
WHY WISE

life school clergy cheers hebrew
essential spirituality
big amazing caring kids
friends cherished inclusive
happiness education judaism family
community
teachers continuation camp
love warmth creative
kindness learning
enlightenment beginnings awesome
chesed special home
holiday belonging

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aaron milken center
at WISE

STEPHEN
WISE TEMPLE WISE SCHOOL



COMMUNITY

CLERGY

HOLIDAYS

HOME

These words and many more, as seen on the cover of this booklet, are the answers that you—the members of our community—have given to the question: “Why Wise?” These “Whys” are what brought you here, what keep you here, and what make this mountaintop so special to you.

Inside, you will find even more “Whys”: from Shoes That Fit to Wise Readers to Leaders, from our beautiful Shabbat and High Holy Days services to our community Purim celebration, from our exciting new Center for Youth Engagement programs to our magnificent Aaron Milken Center and Wise School.

The answer to “Why Wise?” is different for each of us, whether we’re dropping off our children at Wise School, tuning in for learning and community at WiseLA.org, or meeting a friend for Shabbat worship on our beautiful campus.

Within these pages, you’ll see some of the ways we have answered “Why Wise?” over the course of the past year.

You’ll see how we continue to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic, ensuring our students and congregants were able to make meaning and change the world, learning deeply both on campus and online. You’ll see how we answered the call to help people in need, showing generosity at home and abroad by bringing humanitarian aid for Ukrainian refugees and helping them evacuate to Israel, and by sponsoring an Afghan refugee. You’ll see how we continually reimaged our worship experiences, striving always to create meaningful and uplifting prayer and holiday celebrations, utilizing the unique resources our beautiful campus provides.

Above all, we hope you’ll see yourself in these pages—your stories, your hopes, and your potential.

Each year, when we ask you to reaffirm your commitment to Stephen Wise Temple, we invite you to continue answering the question: “Why Wise?” And perhaps more, we ask: What’s next? How can Wise help you and your family to deepen your Jewish life and understanding? How can Wise help you and your family to answer our tradition’s call to *tikkun olam* (repairing the world)? How can Wise help you and your family to strengthen the future of the Jewish community at Wise and beyond? Through your continued engagement, support, and generosity, we will continue to answer those questions together, and help families like yours find their “Why Wise?” for decades to come.

Thank you for continuing to be an important part of the Stephen Wise Temple family—

Rabbi Yoshi Zweiback
Senior Rabbi

Steve Bram
President

TIKKUN OLAM HIGHLIGHTS



Wise School kindergarteners donate at the Passover SOVA Market.



6 WEEKS OF INTENSIVE LEARNING BY THE WISE INCLUSIVITY COHORT (a group of lay leaders) focused on increasing Wise's commitment to being a more inclusive community.



4 SESSIONS OF THE BRADLEY SONNENBERG WELLNESS SERIES brought stories of wholeness and redemption in the face of mental health challenges to the Wise community and beyond.



1 AFGHAN REFUGEE was adopted by the Wise community, and has begun her new life of freedom in the United States with the help of Wise members.



1.8K POUNDS OF FOOD were donated through our SOVA Market.



250 FORMERLY UNHOUSED VETERANS received donations of household necessities from the Wise community through Homes for Heroes.



150 PAIRS OF SHOES were collected, packed, and distributed to the 93rd Street Elementary School through Shoes That Fit.



60 PINTS OF BLOOD were donated at two Wise/Red Cross blood drives.



Afghan refugee Hosay enjoys the company of her host family.

Wise Responds to Invasion of Ukraine with Massive Fundraising Effort

Over three weeks this spring, the combined effort of Stephen Wise Temple and Schools and Short Hills, N.J.'s Congregation B'nai Jeshurun raised over \$500,000 to help refugees from Russia's invasion of Ukraine. Included in these donations were proceeds from cookie sales that were donated by Wise Girl Scout Troops 71925 and 71895.

The funds went to United Hatzalah of Israel's Operation Orange Wings, which funds charter planes from Israel to

Moldova, full of medical supplies, medics, and equipment for field hospitals. On the return flight, those same planes transport refugees to safety in Israel.



Ukrainian refugee Yelena readies to board her flight to Israel.

The fundraising effort's initial goal was to fund one such flight. That flight—carrying 147 Ukrainian refugees—landed at Ben-Gurion Airport in Israel on April 1.

The ongoing campaign now funds planes full of supplies and food for victims of the Russian invasion.

HEALING THE WORLD

Susan Bloch-Kay & Stephen Kay

When Susan Bloch-Kay and Stephen Kay moved from New York to Los Angeles in 2003 they had few roots, little history, and few friends and family in L.A. Most pressing: They didn't know where they would send their three sons to school. One couple they knew had two children in Wise Schools, and were Stephen Wise Temple members. "We have your one-stop shop," they told the Kays.

While they began as Wise School parents, the Kays' involvement has branched into community outreach, adult learning, and *tikkun olam* efforts, as they have enthusiastically immersed themselves in nearly everything Wise has to offer.

"Wise is not just our connection to Judaism," says Stephen. "It's part of our connection to the broader community."

Susan—the daughter of a longtime Jewish educator—wanted to get involved immediately. As soon as her two younger sons entered Wise School, Susan became active in the Wise Parents Association. Whether it was serving on the WPA's *Tikkun Olam* Committee, recruiting Mitzvah Day participants, raising funds for Beit Issie Shapiro School in Israel, or packing and driving SOVA donations to the food pantry, Susan was "always the first to have her hand up," says longtime temple board member and past WPA president Joyce Anderson.

