

STEPHEN
WISETEMPLE

HIGH HOLY DAYS

2023 | 5784

WiseLA.org/HighHolyDays

Service Schedule

Date \ Venue	Sanctuary	Katz Family Pavilion	Plotkin Chapel or Alternative Location <i>(events not taking place in Plotkin Chapel have locations noted)</i>
Erev Rosh Hashanah <i>Friday, September 15</i>	🕒 6 p.m.		
Rosh Hashanah Day <i>Saturday, September 16</i>	9 a.m. <i>Tot Service</i>	10 a.m. <i>K-6 Service</i>	8:45-10 a.m. <i>Spirit of Shabbat</i> <i>Rosh Hashanah Study</i>
	🕒 Ⓜ️ 10:30 a.m.	12:15 p.m.	
Rosh Hashanah Day 2 <i>Sunday, September 17</i>	🕒 10 a.m.		2 p.m. <i>Tashlich</i> <i>(Will Rogers Beach)</i>
Erev Yom Kippur Kol Nidrei <i>Sunday, September 24</i>	🕒 Ⓜ️ 7 p.m.	8 p.m.	
Yom Kippur Day <i>Monday, September 25</i>	9 a.m. <i>Tot Service</i>	10 a.m. <i>K-6 Service</i>	8:45-10 a.m. <i>Spirit of Atonement</i> <i>Yom Kippur Study</i>
	🕒 Ⓜ️ 10:30 a.m.	12:15 p.m. <i>Service with Yizkor</i>	11:45 a.m.-12:15 p.m. <i>Family Mitzvah Project</i> <i>(Tyberg Innovation Lab)</i>
Yom Kippur Afternoon <i>Monday, September 25</i>	3 p.m. <i>Mincha</i>		Learning Sessions <i>(see pg. 9 for details)</i>
	5 p.m. <i>Jonah:</i> <i>An Interactive Family Experience</i>		1:15-2 p.m. <i>Rabbi Sari Laufer and Yael Farber</i>
			2:30-3:15 p.m. <i>Rabbi David Woznica</i>
			4:15 p.m. <i>Musical Healing Meditation</i>
Yizkor/Ne'ilah <i>Monday, September 25</i> <i>(Shofar at 7:24)</i>	Ⓜ️ 6:15 p.m. <i>Ne'ilah</i>	🕒 5:15 p.m. <i>Yizkor/Ne'ilah</i>	
* In person and via Zoom			
	Family Friendly	Ⓜ️ Members only	🕒 Streamed service



No Place like HOME

A Message from Rabbi Yoshi Zweiback

This summer, for a few glorious weeks, Jacqueline and I had all three of our daughters back with us under one roof. We shared meals together, went out for comedy and live music, took family walks and hikes, and joined the masses in actually sitting in a movie theater for what came to be called “Barbenheimer” in the press.

As I reflected on how wonderful it all felt, I found myself thinking about an iconic moment in a different film, *The Wizard of Oz*. (Not the scary scene with the flying monkeys that haunted my childhood but the one where Dorothy clicks her heels three times and says, “There’s no place like home!”).

What makes the concept of home so special, for me at least, are the feelings that “home” evokes: safety, love, a sense of belonging, of feeling seen and known.

As I reflect on Dorothy’s wish, I wonder how accurate it really is. I think actually that there are quite a few places—at least in my life experience—that are like home.

When I was a kid, home was the Jewish summer camp where I made lifelong friends and where I felt cared for and loved. In college, I found a sense of home at Hillel. And I have been blessed to feel at home in synagogues around the world: in Omaha, Jerusalem, Los Altos Hills, and—of course—right here in Los Angeles.

It is our hope, and at the heart of all we do, that Wise be a place that feels like home to our community: A place where we feel safe and cared for, heard and seen; a place where we find comfort and meaning through the teachings of our tradition and through the friendships we have made. While you might not be able to click your heels through the traffic on the 405, we want you to feel calm and whole each time you turn onto Stephen S. Wise Drive.

After the destruction of the Temple in Jerusalem almost 2,000 years ago, our

ancient sages were bereft and unrooted, looking for a new spiritual home, a place to feel calm and whole. This is the reason that they began to call the synagogue a Beit Knesset—a home for gathering. Perhaps even more than prayer, more than learning, our synagogue—our temple and school buildings and community—is supposed to feel like a home to us all, members and guests alike.

Sometimes creating that sense of home takes work on our part. When our daughters came back for the summer, we had to make space for them, both physically and emotionally.

To make this place our spiritual home requires some effort as well. We have to show up for our community, bringing our full selves and opening our hearts to one another so that everyone—including ourselves—will feel *ba’bayit*, at home. Let’s welcome each other more, share more Shabbat dinners and simchas with each other, listen harder and better, hug more, celebrate more, support each other more. Let’s work together to make sure that everyone feels seen and known.

The world is filled with great beauty and, yes, sometimes with scary moments as well. Thank goodness that there are also many homes—many sanctuaries—where we can feel safe and loved and seen. Places where we can feel calm and whole in a world that is anything but. Places where we can find—and make—meaning and purpose and, together as God’s partners, make the world a better place, too.

Welcome home and Shanah Tovah!

Yoshi Zweiback
Senior Rabbi



Meet Our Clergy



Rabbi Yoshi Zweiback
Senior Rabbi
RabbiYoshi@WiseLA.org



Cantor Emma Lutz
Senior Cantor
ELutz@WiseLA.org



Rabbi David Woznica
DWoznica@WiseLA.org



Rabbi Ron Stern
RonStern@WiseLA.org



Rabbi Sari Laufer
SLaufer@WiseLA.org



Rabbi Joshua Knobel
JKnobel@WiseLA.org



Rabbi Eli Herscher
Senior Rabbi Emeritus
EliHerscher@WiseLA.org



Rabbi Isaiah Zeldin
(Z"l)
Founding Rabbi

Get to know our clergy members at
WiseLA.org/Clergy

Read more about Rabbi Zeldin at
WiseLA.org/RabbiZeldin

DAILY KAVANAH

Looking for guidance?
Visit this archive of daily wisdom
from our clergy.

כּוּוּנָה יּוּמִית

WiseLA.org/DailyKavanah



Message From the President **Jeremy Rosen**

Dear Congregants,

This is my first High Holy Days writing to you as our temple President. In the few short months that I have held this position, I have been privileged to see firsthand the amazing work our clergy, staff, teachers, and lay leaders do every day for our congregants of all ages.

For the many of you who already participate and enjoy the various offerings the temple provides, thank you for your support, and I hope you continue to find meaning in your involvement. For those of you who have not yet found your place in the temple, I encourage you to try a new activity at Wise this year and see if you can find something to spark your passion.

While the temple has many great programs and activities for you to enjoy year-round, what really makes this place special is our community, especially during times of great loss and great joy. My family has experienced both during our time as members here. Having the support of our clergy and friends during our mourning provided us with great comfort. Likewise, having the blessings of our clergy and friends to celebrate our *simchas* made them even sweeter. I hope all of you feel connected to your temple community. We are here for you in good times and bad.

As we celebrate another year and take stock of our lives, my hope for all of you is that the next year is a healthy and happy one for you and your families.

Happy New Year,

Jeremy Rosen
President

Watch WISE

Watch High Holy Days, Shabbat, and Festival services online!

On our website: **WiseLA.org/Online**

On YouTube: **YouTube.com/c/WiseTempleLA**

On your smart TV:

Roku: search for “Stephen Wise Temple” and add our channel

Fire TV and Apple TV: download the YouTube or

Facebook Watch apps and search for “Stephen Wise Temple”

Meet our High Holy Day Musical Team



For so many of us, singing is our entry point to Jewish ritual, especially during the High Holy Day season. Each moment of our worship is perfectly accompanied by words of blessing and special melodies that connect us to our past, to our prayers, and to our aspirations for the year to come. At times, we open ourselves up simply by listening, evoking a sense of awe or stirring up memories, both recent and remote. And at other moments, we raise our voices together in communal song, reminded of the strength of our community when we come together. We feel connected not only to those present but to so many generations before us who joined together in the same words and songs as they, too, atoned and searched for meaning in their own lives. I pray that the music of our congregation will be a sacred key that

unlocks a beautiful, reflective, and hopeful holiday season for us all in 5784.

