's parents moved back to Poland to a city that had been so destroyed that Michael remembers playing in the rubble as a child. "I also remember my father taking me on walks through a park where gypsies frequented. My father, who was an accountant, had a reputation of wisdom, so the gypsies would ask his advice about money, or the state of things in Poland, and he would advise them."

Michael's parents immigrated to the U.S. to escape Poland's anti-Semitism, not for themselves, but for Michael and his sister. "Being in Poland was difficult for Jews. My parents were called names and beaten up once when they were out for a walk. It was traumatic living there. But leaving was always about me and my sister, about giving us opportunities for a good life."

Once in the U.S., Michael seized those opportunities with both hands. First, he was placed a grade ahead of where he had been in Poland. "The principal said, 'What's the point? He doesn't even know English, so put him in the grade level for his age.'" With some support from some classmates and teachers who often stayed after school to help him with his English, he found his rhythm at school, which continued all the way through medical school. "My dad, having come to the U.S. with only 25 cents in his pocket, put me and my sister through college and graduate school, and I went through medical school. America is a blessed country. If you work hard you can achieve."

Achievement didn't stop with Michael. His kids' professions include a neurologist, dentist, and social worker, and his wife is a neuropsychologist. "I think we should dream, and fulfillment can come with hard work – there are no shortcuts. If you come here with good intentions and you work hard, the opportunities are here. This is still the greatest country that civilization has ever created."

Only once has Michael visited Poland since he left so many years ago. He and his sister were able to go inside their old home, now a law agency. Despite the remodel, Michael could still visualize where he and his father used to drag heavy coal up the stairs for heat. "I went there for the memories. I stood at the window where I remember seeing the Russian troops marching in the plaza below."

As Michael brings his thoughts back to the U.S., he articulates the power of his immigration experience. "I've been blessed. I've been lucky. America has been good to us. America is a good place to fulfill your dreams."



Michael and Jeanne Schmerler with their children and grandchildren.

# Mazel Tov

## Engagements

**Sally and Tom Schott** on the engagement of their son, Danny Harding to Taylor Hickey.

**Ann and Neil Wasserman** on the engagement of their daughter, Lauren Bernstein to Sean McGill.

**Julie and Rick Kantor** on the engagement of their son, and **Marlene Kantor** on the engagement of her grandson, Ryan Kantor to Lauren Ragins.

**Sharon and Mark Natarus** on the engagement of their son, Aaron Natarus to Lisa Nelson.

**Debra and Stephen Applebaum** on the engagement of their daughter, Paige Applebaum to Paul Bayens.

## Weddings

**Margo and Dr. Elliot Kirstein** on the marriage of their son, Evan Kirstein to Miriam Pertl.

# Condolences

**Stacey and Billy Bie** on the death of her sister, and **Mitchel and Reed Bie** on the death of their aunt, Davidah Walton.

Family of **Lenora "Nonie" Lehrer**.

**Gary and Nancy Grossman** on the death of his mother, Harriett Grossman.

**Deborah Kirshner-Heldman and Paul Heldman** on the death of her mother, and **Dr. Madeline Heldman** on the death of her grandmother, Shirley Kirshner.

**Marcy and Robert Klein** on the death of her mother, **Wendy Weil** on the death of her mother and **Jonathan Klein and Jay Klein** on the death of their grandmother, Edith Weil.

**Morry and Pat Passer** on the death of his sister and **Aaron and Breanne Greenberg** on the death of his grandmother, Loda Golos.

Family of **Ruth B. Miller**.

**Judy and Jim Foreman** on the death of his father, Richard Foreman.

**Trish and Scott Joseph** on the death of her sister, Martha Lucille Maxwell.

**Melissa and Scott Kadish** on the death of his father, and **Cooper Kadish** on the death of his grandfather, Gerald Kadish.

**Ted and Sharon Kleymeyer** on the death of his father, Jack Kleymeyer.

**Rachel Novick and fiancé Zachary Zeno** on the death of her mother, Linda F. Novick.

## Births

**Debbie and Dick Westheimer** on the birth of their granddaughter, Remey Ruth Westheimer.

**Robyn and Eric Lamont** on the birth of their son, Arlo Ezekiel Lamont.

**Rabbis Lindsey and Michael Danziger** on the birth of their daughter, Noa Julia Danziger.

**Melissa and Scott Kadish** on the birth of their granddaughter, Remi Leighton Kadish.

**Rabbi Julie Schwartz** on the birth of her grandson, and **Ida Schwartz** on the birth of her great-grandson, Irwin Eric Ballaban.

