Spring is Here!

YOUR GUIDE TO UPCOMING WISE TEMPLE EVENTS, SERVICES & PROGRAMS
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<td>Jewish Parenting Seminar: HOW TO HAVE HARD CONVERSATIONS WITH YOUR KIDS</td>
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<td>3rd Grade Parent Meeting</td>
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APRIL

2  
**EITZ CHAYIM** Tuesdays with Torah: How We Read (and Misread) the Bible with Rabbi Lewis Kamrass | 12:00 PM–1:00 PM |

5  
**FAMILY ENGAGEMENT** Chocolate Shabbat | 6:00 PM–7:30 PM |

7  
**KEHILLAH #24** | 9:15 AM–11:45 AM |
| 7th Grade Family Education Program | 9:30 AM–11:30 AM |

7  
**KEHILLAH #24** | 9:15 AM–11:45 AM |
| 3rd Grade Family Education Program | 10:15 AM–11:45 AM |

7  
**KEHILLAH #24** | 9:15 AM–11:45 AM |
| Hornstein Lecture: Rebuilding Jewish Life in Krakow after the Holocaust | 10:15 AM–11:45 AM |

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

MAY

2 EITZ CHAYIM
Downtown Lunch and Learn: Who Wrote the Torah? with Jamie Starr, Rabbinic Fellow
11:45 AM–1:00 PM
One East Fourth St, 14th Floor (4th & Vine)

3 FAMILY ENGAGEMENT
Intergenerational Shabbat Service featuring Kehillah | 5:45 PM–7:30 PM

4 GOOD DEEDS
Volunteer at Freestore Foodbank
1:00 PM–3:30 PM
3401 Rosenthal Way, Cincinnati

5 KEHILLAH CLOSING DAY
9:15 AM–11:45 AM
4th Grade Family Education Program
9:15 AM–11:00 AM
Kehillah Closing Day Celebration & Picnic
11:45 AM–1:30 PM

7 EITZ CHAYIM
Tuesdays with Torah: How We Read (and Misread) the Bible with Rabbi Lewis Kamrass
12:00 PM–1:00 PM

13 YOFI SHABABA | 9:30 AM–11:00 AM

14 KEHILLAH #25 | 9:15 AM–11:45 AM
8th Grade Parent Meeting
10:45 AM–11:45 AM

14 EITZ CHAYIM
Wise Hybrid Learning: A Conversation with a Reform Rabbi in Israel with Rabbi Ayala Samuels
10:00 AM–11:00 AM

16 EITZ CHAYIM
Tuesdays with Torah: How We Read (and Misread) the Bible with Rabbi Lewis Kamrass
12:00 PM–1:00 PM

18 BROTHERHOOD MONTHLY MEETING AND DINNER
6:00 PM–7:30 PM

20 WOMEN THRIVE
The Original Findlay Market Tour
2:45 PM–4:45 PM | 1801 Race St, Cincinnati

21 KEHILLAH #26 | 9:15 AM–11:45 AM
Threes Class | 9:30 AM–11:30 AM
1st Grade Family Education Program
10:15 AM–11:45 AM

23 YOFI & FAMILY ENGAGEMENT
Family Passover Seder | 5:30 PM–7:15 PM

25 NEXTGEN
Young Adult Community Seder
7:00 PM–10:00 PM | Location TBA

28 KEHILLAH #27 | 9:15 AM–11:45 AM
5th Grade Family Education Program at Gorman Farms | 9:30 AM–11:30 AM
10052 Reading Rd, Evendale
6th Grade Family Education at Plum Street Temple | 9:45 AM–11:15 AM

30 EITZ CHAYIM
Tuesdays with Torah: How We Read (and Misread) the Bible with Rabbi Lewis Kamrass
12:00 PM–1:00 PM

7 GOOD DEEDS
NextGen at Shelterhouse Soup Kitchen
4:15 PM–7:15 PM | 411 Gest St, Cincinnati

7 WOMEN THRIVE & WOMEN OF WISE
Peaceful Yoga | 9:30 AM–10:30 AM

9 EITZ CHAYIM
Tuesdays with Torah: How We Read (and Misread) the Bible with Rabbi Lewis Kamrass
12:00 PM–1:00 PM

9 EITZ CHAYIM
Talmud and Rabbinic Judaism Class with Rabbi Lewis Kamrass | 5:00 PM–6:00 PM

10 NEXTGEN
NextGen Shabbat @ Plum Street
6:30 PM–9:30 PM | Plum Street Temple

11 YOFI SHABABA
Summer Send-Off | 9:30 AM–11:00 AM

14 EITZ CHAYIM
Tuesdays with Torah: The Spotify Playlist of Israeli Politics & History with Matt Check
12:00 PM–1:00 PM

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Tuesdays with Torah: How We Read (and Misread) the Bible with Rabbi Lewis Kamrass
12:00 PM–1:00 PM
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 nearly thirty-nine 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 family.

