

קֶשֶׁר KESHER

THE WISE CONNECTION

ISAAC M. WISE TEMPLE



K.K. B'NAI YESHURUN

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Founded in 1842

AFFILIATE:
Union of American
Hebrew Congregations

A Labor of Love

BY SUE TELLER



Sue Teller

People often look at me in disbelief when I deny that we are a large congregation. "How can you say such a thing?" they ask. After all, we do have over 1400 members. While I cannot deny that 1400 membership units objectively indicates a large congregation, most of us still experience Wise Temple as a cozy place where many people come together for a great variety of activities.

How can I validate this statement?

When I come for Shabbat services on Friday evening, I am joined by anywhere from 100 to 250 others. It is an occasion when people reach out to greet each other, both the regulars and those who come for special events. We are one small, friendly praying congregation.

When I come to study with my small Hebrew class, I see and mingle with those who are studying in the two simultaneous adult Hebrew classes. Again, a small congregation always glad to see each other and making sure nothing was wrong when someone has missed a week or two.

When I come to an *Eitz Chayim* class, I sit with as few as 20, or as many as 50, fellow congregants. Again, studying, learning and expressing views as any small congregation would. And when the Interfaith Hospitality Network is housed at Wise Center, the IHN volunteers convene as another sub-group who call this congregation home. These are just a few examples of our behavior as many overlapping small "families" within one large congregation.

The next question I get is, "How does all this happen?" And therein lies the great strength of Wise Temple. We have an outstanding Senior Staff which shares oversight responsibility for all aspects of congregational activity. Then, our voluminous corps of volunteers assists Senior Staff in carrying out the schedules. The vision, dedication, knowl-

edge and effort that volunteers bring to all walks of Wise Temple life is monumental.

Tied for top place of most frequently asked question is, "So, then, just how do we get all these good ideas for programs and projects in the first place?" Often Rabbi Kamrass has an idea, turns it over to a committee for its input, viewpoint and start up process. Just as frequently,

though, new projects are generated by our members. The *Wise Words* video is a great example of that type of project. Currently, the Library 21 project you read about in last month's *Kesher* was initiated by a group of volunteers. Those of us who invest ourselves in the volunteer aspects of the Temple invariably walk away enriched by new friendships – a treasure repeated over and over at Wise Temple.

Two years have passed since I became Temple President and I still have not figured out how to answer this final, frequently asked question, "What does the Temple President do?" Being President of Wise Temple is a labor of love. One is surrounded by caring people who share a love for the congregation; who put a lot of time and energy into making it a vibrant and exciting place; who support it with their generous dues even if they find themselves unable to attend frequently; who realize that in a large family one makes compromises for the sake of congeniality and well-being of the entire group; and who always stop to chat with each other when they walk through the Wise Center or Plum Street Temple doors.

So what does the President do? She *kvells* with a heart full of gratitude for the opportunity to represent Wise Temple. It has been a wonderful two years and I look forward to being here to help the upcoming leadership and to enjoy carrying on our great traditions. 🕯️

D'VARIM MIN HALEV- דְּבָרִים מִן הַלֵּב

“Words from the Heart”

BY RABBI KAMRASS

I write these words to you just after American forces have taken over Baghdad and the despotic regime of Saddam Hussein has ended. The first stages of battle have ended, but the next chapters of restoring order, of establishing a government, and of extricating ourselves from long-term occupational status in Iraq, still are unclear. And, I am reminded in these thoughts of the cycles of our ancient Jewish holidays, which yet have much insight to offer us in our modern, complicated world.

As we approach *Shavuot*, one of our three Biblical Harvest festivals, we come to a holiday that many modern American Jews know only in name. On Passover, we have our Seders. On *Sukkot*, we erect our *sukkot* or, at the very least, we can associate the fall harvest we celebrate in America with the Biblical harvest that the holiday commemorates. *Shavuot*, however, remains a holiday that is less known and less celebrated. Like Passover and *Sukkot*, *Shavuot*, was a harvest festival of produce and grain in the early summer season (which, from point of view of climate and heat, comes earlier in Israel than in the United States).

As with our other Biblical festivals, *Shavuot* also has another layer of meaning beyond its agrarian harvest festival celebration. *Shavuot*, coming seven weeks (hence, the name *Shavuot*, or weeks) following Passover, represents the moment at Sinai



when Torah was given to the Israelites. It is for this reason that, when early Reform Judaism created the custom of Confirmation, it was linked to *Shavuot* -- a time of affirmation of faith, learning, and responsibility. For accepting Torah, as Confirmants do on Confirmation, just as the Israelites did at Sinai, represents the affirmation of Jewish responsibility.

And just as Passover and *Shavuot* are linked by this period of seven weeks known as the “Omer,” when each day is ritually counted in our daily prayers so, too, are the ideals of Passover and *Shavuot* linked -- freedom and responsibility are inextricably connected to one another. It was not enough for the Israelite people to leave the land of their oppression in Egypt and cross the Sea of Reeds into the freedom they tasted in the Sinai wilderness. For when the elation of freedom was past, they realized that freedom was not enough to sustain them. They had to organize themselves, discern their relationship and responsibilities to one another, and build a system of laws and government. They soon discovered what every other group or culture since that time has come to realize: that freedom cannot be sustained without a strong sense of communal responsibility. They realized that our individual freedom exists only when we understand how much we are mutually dependent on one another and what we mutually owe to one another.

And so, for all time, our holidays are linked -- not only by the seven weeks that connect them, but also by the ideals that bind them together. The relationship of freedom and responsibility is a significant insight that every young person comes to understand in his or her own maturation process. It is an insight that cultures and nations must also come to learn in a time of uprising and radical change.

