

KESHER

קשר

THE WISE CONNECTION

Thank You, Sisterhood!

BY BARRY FINESTONE

Our Congregation will be reminded to "Sing to the Lord a new song, Sing to the Lord all the Earth" (Psalm 96:1), for it is carved in Hebrew on the beautiful new pipe organ in the Wise Center sanctuary. The pipe organ is a gift from Sisterhood and will be officially dedicated on May 31st. This special service will be led by Sisterhood members and will be enhanced by the music of the Kol Rinah choir.

Eighteen months ago, Sisterhood pledged to purchase a gift for Wise Center that would stand as a lasting legacy to Sisterhood's commitment and ongoing support of the Temple. Through on-going fundraising efforts, such as the Flea Market, Gift Shop sales and Accessory and Craft Boutique, Sisterhood accomplished its goal. The result is a custom-built pipe organ, built by Denis Juget and Stephen Sinclair, for Wise Center.

Sisterhood President Valerie Friedman said, "Sisterhood is proud to give such a meaningful gift to our congregation which will add richness to the music that accompanies our worship."


The beautiful cherry case of the pipe organ is also adorned with a leafy motif referencing the Tree of Life. In addition to protecting the pipes, it acts as a soundboard and directs sound outward. The pipe organ was designed to function within the context of Jewish liturgy.

Rabbi Kamrass commented "I believe that

the new pipe organ's beautiful and natural sounds will invite congregational singing, and enrich our participation at services. This is so important to us, for when a community participates together in worship, the meaning of that experience is greatly enhanced."

The decision to replace the previous electric organ with a wood pipe organ was based on the feeling that the sound of a pipe organ is alive and warm. The pipe organ's acoustic sound is produced by air blowing across the wood pipes. Wise's Musical Director and Organist of 17 years, Thom Miles said, "It is a wind instrument just like the human voice and as such inspires people to sing. It encourages singing in ways an electric organ cannot. The new organ is indeed magnificent, both to look at and to hear." The organ is entirely mechanical. As with the piano or harpsichord, this mechanical link between the keys and the instrument gives the player direct control over the instrument. Thom will be available after the service to give a "tour" of the new organ.

Rabbi Kamrass added, "We are so grateful to our Sisterhood for this extraordinary gift!"

Please join us for a special Shabbat Service, led by Sisterhood members, on May 31st at 6:15, followed by a Congregational Shabbat Dinner. 

ISAAC M. WISE TEMPLE



K.K. B'NAI YESHURUN

I N S I D E

2 **Words From The Heart**

3 **Education Connection:**
Words of Wisdom – An Interview with Mary Lee Sirkin

4 **Education Connection:**
Confirmation Class of 5762

5 **Listing of Events**

8 **Calendar**

9 **Education Connection:**
Rabbi Kamrass Visits Wise College Students

10 **Education Connection:**
Hebrew – It's For You, Too

A Message from Our President

11 **Sisterhood Notes**

12 **Congregational Connection:**
Mazal Tov



Founded in 1842

AFFILIATE:
Union of American
Hebrew Congregations

D'VARIM MIN HALEV-

“Words from the Heart”

BY RABBI KAMRASS

With a 25th high school reunion approaching in several months, I recently found myself thinking about the varied experiences and the many classrooms in which I was a student. I realized that I was fortunate to have some fine teachers along the way, whose skills and whose character guided me. In particular, I recall Mrs. Smith, my fourth grade teacher at Kittredge Elementary School in Atlanta. I will remember her smile and her reassuring ways when our class struggled over speed test multiplication tables and long division. I recall her genuine interest in her students as people, her love of learning and of teaching, and her confidence in each of us. Even at a young age I knew that, in her classroom, I was touched and shaped by someone special. For many years since, I have periodically kept in touch with her. For that kind of gratitude knows no end date in time. And now that I watch my own children with their teachers in high school, junior high, and middle school, and at our own religious school, I feel a great appreciation for the impact their teachers are making in my children's lives. Truly, our teachers are always with us.

This month, we honor our religious school teachers at Shabbat HaMoreh (Teacher's Shabbat) on May 10 at 6:15 p.m. at Wise Center. Like the memories that each of us have about our best teachers, our religious school teachers make an impact and help to shape Jewish life for our students.



Rabbi Kamrass

They help our children to discover insights from our tradition, a love of our heritage, a joy of Jewish life, and to strengthen their sense of faith. What these teachers create in their classrooms lasts not only for those hours, but reverberates throughout a lifetime. They imbue our children with the experience of community, that will hopefully foster the bonds of connection and belonging that our children will feel with Jewish life that will last a lifetime. We are extraordinarily indebted to our teachers not only for the time and the talent that they give to our children, but for the seeds that they plant, and which can grow and blossom forever.

