

Wise Temple Keshet

WORSHIP | STUDY | GOOD DEEDS | COMMUNITY

TOGETHER
WHEN *a* PART

ELUL 5780 | TISHREI | CHESHVAN | KISLEV 5781
SEPTEMBER | OCTOBER | NOVEMBER 2020



Online meetings keep Wise Temple congregants connected to each other.

How to be Together When Apart

It's been a century since Americans last dealt with such a pervasive life shattering epidemic. How do we protect ourselves and each other? How do we maintain connections with those we love and mourn those we have lost? How do we survive without toilet paper, disinfectant, daycare, school, work, volunteering, Shabbat services? We took so many things for granted, even when we believed we were being grateful for all the blessings in our lives.

On March 12, Rabbis Kamrass, Thomashow and Danziger stood at the bimah in Wise Center's chapel and announced all in-person services, classes and programs were cancelled until March 28. It was only apparent in hindsight the lasting impact coronavirus would have on all our lives.

Yet, over time, we have found ways to adapt, albeit with a new normal, sometimes daily, sometimes even hourly.

Resilience is key. We learned to operate new technologies to connect virtually and spend time together on Zoom. We attended outdoor Shabbat, carefully placing our chairs appropriate distances apart. And we help each other. We social distance, wear masks and make them for others. We shop and cook and stop by the post office for friends, family and neighbors hindered by high risk and co-morbidities. We call and check on our fellow congregants. We donate food, personal care items, school supplies, money and our time packing diapers and food bags for those in need.

Even *Keshet* has had to adapt. There is no Calendar/Pull-out or B'nai Mitzvah listing in this issue, as most in-person events are untenable. Many B'nai Mitzvah services have been rescheduled and those that take place are allowed very limited attendance, so they will be announced after they have taken place, in future *Keshers*. Nothing can be taken for granted, and very little is certain. You will find powerful stories in these pages of how we continue to live our Jewish values, connect to each other through our temple, and look to the future with hope for a better day.

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About the cover: The Hertzman family was concerned about exposing family, friends, and the people who were part of making Zach's Bar Mitzvah happen, to the risk of the coronavirus. As a result, they made the difficult decision to have no guests at all. Zach's parents, his brother, the rabbi, musician, and photographer were the only witnesses to his special, and still joyful, day.

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From Rabbi Kamrass



D'varim Min HaLev דְּבָרִים מִן הַלֵּב

Words from the Heart

-by Rabbi Lewis Kamrass

A global pandemic like Covid 19 changes everything. We know that from the changed routines of our lives to the simplest things we took for granted. First

came the lingering sense of loss for all that suddenly vanished. Over time, we learned to look with a new lens, reframing our priorities with different and deeper perspective.

Time with family or with friends is more precious perhaps than before. The time between visits is longer, the chance to see one another, to hug, to touch, to laugh and even to cry together more cherished than we ever knew. Are we taking the time to express this to those we love, to name those things we look forward to when the time is safe? Are we seeking new avenues to share, connect, and talk, even as we grieve the loss of old, easy ways of being together? If these are the people who really matter in our hearts, we should tell them what they mean to us and seek creative ways of binding one heart to another. For while a global pandemic can quickly change habits, the human heart seeks new ways to express and to live its deepest feelings.

The social fabric of community also now differs greatly. For many, the need for community is much more discernable than before. We see with greater clarity the meaning we find in sharing joy, supporting in loss, marking the rhythm of time with others; we see the significance of learning, of prayer and all that we do every day in synagogue life. While we lament what is gone, we discover new possibilities. Like flowing water shaping a new channel for itself, so it is with community. Those worshipping and learning at Wise Temple have doubled and tripled in these last months, because the spiritual, intellectual and social need for meaning and connection has profoundly deepened. Are you allowing new currents of possibility to flow in your Jewish life—through resources we bring to you to access in your own living room, in your capacity to learn, connect with others, and be Jewishly curious? We invite your exploration.

Even with what has been lost, there is much to discover and to discern. That is our Jewish response of resilience for our days. Like flowing water cutting new channels, we find our way to one another in the circles of love and friendship, and in new ways to connect in community and in spirit. We owe that to our yearning hearts and our seeking souls.

Faithfully,

הרב לב בן דוד וחנה לאה

Rabbi Lewis H. Kamrass

From the President



Coping with Covid

-by Stuart Susskind, Temple President

I opened my President's annual meeting report to the congregation referring to King Solomon's famous line that "there is nothing new

under the sun" and then proceeded to speak about all that the congregation is doing to address the challenges presented by this unanticipated and never-before experienced pandemic.

Social distancing is the antithesis of what comes to mind when I think of Wise Temple. Coming to services, attending learning sessions, participating in temple-sponsored activities and, most importantly, interacting with fellow congregants during these events are what, until this pandemic arrived, we all took for granted. But as we learned very quickly earlier this year, what we once considered our due was suddenly not available to us, at least not in the structure with which we were familiar and comfortable.

