

KESHER

THE WISE CONNECTION

What Chanukah Means To Me:

Our 4th Graders Speak Out

Our Jewish holidays (*Chagim*) are always a time for children and their families to get together and celebrate. Chanukah is a great example of a Jewish holiday filled with fun and lessons for our children. Here is a sample of what our 4th grade religious school students had to say about Chanukah:

★ Chanukah means peace to me, and freedom. It is special to me when my other family members come to celebrate Chanukah when they're not Jewish.

★ When I think about the Jewish holiday of Chanukah I think of many things: the first thing that comes to mind is the prayers and songs – always joyous, and bouncing off the ears and minds of those in the room. The next thing that comes to mind is of all the friends and family—kissing, hugging and playing games. After that passes I think of the history—the rededication of the holy temple and the oil for the menorah lasting for eight days. Chanukah is a very important holiday to me and my family.



★ I think the Chanukah miracle strengthened the Jews. To me, Chanukah means freedom, peace and unity. I also have a lot of fun on Chanukah because of latkes, dreidels, presents and lighting the menorah.

★ Chanukah means to me that I get to be with my family all together and that is what I really like, and lighting the menorah. I

love the smell and the colors of the candles.

★ Chanukah means being with my family, friends and neighbors.

You can't have Chanukah without a good dinner and with presents. This is what Chanukah means to me.

★ Chanukah means family, fun and a great time. I am proud to be Jewish. We always

celebrate it at my Aunt's house.

★ Chanukah means being at home with my family and also relaxing with them and saying the prayers.

HAPPY CHANUKAH.

ISAAC M. WISE TEMPLE



K.K. B'NAI YESHURUN

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Founded in 1842

AFFILIATE:
Union of American
Hebrew Congregations

D'VARIM MIN HALEV-

"Words from the Heart"

BY RABBI KAMRASS

Turn on the news and you will quickly discover that the world is often a broken place. The bloodshed, hatred, famines, diseases, or storm-ravaged places of the world remind us that there is enough pain and hardship in the world to damage one's faith. In such cases, it requires the intervention of others, foreign aid, disaster relief, peacekeeping forces, and mobilization of legions of people, all of whom direct their attention and their concern to that darkened corner of the world.

But there is another kind of brokenness that we know, not the stuff of headlines in its large scale but, nonetheless, a wound that can inflict terrible pain. There are so many people whose lives have been touched by challenges, trials, and burdens. Many people bear that pain quietly, sometimes in private circles, without the legions of armies and rescue workers, but with the loving aid of those who care about us and with the foundation of our personal strength. I believe that when we face personal trial, one of the best teachers of faith is the loving concern and support of family, of friends or of community. When our lives are broken, we learn faith in the circles of community. And when we feel most broken, lost, or alone, it is only community that can lift us up, once again, toward hope.

Ten years ago, our congregation sought to reach out to families who faced the pain of homelessness and its accompanying sense of despair and loneliness. For the most part, these were the poor and the working poor, who had gotten behind in their rent, and could not find the resources to pay bills, muster enough funds for a security deposit, and found themselves evicted, spiraling downward, with little resources to break their fall. This is a kind of pain that few of us have ever known. So Wise Temple joined

together with several churches and founded the Interfaith Hospitality Network.

Several churches and one synagogue – Wise Temple – vowed to be that sense of community and of support to lift up families from their brokenness. And we chose to do so in a personal way. Once every two months, for a week at a time, our classrooms at Wise Center become bedrooms for homeless families. Temple members like you volunteer to become the face, the hands, and the heart of that vital sense of support.

Under the direction this year of our IHN chairs,

Helene Ohren and Anne Pleatman, dozens of volunteers cook dinner at home and bring it to our guests and serve it to them at Wise Center. Others come and talk with our guests or play with our guests' children during the evening. Still others become the hosts who sleep at Wise Center and help our guests get ready in the morning to return to the IHN Day Center, where the children are returned to their regular schools, where parents get housing and employment assistance, and the rekindling of hope and of faith that comes with such tangible help.

I am exceedingly proud of our role in the Interfaith Hospitality Network. I am proud that we helped bring it to Cincinnati. I am delighted that we were singled out recently by the Reform Movement with its Fain Award for extraordinary social action participation (the same award that we received a decade ago for our Wise-UP program). I am proud of our

Congregation's ability to sustain this IHN program and to offer this vital outreach of support, of community and its tangible demonstration of faith that has lasted for a decade now. And most of all, I am proud of those many volunteers in our Congregational Family through the years who have come to understand the face of homelessness and who have sought to change it, one person at a time, by being our volunteer hosts. I invite you to be among them as we utilize IHN volunteers some 35 days a year.

If you are interested in helping with IHN please contact our program director, Phyllis Tobias, at ptobias@wisetemple.org or at 793-2556. Joining a quiet corps

of caring volunteers can enrich your life with new perspective and gratitude.

In the same vein of being a community that supports others, I am equally pleased that, as of November, Alcoholics Anonymous has been meeting at Wise Center. Alcoholism is a progressive disease that harms the alcoholic, and corrodes the delicate threads of all those whose lives touch the sufferers. The sense of hopelessness that also can accompany alcoholism is often best combated with the awareness of support that comes from others who are also struggling toward recovery and well-being. A.A. has a proven history of being a wonderful tool for that journey of reaching from brokenness toward

healing, a tool that recognizes the importance of a spiritual foundation.

Once every two months, for a week at a time, our classrooms at Wise Center become bedrooms for homeless families. Temple members like you volunteer to become the face, the hands, and the heart of that vital sense of support.



Rabbi Kamrass

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Tikkun Olam

Repairing the World

BY BARBARA DRAGUL

Many generations of Jews have yearned for *tikkun olam*, for a healing and repair of the world.

The passion for equality and justice, for protecting the poor and the helpless, for *tzedakah* and compassion is woven throughout our history, is at the heart of our traditions, and lives within us today.