Sharing Rabbi Ron Stern's passion for *tikkun olam*, Susan accepted an invitation to a 2011 informational meeting on the Fulfillment Fund at the home of its founder, Wise member Dr. Gary Gitnick (z"l). The Fund uses mentorship as a vehicle to make college a reality for students growing up in underserved communities. The day after that meeting, she signed up to start her mentor training and has since recruited over 20 Wise members to join her. "I feel like I made a difference in the lives of 20 kids by bringing in mentors who took them all the way through college," says Susan, who is

still close with her mentee, now a U.C. San Diego graduate.

When their sons went off to college, the couple looked for an activity they could do together and found Wise's Melton School for Adult Jewish Learning. For many years, they happily volunteered to host "Sukkot In Your Neighborhood" events in their backyard, and Stephen became involved with Wise Guys, attending dinners and events, including a brewery tour. Many of their closest friends in Los Angeles are also temple members. "There's so much for adults of all ages, including those who are empty nesters," Susan says.

As the Wise clergy shepherded the family through lifecycle events—including the b'nai mitzvah of their sons Jesse and Julian, their son Aaron's wedding to Wise alumna

Lyndsay Nevins and the naming of Aaron and Lyndsay's baby girl Poppy—Susan and Stephen marveled at how the Wise clergy were able to balance the needs of their community with world events.

"The temple provided us a connection to a broader response to what's happening in the world," says Stephen, who will be joining the temple's Board of Directors in July. "It provides us with a pathway for engagement."

—Stephen Kay

"At Wise," Susan says, "you want to become more observant or learn Torah with the clergy? Study Talmud with

Rabbi Yoshi. You want to participate in the Center for Jewish Life? There are so many lectures via Zoom or in person. You want to just do social justice activities? There's plenty to do. You want to become more observant or feel connected with your community on Shabbat or on a *yahrzeit*? There's the wonderful Friday night services and the Saturday menu. There's just something for everyone."



Julian Kay, Jesse Kay, Christy Cholla, Aaron Kay, Lyndsay Nevins, Susan Bloch-Kay, and Stephen Kay have availed themselves of all Wise has to offer.

"Wise is not just our connection to Judaism. It's part of our connection to the broader community."

DISCOVERING A JEWISH EDUCATION

Philip & Hedyeh Shaoul and Family

When Wise School fifth grade teacher Mary Itri looked at Brooke Shaoul, she saw potential in the introverted student.

In charge of the annual spring musical, Itri—legendary for knowing just how to inspire each individual pupil—encouraged Brooke to try out. Performing in that year’s production of “Peter Pan” proved to be the spark Brooke needed. She ran for fifth grade class president and won, got involved with the debate team, and was elected secretary of the entire student body in sixth grade. In her first year at Brentwood School, Brooke served on the student council.

Brooke’s transformational experience is one of the many reasons why Brooke’s bicoastal parents—Philip and Hedyeh—chose Wise when they moved the family to Los Angeles eight years ago, while Philip split his time between New York and L.A. Since then, the Shaoul family’s journey at Wise has been one of community, service, and celebration.

“The Judaism side of the school, connecting with the temple, we’ve had that in the New York community in various forms,” says Philip, “but Wise just feels like home, when you have both those two worlds connected in such a seamless way.”

Philip was just 5 in 1972 when he moved from Iran to New York by way of Israel with his parents and sister. The local Chabad shaped his Jewish experience. When Hedyeh and her family moved from Iran to Santa Monica (also by way of Israel) in 1978, her formal Jewish education came at Sinai Temple’s thrice-weekly religious school.

After the two married, Hedyeh fell in love with the Jewish day schools she saw as she and Philip started their family in New York. When Hedyeh first returned to her roots in Los Angeles after eight years, she was pregnant with their third child Blake and looking for a Jewish day school where students learned to connect strongly with their Jewish values and heritage. She visited several schools, but couldn’t find the right fit.

“When I called all of my friends, everyone said that they felt a sense of connectedness with Stephen Wise,” says Hedyeh. “When I toured Stephen Wise and I saw the campus, I said, ‘Oh, my God, this is going to be the place for us.’”

They enrolled Brooke in kindergarten, then younger sister Lola, and then baby brother Blake. Throughout her family’s time at Wise, Hedyeh has served as room parent for each of her

“I love the way we practice our Judaism at Wise. It’s so embracing of all the beauty of Judaism.”

—Philip Shaoul



Philip and Hedyeh Shaoul’s three children Lola, Brooke, and Blake have all attended Wise Schools.

children, class historian for each grade, and the Co-Chair of the Wise School Ambassadors, working closely with Head of School Tami Weiser.

“I went from, in the beginning, not knowing anything, to being fully in the trenches,” Hedyeh says.

As his wife quickly became a mainstay in the Wise School community, Philip built a new circle of friends with fellow parents through social and family events.

Beyond the social and educational facets of their Wise experience, the Shaouls have found in Wise a reflection of their own relationships, both with one another and with Judaism.

“I love the way we practice our Judaism at Wise,” Philip says. “It’s so embracing of all the beauty of Judaism.”

BUILDING A COMMUNITY

Susan Firestone

When a Stephen Wise community member gets a Wise Hearts care package as they recover from an illness, they'll often find small scraps of paper slipped in, bearing words of wisdom.

