

Four #1 Priorities

BY AMY KATZ, TEMPLE PRESIDENT

I hope that you and your families have enjoyed a wonderful holiday season and that 2012 brings you fulfillment and joy.

And, of course I hope that your membership at Wise Temple inspires you to participate fully in the life of the congregation.

When Rabbi Kamrass first spoke with me about becoming President, we discussed the importance of finding a focus and sticking to it. That has proven far more difficult than it sounds! At the risk of sounding either indecisive or overly ambitious, I'd like to share with you four key priorities that the Temple Board of Trustees, rabbis, and staff will address over the next few years.

First, an expanded Membership Committee will place a strong emphasis on engaging you and all of our members in our mission of worship, learning, and social action. To do that, we will be looking for ways to match your unique interests and talents with Temple activities that you find meaningful and gratifying. The Committee will also work on attracting new members by experimenting with social media, sharing the stories that have shaped our congregation, and reaching out to those in the Jewish community who are new to town or do not belong to a congregation. Viewed this way, we ALL belong to, and are part of, the Membership Committee.

Second, it is time to examine our policies and practices regarding membership dues so that they are fair and equitable, while meet-


ing the projected financial needs of the Temple. A task force of current and former Board members, taking a long range view, will evaluate our approach to dues and develop guidelines to allow you to make informed choices easily and comfortably.

A third priority is to develop a plan for the Renee and Rabbi Lewis Kamrass Social Action Fund, created two years ago, with your support. The intent is to embark upon a multi-year project that has the potential to involve all of our congregants working together. Currently we are considering a focus on a local community or group that could use our talents and resources, and share theirs as well. The

approach will be based on assets and talents, rather than on deficits and needs. The partnership we create will build both our communities while encouraging mutual learning and growth. As this project evolves, we will provide you with more specific information about how you can participate.

Fourth, we need to understand, contribute to, and learn from local and national

trends within Reform Judaism. The Reform Movement has been convening people from congregations across the country in "Think Tank" sessions. They are compiling information about trends in a variety of areas: temple affiliation, engaging youth and young adults, enhancing the experience of worship, and exploring innovations in learning for both Jewish children and adults. This information, along with what Board, Brotherhood, and Sisterhood members learned at the Union of Reform Judaism's Biennial meeting in December, will hopefully serve as a catalyst for meaningful dialogue. If you would like to participate in these conversations, please email me at ajkatz@fuse.net.

A recent article in *The New York Times* described volunteers as people who are paid not with money, but with "a sense of reward and a sense of having made a difference." As members of our congregation, the opportunities for personal rewards are great. I have no doubt that through your participation, you will also make a difference in our congregation, in our community, and potentially in the future of Reform Judaism. 



Board of Trustees and Senior Staff 2011-2012

Shabbat Services

Shabbat Evening Services 6:15 PM at Wise Center

Friday, January 6

Friday, January 13

Friday, January 20 with Birthday and Anniversary Blessings and Kol Rinah

Friday, January 27 with 3rd Grade Participation and Shir Chadash

YoFI Shabbat (for ages 1 – 6)

6:15 PM at Wise Center

Friday, January 20

Shabbat Morning Services

9:30 AM at Wise Center

10:45 AM Torah Study

Saturdays, January 7, 14, 21, and 28

Ralph & Julia Cohen Library Hours

Monday: 1:00 – 7:00 PM
Tuesday: 9:00 AM – 3:00 PM
Wednesday: 12:00 – 6:00 PM
Thursday: 9:00 AM – 1:00 PM
Sunday: 8:30 AM – 12:00 PM
(when religious school is in session)

Traditions and Treasures Gift Shop

Tuesday and Thursday:
9:30 AM – 1:30 PM
Wednesday:
2:30 – 5:45 PM
(when religious school is in session)
Sunday:
9:15 – 11:45 AM
(when religious school is in session)

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

B'nai Mitzvah



January 21, 10:45 AM
at Plum Street Temple

Bar Mitzvah of **Daniel Markiewitz**, son of Peggy and Dr. Andy Markiewitz.



January 28, 10:45 AM
at Plum Street Temple

B'not Mitzvah of **Annie and Ellen Boster**, daughters of Mary and Scott Boster.

Mazel Tov...

The Temple offers congratulations to the following families:

Shirley and Herbert Behr on the Bar Mitzvah of their grandson, Alexander Isaac Falender.

