

# KESHER

קשר

## THE WISE CONNECTION

ISAAC M. WISE TEMPLE



K.K. B'NAI YESHURUN

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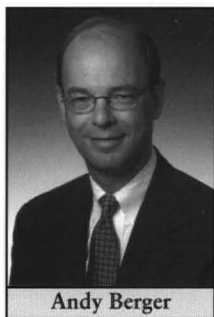
Founded in 1842

AFFILIATE:  
Union for Reform Judaism

# The Heroes Among Us

BY ANDY BERGER

**R**ecently, I was privileged to travel to Houston to join the Wise Temple delegation to the Biennial meeting of the URJ, the Union for Reform Judaism (formerly the UAHC, the Union of American Hebrew Congregations). This was my third Biennial and, like the ones in Boston and Minneapolis, it was an amazing experience, for a host of reasons: new and innovative worship services, classes and discussion groups on every imaginable subject, lectures by scholars like Joseph Telushkin, incredible music (with Debbie Friedman, Dan Nichols, Rick Recht, etc.), and getting to share all of it with old and new Wise Temple friends.



Andy Berger

At each Biennial, the President of the URJ, Rabbi Eric Yoffie, delivers a Presidential Address. As before, Rabbi Yoffie laid out a number of initiatives for the Reform Movement, and I would encourage you to read his entire address, at [www.urj.org/yoffie/biennialsermon05](http://www.urj.org/yoffie/biennialsermon05). I may not agree with all of it, just as you may or may not, but I do think Rabbi Yoffie should be applauded for strongly reaffirming our commitment to Outreach.

Rabbi Yoffie reminded us that it has been over

a quarter-century since his predecessor, Rabbi Alexander Schindler, proposed *Outreach*: to reach out to and embrace interfaith families and individuals considering conversion to the Jewish faith – a bold and, at the time, radical initiative for the Reform Movement.

For many years, Wise Temple has lived and breathed Outreach. Twelve years ago, when I was considering becoming a member, I was surprised and pleased to learn our Temple memberships are for families, so while my wife, Linda, isn't Jewish, she would be a member like me. And she was welcomed just as I was, and has forged her own path in Temple life.

Now, Rabbi Yoffie affirms, we need to go further:

- We should be sure all non-Jewish spouses and partners understand that while there is no pressure to do so, the door is always open should they wish to consider becoming a Jew; and like any member they have a standing invitation to explore their faith with our Rabbis. More of our congregants than many realize, including past Temple Presidents, are Jews by choice. And more choose Judaism every day. We need to continue to welcome and embrace those who have voluntarily chosen to cast their lot with the Jewish people.

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# Honoring Nature



BY RABBI BADEN

**H**ere in Cincinnati, this month (February, according to our secular calendar) is regarded as a month of bitterly cold weather – of icy streets and snowy yards. However, according to the Jewish world, this month (*Shevat*, according to our religious calendar) is regarded as the ideal time to honor the trees and nature. After all, it is during this month that we celebrate the festival of *Tu B'Shevat* – the New Year of the Trees.

In ancient Israel, people were expected to tithe their fruit and other crops so that a portion would go toward the Temple. Therefore, it was important to know the exact age of a tree so that one would know how much of its fruit constituted a tithe. For this reason, the sages declared that the 15<sup>th</sup> day of *Shevat* (or, in its original Hebrew, “*Tu B'Shevat*”) would mark the end of the “fiscal



Rabbi Baden

year” of the trees. For years, this system worked very well. However, when the Temple was destroyed by the Romans, the Jews lost their system of tithing. Consequently, this day lost its significance and was no longer honored.

Centuries later, a group of mystics decided to revive *Tu B'Shevat*. They determined that this day did not need to be limited to its original significance. Rather than viewing this date as the benchmark for determining the age of the trees, they encouraged their followers to celebrate it as a time to honor the role of God in the natural world. They therefore created a *Tu B'Shevat Seder*, in which four cups of wine symbolize the flow of nature.

Today, it is not uncommon for Jews to hold their own *Tu B'Shevat Seder*. In fact, on Monday, February 13, the Senior Adults of Wise Temple will conduct such a seder at Wise Center at 1:00 p.m. Other ways that

we can observe and honor this festival of the trees include enjoying a meal rich in fruits and nuts on that day, planting parsley seeds in a cup (and then enjoying them a couple of months later during our Passover Seder), or purchasing a tree to be planted in Israel through the Jewish National Fund ([jnf.org](http://jnf.org)). Of course, the best way to honor *Tu B'Shevat* is to remain mindful of how we interact with trees and the environment, and to continue to be diligent about taking precautions to protect the natural world.

Even though this holiday was originally designed for a specific time and place which no longer exists, we can still appreciate its significance today, as it reminds us of our special relationship with nature. Just as God planted a garden in Eden and placed Adam there to tend it, so too do we need to be mindful of our responsibility to care for the land on which we live. As we celebrate *Tu B'Shevat* this year, may we recall the lessons of this holiday and not only take them to heart, but also put them into action.

## Hebrew Enjoyment

BY KERRY BURTE,  
EITZ CHAYIM COMMITTEE MEMBER

**I** keep analyzing why I enjoy Hebrew classes at Wise Temple so much more now than when I was a kid. I love the economy of Hebrew, turning ten word English sentences into three words in Hebrew. At services, I can translate parts of prayers and feel more

attached to them. I particularly enjoy being able to help our 4<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grade children with their Hebrew homework, *in Hebrew!* I think my enthusiasm helps them enjoy it more.

Find your *Eitz Chayim* (adult education) enjoyment at any of our classes or programs!

### Summer 2006 Teen Israel Experience

Wise Temple teens can have an Israel experience for little more than the cost of a round trip ticket to New York! The Jewish Foundation provides grants of up to \$6,000 (for high school students) and \$3,000 (for college students) for any approved Israel experience including NFTY's summer 2006 5-week Europe/Israel program. This is the year to go!! For more information contact Barbara Miller at [bmiller@jfedcin.org](mailto:bmiller@jfedcin.org) or [www.jewishcincinnati.org](http://www.jewishcincinnati.org).