**Stefi and Dr. Gary Zola** on the birth of their grandson, Isaac Caleb Zola.

**Karen and David Hoguet** on the birth of their granddaughter, Claire Nancy Sneider.

**Margie and Chuck Kessel** on the birth of their grandson, Grayson Asher Kessel.

**Dr. Alan Weinstein** on the death of his mother-in-law, **Kristen and Mark Weinstein** on the death of his grandmother, and **Howard Mandell** on the death of his grandmother, **Betty Vigran**.

**Dr. Jeanne and Dr. Michael Schmerler** on the death of his mother, **Dr. David Schmerler** on the death of his grandmother, and **Dr. Andrea Schmerler Shapiro** and **Dr. Vladimir Shapiro** on the death of her grandmother, **Tatiana Schmerler**.

Family of **Edgar Nemoff**.

**Lisa and Dr. David Cooper** on the death of his mother, **Adam, Michael and Daniel Cooper**, on the death of their grandmother, Irene Cooper.

**Suellen and Jim Mason** on the death of her mother, Ruth Pleatman.

**Elaine Fink and Dr. Robert Shapiro** on the death of his father, Eugene Shapiro.

**Mimi Amazon** on the death of her sister, Sheila Shapiro.

**Marian Brown** on the death of her husband, **Albert "Buzz" Brown, Jr.**

**Mallory and Aaron Compton** on the death of his mother, and **Jayden and Asher Compton** on the death of their grandmother, Jill Compton.

Family of **Patricia B. Goller**.

**Teresa and Dr. Ron Hess** on the death of his father, and **Samantha, Hannah, and Noah Hess** on the death of their grandfather, Dr. Fritz Hess.

AS IN THE HEARTS OF THE PEOPLE  
FOR WHOM HE SAVED THE UNION  
THE MEMORY OF ABRAHAM LINCOLN

# Wise at work &



11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> graders visited our nation's capitol, learned the lobby process, and met with their congressmen and senators to advocate issues of their choice.



We slurped gallons of soup at the Chicken Soup Cook Off.



We sorted clothing and assisted clients at Dress for Success.



# play!

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

We kicked off the 2nd semester of Religious School with Pajama Day.



We helped parents and babies in need by packaging diapers at Sweet Cheeks.



Empty Nesters had a blast in the past at the 70s Dance Party.



We enjoyed a peaceful Shabbat through Mussar Yoga.



J.WOOT 67 and 8th@wise scored big fun on a trip to Top Golf.



## CONTRIBUTIONS

We acknowledge with appreciation...

Donate online at [wisetemple.org/donate](http://wisetemple.org/donate)