Some might say it takes *chutzpah* for Jews to believe we are co-partners with God in completing the work of creation, in ensuring that our world is both humane and just. But this message of our partnership with God calls out to us throughout our history and has been illuminated by Jewish teachers throughout the centuries.

A Hasidic rebbe, known as the Leover, taught, "If a person comes to you for assistance, and you tell him, 'God will help you,' you are acting disloyally to God. For you should understand that God has sent you to aid the needy person, not to refer him back to the Almighty." (From The Blue Guide to the Here and Hereafter)

From our earliest teachings we learn that when God created Adam, God led him around the Garden of Eden and said to him: "Behold my works! See how beautiful they are, how excellent! All that I have created, for your sake did I create it. See to it that you do not spoil and destroy my world; for if you do, there will be no one to repair it after you." (Ecclesiastes Rabbah 7:13)

How do we at Wise Temple turn this passion for good into action? One avenue is our award winning Wise-UP program, where congregants are invited to partici-

pate in a variety of projects that contribute to the ideal of *tikkun olam*. It is in the human spirit to want to contribute to making the world a better place, and it is the Jewish mandate of "*tzedek, tzedek*,

(justice, justice) you shall pursue" (Deuteronomy 16:20) that prompts us to act upon that spirit.

This is such a core principle in our Wise Temple community that to be true to the call of *tikkun olam* we must include our children in this sacred work. Therefore, each of our religious school students participate in an age appropriate Wise-UP project each year within the context of their

Sunday school experience. Children naturally understand the spirit of doing real work in the world and can quickly sense when they are making a difference.

Our religious school Wise-UP projects are chaired by parent volunteers under the direction of our team leaders, Milynn Hoffman and Robin Sensor. This year's projects include:

- **Open Room** students will prepare *Shaloch Manot* Baskets (Purim goody baskets) for the elderly
- **First Grade** students will prepare gifts of welcome for our Interfaith Hospitality Network (IHN) guests
- **Second Grade** students will share their lovely voices in song with residents of Cedar Village
- **Third Grade** students will collect and wrap books for needy students
- **Fourth Grade** students will plant trees along the Little Miami River
- **Fifth Grade** students have already planted bulbs at the United Jewish Cemetery
- **Sixth Grade** students will prepare



Barbara Dragul

first aid kits for the American Red Cross

- **Seventh Grade** students will hold a car wash to raise money for a charity of their choice
- **Eighth Grade** students will run a school supplies drive for Crayons to Computers - an organization that collects and distributes school supplies for needy schools

VALUE OF THE MONTH

These acts of caring come out of the core Jewish value we have adopted for this December: *V'ahavta l'rayacha*, loving your neighbor as yourself. Many Jewish rabbis and scholars throughout history have deemed this the most important *mitzvah* of all.

In Leviticus, 19:18, we are told, "Love your neighbor as yourself." How are we to understand this commandment? There is a wonderful story about Rabbi Hillel that has come down to us across two thousand years of Jewish history. When a non-Jew challenged Rabbi Hillel to teach him the whole Torah while standing on one foot Hillel answered him simply: "What is hateful to you, do not do to your neighbor. That is the entire Torah-all the rest is commentary. Go and learn it." (Talmud Shabbat 31a)

The 12th century Jewish sage Maimonides explained, "It is a positive commandment of Rabbinic law to visit the sick, to console the mourner, to attend to the dead, to provide a dowry for the bride, to escort one's guest.....though all these commandments are a matter of Rabbinic law, they are nevertheless embraced in the verse 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.'" (Hilchot Avel 14:1)

Through our Wise-UP program our students learn about the Jewish imperative to act with goodness in the world, to "love your neighbor as yourself" (*V'ahavta l'rayacha*) and along the way our kids teach us a few things about compassion, fairness and generosity. Our students' acts of *V'ahavta l'rayacha*, demonstrate so well this beautiful lesson from Anne Frank, "How wonderful it is that nobody need wait a single moment before starting to improve the world."

This is a mighty *mitzvah*, loving your neighbor as yourself, and one that raises many questions. How do we fulfill this

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Although A.A. is non-denominational, too often Jewish members of A.A. must join meetings that are hosted in churches. Jewish organizations do not typically host A.A. meetings because they would like to believe that the brokenness and pain of alcoholism does not touch the lives of Jewish families. But, of course, it does and often it touches into wider circles than we might think. The message that many Jewish participants might perceive is that the Jewish community does not offer the outstretched arms that help people in need to feel supported and uplifted. By hosting an A.A. meeting at Wise Center, we hope to change that

perception.

If you or someone you know has a problem with alcohol, or if you have any questions, feel free to call the Alcoholics Anonymous office at 513-351-0422. All conversations are confidential.

Faith is felt in the heart, but taught by our deeds. It is absurd to preach faith to a hungry person, when the sense of God's presence is felt only after someone has cared enough to offer food, to solve the basic problem of that hungry person's broken life. Only when we create those human connections do we begin to open the heart to spiritual awareness. And so our deeds will always teach more eloquently than even our most articulate words. That has always been the message of Judaism. Faith is demonstrated

through *mitzvot*. Faith may be felt in the heart, but it is lived in the streets, in our homes, and in the human connections that link us heart to heart.

Think about that essential message of Judaism – about finding a life of faith through deeds, through *mitzvot*. Ask yourself what you are doing, and strive to become one of those people who quietly lend a hand to others, a friend to be counted on, a volunteer in service to those in need. In so doing, you will not only lift up others, but you may find yourself on a surprising journey of faith that lifts you up and enriches your spirit, as well. 🕯

Lewis H. Kamrass

Rabbi Lewis H. Kamrass

PROGRAM CONNECTION

EITZ CHAYIM:

Let's Come Together and Learn



"It is a TREE OF LIFE / EITZ CHAYIM to those who hold it fast, and all who cling to it find happiness. Its ways are ways of pleasantness, and all its paths are peace." -- Proverbs 3:17-18

What is Eitz Chayim?

