

KESHER

THE WISE CONNECTION

ISAAC M. WISE TEMPLE



K.K. B'NAI YESHURUN

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D'VARIM מִן הַלֵב - דְּבָרִים מִן הַלֵב

“Words from the Heart”

BY RABBI KAMRASS

A Moment that Carries us Forward

In two weeks' time, on Shabbat morning June 12, our youngest child, Jared, will become a Bar Mitzvah at Plum Street Temple. We will be eager to celebrate that moment with our family, as well as with our congregational family. As I begin my twentieth year at Wise Temple, I am mindful of the extraordinary and deep bonds that have been shared as I have been invited into your lives and your intimate moments of family – moments that are marked by both sadness and rejoicing. And from the Bat Mitzvah of our daughter Jenna in 1998 and the Bar Mitzvah of our son Micah in 2002, we know how meaningful it feels to invite you into *our* family moments of joy.

Yet, I approach this moment more as father than as rabbi, for on that day, Renee and I will stand on the *bima*, where so many of you have stood as parents, and look upon our son taking his place of responsibility among our congregation and our people. And in that moment, we, his parents, stand in that unique place in time where Jewish parents see life in a moment of great clarity and meaning. For I believe that all of our life cycle events touch the deepest places of our hearts – the places that cause us to become so keenly attuned to the magic of *community*, the miracle of *family*, and the *mystery of time*.

As with every life cycle event, a joyous moment is amplified and deepened when it is shared with

one's community. Looking around and feeling the support and friendship of others reminds us that we live life in relationship to others, and it is that relationship that brings meaning and even holiness to our days. Each day, among the many mundane details and demands of our lives, we are building those relationships. Most days we focus on the tasks at hand, cementing another brick in this relationship, adding another layer of meaning in that relationship, rarely mindful of what it means. Yet at some sacred moments in time, we step back just far enough from the daily tasks and realize that what we have been building is indeed beautiful and sacred. Those moments make us aware of the magic of community. We become filled with gratitude, simply for being with our friends. We become imbued with an abiding sense of meaning simply for what surrounds us and embraces us. We become filled with renewed insight into the magic that pervades our lives and gives them meaning. It is with that clarity that we view our lives at such life-cycle moments.

And in even closer circles, at such moments we find deeper reasons for rejoicing in the miracle of family. It may seem odd to refer to something as a miracle that is daily with us, often demanding so much of us. Yet at moments such as these, we look out and realize what a blessing our family is: ever changing, always struggling to adapt to those changes, but nonetheless, always there for us. In these last years, both Renee's and my parents have faced devastating illnesses, and have transcended those extraordinary challenges with good medical



Rabbi Kamrass

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REFLECTIONS ON A DECADE OF WISE JEWISH DATELINE

BY SANDEY FIELDS, DIRECTOR

The often-quoted words of Ecclesiastes, “there is a time and season for everything under the sun,” were going through my mind last December as I wrote our members to tell them that Dateline would be closing at the end of June. As I explained, it was time for us to step aside. Other programs have been and will be created, including on-line Jewish dating services. As a result, in the last year and a half we saw our members decreasing slowly but consistently. We made the decision to step aside while we were still vital and successful.

Dateline’s mission always was to operate an easily accessible, needed dating service for Jewish singles of all ages in the community. We feel we can point to our near-decade of success

because we know Dateline enhanced Jewish continuity through marriages (and birth of children), it strengthened community and Jewish identity, it reached out to singles to remind them of their importance in their community and it witnessed networking, formation of friendships and a sense of belonging by members.

I look back at the ten years and experiences in a completely positive light, and am grateful to have the opportunity to share a few thoughts about the people and the factors that gave satisfaction, encouragement and success to so many of the fifteen hundred individuals who participated.

Our volunteers and I think Dateline differed from most services because we cared about our members; we liked them, and they knew it. We stayed in touch with them, reminding them to come in to check the profile books, sending birthday cards with personal notes; we enjoyed seeing and hearing from them. Dateline performed the

Jewish tradition of working to perpetuate the community. We weren’t matchmakers; we were facilitators (although I’ll admit there were times I nudged people a little or else didn’t let them out of the office until they made a choice or two). The comment of Eli Weisel, “as long as there is a community, a Jew is never alone,” was always uppermost in our thoughts. We believed in our members; we looked to give them hope for the future and a true Jewish connection.

Through the many years, members included: siblings, mothers and children, cousins, uncles and nieces, ex-spouses who told the other to join, former couples who had been “items” in the past and friends of the same gender who would come in together to look at the books. One of our many proud

facts is that both siblings in one local family found their spouses through Dateline. Marriages ranged from couples in the 20’s through late 60’s and early 70’s. We opened eight “satellite” offices in five tri-state cities, to make it easy for members to make and view selections. Whether the members wanted just companionship or a relationship leading to marriage, they knew we operated with integrity for them, and they responded in the same way; it was a very nice fit.

