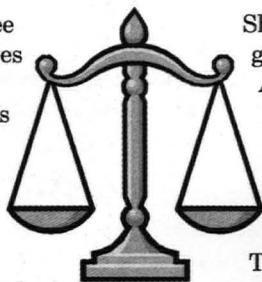


KESHER

THE WISE CONNECTION

Fair Share Update



The Dues Review Committee is one of the few committees mandated by the Temple Constitution. Over the past year this committee has met frequently with the goals of:

- Monitoring the Fair Share Assessment Program
- Designing strategies to maintain the Temple's fiscal health through dues assessment
- Educating the congregation about the obligations of the Fair Share Program

The Committee would like to share with you its progress.

MONITORING THE FAIR SHARE ASSESSMENT

The Temple is and has been financially sound. However, prior to last year, over 50% of congregants did not even return their annual Fair Share Assessment form. Therefore the Committee concluded that many Temple members might not have been reviewing their pledge in accordance with their ability to support the Temple. This highlighted two main concerns. First, the possibility of dues becoming stagnant and not providing for a standard inflationary increase in Temple expenses and, second an inequality between those who did update their Fair Share Assessment and those who did not return their Fair Share Assessment.

DESIGNING STRATEGIES TO MAINTAIN THE TEMPLE'S FISCAL HEALTH THROUGH DUES ASSESSMENT


Last year, the Dues Review Committee recommended a change in the Fair Share Assessment Program. Congregants were asked to redouble their efforts to return the Fair

Share Assessment form. We were gratified with the response. Approximately 80% of congregants performed this re-assessment. By vote of the Board of Trustees, those congregants who did not send in their forms were assessed dues 8% above those of the previous year. This increase was in line with the percentage increase in the Temple budget. The Board of Trustees has voted to continue this initiative this year.

EDUCATING THE CONGREGATION ABOUT THE OBLIGATIONS OF THE FAIR SHARE PROGRAM

Dues provide approximately 55-60% of the Temple operating budget. This is lower than most other Temples of comparable size. Moreover, our median dues assessment is below the amount that it costs to run the Temple per family per year. The Dues Review Committee recognizes that not all families can pay at this sustaining level. However, as part of the Committee's goal to educate congregants and insure an equitable dues system, we will be sending personal correspondence in January to members who have not voluntarily changed their dues in 3, 4, 5 or more years. We have been and will continue to be sensitive to special circumstances and we recognize that not everyone can increase their dues. However, our goal is to establish a culture of **annual re-assessment** and **dues adjustment** according to the Fair Share guidelines.

The Dues Review Committee will continue to work to achieve the goals of monitoring the Fair Share Assessment program, improving the Temple's fiscal health, and keeping the congregation informed.

—Thank you. 

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

As you read these words, a new year will have begun. Some of us will have spent the first moments of the new year at a party, reveling with friends. Some of us will have had a quiet moment in front of the television set at home. Some of us will have spent the first day watching football, others doing household chores. But few of us will have reflected. For New Year's Day, or for that matter, Thanksgiving, or Veteran's Day, or the Fourth of July, do not provide such a structure.

In American culture, our holidays are celebrated, but seldom considered. Indeed, many of our national days are marked more by a day off from work, or by the sales in the stores, than by drawing upon the meaning of the particular day. When was the last time you spent Veteran's Day at a commemoration of those who fought our nation's battles, or Memorial Day recalling those who died for our freedom, or even Fourth of July celebrating the extraordinary gifts of our nation, unparalleled in all of human history? You may have enjoyed a good meal on Thanksgiving, but did you even give pause to offer thanks for your blessings? And that is why I believe that we Americans have never celebrated very well. We lack the structure that shapes our thoughts and trains our hearts.

By contrast, in Jewish life, our holidays may be celebrated or commemorated, but the ritual and the structure for each of those special moments in time urges us to consider the past. On the High Holy Days, we do not begin a new year without extensive consideration of our own responsibilities for our actions of the past year. At Passover, we celebrate together at the Seder, but as we do, we consider the lessons we learn for today from the experience of being slaves in Egypt. At Purim or Chanukah, lighter days of festive joy, the rituals will not let us avoid the holidays' deeper message of freedom, of identity, or

of working for our well being. And, although it is often taken for granted because it comes every week, Shabbat urges us to remember our deepest values, reflect on them in the clarity of a day's rest, and take them with us into the week to come. Each of our Jewish holidays and life cycle events comes with its own inherent structure that focuses our thoughts on the meaning of that moment, and indeed, turns us to consider all the moments of our past.

We Jews do not only celebrate days, we learn from the past. We taste of it with fullness, and drink in its meaning. Remembering the past is not to live in the past, but to learn from the past. The past is the fuel that propels us toward the future. Reflecting on what has been, helps us to face the future with the deepest hope that dares us to ask, what could yet be.