Warmly,

Emma Lutz
Senior Cantor



Dr. Tali Tadmor
Music Director for
Stephen Wise Temple
and Schools

Our music director Dr. Tali Tadmor, DMA, is a leader in the field of Jewish worship music. Born and raised in Israel, she combines a deep understanding of Hebrew texts with her musical talents. Tali was Music Director at Temple Judea for 22 years and is on faculty at the Academy of Jewish Religion, California (AJR-CA), where she helps to train future generations of cantors. This past year, Tali was commissioned to compose piano arrangements for the Reform Movement's newest anthology of High Holy Day music. In addition to her work in the Jewish world, she has a career in classical music: For several years she served as Assistant Music Director at the L.A. Opera and has performed in venues including Carnegie Hall, Lincoln Center, and around the globe. Tali holds master's and doctorate degrees in music performance from USC.



Tannoz Bahremend Foruzanfar
Cantor

Cantor Tannoz Bahremend Foruzanfar was born in Tehran, Iran, and moved to Los Angeles with her family when she was two years old. An only child, her favorite hobby was always singing. She attended USC, where she earned her bachelor's in education with an emphasis in Music. She received a master's in sacred music at the AJR-CA and was ordained in 2009 as the first female Iranian-American cantor. Tannoz began working at Stephen Wise Temple in the summer of 2004.

Andrew became our Cantorial Intern in July of 2022, but he was part of our musical team even before that. Andrew sings and chants at services, lends his voice and guitar to **Aaron Milken Center Shabbats**, works with our **Center for Youth Engagement (CYE)**, and heads up our **Young Adult Division (YAD)**.

Originally from Huntington Beach, Andrew was passionate about Jewish music from an early age, singing in his synagogue's High Holy Day choir at the age of 10. Andrew has a background in musical theater, performing in New York for six years before returning to Southern California in 2020.

Andrew is currently in his third year of cantorial school at the AJR-CA in Los Angeles.



Andrew Paskil
Cantorial Intern

Voices of **WISE**

We acknowledge with gratitude the many congregants and community members who are musically enriching our High Holy Days

*Our Stephen Wise Temple Choir is conducted by **Tali Tadmor and Iris Levine**.
Our musical team is accompanied by **Lisa Edwards and Cathy Miller**.*

SOLOISTS

Joe Hack, *Bass*

Brandon Levin, *Tenor*

Lisa Westermarck, *Mezzo Soprano*

Andrea Sonnenberg, *Alto*

Choristers: Lori Rubin, Nilou Pourmousa, Beth Handzo

Special thanks to all of our Torah and Hafarah chanters as well as our junior cantors who beautifully enhance the music of our worship services.

STEPHEN WISE TEMPLE BAND

Yarone Levy, *Guitar* ▪ Larry Steen, *Bass* ▪ Jeff Stern, *Percussion*
Cellists: Mia Barcia-Colombo ▪ Dane Little

STEPHEN WISE TEMPLE HIGH HOLY DAY CHOIR

Directed by: Tali Tadmor, *DMA*

Lisa Edwards, *Organ and Piano*

Luc Kleiner ▪ Matt Lewis ▪ Josh Munnell ▪ Molly Pease
Meredith Pyle ▪ Veronica Robinson ▪ Anna Schubert ▪ Ann Sheridan
Dave Stal ▪ Valerie Tambaoan ▪ Greg Whipple ▪ Lorenzo Zapata

STEPHEN WISE TEMPLE SINGERS

Directed by: Iris Levine, *DMA*

Cathy Miller, *Organ and Piano*

Lesili Beard ▪ Christina Bristow ▪ John Buffett ▪ Saunder Choi
Carrah Flahiver ▪ Harriet Fraser ▪ Ian Luna ▪ Brett McDermid
Julia Metzler ▪ David Morales ▪ Evan Roberts ▪ Ilana Summers



**Scan this code to view upcoming musical events
and read more about our musical team.**

High Holy Days Study

At Wise, we recognize that not everybody worships or learns in the same way. That's why we offer a variety of opportunities to engage with the High Holy Day liturgy.

During the Days of Awe, in addition to our meaningful worship services, you will have many opportunities to learn with our clergy and your community both online and in-person.

Spirit of the High Holy Days

The mornings of Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur, get a taste of our weekly Spirit of Shabbat learning. If you have not joined us before, you'll pray, laugh, learn, and grow as you experience our special brand of communal study with our clergy. Texts will be provided in English and Hebrew and all learners are warmly welcomed! All study sessions will be held in-person with a Zoom option.

Date	Time	Study Sessions	Location
Rosh Hashanah Day Saturday, Sept. 16	8:45 - 10 a.m.	<p>Spirit of Shabbat/Rosh Hashanah Text Study: <i>An Exploration of Two Texts to Elevate Your Rosh Hashanah Experience</i></p> <p>Torah Readings for Rosh Hashanah <i>With Rabbi Ron Stern</i></p> <p>Both Torah readings for Rosh Hashanah tell stories of childless women longing for children. How do these accounts of longing and subverted dreams relate to the themes of these High Holy Days? Together, we will explore the themes evoked in these poignant stories.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">+</p> <p>Chilling and Life-Changing Words <i>With Rabbi David Woznica</i></p> <p><i>"On Rosh Hashanah it is written and on Yom Kippur it is sealed: How many shall pass away, how many shall be born? Who shall live and who shall die ..."</i></p> <p>There are no more powerful words we chant than on these days. How are we to understand them? Does Judaism believe our fate is shaped between Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur? Perhaps most importantly, we will consider how these words should specifically impact our actions during the next 10 days.</p>	Plotkin Chapel
Yom Kippur Day Monday, Sept. 25	8:45 - 10 a.m.	<p>Spirit of Atonement/Yom Kippur Text Study <i>With Rabbi Yoshi Zweiback</i></p> <p>Join Rabbi Yoshi for text study and reflection around the key themes of <i>teshuvah</i> (repentance) and <i>s'licha</i> (forgiveness) that animate the Days of Awe.</p>	Plotkin Chapel



Spend the Day Learning With Us on Yom Kippur

Our clergy and musical team have created space for our community to learn, pray, reflect, and engage with our tradition in a variety of ways during the afternoon of Yom Kippur.

Many undertake a fast during Yom Kippur, abstaining from food and drink so as to focus body and soul on the task of *teshuvah*. Helping center us on the themes of repentance and reflection, it is a common practice to spend most of the hours of the day in synagogue.

While prayer is a central aspect of the Yom Kippur day, the prophet Isaiah reminds us that prayer without action and introspection is not a true fast. So, what better way to spend the fast than by drinking in the ancient words of our tradition, filling ourselves with knowledge and wisdom, and sharing the nourishment of our text—and its commitment to action—through lively discussion? Join us for what promises to be a moving and inspiring afternoon. All study sessions will be held in-person with a Zoom option.

Date	Time	Study Sessions	Location
Yom Kippur Day Monday, Sept. 25	1-1:45 p.m.	Bad Blood: Does Judaism Really Ask Us to Forgive and Forget? <i>Rabbi Sari Laufer and Yael Farber, Rabbinic Intern</i> Much emphasis is placed on forgiveness and the processes around asking for and granting it. Join Rabbi Sari and Rabbinic Intern Yael Farber for a conversation about what comes next—can we really forgive and forget, or are we asked to do something else?	Plotkin Chapel
	2-2:45 p.m.	When Bad Things Happen to Good People <i>Rabbi David Woznica</i> Can we reconcile a just and all-powerful God in a world where there is unjust pain and loss? Rabbi Woznica will lead us through this vitally important and, for many, personal question, as he offers his thoughts while welcoming inquiry and the experiences of others.	Plotkin Chapel
	4:15 -5:15 p.m.	Musical Healing Meditation <i>Music Director Tali Tadmor and the Wise Musical Team</i> Our Wise musicians have curated a program of choral, solo, and instrumental music that is certain to touch your heart and comfort your soul. Featuring Dr. Iris Levine and solos by flutist Lesili Beard and Cantorial Intern Andrew Paskil.	Plotkin Chapel

Family Services

While worshippers of all ages are welcome at any of Stephen Wise Temple's High Holy Day services, our family-friendly services are designed to be spiritually meaningful but also a little more accessible for our younger worshippers. These services are shorter in duration, and while the major High Holy Day liturgy and rituals are covered, these services will feature more melodies that inspire communal singing and you'll get a topical story rather than a formal sermon.

Family Activities

In addition to our lively family-friendly worship services, we offer additional family experiences to enrich your High Holy Days at Wise. From Tashlich at the Beach to unique family learning and *tikkun olam* opportunities, join us to *make meaning and change the world* as we welcome 5784.