Hindi and Dr. Stewart Friedman on the birth of their twin grandsons and **Lorrie Friedman** on the birth of her twin great-grandsons, Nathan Bernard Friedman and Asher Samuel Friedman.

Nancy and Gary Grossman on the marriage of their daughter, Jennifer Grossman to Curtis Jones.

Susan and Rod Kaplan on the engagement of their son and **Calvin Kaplan** on the engagement of his grandson, David Kaplan to Allison Nawoj.

Linda and Dr. Jim Kreindler on the birth of their granddaughter and **Debbe and Albert Lane** on the birth of their great-granddaughter, Noa Claire Bernstein.

Debbe and Albert Lane on the birth of their great-grandson, Bordy Nolan Pearlman.

Beth and Dr. Richard Levy on the birth of their grandson, Cameron Dylan Parisher.

Susannah West and David Powell on the birth of their twin grandsons, Rory James and Parker Wallace Curtin.

Condolences To...

Leslie Brenner on the death of her husband, Gary J. Brenner.

Family of **Helen Clayton**.

Family of **Maybelle Fleischman**.

Martha and Herman Geller on the death of her sister, Margaret Bachrach Pockross.

Nancy and Ron Kabakoff on the death of his mother, Sylvia Kabakoff.

Calvin Kaplan on the death of his brother and **Joyce Elkus** on the death of her loving companion, Stanley Kaplan.

Esther Lipson on the death of her husband, **Linda Lipson**, **Susan and Steve Lipson**, and **Ellen and Rick Lipson** on the death of their father, and **Rachel and Debra Lipson** on the death of their grandfather, Sam Lipson.

Karen Litz on the death of her mother, Sara Lee Goldstein.

Shirley Neiger on the death of her husband, James Neiger.

Jorian and Neil Roth on the death of her mother and **David and Marisa Roth** on the death of their grandmother, Helen Volz.

Frances Friedman Schloss on the death of her step-son and **Kathy and Dr. Louis Claybon and Meredith and Jim Friedman** on the death of their step-brother, Bert James Schloss, M.D.

Sam Skurow on the death of his brother, Max Skurow.

Family of **Rosalind Sommer**.

Barbara and John Wells on the death of her father and **Trisha and Jason Wells** on the death of their grandfather, Alexander Schlossberg.

D'VARIM MIN HALEV- דְּבָרִים מִן הַלֵּב

"Words from the Heart"

BY RABBI LEWIS KAMRASS

As you may know, in October, Renee and I decided to live on food stamps for a week, or at least their equivalent of approximately \$4.50 a day per person for all of our food.

It was a real challenge both in planning and in the discipline of what we could and could not eat for the week. There were many things we could not afford to eat, such as fresh fruits or vegetables, and very little that was healthy. But more than what we ate is what we learned.

We undertook this challenge because poverty and hunger have been passionate issues of mine for many years. It is in part why I have urged our congregation to be so involved in the soup kitchens and homeless shelter that we house. But beyond my personal passion or concern, I am increasingly disturbed over the growing numbers and the corrosive nature of food insecurity and hunger that plague our society, the richest nation in the world. Did you know that:

- One in four American children (25%) live in poverty.
- 49 million Americans live in food insecure households.
- In the last three years, almost one-third of Americans have experienced poverty.
- Cincinnati has the third highest percentage of children in the nation living at or below the poverty level – 48.5% of our children.

What does this portrait of our nation and of our community illustrate of our values? That is the disturbing question with which we should be challenged and even embarrassed and shocked. But more than what it causes us to feel, what does it urge us to do?

So beyond the issues and the statistics, I

wanted to experience a glimpse of the burdens and limitations of food insecurity. Walking in the shoes of too many of our fellow citizens was an eye opening realization for me in many ways.

First, I learned how limiting it is to be excluded from so much. Most of the grocery store was essentially not accessible to me. I can imagine that over time, all those aisles of fresh produce, meat, and prepared food must taunt those who cannot shop in those aisles, a constant reminder of what they cannot eat or enjoy. Second, I learned that convenience and spontaneity are casualties of poverty as well; there were no options of going out, or bringing home take-out food – not at only \$1.50 per meal as one's budget. Third, I learned of the social isolation of poverty. Not able to afford eating out, it became impossible to join a friend for a meal. Food is a social enterprise, but when you cannot afford that, then poverty not only is limiting to the budget or to variety, but also a great limit to social interactions.