Our temple doors were closed so we opened our computer windows. We are so fortunate to live in a time of technology that allows us to stay in contact with each other and engaged in temple activities. Live streaming was in vogue before the lockdown prevented us from being physically present at the temple, but it does not offer interaction with one another. Enter Zoom and now we can see each other and converse. These Zoom meetings have given us the next best thing to being there. I hope that our members have availed themselves of the ability to participate in the numerous opportunities provided by our professional staff over the past few months and if anyone needs assistance to get on board, please contact the office.

While we are lucky to have the technology, it would be worthless to us without the human effort expended to make it meaningful for us. Here I am specifically referring to the tireless work of our Rabbis and office staff, especially in these trying times, who devote extra time and energy to provide our members with the best possible substitutes for the real thing, and to whom we are deeply indebted for their efforts.

Perhaps by the time you read this, social distancing will be a thing of the past; if not, I am confident that as a congregation, we will continue to cope well based upon what we have been able to accomplish so far.



HOW TO BE TOGETHER *When?* aPART

Rocking Out: Family Time Galore

Tina and Michael Best appreciate how their family bonds have strengthened due to the pandemic. Tina, an art teacher at Cincinnati Public Schools, welcomed time during the stay at home order to spend with Max, 8 and Eleanor, 6. Usually, after giving her job 100% all day, she'd be tired and didn't feel up to the same 100% for her family. Mike, an industrial process automation software designer with Honeywell, was happy his commute was reduced to a few seconds. He gets to have lunch with Tina and the kids several days a week, instead of being away for 10-11 hours every day.



Max, Eleanor, Tina and Mike Best

Tina and Mike also observed that with the kids sequestered away from school and social activities, they've grown closer to each other. "This is good for them," Tina notes, "They help each other and they're best friends. Their relationship is stronger than ever, which is reassuring as a parent."

All the silver linings don't eradicate the fact that the kids were bouncing off the walls. Summer didn't come a minute too soon. Tina and Mike have experimented with a mixture of indoor and outdoor activities, some educational sessions, quiet downtime in their rooms or a little bit of TV, looking for the perfect balance. Tina shares that Max and Eleanor have been helping out more around the house since everyone is there constantly and more needs to be done. "They have a couple new chores they enjoy. I went upstairs last night to put Max to bed and *he was reorganizing his dresser*. I said to him, 'Oh, Max, I love you so much!'"

Happy campers

Mike was raised Jewish, and Tina Catholic, but she was turned away by Catholicism's strictness. After years of spiritual exploration, when the kids were born, she came to believe that Judaism provided the atmosphere and philosophy she was looking for, for her and her family. "I love how welcoming and accepting everyone is at Wise Temple. It makes me feel warm inside," she says, a smile lighting up her face.

The pandemic summer has helped Tina feel ready for both kids to go to Jewish summer camp. This past winter when the subject of GUCI came up, she wasn't sure she could send them off for two weeks with no parental visits. "They were ready, but it was hard for me. I was worried, 'Are you sure you won't miss me?' Now we're all ready!" Mike laughs, saying "I grew up in Cleveland, and my parents wanted to find a camp far enough away that I couldn't call and come home if I got homesick, so they shipped me 500 miles away to Wisconsin."

Between a rock and a soft place

Before the pandemic, Tina was creating replicas of famous paintings on rocks and hiding them in the neighborhood for her students to find. The Bests live two blocks from the school where she teaches, so

she and her students are neighbors. The rock painting became a form of therapy helping Tina get through the pandemic. When the Wise Temple Family Engagement group announced the Wise Rocks program of painting rocks to place around the playground, Tina's response was, "On it! Got this. Piece of cake." Tina and the kids got busy creating rocks for the playground.

Her rocks have become a random act of kindness. Mike explains, "Besides the rocks for the temple playground she's been putting rocks outside our house. We live in a pedestrian friendly place. She's put out more than 50 rocks over the last couple of months just to see the kids and families pick them up and take them home. It always puts smiles on their faces."

Mike says although the past five months have felt like five years, they are thankful for their family and all they have now more than ever. Tina adds, "We are so fortunate to be where we are as a family and I try every day to remember how lucky we are."



Tina painted the manhole cover in their yard to make a happy place to share her rocks.



Guiding Star

Julie and John Cohen enjoy a long history at Wise Temple, having married at Plum Street Temple 48 years ago. But that isn't the half of it. Julie's mother, Bess Shavzin, was the temple librarian for 27 years, and her father was involved in Brotherhood, ushering, and fixing things around the temple. Both Julie and her sister Mary Lee Sirkin taught Religious School. John likes to say, "I married into the temple and was married in the temple."