From the beginning to the end of our operation, the Jewish Federation of Cincinnati was a funding partner. We would not nor could have come into existence without its original grant and its subsequent yearly allocations. Jerry Teller was the president of Federation when the first of several Fed/Syn grants was awarded to us. Even when the annual funding began to decrease substantially from its original amount over the last several years, we depended on and appreciated Federation’s

investment and belief in this community program. The partnership between the congregation’s sponsorship of Dateline and Federation’s funding of the program illustrates and exemplifies that such cooperation can affect the community for the better. Dateline was often one of the “poster children” success stories for Federation’s campaign brochures.

But to say the Temple simply “sponsored” Dateline is to do this congregation a great disservice, as well as to make a true understatement. Its effect on the service cannot be expressed adequately. Dateline has been the fortunate recipient of almost ten years of help, service, advice, and support from every single staff member—from the many hours spent with Barry Finestone and Rabbi Kamrass, to that of the extraordinary professionalism and constant assistance of each secretary, to the patience and humor with which each member of the custodial staff put up with our requests.

The invaluable support given to Dateline from the Temple was *gratis*, always. In my several decades of Jewish communal work, I have never seen nor enjoyed as I have here the camaraderie and help, understanding and enthusiasm that was always sustained. The consistent responses extended to us, along with the wise advice we received and utilized, allowed my volunteers and me to focus on the *mitzvah* of Dateline. Moreover, I have lost count of the many dozens of congregants who have stopped me at some point to voice their pride that Isaac M. Wise Temple was hosting and sponsoring Dateline. I thank each of you for going out of your way to let us know you understood and often publicized what we were doing, and why and how we were being modern “*yentas*.”

Wise Jewish Dateline grew and sustained its pace, organizational procedures, technical developments and reputation because of a



group of competent, organized, compassionate, discreet and dedicated volunteers who understood every facet, nuance, approach and goal of what Dateline stood for. Without them, we couldn't have succeeded or affected as many people as we did. Gloria Lipson, who understood the needs of singles and could envision changing needs, was the perfect first Chair of the service. For several years, she was my mentor; I learned from her and realize that Dateline grew and became a more confident service in what we did and how we operated as a result of her suggestions and leadership. Her Co-Chair and then Chair, Sue Waldman, continued for many years to affect our development by giving energy and effervescence, hands-on efficiency and office management, reinforcement of our efforts, and an up-beat approach to all members. Carolyn Lowitz, our Co-Chair with Sue for a year, was extremely helpful in analyzing our publicity and then pointing out several different ways and areas in which to publicize effectively throughout the tri-state. For the last three years, Diane Oestreicher, our present Chair, has reviewed, created with me and advised me in all communications, advertisements, policies (i.e. in all important decisions) of Dateline. She is knowledgeable of everything that has taken place in our structure. Her logic, her common sense and her sensitivity have made this transition time for me an orderly and smooth one. She has always been available for Dateline and for me.

As for our volunteers, through the years dozens of people have told me: "I would kill for those volunteers." They were correct. In the beginning, Nancy Starnbach not only understood our complex phone system, but handled all calls when our Chair or I were not in town. As did Gloria and Sue, she did lots of driving to other cities. She *shlepped* Gloria and me to Indianapolis during an unforgettable hail storm to meet

potential members, and chauffeured me to Columbus to present a satellite office with profile books. Her calmness was always present, even if a potential crisis surfaced. Phyllis Dreyfuss encouraged Rabbi Kamrass' vision for this service, and for several years always said "yes" to a call to meet with members to see the books. Her "right-on" response to each individual member always gave that person confidence. Harriet Schiebel also responded to a cry for help with the profile books, and became an expert in keeping us current with our member correspondence. Her cool was extremely helpful with some of our members who were a little shy and just needed that extra pat on the back. Ruth Levy was also a woman of many tasks, from greeting members to taking lists of potential members who had received application packets but hadn't joined. For many years she took the responsibility of making calls to them. As a result of those talks, many joined. Sue Teller was the first volunteer to get Dateline started with a computer data base. She was consistent, accurate, enthusiastic and had a clear picture of how to develop procedures which would make our work effective and efficient (and fun). She was a great teacher. Ellen Wyler also helped us get on board with the database. Emma Goodman kept me up-to-date on lists of members who hadn't made choices for a few months and needed to be called; she also kept us up-to-date with

our application packets. Nancy Wolf helped us develop a welcoming and dignified approach to our members when we first were operating and met and responded to our first hundred members from all over the tri-state. Nancy Goldberg's computer skills saved us when we had an overload of correspondence or publicity to get out quickly; her sense of organization was vital to our operation.

All of us recall with warmth and sadness two former volunteers of blessed memory, Marlene Swillinger and Audrey Ostrov. Marlene was my decorator; she put the Dateline office in order, she put blue satin ribbons around our personal stationery and changed around the furniture periodically. She always filled in for us when a volunteer couldn't make her regular time in the office. Audrey would appear to help with the profile books or with any mundane tasks with gentleness, the sweetest of smiles and complete efficiency. She was also a great editor of any piece I was writing. She came, as she told me, because she believed so much in Dateline; her mental strength and her determination were unbeatable and inspirational.

Diane and I know that we could not do without our current volunteers who will be with us until Dateline closes in an orderly fashion. Vera Gutin is always introduced by me as Dateline's computer maven, although that description doesn't do justice to her abil-

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Join us for Wise Temple's Annual Meeting and Leadership Recognition & Installation Service Sunday, June 27th 4:30 p.m. at Wise Center

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. Please join us at the conclusion of the service for lite bites and refreshments.