Date	Time	Activity	Location
Erev Rosh Hashanah Friday, Sept. 15	6 p.m.	Sermon Alternative*	Plotkin Chapel
Rosh Hashanah Day 2 Sunday, Sept. 17	2 p.m.	Tashlich at the Beach	Will Rogers Beach
Yom Kippur Day Monday, Sept. 25	11:45 a.m.-12:30 p.m.	Family Mitzvah Project	Tyberg Innovation Lab
	5 p.m.	Jonah: An Interactive Family Experience	Sanctuary

*While the traditional sermon for our Erev Rosh Hashanah services is being delivered, families with young children will have the opportunity for an age-appropriate story and singalong with members of our clergy during the sermon time.

Days of Awesome

AGES 0-5: As part of Days of Awesome, we offer complimentary childcare for preschool-aged children.

Snacks will be provided, both on Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur. Days of Awesome hours for children ages 2-5 will be:

Rosh Hashanah: September 16, 10 a.m.-2:30 p.m.

Yom Kippur: September 25, 10 a.m.-3:00 p.m.

Check-in begins: 9:45 a.m.

AGES 6-12: Days of Awesome for children ages 6 and up offers children age-appropriate Jewish learning for the High Holy Days through fun activities that build spirit and community for children whose parents wish to attend traditional services.

Snacks will be provided both on Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur. Days of Awesome activities for children Grades K-8 will be held:

Rosh Hashanah: September 16, 11:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m.

Yom Kippur: September 25, 11:30 a.m.-3:00 p.m.

Check-in begins: 11:15 a.m.



Visit
[WiseLA.org/HHDFamily](https://www.wisela.org/HHDFamily)
for more details on family
services and activities.



SCAN ME

Rosh Hashanah Day 2

10 a.m. Sanctuary
Followed by brunch

Led by Cantor Emma and featuring the entire clergy and musical team, this musical celebration of the New Year is sure to lift your spirits, and the brunch following will fill your soul and your stomach.

As part of our community outreach, this service is open to all, but you must register for a ticket



Tashlich at the Beach

Sunday, Sept. 17 | 2 p.m.

Will Rogers State Beach

Lifeguard Tower 6

Pack your bread, your blanket, and your picnic basket as Wise heads to the beach for Tashlich, the symbolic casting of our sins into the ocean in preparation for Yom Kippur. Gather in community to reflect, hear the sounds of the shofar, and say goodbye to the mistakes of last year.

Come for the Tashlich, stay for a picnic!



SCAN ME



 SIGN UP

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**Share the Wise experience with friends
outside Southern California.**

**Special events ▪ Study opportunities
Webinars ▪ Workshops ▪ Online programming**

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WISE TRAVEL



SCAN ME

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LED BY RABBI YOSHI ZWEIBACK
& CANTOR EMMA LUTZ

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& CANTOR EMMA LUTZ

DEC 23, 2024 - JAN. 4, 2025



WiseLA.org/Shabbat

Shabbat at Wise

Whether you prefer traditional prayer, singing, Torah study, or celebrating the beauty of our natural world, there is a Shabbat experience at Stephen Wise Temple for everyone.

Shabbat Evening Services: 6:15 p.m., every Friday

Our weekly Shabbat evening services are a chance to check in with God, with our family, and with ourselves. They provide a rhythm to the week, a respite from our day-to-day lives, and an opportunity to connect with our community through song and prayer. Throughout the year, we have special *Shabbatot* like *Camp Shabbat*, *Shabbat by the Shore*, *Shabbat Shirah—The Sabbath of Song*, and *Musical Shabbat* (with special guests!). You also won't want to miss our *Pride Shabbat*, *Veterans Day Shabbat*, *Homecoming Shabbat*, and more!



Fall 2023 Shabbat Speakers

Join us on **Friday, Nov. 3**, when we will host a special speaker. **Major General (Res.) Nadav Padan** will give a talk entitled: "The Israeli Defense Forces: The Upcoming Challenges and Strategic Direction for the Next Five Years." **Soloist Lital Abrahams** will also be joining Cantor Emma that evening as we uplift our Shabbat services with joyous song.

On **Friday, Nov. 10**, we will welcome another special guest speaker in **Ben M. Freeman**, educator and author, of *Reclaiming Our Story: The Pursuit of Jewish Pride*.



Mountaintop Shabbat: 10 a.m., Monthly

Fresh tunes, fresh air, and fresh perspective: You'll find all that and more at this intergenerational service that appeals to all ages. One Saturday each month, we gather on our Wise campus—when weather permits, outdoors in our beautiful Geldin Chapel. Whether you are 6 or 66, this experience is made for you. Come to sing, come to learn, come to pray, come to be outside, come to be a part of our community. Above all: Come!

Tot Shabbat: 10 a.m., Monthly

Start a new family Shabbat tradition! Our monthly *Tot Shabbat* services will connect you with fellow parents, the Wise community, and a fun new way to 'do' Jewish. Our festive services (outdoors, weather permitting), led by our clergy and song leaders, are full of music and stories, introducing the youngest members of our community to the joy of Shabbat.

Parents and grandparents love it too! Our *Tot Shabbat* services are recommended for children up to 5 years of age. **See dates on Page 17.**



Check out our website to learn more.



Spirit of Shabbat With Rabbi Yoshi

[WiseLA.org/SpiritOfShabbat](https://www.wisela.org/SpiritOfShabbat)

Join us each Saturday morning for provocative discussions, meaningful connections, insightful observations, and plenty of hearty laughter as we study Torah the way it was meant to be studied: in a group!

"One of my favorite times of the week is Shabbat mornings when my husband and I walk to Wise to join the Spirit of Shabbat," says Wise member and Spirit of Shabbat regular Sharona Shenassa. "The lessons and conversations are always interesting and thought-provoking. I walk away feeling more knowledgeable and empowered by all that our Torah has to offer!"

At Spirit of Shabbat, you get to immerse yourself in the songs and prayers of Shabbat, which set the tone for an hour of deep and engaging Torah study where we work to uncover the timeless wisdom

embedded in our ancient tradition. With Rabbi Yoshi and other members of the clergy as our guides, we apply that wisdom to issues relevant to our present historical moment.

We conclude each session with a chance to say *Kaddish*, both in appreciation of our learning together and as an opportunity to memorialize our loved ones. Most sessions are held on our Stephen Wise Temple campus, some are hosted in participants' homes, and all will also be available on Zoom.

The experience starts each Saturday morning at 8:45 a.m. and concludes with an opportunity to recite *Kaddish* at 10 a.m.

Join us as we study, learn, and grow together!

I love coming to learn every week. I learn a lot and I love hearing different perspectives on what we study.

-Melinda Ahdoot



SEARCH FOR MEANING WITH RABBI YOSHI

In his podcast, Rabbi Yoshi sits down with thinkers and doers, movers and shakers, friends and soon-to-be-friends, to discuss what inspires them and how they find meaning in their everyday lives. Tune in or download to hear his chats with Star Wars voice actress Vanessa Marshall, founder of the Jewish Pride Movement Ben M. Freeman, Israeli judicial expert Orly Erez-Likhovski, disability advocate Matan Koch, and many other fascinating guests.

Listen and subscribe at [WiseLA.org/SearchForMeaning](https://www.wisela.org/SearchForMeaning)





Music on the Mountaintop



Save the dates for these wonderful musical celebrations with Cantor Emma Lutz, our Wise music team, and special musical guests throughout the year.

- **Friday, Nov. 3 - Musical Shabbat:** Sweeten your Cheshvan (the only month on the Hebrew calendar with no special holidays) by celebrating an extra-special Shabbat featuring vocal and instrumental guests!
- **Friday, Dec. 8 - Shabbanukkah:** A joyful celebration with our band and a special holiday performance from our Wise School first graders! We'll have great food and music and share the Festival of Lights together.
- **Friday, Jan. 12 - Debbie Friedman Memorial Shabbat:** We celebrate the life and impact of Debbie Friedman, the singer-songwriter responsible for much of the American Jewish songbook.
- **Friday, Jan. 26 - Shabbat Shirah and Homecoming Shabbat:** Join us as we kick off our 60th anniversary celebration with special guests and soul-lifting music for our Shabbat of Song.
- **Friday, March 22 - Shabbat Purim!** Enjoy a fun Purim celebration fit for all ages.
- **Tuesday, April 23 - Second Night Seder**
A meaningful seder experience in community with delicious food, moving storytelling, and celebratory singing.
- **Friday, May 10 - Memory and Meaning:** Music for Yom HaShoah and Yom HaZikaron.
- **Friday, May 17 - Yom HaAitzmaut:** A special celebration of the music of our homeland.
- **Sunday, June 9 - Shavuot Concert:** This musical celebration of Wise's 60th anniversary will feature the talents of cantors and musicians from across Los Angeles, celebrating Shavuot together.



