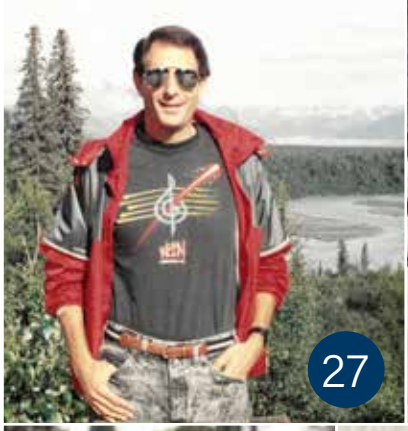
Wise Temple Kesher

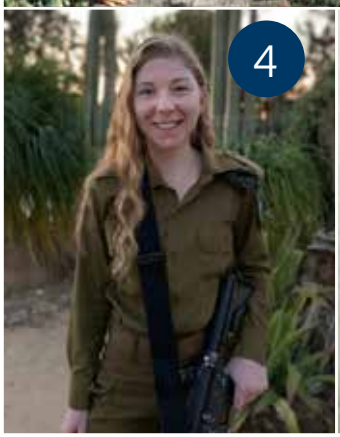
WORSHIP | STUDY | SOCIAL JUSTICE | COMMUNITY

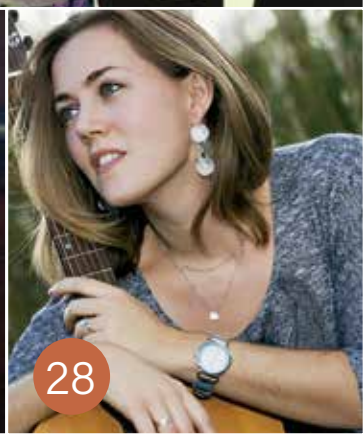
ADAR I, II / NISAN / IYAR 5779

MARCH / APRIL / MAY 2019

Sue Ransohoff, 99, wife of the late Jerry Ransohoff, served in World War II in the Royal Canadian Air Force Women's Division. She enlisted after her first husband, Royal Canadian Air Force Pilot Officer Michael Jacobs, perished in the war. They had been married only two short years. Enlisting helped Sue both honor her husband and cope with the grief of losing him. While stationed in the airfield in Newfoundland, Canada, she communicated with pilot navigators and updated the control tower of incoming Canadian military, U.S. military, and commercial aircraft.







Austin Post is a First Lieutenant in the Army's Quartermaster Corps. He was first stationed in South Korea. In late December, he married Katie, also a First Lieutenant in the Army, whom he met while they were both studying at George Mason University. They are now both stationed at Joint Base Lewis-McChord in Tacoma, Washington.

Photos of Austin and Katie Post's wedding by Palmetto Duo Photography

Cover Photo Credits:
Cover design, photos of Sue Ransohoff, and military memorabilia by:

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From Rabbi Thomashow

D'varim Min HaLev דְּבָרִים מִן הַלֵּב

Words from the Heart

–by Rabbi Karen Thomashow

I am touched by how many active officers, veterans of the armed forces, and public servants in general describe their Judaism as a companion to their service.

This idea, that we have a "partner" in the work of service, is centuries old, and is described in the literature of our Jewish tradition:

When Jacob approached the bed of his father Isaac, in order to procure the birthright that was not rightfully his but rather his twin brother Esau's, we are told that Isaac responded with the slightest indication of doubt. Upon hearing Jacob's voice, but touching his faux fur-covered arm, Isaac says aloud, "The voice is the voice of Jacob but the hands are the hands of Esau."

Seeking to best interpret this verse of Torah, the Talmud suggests that there is something greater than Jacob and Esau that we learn from Isaac here. And thus they suggested that Jacob and Esau are not just our biblical ancestors but metaphors.

Jacob was recognized by his voice. His voice, they argued, was a synonym for prayer. Esau was recognized by his hands. His hands, they argued, were synonymous with war. If Jacob represented prayer and Esau represented war, what might be suggested about prayer and war? That they are to be twinned, or considered together.

In other words, our tradition naturally requests that we bring our Judaism to the interest of war—whether we are serving in the armed forces in America, volunteering for the reserves in Israel, or involved in any pursuit of defense, justice, and freedom. One way in which we pair Judaism and service is through our making a place in our congregational community to remember and honor the service of others. I hope you enjoy this important issue of Kesher.

From the President

Blessings and Commitments

–by Elissa Habib, Temple President

As this is my last article in the *Kesher,* I want to share with you what I've learned during my time as President. Most importantly, I've learned that we are truly blessed to be Jewish. I know that sounds funny, but I have never felt closer to my faith and God than I do right now. Our faith inspires hope, it builds community and family, and all of that with a loving God. I learned to appreciate the effort and impact our Rabbis have on our congregation and on us as individuals. I have never seen a more committed and selfless team. So many of us merely observe what they provide from the pulpit, but they work 24 hours a day, seven days a week, tending to us as individuals when we are in our greatest moments of need. Whether it's visiting a hospital bed, or a funeral home, or taking a call from someone who just needs to talk, they are always available. I learned that to run Wise Temple requires a team of wonderful people who work behind the scenes to make sure everything and everyone are where they belong and that it works. These people deserve our recognition, appreciation, and gratitude for making this all possible. I learned that there is a wonderful core of people who participate beyond the high holy days and brighten the lives of everyone with whom they come in contact. These congregants have touched my family and I will be eternally grateful. I also learned how much succession plays into the ability to do this job. The immediate past president and others gave of themselves during their time of service and continued to do so during mine. I could not have done what I was asked to do without them. And finally, I learned it was both a privilege and an honor to serve this congregation, and I thank you for the opportunity.

My service to this extraordinary Temple will continue, now in different capacities. There are many ways to give your time and talents to this community, and I can attest that the rewards are incredible. I encourage each of you to complete your GPS (see page 7) so you can find the best ways to give of yourself at Wise.

Those Who Serve

There are many reasons why people choose to join the military. These congregants discuss how being Jewish influenced their decision and their service. While we can only feature a few military men and women from our Temple family, we thank and honor every congregant who has ever chosen to defend our countries.

Marine Green

Zachary Green's military journey became a journey of faith

Zach Green comes from a creative family. His father was a principal bassist for the Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra, his mother a ballerina with the Cincinnati Ballet. So the entire family was horrified when six-year-old Zach spent his waking hours turning the backyard into a mud-filled war theater and sticks into weapons.

In hopes of curing his military mania, at age 16, Zach was sent to a summer camp run by the Marine Corps. He was wretched, and it was the toughest thing he'd endured to that point in life, but his parents' plan backfired. "When you train and march and suffer with other guys to achieve a goal, it's an amazing feeling and I knew then it was what I wanted to do," he says matter-of-factly.

So at eighteen, Zach enlisted in the Marine Corps. He describes Parris Island boot camp location off the coast of South Carolina as "quite possibly the most miserable place on the planet." Attending a Sunday religious service was compulsory. Zach was "burned out" after his bar mitzvah, and had drifted away from his Jewish roots. But given the Episcopalian, Catholic or Christian service choices, he asked for a Jewish service. Every Sunday, the Marine Corps brought in a rabbi from Georgia for a one-on-one with Zach. The rabbi smuggled in Moon Pies so Zach could have a "sweet experience." Zach made the mistake of mentioning the Moon Pies to another recruit, and suddenly "there were 8 or 9 guys who wanted to come to Jewish Sunday services, but none of them were Jewish!"

Zach turns serious, noting, "There's a saying 'There are no atheists in the fox hole.' When things get bad, you have to have a next level and religion is strongly encouraged in the Marine Corps. Marines are the front line, the first to get killed. Having faith in God carries you. Training was miserable and I needed something to keep me company. I wasn't a drinker. I wasn't a "PT stud" who worked out every spare moment. So I fell into Judaism, and began to reconnect with my faith." Zach had two visual reminders

Corporal and Officer Candidate Zachary Green, United States Marine Corps

of his faith, a Jewish star he wore with his dog tags, and a small Jewish bible he carried on him at all times.

One Yom Kippur, Zach got to attend shul. Noticing him, the rabbi called him to the bimah, asked him to lift the Torah, and announced that it was the first time they'd had a Marine take the Torah from the arc. "I felt the tallit on my shoulders, draped over my military dress blues, and the weight of the Torah in my arms. It's my most special memory as a Jew."