- Annual Meeting of the Congregation: 4:30 p.m.
- Leadership Recognition and Installation: 5:30 p.m.
- Hors D'Ouerves: 6:30 p.m.

Thanks from Brotherhood...

for supporting the Yom HaShoah candle project. Special thanks to everyone who helped with the candle packaging: Ken Kabel, Todd Flagel, Jay Rissover, Robert Klein, Lew and Ryan Ebstein, Joel Fingerman, Billy, Reed and Mitchell Bie and Megan and Ben Wells. We packed and mailed nearly 1400 candles.

CONGREGATIONAL CONNECTION

WISE JEWISH DATELINE

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ities or her caring. She has made certain that everything from grant applications, important letters to members, local and tri-state agencies, press releases, email addresses, labels and correspondence have been sent from this office with clarity, efficiency and timeliness. Like Diane, she is a careful editor and has kept me from being redundant or superfluous in my writing. Rosemary Safdi is our systems person. She helped me develop our monthly renewal letters, kept track of them, got them out and notified me of every form letter sent out from this office. She created a system for listing all member payments and registrations and kept the records up-to-date on the computer. Like Vera, she taught me a lot about the computer. She has been with Dateline almost since day one, and we have done lots of laughing (and an occasional "oy vaying") together.

Sylvalee Kaplan also helped with any of the numerous office tasks. Syl kept us up on addressing birthday cards, kept us current on the many hundreds of application packets which had to be put together, and sent out hundreds of written correspondence forms to members. She took home the many newspapers and magazines in which we advertised, and thus received; those papers were always recycled. And, from day one of Dateline's creation, Syl helped keep

my candy basket filled. (Diane continues that tradition today). There would be none of the forty-two profile books without Elaine Pockrose. She chose the books we used here and in our eight satellite offices. She prepared each profile ever put in the books for use; she had all the copies for out of town offices made, and readied the new ones for us to mail. She recorded all changes in the books. Like Sylvalee and Rosemary, she was an original volunteer. Her efficiency, caring and ability to put everything in the right perspective was part of what kept us going.

These volunteers are not only women of valor; they are pure gold. I cherish the opportunity to have developed and directed this program and to have experienced the many facets which made it work. I cherish the years of working with our remarkable professionals, our volunteers, and the fifteen hundred individuals who made up Dateline through the last decade. I appreciate the reinforcing support of the Board of Trustees.

For me, Dateline was a true labor of love and one which has had an overwhelming impact on my life, on my

approach to the community of our singles and to the Isaac M. Wise Temple family. I have been touched by all I mentioned. I rejoice that I shall continue to work at the Temple as a part-time staff member of the Library until Del and I move to Los Angeles in early 2005. I hope to see you in the next several months.

The medieval scholar and teacher, Saadia Gaon, stated, "the more valuable a thing, the more effort it takes." Truly, this Wise Jewish Dateline of ours was a joint effort of great value which gave satisfaction to many. It was an honor, a privilege and a joy to share in a project which has had a positive effect on so many in our community.

With appreciation, affection and friendship,—Sandey. 🕯



W.I.S.E
JEWISH
DATELINE

*"Joining
Dateline was
the best"*

Partially funded
by a grant from

...an opportunity for Jewish singles to meet...

WORDS FROM THE HEART

continued from front cover

care, some measure of good luck, and most of all, with remarkable resolve and spirit. They continue to teach us what it means to choose life. And our children have grown, entering new chapters, new challenges, and new achievements. They teach us, as well. It seems to me that family is a miracle – perhaps the messiest of miracles, but also among the most enriching blessings we can know. And at life cycle moments, once again, we are filled with a renewed sense of the miraculous – a clarity of meaning that enables us to see our blessing so clearly.

Finally, the power of these life cycle events is the unique vantage point we gain in the sweep of time. For in an instant, time is not a race. It is not the race from one

appointment to the next, or the press of our tasks, or the counting of hours or days. Instead, we partake of the great mystery of time. In one moment in time, we see the past and the future, we see ourselves and our children, and even our ancestors. We realize that we taste of the same spiritual nourishment as did those who came before us, and as those who will come after us. And from this unique vantage point, we realize that we are part of a great and mysterious journey, making us feel more secure in our place in that unfolding drama of life. Like Moses standing in the cleft of the rock, we glimpse a sense of God's presence that is manifest in the passing of this larger understanding of time. We may only partake of that feeling of timeless meaning for a moment, but we finally learn to see with our souls. We come to realize that what lasts for just a moment is

indeed sufficient to carry us forward – with renewed meaning, deepened understanding, and lasting memories. In such a profound moment, the mystery of time becomes comforting and deep.

As with so many of you who have celebrated life cycle events in your lives, on that Shabbat, for Renee and for me, it will be more than just our child reading Torah (and that would be enough!); instead we will stand where you have stood, in a mysterious, marvelous and magical moment that will carry us forward. 🕯

Faithfully,

Lewis H. Kamrass
חַרַב לֵב בֶּן דָּוִד וְחַנָּה לֵאמֹר

Rabbi Lewis H. Kamrass

SISTERHOOD 2004-2005 DIRECTORY

The Sisterhood directory is "under construction" for the year 2004-2005. Please check your name and address in the "YELLOW" 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 corrections or changes that you would like included in the 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.*

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.