### Barbara Glas Critical Topics

#### In loving memory of:

Walter Glas by Janie Weinberg

Walter Glas by Susan Glas

### Bess Shavzin Library Fund

#### In honor of:

Birthday of Helen Benjamin by Mary Lee and Louie Sirkin

Noa Julia Danziger by Louise and Tom Wides

Speedy recovery of Julie Cohen by Harriette and Jim Katz

#### In loving memory of:

Ruth Pleatman by Marlene and Albert Shmalo

Tatiana Schmerler by Marlene and Albert Shmalo

### Donate Light

#### In honor of:

Hosting the Temple Sinai (Atlanta) 8th graders by Molly Okun

### Edward Kanter Fund for Innovation

#### In loving memory of:

Shirley Kirshner by Marcy and Mark Kanter

### Fine/Marshall/Allen Scholarship Fund

#### In honor of:

65th Anniversary of Barbara and Jack Klein by Inez Allen and Stefan Eckert

65th Anniversary of Barbara and Jack Klein by Margo and Alan Zeff

65th Anniversary of Barbara and Jack Klein by Jon Marshall

70th Birthday of Ed Loftspring by Jon Marshall

75th Birthday of Bill Gillman by Jon Marshall

75th Birthday of Bill Gillman by Inez Allen and Stefan Eckert

Birthday of Bill Gillman by Margo and Alan Zeff

#### In loving memory of:

Betty Vigran by Ann and Bob Unger

Betty Vigran by Jon Marshall

Edith Weil by Jon Marshall

Eleanor Payton by Ann and Bob Unger

Gail Berman by Sharon and Steve Marshall

Gail Berman by Abby and Matthew Masinter

Marlin Marshall by Jon Marshall

### General Fund

#### In honor of:

85th Birthday of Dick Kerstine by Judy and Shelly Zimmerman

#### In loving memory of:

Paul Weil by Michelle Weil

### Judith S. Carsch Library Fund

#### In honor of:

49th Anniversary of Gail and Fred Zeifman by Jean and Dave Simmons

50th Birthday of Ruth Carsch by Jean and Dave Simmons

Birthday of Jean Simmons by Gail and Fred Zeifman

Golden years of Ruth Carsch by Gail and Fred Zeifman

Susan and Robert Diamond by Mike Simmons

#### In loving memory of:

Barry Goldfarb by Jean and Dave Simmons

Bethany Schklar by Jean and Dave Simmons

Harriet Schiebel by Jean and Dave Simmons

Judy and Tom Carsch by Susan and Robert Diamond

Milton Schwartz by Alice Rosenberg

### Julian Vigran Learning Resource Fund

#### In loving memory of:

Betty Vigran by Mary Armstrong

Betty Vigran by Thelma Bergman

Betty Vigran by Julie and John Cohen

Betty Vigran by Claire Fleisch

Betty Vigran by Gail and Bill Gillman

Betty Vigran by Lois and Ronald Goodman

Betty Vigran by Cynthia and Steven Lowe

Betty Vigran by Eleanor Shott

Betty Vigran by Mary Lee and Louie Sirkin

Betty Vigran by Judy and Steve Stein

Betty Vigran by Lynn and Alex Warm

### Natalie Feld Floral Fund

#### In loving memory of:

Fannie Freedman by Rhoda Young

Sigmund Sachs by Lilo Sachs and Irene Bolnick

Yvonne Sachs Rosenfield by Lilo Sachs and Irene Bolnick

### Playground Fund

#### In honor of:

Playground Fund by Nancy and Marshall Macks

Tzedakah by Amy Susskind and David Weiskopf

#### In loving memory of:

Betsy G. Berger by Danielle and Ken Revelson

Sara R. Hirschberg by Danielle and Ken Revelson

### Plum Street Temple Historic Preservation Fund

#### In honor of:

70th Birthday of Ed Loftspring by Nancy and Howard Starnbach

80th Birthday of Barbara and Charles Glueck by Maxine Berkman and Ralph Buncher

90th Birthday of Dave Schiebel by Philip Cohen

98th Birthday of Helen Benjamin by Polly and Jacob Stein

100th Birthday of Ruth Schwartz by Frances and Lawrence Unger

Bat Mitzvah of Lily Kahn by Robert Liverman

Bat Mitzvah of Lily Kahn by Mary Lee and Louie Sirkin

Bob Kanter by Cindy Rovai

Isaac Caleb Zola by Mary Lee and Louie Sirkin

Isaac Caleb Zola by Jackie and Dick Snyder

Noa Julia Danziger by Ann and Neil Wasserman

Renee Kamrass by Ann and Michael Margolis

Retirement of Karen Hoguet by Macy's

Riley Postow by Ina and Ed Loftspring

#### In loving memory of:

Alan R. Mack and Richard J. Mack by Jackie Mack

Betty Vigran by Irene Block

Clarence Rosenberg by Laura Rinsky, Rob and Alice Rosenberg

Isadore Mervis by Jackie Mack and Ted Silberstein

Jim Hoffheimer by Irene Block

Jim Hoffheimer by Alice and Barry Lucas

Loda Golos by Karen and Eddie Saeks

Matty Bernstein by Karen and David Hoguet

Phyllis Novick by Ann and Neil Wasserman

Tatiana Schmerler by David Wernick

### Prayerbook Fund

#### In honor of:

90th Birthday of Dave Schiebel by Terry and Stuart Susskind

100th Birthday of Ruth Schwartz by Terry and Stuart Susskind

Birthday of Renee Kamrass by Terry and Stuart Susskind

### Rabbi Danziger Discretionary Fund

#### In honor of:

Hosting HMI at Plum Street Temple by Elida and Max Yamson

Noa Julia Danziger by Karen and John Sim

Noa Julia Danziger by Ida Schwartz

Noa Julia Danziger by Jackie Mack and Ted Silberstein

Noa Julia Danziger by Trish and Scott Joseph

Noa Julia Danziger by Carol and Ken Kabel

Noa Julia Danziger by Julie and John Cohen

Noa Julia Danziger by Mary Lee and Louie Sirkin

Noa Julia Danziger by Marcy and Mark Kanter

Noa Julia Danziger by Jackie and Dick Snyder

Noa Julia Danziger by Nancy Goldberg

#### In loving memory of:

Maureen Mason by Julie Pfeiffer and Family

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### **Rabbi Kamrass Discretionary Fund**

