

THE WISE *Guide*

ISSUE 10 | SUMMER 2024



Have Your
BEST
SUMMER
EVER!
at
Wise Temple



YOUR GUIDE
TO UPCOMING WISE TEMPLE
EVENTS, SERVICES & PROGRAMS



Join Us at Wise Temple for a Summer to Remember!



JUNE

- 2 CONCERT**
Recovered Voices: Music for Strings
4:00 PM-6:00 PM | Plum Street Temple
- 11 YOFI**
YoFi Shavuot Celebration
5:00 PM-6:30 PM
- 11 SPECIAL EVENT**
Shavuot Sensation | 8:15 PM-9:30 PM
Preceded by Erev Shavuot Service
7:30 PM - 8:15 PM
- 13 SOCIAL ACTION**
Our Daily Bread Takeaway Bags
for the Homeless | 9:00 AM-11:00 AM
- 15 FAMILY ENGAGEMENT**
Family Pride: Rainbow Crafting
& Park Party
4:30 PM-6:30 PM | Seven Gables Park
11680 Seven Gables Road, Symmes Twp
- 18 ADULT EDUCATION**
Tuesdays with Torah | Crossing the Sea in
Solidarity: Women of the Exodus Story
with Courtney Anthony | 12:00 PM-1:00 PM
- 22 CINCINNATI JEWISH
COMMUNITY PRIDE PARADE**
10:00 AM-2:00 PM
Downtown Cincinnati
- 22 YOFI**
YoFi at the Reds | 4:10 PM-7:00 PM
Great American Ball Park
100 Joe Nuxhall Way, Cincinnati
- 23-30 SOCIAL ACTION**
Found House Interfaith Housing Network
(IHN) at Wise Temple
- 25 ADULT EDUCATION**
Tuesdays with Torah | Crossing the Sea in
Solidarity: Women of the Exodus Story
with Courtney Anthony | 12:00 PM-1:00 PM
- 27 SOCIAL ACTION**
Our Daily Bread Takeaway Bags
for the Homeless | 9:00 AM-11:00 AM



JULY

- 2 ADULT EDUCATION**
Tuesdays with Torah | Understanding
the Complexity of Israel Today
with Rabbi Kamrass | 12:00 PM-1:00 PM
- 9 ADULT EDUCATION**
Tuesdays with Torah | Understanding
the Complexity of Israel Today
with Rabbi Kamrass | 12:00 PM-1:00 PM
- 11 SOCIAL ACTION**
Our Daily Bread Takeaway Bags
for the Homeless | 9:00 AM-11:00 AM
- 11 WOMEN THRIVE**
Sips and Nosh at Annata Wine Bar
7:00 PM-9:00 PM
Annata Wine Bar & Cellar
2021 Madison Rd., Madisonville
- 14 YOFI**
Summer Jewish Music Series
9:30 AM-11:00 AM
- 16 ADULT EDUCATION**
Tuesdays with Torah | The Early Music of
Arik Einstein (The Israeli Frank Sinatra)
with Matt Check | 12:00 PM-1:00 PM
- 21 YOFI**
Summer Jewish Music Series
9:30 AM-11:00 AM
- 21 FAMILY ENGAGEMENT**
Family Social:
Riverboat Ice Cream Cruise
2:30 PM-4:30 PM
BB Riverboats | 101 Riverboat Row, Newport
- 23 ADULT EDUCATION**
Tuesdays with Torah | The Early Music of
Arik Einstein (The Israeli Frank Sinatra)
with Matt Check | 12:00 PM-1:00 PM
- 25 SOCIAL ACTION**
Our Daily Bread Takeaway Bags
for the Homeless | 9:00 AM-11:00 AM
- 28 YOFI**
Summer Jewish Music Series
9:30 AM-11:00 AM



