

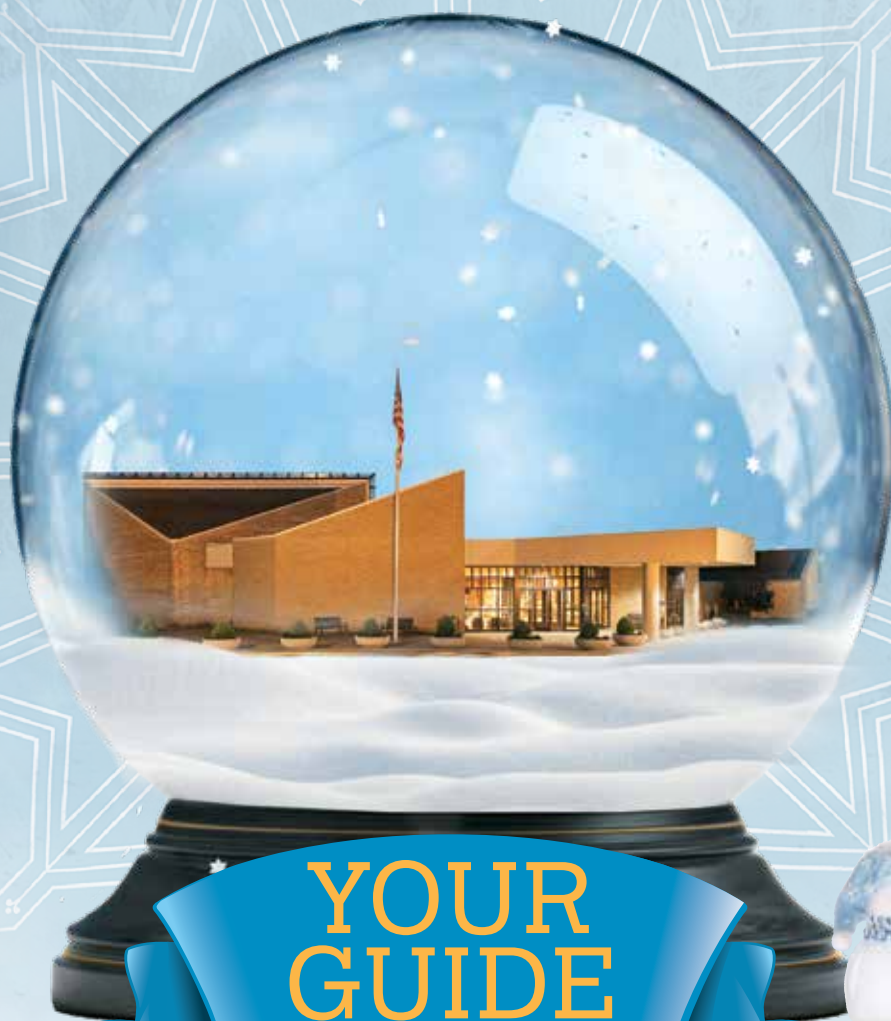
THE WISE

ISSUE 9 | WINTER 2023-24



Guide

WELCOME TO
WiNTER
AT WISE!



**YOUR
GUIDE**



TO UPCOMING WISE TEMPLE EVENTS,
SERVICES & PROGRAMS



Warm Up Your Winter with Worship,

DECEMBER

- 1 FAMILY ENGAGEMENT**
Family Shabbat | 6:00 PM–7:30 PM
- 3 KEHILLAH #11** | 9:15 AM–11:45 AM
Sixth Grade Family Education Program
9:15 AM–11:45 AM
Threes Class | 9:30 AM–11:30 AM
- 3 SHELANU** | 5:00 PM–7:00 PM
- 5 EITZ CHAYIM**
Tuesdays with Torah: Gender Identity in Jewish Life with Aaron Torop, Rabbinic Fellow
12:00 PM–1:00 PM
- 8 MULTI-GENERATIONAL CHANUKAH SERVICE**
6:15 PM–7:15 PM, followed by Congregational Chanukah Dinner, 7:15 PM–8:30 PM
- 9 YOFI SHABABA AND CHANUKAH BRUNCH PARTY**
9:30 AM–11:00 AM
- 10 KEHILLAH #12** | 9:15 AM–11:45 AM
Open Room Family Education Program
10:15 AM–11:45 AM
- 10 SHELANU** | 5:00 PM–7:00 PM
- 12 EITZ CHAYIM**
Tuesdays with Torah: Gender Identity in Jewish Life with Aaron Torop, Rabbinic Fellow
12:00 PM–1:00 PM
- 12 EITZ CHAYIM**
Talmud and Rabbinic Judaism Class
with Rabbi Kamrass | 5:00 PM–6:00 PM
- 14 EITZ CHAYIM**
Downtown Lunch and Learn: The Jewish “AND” with Rabbi Goodman | 11:45 AM–1:00 PM
One East Fourth, 14th Floor (4th & Vine), Cincinnati
- 14 BROTHERHOOD MONTHLY MEETING AND DINNER**
6:00 PM–7:30 PM
- 15 NEXTGEN@WISE**
Shabbat at Encore Urban Living Indoor Rooftop | 6:30 PM–9:30 PM
716 Sycamore St, Cincinnati
- 16 YOFI SHABABA DOWNTOWN**
9:30 AM–11:00 AM
Play Library, 1306 Main St, Cincinnati