This legacy has given them perspective on how things were done in the past, and how they are now. The pandemic has produced new learning solutions. They thoroughly enjoyed Kafé Kamrass, Julie commenting that "At times it's much easier to do a virtual class than actually go somewhere—it was a very pleasant and good experience." They look forward to the Rabbis' weekly video messages and John notes ironically that he's gotten very good at Zoom meetings and Google hangouts.

On the flip side, they were planning to move into their new home in July when the pandemic put the kibosh on their timeframe. Also derailed was a yearly trip for John in September in which he combines his business (ophthalmology) with his main pleasure (fly fishing).

As a surgeon trained in surgical sterile technique, he views Covid as an invisible enemy. A personal loss has intensified his response: a friend and professional colleague contracted the virus and died. It hit him hard. "It made me very aware that a physician who supposedly knows how to take care of himself could die from it. So I was fanatically trying to decide if I should go back to work and risk bringing the virus home to Julie when both of us are in the age group with a significant mortality rate." John did go back to work, taking stringent precautions with a face shield, double masks, gloves and scrubs that he peels off and puts in the laundry before coming into the main part of the house after work. He's not afraid to ask someone he is dealing with (at the post office for instance) to please wear their mask properly or put one on.

Julie is a retired special ed teacher and feels badly about kids being cheated out of a big part of their schooling, but wants everyone, teachers included, to be safe. "If it's not safe, the kids shouldn't go," she asserts. She also uses "invisible" to describe the virus, likening it to an invisible fence restricting her from her normal comings and goings. The pandemic has made her mindful of the uncertainty of life, so she treats herself to little luxuries occasionally like a little more mayonnaise on her sandwich or macaroni and cheese instead of salad.

Even with the stresses of pandemic living, Julie and John are grateful. Their two sons, Howie (and his wife Tawny) and Brad, who live on the West Coast (L.A. and Portland respectively), are healthy and surviving the epidemic, as is their granddaughter Eleanor, who lives in Maryland. They enjoy each other's company, play Bananagrams, and pack for their move to their new home. John's stint away from work during the stay at home order taught him that he'll be able to emotionally deal with retiring when the time comes.

Julie is also grateful for the Jewish values that are part of her DNA. She has the quote "Make it a habit to do nice things for people who will never find out" hanging in her home as a reminder and her guiding star.



Julie and John Cohen



Jenny, Bob and Stella Oestreicher

Life Around the Kitchen Table

Jenny and Bob Oestreicher have lived in their house for four years but could count on two hands the number of times they actually sat at their kitchen table and had a family meal together. The pandemic changed that, Jenny says. "We have bar stools at our kitchen island, and most of the time we would just eat there, not really sit down intentionally and have a nice meal together. It's been a real treat. We prepare our meals, we sit down and we eat as a family at least twice a day"

Like any two-working-parents family, life was a blur of driving back and forth from daycare and work, shopping, temple, visits with grandparents, errands, carry-out, playdates, chores. The kitchen island was one of the few places they stopped for a breather. Stella is an energetic, spunky, social and smart 3-½ year old who keeps Jenny and Bob busy. When the stay at home order was implemented, and Stella and her parents relocated from daycare and offices to home, Stella had to wonder what was up. At the beginning, Jenny and Bob told her they were going on vacation, and that seemed to have worked. Jenny thinks that Stella was young enough accept the changes but not old enough to question why.

Stella easily grasped the adjustments required for life in the Covid world. Masks, social distancing, calling out her grandparents and her aunts and uncles if they came too

close to her without their masks on and silly distance dance parties with her uncle in her grandmother's garage were now the new normal. Stella adopted the role of pandemic police girl to help all the adults in her life stay in line.

The online world became a part of her life too: playdates on FaceTime and her favorite activity, YoFi Shababa (now on Zoom). Bob says that even though it would have been easy to plop Stella on the couch to play on her tablet all day, they tried hard to mix it up and play with toys, go for walks outside, or go for a drive. They also took advantage of YoFi's "Play It Safe" program, taking Stella to the Wise Center playground.

Many talk of how "surreal" the pandemic has made everyday life. Jenny and Bob experienced that, attending two Jewish funerals remotely. Each of them had a cousin who passed away. Bob mentions that "For me, it was the most concrete thing about this experience. It rang true that we're really in a global crisis, when you can't even go to a graveside for a funeral to mourn a family member." He was grateful for the technology, however, pointing out "We were able to sit shiva through Zoom with our family. Imagine if this had happened five years ago, when none of these technologies existed on any large scale."

Stella's extra-long vacation ended when she went back to day care in August. Jenny, still working from home full-time, works in human resources for Luxottica, and Bob, who is going into work a day or two a week now, is employed at Tire Discounters as general counsel and manager of real estate growth and human resources. Hopefully, life is now a little less surreal for the Oestreichers, and they'll be able to think soon about rescheduling their West Coast trip they had to cancel in March. Beach, anyone?