# Entering the Gates of Jewish Mysticism

BY BARBARA DRAGUL

When was the last time you asked questions about the meaning of life? Is there a heaven and hell? What is the true nature of God? What happens to our soul after we die? Where do you even look to examine these questions? In Judaism we find the deepest exploration of these questions in Jewish Mysticism or *Kabbalah*. *Kabbalah* is the name applied to the whole range of Jewish mystical activity. David S. Ariel writes in his book *The Mystic Quest: An Introduction to Jewish Mysticism*, "Mystical and religious experiences are not necessarily identical. Before there is mysticism, there is religion. Mysticism is a type of religious experience, but not all religious experiences are mystical."

But what exactly is Jewish mysticism? If you are confused about how to answer this question, you are in good company! Jewish mysticism is not something that is easily understood. There is a reason that seventeenth-century rabbis made laws that *kabbalah* should be studied only by married men over forty who were also scholars of Torah and Talmud. The medieval rabbis believed that the study of *kabbalah* should be limited to mature, educated individuals because only to them would its teachings be accessible. In our own pursuit of understanding Jewish Mysticism today, it is also not so simple. Luckily we don't have to be male or over 40 to explore this area of study. But we can't go out and rent the video "Jewish Mysticism In a Day" or understand *kabbalah's* depths from a daytime talk show.

Here at Wise Temple we can take advantage of an upcoming opportunity to learn from a leading scholar in the field of Jewish mysticism. On Sunday, February 26 from

10:00 – 11:30 a.m., Elliot Ginsburg, a gifted scholar and teacher, will address the topic *Entering the Gates of Jewish Mysticism*.



Barbara Dragul

Professor Ginsburg is warm and engaging and has a unique gift for making Jewish mysticism accessible for a diverse group of people. He has his Ph.D. in Religious Studies from the University of Pennsylvania, and currently teaches at the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor. Ginsburg has written two books on the *kabbalistic* celebration of Shabbat and is currently working on two books: a scholarly study of Jewish mystical prayer and meditation; and a multi-tiered study of Judaism as spiritual practice. He has published in an array of scholarly journals and has taught in synagogues, universities, and spiritual retreat settings in the United States, Israel, Australia and New Zealand.

"As a rule, *mekubbalim* (people who actively study and practice *kabbalah*) are skeptical of men ... who studied *kabbalah* as a university discipline and not from a personal conviction of its truth. One *mekubbal*, Rabbi Abraham Chen, declared on one occasion before a seminar of students: 'A scholar of mysticism is like an accountant: He may know where all the treasure is, but he is not free to use it.'" (Jewish Virtual Library) Ginsburg approaches Jewish Mysticism both as one who teaches it to others and as one who practices it himself. His expertise and warmth will help all of us, regardless of our knowledge in this area, understand where Jewish Mysticism comes from and why it is important to Judaism.

In his talk on February 26, Professor Ginsburg will address key questions about

Jewish Mysticism including:

- What is Jewish Mysticism? Where does it come from?
- What about this tradition has been compelling; what are the fundamental questions that it addresses?
- Where does this tradition fit into the larger frame of Judaism?
- What does the path look like? How can Jewish Mysticism inform one's spiritual practice?

Jewish Mysticism has long been an important area of Jewish thought. There have been periods in our history where it was considered the heart of Jewish theology. Today Jewish Mysticism is making a comeback. Even Madonna has made the headlines by her association with *Kabbalah*. Does she know something we don't? Be sure to join us on February 26 and find out what is so compelling about Jewish Mysticism. There is no registration necessary.

## VALUE OF THE MONTH

שְׁלוֹם בַּיִת - *Shalom Bayit* - Family Harmony

Our value for the month of February is *shalom bayit*. It translates as "peace in the home" but means much more. The Hebrew word "shalom" is related to the Hebrew word for "complete" or "whole". Therefore, *shalom bayit* conveys a sense of connection and harmony within the family. Peace, shalom, is not a passive value. It requires work, attention, action. We must be willing to be *rodefay shalom*, pursuers of peace. Peace requires action. Whether in the marketplace, the synagogue, international arenas, or even in the



Elliot Ginsburg

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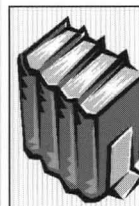
## SHOFAR AUDITIONS

We seek to begin a new tradition as we call for members of the congregation who have skills in sounding the shofar to come forward and to "audition" for the important role of sounding the shofar at Wise Center on Rosh Hashanah day and at Plum Street Temple on Yom Kippur afternoon. Those who are interested should bring their own shofar and be prepared to offer each of the series of calls sounded on Rosh Hashanah morning during a ten-minute individual audition before Glenn Michaelson and several Temple officers. From those auditions, we will choose the next person to begin a "new tradition" for the sounding of shofar, and for helping our Congregation to fulfill the mitzvah of hearing the call of the shofar.

**Auditions will be held on:  
Tuesday, February 21 and Thursday, February 23  
from 5:30 – 7:00 p.m. at Wise Center**

To schedule an audition time, contact Rabbi Kamrass' assistant, Luana, at 793-2559 or [lheinemeyer@wisetemple.org](mailto:lheinemeyer@wisetemple.org).

## Visit the Ralph & Julia Cohen Library



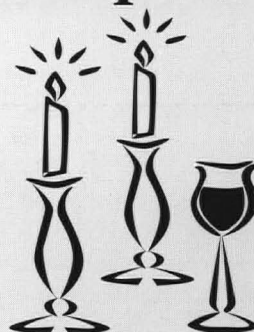
### Library Hours:

Mondays 2:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.  
Tuesdays 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.  
Wednesdays Noon - 6:00 p.m.  
Thursdays 9:00 a.m. - Noon  
Sundays 9:00 a.m. - Noon  
(when school is in session)

Or browse our online catalog anytime at [www.wisetemple.org](http://www.wisetemple.org).