One of Leon Uris' characters in *Mila 18* remarks: when a Jew says "I believe," he really means "I remember." I believe that is why we Jews face the future by looking first at the past. It helps us to believe in the future. It urges us to know that things can be better, and reminds us of our responsibility to shape that better tomorrow. Paradoxically, I believe that we Jews who have had a disproportionate amount of hardship and oppression in our history, have looked to that past and found strength, comfort, and optimism for what is yet to be. That says a great deal about us.

And that is why for most of us the secular New Year comes and goes with little lasting meaning. It is why our resolutions are so quickly broken, or perhaps never made at all. *We need to look to the past in order to face the future with resolve and with insight.*

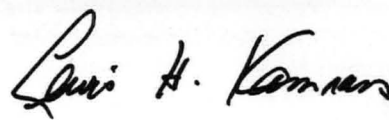
The year that has past has confronted us with some of the most difficult days we have known. Locally, our city exploded with hatred, division and fear in the Spring riots. Nationally, our nation was gripped with vulnerability and loss on September 11, an episode that will change

our lives for months and years to come. Internationally, we have gone to war in Afghanistan, and we have watched the hopes for peace in Israel dashed by disappointment and broken promises. We greet a new year feeling weary from the one we have ushered out. So what can we learn from this old year that we are so eager to bid goodbye?

I believe we learn little from the events, but much from our response. We have learned pride and patriotism, strength and national resolve. These have been dormant in our hearts for some years, and have returned to nourish a deeply felt need. We have learned to return to deeper values in our personal life. We have come to regain much needed perspective. We have come to reach out to community and to reach in to faith. We have turned with deeper gratitude for family and friends, for good health, for quiet moments of goodness and love that create abiding memories. We have indeed, learned to return to reflection. And with such reflective moments come gratitude, insight, and strength.

As we face a new year, with its new beginnings and its many opportunities, I urge you to celebrate, not only as an American in a secular calendar, but as a Jew with our weekly pause for reflection. Celebrate Shabbat in the weeks to come, to rest and reflect, to pause and to renew abiding values, deeper perspective, and old insights for a new year. Pray with your community, reflect in your quiet moment, and study your heritage. For when we remember who we are, we can truly believe in our capacity to embrace tomorrow.

When a Jew says "I believe," he really means "I remember". May your memories strengthen your new year with light and love, with goodness and hope, and lead you to abundant gratitude. 🕯



Rabbi Lewis H. Kamrass



Rabbi Kamrass

Beyond Tree Hugging:

A Blessed *Tu B'Shvat*

BY RABBI RAYNA GEVURTZ

A *midrash* teaches us, "In the hour when the Holy One, Blessed be He, created the first person, God showed him the trees in the Garden of Eden and said, "See my works, how fine they are. Now all that I have created, I created for your benefit. Think upon this and do not corrupt and destroy my world. For if you destroy it, there is no one to restore it after you," (Ecclesiastes Rabbah 7:28).



Rabbi Gevurtz

they are just the beginning of a huge issue; an issue that is so easy to turn a blind eye to. But our tradition demands that we open our eyes. I know it often seems as if there are so many issues out there that demand our attention. So many that it is easy to shrug our shoulders to all of them, in a feeling of disempowered resignation. But our tradition offers us help with the overwhelming amount of issues to be conquered. Our holidays serve as signposts for us

throughout the year. On particular days, we are given reminders of how we should be living our lives in general.

On *Yom Kippur*, we are reminded to behave in a forgiving manner. On *Pesach* we are reminded to look after those in the world who are still oppressed. On *Shabbat* we are reminded to notice the wonder of creation.

On *Tu B'Shvat*, we are reminded of the *mitzvah* of "*bal tashchit*", not to destroy carelessly. The Rabbis gleaned this *mitzvah* from the following verse in the Torah, "When you besiege a town for many days...you are not to bring ruin on its trees... for are the trees of the field human beings able to come against you in a siege?" (Deuteronomy 20:19). The Rabbis understood this verse as a commandment against any needless destruction.

The above facts poignantly speak of the wide spread destruction that continues to occur as you read this article. Let us take


the opportunity lent to us by *Tu B'Shvat* to really focus on this issue and to remember what *is* in our power to do about this problem:

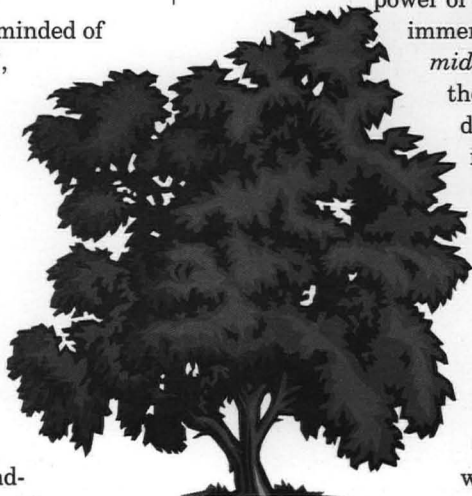
- Reduce our beef intake, especially beef served in fast food restaurants.
- Recycle as much as possible.
- Whenever you have to remove a tree, be sure to plant another.
- Buy less paper products. When you do buy paper, try to purchase products made from recycled paper.
- Support organizations such as the Sierra Club, the Coalition on the Environment and Jewish Life, and the World Wide Fund for Nature (great ideas for giving *tzedakah* on *Tu B'Shvat*!)
- Educate others about the wastefulness in our world- open their eyes.