A NEW TWIST TO KROGER

CERTIFICATES/GIFT CARDS

Wise Temple Sisterhood is now part of the Kroger Neighborhood Rewards Program! Support Wise Temple by purchasing a Kroger Gift Card for just \$5 and then simply refill the card when you are in the check out line (and you CAN use your credit card!). Every time you refill the card at Kroger, Wise Temple will get back a percent-

age of the dollars that you purchase. Stop in the gift shop and purchase your card today. *If you want a card but can't make it to the Gift Shop or for more information, call Barb Fogel at 336-6225.*

REFORM TEMPLE RETIREES

Save the date of June 22 for the Reform Temple Retirees luncheon and program. Members of the four Cincinnati Reform Temple Sisterhoods are invited to this program hosted by Temple Shalom and The Valley Temple. The program will take place at Valley Temple. We hope all can make it. *For more information, call Leah Levine at 351-1784.*

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. In addition to these great Recipe books being given to our graduating students, they are also available for purchase for \$7.00. Contact Marlene Gross through the Temple or through email, to purchase your own copy.

INSTALLATION

The Sisterhood Board will be installed and recognized for its part in the leadership of the congregation on Sunday, June 27th at 5:30 p.m. We will join with members of the Board of Trustees and the other auxiliary groups for the annual Leadership Recognition and Installation Service. Please plan to join us. *For more information, contact Dian Deutsch at 891-3666.*

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 (Elaine Pockrose, 351-6425 or Pam Kohn, 891-1516), YES Fund (Joan Scheineson, 351-5077), Florence Weil Tribute and Equipment Fund (Gilda Wacksman, 793-9933), or Floral Fund (Elaine Schiffer, 351-6620).

FLEA MARKET

As you go through the summer months, don't forget the Flea Market. We are always in need of furniture and gently used household items. Prompt pick up of large items will be arranged. All proceeds benefit Wise Temple Sisterhood and help to underwrite so many of our worthwhile programs for the Temple community. Donations are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law. *Just drop off your donations at Phyllis Fine's house, 3145 Fairhaven Lane, or call Phyllis at 731-6063 to arrange pick up of large items.*

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 791-6690.*

Traditions & Treasures Gift Shop

Summer is also a great time for volunteers to be trained to work in the gift shop. Call Margie Meyer at 984-2345 if you are interested.

Summer Hours

Tuesday	9:30 - 1:30
Thursday	9:30 - 1:30
And by appointment	

THANK YOU

People are always saying that they do not know where the time has gone! The calendar year, so full of activities for Wise Temple Sisterhood, has now come and gone. So where has the time gone?

Wise Temple Sisterhood continues to provide community service projects, Sisterhood programs, and support for children that our congregation has long

enjoyed. There is truly a place for every woman to reach other women.

Wise Temple Sisterhood could not be the force it is in Cincinnati without the dedication to detail of planning each and every event. The Sisterhood Board is honored to have so many women committed to the planning and execution of our projects and events.

Thank you to everyone who contributed to the huge success for which Sisterhood has been recognized. Women have given countless hours to the projects to which

they feel most committed. The enthusiasm of everyone has generated greater involvement and participation both in the planning and the programs themselves.

The Wise Temple Sisterhood Board is working to bring the same quality and variety of community participation and programming for the fall.

Wise Temple Sisterhood can only be as vibrant as the women involved, those that plan and those that attend. Thank you for such a great year from everyone on the Wise Temple Sisterhood Board.

LISTING OF EVENTS



Brotherhood

Brotherhood Board Meeting

June 10

6:00 p.m. at Wise Center

For more information, contact Michael Wells at 530-9881.

Lighthouse Youth Services

June 17

5:30 p.m.

No cost; dinner included

For more information, contact Michael Wells at 530-9881.



Congregational Shabbat Dinners

June 4

7:15 p.m. at Wise Center

For more information, contact Ann Donaldson in the Temple office at 793-2556 or adonaldson@wisetemple.org.

June 18

7:15 p.m. at Wise Center

For more information, contact Ann Donaldson in the Temple office at 793-2556 or adonaldson@wisetemple.org.



Eitz Chayim

Shabbat Morning Study Group

Saturdays

10:45 a.m. at Wise Center

For more information, contact Rabbi Ilana Baden or Rabbi Michael Schulman at 793-2556.



Seniors

Senior Shabbat

June 18

6:15 p.m. at Wise Center

For more information, contact Nancy Goldberg at 791-4498 or Barbara Mandell at 697-0356.



Sisterhood

Sisterhood Board Meeting

June 2

9:45 a.m. at Wise Center

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

Sisterhood Bridge

June 8 & 22

Noon at Wise Center

For more information, contact Karen Grosser at 891-9334.

Sisterhood Mah Jongg

June 10 & 24

1:00 p.m. at Wise Center

For more information, contact Dori Hall at 481-6633.

