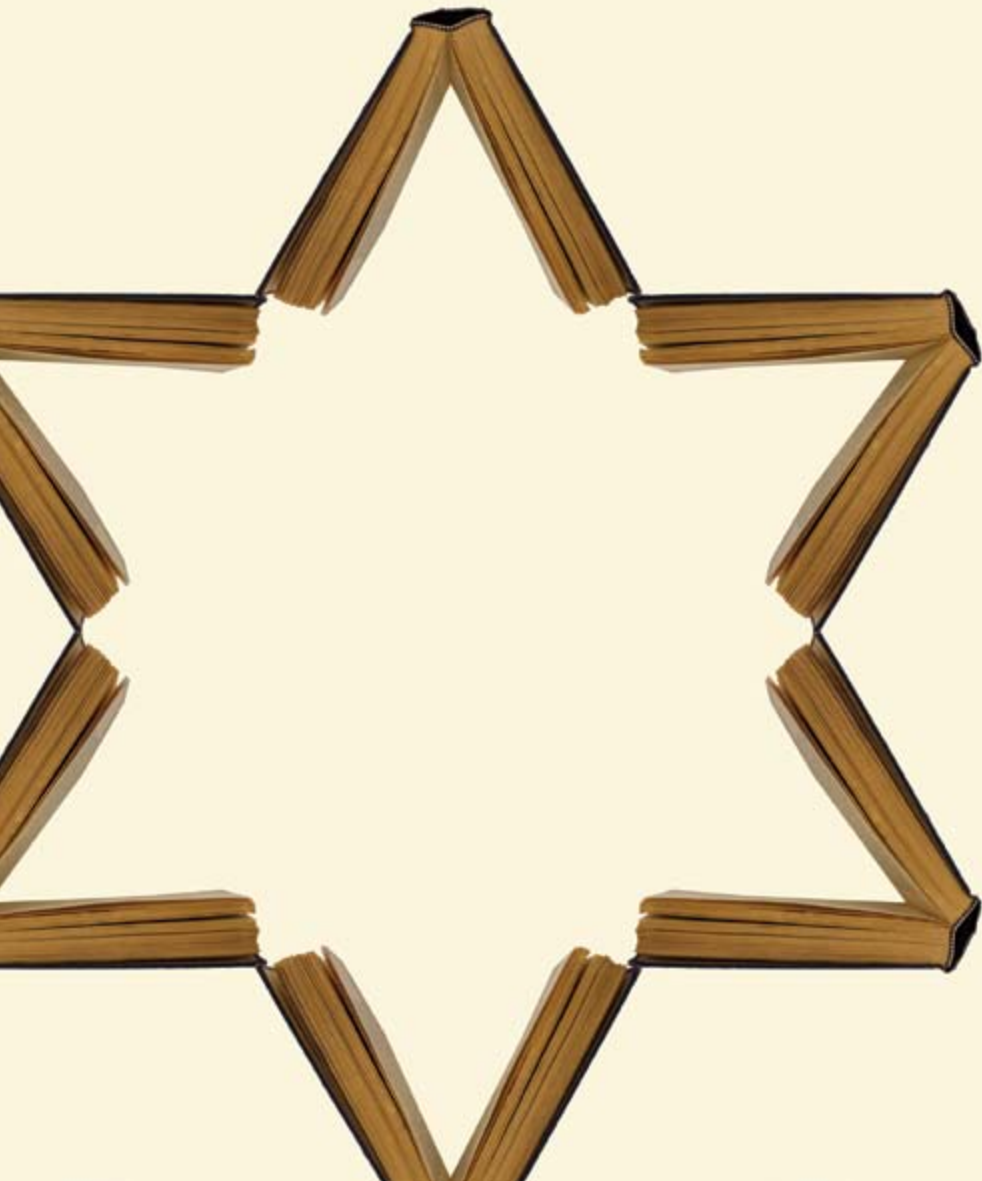