- 17 KEHILLAH #13** | 9:15 AM–11:45 AM
Threes Class | 9:30 AM–11:30 AM
- 17 WOMEN THRIVE**
Peaceful Yoga | 9:30 AM–10:30 AM
- 17 SHELANU** | 5:00 PM–7:00 PM
- 20 GOOD DEEDS**
St. Francis Soup Kitchen | 3:00 PM–6:00 PM
St. Francis Seraph, 1615 Republic St, Cincinnati
- 25 GOOD DEEDS**
Northern KY Christmas Day Dinner
10:00 AM–2:00 PM
Northern Kentucky Convention Center
1 W Rivercenter Blvd, Covington
- 25 GOOD DEEDS**
Shelterhouse Soup Kitchen
10:15 AM–1:15 PM | 411 Gest St, Cincinnati
- 25 CHRISTMAS DAY BOWLING**
Hosted by Brotherhood
12:00 PM–3:00 PM
Crossgate Lanes, 4230 Hunt Rd, Blue Ash

JANUARY

- 4 YOFI CHALLAH BAKESHOP**
5:00 PM–6:45 PM
- 7 KEHILLAH #14** | 9:15 AM–11:45 AM
Threes Class | 9:30 AM–11:30 AM
- 7 EITZ CHAYIM**
Jewish Parenting Seminar: *Becoming a Soulful Parent* with Dasee Berkowitz
9:30 AM–11:00 AM
- 9 EITZ CHAYIM**
Tuesdays with Torah: Israeli Pop Culture Since October 7th with Matt Check | 12:00 PM–1:00 PM
- 9 EITZ CHAYIM**
Talmud and Rabbinic Judaism Class
with Rabbi Kamrass | 5:00 PM–6:00 PM
- 11 BROTHERHOOD MONTHLY MEETING AND DINNER**
6:00 PM–7:30 PM
- 13 YOFI SHABABA** | 9:30 AM–11:00 AM
- 14 KEHILLAH #15** | 9:15 AM–11:45 AM
- 16 EITZ CHAYIM**
Tuesdays with Torah: Israeli Pop Culture Since October 7th with Matt Check | 12:00 PM–1:00 PM



Learning, Community and Fun!

20 YOFI SHABABA DOWNTOWN

9:30 AM–11:00 AM

Play Library, 1306 Main St, Cincinnati

21 KEHILLAH #16 | 9:15 AM–11:45 AM

Threes Class | 9:30 AM–11:30 AM

2nd Grade Family Education Program

10:15 AM–11:45 AM

21 WOMEN THRIVE

Peaceful Yoga | 9:30 AM–10:30 AM

23 EITZ CHAYIM

Tuesdays with Torah: Embracing Reform—A Comparison of Orthodox, Conservative, and Reform Jewish Movements with Jamie Starr, Rabbinic Fellow | 12:00 PM–1:00 PM

25 EITZ CHAYIM

Downtown Lunch and Learn: Four Worlds in One—Tu B'shvat with Aaron Torop, Rabbinic Fellow | 11:45 AM–1:00 PM
One East Fourth, 14th Floor (4th & Vine), Cincinnati

25 ADULT ENGAGEMENT

A Jewish Inspired Meal at Sacred Beast
6:30 PM–8:30 PM | 1437 Vine St, OTR

27 YOFI SHABABA | 9:30 AM–11:00 AM

27 GOOD DEEDS

Volunteer at New Life Furniture Bank
1:00 PM–3:30 PM
11335 Reed Hartman Hwy, Unit 134, Cincinnati