And so it is in Iraq today. Freedom has been granted, as the Coalition Forces have liberated a nation from its despotic ruler and allowed the citizens of Iraq to cross a metaphorical Sea of Reeds into freedom. But now comes the more arduous task of building upon freedom and connecting its meaning to mutual responsibility, of laws, of tolerance and understanding for other people's needs beyond one's own needs. There is much that is still unknown of what ultimately will come to be in Iraq. Yet, from our own historic insights, we know the direction that must be followed. We can only hope at this season of *Shavuot*, that leaders and citizens alike will realize the insights of our tradition, just as we hope that our own lives will be enriched by the wisdom of our faith. 🕎

Faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lewis H. Kamrass".

חרב לב בן דוד וחנה לאה

Rabbi Lewis H. Kamrass

JOIN US FOR OUR ANNUAL MEETING and LEADERSHIP RECOGNITION SERVICE

Sunday, June 22, 2003 • 4:00 p.m.

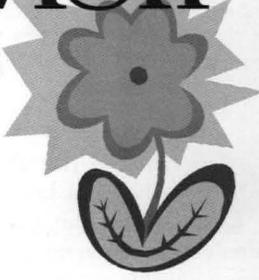
This is an opportunity for us to come together as a community and acknowledge the contribution of those individuals who devote their time to the leadership of the Temple and its auxiliary groups: the Sisterhood, the Brotherhood, and the Young Adult Congregation.

As we celebrate the successes of the past year, we also will look to the promise of the future with the installation of Temple President, Deborah Herman, Sisterhood President, Dian Deutsch, and the members of their boards. We will have a chance to socialize and greet one

another at an *hors d'oeuvres* reception following the Recognition Service.

- Annual Meeting of the Congregation: 4 p.m.
- Leadership Recognition & Installation: 5 p.m.
- *Hors D'Oeuvres*: 6 p.m.

Summertime Jewish Learning

BY BARBARA DRAGUL

The thing I love best about summer is those long days when daylight spills into evening and the sun sets lazily. Warm weather prompts a shifting of gears, and of how we spend our time. Here at Wise Temple there is also a shifting of gears. The hustle and bustle of religious school and *Eitz Chayim* classes switches to summer camp and informal services. But Jewish learning is a year round endeavor and can happen in many different settings. Here is an idea for blending the languid days of summer with Jewish moments of learning and insight. Whether it's on the beach, sitting on your deck, or stretched out on the couch, make this your summer for some Jewish reading!

In November 1997, Rabbi Eric H. Yoffie, President of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations, unveiled an initiative to encourage every Reform Jew to read four significant Jewish Books each year. Rabbi Yoffie said that it is important that "we renigite in our midst the joyous enthusiasm for Jewish learning that has always been part of our Reform heritage." To that end, Rabbi Yoffie announced that the Union would select eight volumes each year from which our congregations can choose and the Union will provide study guides. Listed below are five books on the recommended list. You can also find more selections, as well as the study guides, on line at uahc.org/books.

Finding God: Ten Jewish Responses (UAHC Press) by Rifat Sonsino and Daniel B. Syme examines the theologies of the Bible, Talmud, and eight Jewish thinkers who are often at variance with one another in their views of God. The book's goal is to encourage Jews to talk about God without

ambivalence or embarrassment. The book explores:

- Our ideas about God change as we get older.
- The biblical authors present different and changing ideas about God.
- The inherent limitations of language restrict our ability to talk about and understand God.
- Prayer uses poetry, metaphor, and symbolism to convey ideas about God.
- In Judaism, one's ideas about God are less important than what one does to fulfill God's commandments.
- Human reason cannot comprehend all there is to know about God.
- Although we say that God is omnipotent and omniscient, we also believe that humans possess free will.

As a Driven Leaf by Milton Steinberg is a historical novel set in Roman Palestine. The protagonist, Elisha ben Abuyah, a talmudic rabbi in the first half of the second century, was excommunicated for heresy. Fascinated by Hellenism, Elisha became enchanted with its presumed systematic logic. Drawing on talmudic and historical sources, Steinberg portrays the clash between Judaism and a modern, secular society. In the novel you will meet some of the great sages of the Talmud, watch them at work in the Sanhedrin, hear them dispensing legal decisions, become immersed in their arguments about theology and Torah, agonize with them on whether to cooperate with or rebel against an increasingly oppressive Rome, and visit the centers of learning in ancient Palestine.



Barbara Dragul

The Sunflower by Simon Wiesenthal. As a young man imprisoned in a Nazi concentration camp, Wiesenthal was taken one day from his labor brigade to a hospital at the request of Karl, a mortally wounded Nazi soldier.

Tormented by the crimes in which he had participated, including the murder of a family

with a small child, the SS man wanted to confess to—and, if possible, receive absolution from—a Jew. Wiesenthal, left the room in silence, but remained intrigued by the issues the man's request raised about the limits and possibilities of forgiveness. Must we, can we, forgive the repentant criminal, no matter how heinous the crime? Can we forgive crimes committed against others? What do we owe the victims? Twenty-five years after the Holocaust, Wiesenthal asked leading intellectuals what they would have done in his place. Collected into one volume, their responses became one of the most enduring documents of Holocaust literature and a touchstone of interfaith dialogue. The newest edition of *The Sunflower*, issued in honor of the twentieth anniversary of its publication in the United States, brings together the voices of a new generation of thinkers, including Robert Coles, Matthew Fox, Arthur Hertzberg, Harold Kushner, Dith Pran, the Dalai Lama, Dennis Prager, Tzvetan Todorov, and Harry Wu. Their answers reflect the teachings of their diverse beliefs and remind us that Wiesenthal's question is not limited only to events of the past.