#### **In honor of:**

Grandchild of Renee and Lewis Kamrass by Nancy and David Wolf

Tzedakah by Ellen and Stewart Dunsker

Tzedakah by Jennifer Branch and Richard Bullock

Tzedakah by Richard Betagole

Tzedakah by Leshia and Samuel Greengus

Wonderful tour of Plum Street Temple by the Confirmation Classes of Temple Har Zion and Temple Solel

#### **In loving memory of:**

Betty Vigran by Dr. Alan Weinstein

Edith Weil by Wendy Weil and Marcy Klein

Harriet Schiebel by Jill and Kenneth Schiebel

Helen and Joseph Skilken by Lynne Skilken

Sara Hirschberg by Barbi and Greg Sherman

Sharon Stein by Marlene Kantor

Terry Mazer by Marla Mazer

### **Rabbi Thomashow Discretionary Fund**

#### **In honor of:**

Bar Mitzvah of Ben Hertzman by Glenda and Stan Hertzman

Compassionate teachings and guidance by Sherry and Mark Kaplan

Ruth Schwartz by Barbara and Spencer Fried

#### **In loving memory of:**

Edith Weil by Wendy Weil and Marcy Klein

Martha Maxwell by Trish and Scott Joseph

Natalie A. Levy by Ken Levy

Ruth Miller by Beverly and Stephen Truss

Walter Glas by Susan Glas

### **Renee and Rabbi Lewis Kamrass Social Action Fund**

#### **In honor of:**

Birthday of Renee Kamrass by Karen and David Hoguet

Birthday of Renee Kamrass by Elissa and Mitchell Habib

Birthday of Renee Kamrass by Mary Lee and Louie Sirkin

Birthday of Renee Kamrass by Marcy and Mark Kanter

Lewis Kamrass by Sharon and Steve Marshall

Renee and Lewis Kamrass by Mary Lee and Louie Sirkin

#### **In loving memory of:**

Matty Bernstein by Friends of the Melowsky Family

### **Soup Kitchens/Wise Family Shelter (I.H.N.)**

#### **In honor of:**

Speedy recovery of Julie Cohen by Carolyn and Stuart Lowitz

Tzedakah by Judith and William Lipsky

#### **In loving memory of:**

Alex Silverman by Joan and Marvin Silverman

Dina Walton by Carol, Ken, Grace and Hope Kabel

Harold Fine by Phyllis and Ray Fine

Joe Fine by Phyllis and Ray Fine

Leonora "Nonie" Lehrer by Barbara Banner and Spencer Michlin

Louis Schulman by Phyllis and Ray Fine

Marcelle Weil by Michelle Weil

Martha Lucille Maxwell by Carol and Ken Kabel

Nonie Lehrer by Judi and Mack Evans

Nonie Lehrer by Sue Voos

Richard Holtz by Margie and Glen Meyer

Tatiana Schmerler by Nancy and Barry Gibberman

### **Special Programs Fund**

#### **In honor of:**

Birthday of Cindy Rovai by Lynne and Bob Kanter

Noa Julia Danziger by Lynne and Bob Kanter

#### **In loving memory of:**

Bethany Schklar by Lynne and Bob Kanter

Wally Glas by Lynne and Bob Kanter

### **Wise Temple Youth Scholarship Fund**

#### **In honor of:**

Roselea Blumenthal by Gale Schmidt

### **Y.E.S. (Youth, Education, Special Projects)**

#### **In honor of:**

Birthday of Susan Melowsky by Margie and Glen Meyer

Birthday of Susan Melowsky by Karen and John Sim

Noa Julia Danziger by Nancy and Donald Seltz

#### **In loving memory of:**

Irene Cooper by Cynthia Forst

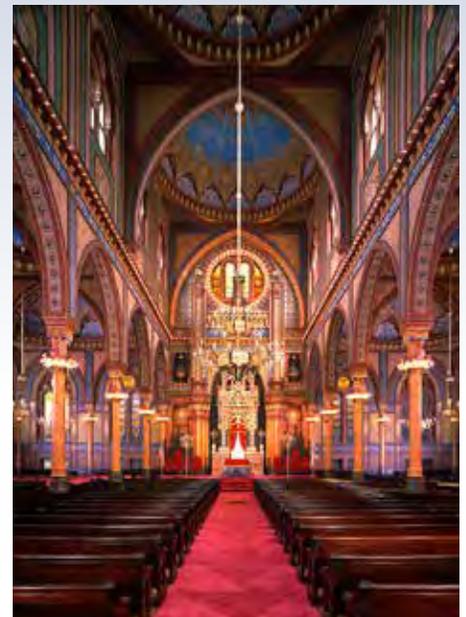
## Macy's Foundation makes generous contribution to Plum Street Temple in honor of Karen Hoguet

When long-time Wise Temple member Karen Hoguet retired as Chief Financial Officer of Macy's, Inc., after a full career of exemplary leadership, Macy's asked her to what organization they could contribute in her honor. With her characteristic quiet dedication to her native Cincinnati and to Wise Temple, Karen suggested the Plum Street Temple Historic Preservation Fund (PSTHPF). The Macy's Foundation, which contributed to past Plum Street Temple restoration efforts, generously contributed \$50,000 in Karen's honor.