## You Are Invited to Participate

If you are interested in participating in Shabbat evening services, we invite you to lead the congregation in the candles or Kiddush blessing. Please contact Luana Heinemeyer at 793-2559 or [lheinemeyer@wisetemple.org](mailto:lheinemeyer@wisetemple.org) to sign up.



## Your Brotherhood is Sponsoring a Seder Seminar

*Leading your first Seder this year?*

*Leading the Seder again this year and want some fresh ideas?*

*Lead a great Seder and want to share your methods with others?*

If you answered "Yes" to any of these questions, the Brotherhood has a great deal for you! Join us at

**Wise Center on Thursday,  
February 23 at 7:00 p.m.**

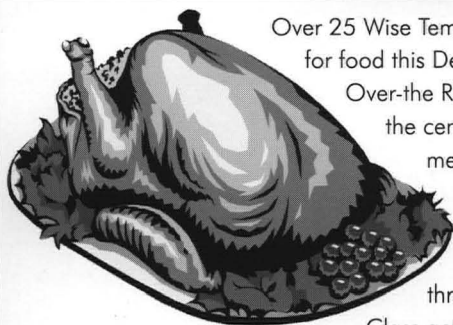
for an informal and informative discussion.

Bring your questions. Bring your ideas. Bring your Haggadah! Don't have one? Don't worry, we'll bring some samples! RSVP today!

Email: [brotherhood@wisetemple.org](mailto:brotherhood@wisetemple.org) OR  
Call: Billy Bie, 984-3559

## WiseUP CORNER

February February February



Over 25 Wise Temple congregants responded to the call for food this December by preparing turkeys for the Over-the Rhine Soup Kitchen. These turkeys were the centerpieces of scrumptious Christmas Day meals for families in need. Every year, Wise Temple members support the soup kitchen by cooking and serving food on Sunday mornings 5-6 times throughout the year. Even the Confirmation Class gets involved by hosting one Sunday each

year. We are truly blessed to have the support of so many who have participated in this project. We especially thank Mary and Scott Boster and Michael and Shannon Garfunkel for their ongoing leadership with the Over-the-Rhine Soup Kitchen. Their tireless work behind the scenes has an enormous impact on the lives of not only the Wise Temple volunteers, but also the thousands of families who benefit from the meals served each year.

# Make A Difference

**E**very gift makes a difference to the Wise Covenant Capital and Endowment Campaign. When you choose to participate in the Campaign, you are helping the Temple fulfill its goals:

- ◆ Create a Lifelong Learning Endowment Fund to support our worship services and our many educational and cultural programs designed to enrich every member of the Temple;
- ◆ Increase the Plum Street Temple Historic Preservation Fund which is the only fund

responsible for the preservation and maintenance costs of our national historic sanctuary;

- ◆ Create a Wise Center Capital Improvement Fund whose income will be utilized for the over half million dollars of anticipated repairs and updates at Wise Center.

Call Susan Kulick, the Temple's Development Director, at 793-2556 or email her at [skulick@wisetemple.org](mailto:skulick@wisetemple.org) to arrange your participation. 🏠

## THE WISE COVENANT

*Celebrating Our Past—Securing Our Future*

Every gift helps us reach our goal.

Every gift helps Wise Temple stay vibrant.

Every gift helps the Temple be responsive to its members needs.

Please choose to participate today.

## SAVE THE DATE

Please join us for the  
Rededication of the Rockwern Organ  
and Special Shabbat Service

Friday, March 31  
at Plum Street Temple

6:30 p.m.

Organ rededication recital by Roberta Gary,  
featuring the premier of a new work by William Bolcom.  
The commission of this work is made possible by a generous gift  
from the Tangeman Sacred Music Center of  
The University of Cincinnati, College-Conservatory of Music.

8:00 p.m.  
Shabbat Service

An Oneg Shabbat will follow the service.

Wise Temple  
Senior Adult Programs Presents:

## Dinner and Entertainment

Featuring

## The Three Jewish Tenors

Tuesday, March 21  
6:00 p.m.

at Wise Center

Be sure to join us for our annual festive evening of dinner and entertainment.

You will not want to miss a delightful presentation of music with The Three Jewish Tenors. This talented trio made their debut at our community-wide celebration of the 350th Anniversary of American Jewry.

Please RSVP by March 6. For more information, contact Co-Chairs:

Ruth Goret, 351-6486

Marlene Gross, 489-4341

Nancy Seltz, 683-6876

# LISTING OF EVENTS



## Brotherhood

**Brotherhood Board Meeting**  
Thursday, February 9  
6:00 p.m. at Wise Center  
For more information, contact Billy Bie at 984-3559.

**Brotherhood Seder Seminar**  
Thursday, February 23  
7:00 p.m. at Wise Center  
For more information, contact Billy Bie at 984-3559.



## Congregational Shabbat Dinner

**Congregational Shabbat Dinner**  
Friday, February 10  
7:15 p.m. at Wise Center  
For more information, contact Sarah McMaster at 793-2556 or smcmaster@wisetemple.org.



## Eitz Chayim

For more information or to register, contact Terri Snively at 793-2997 or tsnavely@wisetemple.org.

**Adult Hebrew Classes**  
Second Semester continues  
Wednesdays, February 1, 8, 15 & 22  
4:45 p.m. at Wise Center

**Commandedness in a Reform Context with Rabbinic Intern, Debra Dressler**  
Thursdays, February 2 & 9  
5:45 - 7:00 p.m. at Wise Center  
Pre-registration necessary.

**Gefilte Fish with Amy Katz**  
Sunday, February 5  
10:00 - 11:30 a.m. at Wise Center  
No registration necessary.

**Scholar in Residence: Elliot Ginsburg on Jewish Mysticism**  
Sunday, February 26  
10:00 - 11:30 a.m. at Wise Center  
No registration necessary.