We All Scream for Ice Cream

Have you felt guilty witnessing the pandemic-inspired culinary exploits of people who are making the perfect loaf of challah from scratch instead of binge-watching Netflix in their pajamas? Well, **Rachel Levine and Steph Schroeder** are two such over-achievers but blame it on their scientific bent. They're not trying to impress anyone, just keeping their extra-restless brains occupied. Rachel and Steph met in college at the Rochester Institute of Technology where Rachel studied mechanical engineering (undergrad and Master's) and Steph focused on biochemistry, then a Master's in environmental sciences.

Rachel landed in Cincinnati first, at GE Aviation working in additive manufacturing (creating jet engine parts using 3D printing with metal). Steph was soon hired as an environmental consultant with Partner Engineering and Science. They had already started discussing what their life together would look like. Rachel was raised Jewish, but Steph was not, yet it felt right to them both that they would move forward in a Jewish-focused direction. Steph found the NextGen@Wise group and began working on her conversion with the help of Rabbi Danziger. Not long after, Rachel was transferred to Germany, and Steph to Poland, where she continued her conversion studies with the rabbi on Skype. It was in Europe that they became engaged.

After two years abroad Rachel and Steph returned to Cincinnati, where Steph finished her conversion and they lived in an apartment in downtown Cincinnati with Bella, their globetrotting foster fail pup. Next up was their October 2019 wedding in Ithaca, New York. Rachel is from Harrisburg, PA, and Steph from New York state (Cincinnati, no less!) so a destination wedding made sense. After a Vermont honeymoon, it was back to Cincinnati to prepare for the trip of a lifetime in February, Honeymoon Israel. Steph explains, "The takeaway is you have this Jewish focused experience together with other couples from your city, and hard conversations about what you imagine your Jewish life to be, then hit the ground running with a like-minded community of people." Rachel and Steph met NextGeners Jazz Duncan and Eric Wolk, (who are getting married in October) and cemented their relationship with them on the 10-day trip to Israel. Rachel says "We've become extremely close. They're our partners in crime now."

Just as the pandemic hit hard, Rachel and Steph closed on a house in Pleasant Ridge, what Rachel calls "South Amberley." They were able to move in April, and because lock-down was already in full swing they had plenty of time to empty all the boxes in record time. What do two scientists do to keep boredom at bay? Steph admits, "We're social creatures and like to be out and about with friends, having new experiences. Living within the bounds of our property line is an adjustment." Rachel adds, "We love to travel. I've never seen so many of our weekends just empty." Hence, the mission to create the world's greatest non-dairy ice cream. Coconut milk is hands down the best plant-based milk. The best success so far? Chocolate marshmallow (amazing!) And the worst? Basil peach (yuck-pesto ice cream!)

After the whirlwind of the last few years, their new normal includes more sleeping, reading, and taking long walks with Bella. They are thankful to have jobs, healthy loved ones, a house and a yard. They are also just enjoying being with each other, establishing Jewish traditions in their home (like being together every Friday night for Shabbat), and sharing the foundation they have begun to build together.



Bottom left: Rachel and Steph on their wedding day. These lucky newlyweds had two honeymoons. Immediately after the wedding, they celebrated in Vermont (above) and in February of this year took the trip of a lifetime with Honeymoon Israel (left).



Steph Schroeder, Rachel Levine and Bella



Springing into Social Action

The pandemic has impacted people's lives in more ways than we can count, mostly bad. But surprisingly, some good is still possible, even with the restrictions of Covid-19.

This summer, a tikkun olam opportunity came to Wise Temple thanks to congregant Linda Berger, a board member of Our Daily Bread (ODB), Cincinnati's largest soup kitchen. The staff of ODB (severely reduced by Covid restrictions) spent every week preparing and distributing hundreds of meals a day. After that, they faced the task of assembling hundreds of Take-Away bags for those in need while ODB was closed over the weekend. Linda and two friends took on the task of the Take-Away bags to relieve ODB staff. Linda's husband Andy (a Past President of the Wise Temple Board) soon suggested that temple volunteers might be able to pick up the project started by the three women.

A team of volunteers rolled up their sleeves and got to work. A list of needed food items and time slots for bag assembly were uploaded online.

For the nine Thursdays in June and July, congregants signed up to supply the required food items and assemble the Take-Away bags for ODB. Julie Kantor explains that "We needed the same six items every week and multiple people to

provide them. People were so glad and grateful to have something good to do while all the normal volunteering was on pause. Besides the purchased items, we needed 200 freshly made peanut butter sandwiches every Thursday. It was a lot of very meaningful work week after week."

Under the covered picnic area behind the temple, safely distanced tables were set up for assembling the bags. Volunteers wore masks and gloves and unloaded donated items from donors' cars, making it contactless and safe.