For Zach, the similarities between the Marines and Judaism are striking. "When two Jews connect, it's strong because of our shared struggles throughout history and time, struggles we retell to make sure they're not repeated. It's similar in the Marines. Training included weeks of studying Marine Corps history, so when I meet another Marine from Korea or World War II or Desert Storm, we bond instantly because we've been trained the same way, and we know the history that came before us." Zach names another important similarity. "Since Marines are the front line, casualties are the rule. You accept that, the way Jews have had to accept the casualties of being Jewish."

Shortly after Desert Storm, Zach graduated from the Marine Corps. A stranger noticed Zach in his dress blues and dragged him and his family into a bar. When people saw him,

continued on page 6 >

Rabat (Corporal) Lexi Czulewicz, Israeli Defense Force

Lone Soldier

Aliyah in Israel provides new insights for Lexi Czulewicz

From the beginning

Judaism has always been a big part of my life – religious school, Jewish summer camp, family traditions. But more important is how my parents instilled faith in me – explaining things, encouraging me to ask questions, to disagree, to think for myself. This gave me a sense of individuality and purpose, and a place in the world. I feel a sense of unity with other Jews, and a connection to Israel. We've overcome so much hate and destruction, and still face it today. This is why Israel is so important. I want to help protect our homeland, so every Jew knows they have a safe place.

Dream, girl

My original goal wasn't to join the army but to become an Israeli citizen and contribute to Judaism in a positive way. I came to believe that since everybody in Israel has to serve in the military, I needed to do that too, and that's how I ended up a Lone Soldier. Most Israelis live at home with their families while they serve. I would love to do that and get to follow my dream, but I live on a kibbutz with other Lone Soldiers, mostly from the Midwest, so we help support each other.

Fit for service

I'm training to be a fitness instructor for combat units. I wanted a job outside, something active and physical. I've also gotten pretty fluent in Hebrew. It was part of basic training. My boyfriend is Israeli and doesn't speak English well, so I speak Hebrew with him and our friends. It makes me feel even more Jewish.

Close to home

Before coming to Israel, hearing about war and soldiers getting killed was sad, but it would pass and I would go on with my day. Now I know people who had loved ones die. On Remembrance Day, or when there's an attack here or in the States, it makes me proud to be here, doing what I'm doing, and standing up for Jews everywhere.

the bar was transformed. "The piano player started playing patriotic music. People were jumping up in their chairs, waving little American flags. People were shaking my hand, thanking me, and buying me drinks." It was in that moment that Zach's dad realized the impact Marines can have on America, and he found the words to tell Zach that he was proud of his choice.

For eight years, Zach served our country, and in that time, he was given back his faith, stronger and deeper – a faith that guides him forward in his civilian life.

Man on a Mission

Mitchel Bie's path to becoming an Air Force pilot

Baby steps

Both my parents are pilots. You can't not be influenced when you grow up in a house with airplane models everywhere. My mom encouraged my desire to fly. I got my student pilot's license with a plane that wasn't much faster than a car. I never felt pressure to join the Air Force. If anything, I got a little pushback – no mom ever wants her kid in the military. But once I decided, my parents were completely supportive.

Decisions, decisions

I was offered an ROTC scholarship at OSU and a full-ride diversity scholarship based on an essay I wrote about what being Jewish means to me. But ultimately I chose the Air Force Academy (USAFA).

Jewish roots

I love that I was raised Jewish. Wise Temple is an open, accepting, and education-focused community. The community support is awesome. I could go home right now and call Rabbi Kamrass and he'd be like "Dude, come over. Let's talk!" The religious connections I've made are so important to me – they make me who I am, what I value and how I spend my time.

I can't count how many times I've been the first Jewish person someone at USAFA has met. It's scary, because I don't want to misrepresent an entire people, but it's exciting that I have a chance to create a positive impression of Jews. I'm a representative of the culture I come from.

A sense of pride, of drive, of self

Basic training is run by the older cadets (the cadre). Looking back, I can't believe they let 22-year-olds lead impressionable 18-year-old me. As a cadre, I had the honor of imparting to cadets the knowledge needed to launch their academy careers. I learned that I can affect the mental state, the drive, and the accomplishments of others. Being a cadre was the most transformative educational experience I had at the academy.

The long game

I'm in pilot training at Vance Air Force base in Enid, Oklahoma. Once I fulfill my pilot's obligation, I will have devoted ten years to the Air Force. At that point, I could make major and end up in a leadership job, or fly commercially, or go back to school – the sky's the limit! It's hard not to think about the future, but for now, it's all about flying.

2nd Lieutenant Mitchel Bie,
United States Air Force

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**

NEW:

Register for Wise Temple events via the Member Portal.
Easier. Faster. And No Credit Card Fees.
When in wisetemple.org, look for: *"Members Register Here via the Member Portal"*

WIN dinner with a Rabbi.
Complete GPS for your entire household between March 1 and March 31 and be entered in a raffle to win dinner with Rabbi Kamrass, Rabbi Thomashow, or Rabbi Danziger.
**First time GPS completion.*

COME TOGETHER FOR BEATLES SHABBAT

Meet at the intersection of Abbey Road and Plum Street for a Shabbat service completely set to familiar Beatles melodies.

Many Beatles songs are about coming together, about peace, about love. Sounds a lot like Shabbat, doesn't it?

Come dressed in your casual 60's attire.

Friday, May 3, 2019
6:30 PM
Plum Street Temple

Service open to the entire adult congregation, but targeted to Empty Nesters and Soon-to-be-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 (about 49-69).

"The long and winding road
That leads to your door
Will never disappear
I've seen that road before
It always leads me here
Leads me to your door."

empty nesters ...connecting at WISE

the festival of Freedom

Celebrate the Passover season which begins Friday evening, April 19

Photos courtesy of MJS Photography Limited

Passover Morning Service
Saturday, April 20 | 9:30 AM – 10:30 AM
A meaningful Pesach worship experience.

2nd Night Passover Seder for Young Families
Saturday, April 20 | 5:30 PM – 7:45 PM

For families with children ages 2 through 3rd grade. A night of pre-Seder activities, an interactive Seder, and Passover dinner. Enjoy singing, dancing and fun with your community! Led by Rabbis Karen Thomashow and Elana Perry.

RSVP: wisetemple.org/familyseder

NextGen@Wise Seder
Saturday, April 20 | Plum Street Temple

Celebrate 2nd Night Passover with a good meal and other Jewish young adults.
For more information, contact Rabbi Michael Danziger: MDanziger@wisetemple.org

J.WOOT 67
Union Terminal – Journey to Egypt
Sunday, April 14 | 11:45 AM – 3:00 PM
Travel to the Museum Center to look at ancient artifacts from Egypt and connect to the Passover story in a new way.

RSVP: BPagliaro@wisetemple.org by March 31

Passover Yizkor Service
Friday, April 26 | 9:30 AM – 10:30 AM

Everyone is encouraged to attend this service, which honors the deceased. Yizkor (meaning "may God remember") is our public observance for the community of bereaved.

a touch of Torah

–by Rabbi Michael Danziger

In 1899, *Harper's Magazine* published an article by Mark Twain, entitled "Concerning the Jews." In it, Twain sought to address why Jews faced persecution in so many eras and lands, while defending the Jewish People as worthy of better treatment. In it, he repeated one idea which, though untrue, had been widely believed through America's early life. He wrote of "the Jew's unpatriotic disinclination to stand by the flag as a soldier – like the Christian Quaker." With this, he reinforced a popular belief that Jews object to military service.

Following publication, he received a number of responses, including from Simon Wolf, an Ohioan who had published a book entitled *The American Jew as Patriot, Soldier, and Citizen*, pointing out that, in actuality, Jews had a rich and honorable history of service in America's military. In 1904, Twain published a postscript entitled "The Jew as Soldier," addressing his mistake. In it, he wrote, "When I published the above article..., I was ignorant... of the fact that the Jew had a record as a soldier. I have since seen the official statistics, and I find... that the Jew's patriotism was not merely level with the Christian's, but overpassed it... His record for capacity, for fidelity, and for gallant soldiership in the field is as good as anyone's. This is true of the Jewish private soldiers and the Jewish generals alike."

Jewish military service in America before Twain's time, and after – over 500,000 American Jews served during World War II – reflects an age-old Jewish commitment to military service. We pray for peace and work for it, but we also heed the words of Deuteronomy 4:9, where it is written: "Guard yourselves and your souls."

That commitment is even more clearly displayed in Israel, where all citizens serve for two to three years. Every member of society is closely connected to the importance, benefits, and sometimes difficult realities of military service. During my time living in Israel, I was particularly struck by the way Yom HaZikaron, Israel's day of memorial for fallen soldiers and victims of terror, is observed each spring. No one is very far removed from the sacrifices that have come with defense of the Jewish State, and participation in remembrance seems nearly universal.