One teacher who has planted more seeds through the years, and done so with great love and devotion, is Mary Lee Sirkin. This Spring, after having taught in our religious school for 41 years (not to mention her time as a student teacher prior to that), Mary Lee will be retiring. She is the “dean” of our teachers, and is well known to many of us. She has taught several generations of our Open Room (pre-Kindergarten and Kindergarten), and touched thousands of lives as a teacher in our religious school. She has also been a wonderful role model for many teachers and student teachers through the years. As we honor all our teachers on May 10, we will offer a special tribute to Mary Lee for all that she has done, and for the many Jewish lives that she has touched and shaped in their formative years. Thankfully, she will still

remain a devoted and interested member of our congregation and, as we all know in Mary Lee's caring manner, will be willing to help us from time to time. While her regular responsibilities in religious school will come to an end, her love for Wise Temple has no end.

Thinking about the many fine teachers in our lives, the ancient rabbis reminded us: “Revere your teacher as you would heaven!” (Pirke Avot 1.6). We have every reason to be grateful to those special individuals in our lives whose teaching, whose insight, whose love, and whose example continue to guide us long after the school day ends, for many years after we have left their classroom, and even for generations after they retire. Seeds that are planted lovingly and well continue to blossom and bear fruit in our lives.

Yes, our teachers are always with us, and so our gratitude knows no end date in time. So we look forward to sharing an expression of our gratitude to our religious school teachers in general, and to Mary Lee Sirkin in particular, on May 10. We invite you to join us. And I encourage you to think about the teachers who have touched your lives, or your children's lives because of the special bond that was shared, or the wonderful gift of character, or the noble example, or the abiding values that they imparted. Take the time to make a call, or pen a note and say thank you, that you may revere your teachers as you would heaven, and reflect upon the great gifts lovingly offered and received in your life. 🕯

A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading "Lewis H. Kamrass".

Rabbi Lewis H. Kamrass

Words of Wisdom:

An Interview with Mary Lee Sirkin

BY BARBARA DRAGUL

On March 17, I had the delightful opportunity to interview Mary Lee Sirkin, asking her to reflect on her 41 years of teaching experience at Wise Temple. She was quite honored by my request to interview her for *Kesher* and, as Mary Lee approaches everything in her life, she came to the interview well prepared, having asked for and reflected upon the questions ahead of time. Her genuine love of her work and this congregation that is so dear to her were evident throughout our conversation. At times passionate, at times teary, Mary Lee had many wonderful stories to share. I am pleased to give you a glimpse of this amazing woman!



Barbara Dragul

What has been the most rewarding part of teaching at Wise Temple?

Mary Lee: To introduce hundreds of children and their families to the joys of Jewish learning. To encourage children and their families to celebrate our Jewish traditions more meaningfully. To become a part of so many families, knowing them for successive generations.

What have you learned in your years teaching here?

Mary Lee: "Learned" is the correct verb, for I have continued to learn as I teach...the process is on-going. All of the in-service experiences have benefited me, and I have learned from every rabbi, educational director, teacher, *madrikh* and student. I think one of the key components to being a good teacher is the ability

to be flexible.

What is it about Wise Temple that kept you coming year after year?

Mary Lee: That's a really good question! It all boils down to a deep sense of loyalty and family commitment, having been consecrated, confirmed and graduated at Wise Temple. My parents' active participation; my mom as Temple librarian for 27 years, my dad as Brotherhood president, an ever-present usher at services and a library helper on Sundays after my mom passed away. A sense of wanting my own children to know how valuable a Jewish connection is.

What is special about being a "Jewish" teacher?

Mary Lee: It is a unique feeling to teach the customs and ceremonies of our people and to help young families practice these observances and experience them at home. I mean, anybody could be a teacher, and anybody Jewish could be a Jewish teacher, but I think what you... what you're hoping to convey is that their "Jewishness" will be a part of their everyday living. And if it's a happy and comfortable experience here, then it's one they can take with them all the time...I hope.

What do you think is the most important thing you gave your students?

Mary Lee: Well, programming of all sorts adds to the curricula, but I've always felt that programming doesn't make as much difference as people do. What I gave my students was "me." I have loved them, I've loved their families, I've shared in

their joys and their sorrows, celebrated with them at consecration, bar and bat mitzvahs, confirmation, etc. It's interesting to me that when the graduating class recalls their special moments at Wise Temple, the Open Room experience is one that is always remembered.

What have you learned from your students?

Mary Lee: Let's see, I've learned that I need to be prepared, organized and ready, but that a child's needs may interrupt that preparation. If someone needs to tell me about why he or she is feeling sad, or happy, or if a child is angry, time is needed to verbalize this. I try to greet each child enthusiastically and offer a special comment.

What changes have you seen in the education program and in the congregation?

Mary Lee: I probably could say a lot about this, but I'll try to be succinct. I fondly remember the old Wise Center on North Crescent which could be seen from our family's apartment on Greenwood Ave. In fact, my mother used to say, "they're coming to Temple, hurry up, you're not ready". And I remember the move to the present facility and the creation of the Open Room. The emphasis has really turned from "dropping your kids off at Sunday school" to educating the entire family - that's the biggest change I have seen. The *Gesher* program, the Shabbat and the family dinners, and all the Temple programming aimed at the entire Temple family is sort of the wave of the future.

continued on next page ►

Do you have any advice for parents of young children?

