2017–2018
YEAR IN REVIEW
WE MAKE MEANING AND CHANGE THE WORLD

THANK YOU FOR YOUR PARTICIPATION, ENERGY AND GENEROSITY IN 2017–18. THIS IS WHAT YOU MADE POSSIBLE

OVER 500 PEOPLE ATTENDED OUR WISE GALA THAT GENERATED $700,000 TO SUPPORT OUR COMMUNITY

WE CELEBRATED A MILESTONE MOMENT IN OUR COMMUNITY’S HISTORY AS WE DEDICATED AND OPENED OUR BEAUTIFUL NEW CAMPUS ADDITION:
KATZ FAMILY PAVILION AND SHALOM GARDEN
Highlights in 2017-18 included:

- Built and opened Wise Woods, our beautiful Early Childhood playground
- Partnered with My Gym to offer “Baby and Me” gym classes in our Parenting Center
- Enhanced Hebrew opportunities at Religious School, including Hebrew Through Movement in our younger grades, and a pilot Hebrew immersion class for graduates of the Wise School Early Childhood Center Hebrew Immersion program
- Offered opportunities for Religious School parents to learn and socialize at our hikes with the Rabbi, Passover preparations workshop, and Family Camp
- Debuted Developmental Kindergarten (DK) at Wise School with a class of 16 children
- Reconnected at our first Alumni Family Day and honored Coach Jeff Starr for 40 years of service
- Provided a fun, safe, and loving community for 221 campers and 55 staff at Camp Wise over the summer
- Participated in Odyssey of the Mind, an international educational competition that provides creative problem-solving opportunities, with three Wise School teams progressing to the state finals
- Experienced the joy of giving tzedakah to Reading Village (providing books for children in Guatemala) as part of Wise School’s Light Up Literacy program
- Recognized theater director Mary Itri’s passion and commitment at her 20th Wise School musical production: Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat
This year, we welcomed terrific, renowned speakers including Rabbi David Dalin (author of *Jewish Justices of the Supreme Court*), Dr. Laura Rosenzweig (author of *Hollywood Spies*), Rabbi Naomi Levy (author of *Einstein and the Rabbi*), Rob Eshman (former editor of *The Jewish Journal*), Dr. Josh Holo and Rabbi Dvora Weisberg of Hebrew Union College. We were delighted to extend an invitation to our donors to attend special receptions with our speakers at these events.

Over 600 people registered for ongoing classes, from 3-week seminars to 2-year courses, that included studying with clergy in mini-courses and Learning in Your Neighborhood classes.

131 students studied in Wise’s Melton School, engaging in deeper Jewish learning as part of a program that has been recognized for being among the top Melton schools in the world.

As part of a new program, Museums with Mario, our group of art lovers had a fabulous time on excursions to the Frederick R. Weisman Art Foundation (a private collection in Westwood) and the Marciano Art Foundation.

With community partners we offered: The Future of Reform Judaism with Hebrew Union College Jewish Institute of Religion, An Introduction to Judaism class with Union of Reform Judaism, and a Hebrew Class series with the American Jewish University.
We offered uplifting worship and inspirational learning

2,800 MEMBERS AND 700 GUESTS ATTENDED HIGH HOLY DAYS SERVICES ON THE WISE CAMPUS, AT SKIRBALL CULTURAL CENTER, AND AT BEL AIR CHURCH

This year we:

• Streamed Friday Shabbat services and many other worship services on Facebook Live and at WiseLA.org to increase access for members and guests unable to attend and to share our worship experiences with the world

• Launched re:Shabbat—a casual, musical gathering bringing young adults together to sing, worship, and enjoy food and wine in a welcoming, relaxed atmosphere

• Celebrated Shabbat with our youngest members at Tot Shabbat every month

• Offered uplifting song, insightful Torah, riveting discussions, and meaningful community at our Shabbat Morning Torah Study and services

• Rabbi Ron Stern’s Bible Study class during the year challenged us to think differently

• Joined Rabbi David Woznica for probing study every other Thursday; the class (some students in their 12th year of study with him) completed the book of Exodus and celebrated with Shabbat dinner at Rabbi Woznica’s home

• Offered thought-provoking and insightful learning in Rabbi Yoshi Zweiback’s Wednesday Talmud Study

• Enjoyed our Summer Tour with Shabbat services outdoors on the Wise campus, at the beach in Santa Monica, and with special concerts in Beverly Hills and at Wise

• Joined partner congregations of many faiths to host the “Westside Prayer Vigil” in support of the American values of tolerance, pluralism, and safety for immigrants

• Hosted an evening of interfaith fellowship with members of Faithful Central Bible Church to celebrate the birthdays and legacies of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and Rabbi Abraham Joshua Heschel, partners and friends in the fight for civil rights

• The Lam Music and Media Center released the album Elohai Neshama: Songs of the Soul
Our team of 40 Wise ambassadors and 36 Wise school ambassadors reached out to all members joining in the past two years.