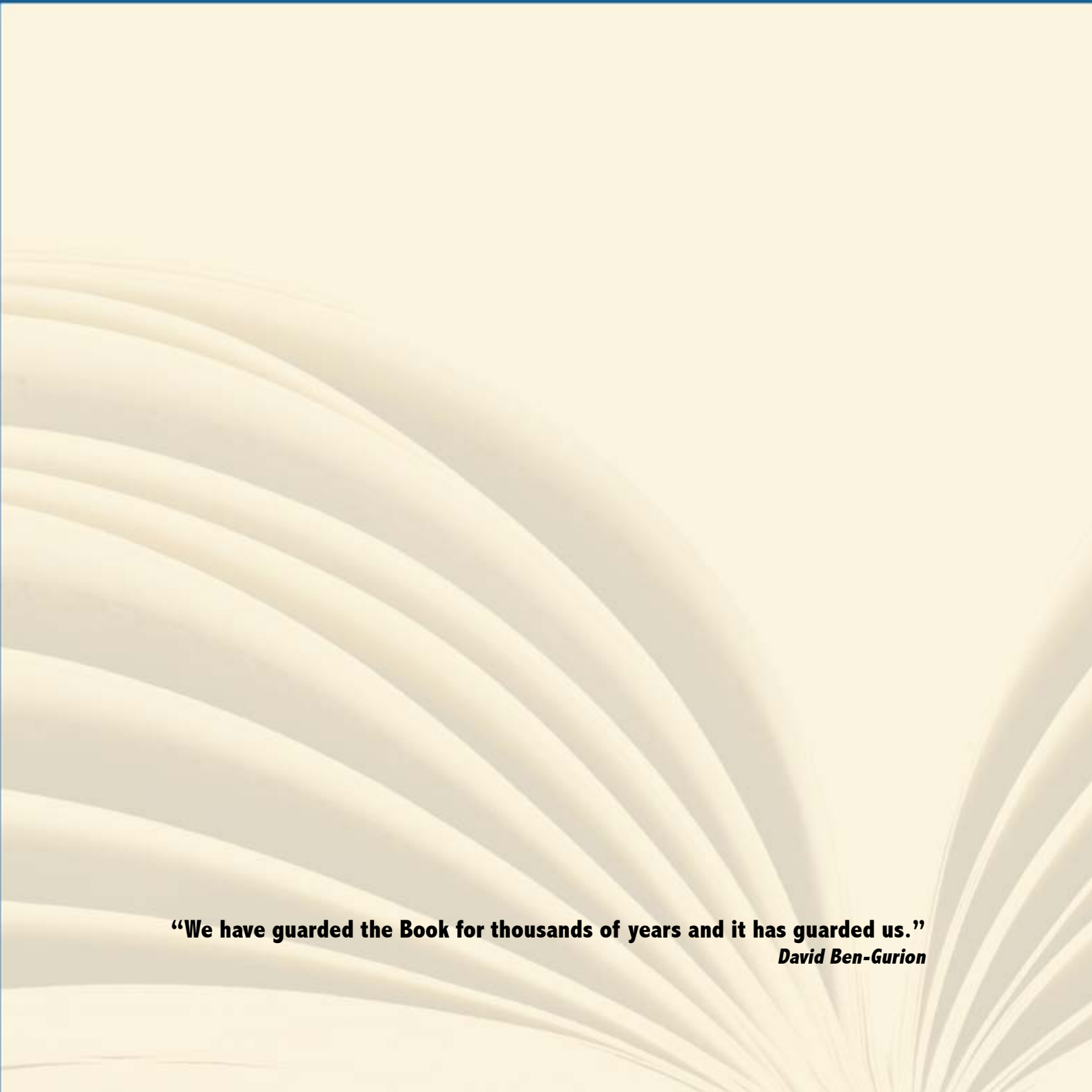