The special stake each Israeli has in the safety of every soldier brings our Jewish values into sharp relief. We cherish the words of the prophet, Isaiah, describing the time in which "They shall beat their swords into ploughshares, and their spears into pruning hooks. Nation shall not lift up sword against nation, and they will no longer learn war." The Maccabean victory, Hitler's defeat, and the State of Israel's very existence are among our many reminders that militaries, themselves, can help us move closer to that time. We are proud of our community's servicemen and women, and veterans, and grateful for what they protect while we dream of a drastic increase in ploughshares and pruning hooks.

We are called to defend people and principles through military service, just as we are through community service, giving of *tzedakah*, political activism, and more.

AWESOME · MAJESTIC · STUNNING · MARVELOUS

PURIM FOR FAMILIES

THE GREATEST PURIM

Wednesday, March 20

5:30 PM – Creative Family Purim Service

6:00 PM – Fabulous Purim Dinner Party

WISE CENTER

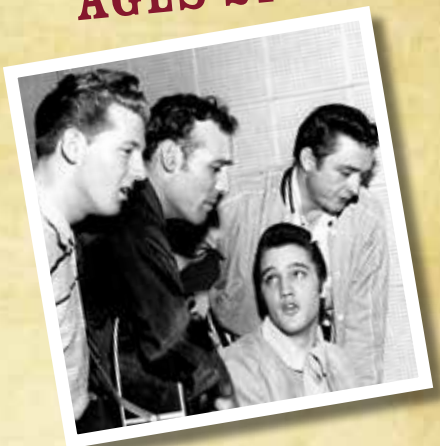
The Greatest Purim opens with a grogger-sounding, singing, Purim-spieling service, set to the tunes of *The Greatest Showman*.

The service is followed by a tasty dinner, fun desserts, special entertainment and more. Dress as your favorite circus performer or in any other costume. Bring your friends for a fun-filled Purim evening. Geared toward elementary school children and their families.

RSVP: wisetemple.org/familypurim

PURIM FOR ADULTS

AGES 21+



ELVIS PRESLEY | JERRY LEE LEWIS | CARL PERKINS | JOHNNY CASH

MILLION SHEKEL QUARTET

ROCKS THIS YEAR'S PURIM

Wednesday, March 20

7:00 PM – 10:00 PM

Fretboard Brewery | 5800 Creek Rd | Cincinnati, OH 45242

We'll have a *Whole Lotta Shakin' Goin' On* as we sing through the Purim story with Elvis Presley, Jerry Lee Lewis, Carl Perkins, and Johnny Cash. This spiel is our take on the Million Dollar Quartet, an impromptu jam session with these four rock stars which is considered a seminal moment in the birth of rock and roll.

Put on your *Blue Suede Shoes* and *Walk The Line* down to Fretboard Brewery for an evening of fun and hilarity.

RSVP: wisetemple.org/adultpurim

Full on Elvis impersonators and other costumes welcome!

The New Normal

Rabbi Julie Schwartz's groundbreaking "first" seems normal to her

Sirens blew. Cars stopped on the highway; drivers stood outside their vehicles. Chores halted, conversations ceased. For two uninterrupted minutes, heads bowed and silent observance fell over Israel. Julie Schwartz was a first-year rabbinic student at HUC in Jerusalem, and this was her first experience with Yom HaZikaron, Israel's Day of Remembrance for fallen soldiers and victims of terrorism. That silence spoke loudly to Julie, and was an event that altered her life path.

She observed a relationship between Israeli civilians, their military, and their country. "People had a sense of gratefulness for being able to live in their country, and for all their country gave them. They had a real sense of responsibility for, and obligation to, their country."

Julie tucked that snapshot in the back of her mind, and then, when back in Cincinnati, a military chaplain spoke to HUC second-year students about his experiences with Jewish active duty members, and the need for rabbis to do this work. "It began to crystallize in my mind that this was a way to serve, to learn about things I wouldn't see in an average congregational job." Her experience in Israel pointed to a lack of connection to her country that she felt in her own life, and here was a solution that would "help broaden my picture of how to be a rabbi." As a military chaplain, Julie would be required to work with the entire military community, not just other Jews, which she also found appealing.

So in 1986 Julie became the first ever female rabbi to serve as an active duty chaplain in the U.S. military – a pioneering role which she talks about humbly. "It just didn't seem that groundbreaking to me. Cincinnati has often been at the forefront of what's changing in Judaism. Female rabbinic students were typical here. Women bring all sorts of different perspectives – it's a richer rabbinate for giving everybody a role."

Rabbi Julie Schwartz

Julie felt the pressure of being the first woman rabbi in active duty. "I was doing what I loved and what I was trained to do, but I pushed myself to do it even better than I might have without this pressure of being the first."

Julie recalls the most powerful experience of naval chaplain training. "We talked about who we were and what we hoped to do. We were all from different faiths trying to get to know and understand each other. It was a remarkable moment, because that's what America is all about."

For three years of her service, Julie supported naval veterans, active-duty members and all their families at a naval hospital in California. The hospital chapel was used for services of all denominations but not for Jewish services until Julie arrived. She laughs recounting the challenge of "flipping" the space from Yom Kippur morning services to Catholic mass at noon and then back to Yom Kippur evening services.

Once her naval duty was complete, she came back to Cincinnati to work at HUC in several positions, establishing the first Clinical Pastoral Education (CPE) program ever affiliated with a rabbinical school.

She later served two congregations in Atlanta. "When I was a military chaplain, I prayed with people of different faiths at their bedsides, supported them through difficult times, and celebrated with them. That experience prepared me for working with interfaith couples. There's a core spirituality we all share. Human beings innately desire to grow towards whatever we call God." Her military experience also created an immediate bond with veterans in the congregations she served. They were touched by her acknowledgement of their military history by inviting them to have an Aliyah during services closest to Veterans Day.

Eventually, Julie returned to HUC Cincinnati to teach and was recently named Associate Dean. From her military experiences, she brought a love of this country and an appreciation of all faiths. "When we realize that we all have something precious to us – something sacred – then we can step back and respect the same in others. The more I can respect someone else's tradition, the more meaning I find in my own."

B'nai Mitzvah

March 2, 2019
Plum Street Temple, 10:45 AM

Bar Mitzvah of **Colby Levine**
son of Danielle and Jason Levine
grandson of Jenny and Howard Simons

March 9, 2019
Plum Street Temple, 10:45 AM

Bar Mitzvah of **Lily B. Kahn**
daughter of Allison and Eric Kahn
granddaughter of Karen and Fred Abel

March 16, 2019
Plum Street Temple, 10:45 AM

Bar Mitzvah of **Avi Rosenberg**
son of Amanda and Dov Rosenberg

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

Bar Mitzvah of **Brayden Daniel Strunk**
son of Cheryl and Donald Strunk

March 30, 2019
Plum Street Temple, 10:45 AM

Bat Mitzvah of **Alexis Klugo**
daughter of Dr. Karen and Michael Klugo
granddaughter of Anna Lerhaupt and
the late Benjamin Lerhaupt

April 6, 2019
Plum Street Temple, 10:45 AM

Bat Mitzvah of **Hailey Eiserman**
daughter of Betsy and Brian Eiserman
granddaughter of Irene and Mel Frieman

April 13, 2019
Plum Street Temple, 10:45 AM

Bat Mitzvah of **Addison Norris**
daughter of Jodi and Corey Norris

April 20, 2019
Plum Street Temple, 10:45 AM

Bat Mitzvah of **Maria Kogan**
daughter of Karina and Alex Kogan

April 27, 2019
Plum Street Temple, 10:45 AM

Bat Mitzvah of **Tillie Rose Berge**
daughter of Shana and Scott Berge
granddaughter of Lorie Kleiner Eckert,
Stefan Eckert

May 4, 2019
Plum Street Temple, 10:45 AM

Bat Mitzvah of **Annie Laursen**
daughter of Liz Foreman and Erik Laursen
granddaughter of Arthur and B.J. Foreman

May 11, 2019
Plum Street Temple, 10:45 AM

Bat Mitzvah of **Elena Rachel Tito**
daughter of Frederick and Leeann Tito

May 25, 2019
Plum Street Temple, 10:45 AM

Bar Mitzvah of **Zachary Green**
son of Daniel and Joni Green
grandson of Jon Marshall and the
late Marlin Marshall

Holidays

Erev Purim
Wednesday, March 20
See page 10 for details on events for adults and kids.

Passover
See page 8 for details.