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My Child In Israel?

BY ALAN GROSS

I am a 44-year-old suburban father whose risk taking days are far behind him. I don't skateboard, I don't climb up on my roof anymore and I always buckle up. My most risky endeavors are limited to an occasional lottery ticket or trying sushi. It's important for you to know this because many people I've talked to lately think that I've become a gambling daredevil. You see, I not only allowed, but encouraged, my seventeen year old daughter, Rachel, to experience Israel for five months and, when I visited her a few weeks ago on the eve of war with Iraq, didn't pack her up and bring her home with me.

You might be saying to yourself, "Well, he must be a committed Zionist" (I'm not), or "How can he let his daughter travel THERE at a time like this?" You wouldn't be alone based on the reaction I've gotten when I talk about Rachel's experience. Many consider this parenting decision just a shade short of reckless and irresponsible. When I respond to the raised eyebrows with all the reasons for our decision to help Rachel have this experience, people remain skeptical. I wish I could say it's because they aren't Jewish and don't understand the absolute importance of our connections to Israel but that's not the case -- the most perplexed folks are Jewish. It's not difficult to explain why Rachel wanted to experience Israel. She has grown

up in a Jewish family, attended Jewish camp, spent her Sundays in Religious school and been an active member of NFTY. These experiences have been meaningful and important to her and to us as a Jewish family. We believe that Rachel has become the person she is in great part as a result of these activities. When she first suggested the possibility of an Israel experience, we thought it would be a passing interest, something like wanting to be a ballerina when she was younger. Then, as she continued to plan, save money and even become more studious in order to demonstrate her commitment, we thought "Wow, seventeen years of parenting have paid off, she actually is the child we had raised to value her goals and live her Judaism." It's emotionally exhilarating when your child internalizes the values and morals we, as parents, have attempted to instill. As her parents, we feel bound to encourage and support these opportunities to live these values and Rachel's desire to experience Israel was one of those moments.

As a Jewish father, being with my daughter as she experienced Israel was my reward for seventeen years of family Shabbats, Religious School carpools, Bat Mitzvah tutoring, camp payments and NFTY sleepovers. To be with her in Jewish history class at sunrise on *Masada*, to share tears

walking with her through *Yad Vashem*, to see her laughing and joyful dancing with Israeli teenagers, to hear her describe the emotions she felt at the Western Wall all served to validate the family values we worked for through her life. That Rachel could be in awe at the splendor of the Old City, look forward to experiencing the Eastern Europe of her great grandparents and walk in the footsteps of Golda Meir and Yitzhak Rabin in the Knesset helped me to understand the fullness of a Jewish life that connects with Israel.

Were we concerned for her safety? What parent wouldn't be? Do we hold our breath when she goes out with her friends in a car with an inexperienced driver? Do we gently interrogate her when she asks to go to a party? Have we heard "Why do you ask so many questions" when she is making plans? We *always* want to know who, what, where and when. These were, of course, all questions we asked and had answered before committing to Rachel's Israel experience. We were invariably given full and honest answers -- not sugarcoated responses meant to make light of the safety issues.

The professionals responsible for her safety and well being are dedicated to one goal: making absolutely sure that the students are secure and feel cared for and that the parents are well informed. Even with the

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Jewish Learning & Enrichment

"And you shall speak of them on the way, when you lie down and when you rise up."



Weekly Torah Readings

- June 7--2nd day of Shavuot
- June 14 -- *Naso* Numbers 4:21-7:89
- June 21 -- *Behaalot'cha* Numbers 8:1-12:16
- June 28 -- *Shelach L'cha* Numbers 13:1-15:41

For more information about these and other Torah portions we recommend:

- *A Torah Commentary For Our Times* by Rabbi Harvey Fields
- *Teaching Torah* by Loeb and Kadden

Both titles are available in our Ralph I. Cohen Library. Each week also check out <http://uahc.org/torah/hashavua.html>.



Audio Tape Pick of the Month

The Search for Shalom



Stop by the Temple library to pick up a set of audio tapes.

HONEY SALE

Sisterhood is sponsoring the "Honey" for Rosh Hashanah again this year. Be sure to watch your mail for this year's flyer. Now is the time to get your "Honey List" ready. For questions or to volunteer to help, call Sherri Weiss at 761-6690.

SISTERHOOD 2003-2004 DIRECTORY

The Sisterhood directory is "under construction" for the year 2003-2004. Please check your name and address in the "BLUE" directory to see if it is listed correctly. If you have already notified the Temple office of a change of address there is no need to contact us. For any other corrections or changes that you would like included in our fall directory, please contact Robin Newland at 530-5516 or e-mail rwn11576@aol.com. As we work on the directory, we would also welcome your help in the following ways:

INDIVIDUAL SPONSORS - Please become a directory sponsor by sending your desired listing, along with a minimum donation of \$20 (payable to Wise Temple Sisterhood), to Esther Zimmerman, 3649 Tiffany Ridge Ln., 45241.

BUSINESS SUPPORTERS - If you know of a business or individual who would benefit by advertising in our manual (distributed to nearly 700 homes), please ask them to place an ad. For details on rates, call Robin Newland at 530-5516.

MEMBERSHIP INTEREST SURVEY AND

DUES BILLING

You will soon be receiving your annual Sisterhood dues bill. We hope that all current Sisterhood members will choose to renew their membership and welcome all those who wish to join for the coming year. Your dues help support the many programs and projects that Sisterhood undertakes for the congregation. Along with your bill, you will find a listing of the many projects Sisterhood has participated in this year and a membership interest survey. If you have not already completed a survey, or if your interests have changed, please take a few minutes to fill out the survey and return it along with your dues payment.