Stephen S. Wise Temple
Center for Jewish Life



2011-2012
5772



“We have guarded the Book for thousands of years and it has guarded us.”
David Ben-Gurion

Dear Friends,

If you are looking for dynamic and elevating experiences, the following pages should entice you.

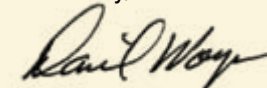
This year our congregation hosts some of the most prominent and outspoken thinkers in the United States and Israel including dialogues with Ambassador John Bolton and Professor Alan Dershowitz, and an examination of American Jewry from the literary editor of *The New Republic*, Leon Wieseltier. A passionate professor of New Testament and Jewish Studies at Vanderbilt University, Amy-Jill Levine explores misconceptions Jews and Christians have about each other's religion and the ever-insightful journalist and author Yossi Klein Halevi considers some of the unique challenges Israelis face within their country.

A Few Wise Men, the popular series for men 30-55 years old, offers extraordinary speakers on issues that are of vital importance to men of this age group. It also provides a special opportunity to interact with vibrant and enthusiastic contemporaries.

Wonderful study opportunities await you, including our Melton Adult Mini-School, a two-year intensive Jewish studies course, as well as courses on Jewish theology, Torah study and music, featuring every member of our clergy.

We invite you to join us for an experience that will invigorate the mind, energize the soul, and touch the heart.

Sincerely,



Rabbi David Woznica

Israel Looks Inward
Yossi Klein Halevi

American Jewry and the Demands of Jewish Greatness
Leon Wieseltier

Monday, November 14, 2011 at 7:30 p.m.

We most frequently reflect on the external issues facing Israel such as security, foreign aid, the U.S.-Israel relationship. This evening is devoted to the internal issues that confront the Israeli citizen. What has been the influence of political corruption and what is the prospect for change? What has been the impact of the rise of the ultra-Orthodox? Is Israeli democracy under threat from within? Is there a search for spirituality among young Israelis? Have non-orthodox forms of Israeli Judaism emerged? How have constant external threats impacted the daily life of Israelis? One of Israel's most perceptive thinkers reflects on life in the Holy Land.

Yossi Klein Halevi is a fellow at the Shalom Hartman Institute, contributing editor to *The New Republic*, and a contributor to the op-ed pages of *The New York Times*, *The Los Angeles Times*, and *The Wall Street Journal*. He is author of *At the Entrance to the Garden of Eden: A Jew's Search for God with Christians and Muslims in the Holy Land*, and a forthcoming book about the Israeli paratroopers who reunited Jerusalem in 1967.

\$12

Monday, January 30, 2012 at 7:30 p.m.

American Jews comprise one of the great Diaspora communities in the history of the Jewish people, and America today affords Jews opportunities that are virtually unparalleled. But by the standards of Jewish history, what sort of Diaspora community are we, exactly? What have been our successes and what have been our failures? How will historians and our descendants judge us? A leading intellectual assesses our past and present as we anticipate our future.

Leon Wieseltier has been the literary editor of *The New Republic* since 1983. After three years as a graduate student in Jewish history at Harvard University, he was a member of the Society of Fellows at Harvard from 1979 to 1982. He also attended Columbia University and Oxford University. He is the author of *Kaddish*, *Against Identity*, and *Nuclear War, Nuclear Peace: The Sensible Argument about the Greatest Peril of Our Age*.

\$12

**To register: www.WiseLA.org/CIL
or 888.380.WISE (9473)**

For more information, see inside back cover.



The Forum on Critical Values

Rabbi David Woznica in Dialogue with Ambassador John Bolton and Alan Dershowitz

Rabbi Woznica continues to engage some of our country's most prominent thinkers on a wide range of issues related to the theme of values. What is the basis of their values and what personal experiences have shaped these values? What drives them in life? How do these values affect their reactions to world events? And how do they apply their values to personal and professional issues?



Ambassador John Bolton

Tuesday, December 6, 2011 at 7:30 p.m.

John R. Bolton was appointed as United States Permanent Representative to the United Nations on August 1, 2005 and served until his resignation in December 2006. Previously, he served as Under Secretary of State for Arms Control and International Security. At the United Nations, Bolton was an outspoken advocate of U.S. efforts to prevent Iran from developing nuclear weapons, push Syria out of Lebanon and bring African peacekeepers into shaky Somalia. He worked vigorously against North Korea's nuclear weapons and missile programs. He and France's ambassador led the Security Council to approve a unanimous resolution to end the summer 2006 Hezbollah war on Israel. He also assembled an international coalition that blocked the bid of Hugo Chavez to join the Security Council.

Bolton was also an advocate for human rights while serving at the U.N. He arranged the Security Council's first deliberations on Burma's human rights abuses, and, along with George Clooney and Elie Wiesel, briefed the Council on the Khartoum regime's mass-murder of non-Arabs in Darfur, Sudan.