Sukkot

2023/5784

Celebrate the harvest
with us as we gather
together in
sacred community!

Visit our sukkot on
campus for these events
or at any time during
the festival.

שְׁבַעַת יָמִים תִּהְיֶה לַיהוָה אֱלֹהֶיךָ בְּמָקוֹם אֲשֶׁר־יִבְחַר יְהוָה כִּי יְבָרְכֶךָ
יְהוָה אֱלֹהֶיךָ בְּכֹל תְּבוּאָתְךָ וּבְכֹל מַעֲשֵׂה יָדֶיךָ וְהֵייתָ אֶדְ שְׂמֵחַ:

*"You shall hold a festival for God seven days ... for God
will bless all your crops and your undertakings, and you
shall have nothing but joy."*

—Deuteronomy 16:15

Wise Guys Sukkah Build
Thursday, Sept. 28 | 7:30 p.m.

Sukkot Shabbat Service
Friday, Sept. 29 | 6:15 p.m.

Spirit of Shabbat
Saturday, Sept. 30 | 8:45 a.m.

Sukkot Morning Service
Saturday, Sept. 30 | 10 a.m.

Sukkot Morning Hike
Thursday, Oct. 5 | 8:30 a.m.
TreePeople

Wise Women Book Club
Thursday, Oct. 5 | 7 p.m.

**Shemini Atzeret &
Simchat Torah Shabbat**
Saturday, Oct. 7, starting at 8:45 a.m.

- *Spirit of Shabbat*
- *Simchat Torah Tot Shabbat*
- *Sukkot Yizkor and Shemini Atzeret Services*
- *Community Simchat Torah Celebration*

Visit us online to learn more: WiseLA.org/Sukkot



SCAN ME

Wise School: We Make Great Happen

A message from Head of School Tami Weiser



SCAN ME

...ושנתתם לבניך

"And you shall teach them to your children ..."
—Deuteronomy 6:7



Our Wise School theme this year is *"V'shinantam Levanecha—You Shall Teach Your Children"*—a perfect theme for our school. Each day at Wise, our students learn deeply in all subject matters. They learn not just in the classroom, but on the yard, on the stage, and on the athletic fields and courts. Beyond academic lessons, they also learn how to be good human beings from their administrators, teachers, our Wise clergy, and—of course—our amazing parents.

We begin this school year with pride in all of the accomplishments we achieved last year—from debate team tournament wins, to stellar finishes for all three of our teams in the Odyssey of the Mind World Championships (pictured below), to flag football and basketball league titles and much more. While we look back with joy at the year gone by, we also look ahead to a year that will be filled with even more growth and excitement for us, for our students, and for our families.

We can only imagine what innovative projects will come out of our STEAM Day, what inventive arguments our debaters will construct, and what unique artwork our students will create throughout the year. They will deepen old friendships and discover new ones, as will their parents. Our fun and educational community events, WPA socials and parties, and outstanding speakers will strengthen the bonds of our community and bring us all closer together.

As we enter this High Holy Day season, we know that when we sing "L'dor V'dor," and families enfold one another within their tallit, they embody the words: "From generation to generation, we will make your greatness known." We are all role models for our next generation, and they are watching closely. It is an honor and a privilege to have this awesome responsibility, and Wise School does this every single day.



18 HIGH HOLY DAYS 2023

Tami
Tami Weiser
Head of School

WISE SCHOOL

Open Houses 2023
October 25 & December 6



***Recipient of the coveted "Five Star Award For Gifted Education"
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310.889.2300 | Wise-School.org
15500 Stephen S. Wise Drive Los Angeles, CA 90077



MAKE IT MEMORABLE WITH
WISE EVENTS



Building for Tomorrow: Aaron Milken Center



As 5783 began just one year ago, we were preparing to break ground on Aaron Milken Center,

our transformational new early childhood education building. What a difference a year can make!

Over the last 12 months, our mountaintop has been transformed. Our entire community came together to celebrate our groundbreaking ceremony with joyous singing and champagne toasts. Those who visited campus during the winter and spring saw piles of rubble and dirt behind our construction fence as the site was cleared (with some help from Rabbi Yoshi and Tami Weiser on the frontloader) and graded.

In May, the enormous cisterns—which will play a major role in AMC’s sustainability profile by collecting runoff water—were lowered into the ground. In June, the hillside retaining wall was built. In July, the foundations for our new buildings were laid, and in August, the masonry walls began to rise.

As you arrived on campus for High Holy Day services this year, you saw the interior walls for the first floor being installed, and the structural beams and columns for the second floor being put into place. Later this fall, we’ll celebrate a major milestone that those in the construction business call “topping out”—when the tallest and last beam of a building is set into place.



SCAN ME

To learn more, visit
[Wisela.org/AaronMilkenCenter](https://www.wisela.org/AaronMilkenCenter).

With the installation of the main support beam for the canopy that will give shade to our sprawling community plaza, the project will have reached an unofficial midway point.

Over the next 11 months, the signature features which all make our new AMC a state-of-the-art educational vanguard will be added, including spaces that weave sustainability into the backdrop for childhood imagination and play.

Built to LEED Silver standards for sustainability, our new buildings will reduce energy and water waste while creating healthy spaces. Our youngest learners and their families will behold our beautiful surroundings from our age-appropriate playgrounds, our water-filtering Rain Garden, and from any one of four rooftop learning gardens. These spaces are a key component of AMC’s green architecture and will introduce our students to growing food, sensory play, and the natural world around them.

You can still be a part of this historic project! Contact our Development team at Development@WiseLA.org to find out how.



aaron milken center at WISE



...שנתכם לבניד.

"And you shall teach them to your children ..."
—Deuteronomy 6:7

I loved celebrating the High Holy Days when I was a little girl. I remember getting a new dress and shiny black new Mary Janes that I was not allowed to wear until we went to temple. I remember them as a meaningful and refreshing restart; it was not just a new day, but a new year.

During my years at Wise, I have built beautiful relationships with our community—our children, parents, teachers, and staff—but with each new year that dawns, we also celebrate change and new beginnings.

As I begin my first year as Aaron Milken Center Director, I look forward to using my experience and knowledge to make our great community and program even stronger. I am humbled that I get to work with such a remarkable team of educators, who fill each day with their excitement for learning.

Watching construction of our new buildings every day, it's easy to look forward to next fall, but I'm most excited to spend the year educating children, supporting families, and celebrating this community.

As children return to campus, they find classroom environments rich with materials that provoke questions about Rosh Hashanah, and they begin to recognize the symbols, sounds, smells, and tastes of the holiday.

A big part of our curriculum is introducing Jewish values and creating opportunities for children to practice them. By opening up a *rimon*—Hebrew for pomegranate, the fruit most often associated with Rosh Hashanah—children ask about the hundreds of seeds they contain.

As they learn that these seeds have come to represent *mitzvot*—commandments—they learn the blessing that asks God for help in making our good deeds as numerous as those seeds.

Over the next seven months, our children will continue to investigate our traditions and the world around them even more. They will ask new questions, and new lessons will emerge from their insatiable curiosity.

One of our blessings, especially with our youngest learners, is that we are given a fresh start every day. We are given the chance to do and see things a little differently and the opportunity to be even more grateful than we were the day before. At AMC, every day is a chance to refresh, renew, and reimagine.

Wishing you a sweet and healthy new year.

Shanah Tovah,

Jayne Rosen
Aaron Milken Center Director



2023-24 Dates

- Oct. 7
- Nov. 4
- Dec. 9
- Jan. 6
- Feb. 3
- March 2
- April 13
- May 11
- June 1

Tot Shabbat at Wise

Our Tot Shabbats, held one Saturday each month at 9 a.m., are a music- and story-filled way to introduce your little ones to the joys of Shabbat! Start a new family tradition and connect with your children and your community as you join fellow parents (and grandparents!) in song, dance, and prayer, led by our clergy and **Aaron Milken Center** educators.

Whether you are a Wise member or not, all are encouraged and welcome to attend with family and friends.

Recommended for children ages 5 and under.



Parenting Center

Join our engaging and supportive *Baby and Me* classes designed for parents and children aged three months to two years. With a blend of learning, music, play, and guest speakers, these classes offer a valuable opportunity for both parents and children to learn and grow together.

Connect with other parents and build lifelong friendships within our vibrant community.

By participating in our classes, you and your family will establish Jewish roots in our school and temple community, creating a strong foundation for your child's upbringing.