28 KEHILLAH #17 | 9:15 AM–11:45 AM

30 EITZ CHAYIM

Tuesdays with Torah: Embracing Reform—A Comparison of Orthodox, Conservative, and Reform Jewish Movements with Jamie Starr, Rabbinic Fellow | 12:00 PM–1:00 PM

FEBRUARY

2 FAMILY ENGAGEMENT

Family Shabbat Winter Party
6:00 PM–7:30 PM

4 KEHILLAH #18 | 9:15 AM–11:45 AM

Threes Class | 9:30 AM–11:30 AM

4th Grade Family Education Program

10:15 AM–11:45 AM

4 BROTHERHOOD

Chicken Soup Cookoff
SAVE THE DATE!

**IT'S
BACK!**

6 EITZ CHAYIM

Tuesdays with Torah: Great Jewish Debates with Rabbi Goodman | 12:00 PM–1:00 PM

8 BROTHERHOOD MONTHLY MEETING AND DINNER

6:00 PM–7:30 PM

9 NEXTGEN@WISE

Shabbat at Plum Street Temple
6:30 PM–9:30 PM

9 ADULT ENGAGEMENT

Wine Tasting Shabbat Dinner 2024
7:15 PM–9:15 PM

10 YOFI SHABABA | 9:30 AM–11:00 AM

11 KEHILLAH #19 | 9:15 AM–11:45 AM

11 EITZ CHAYIM

Wise Hybrid Learning: Jewish Comic Book Characters with Dr. Jennifer Caplan
10:00 AM–11:00 AM

13 EITZ CHAYIM

Tuesdays with Torah: Great Jewish Debates with Rabbi Goodman | 12:00 PM–1:00 PM

13 EITZ CHAYIM

Talmud and Rabbinic Judaism Class
with Rabbi Kamrass | 5:00 PM–6:00 PM

17 YOFI SHABABA DOWNTOWN

9:30 AM–11:00 AM
Play Library, 1306 Main St, Cincinnati

19 YOFI FAMILY PLAYDATE

10:00 AM–12:00 PM | Location TBA

20 EITZ CHAYIM

Tuesdays with Torah: Great Jewish Debates with Rabbi Goodman | 12:00 PM–1:00 PM

22 YOFI CHALLAH BAKESHOP

5:00 PM–6:45 PM

23-26 YOUTH (GRADES 6-12) L'TAKEN Teen Social Action Trip to Washington, DC

24 YOFI SHABABA | 9:30 AM–11:00 AM

25 KEHILLAH #20 | 9:15 AM–11:45 AM

27 EITZ CHAYIM

Tuesdays with Torah: The Poetry of Rachel with Matt Check | 12:00 PM–1:00 PM

Visit wisetemple.org for more information and to register for events. All events at Wise Center unless noted.



Wise Temple's Eitz Chayim Adult Education Winter Program 2023-2024

WINTER PRESENTERS



Rabbi Lewis H. Kamrass, Senior Rabbi

Rabbi Kamrass is the Senior Rabbi of Isaac M. Wise Temple of Cincinnati, Ohio, where he has spent his entire rabbinate of over thirty-eight years.

Rabbi Kamrass is a Phi Beta Kappa, summa cum laude graduate of the University of Georgia in Sociology and Psychology, with a Master of Hebrew Letters and Rabbinic Ordination from Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion (HUC-JIR), as well as recipient of an honorary Doctor of Divinity degree. He served for 25 years as an Instructor in the Theology Department of Xavier University and as adjunct faculty at HUC-JIR.* In the national Reform movement, Rabbi Kamrass currently serves as Immediate Past President of the Central Conference of American Rabbis, the 2200-member international body of Reform Rabbis, and also serves on its Board. He has served as a Board Member of the HUC-JIR* and the Union for Reform Judaism.



Rabbi Zachary S. Goodman, Associate Rabbi

Rabbi Goodman was born and raised in Dallas, Texas and attended the University of Texas at Austin before he was ordained on the

Cincinnati campus of HUC-JIR.* While still in rabbinical school, Rabbi Goodman and his wife, Katie, were members of Wise Temple and were married at Plum Street Temple. Following his ordination in 2019, Rabbi Goodman served as the Assistant Rabbi at Holy Blossom Temple in Toronto before joining the Wise Temple family in the summer of 2022. Rabbi Goodman is passionate about Israel education, youth and teen engagement, young professional programming, and

learning in all its many forms. Music is also an important part of his life; he plays guitar, piano, and sings. Rabbi Goodman loves to explore the outdoors, travel, cook, watch sports, host game nights with friends, and spend time with his wife and young sons, Abe and Ira.