**A Behind the Scenes Look at Plum Street Temple with Stan Better**  
Sunday, March 5  
10:00 - 11:30 a.m. at Wise Center  
No registration necessary.

## TUESDAYS WITH TORAH

All classes are from Noon - 1:00 p.m.  
For more information or to register, contact Terri Snively at 793-2997 or tsnavely@wisetemple.org.

**Golda: A Nice Jewish Girl from Milwaukee with Rabbi Baden**  
February 7

**Great Jewish Books with Rabbi Shulman**  
February 14, 21 & 28



## Religious School

Unless otherwise indicated, for more information about Religious School activities, contact Terri Snively at 793-2997 or tsnavely@wisetemple.org.

**Gesher Grade 5**  
Sunday, February 5  
9:15 a.m. at Wise Center  
For more information, contact Stacey Delcau at 793-2556 or sdelcau@wisetemple.org.

**Open Room Family Program**  
Sunday, February 5  
10:30 a.m. at Wise Center

**Cincinnati Reform Jewish High School**  
Sunday, February 5  
2:00 p.m. at Wise Center

**8<sup>th</sup> Grade Trip to Nashville**  
February 10 - 12

**7<sup>th</sup> Grade B'nai Mitzvah Class Trip to Freedom Center**  
Sunday, February 12  
9:15 a.m., meeting at Wise Center  
For more information, contact Stacey Delcau at 793-2556 or sdelcau@wisetemple.org.

**Gesher Grade 2**  
Sunday, February 12  
9:15 a.m. at Wise Center  
For more information, contact Stacey Delcau at 793-2556 or sdelcau@wisetemple.org.

**3<sup>rd</sup> Grade Tu B'Shevat Seder**  
Sunday, February 12  
9:30 a.m. at Wise Center

**Cincinnati Reform Jewish High School**  
Sunday, February 12  
7:00 p.m. at Wise Center

## NO SCHOOL

Sunday, February 19

**1<sup>st</sup> Grade Family Program**  
Sunday, February 26  
9:15 a.m. at Wise Center

**Gesher Grades 4 & 6**  
Sunday, February 26  
9:15 a.m. at Wise Center  
For more information, contact Stacey Delcau at 793-2556 or sdelcau@wisetemple.org.

**Cincinnati Reform Jewish High School**  
Sunday, February 26  
7:00 p.m. at Wise Center



## Seniors

**Tu B'Shevat Seder and Israeli Dance**  
Monday, February 13  
1:00 p.m. at Wise Center  
For more information, contact co-chairs: Saranne & Tim Funk, 841-2583; Leah Levine, 351-1784; or Don Seltz, 683-6876.

**Dinner and Entertainment featuring The Three Jewish Tenors**  
Tuesday, March 21  
6:00 p.m. at Wise Center  
For more information contact co-chairs: Ruth Goret, 351-6486; Marlene Gross, 489-4341; or Nancy Seltz, 683-6876.



## Singles

**Super Bowl Party and Dinner**  
Sunday, February 5  
6:00 p.m. at Lori Kleiner Eckert's home  
For more information, contact Lorie Eckert at 489-7627, Nancy Mendelson at 489-8393, or email singles@wisetemple.org.



## Sisterhood

**Sisterhood Board Meeting**  
Wednesdays, February 1 & March 1  
9:45 a.m. at Wise Center  
For more information, contact Robin Newland at 530-5516.

**Sisterhood Mah Jongg**  
Thursdays, February 2, 9, 16, & 23  
11:00 a.m. at Wise Center  
For more information, contact Cynthia Marmer at 984-0236.

# LISTING OF EVENTS

**Cooking Class with Chef John Kinsella**  
Wednesday, February 8  
6:00 p.m. at the Midwest Culinary Institute  
*For more information, contact Patti Heldman at 631-5525 or Tina Straubing at 791-8568.*

**Sisterhood Book Club**  
Thursday, February 9  
7:30 p.m. at Wise Center  
*For more information, contact Eve Appleton at 321-0427.*

**Sisterhood Bridge**  
Tuesdays, February 14 & 28  
1:00 p.m. at Wise Center  
*For more information, contact Vivian Barr at 631-6528 or Idelle Stein at 891-3626.*

**Sisterhood Library Tea**  
Wednesday, February 15  
1:00 p.m. at Wise Center  
*For more information, contact Jori Roth at 793-5444 or Sylvia Levine at 984-2681.*



## WiseUP

**Free Store/Food Bank**  
Thursday, February 9  
Help receive, sort and pack donated items.  
Ages 12+.  
*For more information, contact Paul McOsker at 469-1748.*

**Kids Café**  
Tuesday, February 21  
Attack poverty and hunger. Provide children ages 2 to 13 in Over-the-Rhine with individual attention and serve them a nutritious meal. Ages 13+.  
*For more information, contact Steve Zimmerman at 924-0188.*

**Speaking of Women's Health**  
(sponsored by Sisterhood)  
Thursday, March 2  
Help direct participants at this exciting conference on women's health at the Northern Kentucky Convention Center. Volunteers will receive lunch and be able to participate in some of the conference. All congregants welcome. Choose morning or afternoon time.  
*For more information, contact Nancy Apfel at 793-9659 or Adrienne Cooper at 542-0055.*

**Cedar Village**  
Saturday, March 4  
All ages are invited to participate in the mitzvah of *kibud Zekaynim* (honoring the elderly) by sharing Shabbat services at Cedar Village.  
*For more information, contact Laura Cramer at 794-0742.*



## Ongoing WiseUP 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.*



## Youth Groups

**Study Kallah for Grades 11 & 12**  
Friday, February 3 – Sunday, February 5  
5:30 p.m. at Hebrew Union College  
*For more information, contact Daniel Schwartz at schwartz78@hotmail.com or 295-8770.*