These are very simple tasks for us to incorporate into our lives. But the

power of these tasks is immense. For as our *midrash* taught us, the power to destroy our world is indeed in our hands. Let us take the opportunity of this *Tu B'Shvat* to remember our role as co-partners with Gd in creation. Gd created the world and it is up to us to care for it.

May your *Tu B'Shvat* be blessed with an awareness of our mission to care for our world.

B'Shalom—Rabbi Rayna Gevurtz 



Our reality? Here is just a glimpse. Today...

- Only one half of the world's rainforests remain that existed 1000 years ago.
- Two-thirds of Central American rainforests have been cleared to make room for raising cattle.
- The average American uses 618 pounds of paper each year.
- Each pound of Central American beef destroys over 200 square feet of rainforest.
- The increasing clearing of the rainforest is one of the main factors causing the green house effect.
- Every minute 149 acres of rainforest are destroyed.

These statistics are shocking and yet

Have Faith in Our Faith

BY BARBARA DRAGUL

Iwant to talk about faith. The kind of faith we discover we have and/or don't have in times of crisis. The kind of faith that is grounded in honest exploration and recognizes that it is a journey. I'm talking about a faith that includes moments of doubt, periods of seeking, and only sometimes answers to that seeking. When our children ask us, "are we safe," in what do we ground our assurances, and where do we turn to find an answer to our own question, "are we safe"? How do we guide our children in matters of faith?

Children have a natural capacity for faith. In David Wolpe's book, *Teaching Your Children About God*, he writes, "Relevant studies teach us that all children have an image of God. Even those who grow up in a home without religion develop ideas about God and images of God. The question is whether we guide those images, understand them, and learn from them."

One Wednesday afternoon at services with our fourth, fifth and sixth grade students I asked the question: Where do you experience the spark of God, what helps that spark to grow within you? The children quietly reflected. One said that he finds it when he celebrates Jewish holidays. Another shared that learning about Judaism ignites that spark. There was a boy who finds it in the difficult moments and in the moments when something "lucky" happens to him. The conversations I have with the students on Sunday mornings and Wednesday afternoons are often my favorite part of the week. Their perspective is fresh and uncluttered, their insights often deep and

their love of Judaism shines from their being.

The best ways to guide children in matters of faith is by sharing our own thoughts and questions, and by being a good listener. It's important that we share, in age appropriate ways, the questions we are wrestling with, the books and people who are inspiring us, the places we are experiencing the divine or holy. When children ask tough questions about religion and God, it's important to remember that "I think", "I hope" and "I don't know" are perfectly good answers. In the Talmud, we are told that each person

should teach its tongue to say, "I don't know." We need to ask our children questions about what they think, believe and wonder about, and encourage them to ask us questions. A faith journey is grounded more profoundly in the questions we seek than in the answers we may find.

A story: Once there was a young Hasid who devoted his life to Jewish study. One night, without any apparent reason, this pious young man closes his Talmud and runs out of his house into the middle of the town square, crying out, "What is the meaning of life? I can't go any further, I can't study one more verse of Torah without knowing the meaning of life." Other Hasidim try to calm him down, to convince him to return to his Talmud, but to no avail. Finally, the local Hasidim recommend that he take a trip to the residence of the rebbe, a few towns away.

The young Hasid immediately sets out on a journey to the rebbe's home. Finally he arrives, and says, "Rebbe, what is the meaning of life? I must know, I cannot go on any longer, I cannot study another

page until I know: What is the meaning of life?"

The Rebbe gets up and walks over to the young man. The Rebbe looks at him with his penetrating eyes, and suddenly he slaps the Hasid.

"Why Rebbe?! Why did you slap me? What have I done? All I did was ask, 'What is the meaning of life?'"

"You fool," answered the rebbe, "You have such a good question- why exchange it for an answer? It is the answers which separate us, the questions which unite us." (Excerpted from: *Because God Loves Stories* by Steve Zeitlin)

In Genesis 12:1, we learn about God's call to Abraham. God commands Abraham, "lech l'chah", go forth. Abraham is to leave his childhood home and go "to the land that I will show you." God does not give an explanation or description of this place. The destination is not made clear because as David Wolpe suggests, "The goal cannot make sense to someone who has not yet experienced the journey. Arrival is not the essence. The lesson that Abraham will pass on to his descendants is that the key to the journey is the journey." (From *Why Be Jewish*)

Parents, grandparents and teachers all have a tremendous impact on children's spiritual journeys. One's faith will evolve and change over time, but the core values and beliefs upon which it is based give the journey stability and continuity. We come into this world with a spiritual sensibility. As adults we have a responsibility to guide and nurture that aspect of our children. We can best do that by living and modeling a spiritual life that has integrity, helps us fulfill our potential, allows room for questions and growth, brings us joy, and nurtures us in meaningful ways.