Passover Morning Service
Saturday, April 20
9:30 AM – 10:30 AM

2nd Night Passover Seder for Young Families
Saturday, April 20
5:30 PM – 7:45 PM

NextGen@Wise 2nd Seder
Saturday, April 20

Passover Yizkor Service
Friday, April 26
9:30 AM – 10:30 AM

Worship Services

Shabbat Evening Services

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

MARCH

1 Shabbat service

1 Family Shabbat
6:45 PM service

8 Shabbat service

8 NextGen@Wise Shabbat
6:30 PM, Plum Street Temple

15 Shabbat service

15 Musical Shabbat service

22 Shabbat service

29 Shabbat service with birthday and anniversary blessings, celebrating Rabbi Isaac Mayer Wise at 200

29 Limmud Shabbat Service

APRIL

5 Shabbat service with Natalie Young, guest musician.
See back cover for details.

5 Family Shabbat
6:45 PM service

12 Shabbat service with Sisterhood participation

12 NextGen@Wise Shabbat
6:30 PM, Plum Street Temple

19 ***No Shabbat services due to Erev Passover***

26 Shabbat service with birthday and anniversary blessings

26 Marriage Reconsecration

MAY

3 Shabbat service

3 Beatles Shabbat service
6:30 PM | Plum Street Temple
See page 7 for details.

3 Family Shabbat featuring Hebrew Connect Students
6:45 PM service

10 Shabbat service with graduate recognition

10 NextGen@Wise Shabbat
6:30 PM | Plum Street Temple

17 Shabbat service

17 Musical Shabbat service

24 Shabbat service

31 Shabbat service with birthday and anniversary blessings

Shabbat Morning Services

Saturdays
9:30 AM service
10:45 AM Torah study

March 2, 9, 16, 23, 30
April 6, 13, 27
May 4, 11, 18, 25

YoFI Shababa Services

2nd and 4th Saturdays, 10:00 AM

March 9, 23 | April 13, 27 | May 11, 25

Shabbat Morning B'nai Mitzvah Services

See page 12.

Brotherhood

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

Monthly Meeting and Dinner
Thursdays | 6:00 PM – 7:00 PM
March 14 | April 11 | May 9

Lighthouse Youth Services Dinner
Thursday, March 21
5:30 PM – 7:00 PM

Lag B'Omer Bonfire
Wednesday, May 22
7:00 PM – 9:30 PM
For Brotherhood members and prospective Brotherhood members only

Community

Adult Shabbat Dinner and Wine Tasting
Friday, March 1 | 7:15 PM
See page 17 for details.

Mussar Yoga
Saturdays | 11:30 AM – 12:30 PM
March 2, 9, 16, 23, 30

Confirmation
Saturday, May 18 | 10:30 AM – 11:30 AM
Plum Street Temple

Guitar Circle
Thursdays | 6:00 PM – 7:30 PM
March 7 | April 4 | May 2

Eitz Chayim – Adult Education

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

Tuesdays with Torah

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

Ritual Reimagined
Rabbi Michael Danziger
March 5
Study the texts that serve as a foundation for kashrut, mikveh, brit milah, and more. Examine their historical practice, and ways they are being creatively reimagined to add meaning to modern practice.

Repairing the World from the Inside Out
Rabbi Jan Katzew
March 12, 19
**Special Time: 12:35 PM – 1:35 PM*
How can we not only be human beings, but also humane beings – sensitive and empathetic, caring and sharing? Explore what Bahya Ibn Pekuda (11th century) termed "the duties of the heart". In a world that seems to have lost its moral compass, you are invited to find an ethical home.

Spirituality in Reform Judaism Over Time
Rachel Gross-Prinz
March 26 | April 2, 9
Travel from Germany, to the warmth of the American South, to the rush of the Big Apple to discover how a Reform Jewish sense of spirituality has changed over time and can influence our own search for meaning and insight today. Uncover treasures from the American Jewish Archives along our journey!

The Evolution of Reform Jewish Lifecycles from the time of Rabbi Isaac Mayer Wise through Today
Rabbi Karen Thomashow
April 16, 23, 30
How did our historic leader approach the life cycles of the Bris, B'nai Mitzvah, Weddings, and the Funeral? What has and has not changed in 150 years? How did what Rabbi Isaac Mayer Wise did align with and depart from customary Jewish practice?

Commemorating the 200th Birthday of Rabbi Isaac Mayer Wise: His Legacy in our Own Time
Rabbi Lewis Kamrass
May 7, 14, 21, 28
Explore the enduring legacy of the founder of Reform Judaism in America. Learn little known facts about the life, the thought, and the issues to which Rabbi Isaac M. Wise brought his significant leadership including political and social activism, egalitarianism, interfaith work, asserting Jewish rights in the midst of a Christian religious revival, and the impact of Wise's thought on our worship, ritual and the prayer book.

iEngage

Jewish Values and the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict
Rabbi Karen Thomashow
Mondays | 5:15 PM – 7:00 PM
March 4 | April 1 | May 6
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.

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

Distance-Wise

RSVP:
wisetemple.org/distancewise
See page 17 for details.

Progressive Judaism in Germany Today
Rabbi Walter Homolka
Sunday, March 3
10:00 AM

American Values Religious Voices: 100 Days. 100 Letters
Rabbi Andrea Weiss
Sunday, April 7
10:00 AM

Downtown Lunch and Learn

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

Finding God in Unexpected Places
Rabbi Elana Perry
March 14
Sometimes we may feel keenly aware of God's presence in our lives, and other times we may walk through life in a haze, unaware of, or disconnected from, the Divine presence around us. Did you know that one single letter in the Hebrew alphabet can point the way toward a connection with God? Come to study Jewish texts, both ancient and modern, and discover how one letter can unlock a myriad of mysteries!

Midrash 2.0
Rachel Gross-Prinz
May 2
Long before the #metoo movement the Talmud told the tale of a learned rabbi walking through a town seeking a "bride for one night." The rabbis of the Talmud were characters in and weavers of mind boggling tales that invite us to fill in the blanks, and wrestle with the complexity of our own relationships and lives. Explore Knesset Member Ruth Calderon's collection of modern midrash/short stories based on these Talmudic tales – and see how a feminist reclaims a long ago world for our own time.

Talmud Study Class

Tuesdays | 5:00 PM – 6:00 PM
March 12 | April 16 | May 21

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. This year we examine Jewish holidays. Learn how much of our current practice, customs, and ideals were not only shaped by the ancient rabbis, but in fact, how those holidays are transformed and reimagined at the hands of our rabbinic sages in enduring ways that shape Jewish life today.

Jewish Views of the Afterlife
Rabbi Lewis Kamrass
March 5 | 5:30 PM
Examine various Jewish ideas of the afterlife, and discuss why we know so little about our tradition's view on such a significant topic.

The Union of Two Bicentennials
Professor David Stradling
Monday, April 29 | 7:30 PM
RSVPs requested but not required:
wisetemple.org/twobicentennials

As the University of Cincinnati also commemorates 200 years, Professor Stradling explores the relationship between Rabbi Isaac Mayer Wise and U.C.—from serving on its board of governors to lending support during times of crisis.

Empty Nesters

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

Adult Purim
Wednesday, March 20
7:00 PM – 10:00 PM
See page 10 for details.

Beatles Shabbat
Friday, May 3 | 6:30 PM
Plum Street Temple
See page 7 for details.

Families

513-793-2997
wisetemple.org/familyengagement

Family Shabbat
First Friday of each month
6:00 PM dinner; 6:45 PM service
March 1 | April 5 | May 3

Fabulous Family Purim Celebration
Wednesday, March 20 | 5:30 PM
See page 10 for details.

2nd Night Passover Seder for Young Families
Saturday, April 20 | 5:30 PM – 7:45 PM
See page 8 for details.

Confirmation Blessings
Friday, May 17 | 8:15 PM
Plum Street Temple

Confirmation
Saturday, May 18 | 10:30 AM
Plum Street Temple

Religious School
Sundays | 9:15 AM – 11:45 AM
March 3, 10, 31 | April 7, 14, 28
May 5, 19

Isaac Mayer Wise's 200th Birthday Party
Grades 1 – 6
March 31

End of School Year Picnic
(sponsored by Brotherhood)
Sunday, May 19
Immediately following Religious School.