At the end of the nine weeks, surplus non-perishable items from bulk packages accumulated into a full carload of juice boxes, granola bars and canned dinner entrees for ODB. "When I took the leftovers to ODB, an excited staff member said every single item would be used and nothing would go to waste," Julie noted. "While waiting for ODB to help me unload, I saw a man in the alley eating from a garbage can. If that didn't bring it full circle, I don't know what would."

Gotcha covered, Sweet Cheeks!

On Sunday, August 16, temple volunteers spent the morning packing over 16,000 diapers for Sweet Cheeks

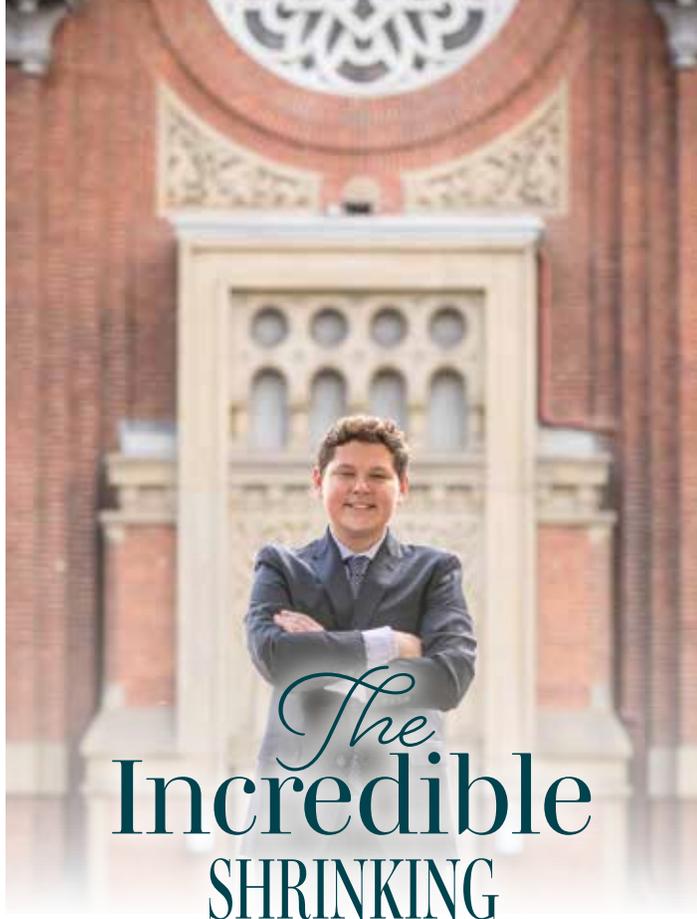
Diaper Bank. With masks, gloves, and lots of hard work, it was a fantastic and productive morning. Over 11,000 diapers were donated by congregants before and even during the event. This largesse supplemented a very generous anonymous donation of 5,000 diapers.

"The congregation really rose to the occasion to help those in need this summer. It was such an outpouring of generosity."

– Julie Kantor

Like Our Daily Bread, Sweet Cheeks is grappling with the pandemic. Volunteers in their warehouse have been curtailed as demand has gone up and supply has gone down. Even for diapers they purchase, Sweet Cheeks has had to spend more—when they can get them. In the tri-state alone, bridging the gap for those in need requires an additional 35,000 diapers a month. The 16,000 diapers from Wise Temple will serve 320 babies who live in poverty.

(continued on page 13)



The Incredible SHRINKING Bar Mitzvah

Zach Hertzman and his family get caught in the pandemic timeline

Zach's Bar Mitzvah, scheduled for March 28, 2020 was in the final planning stages when the State of Ohio began to shrink the maximum number of people allowed at public gatherings as a response to the rising number of coronavirus cases and fatalities. They were expecting 100 guests at the Bar Mitzvah and 175 at the celebration after.

Emily, Zach's mom, explains, "We have a very large family. First it was a 100 people limit, then 50, then 10. The celebration was out when bars and restaurants were closed to events on March 15. So we focused on the ceremony. We worried about offending family members and friends if some got left out. We worried about the risk to grandparents and the people and staff who would be part of making Zach's Bar Mitzvah happen. Zach didn't want to reschedule or move it to Wise Center where it could be live streamed. He was prepared and had his heart set on Plum Street Temple with its special character and rich history. So in the end, it was just the four of us—just Zach, his older brother Jake, Craig and me—in addition to the rabbi, the musician and the photographer. The intimacy of the service made it a very emotional experience."

Zach's dad Craig agrees, "It was an emotional day. While we were sitting there, I was thinking about all the things that have happened since the temple was built. Wars, genocide, social unrest, global health crises and so much more that people have

endured over the last 150 years. During some very tough times, people sat in the same seats where we were sitting and came together to find strength as a community. It was very moving to participate in my son's Bar Mitzvah at that moment in such a historical and intimate setting."