Our Eitz Chayim program is Wise Temple's innovative approach to lifelong Jewish learning. Eitz Chayim is designed to meet the needs of our whole congregation by providing expanded programs and classes offered in a variety of settings and times. Programs and classes are grouped under eight categories: The Basics of Judaism, Family Learning, Learning to Read Hebrew, Text Study Opportunities, Historical Jewish Perspectives, Contemporary Jewish Perspectives, Workshops and Discussion Groups, and Special Events.

Below is some key information; for more details, please consult the Eitz Chayim brochure that was mailed to you.

How do I Register for a Class?

Many of the classes require no registration – all you need to do is show up! To be sure, just check the course description in your Eitz Chayim brochure.

If a class requires registration, it is crucial that you take the time to pre-register. If we do not have enough people signed up for a course, we may need to cancel it.

Some Upcoming Classes

Book Review of The Healer of Shattered Hearts: A Jewish View of God

Time: 10:00-11:30 a.m.

Date: Sun. December 2 at Wise Center

Pre-registration: No

In a work of remarkable clarity and wisdom, Rabbi Wolpe confronts a central dilemma of modern Judaism, combining his deep knowledge of ancient tradition with modern sensibilities to show contemporary Jews that God still speaks to them – to their daily struggles, angers, fears, and needs, offering comfort and inspiration. Come join us for a lively discussion. This book is one of the "Significant Jewish Books" recommended as part of the UAHC's Jewish Literacy Initiative. <http://uahc.org/books>

Current Events Through Jewish Eyes

Time: 1:00-2:00 p.m.

Date: Mon. December 3, 10, 17 at

Wise Center

Pre-Registration: Yes

What does Judaism have to say about

what you just read in the *Cincinnati Enquirer* and *New York Times*? How do we respond as Jews to what you just saw on CNN or the local news? From politics to economics, social issues to religion, whether in Cincinnati, the U.S., Israel or around the world, our Jewish tradition has something to say. In this class, we will delve into these traditions to gain a uniquely Jewish perspective of today's headline events occurring in the world around us.

From Birth to Earth

Time: 10:15 a.m.

Date: Sun. December 9 at Wise Center

Pre-registration: No

This class is your opportunity to learn more about Jewish lifecycle events. Join us as we start with the rituals surrounding a newborn, move through youth, middle age and conclude with death. What do our rituals mean and how are they done? Together we will explore what our people have done throughout the ages to mark the passage of time.

Create Your Own "Wise Words"

Time: 7:30-9:00 p.m.

Date: Thurs. December 13 at Wise Center

Pre-registration: Yes

The Wise Words Committee has videotaped senior Temple members about their lives, their memories, and their wisdom. Now the Committee will show you how to create your own family videos of memories to be treasured. Learn how to be a successful videographer from Tom Law of Pangea Productions (producer of "Wise Words"). Find out what questions to ask, how to interview and how to create a special videotape of YOUR family's heritage. 🕯

Schoolpop

A New Reason to Shop on the Internet

Shopping on the Internet can now benefit our Religious School. We have partnered with Schoolpop, an Internet-based fundraising company, to help us raise money online. Just go to www.schoolpop.com, follow the easy to register information and start shopping! The online retailers then rebate our school up to 20% from each purchase - at NO ADDITIONAL COST to you.

How to Use schoolpop.com

1. Log onto www.schoolpop.com
2. Click on "Schools" and then "Register Now" to sign in.
3. The next page will say "Find my School." Go to the zip code line, type in "45236" and click "Search."
4. Scroll down the list of schools until you locate Isaac M. Wise Temple and click on it.
5. You will now be asked to fill in some information. Please note that you only need to fill the fields that are marked with an asterisk (*). Once you have filled out this form click "register."
6. At the top of the next screen it will say "your purchases will benefit Isaac M. Wise Temple, Cincinnati Ohio."
7. You may now shop. Please make sure that every time you sign in you select Wise Temple. This will ensure the rebate comes to Wise Temple.



The Wise Shabbat

Refreshing Change. For A New Personal Tradition.

Isaac M. Wise Temple Congregational Shabbat Dinners January 11

Service at 6:15 p.m. - Dinner immediately following service

Come and celebrate Shabbat with other Temple families. All families are encouraged to attend this wonderful event. Please send this form with a check (payable to Wise Temple) to:

Shabbat Dinner

Wise Temple • 8329 Ridge Road • Cincinnati, OH 45236

Dinners \$7.00 each - (Children under 10 \$2.50)

January 11

_____ Dinners @ \$7.00

_____ Dinners @ \$2.50

\$ _____ (Amount enclosed)

I will bring the following side dish (enough to serve 10)

_____ vegetable or salad

_____ potato, pasta or rice

Name _____

Address _____

Children's Names/Ages _____

Phone _____

E-mail _____

Send in your reservation early!! Dinner space is limited.
Reservations must be made at least 10 days prior to Dinner.

Isaac M. Wise Temple



Thank God It's Shabbat

Shabbat Seminar. Save the Date January 11 & 12, 2002

This year our Shabbat Seminar will focus on the celebration of Shabbat itself. We will explore how we as Reform Jews define Shabbat, drawing from Midrash and traditional definitions of work and rest while incorporating an understanding of contemporary and personal relevance. Join us in one of our most popular adult learning experiences with our Rabbis and Director of Education for a retreat of learning, and socializing. Please watch your mail for the brochure!

LISTING OF EVENTS



Brotherhood

No programs scheduled this month.



Congregational Shabbat Dinners

Sisterhood Chanukah Dinner

December 14

7:15 p.m. at Wise Center

For more information, contact Linda Berger at 859-344-9731 or Lauren Prangley at 871-5466.