YoFI *(ages 0 – 5)*

wisetemple.org/yofi

YoFI Shababa Worship
2nd and 4th Saturdays of the month
10:00 AM – 11:00 AM
March 9, 23 | April 13, 27 | May 11, 25

3s Classes
Sundays | 9:30 AM – 11:30 AM
March 3 | April 7 | May 5

Lox and Blocks
Thursday, March 21
10:30 AM – 12:30 PM
A young family meet and greet downtown at Plum Street Temple in the social hall
RSVP: wisetemple.org/loxandblocks

Challah Bakeshop
Thursday, April 4 | 5:00 PM – 6:30 PM
RSVP: wisetemple.org/challahbakeshop

2nd Night Passover Seder for Young Families
Saturday, April 20 | 5:30 PM – 7:45 PM
See page 8 for details.

Open Room – Grade 3

Family Programs
Open Room
Sunday, March 3 | 9:30 AM – 11:45 AM

3rd Grade
Sunday, April 7 | 9:30 AM – 11:45 AM

Grades 4 – 5

Family Programs
Sundays | 9:30 AM – 11:45 AM
5th Grade – Sunday, April 14
4th Grade – Sunday, April 28

4th and 5th Grade Trip to Get Air
Sunday, April 7
11:45 AM – 2:00 PM

Grades 6 – 8

7th and 8th Grade JAM
(*Jewish Action Mornings)*
Sundays | 9:15 AM – 11:45 AM
April 28 | May 5, 19

NFTY OV JYG Kallah for 6th – 8th Grade
Friday, March 1 – Sunday, March 3
Offsite

J.WOOT 67 Union Terminal – Journey to Egypt
Sunday, April 14 | 11:45 AM – 3:00 PM
See page 8 for details.

J.WOOT 67 Mall Scavenger Hunt
Sunday, May 5 | 11:45 AM – 2:00 PM

Grades 9 – 12

wisetemple.org/youthengagement

NFTY Spring Kallah
Thursday, April 4 – Sunday, April 7
Offsite

WOOTY Elections
Sunday, April 28 | 11:45 AM – 2:00 PM

Kulanu
Sundays | 5:30 PM – 7:10 PM
Optional dinner, 5:00 PM – 5:30 PM

Semester 2, at Valley Temple:
March 3, 10, 17
April 7, 14 (Siyyum), 28
May 5

NextGen@Wise

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

Shabbat Services
2nd Fridays of the month
6:30 PM, Plum Street Temple
March 8 | April 12 | May 10

NextGen@Wise 2nd Seder
Saturday, April 20
See page 8 for details.

Senior Adults

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

Cincinnati Art Museum Tour
Thursday, March 14 | 1:30 PM – 2:30 PM

Music Hall Tour
Wednesday, April 10 | 1:00 PM – 2:00 PM

End of Year Banquet
Saturday, May 11 | 5:30 PM – 6:30 PM

Sisterhood

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

Board Meeting
Wednesdays | 9:45 AM – 10:45 AM
March 6 | April 3 | May 1

Macaroon Baking
Thursday, April 11 | 6:30 PM – 8:30 PM

Dinner, following Shabbat with Sisterhood Participation
Friday, April 12 | 7:30 PM – 9:00 PM
A chance to meet and eat with sisterhood, family, and friends

Library Tea
Wednesday, April 17 | 12:00 PM – 2:00 PM

Book Club
Thursdays | 7:30 PM – 9:00 PM
March 28 | *Three Floors Up* by Eshkol Nevo
May 16 | *We Were the Lucky Ones* by Georgia Hunter

Mah Jongg
Thursdays, 11:00 AM
Sherri Tieger: 513-821-8881;
sherritieger@gmail.com

WiseUP – Social Action Projects

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

Helping Refugees
Sunday, March 3 | 9:15 AM
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. At this informational meeting you'll learn how you can help by mentoring these families in ways that help them thrive.
RSVP: wisetemple.org/refugee

Dress for Success
Saturday, March 9 | 1:00 PM – 3:00 PM
205 West 4th Street, Suite 900

Volunteer with Wise Temple's newest partner organization! Assist customers in the boutique and sort clothing in the warehouse. Help unemployed women achieve career goals.

Queen City Kitchen
Sundays | 10:00 AM – 1:45 PM
March 17 | April 21
1620 Vine Street

Hunger is a real problem for our Cincinnati neighbors. You can help by preparing and serving a warm meal.

La Soupe
Sunday, April 14 | 1:00 PM – 4:00 PM
Wise Center Kitchen

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

Wise Family Shelter
A Partner with IHN
Sunday, March 31 – Sunday, April 7

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.

Miscellaneous

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

Alcoholics Anonymous Meeting
Tuesdays and Thursdays | 5:30 PM

Three's Company

1 Great Food,
Paired with Great Wine, 2
3 and New Friends

Wine Tasting and Shabbat Dinner
Friday, March 1 | 7:15 PM

Dr. Jim Greenberg, Wise Temple's Sommelier.

Engage your *palate* and your *mind* as Dr. Jim Greenberg, congregant and wine connoisseur, explains each wine's unique story and flavor.

An interactive, informal, informative, and fun evening like no other.

Taste wines from Israel and around the world, all with a Jewish connection.

Connoisseurs and newcomers alike are welcome. "I really encourage people who are novices or just have an interest in wine to come," Dr. Greenberg says. "It's a fun, no-pressure situation."

And if you're one of the evening's many raffle winners, you'll go home with a tasty bottle all your own!

RSVP: wisetemple.org/winetasting

Distance-Wise

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

You don't have to go far to learn something new.

Live video interaction with speakers from all over the world, right here at Wise Center.

Sunday March 3
10:00 AM
Rabbi Walter Homolka
Progressive Judaism in Germany Today

Rabbi Walter Homolka

In his capacity as the chairman of the Union of Progressive Jews in Germany and the rector of the Abraham Geiger College, Rabbi Homolka will survey the current landscape of Reform Judaism in Germany, with many fascinating and important developments to elaborate upon.

Rabbi Homolka is a full research professor of Modern Jewish Thought and Jewish Denominations at the University of Potsdam, executive director of its School of Jewish Theology (Europe's first Jewish divinity school) and rector of the Abraham Geiger College (Europe's Reform rabbinical seminary).

Sunday, April 7
10:00 AM
Rabbi Andrea Weiss
American Values Religious Voices: 100 Days. 100 Letters

Rabbi Andrea Weiss

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

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

THE SUMMER OF YOUR LIFETIME AWAITS!

GUCI registration now open!

Goldman Union Camp Institute is more than just a summer camp! It's a community where it's cool to be Jewish, where you make friendships that last all year long. GUCI has something for everyone: sports and fitness, creative and performing arts, nature and adventure programs.

A summer at GUCI is a summer you'll never forget!

VISIT GUCI.ORG BEFORE CAMP FILLS UP. SPACE IS LIMITED.

Happy Birthday, Rabbi Isaac Mayer Wise!

Celebrate the 200th anniversary of Isaac Mayer Wise's birth at Shabbat service on March 29, 6:15 PM

Our Jewish lives would be very different were it not for Rabbi Isaac M. Wise. He was both a dreamer and an achiever, the most important Jew in America in the last half of the 19th century, and someone who never acknowledged defeat. These are some of the things said of Rabbi Isaac M. Wise, the remarkable man who led our congregation from 1854 until his death in 1900, at age 80.

"I was always an American, though born in Bohemia," he said, expressing his love of his adopted country. Indeed, Wise did not speak or write of his life in Europe; his memoirs begin with his arrival in New York in 1846, "with a wife, a child, and two dollars in my pocket," as he put it. For Wise, life began with his coming to this land of freedom. He believed that here (unlike in Europe), Judaism had the opportunity to grow, develop – and even spread. Welding the spirit of Judaism with the spirit of America was Wise's life work, and he embraced that work with joy, optimism, and enthusiasm.

This Shabbat service is one of many events offered in honor of Rabbi Isaac M. Wise this year. *(Look for the logo at left identifying Isaac Mayer Wise events.)*

Mazel Tov

Engagements

Loni and John Becker on the engagement of their daughter and **Lillian Becker** on the engagement of her granddaughter, Anna Becker to Benyamin Yaniv.

Teri and Kevin Junker on the engagement of their son, Justin Junker to Denae Belillti.

Weddings

Miriam Holtzman and Stefan Kathman on their wedding.

Debra and Michael Steinbuch on the marriage of their son, Garrett Steinbuch to Jaimie Maxwell.

Shari and David Wood on the marriage of their daughter, Sarah Wood to Oliver Smith.

Dr. Elliot and Mrs. Margo Kirstein on the marriage of their daughter and **Renee and Sam Frankel** on the marriage of their granddaughter, Abby Cooper to Jon Williams.

Kim and Dan Toole on the marriage of their daughter and **Judy Altenberg** on the marriage of her granddaughter, Alexandra Toole to Eric Niehauser.