John Bolton is the author of *Surrender is Not an Option: Defending America at the U.N. and Abroad* and *How Barack Obama is Endangering our National Sovereignty*. He currently serves as a foreign policy senior fellow at the American Enterprise Institute, a contributor to FOX News Channel and his op-ed articles are regularly featured in *The New York Times*, *The Wall Street Journal* and *The Washington Times*.

\$15

Alan Dershowitz

Monday, May 7, 2012 at 7:30 p.m.

Professor Alan Dershowitz was called by *Newsweek* one of the "most distinguished defenders of individual rights." He is, perhaps, the best-known criminal lawyer in the world and has been called "Israel's single most visible defender – the Jewish state's lead attorney in the court of public opinion."

He has written over 27 books including *Rights from Wrongs*, *Finding, Framing, and Hanging Jefferson*, *The Case for Israel*, *The Vanishing American Jew*, *The Abuse Excuse* and *Chutzpah*.

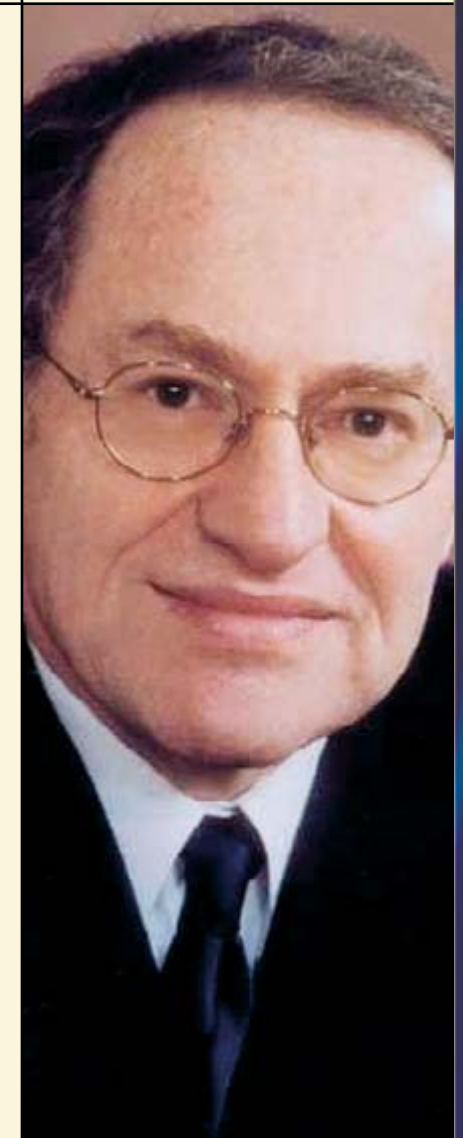
Alan Dershowitz is Felix Frankfurter Professor of Law at Harvard Law School, where, at the age of 28 he became the youngest full professor in the school's history.

Four years ago we were fortunate to have Professor Dershowitz with us. That evening of dialogue was one of our most memorable and, indeed, entertaining. In this critical election year, we will explore a wide range of moral, social, political and international issues as we probe the mind of one of our nation's most interesting and outspoken thinkers.

\$15

**To register: www.WiseLA.org/CJL
or 888.380.WISE (9473)**

For more information, see inside back cover.



A Few Wise Men

For men ages 30-55

Where Christians Get Judaism Wrong; Where Jews Get Christianity Wrong Professor Amy-Jill Levine

Thursday, February 23, 2012 at 7:30 p.m.

What are the major misconceptions Christians have about Judaism? What are the major misconceptions Jews have about Christianity? How did these ideas develop, how can they be corrected, and how does a better understanding of our neighbors help Jews and Christians recover a part of their own history? Topics include the relation of Jesus to Judaism, views of the Divine, understandings of the Messiah, sin, salvation, different interpretations of the Bible, and the role of women historically.

Amy-Jill Levine is University Professor of New Testament and Jewish Studies, E. Rhodes and Leona B. Carpenter Professor of New Testament Studies, and Professor of Jewish Studies at Vanderbilt University. Her publications include *The Misunderstood Jew: The Church and the Scandal of the Jewish Jesus* and *The Meaning of the Bible: What the Jewish Scriptures and the Christian Old Testament Can Teach Us* (co-authored with Douglas Knight); she is also the co-editor of the *Jewish Annotated New Testament*. Dr. Levine is a self-described "Yankee Jewish feminist who teaches in a predominantly Christian divinity school in the buckle of the Bible Belt."