Reform Temple Retirees

June 22 at Valley Temple

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



Wise-UP

Grailville

June 5

8:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

Bring the family to help on the organic farm of this Loveland educational center. An informal Shabbat service concludes the morning. Lunch included!

To register, contact Monika Vigran at 891-4260.

Helping at Home

June 6

Organize Religious School supplies and prepare the Temple for the opening of Day Camp. A variety of indoor and outdoor projects.

To register, contact Kari Fagin at 573-0247 or Howard Mintz at 339-0661.



Ongoing Wise-UP Projects

Over-the-Rhine Soup Kitchen

Sunday Mornings: June 27, July 25 & August 22

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

Next Hosting: August 1 – August 8

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.

To select your date for volunteering, contact Mona Spitz 891-9583 or Liz McOsker at 469-1748.



Youth Groups

No activities scheduled this month.



Miscellaneous

Hebrew Union College Ordination

June 5

9:30 a.m. at Plum Street Temple

Day Camp Open House

June 13

11:00 a.m. at Wise Center

For more information, contact Renee Frankel at 530-5156.

Day Camp Begins

June 14 – July 23

For more information, contact Renee Frankel at 530-5156.

Annual Meeting/Installation & Leadership Recognition

June 27

4:30 p.m. at Wise Center

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

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 Steve Zimmerman at 924-0188.

Need a helping hand or a ride to Wise Temple?

Call Neighbor-2-Neighbor.

For more information, contact Linda Berger at 859-344-9731 or Kathie Kaplan at 984-4496.



Wise Planning: The End of the Beginning, Not the Beginning of the End

BY ANDY BERGER

Every tale has a Beginning, a Middle, and an End. So it is with Wise Planning, our Strategic Planning effort. As summer begins, we can look back with pride on nearly a year of dedicated work by our Wise Planning Committee and the enthusiastic participation of our congregation. In addition to the more than 100 congregants who gave of their time in our Community Conversations, over 500 of our member families returned Congregational Surveys, about half with handwritten comments. Thank you for your tremendous response, which demonstrates once again how invested you, our congregants, are in the life of our Temple. Our goal was to get your input, and thanks to you that goal has been achieved.

On May 15, the Wise Planning Committee met in an all-day retreat and the

entire committee heard from you. Your feedback has helped to guide us as we plan for the future. We also studied demographic information about our Congregation and our community, and we learned that change has been a constant part of our history.



Based on this, we are formulating goals and objectives for the coming years, for presentation to the Board of Trustees.

So after close to a year of work, are we approaching the Beginning of the End? Not even close! We are just now approaching the End of the Beginning. And we will certainly need your input

and efforts as we enter the Middle of Wise Planning, as we develop initiatives to carry out our goals and objectives. Stay tuned for more information in future issues of *Kesher* as our work continues. 🕯

WELCOME!

With the departure of Marcy Schultz, our Assistant Director of Education and Youth Programs, back to Florida to join her family, we are excited to announce the hiring of a new Assistant Director of Education & Youth Programs. We are very fortunate that Stacey Delcau has accepted our invitation to take on this important position in our school. After spending the year in Israel, Stacey, who is from Denver, Colorado, is moving to Cincinnati this summer with her husband Mitch, who is a first year Rabbinical student. Stacey has a master's degree in Jewish education from Hebrew Union College in Los Angeles. She brings a wide variety of experiences to the position, including education director for an interfaith family education program in Denver, unit head at a day camp, and curriculum development work. She has also taught several different grades and topics at religious school and done staff development in a couple of different settings. Stacey brings a wonderful set of experiences and training to her new position, which will enable us to continue to strengthen and improve our education program. Stacey has said that she's heard only wonderful things about our congregation and our school, and she is very excited about working at Wise Temple. Stacey will start her work in July and we will have a chance to welcome her at the beginning of the next school year.

Make someone else's business your own so our Rabbis can be there for our congregational family.

Area hospitals no longer inform our Rabbis and other clergy about who is hospitalized. If you know of a family member or friend who is hospitalized please call the Rabbi's office day or night at 793-2559.

Please help us be there for you.