Milynn and Mark Hoffman on the marriage of their son, Alex Hoffman to Erin Sparling.

Births

Cindy and Andy Berman on the birth of their granddaughter and **Stan Berman** on the birth of his great-granddaughter, Ellie Graham Berman.

Margie and Glen Meyer on the birth of their granddaughter, Chloe Abigail Smock.

Dr. Philip and Barbara Lichtenstein on the birth of their grandson, Leo Mitchell Molitoris.

Melanie and Jeff Blumental on the birth of their son, and **Marlene and Dan Guttman** on the birth of their grandson, Simon Rich Blumental.

Nancy and Charlie Postow on the birth of their granddaughter, Riley Alyse Postow.

Valerie Friedman on the birth of her grandson, Benjamin Grayson Friedman.

Condolences

Laura and David Cramer on the death of her father, Gerald Cantor.

David Schiebel on the death of his wife and **Nancy and Howard Starnbach** on the death of his sister, **Harriet Schiebel**.

Helen and Dr. Sanford Zussman on the death of his sister, Charlotte Weisberg.

Linda and Andrew Berger on the death of his mother, and **Hannah and Julie Berger** on the death of their grandmother, **Betsy Berger**.

Jennifer Branch and Richard Bullock on the death of her father, Philip Branch.

Claire and Alan Eichner on the death of his mother and **Jason and Lainie Eichner** on the death of their grandmother, Sandra Eichner.

Skip Greenberg on the death of his granddaughter, Ashley Goldberg.

Barbi and Greg Sherman on the death of her mother, **Sara R. Hirschberg**.

Nancy and Tom Horwitz, on the death of his sister, Elizabeth Horwitz.

Susan and Fred Melowsky on the death of her mother, **Jessica Melowsky and Ben Ross** on the death of their grandmother, **Felice and Andrew Fishman** on the death of their grandmother, and **Blake, Rylee and Tate Fishman** on the death of their great-grandmother, Matty Bernstein.

Pamela Holmes and Mark Jeffreys on the death of her mother, and **Evelyn and Nicholas Astafiev-Holmes** on the death of their grandmother, Monica Holmes.

Family of **Charles Stix**.

Susan Glas on the death of her father, **Walter Glas**.

Family of **Maureen Mason**.

wise at work &

We had an AWESOME TIME with the Brotherhood at the Harlem Globetrotters game!

We stirred and served and smiled at St. Francis Seraph Soup Kitchen.

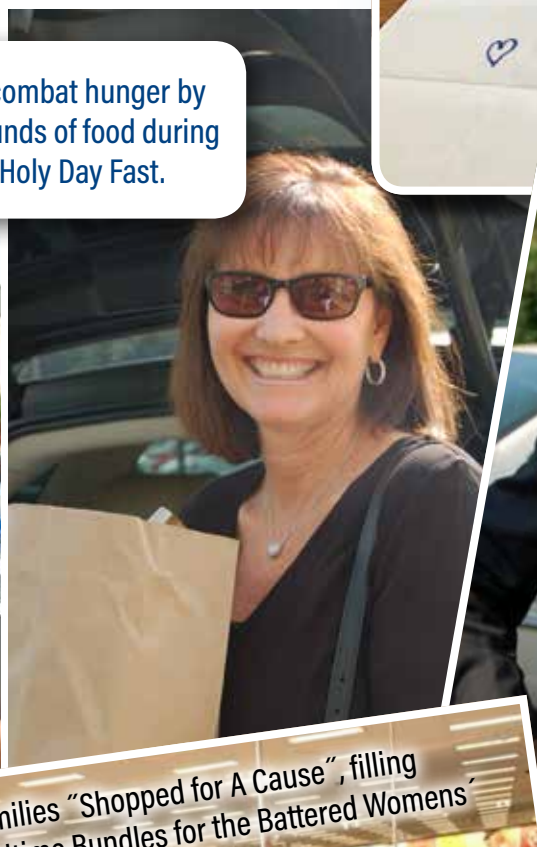
YoFI bakers learned to make challah.

pLay!

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

We decorated one-of-a-kind pillowcases for Bedtime Bundles.

We continued to combat hunger by donating 11,528 pounds of food during this past High Holy Day Fast.



Families "Shopped for A Cause", filling Bedtime Bundles for the Battered Womens´ Shelter.

We beautifully illuminated our chapel during the Chanukah service.

CONTRIBUTIONS

We acknowledge with appreciation...

Donate online at wisetemple.org/donate

Barbara Glas Critical Topics

In loving memory of:

Walter Glas by Mel Marmer

Bess Shavzin Library Fund

In honor of:

Garrett and Jaimie Steinbuch's marriage by Marion Rosenbaum

Anniversary of Ann and Michael Margolis by Mary Lee and Louie Sirkin

In loving memory of:

Helene Cohen by Mary Lee and Louie Sirkin

Helene Cohen by Marion Rosenbaum

Louis Dollin by Marion Rosenbaum

Gladys Blatt and Leonard Rosenbaum by Marion Rosenbaum

Harriet Schiebel by Marion Rosenbaum

Sara Hirschberg by Mary Lee and Louie Sirkin

Betsy Berger by Mary Lee and Louie Sirkin

Brenda / Sandy Herman Scholarship Fund

In loving memory of:

Linda Ross and Carol Herman by Deborah and David Ross

Fine/Marshall/Allen Scholarship Fund

In honor of:

Good health of Harriette Katz by Irene and Melvyn Frieman

Birthday of Wendy Reiter by Sharon and Steve Marshall

50th Anniversary of Mary Bob and Jack Rubenstein by Inez Allen and Stefan Eckert

50th Anniversary of Mary Bob and Jack Rubenstein by Jon Marshall

Birthday of Bob Unger by Margo and Alan Zeff

Birthday of Bob Unger by Inez Allen and Stefan Eckert

Anniversary of Mary Bob and Jack Rubenstein by Sharon and Steve Marshall

In loving memory of:

Helene Cohen by Jon Marshall

Helene Cohen by Sharon and Steve Marshall

Helene Cohen by Barb and Joel Fogel

Helene Cohen by Ann and Bob Unger

Helene Cohen by Margo and Alan Zeff

Carol Berliant by Margo and Alan Zeff

Eileen Goret by Barb and Joel Fogel

Desiree Blumenthal by Sharon and Steve Marshall

Cathy Starr by Ann and Bob Unger

Cathy Starr by Jon Marshall

Cathy Starr by Sharon and Steve Marshall

Cathy Starr by Lynn and Alex Warm

Cathy Starr by Irene and Melvyn Frieman

Cathy Starr by Inez Allen and Stefan Eckert

Cathy Starr by Joni and Dan Green

Joanne Cohen by Margo and Alan Zeff

Sara Hirschberg by Margo and Alan Zeff

Cathy Starr by Margo and Alan Zeff

General Fund

In honor of:

Abby Cooper's wedding by Judy and Marshall Aronoff

Marriage of Abby Cooper and Jon Williams by Barbara and Alvin Pearlman

Graduation of Neil Nadel by Judy Barnett

Gloria & Alvin Lipson Youth & Experiential Education Fund

In honor of:

Birthday of Bob Kanter by Gloria Lipson

Pearl Aviva Hodesh by Alan Weinstein

Pearl Aviva Hodesh by Carolyn and Stuart Lowitz

Bar Mitzvah of Jonah Swift by Cherie and Philip Logan

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

In honor of:

Julia Goldstin by Harold Spitz

Birthday of Bob Kanter by Harold Spitz

Happy New Year by Jeanne and Mike Schmerler

In loving memory of:

Joel Herzig by Sharon and Steve Marshall

Joel Herzig by Carolyn and Stuart Lowitz

Harriet Schiebel by Harold Spitz

Harriet Schiebel by Harriet Friedman

Charlotte Weisberg by Harriet Friedman

Charlotte Weisberg by Judy and Martin Young

Harriet Schiebel by Judy and Martin Young

Matilda Bernstein by Mickey, Gary and Kayla Ross

Jerry Itkoff by Nancy Kuhr

Judith S. Carsch Library Fund

In honor of:

Children's Book by Shirley Kantor

30th Wedding Anniversary of Susan and Robert Diamond by Gail and Fred Zeifman

30th Wedding Anniversary of Susan and Robert Diamond by Jean and Dave Simmons

Birthday of Susan Diamond by Jean and Dave Simmons

In loving memory of:

Judith Spitz by Mona and Mark Spitz

Gertrude Rosen by Mindy and Steve Rosen

Harriet Schiebel by Irene and Mel Frieman

Charlotte Weisberg by Irene and Mel Frieman

Julian Vigran Learning Resource Fund

In loving memory of:

Jerome Klineman by Alan Weinstein

Lifelong Learning Endowment Fund

In loving memory of:

Harriet Schiebel by Dick and Jackie Snyder

Marvin B. Steinberg Fund

In loving memory of:

Mother of Gerry Greenspoon and Family by Susan and Barry Somerstein

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Playground Fund

In honor of:

Tzedakah by Ashley and Josh Werthaiser

Tzedakah by Amy and Steve Schur

Tzedakah by Liz Masterson

Tzedakah by Jenna and Seth Shaifer

Tzedakah by John and Michelle Ernst

Tzedakah by Nancy Goldberg

Tzedakah by Trish and Scott Joseph

Tzedakah by Friend Family

Jacob Blumental, Julian Wolkoff, David Kamrass and all future grandchildren by Marlene and Dan Guttman

Tzedakah by the Katzman Family

Tzedakah by Marcia and Bob Lukin

Jared Kamrass and Emma Drongowski's engagement by Gail and David Spivack

George Cartledge by Joan and Marvin Silverman

Tzedakah by Jody Stancliff

Tzedakah by Elana and Craig Perry

The children's playground by Dianne and David Rosenberg

Tzedakah by Wise Temple Brotherhood

Sloane Emery Rice by Nancy and Howard Weinberg

Tzedakah by Amy and David Susskind

In loving memory of:

Helene Cohen by Gloria and Bud Annenberg

Loved ones of Gayle Warm and Brian Swift by Gayle Warm and Brian Swift

Mildred Schwartz by Sandy Schlissel

Mildred Schwartz by Mary Ann Plagge

Sara Hirschberg by Lana Grossman

Plum Street Temple Historic Preservation Fund

In honor of:

Birthday of Bob Kanter by Lauren and Jim Miller

Birthday of Bob Kanter by Ruth and Jim Levy

Birthday of Bob Kanter by Bernard Dave

Birthday of Bob Kanter by Bob Betagole

Birthday of Bob Kanter by Roslyn Harkavy

Tzedakah by Marla Shatkin-Margolis and Henry Margolis

Birthday of Marvin Schwartz by Susan and John Frank

Bar Mitzvah of Jonah Swift by Karen and Eddie Saeks

CONTRIBUTIONS

We acknowledge with appreciation...

Donate online at wisetemple.org/donate

B'nai Mitzvah of Kyle and Ryan Friedrich by Mary Lee and Louie Sirkin
Bar Mitzvah of Jonah Swift by Karen and Eddie Saeks
Tzedakah by Frances Goldman
Birthday of Phyllis Fine by Dian Levine
Birthday of Bob Kanter by Mona and Dick Kerstine
Tzedakah by Nancy and Marshall Macks
Tzedakah by Mamie and Robert Maxwell
Bar Mitzvah of Jonah Ryan Swift by Karen and David Hoguet
Bar Mitzvah of Jonah Swift by Sherri and Mark Weiss
Chanukah by Naomi and Scott Ruben
Jon Chaiken by Dian Levine
Tzedakah by Peggy and Andy Markiewitz
Bat Mitzvah of Elizabeth Anne Michelman by Mary Lee and Louie Sirkin
Engagement of Jared Kamrass by Leah Levine
Tzedakah by Shirley Lowitz
99th Birthday of Sue Ransohoff by Betsy and Bill Kingery

In loving memory of:

Julian Hirschberg by Mindy and Steve Rosen
Julian Hirschberg by Evelyn and Stanley Ignatow
Julian Hirschberg by Susan and Gary Winters
Robert L. Block, Jr. by Irene Block
Frances Bamberg Isaac by Irene Block
Carol Berliant by Carolyn and Stuart Lowitz
Julian Hirschberg by Sheryl and Scott Mattis
Helene Cohen by Nancy Goldberg
Helene Cohen by Betsy and Marvin Schwartz
Carol Berliant by Betsy and Marvin Schwartz
Nancy Meisel by Karen and David Hoguet
Eileen Goret by Mimi and Andrew Lerner
Jerry Cantor by Joan and Marvin Silverman
Ellen Goret by Ina and Ed Loftspring
Helene Cohen by Lynn and Alex Warm
Selma Mervis Young by Jackie Mack and Ted Silberstein
Gerald Cantor by Sheryl and Scott Mattis
Harriet Schiebel by Karen and Eddie Saeks
Harriet Schiebel by Marcy and Mark Kanter
Matt Chimsky by Dian Levine
Charlotte Weisberg by Mary and George Croog
Sandra Horowitz by Renee and Lewis Kamrass
Joanne Cohen by Betsy and Marvin Schwartz
Sara Hirschberg by Marjorie and Steven Adler
Harriet Schiebel by Karen and Eddie Saeks
Sara and Julian Hirschberg by Ina and Ed Loftspring
Joan Finn by Ann and Neil Wasserman
Harriet Schiebel by Nancy Samuels
Harriet Schiebel by Ethel Zemsky
Betsy Berger by Nancy Goldberg
Dr. Joe Miller by Marion Rosenbaum
Sara and Julian Hirschberg by BJ and Art Foreman
Matilda Bernstein by Sally and Gerry Korkin

Prayerbook Fund

In honor of:

Bat Mitzvah of Rebecca Hunter by Iris and Larry Werthaiser

Rabbi Danziger Discretionary Fund

In honor of:

Happy New Year by Jeanne and Mike Schmerler
Michael Danziger by Carolyn and Stuart Lowitz
Aliyah by Kathie and Donald Kaplan
Tzedakah by Gayle Warm and Brian Swift
Plum Street Temple Tour by Delta Kappa Gamma

In loving memory of:

Nina J. Gruen by Claude Gruen
Cathy N. Starr by Gail and Bill Gillman

Rabbi Kamrass Discretionary Fund

In honor of:

Happy New Year by Jeanne and Mike Schmerler
Consecration of Sasha Callif by Lynn and David Callif
Consecration of Maxwell Best by Elaine and David Best
Aliyah by Lynn and David Callif
Wedding of Alex and Eric Niehauser by Kim and Dan Toole
Wedding of Abby Cooper and Jon Williams by Mrs. Margo and Dr. Elliot Kirstein
Wedding Anniversary of Renee and Lewis Kamrass by Nancy and John Silverman
Wedding of Alex Dell and Kristen Clegg by Robin and Chuck Dell
Naming of Teagan Wells by Barbara and John Wells
Tzedakah by the Salkin Family
Tzedakah by Gail and David Spivack
Tzedakah by Patricia and Michael Morger
Lewis Kamrass by Gayle Warm and Brian Swift
Bar Mitzvah of Jonah Swift by Gayle Warm and Brian Swift
Bat Mitzvah of Elizabeth Anne Michelman by Jenny and Andrew Michelman
Bar Mitzvah of Daniel Cooper by Lisa, David, Michael and Adam Cooper
Bar Mitzvah of Daniel Cooper by Lorraine Forst

In loving memory of:

Harry H. Schwartz by Alice Rosenberg
Elmer Goldman by Emily Goldman
Julian Hirschberg by Barbi and Greg Sherman
Fouad Ezra by Mary Ezra
Lawrence Zimmerman by Joan and Marvin Silverman
Roslyn Brant by Joe Brant
Roslyn Brant by Renee and Brad Lemberg
The Pittsburgh 11 by the Salkin Family
Unveiling service of Theodore Schwartz by Andrew Schwartz
Bat Mitzvah of Elizabeth Anne Michelman by Jenny and Andrew Michelman

Rabbi Thomashow Discretionary Fund

In honor of:

Happy New Year by Jeanne and Mike Schmerler
Aliyah by Kathie and Donald Kaplan
Wedding of Jon and Tiffany Deknight by Tiffany and Jon Deknight
Tzedakah by Gayle Warm and Brian Swift
Bar Mitzvah of Daniel Cooper by Lisa, David, Michael and Adam Cooper
Bar Mitzvah of Daniel Cooper by Lorraine Forst

In loving memory of:

Jean P. Kahn by Sandy Kahn
Herbert Bernstein by Karin Bernstein

Ralph & Julia Cohen Library Fund

In honor of:

Andrea Rapp by Marlo and Tom Shaevsky

Renee and Rabbi Lewis Kamrass Social Action Fund

In honor of:

Birthday of Lewis Kamrass by Margo and Alan Zeff
Marriage of Margie Cohen by Patti and Fred Heldman

In loving memory of:

Donald Bornstein by Lynn and David Callif
Harriet Schiebel by Mary Lee and Louie Sirkin
Harriet Schiebel by Mary and George Croog
Harriet Schiebel by Charlotte and Allen Loftspring and Family

Special Programs Fund

In honor of:

Birthday of Bob Kanter by Barbara and Spencer Banner
Birthday of Helene Ohren by Lynne and Bob Kanter

In loving memory of:

JoAnn Cohen by Lynne and Bob Kanter
Harriet Schiebel by Lynne and Bob Kanter
Betsy Berger by Lynne and Bob Kanter
Betsy Berger by Elissa and Mitchell Habib

Wise Center Building Fund

In loving memory of:

Rabbi Jakob J. Petuchowski by Elizabeth Petuchowski

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Wise Temple Youth Scholarship Fund
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Michael Gruber by Lynn and Gabriel Gruber

In loving memory of:
Sara and Julian Hirschberg by Wendy Macri and Family

Donate Light Campaign

Thank you for your generous donation. Your gift will ensure that Plum Street Temple is luminous for years to come.