This wonderful gift has many hometown connections, as it's from a hometown corporation, in honor of Karen, whose hometown is Cincinnati. Even closer to home,

Karen's husband, David, currently serves as the Board President of the PSTHPF. Karen and David's children, Jennifer and Laura, were raised at Wise Temple and celebrated many life cycle events at Plum Street Temple.

Karen was deeply touched by Macy's generosity and their decision to honor her in this way. The PSTHPF will put Macy's \$50,000 gift to use in its endowment fund, the sole source of the ongoing preservation and maintenance of Plum Street Temple. Its most recent project involved plaster repair, some painting, and the installation of 1,000 new LED lights throughout the sanctuary to better illuminate Plum Street Temple's beauty, and to be more environmentally friendly.



Thanks to Karen for keeping Wise Temple and Plum Street Temple on her key places for charitable giving.

# A SPECIAL YOFI FUN-FILLED SUMMER!



**YoFI Summer Jewish Music Class**  
Sundays, 10:00 AM  
July 14, 21, 28 | August 4  
Blue Ash Summit Park Community Room

Angelo Dunlap, Early Childhood Musician and Teacher returns for a summer Jewish music class series that combines singing, moving, and pure joy. This is a great way to meet up with other young families and make new friends. Geared to newborns through age 4, the class is open to the entire community, including grandparents and siblings, members and non-members. A to-go snack will be provided at the end of each morning. **RSVP:** [wisetemple.org/yofisummer](http://wisetemple.org/yofisummer)



**Shabarbeque**  
Saturday, June 8  
11:00 AM – 1:00 PM  
The New Wise  
Center Playground

**Hey kids: The new playground is open and ready for fun!**

It's the third annual YoFI Shabarbeque – a wonderful way to kick off the summer with other young families in a casual environment. We'll have a BBQ lunch for all. Please bring a nut-free appetizer or dessert to share. **RSVP:** [wisetemple.org/shabarbeque](http://wisetemple.org/shabarbeque)

**YoFI Playdate at the Zoo**  
Saturday, June 29 | 3:00 PM – 5:00 PM  
Cincinnati Zoo & Botanical Garden  
3400 Vine St., Cincinnati, 45220

Meet outside the zoo shop for this YoFI Shabbat afternoon of fun. Enjoy a snack and scavenger hunt around the zoo in small groups. **RSVP:** [wisetemple.org/playdatezoo](http://wisetemple.org/playdatezoo)



**YoFI Shababa Reunion**  
Saturday, August 24 | 10:00 AM  
Wise Center

YoFI Shababa returns after a brief summer hiatus. We'll sing, pray and celebrate together with a post-service sweet summer treat.



## Sisterhood Gift Shop

**Special gifts for...**

Confirmation | Graduation  
Wedding | House warming | B'nai Mitzvah  
Holiday | Just because

Jewelry | Assorted Judaica  
Unique gifts for kids (Jewish music, games, toys, and books)

**Gift Shop Hours:**  
Tuesdays and Thursdays  
9:30 AM – 1:30 PM  
Always available with  
an appointment



## Top Notch Programming:

Rich experiences that feed your mind, body, and spirit.



# WiseGen

A NEW INITIATIVE FOR THOSE AGE 70+!