JUNE 2004 SIVAN/TAMMUZ

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>5:30pm—AA Meeting(WC)</p>	<p>2</p> <p>9:45—Sisterhood Board Mtg.(WC)</p>	<p>3</p> <p>5:30pm—AA Meeting(WC)</p>	<p>4</p> <p>6:15pm—Shabbat Evening Service; Wise-Up Recognition Shabbat (WC) 7:15pm—Congreg. Shabbat Dinner(WC)</p>	<p>5</p> <p>8:30—Wise-UP-Grailville(O) 9:30—Shabbat Alternative Service(WC) 9:30—Hebrew Union College Ordination(PST) 10:45—Optional Text Study (WC)</p>
<p>6</p> <p>Wise-UP-Helping at Home(WC)</p>	<p>7</p>	<p>8</p> <p>Noon—Sisterhood Bridge(WC) 5:30pm—AA Meeting(WC)</p>	<p>9</p>	<p>10</p> <p>1:00pm—Sisterhood Mah Jongg(WC) 5:30pm—AA Meeting(WC) 6:00pm—Brotherhood Board Mtg.(WC)</p>	<p>11</p> <p>6:15pm—Shabbat Evening Service(WC)</p>	<p>12</p> <p>10:45—Bar Mitzvah of Jared Kamrass(PST)</p>
<p>13</p> <p>11:00—Day Camp Open House(WC) 11:30—Wise Singles(O)</p>	<p>14</p> <p>Day Camp Begins</p>	<p>15</p> <p>5:30pm—AA Meeting(WC)</p>	<p>16</p>	<p>17</p> <p>5:30pm—AA Meeting(WC) 5:30pm—Brotherhood-Lighthouse Youth Services(O)</p>	<p>18</p> <p>6:15pm—Shabbat Evening Service w/Senior Adult Participation; Birthday and Anniversary Blessings; Music: Kol Rinah (WC) 7:15pm—Congreg. Shabbat Dinner(WC)</p>	<p>19</p> <p>9:00—Bar Mitzvah of Matthew Weinberg(PST) 9:30—Shabbat Alternative Service(WC) 10:45—Optional Text Study(WC) 11:15—Bar Mitzvah of Benjamin Rosen(PST)</p>
<p>20</p>	<p>21</p>	<p>22</p> <p>Noon—Sisterhood Bridge(WC) 5:30pm—AA Meeting(WC) Sisterhood-Reform Temple Retirees(O)</p>	<p>23</p>	<p>24</p> <p>1:00pm—Sisterhood Mah Jongg(WC) 5:30pm—AA Meeting(WC)</p>	<p>25</p> <p>6:15pm—Shabbat Evening Service(WC) 6:30pm—WiseTykes Service(WC)</p>	<p>26</p> <p>9:00—Bat Mitzvah of Sarah Moskovitz(PST) 9:30—Shabbat Alternative Service(WC) 10:45—Optional Text Study(WC) 11:15—Bar Mitzvah of Sam Fram(PST)</p>
<p>27</p> <p>4:30pm—Annual Mtg./Leadership Recognition & Installation Program(WC) Wise-UP-Soup Kitchen(PST)</p>	<p>28</p>	<p>29</p> <p>5:30pm—AA Meeting(WC)</p>	<p>30</p>	<p>Kesher takes off July and August. We'll see you in September. Until then, check Wisebytes or visit the website at www.wisetemple.org for current information.</p>		

Like Mother, Like Daughter

BY DEBBIE HERMAN



Shortly after my mother died, many years ago, I went to the bank to empty her safe deposit box. Along with the deed to the house, the title to the car, and our family's birth and vaccination records, I found her certificate of membership in the First United Methodist Church in Franklin, Pennsylvania. I thought this was curious. It wasn't a legal document of any sort, and she certainly didn't need it to get in the door. She was the longtime secretary of the small church's board of trustees. She was there all the time, and everybody knew her.

Why was this piece of paper so valuable to her? I was baffled then, but now, almost 20 years later, I understand. It may be a different congregation – and even a different religion – but I treasure my membership at Wise Temple just as much as my mother valued her own church.

It's not hard to see why. Here's what I got to experience in a single week during Passover, as a member of Wise Temple:

Tuesday Evening:

The Congregational Seder: Seder hosts Kitzi and Bruce Baker and Seder leaders Rabbi Kamrass, Rabbi Baden, and Deborah Cannizzaro have managed to make 150 of us in the social hall feel like we're guests in someone's home – only with better singing! The microphone passes from table to table

as we all take part. My son teases me when I can't speed-read "Who Knows Ten" without taking a big gulp of air in the middle. Who cares? I'm among friends.

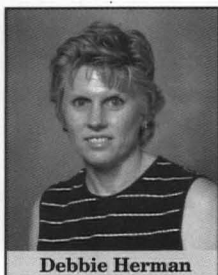
Thursday Evening:

The Women's Seder: The social hall has once again been transformed. I walk under the red tent into a room full of women of all ages and backgrounds, all laughing and talking at once. Liz McOsker leads us in a retelling that celebrates the women of the Exodus story. The familiar symbols are all here: the cup for Elijah, the *afikomen*, the parsley and shankbone, but there's also Miriam's cup and... hey,

what's an orange doing in the middle of the seder plate? Ask someone who was there...

Friday Evening:

Marriage Reconsecration: Owen and I are celebrating our 23rd anniversary this year – an off year for the Marriage Reconsecration Service, which honors couples married 10 years and multiples of five years thereafter. We come to the service anyway, because it's inspiring, invigorating and fun. There are many couples who are celebrating 50, 55, and even 60 years together, and they look great. A long, happy marriage must be better than Botox! After the service, we look at everyone's wedding photos and enjoy a minor Passover miracle – delicious desserts!



Debbie Herman

Sunday Morning:

6th Grade Geshet: It's just the parents today. We've been together over four years now, and it's really become a learning *chavurah* of friends. Rabbinical student Andie Cosnowsky guides us as we discuss various Jewish laws and what they mean for us as Reform Jews. We look at pages from the Talmud and learn about how the Mishnah, the Gemarrah, and all the commentary through the centuries fit together. Andie compares it to a Seven Layer Taco Salad. Maybe not kosher, but it's a vivid image that lets the Talmud structure make sense to me. Names and dates from history flee my mind within days, but I never forget a good recipe.

