Our Immigration Stories
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**WORSHIP AND HOLIDAYS**

| 7 Tailgate Shabbat |
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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**  
**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,

Rabbi Lewis H. Kamrass

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**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

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.
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 gentle 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.”

**Photos Are Her Prized Possessions**

**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. Coincidently, 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

“...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.
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!

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

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.

RSVP: wisetemple.org/tailgate

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

Friday, August 23
6:15 PM Casual Shabbat Service
7:15 PM Tailgate

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

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:

- **Young Family Involvement**
- **Family and Teen Engagement**
- **NextGen**
Parents of High Schoolers

Empty Nesters

WiseGen

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.
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.

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 lead 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
“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.”

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 résumés, 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.

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.
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

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)*

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**Shabbat Morning Services**

*Saturdays*

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<tr>
<th>9:30 AM Shabbat service</th>
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<tr>
<td>10:45 AM Torah study</td>
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<td>June 1, 8, 15, 22, 29</td>
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**NextGen@Wise Morning Service**

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

**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.
All events are at Wise Center unless otherwise indicated.

**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

**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.

**YoFI (ages 0 – 5)**
wisetemple.org/yofi

**YoFI Shababbeque**
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

**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.

**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
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.
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 though 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.”
**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.

**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.

**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.


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.

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 grandfather, 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.
We enjoyed a peaceful Shabbat through Mussar Yoga.

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

MARCH / APRIL / MAY 2019

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

We sorted clothing and assisted clients at Dress for Success.

11th and 12th 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.

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

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

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.

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CONTRIBUTIONS
We acknowledge with appreciation...

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 Louis 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 Sarnbach
80th Birthday of Barbara and Charles Glueck by Maxine Berkman and Ralph Buncher
90th Birthday of Dave Schiebel by Philip Cohen

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 HMII 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

Donate online at wisetemple.org/donate
CONTRIBUTIONS
We acknowledge with appreciation...

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 Lesha 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
Sheron 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 Marcie 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

Special Programs Fund
In honor of:
Birthdays 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:
Birthdays of Susan Melowsky by Margie and
Glen Meyer
Birthdays 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.

Donate online at wisetemple.org/donate
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

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

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

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.

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

Sisterhood

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)
Top Notch Programming:
Rich experiences that feed your mind, body, and spirit.

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

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.

WiseGen
A NEW INITIATIVE FOR THOSE AGE 70+!

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!

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 another during similar challenges.

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.

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

**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
wisetemple.org/hikeaugust4

**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)

**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!

Register at wisetemple.org/adultsummercamp

**MAKE YOUR KIDS JEALOUS!**
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 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 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 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?
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
See page 7 for details