**(e)YGOW Shabbaton**  
Friday, February 17 – Saturday, February 18  
5:30 p.m. at Wise Center  
*For more information, contact Daniel Schwartz at schwartz78@hotmail.com or 295-8770.*

**NOAR at Sports Plus**  
Saturday, February 25  
6:00 – 9:00 p.m.  
*For information, contact Stacey Delcau at 793-2556 or sdelcau@wisetemple.org.*

**JYG Kallah at GUCI**  
Friday, March 3 – Sunday, March 5  
*For information, contact Stacey Delcau at 793-2556 or sdelcau@wisetemple.org.*



## Miscellaneous

**Storytime**  
Fridays, February 3 & 17  
10:00 a.m. at Wise Center  
*For more information, contact Karen Brownlee at 871-5013 or karenbrownlee@gmail.com.*

**Shofar Auditions**  
Tuesday, February 21 &  
Thursday, February 23  
5:30 – 7:00 p.m. at Wise Center  
*To arrange an audition, contact Luana Heinemeyer at 793-2559 or lheinemeyer@wisetemple.org.*

**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 Rod McFaull at 859-426-5587.*

## Call Us If You Need Assistance

Neighbor-2-Neighbor can lend a helping hand for occasional short term needs. These may include:

- ☎ Making a trip to the grocery store or pharmacy
- ☎ Providing rides to services or Temple activities
- ☎ Picking up books from the Temple Library



**We're only  
as far away  
as your phone!**

Linda Berger: 631-1372  
Kathie Kaplan: 984-4496  
Pat Passer: 533-3395  
Rachel Wells: 530-9881

# FEBRUARY 2006 SHEVAT

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<p>WC = Wise Center PST = Plum Street Temple O = Other Location</p> <p>See listing of events for more detailed information</p>			<p><b>1</b></p> <p>9:45—Sisterhood-Board Mtg.(WC) 4:30pm—Midweek Hebrew School(WC) 4:45pm—Adult Hebrew(WC)</p>	<p><b>2</b></p> <p>11:00—Sisterhood-Mah Jongg(WC) 5:30pm—AA Meeting(WC) 5:45pm—Eitz Chayim-Commandedness in a Reform Context(WC)</p>	<p><b>3</b></p> <p>10:00—Storytime(WC) <b>6:15pm—Shabbat Evening Service;</b> New Member Blessing; Kol Rinah(WC) 5:30pm—(e)YGOW Study Kallah(O)</p>	<p><b>4</b></p> <p><b>9:00—Bar Mitzvah of Nathan Spektor(PST)</b> <b>9:30—Shabbat Morning Service(WC)</b> 10:45—Torah Study(WC) <b>11:15—Bat Mitzvah of Janie Silverman(PST)</b></p>
<p><b>5</b></p> <p>9:15—Gesher Grade 5(WC) 10:00—Eitz Chayim-Gefilte Fish(WC) 10:30—Open Room Family Program(WC) 2:00pm—CRJHS(WC) 6:00pm—Singles-Super Bowl Party &amp; Dinner(O)</p>	<p><b>6</b></p>	<p><b>7</b></p> <p>Noon—Tuesdays with Torah- Golda: A Nice Jewish Girl(WC) 5:30pm—AA Meeting(WC)</p>	<p><b>8</b></p> <p>4:30pm—Midweek Hebrew School(WC) 4:45pm—Adult Hebrew(WC) 6:00pm—Sisterhood-Cooking Class(O)</p>	<p><b>9</b></p> <p>11:00—Sisterhood-Mah Jongg(WC) 5:30pm—AA Meeting(WC) 5:45pm—Eitz Chayim-Commandedness in a Reform Context(WC) 6:00pm—Brotherhood Board Mtg.(WC) 7:30pm—Sisterhood- Book Club(WC) WiseUP—Free Store/Food Bank(O)</p>	<p><b>10</b></p> <p><b>6:15pm—Shabbat Evening Service;</b> Grade 2 Participation; Birthday and Anniversary Blessings; Youth Choir &amp; Shir Chadash(WC) 7:15pm—Congreg. Shabbat Dinner 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Trip to Nashville</p>	<p><b>11</b></p> <p><b>9:30—Shabbat Morning Service(WC)</b> 10:45—Torah Study(WC) <b>10:45—Bat Mitzvah of Amanda Young(WC)</b></p>
<p><b>12</b></p> <p>9:15—7<sup>th</sup> Gr. B'nai Mitzvah Class Freedom Center Trip(WC) 9:15—Gesher Gr. 2(WC) 9:30—3<sup>rd</sup> Gr. Tu B'Shevat Seder(WC) 7:00pm—CRJHS(WC)</p>	<p><b>13</b></p> <p>1:00pm—Seniors-Tu B'Shevat Seder &amp; Israeli Dance(WC)</p>	<p><b>14</b></p> <p>Noon—Tuesdays with Torah- Great Jewish Books(WC) 1:00pm—Sisterhood-Bridge(WC) 5:30pm—AA Meeting(WC)</p>	<p><b>15</b></p> <p>1:00pm—Sisterhood-Library Tea(WC) 4:30pm—Midweek Hebrew School(WC) 4:45pm—Adult Hebrew(WC)</p>	<p><b>16</b></p> <p>11:00—Sisterhood-Mah Jongg(WC) 5:30pm—AA Meeting(WC)</p>	<p><b>17</b></p> <p>10:00—Storytime(WC) 5:30pm—(e)YGOW Shabbaton(WC) <b>6:15pm—Shabbat Evening Service(WC)</b></p>	<p><b>18</b></p> <p><b>9:00—Bar Mitzvah of Andrew Sapinsley(WC)</b> <b>9:30—Shabbat Morning Service(WC)</b> 10:45—Torah Study(WC) <b>11:15—Bar Mitzvah of Austin Sirkin(WC)</b></p>
<p><b>19</b></p> <p>NO SCHOOL</p>	<p><b>20</b></p>	<p><b>21</b></p> <p>Noon—Tuesdays with Torah- Great Jewish Books(WC) 5:30pm—AA Meeting(WC) 5:30pm—Shofar Auditions(WC) WiseUP—Kids Café(O)</p>	<p><b>22</b></p> <p>4:30pm—Midweek Hebrew School(WC) 4:45pm—Adult Hebrew(WC)</p>	<p><b>23</b></p> <p>11:00—Sisterhood-Mah Jongg(WC) 5:30pm—AA Meeting(WC) 5:30pm—Shofar Auditions(WC) 7:00pm—Brotherhood-Seder Seminar(WC)</p>	<p><b>24</b></p> <p><b>6:15pm—Shabbat Evening Service(WC)</b> <b>6:30pm—Wise Tykes Service(WC)</b></p>	<p><b>25</b></p> <p><b>9:30—Shabbat Morning Service(WC)</b> 10:45—Torah Study(WC) <b>10:45—Bar Mitzvah of Andrew Katz(PST)</b> 6:00pm—NOAR-Sports Plus(O)</p>
<p><b>26</b></p> <p>9:15—1<sup>st</sup> Gr. Family Program(WC) 9:15—Gesher Grs. 4 &amp; 6(WC) 10:00—Eitz Chayim-Jewish Mysticism(WC) 7:00pm—CRJHS(WC)</p>	<p><b>27</b></p>	<p><b>28</b></p> <p>Noon—Tuesdays with Torah- Great Jewish Books(WC) 1:00pm—Sisterhood-Bridge(WC) 5:30pm—AA Meeting(WC)</p>				