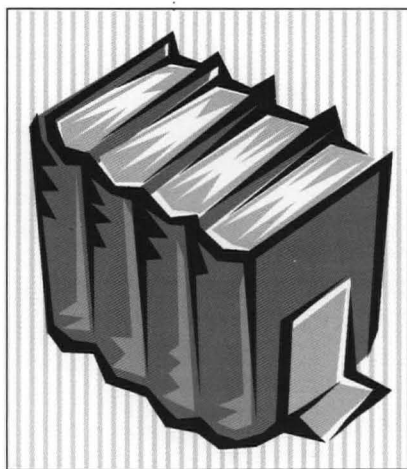
Monday Morning: Passover Morning Service and Yizkor:

I spend the last morning of Passover in this quiet, beautiful service. Adrift in the comfort of the music and the words of the psalms, my thoughts turn to my mother and father, gone for many years but not forgotten for even a single day. It's rainy and cold outside, but I feel warmed by their memory.

And so I return home and get out my mother's church certificate. At the time of her death, I was already taking my first, tentative steps toward Judaism. She encouraged me, but let me know that she also expected me to follow in her own footsteps and be an active, involved participant in whatever faith I chose. 🕯

The Perfect Summer Retreat for Members of All Ages: Our Ralph and Julia Cohen Library

Whether or not you agree with the line in *Porgy and Bess*, "Summertime, and the livin' is easy..." it's true that summertime can, and should be, a little more relaxed, a little more laid back, a time to catch-up on what you've been wanting to do for a long time—and just plain fun and pleasurable! If your goal during the High Holy Days last fall was to read some criticism on texts or try to understand the concepts of Martin Buber, enjoy; take time to do so in the next three months. There is no question that coming to the Library this summer will make you a happy person. Are you taking a plane trip and want some great new mysteries and novels? Come in and check out wonderful works. Have you been concerned about Israel's situation, the Middle East, and anti-semitism? The latest books on those subjects are in the Library, ready for you to check out. Have you been singing a Debbie Friedman song that keeps going through your head, over and over? Don't just check out some of her delightful, beautiful tapes; we suggest that as you listen to the music, pretend you're her vocal "back up" and sing along with the tape. Who's to know? The array of young children's books will make you



keep coming back, as will the hundreds of books for middle and upper grade school students. Did you miss some of the Rabbis' classes this year that you really, really wanted to attend? No problem. Take out the audio tapes and listen to their wisdom in your car or at home. Are you having a grill out or barbecue? Don't worry, we'll help you make it unforgettable! Get yourself to the Library and have a field day choosing some spectacular cookbooks. If you're off

to a city, American or otherwise, you may want to read what our Jewish travel section points out for the visitor to see. We hope you remember that we have an unusually large section of large print books available. If you've been frequenting Blockbuster or your neighborhood video store, here's a suggestion that's financially

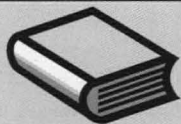
enticing: Use us this summer! Our collection of humor, drama, history and Holocaust is exceptional.

Summer is a great time to get acquainted with this remarkable Library. You'll discover how comfortable it is just to browse, as well as to sit and read one of the many magazines

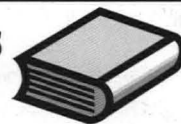
important to the American Jewish community. And don't forget to ask questions. As this article is written, the June hours have not yet been posted, so call and find out about them. In July and August, we'll probably be available most of Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday. An evening during the week may also be available. We remain flexible, so just call! Moreover, if you haven't been in lately, remember that we're waiting for you. We'll have you fill out a short form that allows us to enter you in the computer as one of a growing number of certified Library patrons. Then, when you check items in and out, you'll be amazed how easy the procedure is. In the coming months, you'll discover that you can search for a topic or author you want on a computer right in the Library! There will be more changes and improvements, so stay tuned.

Once you get to be a regular user of this treasure house of irresistible items, you may even want to become part of it, by helping to complete the automation, keeping our bookcases in order, falling in love with working in our Archives area or helping us keep completely accurate by doing a variety of interesting tasks. We repeat: just call us at 793-2556, ext. 123. We'll be happy to hear from you.

Summertime goes too quickly. See you in the Library during this special time of year. 📖



CALLING ALL BIBLIOPHILES, BOOK LOVERS AND COLLECTORS OF JUDAICA!



The ongoing used-books sale is in full gear at our library. Whenever you are at the Temple and the Library is open, make sure you browse through the sale table of used-books. You'll discover the current used-book price for each book, some of which are valued at up to \$50.00. But you can't beat our prices: \$2.00 for each hardback book and a quarter for each paperback book! You may even discover a first edition as you look over the items. Don't be left out in the cold; come in to the Library for this great ongoing sale.