30 ADULT EDUCATION
Tuesdays with Torah | Let's Begin
with Rabbi Hirsch | 12:00 PM-1:00 PM

AUGUST

1 ADULT ENGAGEMENT
A Suite Night with the Florence Y'alls
6:00 PM-9:00 PM | Thomas More Stadium
7950 Freedom Way, Florence, KY

4 YOFI
Young Family Playdate | 4:30 PM-6:30 PM
Fifty West Brewing Company
7605 Wooster Pike

6 ADULT EDUCATION
Tuesdays with Torah | Let's Begin
with Rabbi Hirsch | 12:00 PM-1:00 PM

13 ADULT EDUCATION
Tuesdays with Torah | Voices of Jewish
Wisdom: Exploring Spirituality, Ethics, and
Social Justice through the Teachings of
Renowned Jewish Philosophers
with Jamie Starr | 12:00 PM-1:00 PM

18-25 SOCIAL ACTION
**Found House Interfaith Housing Network
(IHN) at Wise Temple**

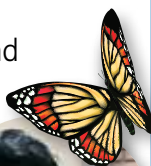
20 ADULT EDUCATION
Tuesdays with Torah | Voices of Jewish
Wisdom: Exploring Spirituality, Ethics, and
Social Justice through the Teachings of
Renowned Jewish Philosophers
with Jamie Starr | 12:00 PM-1:00 PM

24 YOFI
Back to School Shabarbecue
10:30 AM-12:00 PM

27 ADULT EDUCATION
Tuesdays with Torah | Abraham Lincoln:
Has There Already Been a Jewish President?
with Rabbi Goodman | 12:00 PM-1:00 PM

31 FAMILY ENGAGEMENT
**Family Retreat: Kirkwood Camp &
Adventure Park** | 9:30 AM-4:00 PM
Kirkwood Camp & Adventure Park
5719 OH-73, Wilmington

Visit wisetemple.org for more
information and to register for
events. All events at Wise Center
unless noted.



Summer Service Schedule



Shabbat Evening Services at Wise
Center, Fridays, 6:15 PM. Shabbat
Morning Services and Torah Study at
Wise Center, Saturdays, 10:15 AM.

See event listings at left for
YoFI, Family Engagement and
NextGen services.

JUNE

- 1 Shabbat Morning Service and Torah Study
- 7 Shabbat Evening Service
- 8 Confirmation at Plum Street Temple
- 8 Shabbat Morning Service and Torah Study
- 11 Erev Shavuot Service: 7:30 PM-8:15 PM,
followed by Shavuot Sensation 8:15 PM-9:30 PM
- 12 Shavuot Morning - Yizkor
- 14 Shabbat Evening Service
- 15 Shabbat Morning Service and Torah Study
- 15 Bar Mitzvah of Elijah Howard at
Plum Street Temple
- 21 Shabbat Evening Service and
Board of Trustees Installation
- 22 Shabbat Morning Service and Torah Study
- 28 Shabbat Evening Service
(Birthday and Anniversary Blessings)
- 29 Shabbat Morning Service and Torah Study

JULY

- 5 Shabbat Evening Service
- 6 Shabbat Morning Service and Torah Study
- 12 Shabbat Evening Service
- 13 Shabbat Morning Service and Torah Study
- 19 Shabbat Evening Service
- 20 Shabbat Morning Service and Torah Study
- 26 Shabbat Evening Service
(Birthday and Anniversary Blessings)
- 27 Shabbat Morning Service and Torah Study

AUGUST

- 2 Shabbat Evening Service
- 3 Shabbat Morning Service and Torah Study
- 9 Shabbat Evening Service
- 10 Shabbat Morning Service and Torah Study
- 16 Shabbat Evening Service
- 17 Shabbat Morning Service and Torah Study
- 23 Shabbat Evening Service
- 24 Shabbat Morning Service and Torah Study
- 24 Bar Mitzvah of Sam Lang at Plum Street Temple
- 30 Shabbat Evening Service
(Birthday and Anniversary Blessings)
- 31 Shabbat Morning Service and Torah Study
- 31 Bat Mitzvah of Sadie Sacks at Plum Street Temple