SISTERHOOD INSTALLATION

The installation of our new Sisterhood President, Dian

Deutsch, and her board will take place on Sunday, June 22nd at 5:00 at Wise Center. We look forward to joining with the Temple Board, the Brotherhood and the Young Adult Congregation for this installation and recognition program. We need your participation to make this a special moment for our Sisterhood and the congregation. Please plan to join us for the installation and an *hors d'oeuvres* reception at its conclusion.

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.

FUND FACTS

During this season of graduation and confirmation, please remember that a donation to one of our Sisterhood Funds is a wonderful way to honor these special students. You may send contributions directly to the Fund chairs or call for more information: GIVTY Fund (Shirley Neiger, 731-7686 or Elaine Pockrose, 351-6452), YES Fund (Joan Scheineson, 351-5077), Florence Weil Tribute and Equipment Fund (Gilda Wacksman, 793-9933), or Floral Fund (Elaine Schiffer, 351-6620).

THANK YOU'S

South Avondale had its last party this month and our Sisterhood women were out in full force with party food and favors. This year, as in the past, Sisterhood gave each child a book of their own (for many children it was their first book). Thanks to our enthusiastic volunteers: Barb Fogel, Lauren Prangley, June Caha, Ilene Ross, Barbara Wall, Lori Manning, Laura Cramer, Chris and Rick Vigran and Nancy Horwitz. And a special thanks to the children of our volunteers who made the parties even better.

Thank you to Tina Straubing for chairing our breakfast program on May 14.

Thanks to Liz McOsker for leading the Book Club discussion on The Jew Store by Stella Suberman. A special thank you to Eve Appleton for chairing the Sisterhood Book Club this year.

Thanks to caring corps co-chairs Elaine Pockrose, Shirley Neiger and Marcia Westcott for organizing the distribution of Passover gift bags to 43 Temple members. Thanks also to the following volunteers for doing an outstanding job with these special visits: Nancy Apfel, Helen Benjamin, June Caha, Adrienne Cooper, Florence Hirschman, Sharon Marshall, Milynn Hoffman, Pam Meyer, Louise Rubinson, Ina Schwartz, Ann Schwarz, and Bobbe Shaw.

Thank you to Diane Oestreicher and her committee for preparing and distributing "Life After High School" packets to our graduating High School students.

Thank you to Fran Stern and Carol Jaffe for co-chairing our wonderful Sunday morning coffee cart and to all the volunteers who staff the coffee cart throughout the school year. Thanks to Vicki Stieha for coordinating the sale of Kroger certificates and all those who sell certificates during Religious School.

Thanks to our dedicated Wise Mailers group, coordinated by Pam Meyer, for their work throughout the year: Jean Buckner, June Caha, Ruth Cohen, Shirley Falick, Shirley Jaeger, Ethel Kanter, Ruth J. Levy, Esther Lipson, Natalie Newhauser, Bess Springer and Eva Vilensky.

Traditions & Treasures Gift Shop

Stop in the Wise Temple Sisterhood Gift Shop, peruse all of our great merchandise! Remember... as a Sisterhood member, you receive 10% off most of your purchases.

Summer Hours (and by appt.)

Tuesday	9:30 - 1:30
Thursday	9:30 - 1:30

If you are interested in volunteering in the Gift Shop, summer is a great time to get started. Please call Margie Meyer 984-2345.

LISTING OF EVENTS

Brotherhood

Brotherhood Board Meeting
June 12
6:00 p.m. at Wise Center
For more information, contact Mike Wells
at 530-9881.

TGIS Congregational Shabbat Dinners

June 13
7:15 p.m. at Wise Center
For more information, contact Ann
Donaldson in the Temple office at 793-
2556.

Eitz Chayim

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

Shabbat Morning Study Group
Saturdays
10:45 a.m. at Wise Center
For more information, contact Rabbi Ilana
Baden or Rabbinic Intern Michael Shulman,
793-2556.

TUESDAYS WITH TORAH

Family Dynamics: Modern Concerns
through the Lens of the Ancient Rabbis
June 3
Noon-1:00p.m.
For more information, contact Terri
Snavelly at 793-2997.

Outreach

Shavuot Sensation
June 5
8:00 p.m. at Wise Center
For more information, contact the Temple
office at 793-2556.

Religious School

Confirmation Rehearsal
June 2
4:30 p.m.-7:15 p.m. at Plum Street Temple
For more information, contact Terri Snavelly
at 793-2997.

Seniors

Senior Shabbat
June 13
6:15 p.m. at Wise Center
For more information, contact Ruth Goret
at 351-6486.

Sisterhood

Sisterhood Board Meeting
June 4
9:45 a.m. at Wise Center
For more information, contact Dian
Deutsch at 891-3666.

Sisterhood Bridge
June 10 & 24
Noon at Wise Center
For more information, contact Ruth Goret
at 351-6486.

Sisterhood Mah Jongg
June 12 & 26
12:30 p.m. at Wise Center
For more information, contact Dian
Deutsch at 891-3666.

Wise-UP

Helping at Home
June 1
For more information, contact Kari Fagin at
573-0247 or Howard Mintz at 339-0661.

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 Mona Spitz
891-9583 or Liz McCosker at 891-8959.

YAC

YAC Shabbat Picnic at French Park
June 28
For more information, contact Karen
Brownlee at 871-5013.

Youth Groups

No activities scheduled this month.