An important way we influence our children's spiritual choices is by living our religious life within the context of a community of shared faith. It is here that



Barbara Dragul

our children find other role models, join with others of like values and searching, and learn the responsibilities of being a part of a community. Religious communities are also the rare organization where children learn to see others as holy. A community can strengthen what we teach at home and help to guide our children in the ways of our tradition. With the foundation we provide, our children will ultimately make their own religious and spiritual choices. We hope and pray that those choices will help them to be the best they can be, will nurture their spiritual lives, and will enable them to be an active participant in a loving community grounded in shared values.

Value of the Month

We are fortunate at Wise Temple that our children grow up in a community that includes multiple generations, a community that celebrates it's children and honors it's elderly. Our value for the month of January is *hiddur p'nai zaken*, respect for the elderly. This is a deeply held value in Judaism. In the Talmud we are told, "It is always the aged who uphold Israel. When does Israel stand upright? When they have their aged with them. For one who takes counsel with the old never falters."

Our elderly bring a wealth of life experience and wisdom to our community, as evidenced by our recent Wise Words project, which interviewed and videotaped twenty-two senior members of our congregation. The composite video that was created reveals the strengths, insights and wisdom that our seniors have gained throughout their lives. It is a moving testament to these words from Job 12:12, "With the aged comes wisdom and length of days brings understanding."

Throughout the month of January let us consider the ways in which we can and do show respect for our elderly. By honoring the elderly among us, our own lives are enriched and our community strengthened. This is a value to practice throughout all the days of our life.

The Congregation is invited to a Kiddush Reception honoring Micah Kamrass immediately following his Bar Mitzvah on January 5th at 10:45 a.m. at Plum Street Temple.



The Wise Shabbat

Refreshing Change. For A New Personal Tradition.

Isaac M. Wise Temple

Congregational Shabbat Dinners

January 11th, January 25th, February 1st

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

January 25

February 1

_____ Dinners @ \$7.00
_____ Dinners @ \$2.50

_____ Dinners @ \$7.00
_____ Dinners @ \$2.50

_____ 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

_____ vegetable or salad
_____ potato, pasta or rice

_____ 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

TGIS

Thank God It's Shabbat

N E W C H A V U R A

A new Chavura is forming....and you are welcome to join!

This is a group for single parents. Some of the activities will be "adult" only and some will include children of all ages. All of them will offer fun and community.

For more information, contact Phyllis Tobias at 793-2556 or email her at ptobias@wisetemple.org.

LISTING OF EVENTS



Brotherhood

My Job as a Sports Agent with Brian Goldberg

(Agent for Ken Griffey, Jr.)

January 24

6:30 p.m. at Wise Center

For more information, contact Robert Klein at 521-0199.



Congregational Shabbat Dinners

January 11

7:15 p.m. at Wise Center

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

January 25

7:15 p.m. at Wise Center

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

February 1

7:15 p.m. at Wise Center

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



Eitz Chayim

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

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.

Shabbat Seminar

Friday, January 11 – Saturday, Jan. 12

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

Beginning Hebrew for Adults- 2nd Semester

Wednesdays starting Jan. 16 - May 1

5:00 p.m. at Wise Center

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

Beyond Aleph- Adult Hebrew- 2nd Semester

Wednesdays starting Jan. 16 - May 1

5:00 p.m. at Wise Center

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

Feeling at Home in Services

Sundays, January 13, 27, February 3

10:00 a.m. at Wise Center

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

Enlightenment

January 29, February 5, 12

Noon at Wise Center

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



Outreach

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 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

9:15 a.m. at Wise Center

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

Gesher Grade 5

January 13

9:30 a.m. at Wise Center

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

B'nai Mitzvah Workshop #1

January 17

7:00 p.m. at Wise Center

For more information, contact Hermine vanDerZee at 793-2556.

Gesher Grade 3

January 27

9:30 a.m. at Wise Center

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

Gesher Grade 2

February 3

9:30 a.m. at Wise Center

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

Open Room Family Program

February 3

10:30 a.m. at Wise Center

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

B'nai Mitzvah Workshop #2

February 7

7:00 p.m. at Wise Center

For more information, contact Hermine vanDerZee at 793-2556.



Seniors

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 Bridge

January 8

Noon at Wise Center

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

Sisterhood Board Meeting

January 9

9:45 a.m. at Wise Center

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

Sisterhood Cooking Class

January 10

11:30 a.m. Jeff Thomas Catering

For more information, contact Dian Deutsch at 891-3666.

Sisterhood Lunch Program – Medical Imaging with Dr. Stephen Pomeranz

January 16

11:45 a.m. at Wise Center

For more information, contact Pat Silver at 779-3599 or Cookie Auster at 777-3624.

Sisterhood Bridge

January 22

Noon at Wise Center

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

LISTING OF EVENTS

Sisterhood Book Club – The Romance Reader by Pearl Abraham

January 23
4:30 p.m. at Wise Center
For more information, contact Nancy Goldberg at 791-4498.

Sisterhood Torah Study

January 30
12:30 p.m. at Wise Center
For more information, contact Terry Susskind at 761-7782.