Matt Check, Director of Lifelong Learning

A native of Bucks County, Pennsylvania, Matt attended the University of Pittsburgh, before an almost 20-year stint 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 Ansche 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 member of the Wise Temple team, he enjoys working with the community to celebrate Jewish values through music and education.

Courtney Anthony, Director of Education

Courtney has brought a warm spirit and a passion for Jewish education to this role since 2018. Launching the Kehillah program at Wise Temple has been a highlight of her professional life, and she loves working with our community of students, parents, and teachers. Prior to joining the Wise Temple family, Courtney served as Principal for Grades 7-12 at Temple Rodef Shalom in Falls Church, Virginia from 2010-2014 and as Director of Education at Temple Emanuel in Winston Salem, North Carolina from 2014-2018. In addition to her background in education and Judaic studies, Courtney holds Bachelor’s and Master’s degrees in English and is a longtime Shakespeare enthusiast.

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 Kehillah, 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 an educator, executive facilitator, coach, and author. Originally from Boston, Massachusetts, she lives in Jerusalem with her husband and three children. Read more about her here: soulfulparent.com.

Jonathan Ornstein
Jonathan Ornstein, CEO of the Jewish Community Center (JCC) in Krakow, is a primary architect of Poland's contemporary Jewish rebirth, a frequent international speaker and media contributor on issues relating to Jewish Poland, and an activist for Holocaust survivors. He is a founding member of the Krakow Association of Christians and Jews where he serves as vice president. He also serves on the boards of the Krakow branch of the Child Survivors of the Holocaust organization, Hillel Poland, JCC Global, and the Abraham Global Peace Initiative.

Rabbi Jonathan L. Hecht, PhD
Rabbi Hecht serves as Dean and Rabbinical Program Director at HUC-JIR* in Cincinnati. Rabbi Hecht previously served as rabbi at Temple Chaverim in Long Island from 1992 to 2018. Rabbi Hecht was ordained on the HUC-JIR* campus in 1987 and received his PhD from New York University. Very active in the broader Jewish community during his tenure on Long Island, Rabbi Hecht is a past President of the Long Island Board of Rabbis and served on the Board of the Mid-Island Y JCC. He served as a Chaplain of the 106th Air Rescue Wing of the New York Air National Guard from 1987 to 1998, where he held the rank of Major. He received the Air Force Achievement Medal in 1997 for his dedicated service.

Rabbi Ayala Samuels
Rabbi Ayala Ronen Samuels, PhD, is the founding rabbi of a growing Reform community–Congregation Tfilat HaAdam–in Caesarea, Israel. She offers Reform Rabbinical services in the large area of the Carmel Shore County. A Jewish educator, Rabbi Ayala has taught in various countries and settings since graduating from Haifa University. There she earned a BA in Jewish Thought and Psychology and a Teaching Certificate, and later earned a PhD in Jewish Education at the Jewish Theological Seminary in New York. Her rabbinical education and ordination are from the Israeli Rabbinical Training program at Hebrew Union College in Jerusalem. Ayala was born and raised in Kibbutz Shamir, in the Upper Galilee, Israel. She is married to Ami and they have three sons.

Rachael Houser, Rabbinical Student
Rachael Houser is a fourth-year rabbinical student at HUC-JIR*. Her great passion is Cincinnati Jewry and anything to do with the life and times of Isaac Mayer Wise. She has served the student pulpts of Temple Beth Sholom in Michigan and Temple Israel in Kentucky, and as a fellow for the Jewish Cemeteries of Greater Cincinnati and the Religious Action Center of Ohio. To continue the legacy and community outreach of Wise’s beloved HUC-JIR*, she works as an engagement intern for the college.

*Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion

SPRING COURSES

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

A Jewish Perspective on Jesus
Courtney Anthony, Director of Education
March 5, 12, 19, 26

Who was the historical Jesus of Nazareth? This class will closely examine his life story within the context of the time and place in which he lived. What was daily life like? How would Jesus have practiced Judaism? What was the political climate? And how did a man who lived and died as a Jew become the focus of a new religion? Explore the answers to these questions and more.

SPRING COURSES CONTINUED ON PAGE 6 >
How We Read (and Misread) the Bible: A Guide to Deeper Understanding
Rabbi Lewis Kamrass
April 2, 9, 16, 30
Most readers of the Bible tend to take it literally, in part because they want to take it seriously. Yet its words and lessons can seem conflicting, its theology confounding and its context too complex. But to read the Bible literally is to diminish its significance, for it was written by hands that took life and the religious narrative too seriously to simplify it to literal reading. We Jews do not “read” the Bible, we study it, probe it, argue with it, and ultimately feel challenged and inspired by it. Walk through some of the most misunderstood sections and overlooked passages, as we seek to move from superficial literalism to the deeper meaning with which our sacred tradition invites us to reflect, to see human complexity, compelling messages, irony, humor and the invitation to inspiration.

Lost Artifacts: Beyond Indiana Jones
Aaron Torop, Rabbinic Fellow
May 7
Items from the ancient Temple in Jerusalem, such as the Ark of the Covenant and the Menorah, continue to animate Jewish thought long after their disappearance. Together we will explore what may (or may not) have happened to these items and discuss the symbolic significance of objects even after we no longer have them. Learn about Aaron’s favorite Jewish conspiracy theory and stories we tell ourselves about our past.

The Spotify Playlist of Israeli Politics & History
Matt Check, Director of Lifelong Learning
May 14, 21, 28
Israel has an amazing and unique musical tradition for its short 75 years of existence. Dive into some classics of the Israeli songbook in which the themes of the country’s history, politics and culture are expressed in fascinating ways that are particularly Israeli and Jewish.

Talmud and Rabbinic Judaism Class
Rabbi Lewis Kamrass
March 5, April 9, May 7
Tuesdays, 5:00 PM–6:00 PM | Wise Center and Zoom
No prior knowledge is required for this course, but do bring your curiosity, questions, and a desire to learn deeply. 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. This once-a-month class will open your eyes to the enduring richness and origin of Jewish ideas and practice.

Downtown Lunch and Learn

Finders Keepers: A Jewish Take on the Lost Object
Rabbi Jonathan Hecht
March 21
You find a $20 bill on a lunch table downtown. Can you keep it? You are walking down the beach and a pocketbook washes up on shore. What does Jewish law say? Learn about the rabbinic conception of the “Lost Object.” During this session, we will examine one of the clearest, most interesting sections of the Talmud. Put on your legal and ethical thinking caps. We will be reading from the Babylonian Talmud, Tractate Bava Metzia, Chapter 2.

Who Wrote the Torah?
Jamie Starr, Rabbinical Student
May 2
From God to Moses to multiple writers and editors over time, there are abundant theories about the authorship of our central text, the Torah. Investigate some of these theories and discuss how the Torah can still be sacred and relevant to our lives today.

Wise Hybrid Learning

Dasee Berkowitz
March 10, 9:30 AM–10:30 AM
War, a hostage crisis, and antisemitism are not child’s play. Many parents are struggling with how to talk to their children about current events. Join Dasee Berkowitz, author of Becoming a Soulful Parent: A path to the wisdom within (Kasva Press: 2020), for a reflective session that is grounded in Jewish wisdom and will guide you toward more soulful conversations with your kids.

A Conversation with a Reform Rabbi in Israel
Rabbi Ayala Samuels
April 14, 10:00 AM–11:00 AM
Rabbi Ayala Samuels, the current chair of Maram: Council of Reform Rabbis in Israel, joins in conversation with Rabbi Kamrass. What is the state of Reform religious thought and practice in Israel, and how is the rapidly changing Israeli political landscape impacting progressive Judaism in Israel?
Special Events & Programs

Wise Aging
Amy Katz, Facilitator
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, with one session having taken place in December (through January), and a second beginning in March (through April). 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.