Rethink Jewish Education

WiseLA.org/CYE



...וּשְׁנַתְּם לְבְנֵיכֶם.

“And you shall teach them to your children ...”
—Deuteronomy 6:7



This year’s theme, first expressed as a plea from Moses to the Israelites, highlights the significance of education in Jewish life. From our people’s very beginnings, Jewish families have worked diligently to share the teachings of our tradition with our children, passing on the gift of Judaism from generation to generation.

These teachings are even more valuable than many of us realize. For years, clinical studies have linked a strong religious identity, bolstered by religious education, with increased health, happiness, and fulfillment in adult life. However, in a world that places increasing social, academic, and extracurricular demands upon our children, it’s never been more difficult—or more important—to share the teachings of our tradition with them.

Our **Center for Youth Engagement (CYE)** is here to help families navigate the challenges of engaging children and young adults in the traditions, values, and stories of our people. With a vast array of affordable options to meet your priorities and schedule (from a variety of weekly classes to monthly camp and *Family Learning Experiences*) during the academic year, to our incomparable spring and summer camps—all with options for children in grades TK-12—the CYE is the perfect partner to help you give your children the precious gift of Judaism.

Contact us today, and we’ll help you find the right fit for you and your child or teen.

Looking forward to an amazing New Year together,

B’Shalom,

Rabbi Josh Knobel
Director, Center for Youth Engagement



Find out about our TK-6 programs like *Camp Wise Sundays*, *Shabbat Torah Study*, *Religious School*, *T’filah Tuesdays*, and our monthly *Wise Family Learning Experience*!





#EatSleepCampWiseRepeat
SPRING (K-6):
APRIL 29 - MAY 3, 2024

SUMMER (K-8):
JUNE 17 - AUGUST 2, 2024

CAMP WISE EST. 1964

SIGN UP FOR UPDATES:
CAMPWISELA.ORG



FOLLOW THE FUN:
f i X @CampWiseLA

WTY: Wise Temple Youth (Grades 7-12)

Introduce your teen to the gift of an enriching, engaging, and educational Jewish community with *Wise Temple Youth!* Our youth group program, affiliated with the North American Federation for Temple Youth (NFTY), is led by teens, for teens. WTY organizes educational, social, and communal service activities, giving teenagers a safe place to connect, grow, deepen their commitment to their Jewish heritage, and make a difference in the world. Our WTY teens learn about themselves and the world through dynamic, facilitated conversations on personal and communal topics such as stress management, food insecurity, and mindfulness. They bond through programs themed around holidays such as Passover and Veterans Day. They build teamwork and leadership skills through sports, art, and the WTY Board. They do all of this while building confidence, forging lifelong friendships, and discovering who they are. You don't want your teen to miss out!

Confirmation & Mini-Courses

New this year, we will offer mini-courses—often accompanied by travel opportunities—*often accompanied by travel opportunities*—for all our WTY teens. From our homelessness course for grades 7-8, which takes teens to Skid Row, a food bank, and a hunger center; to our stranger curriculum for grades 8-9, which takes teens to the Arizona border; to our *L'Taken* course in grades 10-12, which takes teens to Washington, D.C.; to our confirmation class for high school seniors, which culminates in our confirmation ceremony; these classes represent special opportunities to build deep relationships with classmates, as well as the Stephen Wise Temple clergy, while discussing topics of significance.

Check out our class schedules and find out more about our teen programs.



LET'S CONNECT



Along with the targeted ads from Facebook and Instagram, I have long believed that my iTunes library can read my mood. True or not, it often seems like the shuffle mode can tell

when I need to pump myself up, or when it is time for a more mellow vibe. While I do not actually think that the feature uses any of the known algorithms (see: Facebook and Instagram), it still seems to sense when my kids and I are in the mood to screaming, or when we need something a little more soothing. And it does feel like my iTunes has some favorites, one of which seems to be “Home is Where the Heart Is,” by Sally Fingerett (though the version to which I listen most often is by Peter, Paul, and Mary). We heard it in the car recently driving up Stephen S. Wise Drive as we headed back to school, returning to the familiar rhythms of carpools and friends and these Holy Days.

*Home is where the heart is
No matter how the heart lives
Inside your heart where love is
That's where you've got to make yourself
At home*


Fingerett reminds us—as Rabbi Yoshi did in the opening pages of this program—that home can be many different places. Home, they suggest, might not even be a physical place, but a feeling, or a space within us. Maybe that is why one of the themes of


these holy days is *teshuvah*—a turning—a return to that feeling of wholeness and safety that Rabbi Yoshi wrote about.

But millenia before Sally Fingerett OR Peter, Paul, and Mary sang, our Torah taught about building not just a physical space, but a sense of connection—a spiritual home. *V'asu li mikdash*, we read in the Book of Exodus; God commands the Israelites: “Build me a sacred space.” *Build me*, God says, *something physical, something I can see and feel and touch, somewhere I can go to feel whole and safe*. But the verse does not end there, and neither can we. *V'shachanti b'tocham*—“Build me a sacred space,” God says, “and I will dwell amongst You.” Do the work of building—space, time, community—and you will feel Divine presence.

These pages, these days, this time of year—they are together an invitation into that work. Each page, each service, each micro-community, each event, each gathering—is an offering of sacred space and sacred time; you are invited to join us, to build this with us. And, no matter how you connect, with each moment you spend and each person you meet, it is our sincere hope and belief that you will create a space for the Divine to dwell with us, blessing us and helping us grow. Join us, and let your heart—and soul—feel a little more at home.

Rabbi Sari Laufer
Chief Engagement Officer

 email: LetsConnect@WiseLA.org

 phone: 310.476.8561

Office Hours

Monday–Thursday | 8:30 a.m.–5 p.m.

Friday | 8:30 a.m.–4 p.m.




WiseLA.org

Wise-School.org

AaronMilkenCenter.org

 Facebook: [@WiseLA](https://www.facebook.com/@WiseLA)

 Threads/Instagram: [@StephenWiseTemple](https://www.instagram.com/@StephenWiseTemple)

 X: [@WiseLA](https://twitter.com/@WiseLA)

 YouTube: [WiseTempleLA](https://www.youtube.com/WiseTempleLA)

WiseLA.org/YAD

WISE YAD



SCAN ME



WISE YAD
YOUNG ADULT DIVISION

Out Young Adult Division—Wise YAD—is a welcoming squad of Jewish young adults (aged 22-39) building an inclusive and inspired Jewish community.

We foster a sense of community and belonging at every level of Jewish practice. We grapple with American social justice issues and contemporary Israel. We create spiritual and meaningful experiences, working together from the ground up to build an exciting and refreshing Jewish experience.

Whether dressing up for Purim costume parties, cooling off with summer pool parties, knocking down pins at boozy bowling, kicking back in the sukkah, creating masterpieces at paint'n'sip, reliving our b'nai mitzvah with Hanukkah semi-formals, or chilling on Nahmias Plaza for movie nights, we "do Jewish" and make memories.

We seek to make meaning and change the world, to schmooze and have a good time, and to reembrace our heritage and ritual on our own terms.



**JOIN US FOR OUR
NEXT EVENT!**

Welcome B-AXE to YAD: Axe Throwing
Saturday, October 21 | 7-10 p.m.
Visit WiseLA.org/YAD for details.

HIGH HOLY DAYS 27

WISE WOMEN

Wise Women offers dynamic, inclusive, meaningful, and entertaining experiences for the women of our community. From women you've known for years to women you've yet to meet, we come together for fun, social, educational, and spiritual programming throughout the year. Here are a few to put in your calendar!

Upcoming Events

Save the Date: Wise Women Book Club Kickoff

Thursday, Oct. 5 at 7 p.m.

Book: *How to Love Your Daughter*, Hila Bloom

Join us in the *sukkah* (or online!) for a lively discussion as we kick off our 2023-24 Wise Women Book Club. Last year, we discussed *The Real Mrs. Tobias*, *All The Rivers*, and *Women on Fire*, among others. This year, we will once again discuss a new book every month.

What a Surprise! Staged Reading With The Braid

Thursday, Nov. 2 at 7 p.m.

Come for a lively evening of entertainment as we host a staged reading of a new work of theater from *The Braid* (formerly Jewish Women's Theater). Created by the NEXT Emerging Artist Fellowship, *What a Surprise!* tells true stories about joyous, tragic, fearful, and funny surprises and the Jewish values that met them all.

Stay tuned for more wonderful opportunities throughout the year.