Poems, quotes, stories, photocopied writings of Mother Teresa, and even handwritten motivational messages find their way into nearly every package Susan Firestone has assembled for almost two decades.

"People here know me for writing the notes," she says. "I always include things like this."

A Wise member for 38 years, Susan has touched nearly every aspect of temple life, finding fulfillment in service. From greeting worshippers at High Holy Day services to serving on a variety of committees to sorting donated clothing, her membership has been defined by her dedication to the Wise community.

"Stephen Wise Temple is like my second home," Susan says.

After moving to the United States in 1967, the Northwest Londoner eventually settled in Encino. After her daughter Laura became a bat mitzvah at the temple down the street from their home, Susan found she had little other connection to that community. In 1984, she joined Stephen Wise Temple, where, for more than 15 years, she was a typical member of the congregation.

Then, she heard the very first sermon given at Wise by Rabbi

Ron Stern. His focus on *tikkun olam* (repairing the world) struck a chord. She'd found a purpose. She could practice *tikkun olam* by helping to build and care for the Wise community. "I knew I could do something," Susan says.

She wound up doing quite a lot. Susan went with temple members to Los Angeles County Hospital, assembling and packing sandwiches to serve to patients with AIDS. She made calls to call new temple members before High Holy Days, encouraging them to attend services. She has stuffed envelopes, sorted clothes donated for Mitzvah Day, and served on the membership, Wise Years, and Wise Hearts committees.

Susan has also participated in the wide range of learning opportunities at Wise, including the Melton School of Adult Jewish Learning. "I love it, I love the teachers, I

love that we make friends with each other," says Susan, whose greatest joy is getting to know the people in the community.

She is a regular at Center for Jewish Life events, serves each year as a High Holy Day greeter, and has been a fixture at Kabbalat Shabbat. Before the pandemic, Rabbi David Woznica would pass by Susan setting up

for Kabbalat Shabbat on the way to his office on Friday afternoons, and thank her.

"Please don't thank me," she would say. "I should thank you for letting me do this."



Susan Firestone calls congregants before High Holy Days.



Freda Moscowwitz, Carol Horowitz, Susan Firestone, Lana Sternberg, Judith Dancyger, and Ed Horowitz gather after a Wise Years learning session in 2019.

WISE hearts

BUILDING A VILLAGE

Patrick & Afsoun Kann and Family

When Patrick Kann visited his family home in Brazil during a break from Stanford Business School, he brought an unexpected guest: a woman named Afsoun, whom he'd been dating only a couple short weeks.

The visit was neither scary nor awkward for Afsoun. For the Iranian transplant who grew up in Nashville, that home in Brazil felt somehow familiar, even comfortable.

"I felt like I was meeting my family," she says. "I knew then that we were going to get married."

Seven years later, after moving to Los Angeles with two children and another on the way, both Patrick and Afsoun felt that same comfort when they visited Wise School for the first time. Since then, whatever their individual educational, social, or spiritual needs have been, each member of the Kann family has found their fit at Wise.

"We found more than just a school," says Afsoun. "We found a village."

When their youngest child Levi was born, Wise Hearts sent a care package with a teddy bear, and Rabbi Yoshi helped the Kanns find a mohel. As they juggled three children with two full-time careers—Afsoun a Disney executive and Patrick a tech startup CEO—the Kanns received help from Wise School parents who helped with carpooling and other logistics.

With Tali (12) and Levi (6) in Wise School, Wise's Center for Youth Engagement (CYE) has become middle child Gabriella's Jewish home.

"I used to go to Sunday school kicking and screaming," Afsoun says. "I didn't learn anything, and I didn't necessarily get the essence and meaning of it all. In the CYE, with family camp, family learning experiences, Camp Wise on the weekend once a month, and summers at Camp Wise, they form these personal connections."

The *madrichim* (teen leaders) became like older cousins for Gabriella and older sister Tali, who has gone to Wise School

since kindergarten. They talk incessantly about their favorite counselor Jake. When Afsoun and Patrick showed up for family camp for the first time, they arrived late, but instead of a frantic scramble, they found the calm, warm, and welcoming Tatiana Soofer, Director of Camp Wise and Youth Programming.

"My kids are running up to her and hugging her," Afsoun says. "They knew her because they had been going to after-school, and again, it just felt like family."

This year, Levi started at Wise School and began attending Camp Wise Sundays.

Says Afsoun: "I feel like Wise is our partner and our guide and our village, to really help us ensure that we're raising these children with an understanding of their heritage, their culture, and their religion, and doing it in a way that's completely adaptable to whatever works for our family."

"Wise is our partner and our guide and our village, to really help us ensure that we're raising these children with an understanding of their heritage, their culture, and their religion, and doing it in a way that's completely adaptable to whatever works for our family."

—Afsoun Kann



Afsoun and Patrick Kann enjoy a CYE Family Learning Experience with their children: Tali, Levi, and Gabriella.

WISE SCHOOL

At Wise School, every student has the opportunity to learn deeply, be creative, experience wholeness and make great happen—and they really do! These are not platitudes on banners; we see them play out every day. We see them in the 618 speaker points won by our fifth and sixth grade debaters in their last tournament, in the 72 3-point baskets scored by our fourth, fifth, and sixth grade athletes during the winter intramural season, in the 5,200 sight words learned by our kindergarten students, and in the 1,100 family members who attended grade-level Friday night Shabbat services. This year our school theme was “*Nivrah B’Tzelem—Our Creativity is Godly*,” and we saw this theme play out in our Tyberg Art & Innovation Lab, in our project studio, in our science lab, and in every classroom. Students demonstrated creativity in their Daughters of the American Revolution essays, during debate tournaments, in our STEAM Day, in bringing an Odyssey of the Mind championship to Wise, and in so many other ways. Our parents, too, demonstrated creativity by finding ways to connect both in-person and online.