Miscellaneous

Alcoholics Anonymous Meeting
Tuesdays & Thursdays
5:30 p.m. at Wise Center
For more information, contact the Temple
at 793-2556.

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.

Day Camp Open House
June 15
11:00 a.m. at Wise Center
For more information, contact Renee
Frankel at 530-5156.

Day Camp
June 16 - July 25
For more information, contact Renee
Frankel at 530-5156.

Annual Meeting/Leadership Recognition &
Installation
June 22
4:00 p.m. at Wise Center
For more information, contact the Temple
office at 793-2556.

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Shavuot Sensation

Wise Center

Thursday, June 5

Services: 7:15 p.m.

Program: 8:00 p.m.

Shavuot, one of the Three Pilgrimage Holy Days, is the day on which the ancient Israelites would make their journey toward Jerusalem to give thanks for the season's grain harvest. Additionally, *Shavuot* became the Holy Day on which Jews celebrated God's giving the Torah to Moses on Mount Sinai.

To commemorate these joyous themes, the Jewish mystics would stay up all night on *Shavuot* to study and learn the Torah. In that spirit, we plan to learn with our clergy and teachers on this special holiday.

This year, we will focus our study on Israel: the land, the people, and the music. Our community *sh'lichah*, Noga Maliniak, will join us for our special service and program. This will be among her last presentations in Cincinnati as she completes her three-year tenure with us. She will address the participants in a key-note speech following the service, in which she will talk about what it is like to be an Israeli in today's world.

Following a reception with various cakes, fruits, and ice creams, participants will attend smaller discussion groups, where they will have the opportunity to explore various aspects of Israel. Alan Gross, who recently returned from visiting his daughter in Israel, will join Noga Maliniak for a session on *Israel Travel: Danger or Delight?* Rabbi Albert Goldman will discuss *Jews and Arabs*. The congregational choir, Kol Rinah, will participate with Cantor Sharon Kohn and present *Seasonal Songs of Israel*. Rabbi Lewis Kamrass will explore *How the Lines were Drawn: The Changing Map of Israel*, and Rabbi Baden will talk about *Different Streams of the Same River: What is Zionism?*

For more information, please contact Ann Donaldson at 793-2556 or Adonaldson@wisetemple.org.

Endowment Dollars at Work

BY SUSAN KULICK



Susan Kulick

Our Jewish values of *tzedakah*, *tikkun olam* (repairing the world), and *gimilut hasidim* (acts of loving kindness) have guided our lives for thousands of years. The Jewish people have embraced these responsibilities for ourselves, our families, and also for countless others whom we have never met. It is understood that as we provide for today, we must also build together for the future.

Visionary donors who have made endowment gifts in the past to Wise Temple and Plum Street Temple acted on these values and have created legacies that will live on for generations. Some endowment gifts are unrestricted and others reflect Temple members' interests in particular areas. The Dr. Lusie Hornstein Holocaust Remembrance Fund and the Gene and Neddie Mae Elkus Leadership Development Fund are two such endowment funds at Wise Temple.

These funds provide creative and innovative programs for our congregational community today and will help us maintain excellence now and in the future.

The Dr. Lusie Hornstein Holocaust Remembrance Fund was established in memory of Dr. Lusie Hornstein by her husband and children. Dr. Hornstein was a loving wife, mother and grandmother, a talented pediatrician, a dedicated teacher, and a Holocaust survivor. The purpose of the fund is to provide an annual educational program in remembrance of the Holocaust and the Human Spirit that will educate, challenge, and inspire us, just as Dr. Hornstein did in her extraordinary and courageous life.

Wise Temple has used the income from the Dr. Lusie Hornstein Holocaust Remembrance Fund to present a lecture, during the *Yom Hashoah* season over the past four years. The programs relate to the Holocaust and trace the sources of energy and spirit that have become the building blocks to survival in times of crisis. The programs have been well attended by members of our congregation and the larger Jewish commu-

nity. In keeping with Dr. Hornstein's devotion to children, Wise Temple religious school students have attended these lectures so that this generation and future generations will learn about the importance and the impact of the Holocaust.

The Gene and Neddie Mae Elkus Leadership Development Fund was established in their memory by their children. Gene and Neddie Mae Elkus were respected as committed and involved leaders in many areas, including the Jewish community. The purpose of the fund is to provide financial resources for a leadership education and development program at Wise Temple. This fund is a tribute to Gene and Neddie Mae Elkus and perpetuates their memories in a place they loved and in a manner appropriate to the values they held.

The Fund significantly helps our congregation to reach its full potential and continue its long history of strong lay leadership at all levels of the congregation. Recently, sixteen Wise Temple members involved in the congregation and in the greater community, participated in a yearlong program designed to deepen their understanding of the Temple and strengthen their leadership involvement. The program, *L.E.A.D. @Wise*, combined classroom sessions, outside reading, and hands-on committee work and was taught by a leading authority on synagogue leadership.

The Jewish values that shape and guide us during our lives can have a lasting impact on our children and grandchildren. The Gene and Neddie Mae Elkus Leadership Development Fund and the Dr. Lusie Hornstein Holocaust Remembrance Fund are inspiring people today and endowing future generations with the rich heritage and traditions of our Jewish faith.

If I can assist you, or your financial or legal advisor, as you consider making an endowment gift of any size to Wise Temple or to our magnificent Plum Street Temple, please call me at the Temple office, 793-2556.