EITZ CHAYIM ADULT LEARNING PROGRAM

SUMMER 2024

Courses & Presenters



**Rabbi Lewis H. Kamrass,
Senior Rabbi**

Rabbi Kamrass is the Senior Rabbi of Isaac M. Wise Temple of Cincinnati, Ohio, where he has spent his entire rabbinate of nearly thirty-nine years. Rabbi Kamrass is a Phi Beta Kappa, summa cum laude graduate of the University of Georgia in Sociology and Psychology, with a Master of Hebrew Letters and Rabbinic Ordination from Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion (HUC-JIR), as well as recipient of an honorary Doctor of Divinity degree. He served for 25 years as an Instructor in the Theology Department of Xavier University and as adjunct faculty at HUC-JIR.* In the national Reform movement, Rabbi Kamrass currently serves as Immediate Past President of the Central Conference of American Rabbis, the 2200-member international body of Reform Rabbis, and also serves on its Board. He has served as a Board Member of the HUC-JIR* and the Union for Reform Judaism.



**Rabbi Zachary S. Goodman,
Associate Rabbi**

Rabbi Goodman was born and raised in Dallas, Texas and attended the University of Texas at Austin before he was ordained on the Cincinnati campus of HUC-JIR.* Following his ordination in 2019, Rabbi Goodman served as the Assistant Rabbi at Holy Blossom Temple in Toronto before joining the Wise Temple family in the summer of 2022. Rabbi Goodman is passionate about Israel education, youth and teen engagement, young professional programming, and learning in all its many forms. Music is also an important part of his life; he plays guitar, piano, and sings. Rabbi Goodman loves to explore the outdoors, travel, cook, watch sports, host game nights with friends, and spend time with his family.



**Rabbi Neil P.G. Hirsch,
Senior Rabbi Successor**

In July 2024, Rabbi Hirsch joins Isaac M. Wise Temple as our Senior Rabbi Successor. Prior to joining Wise Temple, Rabbi Hirsch served as Senior Rabbi of Hevreh of Southern Berkshire in Western Massachusetts from 2015-2024 and Associate Rabbi of Temple Shalom in Newton, Massachusetts from 2010-2015. Rabbi Hirsch is a graduate of Tufts University in Boston MA, where he studied Art History and Classics. He received a Masters of Hebrew Literature and Rabbinic Ordination from HUC-JIR* and is currently completing a doctorate in Halakhah (Jewish Law) and Jewish Ethics, researching the ethics of care, accountability, and t'shuvah (repentance).



**Matt Check,
Director of Lifelong Learning**

A native of Bucks County, Pennsylvania, Matt attended the University of Pittsburgh, before an almost 20-year stint in New York City as a Jewish educator and musician. He holds a Master of Arts in Education from the Jewish Theological Seminary (2008) and a Master of Public Administration from Baruch College (2011). In directorial roles, Matt has overseen Hebrew schools, family engagement, and adult education programs at New York institutions that include Central Synagogue, Park Avenue Synagogue, 92Y, JCP Downtown, and Anshe Chesed. In addition to his administrative work, Matt is an accomplished singer-songwriter, guitarist, banjoist and producer of Jewish, children's, Americana, and bluegrass music. As a member of the Wise Temple team, he enjoys working with the community to celebrate Jewish values through music and education.



**Courtney Anthony,
Director of Education**

Courtney has brought a warm spirit and a passion for Jewish education to her role since 2018. Launching the Kehillah program at Wise Temple has been a highlight of her professional life, and she loves working with our community of students, parents, and teachers. Prior to joining the Wise Temple family, Courtney served as Principal for Grades 7-12 at Temple Rodef Shalom in Falls Church, Virginia from 2010-2014 and as Director of Education at Temple Emanuel in Winston Salem, North Carolina from 2014-2018. In addition to her background in education and Judaic studies, Courtney holds Bachelor's and Master's degrees in English and is a longtime Shakespeare enthusiast.