Shabbat Dinner

January 11

7:15 p.m. at Wise Center

For more information, contact Ann at the Temple office at 793-2556.



Eitz Chayim

NOTE: Some Eitz Chayim classes require pre-registration. Check your Eitz Chayim Brochure for details.

Book Review - The Healer of Shattered Hearts with Lew Ebstein

December 2

10:00 a.m. at Wise Center

For more information, contact Lew Ebstein at 489-8048.

Currents Events through Jewish Eyes with Michael Shulman

December 3, 10, 17

1:00 p.m. at Wise Center

For more information, contact Terri Snively at 793-2997.

From Birth to Earth

December 9

10:15 a.m. at Wise Center

For more information, contact Tina and Steve Straubing at 791-8568.

Wise Words Workshop

December 13

7:30 p.m. at Wise Center

For more information, contact Sue Ransohoff at 221-3720.

Discussion Group- Articles from Reform Judaism Magazine

January 6

9:30 a.m. at Wise Center

For more information, contact Lew Ebstein at 489-8048.

Beginning Hebrew for Adults-2nd Semester

Wednesdays starting January 23-March 6

5:00 p.m. at Wise Center

For more information, contact Terri Snively at 793-2997.

Beyond Aleph- Adult Hebrew-2nd Semester

Wednesdays starting January 23-March 6

5:00 p.m. at Wise Center

For more information, contact Terri Snively at 793-2997.



Outreach

From Birth to Earth

December 9

10:15 a.m. at Wise Center

For more information, contact Tina and Steve Straubing at 791-8568.

Discussion Group -- Interfaith

Family Discussion

January 10

7:30 p.m. at Wise Center

For more information, contact Andy and Linda Berger at 859-344-9731.



Religious School

Gesher Grade 4

December 2

9:30 a.m. at Wise Center

For more information, contact Brett Stern at 793-2556.

Gesher Grades 2 and 3

December 9

9:30 a.m. at Wise Center

For more information, contact Brett Stern at 793-2556.

6th Grade Family program

December 16

9:30 a.m. at Wise Center

For more information, contact Terri Snively at 793-2997.

Gesher Grade 5

December 16

9:30 a.m. at Wise Center

For more information, contact Brett Stern at 793-2556.

Gesher Grade 2

January 6

9:30 a.m. at Wise Center

For more information, contact Brett Stern at 793-2556.

3rd Grade Family Program

January 6

9:30 a.m. at Wise Center

For more information, contact Terri Snively at 793-2556.



Seniors

"Yentyl"

An Afternoon At the Movies

December 4

1:00 p.m. at Wise Center

For more information, contact Ruth Lowenthal at 281-8608.

Jewish Storytelling with Rabbi Rayna Gevurtz

January 7

1:00 p.m. at Wise Center

For more information, contact Leah Levine at 351-1784.



Sisterhood

Sisterhood Pottery Painting at Café Monet

December 3

7 p.m. at Café Monet, Montgomery

For more information, contact Lorri Manning at 984-9167 or Laura Cramer at 794-0742.

Sisterhood Bridge

December 11

Noon at Wise Center

For more information, contact Ruth Goret at 351-6486.

Sisterhood Board Meeting

December 12

9:30 a.m. at Wise Center

For more information, contact Valerie Friedman at 489-0168.

Chanukah Congregational Dinner

December 14

7:15 p.m. at Wise Center

For more information, contact Linda Berger at 859-344-9731 or Lauren Prangley at 871-5466.

LISTING OF EVENTS

Sisterhood Torah Study

December 19

12:30 p.m. at Wise Center

For more information, contact Terry Susskind at 761-7782.

Sisterhood Bridge

January 8

Noon at Wise Center

For more information, contact Ruth Goret at 351-6486.

Sisterhood Board Meeting

January 9

9:30 a.m. at Wise Center

For more information, contact Valerie Friedman at 489-0168.

Wise-UP

Hoxworth Registration

December 2

Help prepare and organize our annual blood drive.

For more information, contact Mindy Hastie 271-8270.

Hoxworth Blood Drive

December 2

Be a blood donor. Save a life.

For more information, contact Mindy Hastie 271-8270.

Gift Wrap at Miracle Center-

Kenwood Towne Center

December 11 thru December 25

Wrap holiday gifts. Proceeds to local charity.

For more information, contact Linda Kreindler at 247-9636 or Debbe Lane at 531-7594.

Gift Wrapping and Soup Kitchen

December 25

Wrap presents and serve a meal for families in need.

For more information, contact Marlene and Burt Gross at 489-4341.

Brotherhood Holiday Hospital

Mitzvah Program

December 25

Provide replacement workers at hospitals.

For more information, contact Stuart Levy at 791-5321.



Ongoing Wise-UP Projects

Over-the-Rhine Soup Kitchen

Sunday Mornings

Help prepare and serve hot lunches to Cincinnati's homeless and less fortunate.

For more information, contact Mary & Scott Boster at 948-9415 or Michael & Shannon Garfunkel at 531-5444.

Interfaith Hospitality Network

Six Times a Year

Help provide for homeless families during their stay at Wise Temple by preparing meals, playing with children, staying overnight, setting up, taking down or laundering bedding. Sign up for the activities of your choice for as many sessions as you prefer.

For more information, contact Anne Pleatman at 631-3062 or Helene Ohren at 793-7443.

Bake Someone Happy

Ongoing

Help bake and arrange trays for those in need of a loving gesture.

For more information, contact Linda Sacks at 631-7373.

Usher In Shabbat

NEW

Ongoing

Usher at either Wise Center or Plum Street Temple. Through friendly greetings and prayer book distribution you help provide a peaceful, orderly and caring atmosphere for our sanctuaries.

For more information, contact Karen Sim at 777-2969.

Ready For Action!

NEW

Respond to needs that develop since we have printed the Wise-UP brochure.

For more information, contact Robin Newland at 530-5516.