Our tradition teaches us that it is our responsibility to open our hand to the poor and the needy in your land (*Deuteronomy 15:11*). I believe that in our land, a rich land in which poverty is growing every day, we could all learn to open our hand a little more, and to open our eyes to the ravages of poverty, and to the responsibility that we each hold to end its corrosive power. I urge you to contribute to organizations that fight poverty, including our own congregation's Hunger Task Force Fund for the operation of our Soup Kitchen and our Homeless Shelter for Families. That fund has been unable to keep up with the growing need. I urge you to contact your representatives and senators and ask what they are doing to insure a safety net such as Food Stamps for the neediest among us. And most of all, I



urge you to open your eyes to the problems and to the need. For when we open our eyes to see what is in our midst, then we will surely open our hearts, and our hands, so that we may one day be able to feed all those in need. Then truly we will be the richest nation on earth, rich with a sense of fulfillment, and nourished by our deepest values.

Faithfully,

חֶרֶב לֵב בֶּן דָּוִד וְחֵנָּה לֵאמֹר


Rabbi Lewis Kamrass

Enriching My Life with Kol Rinah

BY DR. JAY RISSOVER

Singing with Kol Rinah is one of the most profound things I do at Wise Temple.

Kol Rinah is our Wise Temple choir, heard so often at services. Kol Rinah is indeed a unique opportunity in Temple life, a chance to participate in services and in Jewish life. Nowhere else in our beloved Temple can one sing and have fun, yet still learn about prayers and liturgy. The thrill that comes from creating a beautiful piece of music is a joy that never fades. But even more profound is the experience of singing with the congregation in a service. You will never think of services the same after you have sung with Kol Rinah at Shabbat.

Come find out for yourself. Visit Kol Rinah during one of our Thursday rehearsals, meet us, and try a song. We are always looking for new voices and there is strength and beauty in numbers. You probably even know several of our standards. Contact Cantor Cannizzaro at dcannizzaro@wisetemple.org for our next 7:30 PM rehearsal date, and find out for yourself. 

Sisterhood Notes

Tech and Tea

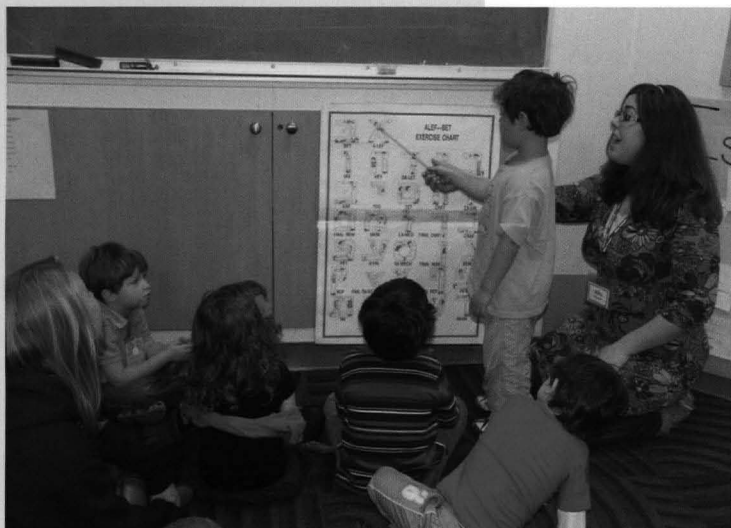
Sisterhood is excited to present "Tech and Tea" on Wednesday, February 8. The "Tech" part of the day will begin with a 90-minute interactive presentation called "Passing on Wisdom in the Digital Age: A Primer on Connecting with Facebook."

The program will be presented by Michelle Beckham-Corbin, owner of C3: Creating Connections Consulting. Participants are encouraged to bring their iPads or laptops to follow along with Facebook demonstrations. Light refreshments will be served.

The day continues at our annual Library "Tea" with guest speaker Victoria Morgan, Artistic Director and CEO of the Cincinnati Ballet. Enjoy tea and light refreshments at this beloved Sisterhood tradition.

Join us at 11:00 AM for "Tech" and at 1:00 PM for "Tea." For more information contact Amanda Rosenberg at acrosenberg@cinci.rr.com.

"Ultimately, those of us involved in Jewish education and lifelong learning want each of us to 'own' our Judaism."