JUNE 2003 1 SIVAN/28 SIVAN

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 Wise-UP—Helping at Home(WC)	2 4:30pm—Confirm. Rehearsal(PST)	3 Noon—Tues. w/Torah(WC) 5:30pm—Alcoholics Anonymous(WC)	4 9:45—Sisterhood Board Mtg(WC)	5 5:30pm—Alcoholics Anonymous(WC) 7:15pm—Erev Shavout Service(WC) 8:00pm—Shavout Sensation(WC)	6 9:30—Shavuot Morning Service(WC) 6:15pm—Shabbat Evening Service(WC) 8:15pm—Confirmation Blessing(PST)	7 9:30—Shabbat Alternative Service(WC) 10:00—Confirmation(PST) 10:45—Shabbat Morning Study(WC)
8 Wise-UP—Helping at Home	9	10 Noon—Sisterhood Bridge(WC) 5:30pm—Alcoholics Anonymous(WC)	11 9:45—Sisterhood Board Meeting(WC)	12 12:30pm—Sisterhood Mah Jongg(WC) 5:30pm—Alcoholics Anonymous(WC) 6:00pm—Brotherhood Board Mtg.(WC)	13 6:15 pm Shabbat Evening Service/Senior Adult Participation (WC) 7:15pm—Congreg. Shabbat Dinner(WC)	14 9:00—Bat Mitzvah of M. Hannah Roberts (PST) 9:30 Shabbat Alternative Service(WC) 10:45—Shabbat Morning Study(WC) 11:15 Bat Mitzvah of Grace Kabel(PST)
15 11:00—Day Camp Open House(WC)	16 Day Camp Begins(WC)	17 5:30pm—Alcoholics Anonymous(WC)	18	19 5:30pm—Alcoholics Anonymous(WC)	20 6:15 pm Shabbat Evening Service/Appreciation for Cantor Kohn/Birthday and Anniversary Blessings (WC)	21 9:00—Bar Mitzvah of Shelby Reising (PST) 9:30 Shabbat Alternative Service(WC) 10:45—Shabbat Morning Study(WC) 10:45 Bar Mitzvah of Andrew Schwartz(PST)
22 4:00pm—Annual Mtg/Leadership Recog.(WC)	23	24 Noon—Sisterhood Bridge(WC) 5:30pm—Alcoholics Anonymous(WC)	25	26 12:30pm—Sisterhood Mah Jongg(WC) 5:30pm—Alcoholics Anonymous(WC)	27 6:15 pm Shabbat Evening Service(WC) 6:30pm—WiseTykes Service (WC)	28 9:30 Shabbat Alternative Service(WC) 10:45—Shabbat Morning Study(WC) 10:45 Bat Mitzvah of Jessica Melowsky(PST) YAC Shabbat Picnic(O)
29	30					WC = Wise Center PST = Plum Street Temple O = Other Location See listing of events for more detailed information

Identity Crisis?

Not Our 7th Graders!

BY MICHAEL SHULMAN

One of the most rewarding parts of my internship this year at Wise Temple has been teaching in the 7th Grade Community Class—yes, you heard me correctly, I did say teaching 7th grade! Every class, I find myself pleasantly surprised and often very proud of what our 7th graders accomplish when we are together. Our last session, in fact, was no exception.

On a cold Wednesday afternoon, we gathered together to explore a hot topic—what it means to be both Jewish and American in today’s world. We discussed, debated and even argued a bit, about our responsibilities to both of these parts of our identities.

We began with an appropriate text study from our tradition: “He used to say: You are not required to finish the work, but neither are you free to desist from it.” (*Pirkei*

Avot 2:16) Indeed, this saying not only represents an important Jewish value, but also an American value as well. This study led us to its application in the form of letters written to our representatives in government on various important topics, such as Israel and the rights of minorities, that touch us both as Americans and as Jews. The letters were incredible—written with such passion and eloquence! Dare I say, we have some future politicians in our midst.

Our session concluded in small discussion groups where we grappled with a variety of very difficult questions regarding the elements of who we are, the challenges of being a minority, and the blessings of being a Jew in America. One student put it best when she responded to the question, what do you think is the relationship between the Jewish and American pieces of your identity? She

said, “Those pieces aren’t really two separate pieces...I think they are really the same because I don’t think I could be one without the other—being a free American allows me to be Jewish, and being Jewish lets me be a part of our country.”

We have had an incredible year so far in the new 7th Grade Community Class. Each session has been filled with engaging and meaningful learning and fun. It has been wonderful to see these 7th graders grow both as individuals and as a group over the course of the year. As this year ends, I continue to be enormously pleased with all of their successes. And I, for one, am looking forward to continuing my work with a new crop of 7th Graders in next year’s Community Class. 🕎

MY CHILD IN ISRAEL?

continued from page 4

rise in harmful acts since the intifada the programs have a superb record of safety and we were well assured that this would remain true for Rachel’s experience. During my visit I had many opportunities to observe the approach taken by the staff to safety concerns and the responses universally were firm and consistent.

During Rachel’s time in Israel she is *not*:

- Driving or being driven by anyone other than a professional on a chartered bus that is completely inspected for safety before every trip by a program leader;
- Going out on her own with friends we do not know;
- Ever without adult supervision;
- Drinking, smoking or using illegal substances (cause for immediate dismissal from the program);
- Out past curfew; nor
- In a car with teens who are distracted, drinking or not taking care for her safety.

She is:

- Available for contact 24 hours a day, 7 days a week;
- Limited to only safe, secure experiences approved by the program;
- Only with other teens who are taking the experience seriously and have been prepared for personal responsibility; and
- Living her Judaism in a way that she could not anywhere but Israel.