That same creative spirit—embodied by the efforts of our incredible teachers and staff—is what has helped our school community thrive during a difficult two years. It fueled our drive for accreditation from the Western Association of Schools & Colleges (WASC), the industry standard for elementary and secondary schools in California.

The visiting WASC Accreditation team acknowledged many strengths of our school, including the amazing teaching staff, strong relationships of our administration, the fantastic campus facilities, our supportive parents, and of course our high-level general and Judaic Studies/Hebrew curriculum.

They witnessed firsthand how students and families embody our core principles with their creativity, critical thinking, and dedication to community, and awarded Wise School the highest level of accreditation WASC can grant, cementing our position among private schools both Jewish and secular.



Wise School students celebrate their Odyssey of the Mind championship.



Our Wise School STEAM Day projects include Lego construction.



Wise School sixth graders help with our SOVA drive.



Wise School fourth graders celebrate Yom Ha'Atzmaut with a performance on Nahmias Plaza.

AARON MILKEN CENTER

Every day is a new opportunity in our Aaron Milken Center (AMC). Our youngest students use our beautiful campus as their learning environment and can often be found taking a nature hike as they gather materials for a classroom project.

Based on the philosophy of emergent curriculum, our AMC teachers take on the role of the facilitator, using what they see and hear amongst their learners to create experiences for children to explore, discover, and construct new knowledge and skills through their play.

Take, for example, our tradition of apples and honey on Rosh Hashanah. In one classroom, a discussion of this sweet start to the new year developed into an exploration of beehives. Wrapping academic learning into the natural play and curiosity of their students' development, the teachers were able to introduce concepts like hexagons, simple math problems, and drawing. For the children, this was a natural extension of the play they were already enjoying; for their teachers (and parents), it allowed the introduction of age-appropriate academic skills like pre-writing.

A core tenet of AMC is that the children form a deep connection to Judaism. That connection is evident in the weekly Shabbat services, wonderful holiday celebrations, and daily prayers. We practice Jewish values daily as children learn social and emotional skills, and for our Hebrew Immersion classrooms, they do it all in Hebrew!

Weeks at Aaron Milken Center are filled with specialists: Yoga, music, P.E., and StorahTime with our rabbis are all part of the fun and the learning. Our remarkable atelierista Joanne Wolmarans



AMC students love spending time in our atelier.



AMC students and their parents attend weekly Shabbat services on Friday mornings.

is a key component of the curriculum, guiding our AMC students as they explore different art media, from loose parts to clay to paint and more. Guided by both the emergent curriculum and the richness of Jewish symbols like the *hamsa* or *mezuzah*, our young artists are focused, creative, and deeply proud of both the art they create and of the creative process.

Our AMC parents are also growing, both in their own education and as a community. It is joyful to see parents on campus, whether they are serving as Shabbat *Abba* or *Emma* or attending our social events, and we cannot wait to see our parents on campus even more next year.



Our AMC students learn about colors and patterns through art.

CENTER FOR YOUTH ENGAGEMENT



WTY teens love building community and having fun. This year, they did both while staffing our Purim Carnival's inflatable axe throwing booth.

This year, our Center for Youth Engagement (CYE) introduced groundbreaking new ways for our students to learn and experience Judaism. Using creative thinking and strategic partnerships, we provided families with options that enabled them to control the focus, frequency, and format of their children's Jewish education. Our K-6 families enjoyed four choices for Judaic studies and two for prayer studies, enabling them to tailor their experience to fit their children's learning style and their family's schedule.

Some students experienced the fun of our monthly Camp Wise Sundays, which let them practice Jewish values on the sports field, in the art studio, and in the pool. Others discovered the rich meaning behind our Jewish calendar at our monthly Family Learning Experience, which offered engaging and meaningful experiential learning for the family as a whole. Some embraced our tradition's ancient teachings at weekly Shabbat Torah study. Others discovered the joys of Judaism through class, prayer, art, and gardening at our weekly religious school partnership with Leo Baeck Temple. Still others mastered Hebrew and the meaning and modes of Jewish prayer in our T'filah Tuesdays and individual iLearn programs.

Our Wise Temple Youth (WTY) teens made meaning by teaching in our programs and by gathering for experiences of joy, community, and learning. With a vibrant teen community dedicated to acceptance and growth, WTY offered our teens a chance for meaningful respite and friendship.

Both teens and elementary-age students alike return each



Camp Wise Sundays let students from kindergarten through sixth grade practice Jewish values in a variety of ways, each one of them fun!



Our Family Learning Experiences allow families to explore Judaism together in a fun, engaging way, often with arts and crafts.

summer for an invigorating and inspiring Camp Wise experience. Now with camper and leadership opportunities for children in kindergarten through high school, this summer's Camp Wise is poised to reach more children and teens than ever before!

We're looking forward to another amazing year of innovation, community, and learning, so visit us today at WiseLA.org/CYE to find out how you and your child can benefit from Jewish living and learning at the CYE!