Mary Lee: Be the kind of Jewish role model that you want your children to become. Your home will be the most important influence in your child's Jewish upbringing, so build a Jewish home!

What are some highlights? What days/events/moments will you especially remember?

Mary Lee: There are probably tons of them, but I'm thinking, going way, way, way back. I remember teacher meetings at Cele Singer's home 2 or 3 times a year. After meeting, we would gather around her elegantly set dining room table eating all the delicacies that she had meticulously prepared for us while she continuously praised the teachers in the primary department. She always referred to us as "the jewels in her crown." And I'll always remember certain people who had a profound impact on me; like, Cele Singer, Ruth Silverstein, Joel Wittstein, Judy Carsch, Ray Cook. And I'll remember decorating the *bimah* for consecrations and all the consecration ceremonies, and of course our Family Day programming in the Open Room. I'll remember lots of other things too.

What will you miss?

Mary Lee: I'll miss my teaching partners: Linda Arnold, Kathy Dumes, Michelle Strapko and Debbie Wolf. We have really been a team together for, I'm thinking all of us have been here maybe for the last 6 years and some of us have been here for 10 or 15 years. And as I always explain to the parents at the beginning of the year, the Open Room is a smooth operation because each one of the spokes in the wheel turns with the other. It is a team effort! I will really miss being with that team of people next year. I will miss them a lot! Their friendships are very special to me. But I promise them that I will come back to "sub." And I also will miss other colleagues, Barbara, Rabbi Kamrass, Terri Snavelly, and most of all I will miss the children.... I'm hoping these people will still significantly impact my life. ... which they will.

Closing Thoughts--

Mary Lee: It's just been really wonderful. I've never come here on a Sunday morning thinking that I didn't want to come. It was always fun to be here. And I really, I mean the families that I've come to know and the children and the other people who work here really have a very special place in my heart.

Value of the Month

Dibuk Chaverim: friendship/ cleaving to friends.

In her interview Mary Lee said, referring to her colleagues in the Open Room, "their friendships are very special to me." We all know that friendship is important but what is it about friendship that makes it a value or virtue of character? After all, friendship is just a kind of relationship. Having a friend doesn't necessarily make us a good person. *Dibuk Chaverim* becomes a value when it teaches us to take care in how we treat our friends, when it reminds us to honor and respect our friends, to love and appreciate them. The value teaches us that how we treat friendship matters.

In *Pirke Avot* we learn that there are 48 virtues necessary for acquiring *Torah*. *Dibuk Chaverim* is among the 48. "Because acquiring *Torah* is about learning and righteous living, this means that cleaving to friends is an important part of learning and righteous living. Friendship helps lead us to become the best person we can be." (*Teaching Jewish Virtues* by Susan Freeman).

Pirke Avot instructs us to, "acquire for yourself a friend." As we prepare for our summer break from our religious school and *Eitz Chayim*, our adult education program, let us remember our friendships here at Wise Temple, and may those friendships strengthen the fabric of our lives, helping us to become the best that we can be. 🕯

Confirmation Class of 5762: A Balanced Approach

On Saturday May 18th, Isaac M. Wise Temple will carry on a long-standing tradition as another class of students become confirmed. At 10 a.m. the ceremony will begin at Plum Street Temple as the class of 5762 celebrate their confirmation. Please join us in what will be a beautiful service.

This year's confirmation class has worked hard to reach this exciting day.

The year began with students lending their time and energy to work a soup kitchen in Over the Rhine. This experience offered students the chance to put their Jewish learning into action in the form of *tikkun olam*, doing their part to repair the world in which they live.

As classes began at the Cincinnati Reform Jewish High School, the students entered into their course of study "Get-

ting Connected: Seeing Our Relationships Through Jewish Eyes." Through the year the confirmands examined what Judaism has to say about interpersonal relationships, relationships with the majority culture, relationships to God, relationships to the land and people of Israel, and relationships to success. Class time was spent engaging in discussion

continued on page 9 ►

New Format for Annual Meeting

The annual meeting of Isaac M. Wise Temple will take place on Sunday, June 9th. The meeting portion of the evening will begin at 5:00 p.m. followed by dinner and leadership recognition/installation program at 6:15 p.m.

The entire congregation is invited.

Please send form below with a check to:

Annual Meeting Dinner
Wise Temple-8329 Ridge Road
Cincinnati, OH 45236

Box Dinners
\$10 per adult
\$5 per child under 12

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



Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

_____ Adults @ \$10 each

_____ Children under 12 @ \$5.00 each

\$ _____ Total

_____ Check is enclosed.



The Wise Shabbat

Refreshing Change. For A New Personal Tradition.