YAC

Chanukah Party

December 15

4:00 p.m. at the home of the Millers

For more information, contact Bryna and Greg Miller at 583-8906.



Youth Groups

Wise Guys Laser Tag

December 2

Noon at Wise Center

For more information, contact Andy Shafran at 791-8992.

NOAR Chanukah Party

December 9

11:45 a.m. at Wise Center

For more information, contact Andy Shafran at 791-8992.



Miscellaneous

Shabbat Storytime for Kids

December 7, 21

10:00 a.m. at Wise Center

For more information, contact Lauren Prangley at 871-5466.

Alcoholics Anonymous Meeting

Tuesdays

5:30 p.m. at Wise Center

For more information, contact the Temple Office at 793-2556.

Help Save The Environment

Did you know??

- 3-1/2 quarts of oil are used to produce a toner cartridge
- 2-1/2 ounces of oil are used to produce an inkjet cartridge
- Every year over 275 million cartridges are thrown away
- Stacked end to end, cartridges thrown away in one year would circle the earth

Bring your empty cartridges from laser printer toner, fax toner and inkjets to the Green Earth Collection Barrel located in the Lobby of Wise Center. Green Earth Cartridge Collection will pay Wise Temple for the used cartridges we send for recycling.



DECEMBER 2001 KISLEV/TEVETH

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<p>WC = Wise Center PST = Plum Street Temple O = Other Location</p> <p>See listing of events for more detailed information</p>						<p>1</p> <p>9:00 Bar Mitzvah of Jeff Rubenstein (PST) 11:15 Bar Mitzvah of Adam Greenberg (PST) 9:30 Shabbat Alternative Service (WC) 10:45 Optional Text Study (WC)</p>
<p>2</p> <p>Wise-UP—Hoxworth Blood Drive (WC) 9:30 Geshet Grade 4 (WC) 10:00 Book Review (WC) Noon Wise Guys Laser Tag (WC)</p>	<p>3</p> <p>1:00pm Current Events w/M. Shulman (WC) 7:00pm Sisterhood Pottery Painting (O)</p>	<p>4</p> <p>1:00pm Seniors Movie "Yentl" (WC) 5:30pm AA Meeting (WC)</p>	<p>5</p> <p>5:00 pm Beginning Hebrew for Adults (WC) 5:00 pm Beyond Aleph — Adult Hebrew (WC)</p>	<p>6</p>	<p>7</p> <p>10:00 Shabbat Storytime (WC) 6:15 pm Shabbat Evening Service (WC) 8:15 pm Bat Mitzvah of Katie Hellman (PST)</p>	<p>8</p> <p>9:00 Bat Mitzvah of Gabriella Scacchetti (PST) 9:30 Shabbat Alternative Service (WC) 10:45 Optional Text Study (WC) 11:15 Bar Mitzvah of Andrew Schwartz (PST)</p>
<p>9</p> <p>9:30 Geshet Grades 2 & 3 (WC) 10:15 Outreach — From Birth to Earth (WC) 11:45 Wise Guys — Chanukah Party (WC)</p>	<p>10</p> <p>1:00 pm Current Events w/ M. Shulman — Part 2 (WC)</p>	<p>11</p> <p>Wise-UP Gift Wrap Begins (O) Noon Sisterhood Bridge (WC) 5:30pm AA Meeting (WC)</p>	<p>12</p> <p>9:30 Sisterhood Board Meeting (WC) 5:00 pm Beginning Hebrew for Adults (WC) 5:00 pm Beyond Aleph — Adult Hebrew (WC)</p>	<p>13</p> <p>7:30 pm Wise Words Workshop (WC)</p>	<p>14</p> <p>6:15 pm Chanukah Family Service/December Birthday & Anniversary Blessings (WC) 7:15 pm Congregational Chanukah Dinner (WC)</p>	<p>15</p> <p>9:00 Bar Mitzvah of Ethan Senser (PST) 9:30 Shabbat Alternative Service (WC) 10:45 Optional Text Study (WC) 11:15 Bat Mitzvah of Sarah Donley (PST) 4:00 pm YAC Chanukah Party (O)</p>
<p>16</p> <p>9:30 6th Grade Family Program (WC) 9:30 Geshet Grade 5 (WC)</p>	<p>17</p> <p>1:00 pm Current Events w/ M. Shulman — Part 3 (WC) 7:00 pm R'fuat Ha-nefesh (WC)</p>	<p>18</p> <p>5:30pm AA Meeting (WC)</p>	<p>19</p> <p>12:30 pm Sisterhood Torah Study (WC) 5:00 pm Beginning Hebrew for Adults (WC) 5:00 pm Beyond Aleph — Adult Hebrew (WC)</p>	<p>20</p>	<p>21</p> <p>10:00 Shabbat Storytime (WC) 6:15 pm Shabbat Evening Service; Wisetykes (WC)</p>	<p>22</p> <p>9:00 Bar Mitzvah of Bradley Seelig (WC) 9:30 Shabbat Alternative Service (WC) 10:45 Optional Text Study (WC) 11:15 Bat Mitzvah of Rebecca Levy (WC)</p>
<p>23</p> <p>30</p>	<p>24</p> <p>31</p>	<p>25</p> <p>Wise-UP Gift Wrap Ends (O) Wise-UP Soup Kitchen (O) Brotherhood Hospital Mitzvah Program (O)</p>	<p>26</p>	<p>27</p>	<p>28</p> <p>6:15 pm Shabbat Evening Service (WC)</p>	<p>29</p> <p>9:00 Bar Mitzvah of Sean Fischer (PST) 9:30 Shabbat Alternative Service (WC) 10:45 Optional Text Study (WC) 11:15 B'nai Mitzvah of Miriam & Nathan Siegel (PST)</p>

What the Heck is (e)YGOW?