To get involved, email Rabbi

Sari Laufer at

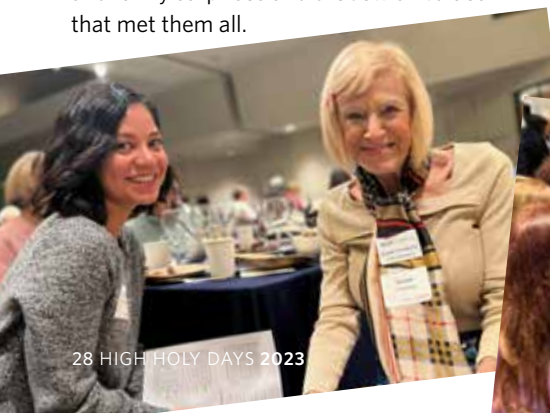
SLaufer@WiseLA.org.

Wise Women: The Challah Bake Returns

Thursday, Jan. 11, 2024

You won't *knead* any baking experience for this intergenerational event welcoming women in our community—both members and guests—to bond and braid! Enjoy some nibble and sips while connecting with other Wise Women, learning new braiding techniques, and engaging in some Jewish learning with Rabbi Sari and Cantor Emma. Head home with your own sweet and delicious challah all ready for your Shabbat table!

Visit our website
to learn more!



WISE GUYS

Wise Guys invites those who share common interests to get together to pursue meaning in moments of fun, camaraderie, learning, spirituality, and tikkun olam together. Wise Guys is your place for interesting, thoughtful, and exciting Jewish life. With a variety of events to engage men (and their families) of all backgrounds and interests, Wise Guys builds enriching relationships that enliven the spirit!

Upcoming **Events**

Wise Guys Sukkah Build

Thursday, Sept. 28 at 7:30 p.m.

Our annual *Wise Guys Sukkah Build* is not only your chance to build un-permitted housing in Los Angeles, but a great way to bond with your fellow Wise Guys, build meaningful friendships, and lend a hand (or two!) to help construct our congregational *sukkah*!

All are welcome, including children—no prior building experience needed!

Latkes & Vodkas

Tuesday, Dec. 5, 2024 at 7:30 p.m.

Latkes & Vodkas is not just your new favorite holiday pairing, but also a great way to meet friends new and old and prepare for the Hanukkah season with the Wise Guys. With meaningful camaraderie, discussion, and community, this is a great way to get to know your fellow Wise Guys!

Wise Guys Big Game Party

Sunday, Feb. 11, 2024 at 3 p.m.

Bring the whole family to watch the biggest game in professional football on the biggest screen in town! Our annual watch party is open to friends, family, and children of all ages. As you marvel at our 30-foot projection screen inside Katz Family Pavilion, you'll be treated to an afternoon filled with fun and engaging activities, snacks, beverages, and, of course, the big game!

To get involved, or to find out about our book club, Thursday night basketball league, or annual ski trip to Mammoth, email Rabbi Ron Stern at RonStern@WiseLA.org.



SCAN ME

**Visit our website
to learn more!**





WISE YEARS

Learning. Engagement. Community.

Join Wise Years at: **WiseLA.org/WiseYears**
or call 310.476.8561

Wise Years is Stephen Wise Temple's group for members and guests 60 years and better. We keep our members active and engaged through our monthly meetings, which feature learning, lunch, leisure activities, and opportunities to bond with our community and each other. Mornings feature speakers on a wide range of timely and timeless topics. Following lunch together, afternoons offer a choice of films or games.

Wise Years meets the second Thursday of each month, from October to May.

2023-2024

November 9

December 14

January 11

February 8

March 14

April 11

May 9



SCAN ME

Thursday, October 12



Steven Windmueller: Israel-Diaspora Relations

Feelings about Israel have rarely been more fraught for Diaspora Jews than in the current historical moment. Dr. Windmueller will help untangle the complex topic for us. Dr. Windmueller has written four books on American Jewry and is currently a professor emeritus at HUC-JIR, where he teaches courses on contemporary political issues and American Jewish affairs. He is a fellow at the Jerusalem Center for Public Affairs and a board member of the Jewish Federation and Jewish Family Service of Los Angeles.



Igor & Elena Yasno: You-KRAINE Now: Helping Ukraine to Win and Heal

The Yasnos recently returned from a trip to Ukraine, where they visited hospitals and orphanages and met with local leaders to understand the needs of their communities decimated by war.

Husband-and-wife travel agents, the Yasnos have raised tens of thousands of dollars for Ukrainian victims of the Russian invasion.

Igor—born in Ukraine—and his wife have been raising money for the country since Russia first occupied Crimea in 2014.



30 HIGH HOLY DAYS 2023





Honoring the *past* Ensuring the *future*

To discuss your plans or learn more, please contact
our Development team
at 310.889.2277 or at Development@WiseLA.org.
Visit our website: WiseLA.org/Legacy-Giving.



Center for Jewish Life

[WiseLA.org/CJL](https://www.wisela.org/CJL)



Dear Friends,

Our **Center for Jewish Life** proudly offers an esteemed lecture series.

We strive to illuminate important and thought-provoking issues, presented by carefully selected thinkers and compelling speakers who offer insights into these topics and, we trust, will inspire your desire to explore further.

We look forward to having you with us.

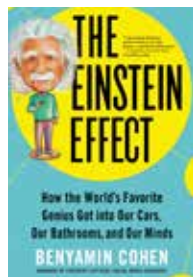
Sincerely,

Rabbi David Woznica
Rabbi Isaiah Zeldin Chair
Director, Center for Jewish Life

The Einstein Effect: How the World's Favorite Genius Got into Our Cars, Our Bathrooms, and Our Minds

Benjamin Cohen

Tuesday, Nov. 7 at 7:30 p.m.



Almost 70 years after his death, Albert Einstein has become a celebrity with a massive online following. His genius has shaped the modern world, yet most people know him more as a pop-culture icon than as a theorist.

This evening, we will learn how his influence in both our systems and our culture is ongoing, illustrating how his discoveries continue to define our daily lives. We are in for an uplifting and illuminating night.

Benjamin Cohen manages the official social media accounts of Albert Einstein. He is the News Director of *The Forward*.

*\$15 Stephen Wise Temple Members
\$20 General Public*

Registration is now open.

Each of these events is in-person only.

Visit our website at [WiseLA.org/CJL](https://www.wisela.org/CJL) or



scan this QR code to register and read about all of our exciting offerings, including classes with Wise clergy.



Biblical Women Speak: Hearing Their Voices through New and Ancient Midrash

Rabbi Marla J. Feldman

Monday, Dec. 4 at 7:30 p.m.



What were the biblical women thinking and doing when the men around them received all the attention and glory? How did Leah, Rachel, and their handmaids negotiate the complicated family dynamics of four women vying for Jacob's affection? How did the midwives and Pharaoh's daughter conspire to rescue baby Moses, right under Pharaoh's nose? Rabbi Feldman employs midrash (interpretive techniques) to discover 10 biblical stories from a female perspective. Enjoy a wonderful opportunity to imagine what was in the minds of the women in the Bible.

Rabbi Feldman is executive director of Women of Reform Judaism. She recently published *Biblical Women Speak*.

\$15 Stephen Wise Temple Members
\$20 General Public

Scare Your Soul: Seven Powerful Principles to Harness Fear and Lead Your Most Courageous Life

Scott Simon in Dialogue With
Rabbi David Woznica

Monday, Jan. 22 at 7:30 p.m.



It is not easy to be courageous in a world full of fear. But what if we had the courage to take positive action in our lives anyway? What changes would you make to transform your current reality into the life of your dreams? Scott Simon deftly weaves the stories of Rabbi Abraham Joshua Heschel and others through his book, which combines research on positive psychology with real-life stories to teach us ways to confront the fears that hold us back. Perhaps most importantly, this evening we will be given an interactive roadmap to building bravery in ourselves.

Scott Simon is a happiness entrepreneur, speaker, and founder of Scare Your Soul, a movement inspiring individual and global change through small acts of courage.

\$15 Stephen Wise Temple Members
\$20 General Public

*Each of these speakers is presented in
cooperation with the Jewish Book Council.*



Melton & More at Wise

What is Melton & More at Wise?

In 2010, Stephen Wise Temple became a part of the Melton School of Adult Learning network, which is a worldwide movement of committed adult learners. Melton's mission, like ours, is to never stop seeking and growing, and empowering adult learners to enrich their Jewish lives.

In addition to classes from the world-renowned Melton curriculum, **Melton & More at Wise** offers courses tailor-made for our community, from three-session mini-courses to 20-week bundles.