Isaac M. Wise Temple
Congregational Shabbat Dinners
May 10th and May 31st

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

Come and celebrate Shabbat with other Temple families. All families are encouraged to attend. 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)

May 10

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

May 31

_____ 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

TGIS
Thank God It's Shabbat

Doing God's Work—Together



Strengthen old friendships and make new ones while doing something good for the Temple. The Temple needs lots of T.L.C. in June (after the close of Sunday School and before the start of Day Camp). Everyone is invited to help with indoor and outdoor projects. Please join us for this fun-filled Wise-UP event (sponsored by the Chavurah Committee.) Our Chavurah will be there (pictured right). We'd love to see you there, too. *For more information contact Kari Fagin at 573-0247 or Howard Mintz at 339-0661.*



LISTING OF EVENTS



Brotherhood

Brotherhood Weekend GUCI Project

May 2 – May 5

At Goldman Union Camp Institute

For more information, contact Kenny Simmons at 791-4749.

Brotherhood Board Meeting

May 9

6:00 p.m. at Wise Center

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

Brotherhood Family Picnic

May 19

11:45 a.m. at Wise Center

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



Congregational Shabbat Dinners

May 10

7:15 p.m. at Wise Center

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

May 31

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.

Optional Text Study

Every Saturday

10:45 a.m. – 11:45 a.m. at Wise Center

For more information, contact Rabbi Rayna Gevurtz or Rabbinic Intern Michael Schulman at 793-2556.

Judaism and the Visual Arts

May 5

10:00 a.m. at Wise Center

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

Reform Judaism: How Do We Do It?

May 6

7:30 p.m. at Wise Center

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



Outreach

Shavuot Sensation

May 16

7:15 p.m. – 11:00 p.m. at Wise Center

For more information, contact Linda Berger at 859-344-9731 or Teresa Kohn at 459-7161.



Political Advocacy

National Security & Civil Liberties: Where Is the Balance?

May 20

7:30 p.m. at Wise Center

Debate by Joe Tomain, Dean of the University of Cincinnati Law School and John Balauri, professor of law at NKU's Salmon P. Chase College of Law; moderated by Professor Marianna Brown Bettman. The program is free and open to the public.

For more information, contact Terry Susskind at 761-7782 or terrysus@worldnet.att.net.



Religious School

Book Fair

May 1, 3 & 5

at Wise Center

Check calendar on page 8 for times.

For more information, contact Karen Krieger at 489-9697.

B'nai Mitzvah Family Workshop #2

May 2

7:00 p.m. at Wise Center

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

5th Grade Family Program

May 5

9:30 a.m. at Wise Center

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

Confirmation Class Rehearsal

May 5 & 13

4:30 p.m. at Plum Street Temple

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

Gesher Grade 2

May 12

9:30 a.m. at Wise Center

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

Last Day of Midweek Hebrew

May 15

4:30 p.m. at Wise Center

Last Day of Religious School

May 19

9:15 a.m. at Wise Center



Seniors

Tour of Toyota Factory

May 13

Noon (leave from Wise Center)

For more information, contact Elaine Schiffer at 351-6620.



Sisterhood

Sisterhood Board Meeting

May 1

9:45 a.m. at Wise Center

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

Sisterhood Book Club

"The Far Euphrates"

May 8

4:30 p.m. at Wise Center

For more information, contact Dr. Stephanie Fenlon at 859-331-3564.

Sisterhood Bridge

May 14 & 28

Noon at Wise Center

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

Sisterhood Breakfast Program

May 15

9:45 a.m. at Plum Street Temple

For more information, contact Barb Pordy at 984-1454.

Sisterhood Sabbath

May 31

6:15 p.m. at Wise Center

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

LISTING OF EVENTS

Sisterhood Board Meeting

June 5

9:45 a.m. at Wise Center

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



Wise-UP

7th Grade Car Wash Fundraiser

May 5

9:30 a.m. at Wise Center

For more information, contact Robin Senser at 221-8885.

WCET Action Auction

May 13

6:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.

For more information, contact Phyllis Tobias at 793-2556



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 793-9007 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

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!

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

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



YAC

Home Shabbat

May 10

7:00 p.m. at the Reppart's

For more information, contact Steve or Wendy at 624-0246.



Youth Groups

AVOC Buddy Dinner

May 1

5:00 p.m. at Wise Temple

For more information, contact John Bloch at 321-2121.

8th Grade Retreat

May 3-4

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



Miscellaneous

Alcoholics Anonymous

Tuesdays

5:30 p.m. at Wise Center

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

Open AA Meeting - Open to General Public

May 2, 9 & 23

5:30 p.m. at Wise Center

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

Jewish/Muslim Dialogue

May 2

7:30 p.m. at Islamic Center

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

Shabbat Storytime for Kids

May 3 & May 31

10:00 a.m. at Wise Center

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

What is SHAVUOT SENSATION ????