Emily thinks that having no additional family and friends made it easier for Zach to relax conducting the service without an audience, but "He also had to let go of what he thought the day would be like, to no longer have his friends be part of the moment. He had to be adaptable and not be disappointed with the circumstances."



With the stress of Zach's unique Bar Mitzvah situation behind them, the Hertzman family has moved on with daily life. Both Hertzman boys are athletes, playing multiple sports. Emily jokes that she's their "mom-ager." Craig, who grew up at Wise Temple, owns a facilities maintenance company. He feels that it is important to check in regularly with older family members and friends, making sure that loneliness and isolation don't get the better of them during the pandemic.

Zach's interests also include fishing and building computers. He spent the summer riding his bike to a nearby park, meeting his friends to fish. They research knots and lures on YouTube and Zach sends his mom-ager to Bass Pro Shop for the lures they want to try.

Technology has become something of a Mitzvah for Zach. As things opened up in May, he began teaching friends how to build computers. He creates a list of needed parts and sources, helps the kid make a slide show for parents about the project and cost, coordinates a trip to the store to buy the parts, then teaches them how to build the computer piece by piece, usually in an afternoon together. There's no charge for the service and knowledge sharing. Zach simply enjoys the process.

The Hertzman family misses in-person temple events that are part of the community's culture, but Craig says the silver lining is "we've been hanging out and doing things as a family that we didn't have time to do before."



Above: Emily, Zach, Jake and Craig Hertzman at Zach's Bar Mitzvah. **Left:** Zach caught the fishing bug early. At eight, he snagged a well-known neighborhood fish named Walter with a blueberry for bait.

CONTRIBUTIONS

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In honor of:

Sisterhood by Beatrice Winkler

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Bobbie Shaw by Donald and Lowell Bookman
Bette Wallerstein by Sandra Friend
Miriam Rosenbush by Sandra Friend

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In honor of:

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Wilbur Cohen by Edie Shapiro and Michael and Michelle Strapko

Springing Into Social Action | *continued from page 8.*

A highlight of the event was the participation of David Brownlee and his family. David had his Bar Mitzvah at Wise Center the day before, and he chose Sweet Cheeks as his Mitzvah project. His family has volunteered several times at the Sweet Cheeks location over the years, and it's obvious that this way of giving back means more to the Brownlees than anyone could have known.

Other volunteer projects our congregation has organized to address the pandemic:

- During a No-sew Mask Tutorial on Zoom, attendees learned how to create masks from t-shirts, making 15 masks for IHN.

- Family Engagement collected backpacks and school supplies for Volunteers of America's "Operation Backpack," and raised over \$500 for the Freestore Foodbank.
- Religious School students donated almost \$700 of Tzedakah to the Freestore Foodbank at the end of the school year.
- YoFI held a food and personal care items drive to donate to the Jewish Family Service Heldman Food Pantry.



The Heinens hard at work packing diapers for Sweet Cheeks Diaper Bank



a touch of Torah

—by Rabbi Karen Thomashow

Windows of Help and Hope

The rabbis of the Talmud teach us that every synagogue must be built with a window so that those praying inside will never be separated from what is going on in the street.¹

Our congregation has a healthy track record of looking outside our windows and incorporating into our sacred work as a Temple community meeting the needs of those in the community outside our walls. This summer, examples of this imperative include the efforts of our Civic Engagement team, the volunteerism at Wise Center to pack lunches for Our Daily Bread, and the Congregant Care initiatives of virtual buddies and a contactless library pick-up. In the year to come, I am confident that we will continue to prioritize these and other efforts and the moral obligation of ours to improve the world in our day.

Another way to understand the imperative of a synagogue to have a window is to see the window as a representation of light. As these past months have been a time for sheltering in place for us all, and the months ahead (until a vaccine) will see much of our community continuing to shelter in place, it is not lost on us that when we go through a challenging time period we are so much more aware of how

much we rely on the light of the sun, the light of hope, and the light of faith.

The rabbis of the Talmud, when suggesting that a sanctuary needs a window, cited the book of Daniel and our ancestor who himself was in exile, facing momentous challenges, and oriented his window toward Jerusalem. I would like to acknowledge the board of trustees and the lay volunteers of our community who have prioritized reaching out to one another in our Wise Temple family through phone calls and a variety of other ways. I trust that they, our leadership, will continue to prioritize the ways in which we create windows in the homes of one another, our fellow members, going forward in these unusual times.

Finally, in the Torah we read that God instructed Moses to, in turn, instruct our ancestors to "*Asu Li Mikdash V'shachanti B'tocham*" "Make Me a Sanctuary that I may dwell among you."² This instruction suggests that God dwells not in a physical structure, but where people are. In these unusual times, we are reminded by our tradition that God is with us wherever we are—at Plum Street Temple, at Wise Center, and at home. When we pray, study, act and connect from home, our deeds are holy and our Sanctuary windows are transported to us.