We invite you to join this special community-within-a-community, a group of lifelong learners who forge deep bonds of friendship as they explore the philosophy, practices, and living history of Judaism together. The following classes are just some of our upcoming offerings. Find more at WiseLA.org/MeltonWelcome.

Jewish Ritual Objects

Faculty: Rabbi Deborah Silver

Dates: Oct. 3 - Dec. 12
10 Tuesday mornings
10-11:30 a.m.



Our candlesticks, *kippot*, *mezuzot*, and more hide in plain sight, but how often do we really think about them? Building on your previous knowledge, this course explores the Jewish objects that are so familiar to us and uncovers how little we know about them.

We will take a deep dive into what they are and what they mean, sharing our own stories, memories, and the objects we own into dialogue with the texts of our tradition.

The Star and the Crescent

Faculty: Mr. Benzy Kogen

Dates: Jan. 9 - Mar. 12
10 Tuesday mornings
10-11:45 a.m.



The current friction often felt between Muslims and Jews was not always the norm throughout history. Following the emergence of Islam, it was far better to be Jewish in a Muslim country than in a Christian one, and often, people of both faiths have found ways to coexist peacefully and productively. In this course, we'll delve into this history and prior periods of enmity to gain a more nuanced perspective. We will examine the commonalities between Jewish and Islamic culture, as well as the sources of tension between these two monotheistic communities, challenging our assumptions and broadening our understanding.

The Jewish State

Faculty: Rabbi Adam Schaffer

Fall Dates

Oct. 3 – Dec. 12
10 Tuesday mornings
10-11:30 a.m.

This course seeks to uncover the diverse and complex faces of Jewish Israeli identity. Beginning with characterization of Jewish Israeli identity as reflected in contemporary Israeli discourse, the lessons then proceed to explore the foundation of this complex tapestry. The course provides a historic overview of the early Zionist vision, the emergence of the New Jew, and the institutions that shaped the country, providing insights into how Israeli society today reflects the dreams, aspirations, and endeavors of those who settled the Land of Israel. The course examines themes including the evolving religious landscape, the intricate relationship of politics and religion, the interplay of Mizrahi and Ashkenazi Jews, the dynamic between Israel and world Jewry, and Jewish Renaissance agents in Israel.



Exploring Leonard Cohen's Singular Voice

Faculty: Rabbi Shana Chandler Leon

Fall Dates

Oct. 3-Dec. 12
10 Tuesday evenings
7-8:30 p.m.

Oct. 4 – Dec. 13
10 Wednesday mornings
10-11:30 a.m.

Leonard Cohen imprinted our world with his astonishing body of poetry, prose, and music. At once a loner and legendary lover, and adored by so many in life, his star has risen even higher since his passing in 2016. Cohen explored many religious and spiritual paths throughout his life, but his loyalty to his Jewish heritage never faltered. In our course, we will look primarily at examples of Jewish themes in Leonard's written work (with occasional detours) and share impressions of selected performances and his visual art. If you know "Hallelujah," you know Leonard's most famous and wide-reaching melody, but there is so much more to this extraordinary artist, philosopher and prophet—and his singular voice—that we will explore together.



This year we are increasing our exclusive Stephen Wise Temple member benefit: a 30% reduction on the class fee!

Price for Each 10-Session Course:

Stephen Wise Temple Members: \$245
General Public: \$350



Be sure to check WiseLA.org/MeltonClassRegistration for more exciting courses!

Scholarships are available! To register or learn more about Melton, please contact our Melton School Director Karen Goldenstein by email at Melton@WiseLA.org or by phone at 310.889.2291.



SCAN ME

Longtime students and newcomers alike are invited to join these classes at any time. Scan this code to find out more.

Monday Morning Bible Study

With Rabbi Ron Stern

Alternate Mondays
9–10 a.m.
Starting Oct. 9

Join us for a deep dive into the origins of the Torah and a contextual and contemporary understanding of how our sacred text came to be. We're continuing our journey with the Joseph story in the Book of Genesis.

We're happy to welcome back our ongoing students as well as new learners! This is an ongoing class that investigates the biblical text verse by verse.

This class meets virtually over Zoom. There is no charge. Registration is required.



Favorite Moments in the Torah

With Rabbi David Woznica

Alternate Mondays
10:15–11 a.m.
Starting Oct. 2

Uncover Jewish insights into some of the most interesting issues facing contemporary Jews. This year we will explore Jewish teachings about faith (including Maimonides' 13 Principles of Faith), dealing with aging parents, raising good and decent children, and how to reconcile the concept of an inherently good God with the existence of suffering. We will also learn Jewish insights into a happy marriage and about inner peace, and we will contemplate topical issues when they arise. We are entering our fourth year of study and welcome newcomers to join an enthusiastic group of learners.

This class meets virtually over Zoom. There is no charge. Registration is required.



NEW THIS YEAR: The Value of KAVOD, a Mini-Course With Rabbi Yoshi Zweiback

Three Sundays, 9 a.m., on Zoom: Oct. 15, 22, 29

In 1993, then-rabbinical student Yoshi Zweiback founded a tzedakah collective that has since distributed over \$1.7 million dollars to support the work of "mitzvah heroes" all over the world. With a lifetime out-of-pocket overhead of just under \$100, KAVOD is a model of a grass-roots, volunteer-run non-profit. In honor of their 30th birthday, Rabbi Yoshi and some of his fellow KAVOD board members will be teaching texts about protecting human dignity and interviewing some of their amazing "mitzvah heroes"!

KAVOD
A Tzedakah Collective

There is no fee for the course. Instead, participants are encouraged to make a donation to KAVOD by scanning the QR code with your smartphone.



SCAN ME

Beyond Apples and Honey: Judaism's Fall Festivals in the Talmud



Weekly Talmud With Rabbi Sari Laufer

Wednesdays
12-1 p.m.

Fall Session: Through Dec. 20

Blowing the shofar on Rosh Hashanah, fasting on Yom Kippur, lighting candles on Hanukkah. Sure, we know *what* they are, but do we know *why* they are? Fall is chock full of Jewish holidays, and the Babylonian Talmud is chock full of the stories and meanings behind them. Whether you're brand new to text or a rabbinic expert, join Rabbi Sari and other learners for a weekly dive into ancient texts, modern questions, and everything in between. No Hebrew or experience is necessary, and questions are always welcomed.

This class meets virtually on Zoom with occasional in-person hybrid sessions. There is no charge. Registration is required.

Introduction to Judaism

With Rabbinic Intern Yael Farber and Stephen Wise Temple Clergy



Tuesdays
7-8:30 p.m.
Sept. 12-Dec. 9

Whether you are curious about or considering Judaism or still looking to answer that question you've had since your days in religious school, *Introduction to Judaism* is a place to voice your questions, learn multiple

perspectives, and discover what is most meaningful to you in liberal Judaism.

Open to all, this course is perfect for interfaith couples, those raising Jewish children, spiritual seekers, individuals considering conversion, and Jews who want a meaningful adult Jewish learning experience. Guided by our rabbinic intern Yael Farber, you will have a chance to learn from members of the Stephen Wise Temple clergy and other guest teachers as you explore history, holidays, lifecycle celebrations, prayer, theology, sacred texts, and more. Questions are encouraged, and only curiosity is required. Where applicable, we encourage partners/spouses to take the class together.

Classes on Zoom, select gatherings in person. Registration is required.

**Stephen Wise Temple Members: \$180
General Public: \$360**

Parashat HaShavuah: Weekly Torah Portion Study

With Rabbi Ron Stern



Alternate Thursdays
12 p.m.
Starting Oct. 12

Just as archeologists have uncovered the mysteries of Jewish origins in the Land of Israel, Biblical scholars have used the tools of their profession to "unearth" the contextual meaning of the Torah. How does the Torah compare to other ancient literature? What do generations of interpreters reveal about how the Torah shaped Judaism today? How does a modern understanding of our ancient text provide us with deeper insights and great meaning? Each class stands alone, join us any time!

This class meets virtually over Zoom. There is no charge. Registration is required.

WiseLA.org/TikkunOlam

Center for Tikkun Olam



The **Center for Tikkun Olam** at Wise is the source for all the work we do to make our world a better place for all. We work closely with leading organizations in LA. and around the world to reduce homelessness, address climate change and the health challenges caused by pollution, strengthen Israel's wellbeing, and address crises globally. We're also committed to being allies for the LGBTQ+ community as well as immigrants and marginalized communities in this country. We're counting on you, our Wise community, to commit yourselves to our important work.