Jamie Starr, Rabbinic Fellow

Jamie Starr is a fourth-year rabbinic student at HUC-JIR* in Cincinnati. Growing up in Northern Virginia, Jamie was raised in a Reform Jewish home and was very involved in her synagogue, Temple Rodef Shalom. Jamie graduated from Swarthmore College in 2019 with a BA in Philosophy and Psychology. At Swarthmore, she led Kehillah, a non-denominational Jewish group, and organized a weekly Jewish text study. Prior to starting rabbinical school, Jamie worked as an Eisendrath Legislative Assistant at the Religious Action Center for Reform Judaism in Washington, DC, where she advocated for social justice on Capitol Hill. Jamie also taught religious school and organized a weekly adult education program for self-reflection during the month of Elul at her hometown temple. This year, Jamie is thrilled to be working with the Wise Temple community while continuing her studies.

**Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion*



MEET RABBI HIRSCH!

Tuesdays with Torah | Let's Begin

Tuesdays, July 30 and August 6

12:00 PM - 1:00 PM | Wise Center & Zoom

Rabbi Neil P.G. Hirsch, Senior Rabbi Successor

See page 6 for more information.



Tuesdays with Torah

Tuesdays, 12:00 PM – 1:00 PM | Wise Center and Zoom

**Crossing the Sea in Solidarity:
Women of the Exodus Story**

Courtney Anthony, Director of Education

June 18, 25

Women from a variety of backgrounds play pivotal roles in the story of the Exodus. Their courage, strength, and support of the community move the story forward and even make room for miracles to happen. Together, we will explore the roles of key female figures in the Exodus story, including the midwives, Shifra and Puah; Pharaoh's daughter; Miriam; and Tziporah.

**Understanding the Complexity
of Israel Today**

Rabbi Lewis Kamrass, Senior Rabbi

July 2, 9

Join Rabbi Kamrass in this two-session series as we follow the steps that led to the complexity of the Israeli-Palestinian claims today, including: How did we get here? What are the modern history and the ancient claims? What about refugees and displaced populations? We will unpack all the layers to make a modern "mess" more easily understood as you hear the news and the "fake news" that permeate the news and social media today.

**The Early Music of Arik Einstein
(The Israeli Frank Sinatra)**

Matt Check, Director of Lifelong Learning

July 16, 23

Join us for a listening session of some of the early recordings of Arik Einstein (the Israeli Frank Sinatra). In the late 1960s he released an album titled, "Good Old Eretz Israel." This classic of the Israeli songbook put melodies to the words of iconic Israeli poet Natan Alterman. We will listen to the songs, unpack the lyrics and gaze into the milieu and zeitgeist of Israel in its early years as a culture.

SUMMER COURSES CONTINUED ON PAGE 6 >



SUMMER COURSES *continued*

Let's Begin

Rabbi Neil P.G. Hirsch, Senior Rabbi Successor
July 30, August 6

"In the beginning," reads the opening words of Genesis. "Let's start at the very beginning / A very good place to start," sings Maria to the Von Trapp children. While Jewish tradition teaches that there is no true beginning or end in Torah study, we have to choose a place to start. So, let's begin to learn with Rabbi Hirsch. During this Tuesdays with Torah, Rabbi Hirsch will explore beginnings in the Jewish tradition. How do various Jewish books begin, and what does that tell us about how we understand engaging with our tradition? In this two-week series, we'll explore what a strong start looks like, studying the beginnings of various biblical, talmudic, and medieval writings. This is a perfect chance to introduce yourself to Rabbi Hirsch, and he to you.

Voices of Jewish Wisdom: Exploring Spirituality, Ethics, and Social Justice through the Teachings of Renowned Jewish Philosophers

Jamie Starr, Rabbinic Fellow
August 13, 20

Who or what is God? What is the purpose of prayer? What does it mean to live an ethical Jewish life? Join us as we wrestle with some of the biggest philosophical and theological questions Judaism has to offer. We will read excerpts from modern and contemporary Jewish thinkers like Martin Buber, Abraham Joshua Heschel, and Judith Plaskow as we explore and discuss how their ideas might be relevant to our lives and Jewish practice today.