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Naomi and Eli Beck by Karen and Andy Beck
Chanukah by Karen and Hal Bernstein
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Chanukah by Maxine and Ralph Buncher
Chanukah by Cynthia Burgin
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Chanukah by Karen and David Hoguet
Chanukah by Nancy and Tom Horwitz
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Wise Temple's amazing Clergy team by Toni and Ken Kanter
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Chanukah by Stephanie and Howard Kaplan
Chanukah by Lanie and Jan Katzew
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The Whos, Whats, Whens, Wheres, and Whys of Plum Street Temple

A building as complex and old as Plum Street Temple is bound to have a mystery or two.

If the walls could talk!

The next time you're at Plum Street Temple, gazing in awe at the splendor and beauty of our priceless architectural wonder, see if you can spot a tiny, mysterious imperfection in one of the thirteen domes soaring overhead. How it came to be, and why, is a complete enigma.

In 1994 – 1995, Plum Street Temple underwent a massive restoration that included repainting the graphic adornments on the walls and ceilings. 135 different stencil designs were used. It took the painting crew three months to complete the project. Much later, we noticed a tiny polygon that was missing its design in one of the domes. Investigation with the architectural firm responsible for the renovation and the architectural arts company that did the painting turned up no answers for the imperfections, but we have four possible theories. Which do you believe?

1. Simply an oversight by the artist who worked on that section of the ceiling;
2. A deliberate imperfection by an artist who believes that only God can make something perfect: Craftspeople from multiple cultures around the world (including Navajo and Persian rug weavers) traditionally and deliberately include imperfections in their work for this reason;

3. An artist intentionally leaving the spot blank as a kind of "subversive signature";
4. An artist's way of expressing the intention to return one day and complete the painting.

For now (and maybe forever) this shall remain a mystery.

Fund Established in Memory of Cherished Son

The memory of a fallen soldier from the Vietnam era is kept alive almost 50 years later.

When the inconceivable happens in war time, survivors struggle with how to honor and keep alive the memory of their lost loved ones.

Over time, photos fade away, but the pain of loss has a half-life that never seems to dissipate fully.

Temple members Louis and Ethel Kanter (both deceased) lost their beloved only child Edward Lee Kanter ("Eddie"), to the Vietnam War in August of 1969. He was three months away from his 22nd birthday.

Temple member Bob Kanter, Eddie's uncle and Lou's brother, remembers that "Eddie was a sweet, friendly kid."

Eddie and his cousin, Howard Schwartz, grew up together, hanging out at Coney Island, where Eddie's father managed operations at the amusement park. Howard smiles at the memory. "We would play skee-ball and water gun games for hours. Eddie's Bar Mitzvah party was there."

A graduate of Wise Temple religious school and Woodward High School, Eddie spent three years at University of Cincinnati before settling into a training program at the First National Bank. He was looking forward to his career when he was drafted into the Army.

Eddie's Army job became his nickname, a common practice among the troops. He was the "Mailman", a well-loved and friendly visitor bringing news from home to the soldiers. A helicopter would drop him into landing zones (clearings carved out of the jungle where U.S. forces were lodged and often surrounded by the enemy). He delivered mail to the soldiers and then moved on to the next drop. However, on the evening of August 10, 1969, it was decided that he would stay the night at "LZ Becky" on guard duty. Sometime after midnight, a Vietcong soldier managed to slip inside the perimeter and toss an explosive into Eddie's bunker, killing him.

The Vietnam War left many scars upon those who lived through it. Bob and Howard recall with painful clarity the devastation visited upon Eddie's parents. Lou and Ethel turned to Wise Temple for solace and comfort.

They also turned to Wise Temple as a way to keep Eddie's memory alive. Of all the places they could have chosen to remember their son, they were drawn to Wise Temple – their second family, their support. Lou and Ethel first donated a meditative fountain as a testament to Eddie's heroism. Later it was replaced by the large backlit photos of Plum Street Temple in the Wise Center lobby. Eighteen unique photos of Plum Street are rotated every other month to provide striking views of our historic synagogue.

But their generosity didn't stop there. They established a fund in Eddie's name and left their entire estate to this fund upon their deaths – a gift that will provide a generous annual sum to this Temple community in perpetuity – all in the name of their son who was their whole world.

This fund, called the Edward Kanter Fund for Innovation, allows the Temple to fund new endeavors and creative ideas. Once a project has been established, or after a maximum of 3 years, the fund is used for a new innovation. This allows the Temple to try ideas it wouldn't otherwise be able to fund. Most recently, the GPS (Gifts, Passions, and Skills) database was made possible in part by Eddie's fund (see page 7). This innovative tool helps engage congregants in Temple life, something that was so important to Lou and Ethel.

Eddie's life will always be remembered in this congregation, just as Lou and Ethel wanted. Bob notes that Lou and Ethel would be proud of the impact this fund will have on members of this congregation – now and for years and years to come.

Gratitude in Action

Yes, Ken Mailender served in the Air Force during the Vietnam Era. Yes, he accelerated his academics at OSU, graduating a quarter early in order to enlist. Yes, he was the first in his family to serve.

But what is remarkable about Ken's connection to the military is more about now, than then. Ken, co-owner of a family business, currently spends his time and resources recognizing others who serve. "My major contribution isn't in my own service, but in supporting others who serve and making them feel appreciated."

His involvement spans numerous veterans organizations including Easter Seals, an Ohio State University group serving veterans studying at the Business School, and the USO (United Service Organizations that serve U.S. military men and women, and their families.) "I'm a proponent for all those organizations. It's just great being around these people. They're an inspiration."

Ken's greatest satisfactions comes from his association with C-Stars, a program out of U.C. Hospital that trains Air Force doctors and nurses to transport the most critically wounded warriors. "They keep 98% of them alive, which is phenomenal. No military in the world has the technology and ability to support their troops like we do. My job is to show them that they're being supported." Sometimes Ken's support is just in showing up, in simply listening, or providing a little distraction from the stress at hand (like taking the entire crew to a Reds game.) Ken's passion for this work has not gone unnoticed; in 2015, he received an award from C-Stars for enduring support of the organization. "Because I've done so much to help others in the military, they call me a hero, which I find comical. I've gotten to meet and serve with people who are real heroes and true patriots."

There's an unwavering respect in Ken's voice as he talks about the heroes among us. "Hero isn't word I use lightly. But the men and women of our military can be counted on to put their lives on the line. That takes a special dedication."

When asked how his Judaism played a part of his military experience, Ken remembers that most of the people in his basic training group had never met a Jewish person before. "I became a de facto representative of the Jewish Nation without even trying!" he laughs. "If they had any opinion of Jews, it was mostly negative. But they came to see that Jewish people are just like everyone else. We had a job to do and religion didn't matter." Ken also says that the Air Force made every effort to ensure that airmen could participate fully in their religions, so Ken would regularly get to enjoy a Shabbat meal at the Rabbi's home.

For Ken, there is a connection between his Jewish life and his military involvement – a connection rooted in Jewish values. "Gratitude is an important Jewish value. I feel that whether you're for a war or against it, we should be grateful for and honor the men and women who defend us. My major incentive for getting involved later in life was seeing how unappreciated Vietnam Veterans were. That had a profound effect on me. I was determined to make sure that kind of thinking never happened again."

At age 22, Ken enlisted because it was something he wanted to be a part of. "I know it sounds corny, but I felt that this country had given us so much; I wanted to pay something back." Now, at age 71, this Air Force veteran still works out and keeps in shape. He continues to show gratitude to our service men and women. "I hope all people, especially our children and young adults, will meet someone in the military, understand the importance of what they're doing, and show them the appreciation they deserve."

Ken Mailender

Isaac M.
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