Matt Check, Director of Lifelong Learning

Matt is excited to make Cincinnati his home after almost 20 years in New York City as a Jewish educator and musician. He holds a Master of Arts in Education from the Jewish Theological Seminary (2008) and a Master of Public Administration from Baruch College (2011). In directorial roles, Matt has overseen Hebrew schools, family engagement, and adult education programs at New York institutions that include Central Synagogue, Park Avenue Synagogue, 92Y, JCP Downtown, and Anshe Chesed. In addition to his administrative work, Matt is an accomplished singer-songwriter, guitarist, banjoist and producer of Jewish, children's, Americana, and bluegrass music. As a new member of the Wise Temple team, he looks forward to working with the community to celebrate Jewish values through music and education.



Aaron Torop, Rabbinic Fellow

Aaron Torop is a 2023-2024 Wise Temple Rabbinic Fellow and a 5th year rabbinic student at HUC-JIR.* Prior to starting at Wise Temple, Aaron served a student pulpit in Lafayette, Louisiana for two years and was the Rabbinical Student Association President. He is a Nachshon Project Graduate Fellow, a pluralist fellowship cultivating the next leaders of North American Jewish

communities. Prior to starting at HUC, Aaron was a Legislative Assistant at the Religious Action Center of Reform Judaism in Washington, DC and received his BA in Political Science from American University. He lives in Norwood with his wife, Madeline (also a 5th year rabbinic student), and their two cats.



Jamie Starr, Rabbinic Fellow

Jamie Starr is a third-year rabbinic student at HUC-JIR* in Cincinnati. Growing up in Northern Virginia, Jamie was raised in a Reform Jewish home and was very involved in her synagogue, Temple Rodef Shalom.

Jamie graduated from Swarthmore College in 2019 with a BA in Philosophy and Psychology. At Swarthmore, she led Kehilah, a non-denominational Jewish group, and organized a weekly Jewish text study. Prior to starting rabbinical school, Jamie worked as an Eisendrath Legislative Assistant at the Religious Action Center for Reform Judaism in Washington, DC, where she advocated for social justice on Capitol Hill. Jamie also taught religious school and organized a weekly adult education program for self-reflection during the month of Elul at her hometown temple. This year, Jamie is thrilled to be working with the Wise Temple community while continuing her studies.



Amy J. Katz, PhD

Amy Katz facilitates the six-session Wise Aging class. The President of Wise Temple from 2011 to 2013, Amy was a member of the first Wise Aging group and currently helps to lead Civic Engagement@Wise.



Dasee Berkowitz

Dasee Berkowitz is a sought-after educator, facilitator and founder of Ayeka's "Becoming a Soulful Parent" program. Her groundbreaking approach to education has been enthusiastically received by Jewish community centers and synagogues. Dasee has lectured internationally, served as Scholar-in-Residence for Jewish federations, and trained facilitators at educational agencies across North America. Dasee's work creating meaningful pathways to parenthood builds on years of experience spent listening closely to the needs of parents and educators. She holds a master's in Informal Jewish

Education from Hebrew University and a BA from Barnard College, Columbia University, where she graduated magna cum laude. She has studied at the Pardes Institute for Jewish Studies and the Conservative Yeshiva, which helped her cultivate a unique approach rooted in the wisdom of the Jewish tradition. Dasee is a frequent contributor to multiple prominent Jewish publications with articles on parenting as a spiritual practice and making family life meaningful during Jewish holidays. Her podcast, "Inspired Parenting", a joint project by Ayeka and the Pardes Institute of Jewish Studies, debuted in 2018.



Dr. Jennifer Caplan

Jennifer Caplan is Associate Professor and the Jewish Foundation of Cincinnati Chair in Judaic Studies at the University of Cincinnati. Her first book, *Funny, You Don't Look*

Funny: Judaism and Humor from the Silent Generation to Millennials, was published in 2023 by Wayne State University Press. She is currently working on her second book, *Unmasked: Jewish Identity and Comic Books*.