## Convenient Times:

Whether you're in the midst of your career or your retirement, these evening and weekend events will fit your busy schedule.



## Common Bond:

We're at a similar stage of life (focused on travel, grandkids, downsizing, finding meaning in our lives, health, or aging parents.)

It's nice to be a part of a community that celebrates similar milestones and supports each other during similar challenges.



**Active Community:** Whether you grew up here or are new here, this is your chance to connect... to share your life with old and new friends, to be a part, and try it out.



## Kick Off Event

The songs and stories of legendary folk singer Pete Seeger

Sunday, September 15 at 6:45 PM

Allan Winkler will play Seeger's songs, tell stories of Seeger's life, and anchor it all in important historical moments like civil rights, labor, anti-war, and environmental movements. Allan will bring to life the creation and impact of songs like "Turn! Turn! Turn!", "Where Have All the Flowers Gone?", and "If I Had a Hammer."

Allan is a congregant, retired history professor, and musician who worked directly with Seeger to write his biography. Allan sat in Seeger's kitchen, talked about how his songs became the anchor of activism, and even had the honor of playing music with Seeger.



## Sneak peek at other planned events:

Challah Bake with a Twist, Chanukah Bash, Social Action Plus, Sukkot Hike, Surprise Speaker, Year End Party, and more!

## Created for WiseGen by WiseGen

Thanks to these congregants who put this initiative in motion and can't wait to see you at the WiseGen events they've planned for the coming year: Peter Bloch, Kathy Claybon, Rich Moschel, Anne Pinales, Nancy Postow, Danielle Revelson, Ken Revelson, Cindy Rovai, Jeanne Schmerler, Marlene Shmalo, Terry Susskind, Allan Winkler.



LOOK FOR UPCOMING PUBLICITY WITH THE NAME OF:



WiseGen

70+: Experienced. Awesome. Ageless.

We will continue to build bridges across multiple generations through hundreds of multi-age offerings (see page 8), but community also happens with people of similar ages and stages. Wise Temple is excited to put new energy to the WiseGen group!

Photography by MJS Photography Limited

# A Summer to Remember

for Empty Nesters and Soon-To-Be Empty Nesters



## YAPPY HOUR

Bark & Beer,  
Wag & Wine

*A dog friendly evening of fun and friendship*

**Saturday, June 22 | 7:30 PM**  
Wise Temple Field

Bring your dog, or just yourself (no dog required).

Enjoy wet noses, soft ears, adorable faces, and the most natural conversation starters ever – dogs!

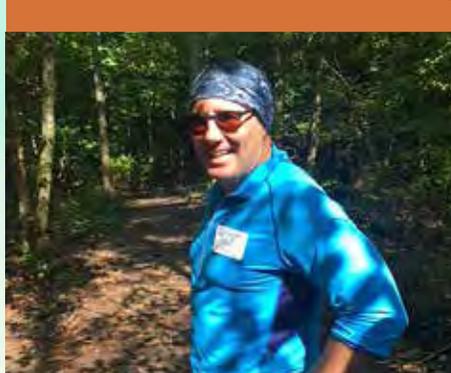
There's no better way to make new friends than to have a dog break the ice.

Stick around for a super short "Have Doggie Havdalah" service and kibitzing by the bonfire.

Friends, drinks, laughs, and storytelling: the stuff summers are made of.

\$5/person includes beer, wine, snacks, and all the unconditional love you can handle.

**RSVP:**  
[wisetemple.org/yappyhour](http://wisetemple.org/yappyhour)



## THE GREAT OUTDOORS HIKES

**Sunday, June 9 | 1:00 PM**  
**Sunday, August 4 | 10:00 AM**

Over the last year, Empty Nesters have hiked Caesar's Creek, Yellow Springs, Shawnee Lookout, Eden Park, Mt Adams, Glenwood Gardens, Liberty and Prospect Hills, and Alms Park.

They've witnessed waterfalls, city views, wildlife, and how nature can bring people together.

**Where will they go next?  
Will you join them?**

**RSVP:**  
[wisetemple.org/hikejune9](http://wisetemple.org/hikejune9)  
[wisetemple.org/hikeaugust4](http://wisetemple.org/hikeaugust4)

**Empty Nesters:** Those whose kids have recently or fairly recently left the nest. And those who did not have kids but are of a similar age (49-69).