Sisterhood Cooking Class

January 31
7:00 p.m. at the home of Dianne Rosenberg.
For more information, contact Dian Deutsch at 891-3666.

Luncheon for the residents of the YWCA's Battered Women's Shelter

February 3
For more information, contact Julie Kantor at 745-9461 or Laurie Katz at 733-3112.

Sisterhood Bridge

February 5
Noon at Wise Center
For more information, contact Ruth Goret at 351-6486.

Sisterhood Board Meeting

February 6
9:45 a.m. at Wise Center
For more information, contact Valerie Friedman at 489-0168.

Sisterhood Cooking Class

February 10
1:30 p.m. at The Great Indoors – Tri-County with Rita Heikenfeld
For more information, contact Dian Deutsch at 891-3666.

Wise-UP

8th Grade Crayons to Computers

January 13
9:30 a.m. at Wise Center
For more information, contact Susan Ivers at 683-3805.

1st Grade IHN Welcome

February 3
9:30 a.m. at Wise Center
For more information, contact Julie Silverman at 489-9510.

6th Grade Red Cross First Aid

February 3
9:30 a.m. at Wise Center
For more information, contact Phyllis Nadel at 469-7491.

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

Ongoing **NEW**
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.



Home Shabbat

January 18
6:00 p.m. at the home of the Brands.
For more information, contact Risa & Keith Brand at 871-7176.

Youth Groups

Wise Guys Ski Trip

January 20
For more information, contact Andy Shafran at 791-8992.

Family Retreat

February 1st and 2nd
For more information, contact Brett Stern at 793-2556.

Noar – Sports Plus

February 3
For more information, contact Andy Shafran at 791-8992.

Miscellaneous

Alcoholics Anonymous Meeting

Every Tuesday
5:30 p.m. at Wise Center
For more information contact the Temple at 793-2556.

Shabbat Storytime for Kids

January 4, 18
10:00 a.m. at Wise Center
For more information, contact Lauren Prangley at 871-5466.

We Want To Be There For You!

If you, or a member of your family, are hospitalized for any reason, the Rabbis and congregational family want to be here for you. Unfortunately, the Rabbis are not able to know of one's hospitalization unless the patient or family member calls the Temple to inform them. Of all the hospitals in the Tri-state area, only Jewish Hospital informs clergy.

Stay healthy and be well, but if there is a need for hospitalization, call the rabbis' study, 793-2559, so that our rabbis can be there for you.

JANUARY 2002 TEVETH/SHEVAT

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>		1	2	3	<p>4</p> <p>10:00 Shabbat Storytime (WC) 6:15 pm Shabbat Evening Service (WC)</p>	<p>5</p> <p>10:45 Bar Mitzvah of Micah Kamrass (PST)</p>
<p>6</p> <p>9:30 Geshet Grade 2 (WC) 9:15 3rd Grade Family Program (WC) 9:30 Discussion—Reform Judaism Magazine (WC)</p>	<p>7</p> <p>1:00pm Seniors-Storytelling w/ Rabbi Gevurtz (WC)</p>	<p>8</p> <p>Noon Sisterhood Bridge (WC) 5:30 pm AA Meeting (WC)</p>	<p>9</p> <p>9:45 Sisterhood Board Meeting (WC)</p>	<p>10</p> <p>11:30 Sisterhood Cooking Class (O) 7:30pm Outreach—Interfaith Family Discussion (WC)</p>	<p>11</p> <p>6:15 pm Shabbat Evening Service; 4th Grade Participation; January Birthday and Anniversary Blessings (WC) 6:30 pm Eitz Chayim—Shabbat Seminar (O) 7:15 pm Congregational Shabbat Dinner (WC)</p>	<p>12</p> <p>9:15 Eitz Chayim—Shabbat Seminar (cont'd) (WC) 10:45 Shabbat Morning Service (WC)</p>
<p>13</p> <p>9:30 Wise-UP—8th Grade (WC) 9:30 Geshet Grade 5 (WC) 10:00 Eitz Chayim—Feeling at Home in Services (WC)</p>	<p>14</p> <p>7:00 pm R'fu-at Ha-nefesh (WC)</p>	<p>15</p> <p>5:30 pm AA Meeting (WC)</p>	<p>16</p> <p>11:45 Sisterhood—Medical Imaging w/ Dr. Pomeranz (WC) 5:00 pm Beg. Adult Hebrew (WC) 5:00 pm Beyond Aleph Adult Hebrew (WC)</p>	<p>17</p> <p>7:00 pm B'nai Mitzvah Workshop #1 (WC)</p>	<p>18</p> <p>10:00 Shabbat Storytime (WC) 6:15 pm Shabbat Evening Service (WC) 6:00 pm YAC Home Shabbat 8:15 pm Annual Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial Service (Temple Shalom)</p>	<p>19</p> <p>10:45 Bar Mitzvah of Sam Pollak (PST) 9:30 Shabbat Alternative Service (WC) 10:45 Optional Text Study (WC)</p>
<p>20</p> <p>Wise-Guys Ski Trip (O) NO RELIGIOUS SCHOOL</p>	<p>21</p>	<p>22</p> <p>Noon Sisterhood Bridge (WC) 5:30 pm AA Meeting (WC)</p>	<p>23</p> <p>4:30 pm Sisterhood Book Club 5:00 pm Beg. Adult Hebrew (WC) 5:00 pm Beyond Aleph Adult Hebrew (WC)</p>	<p>24</p> <p>6:30 pm Brotherhood Sports Night (WC)</p>	<p>25</p> <p>6:15 pm Shabbat Evening Service; Wise Tykes (WC) 7:15 pm Congregational Shabbat Dinner (WC)</p>	<p>26</p> <p>9:00 Bar Mitzvah of Brandon Blackmer (WC) 11:15 Bar Mitzvah of Kevin Weisbacher (WC) 9:30 Shabbat Alternative Service (WC) 10:45 Optional Text Study (WC)</p>
<p>27</p> <p>9:30 Geshet Grade 3 (WC) 10:00 Eitz Chayim—Feeling at Home in Services (WC)</p>	<p>28</p>	<p>29</p> <p>Noon Eitz Chayim—Enlightenment (WC) 5:30 pm AA Meeting (WC)</p>	<p>30</p> <p>12:30 pm Sisterhood Torah Study (WC) 5:00 pm Beg. Adult Hebrew (WC) 5:00 pm Beyond Aleph Adult Hebrew (WC)</p>	<p>31</p> <p>7:30 pm Sisterhood Cooking Class (TBA)</p>		