Despite the reassurances, we remain concerned parents – but, no more so than if she were home and, perhaps, less so due to the caution and care I witnessed during my visit. The concern we do have has been far overshadowed by the life-changing experience of her time in Israel. That Rachel will leave home next year for college is all but certain. That she will remain committed to a full Jewish life is less certain. If she continues to practice Judaism, is involved with a Hillel, keeps the Sabbath, lives a Jewish life and values her relationships with other Jews and her community once out of our home, I will give much of the credit to her Israel experience.

Israel has never been in greater need of emotional and practical support than now. For Rachel to have a shopkeeper on Ben Yehuda Street thank her over and over for visiting, to see the empty stores and cafes, to talk to Israelis who are so grateful for support even while their economy suffers has given Rachel the satisfaction that she is doing a *mitzvah* for Judaism and the Jewish people. I am sure that the future leaders of the Jewish community are made in great part from these experiences. I am also certain she will keep this Israel experience close to her heart and remember it as a defining moment in her life. As a father, to have shared Israel with my daughter allowed me to be a part of that moment. How often does that chance come?

When we are asked by others, “how could you let your daughter be in Israel?” my response now is simple. “How could we *not*?”

Alan’s daughter Rachel is a junior at Sycamore High School and is participating in the Eisendrath International Exchange. 🕎

Youth Groups Build Community

BY DENA EBEN KERNISH

*Each one of us must play a part
Each one of us must heed the call...
Each one of us must build the home
Each one of us must hold the hope*
—“Kehilah Kedoshah” song lyrics by Dan Nichols and Rabbi Michael Moskowitz

The spirit of this song, building a community, was evident at the National Federation of Temple Youth (NFTY)—Ohio Valley Junior Youth Group (JYG) Conclave, March 21–23.

The retreat, at Goldman Union Camp Institute (GUCI) in Zionsville, Indiana, allowed approximately 80 seventh and eighth graders from Ohio, Indiana, Kentucky and Tennessee to gather for what may have been their first taste of NFTY, UAHC’s high school youth group. Fifteen middle schoolers from Wise Temple, accompanied by Nina Loftspring and Devon Worrell from Wise Temple’s eYGOW, made the trip. My husband, Michael, and I were JYG advisors for this memorable event.

Over the course of two days, the JYGers reunited with old pals and cemented new friendships. They also strengthened their bond to Israel, the weekend’s “theme.” At this regional conclave, as at other NFTY

retreats, the theme influences programming—from Shabbat services and educational activities to social events. The Ohio Valley NFTY board members and members of various temple youth groups, all high school age, organized and led the programs with Regional Advisor Michael Sommer.

“JYG, for me, was the most inspiring event of the year,” says Josh Adland, Ohio Valley president from Louisville, Kentucky. “To watch so many young Jewish youth fall in love with an organization that I devoted four years to touched me in a way that nothing else has all year.”

Interspersed with the Israeli dancing, the Israeli rock music that played during meal-times, song sessions and a scavenger hunt, the teens learned a great deal about the state’s history and current events, as well as what we can do to support Israel. One activity consisted of groups acting out scenes from Biblical times to the present. Another, the social action session, allowed JYGers to write letters to families of terror victims through the website *Walk4Israel.com*.

Options to travel to Israel through NFTY were presented on video. The teens also watched a recent episode of MTV’s “Real Life” series, entitled “I Live in a Terror Zone.”

Throughout the weekend, the JYGers bonded with each other, possibly the most important aspect of this program. Students from Wise shared how their Jewish lives in Cincinnati may differ from, say, a teen from Tennessee’s Bible Belt. Yet, they discovered they have a lot in common with each other, no matter where they live in the region. At the Havdalah friendship circle, a traditional NFTY closing activity, comments were made like, “I never knew hanging out with Jews could be this fun,” “I love being Jewish,” and “I have to tell my mom to rearrange my summer plans so I can come to camp.”

It was inspiring for my husband and me, as adult advisors, to see the future of the Jewish community in action. It is a bright future, and Wise Temple’s youth are very much involved in building tomorrow’s *kehillah*.

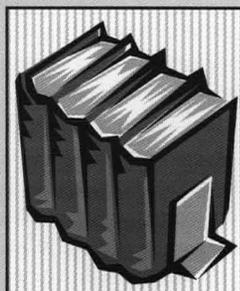
Attendees of the NFTY—Ohio Valley Junior Youth Group Conclave were Brett Chessin, Hillary Fingerman, Hilary Fingerman, Hannah Gross, Lauren Hughes, Micah Kamrass, Hannah Klein, Evan Klemeyer, Nina Loftspring, Emily McOsker, Becca Nitzberg, Sam Pollak, Alex Rock, Sarah Spitz, Julia Stern and Devon Worrell. 🕯

NEWS FROM THE LIBRARY

April and May were great months for new acquisitions to our library. To whet your appetite, here’s a review of one our new arrivals:

A NEW RABBI: A CONGREGATION SEARCHES FOR ITS LEADER
by Stephen Fried

For the last 75 years Har Zion Temple in Philadelphia has been one of the largest and most influential congregations in the United States. For 30 years Rabbi Gerald Wolpe served as its spiritual leader. As he approached



retirement Rabbi Wolpe allowed the author to examine a clergyman’s professional and personal life and the complex behind-the-scenes life of a major Conservative congregation. Fried also followed the two year search for a new rabbi. When the chosen successor declined at the last moment, chaos ensued and the job fell to Wolpe’s assistant, Rabbi Jacob Herber, in his first job out of rabbinical school, to heal the rift in the congregation and to make peace with his mentor. Fried’s intimate and insightful look at contemporary Judaism presents a vivid portrayal of the importance of religion, tradition, and community in the lives of American Jews.