Tuesdays with Torah

Tuesdays, 12:00 PM–1:00 PM
Wise Center and Zoom

Gender Identity in Jewish Life

Aaron Torop, Rabbinic Fellow

November 28, December 5, 12

Did you know there are at least six types of gender in the Talmud? Learn about gender identity and how it shows up in Jewish life. This space is equally for those who are working to understand different facets of gender identity alongside those who feel comfortable in today's language surrounding gender. Together we will learn, grow, and embrace the expansive diversity of gender in Judaism.

*Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion

WINTER COURSES

continued



Israeli Pop Culture Since October 7th

Matt Check, Director of Lifelong Learning

January 9, 16

The observation of Israel's "Jewishness" has always been a topic of intrigue for the community of the diaspora. How has this identity been collectively expressed since the events of October 7th and everything that has followed? Join Matt Check as we delve into some cultural artifacts that are now emerging from Israel since the onset of the latest war (graffiti, advertisements, songs, commercials, etc.).

Embracing Reform: A Comparison of Orthodox, Conservative, and Reform Jewish Movements

Jamie Starr, Rabbinic Fellow

Jan 23, 30

From liturgical comparisons to discussions on contemporary issues, join us as we bridge understanding across the spectrum of Judaism. We will discuss what makes Reform Judaism distinctive, and how this may impact our individual sense of Jewish identity and pride.

Great Jewish Debates: The Controversies of Our People

Rabbi Zachary Goodman

February 6, 13, 20

Since the inception of Jewish history (from Abraham and God to Theodor Herzl and Rabbi Isaac M. Wise), Jews have engaged in the art of deliberation, examination, and disagreement. Looking through the lenses of the Biblical Era, Rabbinic Era, and Modern Era, this class identifies and analyzes some of the most heated and consequential debates of the Jewish People. Beyond the historical, political, ethical, and spiritual challenges presented, what makes these disputations so compelling is that nearly all of them are still being argued today.

The Poetry of Rachel

Matt Check, Director of Lifelong Learning

February 27

Join Matt Check for a reading and discussion of the poetry of Rachel Bluwstein, one of the most famous artists of pre-state Israel, who was a resident of

Degania, Israel's first kibbutz. With her work in mind, Matt addresses the question, "Has the meaning of the archetypal texts in Israeli history changed, given the most recent events happening in The Land of Israel?"

Talmud and Rabbinic Judaism Class

Rabbi Lewis Kamrass

Tuesdays, 5:00 PM–6:00 PM

Wise Center and Zoom

December 12, January 16, February 13

The ancient rabbis radically reshaped biblical Judaism to respond to new needs and changing times. Their work through the centuries sets the foundation for the Judaism we currently practice. Learn about the Talmud, Midrash and other areas of their creative, intellectual and spiritual genius that shape who we are as Jews today. Open your eyes to the enduring richness and origin of Jewish ideas and practice.

December 12: Explore the popular *New York Times* series known as "The Ethicist," applying Rabbinic values and sources to discern a Jewish response to the ethical dilemmas posed in this column. Using sources from Talmud and Rabbinic Judaism, we will see how those values illuminate Jewish ideas of ethical living.

January 16 and February 13: Look for more information in upcoming Adult Education emails.

Downtown Lunch and Learn

Thursdays, 11:45 AM–1:00 PM

One East Fourth, 14th Floor (4th & Vine), Cincinnati
Optional lunch available

The Jewish "AND"

Rabbi Zachary Goodman

December 14

Explore the remarkable capacity of Judaism to embrace and reconcile conflicting truths. Through examination of texts, theological ideas and historical perspectives, we investigate the concept of "paradox" in Jewish thought and how we might hope to navigate it. By examining this rich tradition, we will gain a deeper appreciation for the nuanced and inclusive nature of Jewish perspectives on Truth.

Four Worlds in One: Tu B'Shvat

Aaron Torop, Rabbinic Fellow

January 25

Today we celebrate Tu B'Shvat, a holiday focused on our connection to the natural world. Join us to talk about our role in nature and a mystical view of our planet. We will learn about how kabbalah, Jewish mysticism, engages with food, creation, and the holiday of Tu B'Shvat. Come, eat, and join the world of the mystic together with our physical world.

Wise Hybrid Learning

Sundays, 10:00 AM–11:00 AM | Wise Center and Zoom

Jewish Comic Book Characters

Dr. Jennifer Caplan, Jewish Foundation of Cincinnati
Chair in Judaic Studies, University of Cincinnati

February 11

Jennifer Caplan highlights the curious history of some of Marvel and DC Comics' most notable Jewish characters. We will discuss the histories of Magneto, The Thing, Ragman, and Kitty Pride with a particular focus on the way Jewish writers and non-Jewish writers envisioned the characters differently.