\$12

This popular five evening series begins each night with an intimate dinner followed by a speaker who addresses a matter of particular interest to men of this age group. This has become a wonderful way to meet great people who enthusiastically engage with one another on important issues of our day.

6:30-8:30 p.m.

\$150 for members of Stephen S. Wise Temple

\$175 for non-members

Cost includes dinners and presentations

This program is only available as a series

To register: www.WiseLA.org/CJL.

For more information, please contact Susan Dean in Rabbi David Woznica's office: 310.889.2200 or SDean@WiseLA.org

Keeping Healthy: Prevention and Cutting-Edge Non-Surgical Treatment of Osteoarthritis Dr. Steven E. Sampson

Monday, November 7, 2011

As we age we begin to notice aches and pains that we never had before. For some, lifestyle becomes compromised because joints are not cooperating. An epidemic is sweeping our bodies in record numbers, often causing debilitating joint pain, due to osteoarthritis. Conventional wisdom reminds us that if we do not take steps to promote healthy joints, our ability to remain active well into our "golden" years will be seriously challenged. Dr. Steven Sampson will share cutting-edge therapies to treat both symptoms and illness, and tell us what role we can play in maximizing our health and living to our full potential.

Steven E. Sampson, D.O., Diplomate American Board of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation, is also a Clinical Instructor of Medicine at the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA. He has founded The Orthohealing Center and The Orthobiologic Institute.

Preventing Alzheimer's Disease Dr. Gary Small

Monday, April 23, 2012

What measures can we take to prevent Alzheimer's disease in ourselves and how do we best understand and care for parents who have been diagnosed?

Today's 80 million baby boomers are beginning to turn age 65 when the risk for Alzheimer's disease increases. For decades researchers have been searching for a way to cure and prevent the disease, by far the most common cause of age-related mental decline. But we do not need to sit and wait for a remarkable new drug or vaccine to come along before we start protecting our brains. A healthy brain lifestyle not only strengthens neurons and postpones mental decline, it also improves memory ability and brain efficiency. Dr. Small will review the steps we can all take to lower our risk for Alzheimer's disease and keep our brains healthy for as long as possible. Also Dr. Small will guide us through the challenges of coping with parents who have Alzheimer's disease.

Gary Small, M.D., is a renowned Professor of Psychiatry and Biobehavioral Sciences and Parlow-Solomon Professor on Aging at the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA, where he is also Founding Director of the UCLA Memory Clinic and Director of the UCLA Center on Aging. He has authored more than 400 scientific publications, as well as the international bestseller, *The Memory Bible*. Small's research has been featured in *The New York Times*, *The Wall Street Journal*, *London Times*, *Washington Post*, *Time Magazine*, and *Newsweek*, and television programs such as *The Today Show*, *CNN*, *The Jane Pauley Show*, and *20/20*.

Intimate Conversations: Engaging Our Children in Discussion about Sex, Sexuality, and Passion Dr. Jeffrey Marsh

Monday, March 5, 2012

Dr. Jeffrey Marsh will provide an overview and context for engaging our children in meaningful discussions about sex, sexuality, and passion. The foundation for these discussions starts even before children develop language as they begin to sense the sexual crucible created by their parents. As fathers, our interaction with children on these topics must be authentic, purposeful without being "preachy," and well timed and tuned to the developmental stage and age of our child. Dr. Marsh will provide us with the clarity we need to address these issues with our children so that we might keep the lines of communication open from early childhood into adolescence and through the adult years.

Dr. Jeffrey Marsh is a husband, father of three sons, and a psychologist, educator and consultant. Nearly 30 years ago, he created the pioneering "Daddy-and-Me" (for grandfathers, fathers, and children) for the Stephen S. Wise Temple Parenting Center. The program received national and international acclaim. He developed an undergraduate course, "The Psychology of Fatherhood", based on his experience in organizing and leading this program. Dr. Marsh is a clinician in private practice where he sees individuals, couples, and families.

The Way of Baseball Shawn Green

Monday, January 23, 2012

The greatest Jewish Major League Baseball player since Sandy Koufax, Shawn Green had a 14-year career with four teams, including the L.A. Dodgers and the N.Y. Mets. His overriding success was due in large part to his attitude toward a sport too often defined by greed and national scandals.