Hineni

BY BARBARA DRAGUL

One of the things I've learned over the years is that salesmen often make very good Religious School teachers.

They have many of the qualities needed to succeed in a classroom. They handle rejection well (and older kids especially can be hard to win over). They tend to have charisma or charm and they don't mind talking (and talking) if the kids are hesitant to join the discussion. The most obvious strength they have – they are very good at selling. So what, you might ask, are we selling in Religious School? We are selling not just Jewish ideas and information, but a lens through which to understand the world and a way of living life meaningfully and ethically. We are selling a community that pivots around a shared set of values, and follows a weekly, yearly, and life cycle rhythm which is grounded in both tradition and wisdom. And much like a salesman, we are selling something we want you to take home. For ultimately, if we've made a successful sale,



you will be happy with your purchase, you will understand how to use it, or construct it, and if you need help you know where to find the instruction book or who to ask.

Ultimately, those of us involved in Jewish education and lifelong learning want each of us to "own" our Judaism. Ownership implies

both responsibility and engagement. It reflects belonging and connection. It joins us with other "owners." The beauty of this endeavor is that there are a myriad of ways to "own" our Judaism. But the first step, always, is showing up!

At the mountain of Horeb, Moses, "gazed and there was a bush all aflame, yet the bush was not consumed. Moses said, 'I must turn aside to look at this marvelous sight....' When the Eternal saw that he had turned aside to look, God called to him out of the bush, 'Moses, Moses!' He answered, 'Hineini (Here I am).'" *Exodus 3:1-4*

Hineni means, "Here I am." I am here fully. I have answered a sacred call. I am showing up. As a Jewish educator I hear the answer of *Hineni* often. I hear *Hineni* when:

- parents commit their child to a life of *Torah*, loving relationships and good deeds at a *Brit Milah* or baby naming.
- a congregant feeds the homeless or welcomes a new member.
- a thirteen year old stands on the *bimah* chanting words of *Torah*, proclaiming I am ready to take on the responsibilities of Jewish adulthood.
- mourners rise to say *kaddish* for a loved one.
- a family gathers to sing Shabbat blessings.
- a teacher shares words of *Torah* or listens eagerly to a child's insight.
- adults continue to learn and question and fashion a meaningful Jewish life for themselves.

Each time we say *Hineni* we take ownership for our Jewish lives, and we link ourselves to a past, present, and future community of Jews. Each time we say *Hineni* we answer the sacred calling of Judaism; to live engaged ethical lives of meaning, caring, and learning. We educators may be like salesmen, but here's what I love – unlike all other sales, our product will last a lifetime and has an eternal warranty!