## PROGRAMMING NEWS

### Cooking Class

Please join us on Wednesday, February 8 at 6:00 p.m. for a wonderful evening with Master Chef John Kinsella at the Midwest Culinary Institute, Cincinnati State Technical and Community College. We will begin with Master Chef Kinsella demonstrating the preparation of an Italian themed dinner. Then we will enjoy dinner along with wine pairings, under the guidance of a master sommelier. Cost is \$75 per person. Please RSVP using the invitation you received in the mail. *For more information, contact Patti Heldman at 631-5525 or Tina Straubing at 791-8568.*

### Book Club

The Sisterhood Book Club will meet on Thursday, February 9 at 7:30 p.m. at Wise Center. The featured book is *The Covenant* by Naomi Ragen. Discussion will be led by Pat Silver. *For more information please contact Eve Appleton at 321-0427 or Dian Deutsch at 891-3666.*

### Library Tea

The Annual Sisterhood Library Tea will take place Wednesday, February 15, at 1:00 p.m. at Wise Center. Andrea Rapp will speak on the topic of, "What Are Your Children Learning about Israel and the Middle East in Their Schools?" *For more information, please contact Sylvia Levine at 984-2681 or Jori Roth at 793-5444.*

## CONGREGATIONAL PURIM DINNER

Please join our Purim celebration on Monday, March 13 at Wise Center. The festivities include dinner at 6:00 p.m. followed by the megillah reading at 7:00 p.m. All are encouraged to come in costume. Please RSVP by using the invitation you received in the mail. *For more information call Beth Hertzman at 271-4452 or Wendy Pelberg at 791-8838.*

## COMMUNITY SERVICE

### South Avondale School

The Wise Temple Sisterhood South Avondale Room Mother's program will be hosting a Valentine's Day Party at the elementary school. No experience is needed to

volunteer, just enthusiasm and willingness to provide school children with treats, games, and fun. The hour-long parties are a very rewarding experience. *For more information, please contact Barbara Levy Wall at 891-6152.*

### Speaking of Women's Health

"Speaking of Women's Health" is a national, non-profit organization that educates women to make informed choices about their health, well-being, and personal safety. This Sisterhood-sponsored WiseUP project, open to all women in the congregation, is scheduled for March 2 at the Northern Kentucky Convention Center. Volunteers are needed as registrars, guides, breakout session monitors and to help with set up. There are two shifts: 7:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. and 12:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. You will receive lunch and be able to participate in some of the conference sessions while you're there. Past volunteers have said their experience was very rewarding. *If you would like to volunteer or need more details, contact Nancy Apfel at njapfel@fuse.net or 793-9659 OR Adrienne Cooper at Acooper039@fuse.net or 542-0055.*

## WISE MAILERS

Volunteers are needed to help assemble mailings and announcements sent to Temple members. This group meets at 9:00 a.m. one Wednesday each month for work and fun. Upcoming dates are February 22, March 22, April 26, and May 24. *Please contact Pam Meyer for more information, 984-6633.*

## FLEA MARKET

Don't just think of the Flea Market to donate items. Also think of us if you're shopping for a first home or college apartment. We continue to need donations of furniture, costume jewelry, bedding, table linens, working small appliances, vans, cars and boats! (No clothing, books or toys please) 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 or for more information about purchasing from the Flea Market.*

## NOMINATING COMMITTEE

The Nominating Committee of the Wise Temple Sisterhood is in the process of preparing a slate of nominations for Board of Directors positions for 2006-2007. Sisterhood members who would be interested in serving on the Board or who would like to submit the name of a member to be considered for nomination are encouraged to contact Valerie Friedman by calling 489-0168 or writing to 8581 Chaucer Pl., Cincinnati, OH 45249 or email [vfriedman117@aol.com](mailto:vfriedman117@aol.com). In accordance with our Constitution, "further nominations may be made within five (5) days after the report has been made to the general meeting, (the Library Tea), on February 15, 2006 upon request signed by seven (7) Sisterhood members in good standing and the written consent of the nominee. The names reported by the nominating committee and any names that have been added shall constitute the official ticket."