Sha-vu-ot. n. Holy Day

commemorating God's gift of the Torah to Moses on Mt. Sinai. One of the three pilgrimage holidays, celebrating the end of the harvest.

sen-sa-tion. n. 1. a mental process (as seeing, hearing or smelling) due to immediate bodily stimulation often as distinguished from awareness of the process - compare PERCEPTION. 2. a state of excited interest or feeling. 3. a cause of such excitement; esp. one in some respect exceptional or outstanding.

Put them together and what have you got? Shavuot Sensation at Wise Temple, where the entire congregation is invited to join together in worship, song, and study. Please join in continuing this ancient tradition, with meaning for today.

Time and Place: May 16, 7:15 p.m. at Wise Center. Look for the brochure and registration form mailed to you.

MAY 2002 IYYAR/SIVAN

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>9:30 - 11:30 Book Fair 4:00pm - 6:30pm Book Fair 9:45 Sisterhood Board Meeting(WC) 5:00pm AVOC Buddy Dinner(WC)</p>	<p>2</p> <p>Brotherhood GUCI Project Begin(O) 5:30pm AA (WC) 7:00pm B'nai Mitzvah Family Wkshp #2(WC) 7:30pm Jewish/Muslim Dialogue (O)</p>	<p>3</p> <p>9:30 - 11:30 Book Fair 8th Grade Retreat(O) 10:00 Shabbat Storytime(WC) 6:15pm Shabbat Evening Service/Graduate Recognition(WC)</p>	<p>4</p> <p>8th Grade Retreat(O) 9:30 Shabbat Alternative Service(WC) 10:45 Bar Mitzvah of Mark Bernstein(PST) 10:45 Optional Text Study(WC)</p>
<p>5</p> <p>8:45 - 12:30pm Book Fair Brotherhood GUCI Project Ends(O) 9:30 5th Grade Family Program(WC) 9:30 7th Grade Car Wash(WC) 10:00 Eitz Chayim-Judaism & Visual Arts(WC) 4:30pm Confirmation Class Rehearsal(PST)</p>	<p>6</p> <p>7:30pm Eitz Chayim-Reform Judaism: How Do We Do It?(WC)</p>	<p>7</p> <p>5:30pm Alcoholics Anonymous(WC)</p>	<p>8</p> <p>4:30pm Sisterhood Book Club(WC)</p>	<p>9</p> <p>6:00pm Brotherhood Board Meeting(WC) 5:30pm AA (WC)</p>	<p>10</p> <p>6:15pm Shabbat Evening Service/Teacher Recognition (WC) 7:15pm Congreg. Shabbat Dinner(WC) 7:00pm YAC-Home Shabbat(O)</p>	<p>11</p> <p>9:30 Shabbat Morning Service(WC) 10:45 Optional Text Study(WC)</p>
<p>12</p> <p>9:30 Geshet Grade 2</p>	<p>13</p> <p>Noon Seniors-Tour of Toyota Factory(WC) 4:30pm Confirmation Class Rehearsal(PST) 6:00pm Wise-UP WCET Action Auction</p>	<p>14</p> <p>Noon Sisterhood Bridge(WC) 5:30pm Alcoholics Anonymous(WC)</p>	<p>15</p> <p>9:45 Sisterhood Breakfast Program(PST) 4:30pm Midweek Hebrew Ends(WC)</p>	<p>16</p> <p>7:15pm Erev Shavuot Service(WC) 7:15pm Outreach-Shavuot Sensation(WC)</p>	<p>17</p> <p>10:45 Shavuot Morning Service/Yizkor(WC) 6:15pm Shabbat Evening Service(WC) 8:15pm Shabbat Service; Blessing of Confirmants(PST)</p>	<p>18</p> <p>9:30 Shabbat Alternative Service(WC) 10:00 Confirmation(PST) 10:45 Optional Text Study(WC)</p>
<p>19</p> <p>9:15 Religious School Ends(WC) 11:45 Brotherhood Family Picnic(WC)</p>	<p>20</p> <p>7:00pm R'fuat Ha-nefesh Service(WC) 7:30pm Pol. Advocacy-National Security & Civil Liberties(WC)</p>	<p>21</p> <p>5:30pm Alcoholics Anonymous(WC)</p>	<p>22</p>	<p>23</p> <p>5:30pm AA (WC)</p>	<p>24</p> <p>6:15pm Shabbat Evening Service; Wise Tykes; Blessing of Babies (WC)</p>	<p>25</p> <p>9:30 Shabbat Alternative Service(WC) 10:45 Bat Mitzvah of Rachel Greenberg(PST) 10:45 Optional Text Study(WC)</p>
<p>26</p>	<p>27</p>	<p>28</p> <p>Noon Sisterhood Bridge(WC) 5:30pm Alcoholics Anonymous(WC)</p>	<p>29</p>	<p>30</p>	<p>31</p> <p>10:00 Shabbat Storytime(WC) 6:15pm Shabbat Evening Service; Sisterhood Recognition (WC) 7:15pm Congreg. Shabbat Dinner(WC)</p>	<p>1</p> <p>9:30 Shabbat Morning Service(WC) 9:30 HUC Ordination(PST) 10:45 Optional Text Study(WC)</p>

Rabbi Kamrass Visits Wise College Students

For several years now, Rabbi Kamrass has visited our Wise Temple college students at various college campuses in the Midwest. These visits represent an opportunity for the Wise Temple family to connect with our college students beyond the monthly email bulletins our rabbis send, the individual correspondence between our rabbis and our students, and the periodic Sisterhood gift packages to our college students prior to Chanukah and Passover filled with items to help them in their Jewish observance away from home.