May we all go from strength to strength, in health, as we enter this new year. *L'Shanah Tovah*.

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¹ Berachot 34b

² Exodus 25:8



Ben and Tess Rosen

Back to the Shtetl

An old-world wedding in an old-world setting

Ben and Tess Rosen spent March, April, and most of May not knowing if they would be married on June 6 or not. They had been engaged for two years, planned their ideal wedding with 160 guests at Plum Street Temple, and waited in limbo to see what restrictions would be placed on their nuptials by the powers that be. They had already cancelled the reception and considered cancelling the wedding. They wanted their immediate family there, and they wanted it at Plum Street Temple. Not until two weeks before the date did they learn their guest total could be 15 people.

At that point, they needed to either embrace it or scrap the wedding until some unknown future date. Tess says, "We went through a little mourning period, but then we realized we were still able to get married and have some truly beautiful moments that we wouldn't have if the wedding had gone according to plan." Ben adds, "Pre-Corona, we thought we needed a DJ with a reception venue, a big party, etc. and it turns out all we needed was our immediate family, the rabbis, the photographer and the two of us. We had a really intimate wedding ceremony and went to my parents' for a family dinner that was our reception. It felt very back to the shtetl to me, back to the old world." Coming out of Plum Street Temple and upon arriving at Ben's parents' home, the newlyweds were surprised

by welcoming committees of friends who couldn't be part of the wedding, cheering and celebrating their marriage.

Ben and Tess are no strangers to last minute changes to major plans. Ben is in his third year of the Rabbinical program at Hebrew Union College. The year before their wedding, he and Tess were planning to live in Jerusalem for his first year of study, when Tess was offered her dream job of teaching English at Sycamore High School where both she and Ben attended. Ben went to Israel alone and Tess bunked with her future in-laws, who live near the school. Tess says, "We ended up getting very close. They were an incredible support system while I was going through my first year at a new job, and missing Ben like crazy, every waking moment of the day."

If you wonder what our society could look like down the pike, look no further than Ben and Tess, who are committed to careers of service and are hopeful for the future. They are gratified to see and participate in the work being done in the global pandemic to end racism and create a society based on equality. The state of the world right now has delivered some valuable insights they will carry with them into their new life together. Ben, in regards to the daily rat race of life: "Slow down, it's probably not that important." Tess: "Stand up and speak out for what you know is right, even when it's inconvenient or hard."



Tess and Ben on their wedding day.

Debby and Jeff Rosen, married 30 years, are both from Cleveland, but love Cincinnati, and have raised their four children here (Ben, Emma, Sophie and Joshua). Watching their oldest child marry at Plum Street Temple was a moving experience for them. All of Ben's major lifecycle moments took place there. "It was one of those happy, sad moments in life. We were ecstatic they could move forward, and so happy for them, with a little sadness mixed in that everyone who matters to them couldn't be there," Debby remembers. Jeff notes, "There were 150 people on Zoom who were part of Ben and Tess's day. It was beautiful that they were there is spirit. It couldn't have gone better."

Wedding photo by Loren Cowdrey, Homeward Photography Co.

Wise at work &



WOOTY and J.WOOT 678 kayaked the Little Miami past the Loveland Castle.



Civic Engagement @ Wise planned get-out-the-vote strategies.



Empty Nesters hiked Big Bone Lick State Park.

play!

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

Women Thrive toured the monumental murals in historic Over the Rhine.



Family Engagement paddled hard at Sharon Woods.



WiseGen enjoyed an outdoor Chavurah.



YoFI collected and packed diapers for Sweet Cheeks Diaper Bank.



We came together to worship during Shabbat in the Lot.



Mazel Tov to...

Engagements

Debbie Ridenour on the engagement of her daughter, Delia Ridenour to Ian Cox.

Hali Nacdimen and Justin Kirschner on their engagement.

Dr. Richard and Elaine Brown on the engagement of their daughter, Sarah Brown to Brad Menard.

Christine Lilly and Ryan Chait on their engagement.

Weddings

Rabbi Lewis and Renee Kamrass on the marriage of their son,

Anna Lee Kamrass on the marriage of her grandson, **Vivian Slotin** on the marriage of her grandson, Jared Kamrass to Emma Drongowski.

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

Ed Waterman on the wedding of his daughter, Logan Waterman to Kyle Mueller.

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

Debra Pinger on the wedding of her daughter, Cora Keller to Will Colwell.

Ann and Neil Wasserman on the marriage of their son, Mark Bernstein to Rachel Hirsch.

Births

Nancy and Gary Grossman on the birth of their granddaughter, Melissa Harriet Jones.

Bonnie and Randy Loftspring on the birth of their granddaughter, Isla Shoshana Honig.

Julie and Roger Heldman on the birth of their grandson, **Anne Heldman** on the birth of her great grandson, Eli Warren Heldman.