Shawn Green explored his potential well beyond that of just a ballplayer. He will share his secrets as to how he remained focused, both on and off the field, shedding light on how each of us can find full awareness, presence, and, ultimately, fulfillment in any endeavor – important life lessons for us and for our children.

Shawn Green is a two-time All Star, and recipient of the Golden Glove and Silver Slugger Awards. He retired from baseball at the age of 34 to spend time with his family. He has just written *The Way of Baseball*, which illustrates the spiritual practices that enabled him to "bring stillness into the flow of life."

Following Ezra Tom Fields-Meyer

Monday, December 12, 2011

As fathers – or potential fathers – we all have hopes and dreams for our children. What happens when the child we get is not the one we expected? Tom Fields-Meyer explores that question with humor, tenderness and insight in his memoir, *Following Ezra: What One Father Learned About Gumbo, Otters, Autism, and Love from His Extraordinary Son*. We have much to learn from Tom's uplifting and engaging story of the decade from his son's autism diagnosis to Ezra's one-of-a-kind bar mitzvah. *Following Ezra* is a beautiful love story between father and son, offering a persuasive look at the creative and personal ways in which we can choose to confront and transcend life's challenges.

Tom Fields-Meyer, a writer and journalist, spent a dozen years as a senior writer at *People Magazine*. His work has appeared in *The New York Times Magazine* and *The Wall Street Journal*. He is married to Rabbi Shawn Fields-Meyer, Upper School Rabbi and Jewish Studies teacher at Milken Community High School.

A Few Wise Men is only available as a series.

To register: www.WiseLA.org/CJL. For more information, please contact Susan Dean in Rabbi David Woznica's office: 310.889.2200 or SDean@WiseLA.org



Florence Melton Adult Mini-School at Stephen S. Wise Temple

No Tests, No Homework, No Grades

One of the most comprehensive Jewish adult education programs offered in the United States is the Florence Melton Adult Mini-School. Melton is also currently being taught in Canada, South Africa, Australia and the United Kingdom. Last year, we announced that Stephen S. Wise Temple had been selected to offer this program and you are invited to participate.

The curriculum, developed by world-class scholars at the Hebrew University in Jerusalem is unparalleled. The course meets weekly, 30 weeks a year over a two-year period (excluding the summer).

The first year covers the Rhythms of Jewish Living - the central ideas and texts which inform daily, weekly, and annual rituals as well as life cycle observances; Purposes of Jewish Living - the essential Jewish Theological concepts and ideas as they unfold in the Bible, the Talmud and other sacred texts.

Year two will include the Ethics of Jewish Living - issues such as justice, life and death, sexuality and community are discussed using case studies from Talmudic, rabbinic and contemporary literature; Dramas of Jewish Living Throughout the Ages -- the dramatic developments, experiences and issues from different periods in Jewish history as reflected in historical texts.

In addition to the learning that takes place, the classes often become warm and caring communities. The instructors as well as the director of the program actively participate in the Jewish growth of the participants.

First year classes are offered on:

**30 Tuesdays:
September 6 through May 24
9:30-11:45 a.m.
or
7-9:15 p.m.**

**\$660 members of Stephen S. Wise Temple
\$700 non-members**

**For more information or to register, please
contact Rabbi Karen Strok at KStrok@WiseLA.org,
call 310.889.2291 or visit
www.WiseLA.org/MeltonSchool.**

Learning In Your Neighborhood: Home and Business

This is a special opportunity to study with Stephen S. Wise Temple clergy, along with other members of our congregation, in an intimate setting close to your home or business.

As a member of our congregation you will be invited to join a study group that meets monthly in a private home in your neighborhood.

In addition, for the first time, we are happy to announce that we will be offering courses in selected business locations around Los Angeles.

Invitations to study with us will be mailed to our members in the fall.

These courses are offered at no charge. Registration information will be included in your invitation (there is no online registration). We look forward to having you join us.