Each year, Rabbi Kamrass visits the campuses with the largest numbers of our Wise Temple students. This year, he has expanded the number of his campus visits from prior years, and has recently visited the University of Illinois on March 24-25 (5 students), Indiana University on March 25-26 (8 students), and the University of Michigan on April 14-15 (8

students). Additional upcoming campus visits are planned to University of Cincinnati on May 6 (14 students), and Ohio State University on May 8 (17 students). At each campus visit, Rabbi Kamrass takes our students to dinner as a group, and meets individually with any of our students who want to spend time talking about their college experiences, future plans, or simply just to discuss anything on their minds.

The college visits and our campus outreach are part of our Youth Activities program. We consider the contact with these college students to be important because college years are a time when affiliation with Jewish activities is often low, and living away from home and on their own, our students' contact with their synagogue is often less frequent. This is a means of not only of staying in touch, but of linking our students with Jewish life and reminding them that they

remain a part of a congregational family that is here to help them, even if they are far away. Our rabbis report that our students often will email or call with questions regarding Judaism for the courses they are taking, or to discuss personal Jewish identity issues or even personal problems.

Parents of college students should be sure to submit email addresses of their students, as well as phone numbers and addresses, so that we can stay in touch with their child while he/she is away at school. Parents of college students are urged to put a reminder in their calendars for late August or early September to contact Hermine in the Temple office at 793-2556 to provide their child's email, phone numbers, and addresses to ensure that we include them in our college outreach efforts. 🕯

CONFIRMATION

...continued from page 4

with Rabbi Kamrass, Rabbi Gevurtz, Assistant Director of Education and Youth Programs, Brett Stern, and Rabbinic Intern Michael Shulman.

The highlight of the year was the annual confirmation retreat in the fall, during which the students had the opportunity to build a strong sense of class community by engaging in team activities such as the challenge of the high ropes course at Camp Joy Outdoor Education Center. The students enjoyed the time

spent together as well as the opportunity to work on individual growth.

As the year progressed, the Confirmation class began working to prepare their service, writing prayers, selecting poems, and choosing music. The service of Confirmation will celebrate both the spirit of the class as a whole as well as the individuals who make up that whole.

Each year students choose an important theme on which to base their service. This year's Confirmation service will revolve around the theme of "Balance." The students agreed that one of the big-

gest challenges in their lives, and in our lives, in general, is to find a sense of balance.

Please join us for a weekend of Confirmation celebration at Plum Street Temple. **On Friday evening May 17th at 8:15 p.m. the Confirmands will receive their blessings; and, Saturday morning May 18th at 10 a.m. the actual Confirmation Service will take place.** The entire congregation is invited and encouraged to attend. We hope you will celebrate this important event in the lives of our young people. 🕯

Hebrew – It's For You, Too

Whenever people say that they don't read Hebrew, Rabbi Kamrass is quick to reply that "they don't read Hebrew, *yet!*" Virtually all of us learn Hebrew as an additional language skill, whether as children or as adults. But once we stop feeling intimidated by different characters than those we know in English or many other languages, Hebrew is actually a very accessible, and sensible language to learn.

This year, 24 adults have taken seriously the challenge that all of us can learn Hebrew. And in fact, they have! Every Wednesday afternoon since this last fall, they meet for an hour of study and joy of learning. One group of students, our "Aleph Isn't Tough" class, taught by Rabbi Margaret Meyer, has spent the year working on their Hebrew reading skills and is now successfully reading prayers that will enable them to participate more completely in services. A second group of students, our "Beyond Aleph" class, taught by rabbinic student Karen Companez, is continuing their weekly studies from last year, and has moved

beyond reading skills to basic vocabulary and Hebrew grammar. They are even translating sentences and finding the true joy of the language.

These students serve as wonderful role models for us all. They are learning a language they can enjoy more fully in services; others are also learning so that they can study with their own children as their children learn in our Hebrew school. Some began taking the class with a friend, but all have found new friendships and a real sense of study *chevra* (the bonds of community and friendship) with the other students in the class.

On Saturday morning, May 11, the students of our adult Hebrew classes will lead our Shabbat morning service. The "Aleph Isn't Tough" class will lead the liturgy, and the "Beyond Aleph" Class will read *Torah*. What a great achievement this will represent for each of our Hebrew students!! And what a wonderful statement about the vitality of our adult life-long learning program at Wise Temple and about the interest that so many people have in participating fully in our services. We invite you to join with the mem-

bers of our adult Hebrew classes as they lead us in Shabbat worship and study, and as they celebrate their achievements on **Saturday, May 11, at Wise Center, at 9:30 a.m.** For those who would like, you can remain with us for our weekly Shabbat morning *Torah* study at Wise Center, immediately following the service.