Randy and Peter Bloch on the birth of their grandson, Asher Hollis Bloch-Davidson.

Shelley and Alan Tarshis and the late **Dr. Nancy Goodman** on the birth of their granddaughter, Vivian Maia Makrides Tarshis.

Joni and Gary Askin on the birth of their grandson, **Herschell Levine** on the birth of his great grandson, **Lois Askin** on the birth of her great grandson, Logan Miles Askin.

Jean and Herb Haas on the birth of their grandson, Ace George Haas.

Marlene and Albert Shmalo on the birth of their grandson, Isaac Marcus Berg.

Bibs Becker on the birth of her great granddaughter, Madison Eve Schneider.

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 - Complete ballot
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 - Increases your safety during the pandemic
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 - Vote at your designated polling location
 - Nov. 3rd, 6:30AM-7:30PM
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MAKE SURE YOU'RE REGISTERED TO VOTE!!



For more information, visit: wisetemple.org/good-deeds/civic-engagement/

Condolences to...

Marcia Goldsmith on the death of her sister, Shirley Berman.

Karen Krieger on the death of her brother, Loren Wurzman.

Andrea and Dr. Michael Rapp, on the death of his brother, Joel Rapp.

Gene Mesh on the death of his wife, Elise Mesh.

Dr. Scott Joseph and Dr. Patricia Joseph on the death of his father, Marc Joseph.

Sue Levine on the death of her husband, **Julie and Steve Levine** on the death of his father, Gilbert Levine.

Kenneth Levy on the death of his son, **Stacy and Todd Levy** on the death of his brother, Martin Levy.

Karina and Alex Kogan on the death of her mother, **Jacob and Maria Kogan** on the death of their grandmother, Nina Sherman.

The family of **Marvin Moss**.

Iris and Larry Werthaiser on the death of his mother, **Ashley and Joshua Werthaiser** on the death of his grandmother, **Melissa and Stefan Hunter** on the death of her grandmother, **Alexis and Rebecca Hunter** on the death of their great grandmother, and **Shane, Ari and Eli Werthaiser** on the death of their great grandmother, Sala Werthaiser.

Kathy and Dr. Louis Claybon on the death of her mother, **Meredith and Jim Friedman** on the death of his mother, **Sam Huttenbauer, Jr.** on the death of his sister, **Peter Friedman** on the death of his grandmother, Frances Friedman Schloss.

Jeff Garfield on the death of his mother, Evelyn Garfield.

Dr. Jennifer and Zach Green on the death of her sister, Betsy Ach.

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The family of **Sue Ransohoff**.

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Stella Jungerwirth on the death of her husband, Bernard Jungerwirth.

Gail and Matthew Sperling on the death of her father, Stanley Rubin.

The family of **Paula Troup**.

Kim and Stanley David on the death of his father, Edwin David.

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Rhonda and Larry Post on the death of his father, David Post.

The family of **Ivan Steinberg**.

Brian Stern on the death of his mother, Roslyn Stern.

Pam Barnett on the death of her father, **Ilana and Neil Nadel** on the death of her grandfather, Robert Bernard Barnett.

The family of **Shirley Bernstein**.

Audrey and Charles Comins on the death of their grandson, Kaleb Brill.

June Jacobs on the death of her husband, Marvin Jacobs.

Jennifer Tanzman and Patrick Feldman on the death of her grandmother, **Brooke and Brian Carlisi** on the death of her grandmother, Sylvia Zusman.

Barb and Mike McCoucha on the death of her mother, Vera Gutin.

Dr. Mary Sutton and Dr. Dan Kanter on the death of her father, **Sarah and Bobby Kanter** on the death of their grandfather, Dr. Harold Sutton.

Laura Foster on the death of her mother, Pearl "Terry" Juntoff.

Dr. Jerrold Levin on the death of his brother, **Debbe Levin** on the death of her brother, Ronald Levin.

Dr. Jerrold Levin on the death of his wife, **Chad Levin** on the death of his mother, **Andrew and Jonathan Levin** on the death of their grandmother, Janice Levin.

Cara and Rob Alpern on the death of his father, **Lena and Quinn Alpern** on the death of their grandfather, Eugene Alpern.

Marilyn Innes on the death of her husband, John Innes.

Robert and Marcy Klein on the death of his father, **Shelly and Ken Weisbacher** on the death of her father, Justin Klein.

The family of **Beatrix Margolis**.

Naomi and Scott Ruben on the death of his mother, **Claire Ruben** on the death of her grandmother, Lois Ruben.

Lauren Scharf on the death of her father, Robert A. Epstein.

Dr. Edward Desatnik on the death of his wife, Sandra Desatnik.

Gail and Jon Kushner on the death of his mother, Dorothy Kushner.

Sheila Weiner on the death of her brother, Steve Weiner.

Susan and Larry Glynn on the death of her mother, Gloria Medoff.



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See page 18 for more information.