That Spirit of Commitment

BY PHYLLIS TOBIAS

You all know that our Religious School has a "value of the month." It's a terrific idea. It helps our children focus on the core values that are at the heart of leading a meaningful Jewish life. And it's gotten me thinking about the values of our adult congregants too.

I am often struck by the enormous commitment it takes to keep such a large and multi-faceted synagogue going at full steam. I have seen so many members of Wise Temple sticking with responsibilities over a long period of time. And most of them are "unsung heroes."

There is our hard-working Temple Board of course. But I am also thinking of the fifty or sixty volunteers it takes for the Interfaith Hospitality Network to host homeless families in the lower level of our

synagogue, a week at a time. This program has been going on four or five or six weeks a year, **for ten years.** Now that's real commitment. Or look at the

Wise Words Committee that recently completed a stunning composite tape of interviews of some of our "over 80" members, talking about their history, families, faith and wisdom. This committee started out with the somewhat vague notion that the lives of our elders should be preserved. They wound up a year later - after a lot of hard work - with a breathtaking video that shares our older congregants in all the humor, warmth, and

strength of life.

Wise-UP is another area where I see true commitment played out day after day. Because we sign up for Wise-UP projects in the fall, we are often committing our time to an event that is several

months or even several seasons away. Of course, sometimes a person cannot follow through on a Wise-UP project as planned. You cannot know in September that your child will be sick in November. And you might not know that a family wedding is going to happen in May. But I am consistently impressed with how hard we try to stand by those Wise-UP choices that are made in the fall. Wise-UP has had social action projects that reach out to every corner of our community because of YOUR commitment. It's great!

Those of you who know me well realize that I am definitely an optimist, a "the glass is half full" kind of person. I definitely embrace the saying that I have heard attributed to Eleanor Roosevelt, "I would rather light one candle than curse the darkness." And every single day the commitment of the staff and members of Isaac M. Wise Temple reinforces my optimism for life. 🕯️



Phyllis Tobias
Program Director

A Missed Opportunity

You missed it! I wish you'd have been there! Over a period of three Thursday evenings in October, Michael Shulman, our Rabbinic Intern at Wise Temple, was able to capture the essence of Jerusalem and the entire Middle East. His educational background in Middle Eastern Studies gave a new perspective to the troubles faced by Israel today.

He began with a fascinating, understandable history of the region. We left this Eitz Chayim sponsored class with an understanding of the issues confronting the region and the complexities of Jerusalem from various points of view.

And then, for the grand finale, we attempted to "solve" the dilemma of co-

existence in a land of monumental contrast. Although none of us expects to win the Nobel Peace Prize this year, we have come away with a much better understanding of the problems we face today.

In the future, when you are reading *Kesher*, I hope you will take a fresh look at what Wise Temple provides through its rich Eitz Chayim programming. Many of these no-charge sessions are real gems. Consider this your personal invitation to join us at one of our next presentations. Do not let another class pass you by!

Glen Meyer
Eitz Chayim Committee Member



**WISE CENTER
DAY CAMP**

June 17 - July 26

Camp brochures have been mailed.

**Half Day or Full Day
Registration is Now!**

*For information call the
Temple Office at
793-2556.*

YOUTH GROUP



Annual Purim Carnival

Sunday, February 24

For a day of fun and challenges, the Wise Center Youth Group encourages parents and children to attend the Annual Purim Carnival, Sunday, February 24th immediately following Religious School.

Games and fun for all ages will keep everyone entertained. There will be prizes and a raffle with exciting gifts.