**Soon-to-be Empty Nesters:** Your kids are in high school so you're almost there!



## SUMMER CAMP: ADULT TAKE OVER!

It's gonna be

**EPIC!**

**Saturday, September 7 | 9:15 AM**  
through **Sunday, September 8 | 11:00 AM**  
Camp Livingston

**A summer camp experience- adult style, where you choose your fun and no one tells you "Lights Out!"**

- › **All Things Camp**  
(camp-style services, campfires, song sessions, surprises!)
- › **All Things Ropes**  
(course challenges)
- › **All Things Sports**  
(archery, tennis, kickball, volleyball)
- › **All Things Nature and Spiritual**  
(hikes, yoga, meditation)
- › **All Things Water**  
(waterfront relaxation, paddle boarding, aqua park, kayaking)

**MAKE YOUR KIDS**

**JEALOUS!**

Register at [wisetemple.org/adultsummercamp](http://wisetemple.org/adultsummercamp)

# A Simple Mitzvah

Karina Kogan is grateful for her community and her religion

## Judaism as a Label

I grew up in Korosten, Ukraine, where anti-Semitism was prominent, so my parents didn't have the job opportunities they should have. The kids, and even teachers in my school picked on Jewish kids, telling us we're nothing and we should go live in Israel. I could never understand where the hatred was coming from because I was born in the Ukraine just like the other kids. But to them, I wasn't Ukrainian; I was Jewish. As a communist country, nobody was allowed to practice religion, so I didn't even know what being Jewish meant until I was in high school. It was frustrating to be treated differently, but not be allowed to practice the religion that made me different.

## To Not Be Scared

My parents became motivated to move when my older brother turned 21 and was about to go into the Ukrainian army, a really bad idea for a Jewish boy. I was finishing high school. My parents wanted us to have a better life and better future, and not be scared to be Jewish.

## Defining Moment

I went to my high school to get my diploma and the principal sat me down and asked "So, what are your plans?" I was a straight A student, but told him I wasn't applying for college because we were moving to America. He looked at me, this man who knew me my whole life and said, "Karina, I'm so happy for you – as a Jew, you wouldn't have been able to get into college here." This was a defining moment for me. I was so happy my parents were taking

me out of that country because it still didn't make sense that I could do well academically and not get into college in the country where I was born. I became hyper-focused on going to college in the U.S. (Karina got both an undergraduate degree and her MBA).

## A Mitzvah to Remember

There was a Jewish community in Erie, Pennsylvania that heard about a Jewish family who wanted to come to America. They decided as a community to do an amazing mitzvah – they brought this family (my aunt, uncle, and cousins) to

to live and everything we needed. We had more than we ever had in the Ukraine. Twenty-five years later, my dad still works at a job he got through someone from the temple.

## Attitude of Gratitude

I'm so glad to be in America. You can choose who you want to be. You want to be Jewish, you can be Jewish. You don't have to pretend or hide or be worried that you're not going to get a job or get into college because you're Jewish. I love that we can practice our religion and take our kids to Sunday school. I'm grateful for



Karina, Jacob, Alex, and Maria Kogan at Jacob's Bar Mitzvah

Erie and helped them start a new life. And their mitzvah continued – after that, they helped the rest of us immigrate as well – a whole family of 75 people are here now because this Jewish community did a mitzvah. My parents sold everything they had. Here we were, in America, with literally four suitcases. It was scary leaving my whole life behind. But the community provided us with a place

the life my husband and I have built, the experiences I've had, the people I've met. I'm grateful to be part of a community here at Wise Temple and be able to have b'nai mitzvah for my kids. I wish others could see life through my eyes and be as grateful as I am to be here and to live this life. And it's all because of a simple mitzvah that a community in Erie decided to do for my family. How awesome is that?



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**FRIDAY, AUGUST 23**

# THROW YOURSELF INTO THE SPIRIT OF TAILGATE SHABBAT



- THROW** on your favorite spirit wear
- THROW** up a prayer at Casual Shabbat services (6:15 PM)
- THROW** down some champion Brotherhood nosh at the Tailgate (7:15 PM)
- THROW** down the gauntlet in a corn hole tournament
- THROW** in Wise Temple friends and you have the perfect Friday night

## Hey, football fans, Wise Temple is kicking off football season with the 2nd Annual Tailgate Shabbat.

Don't **THROW** in the towel: **RSVP** now at [wisetemple.org/tailgate](http://wisetemple.org/tailgate)  
See page 7 for details