Abraham Lincoln: Has There Already Been a Jewish President?

Rabbi Zachary Goodman, Associate Rabbi
August 27, September 10

This two-part class explores the unique dynamics between Abraham Lincoln, the 16th President of the United States, and the American Jewish community during a pivotal era in American history. Uncover the lesser-known aspects of Abraham Lincoln's presidency and his profound impact on the American Jewish community during the Civil War. Through engaging discussions and source documents, we'll explore the lasting impact of Lincoln's presidency on the Jewish-American experience and how it continues to shape our understanding of religious freedom and diversity in the United States.

YoFI Summer Jewish



Series

Sundays, July 14, 21 and 28

9:30 AM-11:00 AM | Wise Center

The YoFI Summer Jewish Music Class returns for our annual summer series that combines singing, moving, and pure joy. Hosted at Wise Center this summer, this drop-in class is a great way to meet up with other young families and is open to the entire community. Families are welcome to stay, play, and enjoy snacks after the class.



Family Retreat:

Kirkwood Camp & Adventure Park

Saturday, August 31 | 9:30 AM-4:00 PM

5719 OH-73, WILMINGTON

Join us for an unforgettable family retreat at Kirkwood Adventure Park, where excitement and Jewish learning meet amidst stunning natural beauty! Dive into fun at the lake with a sandy beach and the thrilling Splash Blast Lake Obstacle Course. Then, enjoy endless entertainment at Gopher's Ground Games. With thrilling adventures and unique learning opportunities, this retreat promises a day of fun and meaningful connections for the whole family.

Getting to Know Rabbi Neil P.G. Hirsch



Rabbis
Liz and
Neil
Hirsch

Can you share a bit about yourself and your background?

I grew up in Houston with parents who are dedicated to our Jewish family and community. I attended a Jewish day school, and we were Friday night Shabbat regulars. My wife—Rabbi Liz Hirsch—grew up in Boston, where she was raised similarly. Liz and I met as staff at the URJ Eisner Camp, and this November, we will celebrate 10 years of marriage. We would not be who we are professionally or as a family were it not for the Jewish imprints our families left on us. So, now, as the parents of a 7-year-old and a 3-year-old, it is satisfying to see both kids delight in their Jewish family and take joy in a vibrant Jewish community.

What made you want to become a rabbi? I became a rabbi because of my rabbis and mentors. In the third grade, I covered the religion beat for the school newspaper. I interviewed the synagogue's Senior Rabbi, Rabbi Sam Karff. I borrowed my father's dictation unit to record the conversation. We drafted interview questions around the dinner table the night before. Sitting with Rabbi Karff, he described what a rabbi does. You can hear my third-grader voice respond, "Oh, that's cool." I imagine that was when the seed was planted. Rabbi Karff and I stayed in touch through my years at HUC-JIR and beyond. He would always close his letters and emails to me the same way: "You were a great journalist, and an even better rabbi."

What excites you most about the transition year to come as you work side-by-side with Rabbi Kamrass? This transition year is a blessing. As we make this shift in rabbinic leadership, I am grateful to have the quality time to train with Rabbi Kamrass. His 40 years at Wise are a testament to his dedicated leadership, and I am eager to soak up as much as I can from him.

Social action is a huge part of what we do at Wise Temple. Can you speak to how you have prioritized social action in your past rabbinic roles? While in rabbinical school, I worked for Just Congregations, training in congregation-based community organizing. This approach has informed my rabbinate. In 2017, in partnership with a congregant who runs a local public health clinic, I created a network called BASIC (Berkshire Advocacy & Support for the Immigrant Community) to bring together houses of worship and human service agencies, coordinating care for

new arrivals. It was that group that moved into action when over 50 Haitian refugees arrived in our community one night with only the clothes on their backs. By the end of their first week in the Berkshires, they were fed, housed, clothed, connected with doctors, enrolled in school, had English tutoring scheduled, and legal aid was in place. For me, social action should always answer the question: How are we giving care to others as we would hope they would show to us?