The Hidden Meanings of the Ten Commandments Rabbi Eli Herscher

Underlying the seemingly direct and obvious meaning of the commandments, there is hidden an entire world of meaning for our lives, just waiting to be uncovered. We will explore what connects these particular commandments to each other, the story they actually tell, and what ideals they mean to convey. More than any other text in the Torah, the Ten Commandments express a Jewish vision for each of us as individuals, for our families and for the world. Our learning together this year will seek to discover how our lives might be very different – better and more meaningful – through a new understanding of these ancient biblical words.

Invitations to study with us will be mailed to our members in the fall.

We gratefully acknowledge an endowment gift from Lynn and Les Bider in support of our courses.



**Exodus:
Indeed the Greatest Story
Ever Told
Rabbi David Woznica**

From the birth of Moses, the freeing of the Israelite slaves, the parting of the Red Sea, the receiving of the Torah, and the Golden Calf, to the wanderings through the desert, there is no history, no study, no story as compelling as that of our people. In this study of the Torah, we return to those moments which occurred 3,200 years ago, joining our ancestors as they journey from the depths of enslavement to the challenges they never would have imagined as they migrate from what was essentially a tribe to a people with a God given purpose that would change them and the world forever.



**Judaism in the 21st Century
Rabbi Ron Stern**

In a fast changing technologically advanced world, can religion afford to remain unchanged? How must core Jewish ideas be adapted to remain meaningful for our times?

Over 60 years ago, Rabbi Mordechai Kaplan suggested that Judaism needs to be reconstructed in order to remain meaningful and relevant in the 20th century. Many of his ideas have moved into the mainstream of modern Jewish thought. Kaplan challenged Jews to think differently about such religious concepts as sacred text, commandments, the eternity of the soul, the place of God in our lives and even history as it has been understood traditionally. He recognized that so much of our modern knowledge refutes classical religious ideas. Rabbi Stern reflects on 25 years of rabbinic experience and learning to continue Kaplan's reconstruction and present a model for 21st Century Judaism. Together we will consider some of the essential challenges that religious ideas present to modern Jews and ask how we can reconcile them with modern knowledge. Join us as we search for answers to some of the most daunting and profound questions faced by Judaism today.

**Connecting to God
through Torah Text
Rabbi Spike Anderson**

In each age, Jews have engaged with Torah to help answer these existential questions: What is my place in the universe? What is my relationship with God? What is my purpose in life? We will explore Biblical texts which give insight into some of the important questions we should be asking, and how our sages have extracted possible answers. This is an interactive class where you will be asked to bring your "whole self" to the table, and be prepared to wrestle with your own personal theology.



**What Will Happen to Me
After I Die?
Jewish Views on the Afterlife
Rabbi Lydia Bloom Medwin**

One of the biggest questions we face is "What will happen to me after I die?" Over our history, Jews have embraced many different ideas of what happens to our bodies and our souls after we leave this world. We will explore these different ideas, including "the waiting room", reincarnation, the world to come, and much more. We will get the chance to figure out which beliefs we currently adhere to and which beliefs might add meaning and holiness to our personal understandings of death and dying. Join us for this fascinating look at the afterlife.

Invitations to study with us will be mailed to our members in the fall.

Additional Learning Opportunities



Synagogue Music of the 21st Century Cantor Nathan Lam

What stuck from the 20th century and what did not? Trace the move toward the contemporary musical sound as it becomes part of Jewish worship. Experience visual, recorded and live musical examples, including High Holy Day favorites, and contemplate the new favorites that are emerging. Have Hassidic, folk, pop, rap or musical theatre genres begun to replace the musical grandeur of the classical 20th century repertoire?

"Shiru L'ADONAI, shir chadash ... Sing unto GOD a new song"
(Coming to Services does help your grade!)



Jewish Liturgical Gems: Music of a Chosen People Cantor Marcus Feldman

Judaism and music both have the capability to touch our souls and connect us to a greater purpose in life. When the two meet, an incredible 3,000-year story of faith, hope, and national pride unfolds. Please join Cantor Feldman on a journey through the vast world of Jewish liturgical music where we will not only listen to great Jewish music of the past millennium, but also look at the rich text of our prayers. We will be exploring Jewish music from the Renaissance, Jewish Enlightenment, the golden age of Hazzanut, modern liturgical music, and much, much more. Be sure not to miss this extraordinary journey through our sacred liturgical gems.

To register: www.WiseLA.org/CJL
or 888.380.WISE (9473)
For more information, see inside back cover.