WISE READERS TO LEADERS



Wise Readers to Leaders prevents summer learning loss through camp-style enrichment activities that promote leadership and literacy.

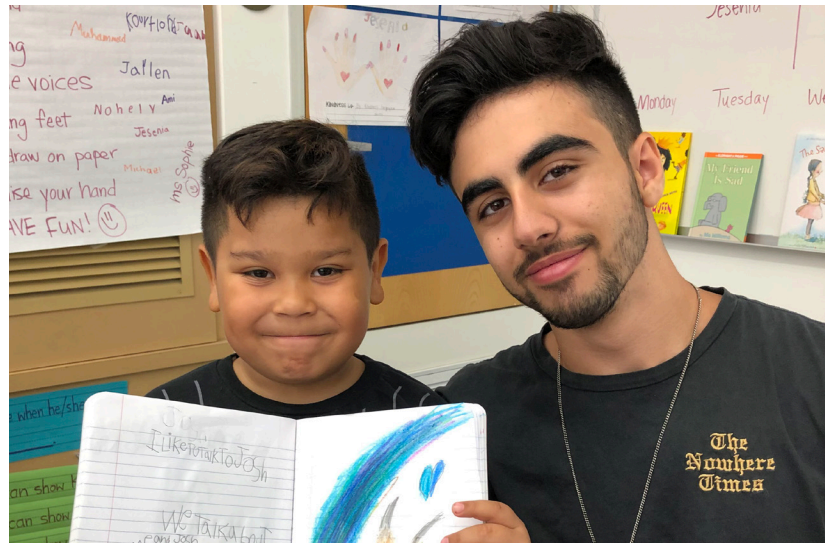
Summer 2021 marked Wise Readers to Leaders' 10th year in operation, as we welcomed back nearly 150 students to in-person programming and an additional 100 through a virtual summer program.

Students were excited to engage once again in high-quality literacy and enrichment programming through both formats, but their academic loss and emotional challenges due to the COVID-19 pandemic were evident. A special partnership with the Maple Counseling Center provided WRTL scholars with professional mental health counselors to assist with these challenges.

We also continued to offer year-round programs, engaging over 250 students. Our Teen Board of 26 high school students supported each of our programs, providing individualized support to our scholars, which enabled them to catch up in the specific ways each one needed.

One of the most exciting parts of this past summer was having eight former scholars return as Junior Literacy Leaders (JLLs), our high-school-aged teaching assistants. After graduating our program, these JLLs were inspired to serve their community as they were once served.

As further support, Wise Readers to Leaders is pleased to offer a new College Access Program in partnership with the Fulfillment Fund, providing college information workshops and one-on-one college advisors for seniors.



Above: Junior Literacy Leaders serve as high-school-aged teaching assistants.

Left: WRTL offers age-appropriate games, book activities and discussions.

HOLIDAY CELEBRATIONS



High Holy Days Set the Stage

While many communities in Los Angeles and beyond remained wholly online in 2021, our beautiful and expansive campus allowed us to offer one of the few in-person High Holy Day experiences. Thanks to our creative and hard-working staff, and incredibly flexible and supportive community, over 3,000 people joined us in-person and online for Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur. Whether you worshiped online, or joined us in-person in our Main Sanctuary, at Katz Family Pavilion, or on Nahmias Plaza, you were able to experience our majestic musical tradition, hear inspiring words from our rabbis, and make meaningful connections.

That same spirit of creativity and celebration carried us through our holiday calendar. Small groups gathered on and off campus to celebrate Sukkot, and we danced (outside) with the Torah on Simchat Torah. While we lit the first candle of Hanukkah together over Zoom, our Wise School first grade students brought extra joy to our in-person Shabbat celebration, as did the fun lights and delicious *sufganiyot*. Tu B'Shevat brought us out on the trails, over 1,000 people attended our Super Purim Carnival (see next page), and we were thrilled to welcome our community *seder* back in person! The Greater Zion Church Family joined us for Shavuot learning and fellowship, and our community came together—across campus and across screens—for each and every Shabbat.

We continue to meet the challenge of living in this hybrid world through technology, but also through deep connections and relationships built across time and space.

As the 2022 High Holy Days approach, we are ready to once again offer multi-access experiences, including both in-person and online options. We are so excited that our in-person community will all be together here on our beautiful Bel Air campus, once again utilizing our indoor and outdoor worship spaces. More information—including specific service times and ticket details—will be available to members later this summer, so watch your emails!



We lit Hanukkah candles on Zoom.



We enjoyed Shabbat in person.



We celebrated High Holy Days outdoors on Nahmias Plaza.



Pastor Michael Fisher of Greater Zion Church and Rabbi Yoshi led a joint Pentecost and Shavuot celebration.



Our big swing brought theme park thrills to carnival goers of all ages.



We gathered in our Main Sanctuary for Rosh Hashanah.



The BeatBuds entertained our Super Purim Carnival crowd.

Purim Carnival Returns in Spectacular Fashion, Welcoming Over 1,000 to Wise as Part of Weeklong Celebration

Well over 1,000 members of the Wise community and beyond joined our Super Purim Carnival on March 13. Heroes were everywhere, from first responders, teachers, and doctors to caped crusaders and galactic warriors.

Parents, children, and children at heart enjoyed tilting, whirling, thrilling carnival rides, midway-style games (with prizes!), a cape-making station, inflatable obstacle courses, and a musical appearance by the BeatBuds.