SUNDAY

MONDAY



TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

SATURDAY

1 New Year's Day No Religious School No Kulanu	2 New Year's Day Observed Office Closed	3 5:30 PM-AA Meeting	4 No Midweek Hebrew School 9:45 AM-Sisterhood Board Meeting	5 11:00 AM-Sisterhood Mah Jongg 5:30 PM-AA Meeting 6:30 PM-Sisterhood Evening Mah Jongg 7:30 PM-Kol Rinah Rehearsal	6 6:15 PM-Shabbat Evening Service	7 9:30 AM-Shabbat Morning Service 10:45 AM-Torah Study 3:00 PM-YoFI Inflatables Party (O)
8 9:30 AM-Grade 5 Geshet 10:00 AM-Sunday Series: Living Ethics: An Investigation of Reform <i>Halachah</i> , Jewish Law 12:00 PM-Grade 3 After School Program 7:00 PM-Kulanu	9	10 12:00 PM-Tuesdays with Torah: Jewish Photographers and Photography 1:30 PM-Seniors: Your Questions...My Answers 5:30 PM-AA Meeting	11 4:30 PM-Midweek Hebrew School	12 11:00 AM-Sisterhood Mah Jongg 11:30 AM-Sisterhood <i>Mikveh</i> Program (O) 12:00 PM-Downtown Lunch and Learn: Living Ethics: An Investigation of Reform <i>Halachah</i> , Jewish Law (O) 3:30 PM-Caregivers Support Group 5:30 PM-AA Meeting 6:00 PM-Brotherhood Board Meeting 6:30 PM-Sisterhood Evening Mah Jongg 7:30 PM-Kol Rinah Rehearsal	13 6:15 PM-Shabbat Evening Service	14 9:30 AM-Shabbat Morning Service 10:45 AM-Torah Study
15 9:00 AM-WiseUP: Bethany House (O) 9:15 AM-Grade 8 Family Program 9:30 AM-Grade 4 Geshet	16 Martin Luther King Day Office Closed 7th Grade B'nai Mitzvah Class at Freedom Center (O)	17 12:00 PM-Tuesdays with Torah: Jewish Photographers and Photography 5:30 PM-AA Meeting 	18 4:30 PM-Midweek Hebrew School	19 11:00 AM-Sisterhood Mah Jongg 5:30 PM-AA Meeting 6:30 PM-Sisterhood Evening Mah Jongg 7:30 PM-Kol Rinah Rehearsal	20 6:15 PM-Shabbat Evening Service/Birthday and Anniversary Blessings/Kol Rinah 6:15 PM-YoFI Shabbat Service	21 9:30 AM-Shabbat Morning Service 10:45 AM-Bar Mitzvah of Daniel Markiewitz (PST) 10:45 AM-Torah Study 1:00 PM-WiseUP: Freestore Foodbank (O) 5:00 PM-Grade 5 Retreat 5:00 PM-(e)YGOW Ice Skating/Havdallah/Movie (O)
22 9:15 AM-Grade 6 Family Program 12:00 PM-Grade 4 After School Program 7:00 PM-Kulanu 	23	24 12:00 PM-Tuesdays with Torah: Jewish Humor 5:30 PM-AA Meeting 8:00 PM-92nd Street Y: Walter Isaacson on Steve Jobs	25 4:30 PM-Midweek Hebrew School	26 11:00 AM-Sisterhood Mah Jongg 5:30 PM-AA Meeting 6:30 PM-Sisterhood Evening Mah Jongg	27 6:15 PM-Shabbat Evening Service/Grade 3 Participation/Shir Chadash 7:15 PM-Grade 3 Shabbat Dinner	28 9:30 AM-Shabbat Morning Service 10:45 AM-B'nai Mitzvah of Anne and Ellen Boster (PST) 10:45 AM-Torah Study
29 9:15 AM-Religious School 12:15 PM-Brotherhood Chicken Soup Cook-Off VIII 7:00 PM-Kulanu	30	31 12:00 PM-Tuesdays with Torah: Jewish Humor 5:30 PM-AA Meeting	All events at Wise Center unless otherwise indicated. PST = Plum Street Temple O = Other Location			For more information: See Listing of Events on page 6. Call the Temple at 793-2556. Visit www.wisetemple.org .



Brotherhood

Unless otherwise indicated, for more information contact Andy Markiewitz at 794-9998 or bloxiblues@aol.com.

Brotherhood Monthly Meeting
Thursday, January 12 at 6:00 PM

Brotherhood Chicken Soup Cook-Off VIII
Sunday, January 29
12:15 – 2:15 PM
See page 8 for details.



Eitz Chayim Continuing Adult Education

Register online at www.wisetemple.org/eitzchayimregistration or contact Hillary Phillips at 793-2556, ext. 5115 or hphillips@wisetemple.org. Find full class descriptions in your Program Guide or at www.wisetemple.org/eitzchayim.

Sunday Series: Living Ethics: An Investigation of Reform Halachah, Jewish Law
Sunday, January 8 at 10:00 AM

OR

Downtown Lunch and Learn
Thursday, January 12 at Noon
Location provided upon registration

This session will use one case, "How can we deal with nuclear war from within the Jewish tradition?" to illustrate the difference between responsa and general ethical questions. While Jews turn to their tradition and their leadership for guidance in all areas of life, responsa are specifically designed to answer legal queries.

92nd Street Y:
Walter Isaacson on Steve Jobs
Tuesday, January 24 at 8:00 PM
Doors open at 7:30 PM
\$5.00 at the door

Walter Isaacson, author of a new biography of Steve Jobs, discusses the significance of Jobs's contributions to the business world and explains his drive as it revolutionized six industries: personal computers, animated movies, music, phones, tablet computing, and digital publishing.

Tuesdays with Torah

Jewish Photographers and Photography
Tuesdays, January 10 and 17 at Noon

How does Judaism influence the way we see the world through the lens of our cameras? Rabbi Shulman will explore the works of famous Jewish photographers of the last century. What makes their work Jewish? What can make the photographs we snap Jewish as well?