Donate Winter Clothes for Layer Up Clothing Drive

Sept. 15-25 | Wise Campus

This High Holy Day season, you can make a difference in the lives of underserved students in Los Angeles, and all you need to do is go through your closets. By donating new or gently-used winter clothing, you can help hundreds of students whose families lack adequate heating and enough warm clothing to fend off the winter chill. Bring your gently used winter clothes to Wise throughout the Days of Awe and deposit them in the designated bin by the Sanctuary building.

Join our Yom Kippur Family Tikkun Olam Project

Sept. 25 | 11:45 a.m. | Tyberg Learning Center

We'll be assembling hygiene bags and making special wall decorations for families staying at the Hope the Mission's Woodlands Shelter. We'll also be sorting the clothing donations collected from our Layer Up Drive. Bring your own clothing, gently used toys, and book donations when you come to assist with our project.

Homes for Heroes

Thousands of L.A.'s homeless have served in our nation's armed forces. Over the past several years, the generosity of the Wise community has helped hundreds of veterans make new homes in permanent housing after living on the streets.

Through our work with Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing (VASH), our *Homes for Heroes* initiative assists vets by providing new furniture, appliances, and amenities that truly make them feel at home.

Your donation of new home essentials like towels, microwaves, kitchen utensils, or furniture can make an enormous difference in the lives of those who bravely served our country.



Find out how you can donate and participate by scanning this code.



SCAN ME



WiseReaderstoLeaders.org



WISE READERS TO LEADERS

Wise Readers to Leaders

closes the achievement gap for underserved youth through a transformative reading and enrichment program.

Changing the world one scholar at a time

Wise Readers to Leaders (WRTL) is Stephen Wise Temple's flagship literacy program which, for more than 12 years, has supported the academics of hundreds of underserved students in the greater Los Angeles area. We provide free summer literacy camp and year-round programming to support the academic and social-emotional wellbeing of our scholars. Integral to the success of the WRTL programs is the mentoring provided by teens, mostly from the L.A. Jewish community, who inspire our scholars through their leadership and role modeling.

Visit WiseReaderstoLeaders.org to learn how WRTL continues to grow, expand, and change the world for hundreds of kids and teens in Los Angeles!

MY MOM SIGNED ME UP AS A SCHOLAR WHEN I WAS IN FIFTH GRADE AND HONESTLY, I CAN'T THANK HER ENOUGH. THIS PROGRAM HAS DONE SO MUCH FOR ME.

—Junior Literacy Leader and WRTL alumnus Levi, who is now in 11th grade and preparing for college



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Introducing Our Rabbinic Interns

This year, we are thrilled to welcome two outstanding rabbinic interns to our Wise family, both students at Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion. Hannah Bender will be working primarily with Rabbi Josh Knobel and the **Center for Youth Engagement (CYE)**, teaching CYE programs and managing prayer curriculum for Wise School students. Yael Farber will be working with Rabbi Sari Laufer and our engagement team, with particular focus on **Introduction to Judaism** and some of our affinity groups.



HANNAH BENDER

Hannah Bender is a fifth-year rabbinic student at the Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion here in Los Angeles. A Midwesterner at heart, Hannah grew up in the Chicagoland area and received a Bachelor of Arts in Religious Studies from the University of Minnesota, Twin Cities. After college, Hannah moved to Jerusalem and lived there for a few years, working at the Hand in Hand School, studying at the Conservative Yeshiva, and beginning their time at HUC in Jerusalem.

Since coming to L.A., Hannah has taught adult Torah learning with the Torah Studio, worked as the Rabbinic Intern at the Claremont Colleges Hillel, facilitated the L.A. Moving Traditions *Tzelem* group for trans and nonbinary Jewish teens, and most recently was a Chaplain Intern at Cedars-Sinai Hospital, serving the diverse spiritual needs of the hospital's patients and staff. Hannah loves yoga and crafting, and is thrilled to be joining the incredible team at Stephen Wise Temple.



Yael FARBER

Yael Farber is a fourth-year rabbinic and education student at Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion. Originally from Tarrytown, N.Y., Yael spent more than two decades at URJ Eisner Camp. Yael graduated from Dickinson College where she received a B.A. in Religion and Judaic Studies with a minor in Women's & Gender Studies. She received a Master of Arts in Hebrew Letters from HUC-JIR in May of 2023. Yael spent six years working at Community Synagogue of Rye, N.Y., as the Director of Youth Engagement & Informal Education and a URJ

CLASP Fellow for the URJ Northeast Camps and Social Media Manager & Web Designer.

Yael has worked in Jewish communities across New York, Western Massachusetts, Central Pennsylvania, and Northern California. Since moving to Los Angeles, Yael has had the honor of serving as the student rabbi at Congregation B'nai Torah in Brentwood, as the Retreat Coordinator at Congregation Or Ami in Calabasas, and as a Clinical Pastoral Education Chaplain Intern at PIH Health Good Samaritan Hospital in Downtown Los Angeles.

She can often be found showing off pictures of her adorable rescue dog Ariyeh and drinking iced coffee.

36 Bouquets for Wise

Mario M. Muller

Stephen Wise Temple & Schools Artist-In-Residence

Mario M. Muller is Stephen Wise Temple & Schools' Artist-in-Residence. His art appears all over our campus and in our High Holy Day Machzor, Sha'ar HaShamayim. Each year, Mario decorates our campus with banners featuring his striking use of contrast and shadow. As you explore our mountaintop during these Days of Awe, you will be greeted by Mario's newest project, celebrating our community's upcoming 60th anniversary.

Composing 36 images for the banner installation is always a bit of a bouillabaisse of creativity. This year was no different.

Seven months ago, I had already started to experiment with certain themes and visual extravagances for the fifth incarnation of what has become the annual banner project. Above all else, my goal was to acknowledge the 60th anniversary of the temple.

Working, as I do, almost exclusively in black and white, I decided to surprise everyone by making the compositions gregariously colorful. I started harvesting images of flowers from all over Los Angeles. I was omnivorous when it came to color, texture, and fragrance. But making a simple arrangement was not nearly enough. I turned to puzzle pieces and the patterns that they create when assembled.

I've had a longstanding fascination with puzzles. As a kid I would tear through 1,000- and 1,500-piece puzzles with focused determination and speed. My son Wolfgang has the same patience and mad skills.

In the mid-1990s, with my career only a decade old, I composed several variations of puzzle shapes that, when multiplied and duplicated, would fit into each other endlessly. A new era of research was dawning with the mapping of the human genome. I was riveted. A tessellated fabric became a rich metaphor for the shared molecules of DNA that bind humanity together. The foundational pieces are identical, but through combinations and permutations, a rich tapestry of limitless variety is generated.

Lightning struck. I married the two inspirations. Each puzzle piece was to be adorned by one flower. Assemble in different scales and repeat. Assemble and repeat. Thirty-six variations, each with a distinct flavor. Each with an implied aroma. Well over 1,000 shapes woven into a rich fabric.

The result is a series of conceptual bouquets that will "bloom" all year long. The endless variation of pattern and rhythm is a metaphor for the limitless resilience of Judaism. They will not only acknowledge our successes but also announce our ambitions. Each flower, each shape indexes each member of our community. Each bouquet, in turn, celebrates the congregation as a whole that is indeed greater than the sum of the parts.





GIVEWISE

Your support makes meaning

During the High Holy Days, our spiritual focus and inward reflection—as well as the teachings of our tradition—encourage us to think about *t’filah*, *teshuvah*, and *tzedakah*.

We ask that you prioritize Stephen Wise Temple as you contemplate ***tzedakah***.

Your membership is incredibly important to us and we are deeply grateful. At this time of year we also ask that you consider a High Holy Day gift to our Annual Campaign to help sustain our wonderful community through the coming year.

Every contribution is meaningful and supports outstanding education for learners of all ages; diverse and innovative programming and opportunities to connect; inspirational and accessible worship services; *tikkun olam* initiatives that help those in need; and inspiring ways to deepen our connection with Israel and Jewish life.

We cannot do that without your support. Thank you.

STEPHEN
WISE TEMPLE

60

Years

Travel

*Join our clergy on trips
to Israel and Morocco.*



Tell Your Story

*Share your memories in words,
pictures, and videos. Visit our
on-campus kiosks to record
your favorite Wise moments.*

Celebrate

*Join us at our special
60th Anniversary events.*



Kickoff
Homecoming Shabbat
Friday, January 26

Founders' Day Brunch
Thursday, March 14

Shavuot Concert
Sunday, June 9

Wise 60th Anniversary Gala
Saturday, April 13, 2024

... and more