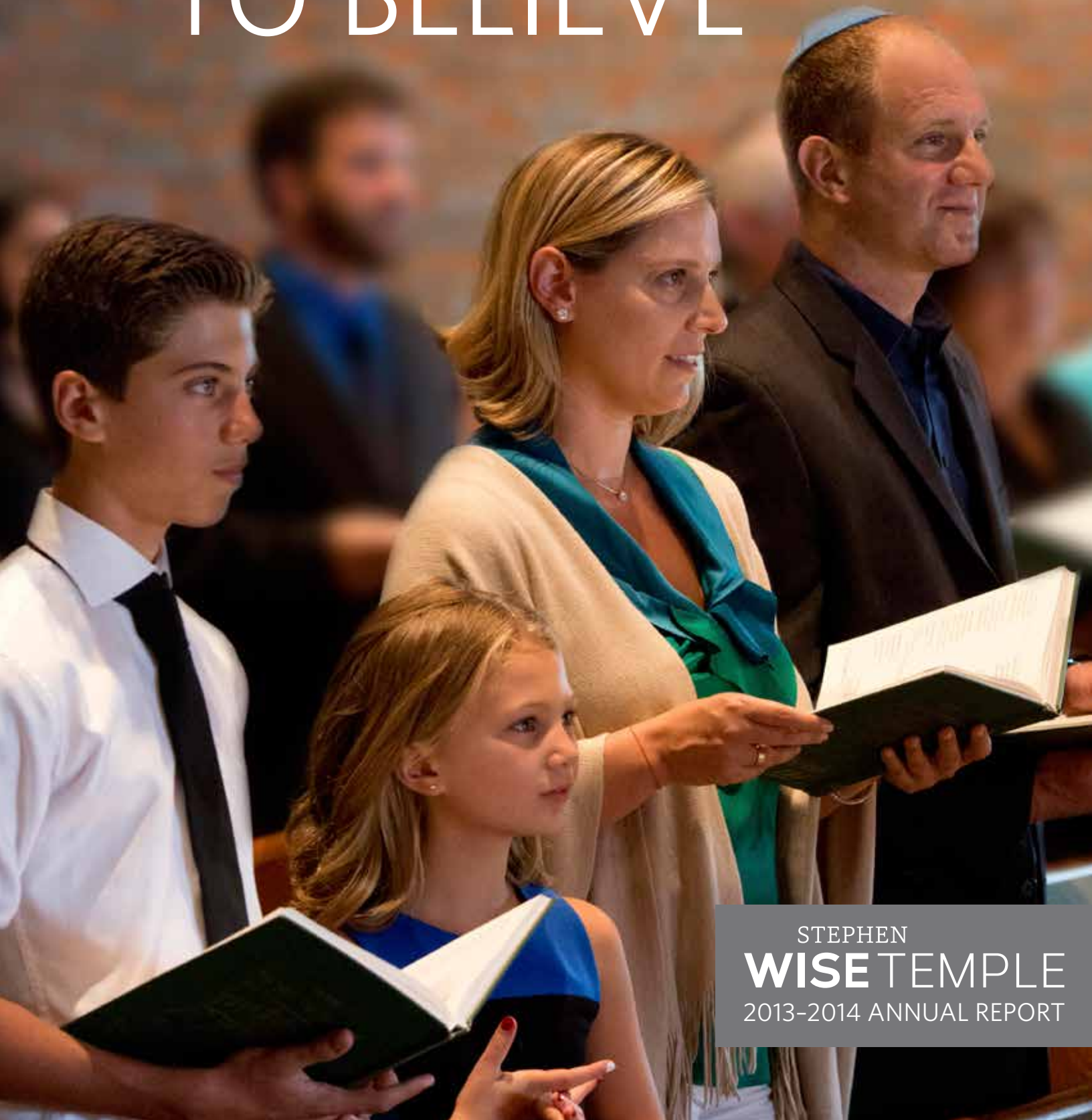


REASONS TO BELIEVE



STEPHEN
WISETEMPLE
2013-2014 ANNUAL REPORT

WHO WE ARE

Are you a seeker, a learner, committed to social justice, appreciative of world class music, committed to the long term survival of the Jewish people, a lover and supporter of Israel? Then Stephen Wise Temple is the place for you! Our community is a force for change in our world.