REFORM RETIREES LUNCHEON

Wednesday, June 25, 2003
 NOON
 At Temple Shalom
 Featuring

John Matarese
 "Don't Waste Your Money:
 Current Scams and Rip-offs"

Mark your calendars for this exciting opportunity to hear and to talk with John Matarese, a veteran reporter and two-time Emmy Award winner. John is Channel 9's "Don't Waste Your Money" consumer reporter. He is committed to keeping the community updated on the latest consumer information with Buyer Bewares and Product Recalls. When he finds a service taking advantage of us, he's not afraid to say, "Doesn't that stink?"

\$8.00 per person
 Make check payable to Valley Temple Sisterhood-RTR and send to Sharon Feldstein, 7545 Christine Ave. 45241 by June 19, 2003

RTR LUNCHEON RESERVATION

Name _____

Address _____

Temple Affiliation: Rockdale Temple
 Temple Shalom
 Valley Temple
 Wise Temple



The Wise Shabbat
Congregational Shabbat Dinners

Dinner immediately following 6:15 service
Date this month: June 13th

June 13

Adult dinners _____ # Child Dinners _____

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

Vegetable or salad _____ Potato, pasta or rice _____

Name: _____

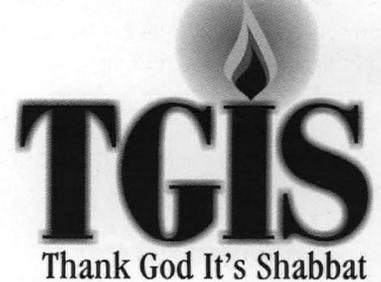
Phone: _____

Total \$ Enclosed: _____

- * Adults = \$8.50/ dinner
- * Children ages 2-10 = \$4/dinner
- * Children under 2 free*

Dinner space is limited.
 Reservations must be made 10 days prior to dinner.
 Send in this form with check (payable to Wise Temple) to:
Shabbat Dinner - Wise Temple
 8329 Ridge Rd. • Cincinnati, OH 45236

Isaac M. Wise Temple



S A V E T H E D A T E

Wise-UP Opening Day

Mark your calendar now to come to Wise-UP Opening Day on Sunday, August 24th. This annual event is a celebration of the wonderful *mitzvot* projects that emanate year-round from Wise Temple, and a chance to help our own congregation as well. Can you cut back brush? Paint the Youth Lounge? Make cards for shut-ins at the High Holy Days? These and many more projects await your helping hands!

Stay for the delicious cookout dinner (thanks to our Brotherhood and Sisterhood) and always wonderful companionship as our workday concludes. All ages are welcome at Wise-UP Opening Day!

Watch for the Wise-UP Opening Day flyer which will come to you in July. Early registrants are guaranteed the workshop of their choice. Call Deborah Birckhead at 731-3286 and Pam Kohn at 891-1516 with questions.





Lewis H. Kamrass, Senior Rabbi

Ilana G. Baden, Associate 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

Susan G. Kulick, Esq., Director of Development

Phyllis Tobias, Program Director

Brett Stern, Assistant Director of Education and Youth Program

Renee Frankel, Day Camp Director

Suzanne S. Teller, President

Francine Rosenthal, Librarian

Auxiliary Presidents

Brotherhood: Michael Wells

Sisterhood: Valerie Friedman

Young Adult Congregation: Beth Hertzman

Sr. Youth Group: 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 June:

B'nai Mitzvah

June 14 - Hannah Roberts, daughter of Michael and Sarah Roberts. Granddaughter of Dr. Herbert and Miriam Waltzer.

June 14 - Grace Kabel, daughter of Kenneth and Carol Kabel. Granddaughter of Ruth Tauber.

June 21 - Shelby Reising, son of Scott and Taryn Reising.

June 21 - Andrew Schwartz, son of James and Wendy Schwartz

June 28 - Jessica Melowsky, daughter of Dr. Fred and Susan Melowsky.

Births

Mike and Shannon Garfunkel on the recent birth of their son, Jack Aaron Garfunkel.

Shirley Behr on the recent birth of her granddaughter, Bella Rachel Smith.

Kesher is taking July and August off—see you in September. Please check Wisebytes, our weekly email newsletter, for information about all Temple activities. If you are not receiving Wisebytes please email welcome@wisetemple.org and state that you wish to be signed up for Wisebytes or subscribe on our website at www.wisetemple.org.

SUMMERTIME JEWISH LEARNING

continued from page 3

Jewish Power: Inside the American Jewish Establishment by J. J. Goldberg.

In Goldberg's view, Jews have made it in America, their contributions to society equaled by no other group. Our enemies attribute our success to a sinister conspiracy: We supposedly control the media, entertainment, finances, and politics—all areas in which Jews are, in fact, heavily represented. These realities, added to our historical fears of anti-Semitism, have led Jewish leaders to downplay Jewish achievements. The result, says Goldberg, is a communications breakdown between the leaders of the Jewish power structure and mainstream Jews. The book is divided into three parts:

1. What Is the Meaning of Jewish Power?
2. The Roots of Jewish Power
3. The Crisis of Jewish Power

The Sabbath: Its Meaning for Modern Man by Abraham Joshua Heschel (1951)

gives modern Jews an understanding of Shabbat as a sanctification of time, as opposed to what has become an all-too-common adoration of space in contemporary life. Shabbat observance, Heschel says, requires withdrawal from the space-world and immersion in the time-world, with joy and song and poetry, in the rhapsody of family love, in the company of friends, and with mystical abandon in the praise of the Creator. On Shabbat, we break free of the profane and embrace the sacred. —Happy reading! 🕯



K.K. B' NAI YESHURUN

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