What are some of your hobbies? What do you like to do for fun? Family comes first. Liz and I love to hike and travel together. Last year, we spent an incredible 72 hours in Copenhagen. Our kids are also great travelers. I am an avid photographer and at-home cook. At Passover, I've held an annual matzah brei cookoff, and look forward to perhaps bringing that challenge to Wise Temple. When given leisure time, you'll often find me running, biking, playing tennis, or getting the occasional golf game in.

Tell us about your experience studying and living in Israel. How has that experience informed how you approach your work? I lived in Jerusalem during my first year of rabbinical school, I have led multiple missions to Israel including several Birthright trips, and my family and I lived in Tel Aviv for several months during my last sabbatical. Right now, Israel is front of mind. As an American congregational rabbi, I see my role as being focused on Israel education. I want to help elevate the conversation around Israel, fostering a sophisticated, forthright, and nuanced understanding of Israel, Israeli society, and others who live there and in the surrounding area.

What do you love most about being a rabbi? The rabbinate is about servant-leadership. I deeply value the meaningful connections with congregants that develop in both casual conversations and formal moments. There is nothing more rewarding than standing with a wedding couple under their chuppah, blessing b'nai mitzvah as they step up to the Torah, or holding a newborn at their naming. And the conversation over a cup of coffee can be equally impactful. That's why a good portion of my first several months at Wise Temple will be focused on being out in the community, meeting many of you. I hope you'll take me up on the offer for a cup of coffee, to come to a house meeting, or to connect in one of the many learning opportunities we're putting together for these first months.





Isaac M.

Wise Temple

ק.ק. בני ישורון

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Cincinnati, Ohio 45236
wisetemple.org

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See inside
for



Summer Events
you won't want
to miss!

SHAVUOT PROGAM

Erev Shavuot Service & Shavuot Sensation

Zach Berg | June 11

Service: 7:30 PM – 8:15 PM,
Wise Center & Livestream

Shavuot Sensation:

8:15 PM – 9:30 PM | Wise Center

Following our Erev Shavuot Service, join Zach Berg (certified cheese professional, and co-owner of Detroit-based Mongers' Provisions) as he guides us through a Shavuot cheese tasting and fascinating session of learning and experiencing. Zach will walk us through each of the four cheeses with a little bit of chocolate to finish it off. This presentation will connect you to the people and places our cheeses come from. We will also explore why Shavuot is a dairy holiday and some great 'wheys' to celebrate.

Registration
only required for
cheese tasting.

\$25/member
\$30/
non-member

Found House Interfaith Housing Network (IHN) at Wise Temple

June 23 – June 30 and
August 18 – August 25

Since 1991, Wise Temple has partnered with Found House Interfaith Housing Network (IHN), supporting Cincinnati families facing housing insecurity. For a week at a time, Wise Temple classrooms are transformed into cozy bedrooms, and the Program Room into a welcoming living room space, with volunteers welcoming, feeding, and creating community with Found House IHN guests who sleep at Wise Center. Without congregations like Wise Temple, it would be difficult for some families to stay together as they look for permanent housing and financial stability.

We invite YOU to join in this important and meaningful mitzvah as we host families twice this summer. Wise Temple volunteers work together to provide food, fun, and a warm, comfortable, home-like environment for families during their stay in our building. This is a perfect opportunity for families and friends to spend meaningful time together helping others in our community.

Learn more about our partnership through descriptions of volunteer roles and videos about the importance of this program. WE NEED YOU, our Wise Temple community, and we invite you to volunteer through one or more of the many roles available. *Sign-ups are available at wisetemple.org/found-house.*