Jewish Humor
Tuesdays, January 24, 31, and February 7 at Noon

There is humor, and then there is Jewish humor. No one can deny the heavy influence of Jewish and Yiddish sensibilities in the world of humor. These sessions with Rabbi Baden will investigate a variety of media and will look at some of the more famous Jewish comedians in order to discern what it is that makes Jewish humor unique.



Religious School

Unless otherwise indicated, contact Terri Snavely at 793-2997 or tsnavely@wisetemple.org.

Sunday, January 8
Grade 5 Geshet at 9:30 AM
Kulanu at 7:00 PM

Wednesday, January 11
Midweek Hebrew School at 4:30 PM

Sunday, January 15
Grade 8 Family Program at 9:15 AM
Grade 4 Geshet at 9:30 AM

Monday, January 16
7th Grade B'nai Mitzvah Class
at Freedom Center

Wednesday, January 18
Midweek Hebrew School at 4:30 PM

Saturday, January 21
5th Grade Retreat at Wise Center
at 5:00 PM

Sunday, January 22
Grade 6 Family Program at 9:15 AM
Kulanu at 7:00 PM

Wednesday, January 25
Midweek Hebrew School at 4:30 PM

Sunday, January 29
Religious School at 9:15 AM
Kulanu at 7:00 PM

No School
Sunday, January 1
Wednesday, January 4

No Kulanu
Sundays, January 1 and 15



Seniors

Your Questions...My Answers, by Jackie Demaline

Tuesday, January 10 at 1:30 PM
Theater and arts reporter Jackie Demaline has been with *The Cincinnati Enquirer* since 1994. She is an expert on the arts in our community, and this is your chance to gain further insight and appreciation of this fascinating subject. RSVP to Sue Ransohoff at 221-3720 or sueransohoff@cinci.rr.com.



Sisterhood

Sisterhood Board Meetings
Wednesdays, January 4 and February 1 at 9:45 AM
For more information, contact Ann Margolis at 794-0094 or ann.margolis@yahoo.com.

Sisterhood Mah Jongg
Thursdays, January 5, 12, 19, and 26 at 11:00 AM
For more information or to RSVP, contact Sherri Tieger at 821-8881 or stt105@fuse.net.

Sisterhood Evening Mah Jongg
Thursdays, January 5, 12, 19, and 26 at 6:30 PM
For more information or to RSVP, contact Amanda Rosenberg at 549-7673 or Amanda@rosenbergmail.com.

Sisterhood Mikveh Program

Thursday, January 12 at the Cincinnati Mikveh at 11:30 AM

For more information or to RSVP, contact Marcy Kanter at 774-7373 or mbkanter@aol.com



WiseUP

Social Action Program

Register online at www.wisetemple.org/wisepupregistration or email wisepup@wisetemple.org

Bethany House

Sunday, January 15 at Bethany House 9:00 – 11:30 AM

Volunteer to prepare and host brunch for women and children at the emergency shelter. After brunch, enjoy arts & crafts and fun activities with the children.

Ages: 9+, ages 9 – 16 must be accompanied by an adult.

Project Leader: Tricia Gold

Freestore Foodbank

Saturday, January 21 at the Freestore Foodbank, at 1:00 – 3:00 PM

Help receive, sort, and pack donated food items for the Freestore Foodbank. This agency successfully distributes over 12 million pounds of food per year to help feed those in need.

Project Leaders: Kathy Claybon and Paul McOsker



(e)YGOW

Excellent Youth Group of Wise

For more information, contact Matt Zerwekh at 793-2556 or mzerwekh@wisetemple.org.

Ice Skating, Havdallah, and Movie

Saturday, January 21 at 5:00 PM



YoFI

Young Family Involvement

To register or for more information, contact Heather Spegal at 793-2556, ext. 5111 or hspegal@wisetemple.org.

YoFI Inflatables and Pizza Party

Saturday, January 7 at JumpZone in Milford, at 3:00 PM

YoFI Shabbat Service

Friday, January 20 at 6:00 PM



Youth Activities

January 8

Grade 3 After School Program at Noon

January 22

Grade 4 After School Program at Noon



Miscellaneous

Caregiver Support Group

Thursday, January 12 at 3:30 PM

The best ideas and solutions for caring for a loved one often come from others who are in the same situation. With appropriate information and support, family caregivers can help their loved ones across the lifespan. Facilitated by Jackie Drake of Jewish Family Service. RSVP to Cindy Waldo at 793-2556 or cwald@wisetemple.org.