Pictured: (e)YGOW members at the 2001 NFTY – Ohio Valley Regional Convention. Left to Right: Josh Kleymeyer, Noah Cohen, Amanda Meyer, Mindi Greenberg, (e)YGOW advisor Brett Stern, Yoni Sarason, Aaron Greenberg, Philip Vogel.

(e)YGOW, the Excellent Youth Group of Wise Temple, is our congregation's energetic, dynamic, and active senior high youth group. (e)YGOW strives to provide the teenagers of our congregation with opportunities to experience Judaism in fun and meaningful ways, to come together socially, and to develop their leadership abilities.

Our 2001–2002 board is hard at work, putting together quality programs and designing new ways to involve the high school members of our congregation. (e)YGOW's board consists of: Co-Presidents, Yoni Sarason and Louie Pastor; Programming Vice President, Skye Fischer; Social Action Vice President, John Bloch; Religious and Cultural Vice President, Noah Cohen; Treasurer, Joel Schulman; Journalist, Nicole Willins; and Freshman Membership Chair, Devon Worrell.

(e)YGOW's monthly programs are student led and initiated, ensuring a mix of programs which meet the interests of our diverse membership. Some of our programs, such as our annual Yom Kippur service, seek to meet the religious and spiritual needs of our members. Others, like our popular overnights and Sunday night pizza drop-ins, bring our members together for social activities. Some programs, such as our annual Purim Carnival, serve a philanthropic purpose,

raising money not only for our youth group's treasury, but for a *tzedakah* of the youth group's choice, as well. Plans are already underway for our 2002 Purim Carnival, to be held on February 24. Student committee members are still needed – please call Joel Schulman, Treasurer, at 521-7434 for more information.

Rabbi Kamrass commented, "We are proud of our high school students and the many ways that they draw upon their Jewish identity, many of them attending weekly sessions of the Reform Jewish High School, serving as teaching assistants in our own religious school program, and creating such an active Youth Group. It is a real testimony to their own feelings of Jewish identity and community, that in their busy lives, our high school students choose to come together so often and enrich their Jewish lives through the social, educational, and spiritual programs our Youth group offers. We are especially proud that this year, they will be hosting the regional gathering of several hundred high school youth from several states who will come to Wise Center this March for a convention that our youth group will plan."

In addition to events for our congregational youth group, (e)YGOW members come together with teens from other cities and states through conven-

tions hosted by the Ohio Valley region of our parent organization, NFTY, the North American Federation of Temple Youth. (e)YGOW is proud to announce that we will be hosting the 2002 NFTY – Ohio Valley Regional Convention, our region's largest convention of the year. From March 7 – 10, approximately 200 teens from around the region will come to Cincinnati for four days of Jewish enrichment, hands-on experiential learning, and fun, planned by the members of (e)YGOW and YGOTS, the Youth Group of Temple Shalom. If you are interested in being a member of our planning committee, please call Elizabeth Foster, Regional Committee Chair, at 561-3816.

(e)YGOW events are open to any high school aged member of Wise Temple. We're always looking for new members, and we could always use more help with our many projects! Students who are interested in getting involved should call co-Presidents Yoni Sarason (731-0554) or Louie Pastor (521-1743). Parent volunteers are needed for our Purim carnival and for the NFTY – Ohio Valley Regional Convention. Parents, please contact Brett Stern, Assistant Director of Education and Youth Programs, at 793-2556 or e-mail bstern@wisetemple.org.

TIKKUN OLAM

continued from page 3

commandment? Can we be commanded to "love"? Many of us do not even know our neighbors. Can we still fulfill this *mitzvah*? The questions are many, but the path is clear. A vision has been set before us. Early in our history at Mt. Sinai, we were given a message of justice and hope, a mandate to believe in the good that is possible and a challenge to care about one another and the world in which we live. We believe that each of us was given that message, we all stood at Sinai.

At Wise Temple we are provided many avenues for responding to this mandate and this challenge. I encourage you to follow the example of our students. Show a little *chutzpah*, remember, we are all partners with God, and there is much to be done.

PROGRAM CONNECTION

WISE NOTES



Last year, more than 800 individuals in our congregation took action through Wise-UP. We look forward to working with each of you who take action this year. Together we will go into the community, with faith that our service will bring some peace and comfort for ourselves and, most especially, for the many who are in need.

Each month we will list the projects in which you can get involved that month.

12/2 Hoxworth Registration

Help prepare and organize our annual blood drive without having to donate

blood.

For more information, contact Mindy Hastie 271-8270.

12/2 Hoxworth Blood Drive

Be a blood donor. Save a life!

For more information, contact Mindy Hastie 271-8270.

12/11-12/25 Gift Wrap at Miracle Center – Kenwood Towne Center

Wrap holiday gift purchases; proceeds support the Franciscans at St. John's. For more information, contact Linda Kreindler at 247-9636 or Debbe Lane 531-7594.

12/25 Gift Wrapping and Soup Kitchen

Northern Kentucky Board of Mental Health; wrap presents and serve a Christmas meal for families in need.

For more information, contact Burt & Marlene Gross 489-4341.

12/25 Brotherhood Holiday Hospital Mitzvah Program

Provide replacement workers so hospital volunteers can spend Christmas with their families. All congregants welcome to participate.

For more information, contact Stuart Levy 791-5321.

SISTERHOOD NOTES



PROGRAMMING NEWS

Join us for an evening of fun at **Café Monet**, 7791 Cooper Rd. in Montgomery, on December 3rd from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. Create a beautiful Judaica item for your home or as a gift. You should have received your invitation in the mail. Questions? Call Laura Cramer at 794-0742 or Lorri Manning at 984-9167.

Warm up the winter months with **Cooking Classes**. We have made arrangements with some exciting people in the Cincinnati area to lead us in our culinary adventures. The dates, times and instructors will be announced very soon. Watch for the flyer in the mail. We hope that everyone will find this cooking series to be as exciting and as much fun as they have in the past.