If that wasn't enough, there were fruit carts, ice cream, and a bake sale, not to mention freshly-made catered pizza and delectable kosher barbecue. These festivities were made possible with the creativity and dedication of a top-notch committee and staff. Participants were delighted to reunite with friends, new and old, and enjoy an in-person celebration for all ages. From the bouncy house to the Ferris wheel, good times were had by all!

After the giant slide came down, our special guest artist-in-residence Jordan B. "Gorf" Gorfinkel regaled our community with tales from his decade-plus as the editor of DC Comics' "Batman" books, and taught us how Jewish values are part of the DNA of superheroes. He also helped CYE families and Wise School fifth and sixth graders create their own graphic novels, telling the story of Esther.

Tune in next year for more amazing adventures! New Bat-time, same Bat-channel!



Tasty treats like Happy Ice were available all over campus.

The carnival rides were a real scream.



Families got to take a magic carpet ride on our super slide.

INSTALLATION OF SENIOR CANTOR EMMA LUTZ



Senior Cantor Emma Lutz leads the Stephen Wise Temple Junior Cantors during her installation on March 25 in Katz Family Pavilion.

When Stephen Wise Temple elevated Cantor Emma Lutz to the post of Senior Cantor on Friday, March 25, 2022, we made history.

For the first time in our 58 years, a woman now holds this title and role. Installed at just 34, Cantor Emma also became one of the youngest senior cantors in the country.

“Emma Lutz is one of the shining lights of new and creative cantorial talents,” said Andrea Sonnenberg, one of the co-chairs of the transition committee that tapped Cantor Emma as Wise’s senior musical voice. “This was not a hard choice. Cantor Emma’s energy, experience in multiple musical genres, creativity, learning, and cantorial talents make her a perfect fit for the Stephen Wise community and Jewish L.A.”

The service in Katz Family Pavilion was filled with layered musical meaning, a tribute to how Cantor Emma has shaped Wise worship in her six years at the synagogue. In partnership with beloved Music Director Maestro David Kates, Cantor



Cantor Emma’s mother Trish Goldin and mother-in-law Debbie Lutz light Shabbat candles with Rabbi Yoshi.



Cantor Emma sings on the bimah during her installation.

Emma’s voice and soul shone through liturgy old and new. Showcasing Cantor Emma’s collaborative spirit, she was joined on the bimah by colleagues from across the country, including Cantor Richard Cohn, outgoing Dean of the Debbie Friedman School of Sacred Music at Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion. The voices of our Stephen Wise Temple Junior Cantors added joy to the evening as well, as did the love and humor of Cantor Emma’s friends and colleagues who contributed to a video tribute.

Jeremy B. Rosen, co-chair of the transition committee, called her “the very best cantor of her generation.”

With a background in musical theater and a family tree that includes a temple president, the first bat mitzvah on the West Coast, and a Jew-by-choice, Cantor Emma brings a modern, well-rounded, and soulful approach to evolving Jewish musical tradition. She honors the past while reaching for the future, and we are so proud to call her our Senior Cantor.

WISE GALA 2022

Jila Hekmat, Kamran Hekmat, Janine Kolodny, Metuka Benjamin, Steve Bram, Rabbi Yoshi Zweiback, and Roya Melamed



The Wise Gala 2022 honored Senior Rabbi Yoshi Zweiback and Head of School Tami Weiser.

While last year's Virtual Gala was fun and full of pajamas, there is nothing quite like getting all dressed up with some place to go. With stunning event design in our Katz Family Pavilion, custom cocktails (Yoshi-rita, anyone?), and Nahmias Plaza filled with food and fun, the Wise Gala 2022 was the celebration we all needed.

"It was so beautiful to have our community together for a celebration," said Senior Rabbi Yoshi Zweiback, who was honored for his 10 years of service to the Wise community.

"It was truly a magical, beautiful night," said Wise School Head of School Tami Weiser, who was honored for her 11 years of service to the Wise community. "I'm still glowing."

The event grossed over \$500,000, which will be used to provide a world-class experience in Jewish worship, community, and education for any family who seeks it, and the gifts made during the Fund-a-Need will go specifically to support financial aid for students at our schools.

The event would not have been possible without the hard work of the co-chairs, committee, and our staff, who helped make this one of our most successful galas to date.

Wise School parents Sarah Panah, Natalie Zarabi, Candice Beroukhim, Jasmine Moshfegh, Tanya Emrani, and Diana Kashani attend the Wise Gala.



Steve and Stacey Rosenthal and Andy and Alex Fixmer enjoy the Wise Gala.



Katz Family Pavilion and Nahmias Plaza hosted over 500 attendees for our Wise Gala 2022.

SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE AT STEPHEN WISE TEMPLE



Stephen Wise Temple is dedicated to cultivating a vibrant multigenerational community where every member can find the right fit for them. Whether your needs are educational, spiritual, or social, you can find your tribe at Wise.

Throughout the past year, we have continued to adapt and innovate, finding new ways to build our community and create genuine moments of connection, be they on campus, off campus, online, or any combination thereof.

This year, we welcomed 125 new families to our Wise community, and we greeted many of them during a beautiful new members reception in December. Opportunities like these are the first steps to forming real connections, and help to introduce new members to the many ways they can get involved at Wise.

Wise Women has been nurturing minds and bodies with an active book club and several pop-up hikes throughout the year, including several that started within walking distance of our beautiful hilltop campus.