Grave Matters: Some of the Hardest Conversations You Need to Have

Rabbi Lydia Medwin, Hillside Memorial Park and the Shiva Sisters

We often do not confront issues related to death until faced with the emotional pressure of loss. Through a panel discussion and breakout sessions you will discover a roadmap to help you navigate the final journey both for the deceased and surviving loved ones. You will learn from Stephen S. Wise Temple rabbis about Jewish burial traditions, Jewish funeral etiquette, honoring the wishes of the deceased, taboo issues related to burial, and talking to children about death; from attorneys on estate planning, power of attorney, advanced directives and other legal issues; from counselors on coping with grief and having "the discussion" with your parents; from an emergency medic on healthcare, where to store your Do Not Resuscitate (DNR) papers, when and why to call the coroner, and much more.

This conference is geared for parents with young children, to adults with aging parents, to the elderly themselves, and everyone in between.

Sunday, November 13, 2011
1 p.m.-4:30 p.m.

There is no charge for this program. However, advanced registration is encouraged at www.WiseLA.org/GraveMatters.

Introduction to Judaism

Rabbi Spike Anderson

Introduction to Judaism reflects the approach of Reform Judaism and is designed to be a meaningful educational experience for any person interested in knowing and understanding more about Judaism and Jewish life regardless of age, nationality, culture, or depth of knowledge. The course organizes instruction according to the major holidays and events in the Jewish life cycle.

18 Thursdays: October 27 through March 22
(no class November 24, December 22, 29)
7 p.m.-9 p.m.

\$180 for members of Stephen S. Wise Temple
\$250 for non-members
The tuition fee entitles 1 or 2 people to attend.

To register:
www.WiseLA.org/IntrotoJudaism

For further information, contact Rabbi Sabine Meyer at smeyer@urj.org or call 213.765.2660.



Carpool Torah The Kings of Israel and Judah

Rabbi Ron Stern

The Bible captures an incredible and exciting account of the kings of the Jewish people who reigned over a divided nation for more than 600 years. Their stories include palace intrigue, regicide, glorious military victories and traumatic national defeats that capture the true essence of ancient nationhood. Here is the history of the Jewish people that is not only told in the Bible but also revealed in the discoveries of Israeli archeologists. Bring your coffee and join us on Monday mornings to explore the ancient text, the archeological record and the insights that these accounts bring for our own times.

Begins in January 2012
8:15-9:15 a.m.

For more information, call Rabbi Stern's office at 310.889.2269

There is no charge for this course

Women's Study Group

Rabbi Lydia Medwin

Join a group of intelligent and thoughtful women each month as we explore the women of the Bible. Our search will lead us to new insights into the lives of these women, into our tradition, and our own spirituality.

First Wednesday of each month: September 7, October 5, November 2, December 7, January 4, February 1, March 7, April 4, May 2
1:30 p.m.-3 p.m.

For more information, call Rabbi Medwin's office at 310.889.2230.

There is no charge for this course – drop in any time!

TO REGISTER:

We encourage you to take advantage of our easy online registration. You will receive immediate confirmation and the process is quick and simple.

For members of our Patron and Sponsor Program, please contact Harriet Zolan at 310.889.2234 or HZolan@WiseLA.org.

Online: www.WiseLA.org/CJL

Telephone: 888.380.WISE (9473)

Fax Registration Form to: 310.889.2358

Mail Registration Form to:

Stephen S. Wise Temple
Center for Jewish Life
15500 Stephen S. Wise Drive
Los Angeles, CA 90077-1520

For more information: 310.889.2200

We are both a spiritual community, as well as a community of learners.

We invite you to join us for Shabbat services on Friday evenings and Saturday mornings, as well as for our Minyan on Thursday mornings (when school is in session).



We gratefully acknowledge our Pillar, Wise Circle, Chai Benefactor, Patron, and Sponsor members for their generous support. If you are interested in underwriting or permanently endowing any of our Center for Jewish Life programs, please contact our Director of Development, Jay Epstein, at 310.889.2276 or JEpstein@WiseLA.org.



STEPHEN S. WISE

TEMPLE

15500 Stephen S. Wise Drive | Los Angeles, CA 90077-1520
www.WiseLA.org