To purchase raffle tickets in advance just clip the coupon below. Tickets are \$1.00 each. You do not need to be present to win. You will be notified if you win.

☐

Yes, I would like to purchase raffle tickets for the Wise Temple Youth Group Carnival, Sunday, February 24. Enclosed is my check to the Wise Temple Youth Group.

\$_____ to purchase
_____ (number) tickets.

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Mail to:

Wise Center Youth Group
8329 Ridge Road
Cincinnati, OH 45236



Wise Temple Marks Martin Luther King, Jr. Sabbath with Union Baptist Church



Continuing our decade long tradition, Wise Temple will celebrate the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. weekend along with Temple Sholom this year on **Friday, January 18, 8:15 p.m. at Temple Sholom.** Guests will be members of the Union Baptist Church, their Choir and the Rev. Orlando Yates, pastor of Union Baptist.

This special service commemorating the memory and the legacy of Dr. King has become part of our congregational observance of this national holiday. We are delighted to continue the celebration of this day with Union Baptist, a downtown church, who like us, has a membership comprised of people from many areas throughout the tri-state area. If you have never attended one of our Martin Luther King Shabbat services, you will especially enjoy the oratory of our guest preacher, as well as the exciting music offered by both the Wise Temple and Temple



Sholom Choirs, and the Union Baptist Choir.

This service will also serve as our participation in a program of Pulpit exchanges between synagogues, churches and African-American churches, throughout Cincinnati. Such a program will bring local African-American ministers to speak in various congregations during January and February.

Mark your calendar, and plan to join us at 8:15 p.m. on Friday, January 18, 2002 at Temple Sholom for a Shabbat in honor of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Please note that it is Temple policy to commemorate the importance of Dr. King's life and work by closing the Temple Office on Monday, January 21, 2001 and no Temple activities will occur that day or evening. We encourage all Temple members to take part in community activities to mark this occasion.

Come to Play, Learn, and Celebrate Shabbat with us at Wise Temple's First

Programs for Adults • Programs for Kids • Fun for parents and kids together • Shabbat • Study • Games • Prayer • Celebration • Singing • Fun • Friends

Family Retreat

5 pm Feb. 1 to 5 pm Feb. 2
At Hueston Woods Resort and
Conference Center

Call Brett Stern at 793-2556 for more information.
Hurry—the Family Retreat is only open to the first 25 families to respond!

CONGREGATIONAL CONNECTION



Wise Temple's Young Adult Congregation, commonly known around these parts as "YAC," is a warm and welcoming group of young adults open to all young Jewish singles, couples and families, between the ages of 22 and 35. YAC offers a wide range of activities throughout the year in an effort to provide this part of our congregational family a warm and comfortable path into the greater

synagogue life.

This year YAC has already been busy with a variety of events including a *havdalah* get together, a visit and worship experience at Cedar Village, and a Chanukah party. In addition to these experiences, the members of YAC host periodic home Shabbat in which services, dinner, and lots of shmoozing is enjoyed in the comfort of a member's home.

The next YAC event is coming up- so get your calendars out!!! On Friday, January 18th, YAC will gather for a Shabbat meal before joining in the shared service

in honor of Dr. Martin Luther King, which will take place at Temple Sholom. *For more information on this event, please feel free to call Keith and Risa Brand at 871-7176.*

Looking forward to future YAC events, we will be joining together on February 16th for a progressive dinner and on March 1 we will be leading a Shabbat service for the congregation. *Anyone interested in learning more about YAC, please call YAC president Liz Shafran at 791-8992.* 🕯️

SISTERHOOD NOTES

PROGRAMMING NEWS

Please join us on January 16th at 11:45 a.m. when we will meet for a "healthy" lunch and a presentation by Stephen J. Pomeranz, M.D., director of ProScan Imaging. Dr. Pomeranz, a Wise Temple member, will brief us on new technologies in the field of medical imaging/radiology. Dr. Pomeranz will give an overview and update of imaging available today, including MRI, CT, Digital Mammography, CAT, PET, and more, with the goal of educating us so that we can make informed decisions regarding our own medical imaging options. We hope that you will join us for this very important program. *For information, call Cookie Auster 777-3624 or Pat Silver 779-3599.*

COOKING WITH SISTERHOOD

Back by popular demand, Sisterhood will sponsor three cooking classes. Classes are open to all Temple members or friends from the community. You may attend any or all of the sessions. The cost is \$35 per class or \$100 for all three. *For more information, call Dian Deutsch at 891-3666.*

Thursday, January 10, 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. Jeff Thomas Catering will present "The Quick Gourmet."

Thursday, January 31, 7:00-9:00 p.m. "Comforting Through Food" with Wise Temple's own Dianne Rosenberg.

Sunday, February 10, 1:30-3:30 p.m. Rita Heikenfeld will demonstrate "Elegant and Easy Pickups" at The Great Indoors in Tri-County.