Wise Guys got back to the slopes this year on their annual Ski Trip. They also hosted an in-person Super Bowl party in Katz Family Pavilion, discussed great literature in their monthly book group, and helped prepare our campus for Sukkot.

Our Young Adult Division brought young Jewish professionals across Los Angeles together through holiday celebrations including a Purim Costume Party with a live DJ, movie nights under the stars, and social opportunities.

In addition to our weekly classes with clergy and fantastic courses from the Melton School of Adult Jewish Learning, the Center for Jewish Life has ensured that our minds remain stimulated. CJL has brought in speakers who educate us about current events with sessions about antisemitism and the war in Ukraine. The Sonnenberg Wellness Series welcomed speakers like Wise alumnus Kevin Nahai and terrorist attack survivor Meyli Chapin, who have educated audiences on PTSD, coping strategies, and the importance of mental health.

After two years on Zoom, Wise Years—for those “60 and better”—was thrilled to come back in person this May, to “Ask Our Clergy” questions like why they wanted to be clergy, what biblical characters they admire, how they handle funeral after funeral, and more. We look forward to returning with a full series (in-person and online) in the fall!



Wise Years attendees got to Ask the Clergy.



Wise YAD held a Purim costume party.



Wise Years gathers outdoors.



Wise Guys built our Sukkah on campus.

Spotlight Event: Dara Horn Community Read

Little did we know when we asked author Dara Horn to join us for a conversation about her book "People Love Dead Jews," that the discussion would turn out to be so timely.

One week before Rabbi Yoshi and Rabbi Sari's conversation with Ms. Horn, Rabbi Charlie Cytron-Walker and members of his community were held hostage by a gunman in their Coleville, Tex., synagogue outside of Dallas.



Over 100 congregants and guests joined our Zoom webinar, where Ms. Horn—in dialogue with Rabbi Yoshi and Rabbi Sari—discussed Coleville, along with Holocaust education, the recent banning of "Maus" in schools, and the problem with universalizing antisemitism.



Wise Guys returned to Mammoth for their ski trip.

Wise Women go for one of their many hikes.



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Irene and Yoni Boujo
Dana and Jon Cohen
Sharon Spira-Cushnir and Andrew Cushnir
Rabbi Sari Laufer and Ben Cutter
Glazer Philanthropies
Karen and Ariel Goldenstein
Lori and Rob Goodman
Chana and Ira Green
Michelle and Zach Greenberg
Stephanie and Daniel Heyman
Susan Bloch-Kay and Stephen Kay
Carole and Gary Lazar
Shelly and Don Levy
Cantor Emma and Rabbi Adam Lutz
Jessica Lebovits Mannon and Ryan Mannon
Shannon and Phillip Rahimzadeh
Shohreh and Peyman Saadat
Berta and Donald Salka
Debbie and Robert Schwartz
Tami and Robert Weiser
Ariana and Kevin West
Beverly and Rabbi David Woznica

Programming Gifts

Matching Gift (\$2,000,000)

Lowell Milken Family

Lead Gifts (\$100,000+)

Susie and Jaime Gesundheit
Lori and Rob Goodman

Visionaries (\$25,000-50,000)

Feintech Family Foundation
Carol Leifer and Lori Wolf

Ruth and Robert Desmond

Pillars (\$5,000-\$10,000)

Michael and Susan Dell Foundation
Morgan and David Ickovics
Ashley Gershoony and Eric Pony

Champions (\$1,000-\$4,999)

Lital and David Aschkenasy
Metuka Benjamin
Sara and Shawn Bidsal
Casey and Maren Cohen
Melissa and Richard Deutsch
Michelle and Bob Etebar
Donna and Donald Gindy
Celine and Jonathan Hakakha
Rebecca Forouzesh and Raphael Hedwat
Janine and Richard Kolodny
Nicole Schaeffer and Eric Lavin
DeDe and Moses Lebovits
Arlene and Myron Lieberman
Sepideh and Shawn Matian
Roya and Farhad Melamed
Courtney and Joseph Michael
Katy and Jason Mohr
Deena and Edward Nahmias
Ashley and Isaac Nuriani
David Raskin
Golnaz and Navid Soleymani
Ali Strocker and Andrew Tennenbaum
Neetu and Neil Tolaney
Jennifer and Jordan Toplitzky
Kyle and Maurice Umansky
Saba and Steven Yazdani

Friends (\$180-\$999)

Marina and Ari Afshar
Drew Steinberg and Jesse Aguayo
Joyce and Kevin Anderson
Amanda and Daniel Ben Ari
Chen Goldberg and Elad Benisti
Margaret Betts
Lynn and Les Bider
Brittney Hopper and Adam Bloch
Crissy and Michael Blumenfeld
Jill and Allen Chozen
Jennifer and Marshall Cole
Ronit and Simon Dardashti
Rachel and Marcus Feldman
Rob Enayati
Lauren and Andrew Felder
Bill Feldman
Alexsondra and Andy Fixmer
Kala Savage and Jared Flamm
Elizabeth Goldstein-Franjola and Chris Franjola
Carin and Glenn Freeman
Marcie and Cliff Goldstein

Susie and Bruce Goren
Nicole and Scott Halle
Jennifer and Don Hardison
Romaine Jacobs
Mahsa and Amin Javid
Jodi and Rick Kirkbride
Pamela Kleinman
Natasha and Brett Kleinman
Jessica Lebovits Mannon and Ryan Mannon
Maya and Edan Menachemov
Sandra and Stu Newmark
Wendy and Rory Packer
Lindsay and Andrew Robbins
Jayne Rosen
Jennifer and Jonathan Rosen
Linda and Dan Rosenson
Myriam Amgar Sage and Parham Sage
Jessica and Alec Shankman
Rebecca and Michael Share
Sussan and Michael Shore
Natalie and Rommy Shy
Jaclyn Spiegel and Eric Simms
Chantal and Simon Soomekh
Negin and Daniel Tauberg
Lauren and Jordan Teller
Ali and Alex Weinberger
Pearl Wermut
Melissa and Adam Wilkenfeld
Terry Gock and Michael Zeldin



Hebrew immersion students at AMC celebrate Yom Ha'Atzmaut, Israel's Independence Day.