## Traditions & Treasures Gift Shop

**We have a great  
selection of gifts for  
every occasion.**

### Gift Shop Hours (and by appt.)

Tuesday	9:30-1:30
Wednesday	2:30-5:45
Thursday	9:30-1:30
Sunday	9:15-11:45

*If you are interested in joining our gift shop team, please contact Margie Meyer at 984-2345.*

## 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.



# Think Summer!

## Think Wise Center Day Camp!



**A**s winter draws to a close it is time to consider summer camp. Plans are already well underway for Wise Center Day Camp which will begin on June 19 and ends on July 28.

"Enrollment continues to be strong," commented Renee Frankel, Director of the camp for the 19<sup>th</sup> year. "After last year's enrollment of nearly 200 kids, we continue to see tremendous interest for our half day program for 3 and 4 year olds and our full day program for 4 year olds through 4<sup>th</sup> grade," continued Frankel.

Andy Berger, President of the Temple, commented on how fortunate the Temple has been to have the stability of Renee's leadership. "Renee has really developed a total camp program that builds upon the children's interests and needs. Each year we are able to retain the

best of the previous year but continue to add exciting new programming. This continuity is further enhanced by the return of our assistant directors Susan Shokler and Felice Fishman."

The Wise Center Day Camp provides an opportunity for children to develop a positive self image and experience the joy of success. The camp creates an atmosphere which nurtures positive interaction and creative growth through a well-balanced schedule of activities including arts and crafts, music, hiking, cookouts, swimming, puppetry, archery, theatre and golf to name just a few. Half day and full day campers also participate in weekly Shabbat celebration.

The camp features fifteen acres of magnificent nature trails, a playground, picnic tables, a canopied outdoor area, an athletic field and an outdoor cooking area.

The facility is also able to offer the convenience of the fully air conditioned Wise Center building for indoor activities and

programs. This allows the camp program to continue fully during inclement weather. Senior Rabbi Lewis Kamrass commented that "with our marvelous indoor facility and our extraordinary wooded site, we can provide the best of indoor programs and outdoor camping in a manner unparalleled in day camping programs. Along with the nurturing quality of our staff, Wise Center Day Camp has been a great success for children of our community. We at Wise Temple are proud of what we can offer to the Jewish community."

Following the success of previous years Wise Center Day Camp will continue to offer the exciting HIT program (Helpers in Training) for boys and girls who will enter the 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grades in the fall of 2006 and for seventh graders new to the camp. This program allows for older campers to get a taste of some responsibilities while being in a fully supervised and fun camping program.

*To receive more information and a brochure about the camp, please contact the Temple at 793-2556 or email [daycamp@wisetemple.org](mailto:daycamp@wisetemple.org).*



## Ensuring a Healthy Future

**T**he Fair Share dues plan is one that allows each family to self-assess their dues, based upon their circumstances and suggested guidelines for giving. While many congregations have abandoned this system, Wise Temple has chosen to retain it, believing that it best reflects our values. Each household recently received fair share forms, asking you to reassess your contributions for the fiscal year beginning June 1, 2006.

The income from Fair Share contributions goes toward meeting the annual operating costs of the Temple. Your commitment each year at this time is what sustains us in the present and enables us to meet the

Jewish needs that nourish you, your family, and all members of the congregation. As in all of our households, the Temple's operating needs are ongoing ones that, in spite of wonderful management, escalate over time. As you complete your Fair Share forms, please review them carefully and fill them out with a true awareness of what Wise Temple means to our community and to you. Your generous response will ensure that the funds are available for Wise Temple to continue to thrive.

If you have any questions about Fair Share, please call Temple Administrator, Betti Greenstein, at 793-2556.

## A Behind the Scenes Look at Plum Street Temple

**Sunday, March 5**  
**at Wise Center in Amberley**  
**10:00 – 11:30 a.m**  
**No registration necessary**

In 1993 Plum Street Temple was a very tired and potentially hazardous building. Tom Keller, the architect hired to study the building, emphasized that closing the Temple for renovation and repairs was an urgent priority. Following this study, the Temple was closed for major renovations and repair. This talk, with Stan Better, official representative for the Board of Trustees, and Tom Keller, the renovation architect for Plum Street Temple, will focus on the renovations which took place in 1994-95, and also give a little bit of the history of Plum Street Temple and its architecture. Get a truly behind the scenes look at our historic sanctuary!

## 2005-2006 BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Andrew R. Berger, President  
Dr. Mitchell Cohen, Vice-President  
Margie Meyer, Vice-President  
Carol Kabel, Secretary  
Mark Kanter, Treasurer  
Geri Kolesar, Asst. Secretary  
Deborah R. Herman, Immed. Past President

Bruce Baker  
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Dr. Amy Katz  
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Howard Mintz  
Matthew Nitzberg  
Sue Ransohoff  
Dr. Jay Rissover  
Karen Tochtermann  
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Lewis H. Kamrass, Senior Rabbi  
Ilana G. Baden, Associate Rabbi  
Michael S. Shulman, Assistant Rabbi  
Betti R. Greenstein, Administrator  
Barbara Dragul, Director of Education and Lifelong Learning  
Susan G. Kulick, Director of Development

## JEWISH MYSTICISM


continued from page 3

living room, pursuing peace must be an active, consistent process.

So important did our rabbis deem peace in the home that it was said, "better a morsel of dry bread, with peace, than a house full of feasting, with strife." (Proverbs 17:1) But no one ever said it was an easy thing to achieve. What qualities do we seek as *rodefay shalom*? Many of the values we focus on as a congregation are a part of the whole picture of *shalom bayit*. Consider these: *shmiat haozen* (being a good listener), *dan l'chaf zechut* (giving the benefit of the doubt), *rachamim* (compassion), *nedivut* (generosity), *anavah* (humility), and *derech erez* (good manners). We aren't alone in our efforts. We are reminded, each time we worship, that God, who is known as *Oseh Shalom*, Maker of Peace, is there to guide us as we pursue *shalom bayit*. In each service we recite, "May the Maker of peace, who makes peace in the high places, make peace among us and among all Israel." Among us, it says, in the connections between people.