Our inaugural Newlywed Havdalah series provided an opportunity for couples to connect with each other and build friendships and community.

In its second year, Wise YAD (Young Adult Division) provided spiritual and social experiences for young adults aged 22-39, fostering a sense of community and belonging.

Wise Years welcomed over 80 attendees at each monthly meeting, offering learning, lunch, leisure, and community for our members and guests aged 60 years and “better.” The year culminated with their first field trip to the Nethercutt Collection.

The Wise Walking Group met for 12 beautiful hikes during the year, exploring many different neighborhoods and nature trails all over Los Angeles.

Wise Fit offered pilates and yoga classes, expanding into our beautiful new Levine Yoga Studio (part of Katz Family Pavilion).

33 people hit the slopes on Mammoth Mountain with Rabbi Yoshi and Rabbi Stern for the annual Men’s Ski Trip.

20 parents assembled over 250 packages during the year that were sent to our college kids across the country.

Enjoyed a relaxing weekend of spiritual connection and community bonding at the Center for Youth Engagement’s Family Camp at Camp Ramah in Ojai, CA.

Celebrated our founding generation families and shared our history at Founders Day.

Members traveled to Israel with Rabbi Yoshi to experience the amazing Jewish homeland.

Connected with thousands of friends on social media

- Over 80,000 views of our videos and services
- Over 10,000 views, likes, and shares of our new music video “Am Yisrael Chai”
- Over 10,000 views, likes, and shares of our Facebook and Instagram videos during our friendly wager with Congregation Emanu El Houston during the 2017 World Series, covered by local TV stations in both Los Angeles and Houston
Wise Hearts provided support and hope for our members during times of sickness and sorrow and celebration in times of great joy.

**THIS YEAR, OUR**

**41 DEDICATED WISEhearts VOLUNTEERS HAVE:**

- Delivered over 100 meals
- Mailed 300 cards
- Gave 50 teddy bears to newborns
- Sent 55 gifts to people recovering from illness or surgery
- Congratulated 66 B’nai Mitzvah families

Wise Readers to Leaders provided free literacy enrichment programming to 400 youth.

Our team of 40 staff and 200 teen and adult volunteers served 400 scholars from Kindergarten to 9th grade from under-served communities. Wise Readers to Leaders embodies the finest expression of tikkun olam by bridging diverse communities and healing the world one scholar at a time.
More amazing ways Wise changes the world:

- Wise supported LA Family Housing to help people transition into permanent housing by making holiday kits filled with household goods, holiday decorations, and gift cards to enrich and enhance their holiday season.

- Over 500 people volunteered on Mitzvah Day for a variety of Tikkun Olam projects

- Over 6000 pounds of food donations were delivered to SOVA to feed families in need

- Over 15 Wise members are mentors for Jewish Big Brothers and Big Sisters

- Wise set a new record in raising over $15,000 at our Beit Issie Shapiro Farmers Markets for Beit Issie Shapiro in Israel

- Knitted 125 hats for babies at Shaare Zedek Medical Hospital in Israel

We teamed Up with Save the Syrian Children to provide vital aid and gifts

The Big Fill is an initiative to provide much-needed supplies to children and families suffering in Syria. The Wise community filled two 40-foot and one 20-foot storage containers with medical supplies, clothing, and toys to help our partners from Save the Syrian Children, an incredible organization founded by Wise members Tamar and Philip Koosed. Wise paved the way—now 11 other Jewish organizations are replicating our efforts to gather donations.

Wise helped 200 veterans through Homes for Heroes

Homes for Heroes helps our formerly homeless veterans settle into new, permanent homes. Spearheaded by members Shelly Levy and Gisele Paul, we provided newly housed veterans with 100 baskets of household goods, 100 microwaves, 75 refrigerators, and 30 beds.

We supported gun safety and participated in March for Our Lives

Wise members joined the wider community at the March for Our Lives. Visiting students from Parkland, Florida, Mia Freeman and Hayley Licata, along with Mayor Eric Garcetti and dozens of celebrities, spoke to the crowd of thousands in downtown Los Angeles.
This year, we were delighted to welcome Rabbi Sari Laufer to our clergy as our Director of Congregational Engagement. Our clergy nurtures our members with love and provides strength in times of joy and difficulty.

REMEMBERING RABBI ISAIAH ZELDIN

This year we said goodbye to our beloved founding rabbi, our teacher, and our friend. Rabbi Isaiah Zeldin passed away peacefully at age 97 on January 26, 2018, surrounded by family at his home in Palm Desert.

Rabbi Zeldin was a visionary leader and we give thanks for the incredible legacy he leaves behind and for the blessings of his many contributions to our community, to the Jewish people, and to each of us personally.

The Stephen Wise Temple Board of Directors has established the Isaiah Zeldin Rabbinic Chair in order to honor and continue the legacy of Rabbi Isaiah Zeldin. Receiving unanimous approval from the Executive Committee and Board, Senior Rabbi Yoshi Zweiback has appointed Rabbi David Woznica to become the first holder of the Chair.