2013-2014 Temple Leadership

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

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Lori Tyberg
Michael Wachtell

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Rick Corleto, 2011-2013
Ken Gross, 2009-2011
Lynn Bider, 2007-2009
Albert Praw, 2005-2007
Eve Steinberg, 2003-2005
Mark Berns, 2001-2003
David Smith, 1999-2001
Steven Fogel, 1997-1999
Pam Balton, 1995-1997
Steven Fink, 1993-1995
Kenneth Ruby, 1991-1993
Warren Breslow, 1989-1991
Mel Gagerman, 1987-1989
Herbert Samuels, 1985-1987
Sheldon Cloobek, 1983-1985
Joseph Baron*, 1981-1983
Mitchell Shames*, 1979-1981
Leo Stone*, 1977-1979
Leslie Surlow*, 1975-1977
Robert Kadner*, 1973-1975
Paul Krentzman, 1971-1973
Sydney Dunitz*, 1969-1971
Ben Winters*, 1968-1969
Norman Eichberg, 1965-1968
Joseph Kleiman*, 1964-1965

*Of blessed memory

CLERGY

Rabbi Isaiah Zeldin
Rabbi Eli Herscher
Rabbi David Woznica
Rabbi Ron Stern
Rabbi Spike Anderson
Cantor Nathan Lam
Rabbi Yoshi Zweiback

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Executive Director
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Chief Financial Officer
Lori Enomoto
Director of Communications and Media
Jay Epstein
Director of Development
Andrea Gardenhour
Director of Center for Youth Engagement
Lonnie Mayfield
Director of Operations
Jennifer Smith
Director of Membership

ON THE COVER:

Julian, Sabrina, Paola, and Alvaro Gancman, Stephen Wise Temple members and Wise School family

Reasons to Believe

Our rabbinic sages, who were never short on imagination, taught that when the Temple in Jerusalem was destroyed by the Romans nearly two thousand years ago, its stones were scattered through the air to the farthest reaches of the earth. And wherever one of those stones landed, a synagogue would one day be built, and a new home for the Jewish spirit would be created. The rabbis' flight of fantasy was actually more than that. Much more. Indeed, it was a powerful affirmation that, no matter how momentous the challenges to Jewish life might be, there would *always* be Jews, *somewhere*, building a synagogue community and, thereby, renewing a vibrant Jewish future.

I love those rabbis' optimism. I love their expression of hope even in the face of the deep uncertainties and discontinuities that have always been the backdrop for the Jewish story. And, indeed, it turns out that their hope and optimism were well placed — even after the worst destructions, wherever Jews have lived, we have built new synagogues and schools and thriving communities.

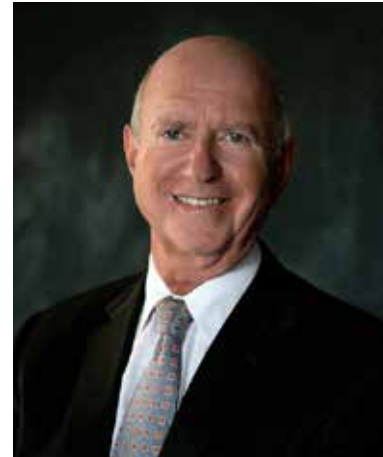
I cannot help but think of our own Stephen Wise Temple when I consider Jewish hope and optimism. One of those stones of the ancient Temple landed on our own mountaintop, and what we see today is a manifestation of hopes fulfilled. This Annual Report is but a modest attempt to capture something of the realization of those hopes. Synagogues such as ours are at the core of the Jewish future. And when you look at what we have created over these past fifty years, and what we continue to create every day, you see so many reasons to believe in what is possible for that future. Our inspiring worship services, our lifelong learning opportunities (from families with infants and toddlers through elementary school, to teen youth engagement, to adult in-depth encounters with our tradition) — these give us all reasons to believe that even more is possible. *And when we are at our best*, when we are a community of nurturing and support, vibrant innovation, joyful celebration, and unstinting generosity, then we also become the Jewish home of the spirit that the rabbis of old imagined.