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PROGRAM CONNECTION

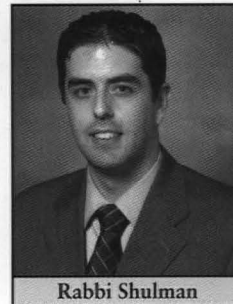
Building Bonds



BY RABBI SHULMAN



A few weeks ago, I dropped in downstairs at one of the more popular senior youth group activities: the pizza drop-in before the Reform Jewish High School on Sunday night. What I found that evening was over 20 teenagers *schmoozing*, laughing, eating pizza (of course!) and having a great time. The camaraderie and participation of the members of our senior youth group is truly an incredible thing to experience. To get a sense of what makes this youth group "tick," I interrupted them with a question, "What were the highlights of the past year in youth group?" I then just sat back and marveled as they offered their diverse responses.



Rabbi Shulman

The youth group has been involved in so many different things that it is almost hard to keep track. From their own mouths, here are just a few of the moments that made their youth group experience both memorable and meaningful:

- Youth Group Yom Kippur Service written and led by the members.
- Hosting Sub-Regionals in Cincinnati on the theme of Jewish Humor. Almost 100 teenagers participated in this event last fall. It could not have been so amazingly successful without the teamwork of the teen organizers and volunteer parents.
- Organizing Battle of the Bands, a collaborative effort with the Rockdale Temple youth group, where bands from around the area performed and competed in a benefit concert that raised over \$1,000 for Cystic Fibrosis research.
- Learning at the educational Shabbaton in the winter, where the kids participated in creative prayer services, creative study groups and creative social action projects.

- The most successful Purim Carnival in recent memory. Organized and facilitated entirely by the youth group and their parents. They raised over \$2,500 for the youth group fund. (They even kept smiles on their faces that Sunday after spending almost the whole night setting up!)

- Over 20 Wise Temple youth groups traveling to Nashville, Tennessee for Regionals – a week end long event that brings together teens from the entire Ohio Valley Region. This year they struggled with the themes of prejudice and diversity.

These highlights really cover every area of Jewish life – they encompass so many of our treasured Jewish values: prayer, *tzedakah*, *gemilut chasadim* (acts of loving kindness), learning, study, and celebration.

But the most important one, not to be minimized in the least, is the value of community. Indeed our senior youth group embodies our Jewish commitment to community: the youth group members were also excited to tell me that they are now the largest youth group in the region and hope to have two Wise Temple members on the regional board next year. They also are proud of how the group has grown, the inclusion of incoming freshmen, and the high level of participation in both local events and regional events. Every member truly cherishes the bonds of friendship that they forge each and every time they are together.

We thank the leaders of our senior youth group, some of whom are graduating and heading off to college next year. Without their continuing vision and leadership, none of this would have been possible: Chase Foster, Mike Sarason, Josh Kleymeyer, Nina Loftspring, Aaron Friedman, Devon Worrell, Alex Spektor and our youth group advisor, Brett Stern.

Next year we look forward to more highlights, more drop-ins (of course), and continued strength of our fantastic senior youth group! 🍕



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 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 12 – Jared Kamrass. Son of Rabbi Lewis and Renee Kamrass. Grandson of David and Anna Lee Kamrass.

June 19 – Matthew Weinberg. Son of Bruce and Joy Weinberg.

June 19 – Benjamin Rosen. Son of Jeff and Debby Rosen.

June 26 – Sarah Moskovitz. Daughter of Jay Moskovitz and Jeanne Weiland.

June 26 – Sam Fram. Son of Sanford and Missy Fram.

Weddings

Dr. Marvin and Rella Kaplan on the marriage of their son, Josh Kaplan to Brooke Davis.

Buddy and Rose Boster on their recent marriage.

Robert and Kathy Dumes on the marriage of their son, Adam Dumes to Jennifer Booth.

Births

David and Sandy Rachmiel, William and Hedy Ohl, Beatrice Rachmiel and Rae Liebenthal on the recent birth of their twin granddaughters and great-granddaughters, Morgan Faith Rachmiel and Anna Hope Rachmiel.

Marc and Ann Mezibov and Ruth Getz on the recent birth of granddaughter and great-granddaughter, Ariana Rose Silver.

Marvin and Joyce Alpiner on the recent birth of their grandson, Benjamin Samuel Rodriguez.

Mike and Tracy Snyder, Dick and Jackie Snyder and Leah Handler on the recent birth of their daughter, granddaughter and great-granddaughter, Madison Bella Snyder.

Mimi Amazon on the recent birth of her grandson, Evan Richard Amazon.

Brian and Elizabeth Kerstine and Dr. Richard and Mona Kerstine on the recent birth of their twin children and grandchildren, Isaac Leon Kerstine and Elise Lillian Kerstine.

Stuart and Carolyn Lowitz on the recent birth of their grandson, Owen Samuel Lichtman.

Engagements

Robert and Kathy Dumes on the recent engagement of their son, Brad Dumes to Shanna Wolf.

Bill and Ellen Wyler on the recent engagement of their daughter, Deborah Wyler to John Allison.

Dr. Jim and Linda Kreindler and Al and Debbe Lane on the engagement of their daughter and granddaughter, Erin Kreindler to Josh Bernstein.

Melvin and Marjorie Nadler on the recent marriage of their grandson, Stephen Sacks to Arianna Sales.

Michael Weinstein on his recent engagement to Laurie Roberto. Dr. Alan and Marlyn Weinstein and Betty Vigran on the recent engagement of their son and grandson, Michael to Laurie.



K.K. B'NAI YESHURUN

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