If you are interested in learning more about the adult Hebrew program for yourself for next year, you can attend the upcoming Shabbat morning service on May 11 and ask the students themselves, and/or contact the Education Office at 793-2997. 🕯

Our Aleph Class students are:

Tom Adams, Caryn Baum, June Caha, Mary Chaiken, Adrienne Cooper, Barbara Gerla, Suzy Goldberg, Rosalind Juran, Julie Kantor, Martha Kaufman, Janice Kirschner, Lela Ransohoff-Englert, Brett Seip and Lynn Warm

Our Beyond Aleph Class students are:

Donna Dansker, Beryl Donenfeld, Jason Donenfeld, Phyllis Dreyfuss, Nancy Klein, Gerri Kraus, Maita Levine, Alice Rosenberg, Sue Teller, and Shelley Wiegand.

Message From Our President

Thanks to the Folks Behind the Scenes

BY SUE TELLER

Often we take things for granted because they are done so willingly and efficiently. That is certainly the case with our support staff at Wise. We are lucky to have a group of loyal staff members who, under the direction of Bill Fleischman, definitely out-energize the *Energizer Bunny*. Time after time under Bill's leadership Bob Niehaus, Mel Morehouse, Sue Fischer and Tim Carter can be found setting up, taking down, delivering equipment, food, microphones, chalk boards and, yes, even

the office microwave to heat up soup for a dinner time meeting.

None of us knows as well as this 'Gang of Five' how the activities at Wise Center and Plum Street dovetail one after the other, often with just minutes between events. For instance, we have snacks before Shabbat evening services and Kiddush immediately following. There is an Alternative Service on Saturday morning that is preceded by Torah Text study with

a snack between. If there is a Saturday night Bar Mitzvah party at the Wise Center, our facilities must be ready for Religious School the following morning.

All this happens with smiling faces and a lot of quiet effort. We hope they know how much it is all appreciated.

I am thankful no one has told the Department of Labor about what I



Sue Teller

continued on next page ►

PROGRAMMING NEWS

Have you ever wondered about the history of Plum Street Temple and never seem to have the time to research it yourself? Our May 15 tour of PST comes to the rescue! Our guide for the day is none other than our own Temple President, Sue Teller. Join us for a continental breakfast at 9:45 a.m. The tour begins promptly at 10:15 a.m. We promise you will be informed and able to answer questions about this "treasure" that is ours, Cincinnati's, and the world's.

Stephanie Fenlon will lead the last Book Club selection, *The Far Euphrates* by Aryeh Lev Stollman, on May 8 at Wise Center from 4:30-5:45 p.m. If you would like to be involved in the planning for next year, please contact Dian Deutsch at 891-3666 or Pat Silver at 779-3599.

Anyone who would like to be on next year's programming committee, it's not too late! For more information call Pat Silver at 779-3599 or Barb Fogel at 677-3103.

SOCIAL ACTION

The last party for the year at The South Avondale School will be held in late May. The children and teachers always welcome new volunteers. Please call Phyllis Dreyfuss at 841-9907 or Nancy Horwitz at 793-7580 if you are interested in helping.

SISTERHOOD 2002-2003 DIRECTORY

Please check the 2001-2002 directory (pink) to make sure everything in your entry is correct. Any address or phone number changes previously reported to the Wise Temple office need not be re-sent at this time. If there are any other corrections to your listing, please notify Dian Deutsch at 891-3666 or digrouper@aol.com. Thank you for helping us to publish the most accurate directory!

FUND FACTS:

GIVTY FUND SUPPORTS TEMPLE YOUTH

Thanks to your generous contributions, the GIVTY Fund was able to help underwrite the cost of Shabbat dinner for the recent NIFTY regional conference in Cincinnati. We were pleased to be a part of the evening as teens from throughout the region gathered to celebrate Shabbat at Plum Street Temple. In addition, the fund provides camp scholarships for Wise Temple children to attend GUCI and gives religious school scholarships in the fall. Sisterhood is committed to helping our Temple youth but we can't do it without your support. Please remember the GIVTY fund when you are making Sisterhood-related contributions. For more information or to make a donation, contact fund chairs Shirley Neiger (731-7686) and Elaine Pockrose (351-6452).

RECIPE COLLECTION

Attention parents of college seniors: Sisterhood would love to give your graduating college student a copy of our Recipe Collection as a special graduation gift. Please help us to connect with them and give them a little "taste" of home by sending their name and address to Wise Temple Sisterhood, 8329 Ridge Rd., Cincinnati, OH 45236 Attn: Recipe Collection OR by emailing their information to Marlene Gross at margelgro@aol.com.