STUDY GROUPS

Come and **study Torah** with us! It is a satisfying and pleasant way to spend time with women from our congregation. The next session of our Sisterhood Torah Study will be December 19 at Wise Center from 12:30-2:00 p.m. All women are welcome to attend and no prior experience is necessary. Feel free to attend as many sessions as you can. There is a \$5 fee per session; bring a brown bag lunch if you wish.

The next Sisterhood **Book Club** selection is The Romance Reader by Pearl Abraham. We will meet to discuss it on January 23rd from 4:30-5:45 p.m. Questions? Call discussion leader Nancy Goldberg at 791-4498.

SOCIAL ACTION

SOUTH AVONDALE SCHOOL

Volunteers are needed on December 21st when we will again be room "moms" for a winter holiday party. Spend an hour performing a rewarding mitzvah with appreciative children. If you want to bring your young child or a friend to help, that's fine, too. For more information or to volunteer, call Phyllis Dreyfuss at 841-9907 or Nancy Horwitz at 793-7580.

BEDTIME BUNDLES

As a holiday mitzvah for the entire congregation, Wise

Temple Sisterhood is again sponsoring the Bedtime Bundles Project. If you can lend a hand with organizing and sorting the bundles, please call Jan Shuller at 794-1554 or Janice Kirschner at 489-3495. For more information about "making" a Bedtime Bundle, please refer to the separate article in this issue of *Kesher*.

CHILDREN'S HOLIDAY BOUTIQUE

Once again our Holiday Boutique will be set up at Wise Temple during Religious School hours on Sundays December 2nd and 9th and during Hebrew School Wednesday December 5th. Your children will have an opportunity to purchase inexpensive holiday gifts for the special people in their lives. Watch for information in the mail. If you are looking for a new way to connect with Sisterhood, this is a great opportunity to meet and work with other Sisterhood members. If interested in helping with the sale, please contact Stephanie Fenlon at 859-331-3564 or Missy Richter at 513-733-8866.

TRADITIONS & TREASURES

As the holidays are quickly approaching, don't forget to frequent your Sisterhood gift shop. Our Chanukah Sale runs through Sunday, December 2 so stop in and save 20% on all Chanukah items, from books and music to wrap and gelt. Remember, as a Sisterhood member you receive a 10% discount off most of your purchases. We are open Mon/Tues/Th 9:30-1:30, Wed 2-5:45, Sun 9-11:45 and by appointment. If you are interested in volunteering in the Gift Shop, please call Margie Meyer at 984-2345.

THANK YOU'S

Thank you to Rabbi Rayna Gevurtz for her November Breakfast presentation on "How Judaism Addresses Stress in Our Lives." Thanks also to Nancy Goldberg and Pam Kohn for organizing this event.

Thank you to Shirley Kantor Behr for leading our Book Club discussion on The Ladies Auxiliary.

A big Thank You to all Sisterhood members who helped make The Accessory and Craft Boutique a great success!

A special thank you to Diane Oestreicher for coordinating all of the Boutique volunteers throughout the day. Robin Newland did a terrific job as the food chairperson for our Coffee Cart treats.

WELCOME

Sisterhood warmly welcomes the following new members: Amy Katz, Mona Spitz, Jennifer Snyder, Judy Eichel, Vlasta Molak, Melissa Hecht, Roma Kaltman, Mildred Reich, Gale Mendes, Lucille Clayton, Jennifer Kreines, Alice Mack, Sue Ransohoff, Deborah Trick, Cynthia Bowling, Laura Foster, Marian Hirschberg, Michelle Smith, Bonnie Rabin, Renee Becker, Risa Brand, Bette Gillman-Rosenbaum, Ching Ho Keller, Anna Kamrass, Sharon Kleymeyer, Heddy Ohl, Diane Iseman, Sandra Rubin, Elizabeth Shafran, Elizabeth Rabkin, Miriam Tsevat, Eileen Magenheimer, Marjorie Schaim, Lisa Slutsky, Nancy Stern, Robin Hartman, Sarah Bernstein, Geri Gilgoff, Deborah Kirschner, Gail DeWeese, and Melissa Woodrow. We welcome the following new life members: Linda Berger, Barbi Sherman, and Lena Sandlin.

FLEA MARKET

The Flea Market is in need of donations of furniture, costume jewelry, bedding, table linens, working small appliances, cars and boats! (No clothing, books, or toys please.) Just drop off your donations at Phyllis Fine's house, 3145 Fairhaven Ln., or call Phyllis at 731-6063 to arrange for pickup of large items. Donations are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law.

UNIONGRAMS AND GOLDENGRAMS

Uniongrams and Goldengrams are a wonderful opportunity to recognize a special person or event. Paula Holstein is always ready to send these out for you. These items are also available in the Gift Shop if you would prefer to write your own message. Remember the proceeds go toward the Y.E.S. Fund which provides funds for our youth, special projects and education from WRJ. Call Paula at 631-3090 for more information.

Jewish Values Come to Life:

There's Still Time to Fill the Crib



While it may seem tempting, the crib in the Temple lobby from November 18 through

December 22 isn't for leaving your crying baby during Shabbat Services. It's for collecting "Bedtime Bundles," a Wise Temple Sisterhood project that helps children at YWCA's Battered Women's Shelter in Hamilton County.

In the past three years, Wise Temple has helped nearly 400 children. Last year alone, 215 bundles were donated by our

Wise Temple Families. Tina Straubing, a Sisterhood Board Member who assisted with the project last year

recalled, "We filled my van top to bottom and front to back with 'Bedtime Bundles.' The support from Wise Temple was terrific. Later, some congregants shared with me how much they enjoyed making a family event out of this project. Families went shopping together and had their own kids pick out pajamas for the children at the shelter. 'Bedtime Bundles' reminds our youth that not all children are as fortunate as they are and kids learn the importance of helping others. It was extremely rewarding."