Special Events & Programs

Wise Aging

Amy Katz, Facilitator

Session One: December–January

Session Two: March–April

How does one age “wisely,” open doors to new opportunities and effectively navigate life’s challenges? Through our six-session course, this cohort will come together for authentic, meaningful, fun, and honest conversation to help us live with joy and friendship in the years ahead and to cope with inevitable loss and change that we may face. Course dates, times and locations will be determined collaboratively among registrants. The course will focus on the tools, practical suggestions, and Jewish teachings included in *Wise Aging: Living with Joy, Resilience, & Spirit* by Rabbi Rachel Cowan and Dr. Linda Thal.

**Sponsored by Jewish Home of Cincinnati.*

Jewish Parenting Seminar: *Becoming a Soulful Parent*

Dasee Berkowitz

January 7

9:30 AM–11:00 AM | Wise Center and Zoom

Combining insights from thousands of years of traditional Jewish wisdom and contemporary literature on spirituality with her own utterly relatable first-person storytelling, author Dasee Berkowitz helps readers embrace every moment with their families while leaning into the challenges of parenting with renewed perspective and enthusiasm. This is not a parenting how-to book. Instead, *Becoming a Soulful Parent* asks questions to help readers explore the contours of their inner lives and develop their internal compasses as they lead their families with love and wisdom.

Session
One is full.
Register for
Session Two by
March 6!

To look ahead for events later in the year, visit the temple’s online calendar at [wisetemple.org/calendar](https://www.wisetemple.org/calendar).



Winter Service Schedule

Shabbat Evening Services at Wise Center, Fridays, 6:15 PM. Shabbat Morning Services and Torah Study at Wise Center, Saturdays, 10:15 AM. See event listings on pages 2–3 for YoFI and Family Engagement services.

DECEMBER

- 1 Shabbat Evening Service
- 2 Shabbat Morning Service and Torah Study
- 2 Bat Mitzvah of Lily Levental at Plum Street Temple
- 8 Multi-Generational Chanukah Service, followed by Congregational Chanukah Dinner at 7:15 PM
- 9 Shabbat Morning Service and Torah Study
- 15 Shabbat Evening Service
- 15 NextGen@Wise 2nd Shabbat at Encore Urban Living
- 16 Shabbat Morning Service and Torah Study
- 22 Shabbat Evening Service
- 23 Shabbat Morning Service and Torah Study
- 29 Shabbat Evening Service (Birthday & Anniversary Blessings)
- 30 Shabbat Morning Service and Torah Study

JANUARY

- 5 Shabbat Evening Service
- 6 Shabbat Morning Service and Torah Study
- 12 Shabbat Evening Service
- 13 Shabbat Morning Service and Torah Study
- 19 Shabbat Evening Service
- 20 Shabbat Morning Service and Torah Study
- 26 Shabbat Evening Service (Birthday & Anniversary Blessings)
- 27 Shabbat Morning Service and Torah Study

FEBRUARY

- 2 Shabbat Evening Service
- 3 Shabbat Morning Service and Torah Study
- 9 Shabbat Evening Service, followed by Wine Tasting Shabbat Dinner at 7:15 PM
- 9 NextGen@Wise 2nd Shabbat
- 10 Shabbat Morning Service and Torah Study
- 16 Shabbat Evening Service
- 17 Shabbat Morning Service and Torah Study
- 17 Bar Mitzvah of Charlie Claybon at Plum Street Temple
- 23 Shabbat Evening Service (Birthday & Anniversary Blessings)
- 24 Shabbat Morning Service and Torah Study



Isaac M.

Wise Temple

ק.ק. בני ישורון

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Cincinnati, Ohio 45236
wisetemple.org

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WELCOME TO
Winter
AT WISE TEMPLE!



CELEBRATE **Chanukah** AT WISE

Friday, December 8
WISE CENTER

Multi-Generational Chanukah Service

Join us for our annual multi-generational Chanukah Shabbat service. Bring your menorahs and candles to light during the service and sing along with your favorite Chanukah songs!

6:15 PM–7:15 PM | CHAPEL

Congregational Chanukah Dinner

After Shabbat service, enjoy a Chanukah-themed meal with latkes and much more!

7:15 PM–8:30 PM | SOCIAL HALL