STUDY GROUPS

The next session of our Sisterhood **Torah Study** will be January 30 at Wise Center from 12:30-2:00 p.m. Join us with your brown bag lunch, if you wish. Cost is \$5. You need not prepare for this class and no registration is necessary. Come to study with your Sisterhood friends. We welcome you!

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. *For more information, call discussion leader Nancy Goldberg at 791-4498.*

SOCIAL ACTION

The next class party at the South Avondale School will be on February 14. For more information or to volunteer, please call Phyllis Dreyfuss at 841-9907 or Nancy Horwitz at 793-7580.

EDUCATION DEPARTMENT NEWS

Sisterhood's Education Department has been busy at all age levels. The Religious School students received Chanukah treats from Sisterhood. We thank Judi Hughes for organizing this. They also had a chance to shop for moderately priced, pre-wrapped gifts for family and friends at our annual Children's Holiday Boutique. Many thanks to co-chairs Stephanie Fenlon and Missy Richter and all who helped to wrap and sell the gifts. Our 7th and 8th graders are enjoying a great year of programs through the Sisterhood-sponsored Wise Guys youth group under the leadership of Andy Shafran. Thanks to Diane Oestreicher and her committee, we sent nearly 125 Chanukah packages featuring gelt, dreidels, and menorahs to Wise Temple College students.

TRADITIONS & TREASURES

GIFT SHOP — CHANUKAH CLEARANCE SALE...for the entire month of January, save up to 50% on Dreidels, Menorahs, candles and decorations. 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 would be interested in volunteering in the Gift Shop, please call Margie Meyer 984-2345.*

CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to Karen Sim upon her installation on the WRJ Board of Directors during the recent Biennial Assembly in Boston. We also extend congratulations and

appreciation to Donna Hyams, who just completed her term on the WRJ Board. We are fortunate to have such outstanding Sisterhood leaders and are pleased they have chosen to share their talents with WRJ.

THANK YOU'S

Thank you to Debbie Lane from the Pastoral Committee who has been doing a wonderful job sending the cards and letters to our Wise Temple Sisterhood Family since October. We appreciate her dedication and commitment. Linda Kreindler will follow in her mother's footsteps, January through March of 2002.

Thanks to Lorri Manning and Laura Cramer for planning our evening out at Café Monet. A fun time was had by all who attended.

Thank you to all the volunteers who were room moms for the December party at the South Avondale School.

Thank you to the Bedtime Bundles co-chairs Jan Shuller and Janice Kirschner, for their tremendous effort to complete this project. Thanks also to those volunteers who helped to sort and label the bundles for delivery to the Battered Women's Shelter.

Thanks to Linda Berger and Lauren Prangle for co-chairing the Chanukah congregational dinner.

FLEA MARKET

Are you moving? Cleaning closets? Re-decorating? The Flea Market will gladly get those no-longer needed items out of your house. We accept 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.



Lewis H. Kamrass, Senior Rabbi
 Rayna E. Gevurtz, Assistant Rabbi
 Michael Shulman, Rabbinic Intern
 Albert A. Goldman, Rabbi Emeritus
 Sharon R. Kohn, Cantor
 Barry H. Finestone, Temple Administrator
 Barbara L. Dragul, Director of Education
 and Lifelong Learning
 Phyllis Tobias, Program Director
 Brett Stern, Assistant Director of Education
 and Youth Program
 Jennifer D. Schaffzin, Librarian
 Renee Frankel, Day Camp Director
 Suzanne S. Teller, President

Auxiliary Presidents

Brotherhood: Robert Klein
 Sisterhood: Valerie Friedman
 Young Adult Congregation: Liz Shafran
 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 January:

B'nai Mitzvah

January 5 – Micah Kamrass, son of Rabbi Lewis and Renee Kamrass, grandson of David and Anna Lee Kamrass.

January 19 – Sam Pollak, son of Steven and Judi Pollak

January 26 – Brandon Blackmer, son of Benjamin and Deborah Blackmer

January 26 – Kevin Weisbacher, son of Kenneth and Shelley Weisbacher
 Hank and Diane Marowitz on the Bar Mitzvah of their grandson, David Marowitz

Birth

Howard and Renee Mason on the recent birth of their granddaughter and Ellen Mason on the recent birth of her great-granddaughter, Abigail Hannah Zied.

Weddings

Dr. James and Ruth Levy on the recent marriage of their son, Jonathan to Christine Duffy.

Abe and Irene Schwartz on the recent marriage of their daughter, Lisa to Kenneth Gordon.

Nathan and Eleanor Sherman on the marriage of their granddaughter, Lauren Zerkowitz to Scott Gottlieb.

Engagement

Michael and Jeanne Schmerler and Isadore and Tanya Schmerler on the engagement of their daughter and granddaughter, Lisa Schmerler to Matt Freedman.

Parents Save These Dates:

Sunday March 3,
 10:00-11:30 a.m.

“Blessing of a Skinned Knee: Using Jewish Teachings to Raise Self-Reliant Children”

Sunday, March 17,
 10:00-11:30 a.m.

Rabbi Kamrass will lead a session on “Creating Jewish Rituals with Young Children”



K.K. B'NAI YESHURUN

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