In addition to making a difference in the lives of many children, Wise Temple Sisterhood's "Bedtime Bundles" efforts were recognized with two awards. This past spring, the YWCA presented Wise Temple Sisterhood with the "YWCA of Cincinnati, 2001 Volunteer Service

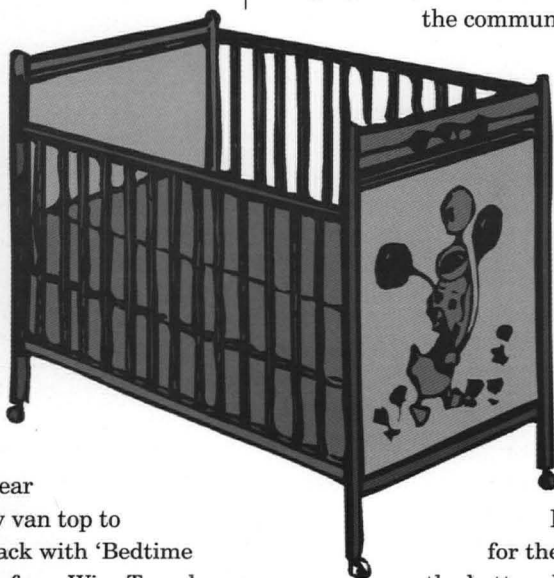
Award." And, at the Biennial Assembly of Women of Reform Judaism this December, Wise Temple Sisterhood will accept the Or Ami ("Light of My People") Commendation award. One of the selection criteria for the Or Ami award is that a program should translate Jewish values into practical service to the congregation, the Jewish community and the community-at-large. In

addition, the YWCA and Or Ami awards recognize other Sisterhood programs for battered women and disadvantaged children such as the Valentine's

Day Luncheon

for the residents of

the battered women's shelter and the South Avondale School "Room Mothers" project. Sisterhood will be sponsoring the luncheon again this year on February 3, 2002. The South Avondale School project is ongoing during the school year. Susan Ivers, who accepted the "YWCA of Cincinnati, 2001 Volunteer Service Award" on behalf of Wise Temple said, "The YWCA of Cincinnati sets a very high standard of service for our community. To be honored by them is quite an accomplishment. Those of us who have been involved in these projects know how much more we gain versus what we give. To be thanked by the YWCA for simply being kind and helpful to others was overwhelming."



Sisterhood hopes that Temple families will assemble a complete "Bedtime Bundle," but donations of any items will be greatly appreciated. *If you are interested in collecting and sorting items for the children at the Battered Women's Shelter, please contact Jan Shuller at 794-1554 or Janice Kirschner at 489-3495.*

Bedtime Bundles

Fill a new or gently used pillowcase with items greatly needed by children at YWCA's Shelter for Battered Women. Please tie your "Bedtime Bundle" with two new shoelaces, check off the items included and attach the this form to your bundle:

This Bedtime Bundle includes the following newly purchased items:

- ☐ Underwear
- ☐ Pajamas
- ☐ Socks
- ☐ Child's toothbrush
- ☐ Toothpaste
- ☐ Storybook or stuffed animal

☐ Other _____

Size: _____ (up to child's 14)

Gender: ☐ Boy ☐ Girl



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 Rayna E. Gevurtz, Assistant Rabbi
 Michael Shulman, Rabbinic Intern
 Albert A. Goldman, Rabbi Emeritus
 Sharon R. Kohn, Cantor
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 Sr. Youth Group: Louie Pastor &
 Yoni Sarason

Office Telephone: 793-2556
 Religious School: 793-2997
 Rabbinic Line: 793-2559
 Office Hours: 8:30 to 5:00 M-F
 Website: www.wisetemple.org
 E-mail: welcome@wisetemple.org

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CONGREGATIONAL CONNECTION

MAZAL TOV

The Temple offers congratulations to the following families in December:

B'nai Mitzvah

December 1 – Jeff Rubenstein, son of Louis and Chris Rubenstein
December 1 – Adam Greenberg, son of Jeffrey and Shelley Greenberg
December 7 – Katie Hellman, daughter of Marc and Kyle Hellman. Granddaughter of Louis and June Hellman.
December 8 – Gabriella Scacchetti, daughter of David and Marcia Scacchetti
December 8 – Andrew Schwartz, son of Steve and Chris Schwartz
December 15 – Ethan Senser, son of Dr. Kenneth and Robin Senser
December 15 – Sarah Donley, daughter of Dr. Mark and Dr. Diane Donley
December 22 – Bradley Seelig, son of Richard and Karen Seelig. Grandson of Herbert and Eva Seelig.
December 22 – Rebecca Levy, daughter of Martin and Judy Levy. Granddaughter of Kenneth and Natalie Levy.
December 27 – Dr. Walter Stone
December 29 – Sean Fischer, son of Dr. Daniel and Shelley Fischer
December 29 – Miriam Siegel & Nathan Siegel, children of Dr. Earl and Debra Siegel
 Mr. & Mrs. Harry Fabe on the Bat Mitzvah of their granddaughter, Rebecca Friedberg.

Engagements

Dr. & Mrs. Laurence Schneider on the engagement of their daughter, Ann to Adam Walter.

Weddings

Dr. & Mrs. Richard Kerstine on the recent marriage of their son, Brian to Elizabeth Harris.

YEAR END GIVING

As the end of calendar year 2001 approaches, many of you will be reviewing charitable giving. As you undoubtedly know, Temple Membership Contributions may be added to other charitable contributions and deducted on Schedule A of your Federal Income Tax Return.

Please consider pre-paying the balance of your Membership commitment and accelerating any remaining Tradition and Tomorrow payments as you review with your tax advisor. This pre-payment is of great help to Wise Temple. It may be advantageous to you also from a tax standpoint.

Thank you for your continuing support of the congregation.



K.K. B'NAI YESHURUN

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