HELP US MAKE MEANING AND CHANGE THE WORLD.

A gift to Stephen Wise Temple and Schools enables our community to pursue our mission for years to come and to share our history, traditions, and promise with the next generation of Jews.

Visit [WiseLA.org/Giving](https://www.wisela.org/giving)

to learn about how you can participate.

 310.889.2277

 Development@WiseLA.org

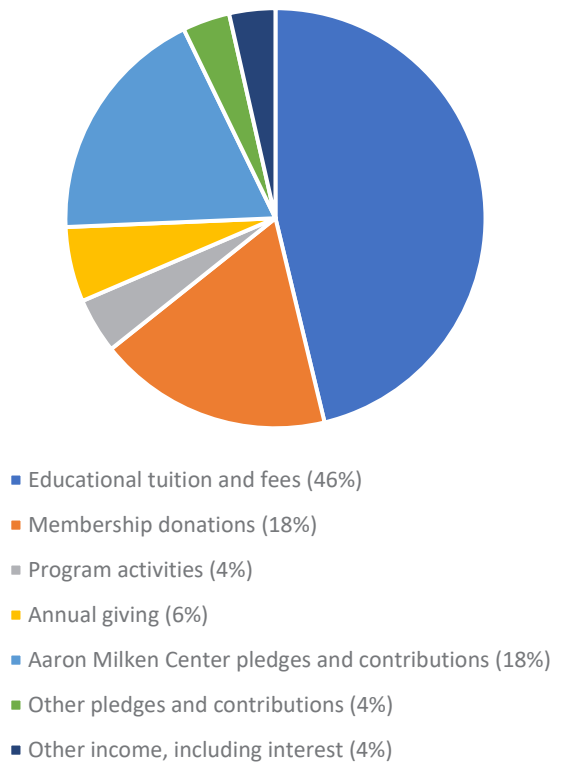
FINANCIALS

FOR THE YEAR ENDING JULY 30, 2021

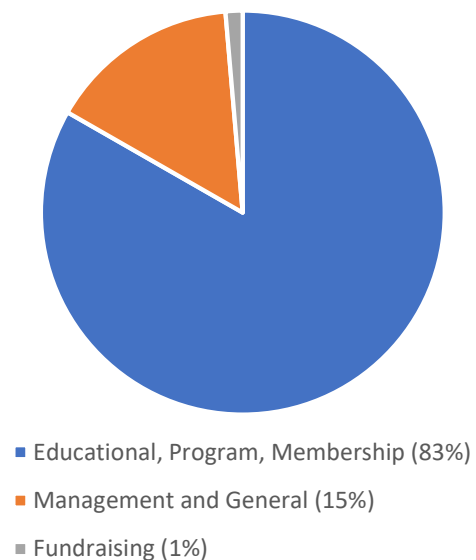
ACTIVITIES	
Educational tuition and fees	9,473,404
Membership donations	3,699,030
Program activities	872,503
Annual fundraising	1,182,925
Aaron Milken Center pledges and contributions	3,785,728
Other pledges & contributions	745,622
Other income, including interest	727,462
Total Support and Revenue	19,890,034
Total Expenses	19,027,403
Change in Net Assets	862,631
Net Assets (Beginning of Year)	18,978,377
Net Assets (End of Year)	19,841,008

FUNCTIONAL EXPENSES	
Educational, Program, Membership	15,846,699
Management & General	2,920,776
Fundraising	259,928
Total Functional Expenses	19,027,403

REVENUE AND SUPPORT SOURCES



FUNCTIONAL EXPENSES





SAVE THE DATES:

High Holy Days 2022 | 5783 • September 25–October 5

Wise will continue to offer meaningful, uplifting, and reflective spiritual experiences as we welcome 5783 together.

Renew your membership now, and stay tuned for High Holy Day information coming later this summer!



WE MAKE MEANING AND CHANGE THE WORLD

Stephen Wise Temple and Schools is an inclusive community that seeks to inspire its diverse constituency to engage ever more deeply and personally in ongoing, significant acts of loving kindness and *Tikkun Olam* (repairing the world); the mindful study of Torah and the pursuit of wisdom; and worship that inspires, uplifts, and connects us to God.

In all we do, and all we are, we strive to be inclusive, creative, and generous. Every aspect of Wise community life and work is informed by our unyielding commitment to these values, beginning with inclusivity. From its founding, Stephen Wise Temple was meant to be an open tent, welcoming and representing the many faces of Jewish life.

RENEW YOUR WISE MEMBERSHIP



Members have been sent membership information by email.

If you did not receive it or if you have questions, please contact Alicia Cohen, Director of Membership, at Membership@WiseLA.org or call us at **310.889.2230**.

Thank you for your commitment!