I am grateful that those rabbis' dreams, their flights of imagination and innovation, were not reserved for their generation alone. They imagined future generations; *they dreamed us*. And as we create the most powerful and inspired Jewish present at Stephen Wise, we also dream the future for our children and our grandchildren and all the generations yet to be.

What a great gift we all hold in our hands — to build on the foundations of an inspiring past, to create a meaningful and fulfilling present, and to commit and guarantee that all we value as Jews will be carried and lived into a hope-filled future.

All of this, of course, is possible only because of you — your engagement, your membership, and your generous spirit.

With appreciation and gratitude,
with hopes for peace and the future,



Rabbi Eli Herscher

Jordyn Schiff

SERVANT LEADER INTERN, FREEDOM SCHOOL

My decision to join the Freedom School program the first year it was created at Stephen Wise had much to do with my growing up at the Temple and being educated at Wise School and Milken Community High School. Those early experiences helped shape my values and relationships.

I began my experience with the Freedom School as a volunteer Junior Servant Leader Intern. As a JSLI, I assisted the main teacher, known as a Servant Leader Intern, and worked closely with Freedom School students, whom we call scholars. My role was to help each scholar develop strong reading skills along with an even stronger sense of self. More recently, this past summer, I worked as a Servant Leader Intern in the classroom.

Becoming friends with the Freedom School scholars has been very gratifying. I'm able to express my values with them and they share their opinions and ideals with me. These scholars have influenced the way I learn and have given me a deeper appreciation for the teachers with whom I grew up.

I love working with my peers at Freedom School. We share a passion for our work and care deeply about the growth and health of each scholar. We have been changed by the Freedom School culture which stresses praising and celebrating peoples' unique qualities as we, along with the scholars, become a family.

At Freedom School we have a cheer for almost everything that guides our days and reminds us to be confident in our intellect and proud of our hard work. It also instills gratitude for the education we have been given in this community. Freedom School is definitely our time to give back. It just also happens to be a lot of fun!



“These scholars have influenced the way I learn and have given me a deeper appreciation for my teachers.”

In partnership with the Children's Defense Fund (CDF), the Stephen Wise Temple Freedom School opened its doors June 2012. The Freedom School program provides a six-week summer literacy and leadership program that in summer 2014, served over 140 students from low income, at-risk environments, free of charge. Initiated in 1992 by the CDF, the Freedom School program aims to prevent learning loss during the summer while simultaneously providing enrichment activities that foster self-confidence and generate a more positive attitude towards learning. In addition, parents are provided with weekly workshops on parenting skills, financial literacy, and other relevant topics.

Shahrokh Mokhtarzadeh

GRADUATE STUDENT, FLORENCE MELTON ADULT SCHOOL

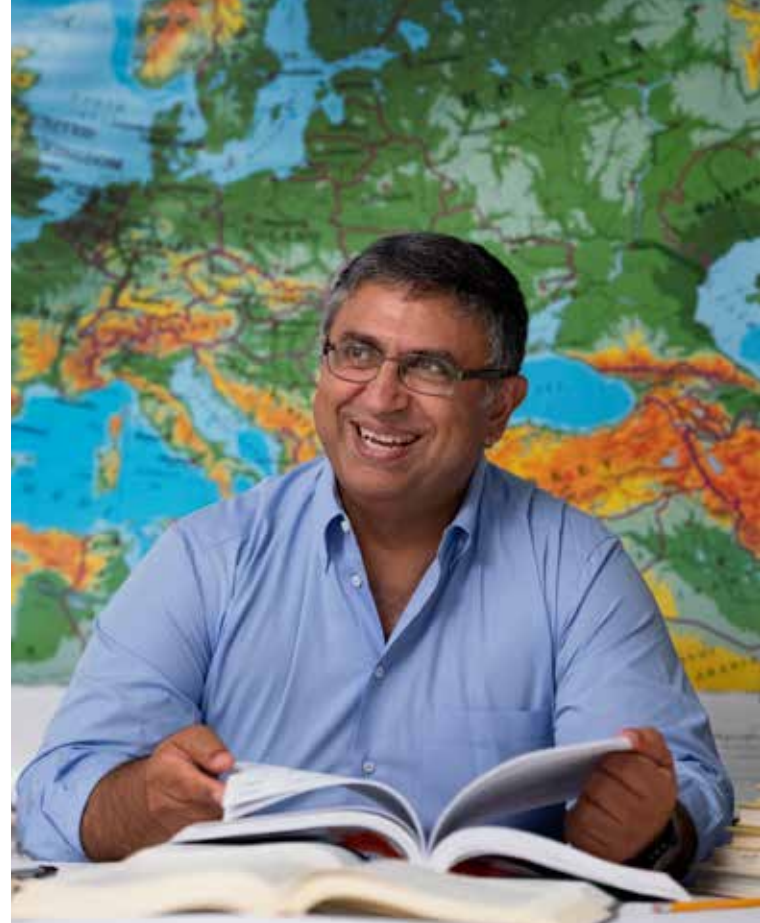
I was born in Iran. I wasn't raised in a religious family nor did I attend religious school there. When I first arrived in the United States I was 17 years old. That was 36 years ago. I went to the first Taste of Melton event where I met Rabbi Karen Strok, the Director of our Melton Adult School.