Our pursuit of *shalom bayit* must be grounded in love, a love that deepens our relationships and makes possible that sense of wholeness. A Hasidic tale teaches us this lesson beautifully. A father once came to the Baal Shem Tov with a problem concerning his son. He complained that the son was forsaking Judaism and morality and asked the rabbi what he could do. The Baal Shem Tov answered: "Love him more."

If you were to create a recipe for *shalom bayit*, what would the ingredients be? Of which ingredients would you need the greatest quantities? Of which ingredients would you need the smallest quantities? What ingredients would you be sure to leave out of your recipe for *shalom bayit*?

Pursuing peace and maintaining peace are lofty aims in Jewish life. We are urged to work for peace in the community and in the world. Ideal peace may be the workings of God from the High Places (*bimromav*), but practically speaking, the real work of Shalom on earth begins in our most immediate and intimate surroundings – with *shalom bayit*. (Excerpted from *Teaching Jewish Virtues* by Susan Freeman) 

## Wise Temple Annual Purim Carnival Sunday, March 12

(after Religious School)

Join us for a day of  
Games, Food, Fun, Prizes!  
A raffle with exciting gifts!

To purchase tickets in advance, just clip the coupon below. You don't need to be present to win. We'll deliver game tickets to classrooms on March 12.



☐ Yes, I would like to purchase tickets for the Wise Temple Purim Carnival, Sunday, March 12. Enclosed is my check payable to the Wise Temple Youth Group.

\_\_\_\_\_ Raffle tickets @ \$1.00 each  
(number)

\_\_\_\_\_ Game tickets @ 4 for \$1.00  
(number)

\_\_\_\_\_ Meal tickets @ \$3.50 each  
(number)

**TOTAL ENCLOSED**

\$ \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Child's Name \_\_\_\_\_

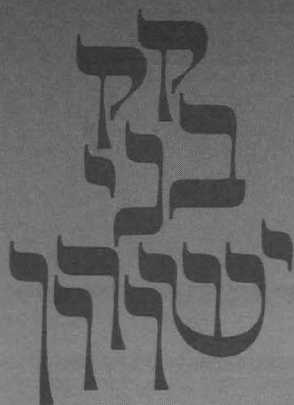
Religious School teacher: \_\_\_\_\_

**Mail to:**

**WISE TEMPLE YOUTH GROUP**  
8329 Ridge Road  
Cincinnati, OH 45236



If you are interested in donating a prize for the raffle, please contact Alex Cramer at 794-0742.



Lewis H. Kamrass, Senior Rabbi

Ilana G. Baden, Associate Rabbi

Michael S. Shulman, Assistant Rabbi

Albert A. Goldman, Rabbi Emeritus

Betti R. Greenstein, Temple Administrator

Barbara L. Dragul, Director of Education and Lifelong Learning

Susan G. Kulick, Esq., Director of Development

Stacey Delcau, Assistant Director of Education and Youth Programs

Renee Frankel, Day Camp Director

#### Temple President

Andrew R. Berger

#### Auxiliary Presidents

Brotherhood: Billy Bie

Sisterhood: Robin Newland

Sr. Youth Group: Joshua Clayton

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](http://www.wisetemple.org)

E-mail: [welcome@wisetemple.org](mailto:welcome@wisetemple.org)

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## CONGREGATIONAL CONNECTION

### MAZAL TOV

*The Temple offers congratulations to the following families:*

#### B'nai Mitzvah

February 4 – Bar Mitzvah of Nathan Spektor, son of Yefim and Irene Spektor.

February 4 – Bat Mitzvah of Janie Silverman, daughter of Dr. Marc and Julie Silverman.

February 11 – Bat Mitzvah of Amanda Young, daughter of Gregory and Michele Young.

February 18 – Bar Mitzvah of Andrew Sapinsley, son of Tom Sapinsley and Deni Tato.

February 18 – Bar Mitzvah of Austin Sirkin, son of Dr. Marc and Wendy Sirkin. Grandson of Arthur and Sonnie Sirkin.

February 25 – Bar Mitzvah of Andrew Katz, son of B. Scott and Laurie Katz.

#### Engagement

Deborah Ullner on the recent engagement of her son, Jason Ullner to Danielle Blumberg.

#### Births

Stefan and Melissa Hunter and Larry and Iris Werthaiser on the recent birth of their daughter and granddaughter, Rebecca Chase Hunter.


Dr. Marvin and Myra Pravda and Samuel Harris on the recent birth of their granddaughter and great-granddaughter, Isabel Corine Pravda.

### THE HEROES AMONG US

*continued from cover*

- While usually not prone to name-calling, Rabbi Yoffie does have a name for our non-Jewish spouses and partners who assist (or in many cases take the lead) in raising Jewish children. "Heroes of Jewish Life," he called them, and rightfully so. As a congregation, as families, as friends, we should be truly grateful for everything they do. And we should express that gratitude openly, not just once but on a regular basis, formally and informally.

Many in our congregation know what it is for a non-Jewish partner to consider and undertake a deep involvement in Jewish life, and even conversion. We should turn to such people in our Temple family, and certainly in our own families, and give them a heart-felt "Thank you." We are truly grateful to them, for attending services and reciting and singing the Hebrew prayers and songs; for singing the Shabbat blessings at home on Friday night; for making latkes, hamantashen, and brisket; for schlepping children to Hebrew school and Sunday School, and for attending Gesher with them; for encouraging them to go to Jewish summer camp and Israel; for encouraging us in every step of our journey as Jews; and for being involved in the Temple in their own right.

To all of our Heroes, please know that you have the profound gratitude of your Temple family. You are an inspiration to us all. 



#### K.K. B'NAI YESHURUN

Isaac M. Wise Temple  
8329 Ridge Road  
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