WRJ DISTRICT 10 BIENNIAL

Nancy Apfel completed her term as President of WRJ District 10 at the Biennial Convention held in Columbus on April 12-14th. During her two years as President, Nancy provided exemplary leadership for 47 Sisterhoods in 7 states. The members of Wise Temple are very proud of Nancy's achievements and we congratulate her on a job well done! We also wish Mazal Tov to Karen Sim who was installed on the District Board and to Donna Hyams, who is continuing in her role on the board. In addition, Nancy Apfel, Betty Benjamin and Karen Sim are currently

serving on the District 10 Executive Committee. Another highlight of the convention was the opportunity to study and worship with the featured guest speaker, Ellen Rosenberg, Executive Director of Women of Reform Judaism.

THANK YOU'S

Thank you to everyone who helped organize the Seder for Women. Executive Committee: Liz McOsker, Barb Miller, Jan Shuller, Nancy Goldberg, Dian Deutsch, Lily Carmell and Pat Silver. Food and Set-up: Phyllis Dreyfuss, Ruth Goret, Nancy Horwitz, Donna Hyams, Carol Jaffe, Margie Meyer, Robin Newland and Karen Sim.

Thanks to Barb Fogel, Julia Fink, Adrienne Cooper, and Pat Silver for coordinating our April breakfast program with Adrian Durbin Florists.

Thanks also to Caring Corps co-chairs Shirley Neiger, Elaine Pockrose and Marcia Westcott and their committee for delivering Passover packages to our members who are shut in.

Traditions & Treasures

A Sisterhood Gift Shop

Spring is just around the corner. We have wonderful gift ideas for your special Graduate or Confirmand and for Mother's Day.

Gift Shop Hours

Monday	9:30-1:30
Tuesday	9:30-1:30
Wednesday	2:00-5:45
Thursday	9:30-1:30
Sunday	9:00-11:45
(and by appointment)	

...continued from page 10

find when I frequently come in to the Temple office early in the morning and return again at the end of the day only to find office staff is still there hard at work - smiling and happy to stop and chat. I have yet to see anyone watching the clock or being anything other than extremely pleased to see and talk to members. Cynthia Waldo's cubby may be stacked so high with Silent Auction items it is hard to see her; Ann Donaldson is doing work

for Rabbi Gevurtz, calling people to reschedule their attendance at a Shabbat dinner, all the while keeping everything straight.

When Religious School was gearing up for the beginning of the school year, I was sure Terri was actually chained to her desk or had been evicted from her home. She was there constantly. She is joined on the inner side of the office dividers by Hermine VanDerzee, always pleasant in her demeanor and conscientious in her work.

When I come in through the side door in winter, Rita Cybulski never shudders as the blast of cold air hits her and she patiently listens to me as I marvel at how her fish always looks like it has died.

The amount of work and celebration, learning and communicating Isaac M. Wise Temple is able to generate depends on this wonderful team. We're lucky. I hope you will join me in sharing your smile of appreciation with them on your next visit. —Sue Teller



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

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

Copyright 2002, Isaac M. Wise Temple

CONGREGATIONAL CONNECTION

MAZAL TOV

The Temple offers congratulations to the following families in May:

B'nai Mitzvah

May 4 – Bar Mitzvah of Mark Bernstein.
Son of Neil and Ann Wasserman and
Michael Bernstein.

May 25 – Bat Mitzvah of Rachel
Greenberg. Daughter of Dr. Barbara
Greenberg and Marc Greenberg.

Births

Tom and Michelle Smith on the recent
birth of their son, Joshua Martin Smith.

Louie & Mary Lee Sirkin on the recent
birth of their grandson, Andrew Meyer
Luchs.

Kam Lam and Rhonda Schechter on the
recent birth of their son, Leo Elliott
Schechter Lam.

Arrival

Steve Albert and Amy Schur on the arrival
of their son, Herschel Morris Albert.

Engagements

Erin Goret on her recent engagement to
Louis Richards. Ruth Goret on her
granddaughter, Erin Goret's, recent
engagement.

Dr. Bruce and Peggy Greenberg on the
recent engagement of their daughter, Patti
Krantz to Philip L. Rogers.

Weddings

Elissa Baum to Jeffrey Mazer. Daughter of
Richard and Susan Baum. Grandson of
Lowell and Rose Mazer.

Sandy and Barb Casper on the recent
marriage of their son, Brandon to Erica
Weiss.

GRADUATE RECOGNITION SHABBAT



Friday, May 3 at 6:15 p.m.
Wise Center

Please join us for this special Shabbat
as we recognize and honor all those Wise
Temple students graduating from
Cincinnati Reform Jewish High School.
The high school seniors will lead us in
worship and share their thoughts about
what their Jewish education has meant in
their lives. Please join us as we celebrate
their accomplishment.



K.K. B' NAI YESHURUN

Isaac M. Wise Temple
8329 Ridge Road
Cincinnati, Ohio 45236

Non Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Cincinnati, Ohio
Permit No. 1414

H.U.C. LIBRARY
3101 Clifton Ave
Cincinnati OH 45220-2404