Alcoholics Anonymous Meeting

Tuesdays & Thursdays at 5:30 PM

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

Value of the Month

Ometz Lev

Courage


BY BARBARA DRAGUL

Ometz lev is usually translated as "courage," but there is a deeper understanding to its meaning. *Ometz* means "strength" and *lev* means "heart." "*Ometz lev*, therefore, is less about acts of courage – displays of power, might, and bravery – than it is about who we are in our heart, what we believe in." (*Teaching Jewish Virtues* by Susan Freeman)

Our Jewish tradition has many examples of *ometz lev*. We recently celebrated Chanukah. A quality most often associated with the Maccabees is courage. The brave Jewish fighters, against great odds, defeated their oppressors. But the Maccabees demonstrated another kind of courage as well. The courage to stand up for one's ideals, to protect one's core identity when outside influences threaten it, to say that my beliefs, the traditions I've inherited, are worth fighting for.

This month we celebrate Martin Luther King Day, honoring the memory of a man who epitomized *ometz lev*. King understood that challenging injustice takes courage. "The ultimate measure of a man," King once said, "is not where he stands in moments of comfort and convenience, but where he stands at a time of challenge and controversy." King exemplifies for us what it means to stand with integrity, determination, and *ometz lev*!

King also taught us that joining forces with others can be a source of strength. We can gain strength in community, and greater courage in the company of friends. "Separate reeds are weak and easily broken; but bound together they are strong and hard to tear apart." (*Tanchuma, Nitzavim 1*)

The work of bettering ourselves and bettering the world around us requires resolve and courage. *Ometz lev* is a value that can help us in these sacred endeavors, and in our day to day lives. As Rabbi Nahman of Bratslav taught, "The entire world is a very narrow bridge, but the main thing is not to fear at all." 

Family Shabbat Dinner Experience

Families with children in grades 1 – 6 are invited to participate in this Wise Temple community-based Shabbat dinner program on Friday, February 10 at 6:15 PM. This Family Shabbat experience will be filled with blessings, songs, and camaraderie. We will provide a number of resources that you can take with you, extending the experience as a family unit, and enhancing your family's Shabbat at home. For more information, contact Heather Spegal at 793-2556 or hspegal@wisetemple.org. RSVP by February 3 at www.wisetemple.org/familysabbat.





Isaac M.
Wise Temple
ק.ק. בני ישורון

8329 Ridge Road, Cincinnati, Ohio 45236
www.wisetemple.org

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

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Brotherhood's Eighth Annual Chicken Soup Cook-Off

On a frosty January day,
what could be more satisfying
than a piping hot cup of
savory chicken soup?

Imagine sampling a tantalizing array of soup
variations prepared from family recipes and
menu favorites from local restaurants. Stir
in some fine musical entertainment by our
own temple band, Shir Chadash. Garnish
with scrumptious food, Marx's bagels, and
our silent auction and you have the Wise
Temple Brotherhood's Eighth Annual
Chicken Soup Cook-Off. The event, made
possible in part by our generous sponsors
Kroger, Jewish Hospital, and Vitas Hospice,
is at Wise Center on Sunday, January 29
from 12:15 to 2:15 PM.



This year we welcome back long-time
supporters McAllister's Deli and Izzy's.
Other Pro entrants include Kroger, Jewish
Hospital, Parker's Blue Ash Grille, Bravo
Deerfield, Apple Tree Café, Brown Dog
Café, Stone Creek Dining Company,
Rascal's New York Style Deli, InCahoots,
Aladdin's Eatery in West Chester, and the
Firehouse Grill.

The award categories in the Pro Divi-
sion and the Amateur Division include
Most Original, Best Matzo Ball, and Best
Chicken Noodle. But, the most important
award requires YOUR help. All paid atten-
dees vote for the winner of the special
People's Choice Award.

Admission prices of \$6.00 per adult,
\$4.00 per child, and \$17.00 per family
entitle you to all the chicken soup you can
eat plus bagels and fresh vegetables. If
those don't completely satisfy your appe-
tite, you can purchase an Izzy's corned
beef sandwich and great desserts.

Don't miss the fun, the food, the music,
and the prizes. Bring a friend, bring the
whole family, and bring your appetite. 