A One-Woman Performance:
The Life and Loves of Selma Bondi Wise
Rachael Houser, HUC-JIR* Rabbinical Student
March 28
7:00 PM–8:00 PM | Wise Center
We know Reverend Dr. Isaac Mayer Wise as the man who pioneered American Reform Judaism, but what about the power behind the proverbial throne? Learn about the two women who motivated and inspired him. His second wife, Selma Bondi Wise (as performed by Rachael Houser) weaves the tale of his adventuresome partnership with his first wife, Therese, and his unlikely love story with Selma herself. Drawn from materials found in the American Jewish Archives, Rachael's performance reveals surprising and endearing secrets about the private life of Isaac Mayer Wise and his wives. His illustrious career would not have been possible without them.

Hornstein Lecture:
Rebuilding Jewish Life in Krakow After the Holocaust
Jonathan Ornstein
April 7, 1:00 PM
Union Terminal | 1301 Western Ave, Cincinnati
Join us for the annual Stephen and Lusia Hornstein Lecture on the Holocaust and the Human Spirit at historic Union Terminal. Jonathan Ornstein will be speaking about his efforts to rebuild Jewish life in Poland, where he has served as the CEO of the Jewish Community Center (JCC) in Krakow since the JCC’s opening in 2008. The annual Stephen and Lusia Hornstein Lecture on the Holocaust and the Human Spirit is cosponsored by Wise Temple’s Hornstein Lecture Fund and the Nancy & David Wolf Holocaust & Humanity Center.

Spring 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, Family Engagement and NextGen services.

MARCH
1 Shabbat Evening Service
2 Shabbat Morning Service and Torah Study
8 Shabbat Evening Service
9 Shabbat Morning Service and Torah Study
15 Shabbat Evening Service
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
30 Bar Mitzvah of Caleb Dumes at Wise Center

APRIL
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
20 Bat Mitzvah of Natalie Bakkum at Plum Street Temple
23 Passover Morning Service
26 Shabbat Evening Service (Birthday & Anniversary Blessings)
27 Shabbat Morning Service and Torah Study
29 Passover Yizkor Service

MAY
3 Shabbat Evening Service
4 Shabbat Morning Service and Torah Study
4 Bar Mitzvah of Noah Kantor at Plum Street Temple
10 Shabbat Evening Service
11 Shabbat Morning Service and Torah Study
11 Bar Mitzvah of Sam Dumes at Plum Street Temple
17 Shabbat Evening Service
18 Shabbat Morning Service and Torah Study
24 Shabbat Evening Service (Birthday & Anniversary Blessings)
25 Shabbat Morning Service and Torah Study
25 Bat Mitzvah of Hannah Schwartz at Plum Street Temple
31 Shabbat Evening Service

*Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion
Don't Miss Out on Purim Fun!

**Purim Karaoke Night for Young Adults**
*Thursday, March 21*
7:00 PM–10:00 PM
Flying Pig Irish Pub
3265 Brotherton Rd
Hyde Park

**YoFi Shababa & Purim Brunch Party**
*Saturday, March 23*
9:30 AM–11:00 AM
After a special Shababa service featuring costume wearing and grogger shaking, we will celebrate Purim with a full brunch from The Bagelry and Purim activities. Dressing up is highly encouraged!

**Family Purim Celebration & Dinner: “Taylor’s Version”**
*Saturday, March 23 | 5:00 PM-7:00 PM*
Join us for an evening of family-friendly Purim festivities, featuring a Taylor Swift-inspired spiel. Wear your best TSwift concert attire, enjoy making groggers, masks, and even friendship bracelets, and sing along to Esther’s Story, told with melodies of your favorite Taylor Swift songs. Following the spiel, enjoy a dinner for the whole family.

- 5:00–5:30 Crafts: Groggers & Masks
- 5:30–6:15 Blessings & Spiel
- 6:15–7:00 Dinner & Friendship Bracelets

**Adult Engagement Purim Party: Dinner, Drinks & Improv!**
*Saturday, March 23*
5:30 PM–8:30 PM
Come for the spiel, stay for the meal... and much more! Enjoy a festive Purim celebration with your Wise Temple family and friends. The evening begins with a congregation-wide spiel featuring a Taylor Swift theme. Wear your favorite concert attire and sing along to Esther’s Story! After the spiel, enjoy dinner, following which our group will move to the lower level of Wise Center for drinks, dessert, and improv games led by the staff of Improv Cincinnati.

- 5:30–6:15 Blessings & Spiel
- 6:15–7:00 Dinner
- 7:00–8:30 Drinks, Dessert & Improv Games

**COST:** $20 members, $25 guest (includes spiel, meal, dessert, drinks, and improv games)

See Inside for This Year’s PASSOVER EVENTS