The Melton program completely changed the way I relate to Judaism. I began to find relevancy in my daily secular life because of my new understanding and connections with Jewish values. Ethics has always been important to me which are part of the Melton curriculum. What I learned at Melton I would apply in my own practice as an attorney.

I take great pride in now being a graduate of the Melton Adult School. It's not the pride in my accomplishments, but the pride in being part of this Temple community which embraces adult learning. I have since taken two more years of post-graduate study. I am deeply interested in learning and Melton has allowed me to expand my horizons even more.

From my Melton experience, I met and studied with those who were active in other programs at the Temple. That is how I became deeply involved with AIPAC and participated in the Melton trip to Israel. The trip was a life changing experience for me as I saw, firsthand, what I had been learning in Melton classes. I can't wait to get back to Israel. I have already signed up for our Temple's Spain & Israel trip in the spring of 2015.

The group of people with whom I started Melton still gets together for dinner and socializes. We've developed very strong bonds. I am learning real life lessons from my Melton studies, and at the same time learning more about myself.



“The Melton program completely changed the way I relate to Judaism.”

Founded in 1986, the Florence Melton School of Adult Jewish Learning is a world pioneer in the field of adult Jewish education, offering a first-class curriculum created by scholars and educators at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem. There are 50 Melton Schools in 47 cities throughout the United States, as well as in Canada, Australia, the United Kingdom, and South Africa, attended weekly by some 4,000 students. The Florence Melton School of Adult Jewish Learning was established at Stephen Wise Temple in fall 2010 as part of the Center for Jewish Life (CJL) program, giving us the unique privilege of bringing the Melton School to members of our Temple and the greater Los Angeles community.

Sarah Anderson

MEMBER, M'SHOR'RIM

My love of music in general and my connection to Jewish music are products of growing up at Stephen Wise Temple. Music is how I access Judaism and feel close to God, and while I'm singing in Temple, I hope that I am helping the community find similar feelings. Understanding prayer through music has always been an integral part of my schooling and services at Stephen Wise. I began singing with the M'Shor'rim at the age of 10. Very early on, Cantor Lam saw that I was eager to learn and understand music. The sounds of Jewish music became familiar and understandable to me, and singing Jewish music became a large part of my life.

Cantor Lam inspired me to pursue music, and showed me that classical singing and cantorial singing have so many similarities. Discovering this furthered my appreciation for both. His voice and his presence are what made me want to be a part of M'Shor'rim as a child, and is why I so enjoy singing in Temple now.

My interest and work with Jewish music led me to classical music. I discovered at a young age that I could sing opera, and singing with the M'Shor'rim prepared me to understand music and how it functions. M'Shor'rim gave me the opportunity to sing solo as well as in a group. I developed close relationships with the other members of M'Shor'rim. The Temple and M'Shor'rim helped me discover what I wanted to do with my life.

Through M'Shor'rim and Stephen Wise Temple, I aspired to be the best I could be. My immediate goal is to have complete control over my singing and voice. I hope to be an opera singer, a cantor, and a professor. Specifically, I want to show young singers that music is an incredible blessing and that our Temple is a safe place to find out if music is your passion. It's where I found mine.



“The Temple and M'Shor'rim helped me discover what I wanted to do with my life.”

The M'Shor'rim (Cantor's Choir) had its beginnings around 1991. It was created as a venue for elementary school age children to sing at services. Through the inspiration they found here at Stephen Wise Temple, many of the M'Shor'rim continued on through adulthood and became professional singers, composers and cantors.

Chet Kronenberg

MEMBER, STEPHEN WISE TEMPLE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

In late 2001, I moved from New York to Los Angeles with my wife and young son. We toured various temples, and chose Stephen Wise. We enrolled our son in the Temple's pre-school and soon joined a *havurah* of other young pre-school parents who quickly became friends with one another. Thirteen years later, and with the addition of two more children, those friendships still remain strong and are an important part of our lives.

Stemming from our involvement in the pre-school and *havurah*, my wife, Alison, and I began joining other groups and classes at the Temple, which expanded our appreciation of the Temple and what it has to offer. From these positive experiences emerged a deeper involvement and commitment to Stephen Wise.

My desire to serve on the Temple's Board of Directors came about through recognition that Stephen Wise is a great institution and I felt I could contribute to its continued success. Important decisions are made every day and volunteer leadership, working in close partnership with clergy and staff, has a strong fiduciary responsibility to the Temple's membership.

If one is able, it's important to financially support the Temple so it can grow and flourish. But there are other ways members can give back to the community too, namely, one's time and talent. As a lawyer, I have tried to use my skills to benefit the Temple, whether co-chairing the Temple's Governance Committee, creating pro bono opportunities for lawyers through the Temple's Center for Social Justice Engagement, or providing pro bono legal services for the Temple's Freedom School. I also have tried to foster a sense of community within the Temple by hosting Sukkot in Your Neighborhood, as well as religious school dinners.

I'm very active in the Temple now, but even when my children are grown, Alison and I will continue to support the Temple. We truly believe that our charitable giving and involvement make a difference and will help guarantee that Stephen Wise remains strong and vibrant for future generations.

The Board of Directors is the elected governing body of Stephen Wise Temple, comprised of Temple members who volunteer their valuable time, skill, and financial resources to ensure the overall wellbeing and effectiveness of the organization. In partnership with clergy and staff, the Board of Directors provides the vision, leadership, and advocacy to meet financial and programmatic commitments to the congregation and community, and to fulfill the mission of the Temple.



“We truly believe that our charitable giving and involvement make a difference.”

Carol Gray

FOUNDER, WISE YEARS

Weddings, baby namings, Mommy and Me, nursery school, Shabbat services, Hebrew school, Sunday school, confirmation, Holiday Workshops, High Holy Days, funerals, Mitzvah Days, Learning in your Neighborhood, adult B'nai Mitzvah class—for more than 40 years Stephen Wise Temple has been a home for all these life events and more for my family and me.

We joined a *havurah* 30 years ago and still, to this day, we attend High Holy Day services with our group and break the fast together at the close of Yom Kippur. However, in more recent years when I began to attend Friday night services, I saw very few of the folks I had known in past years. I often felt lonely at Temple services.

We wanted to re-establish a community of friends with strong ties to our Temple. With the support and encouragement of Rabbis Herscher and Stern, I chaired a committee that spent nearly twelve months planning Wise Years, which was launched in 2012.

Wise Years plays a vital role for seniors who have leisure time to devote to meaningful activities with others, who share common interests, and who have a desire to develop deeper connections to one another and to the Temple.

Wise Years has been my opportunity to give something back to Stephen Wise, which has been an integral part of my life and Jewish journey. I've found the experience rewarding and meaningful. Now when I attend Shabbat services I'm surrounded by people I know and care about.

Those who helped create Wise Years and now serve on its Committee share tremendous pride in knowing we have seniors in our congregation who have made new friends, learned skills and discovered hidden talents. It seems the more our members participate in Wise Years, the more they are willing to explore ideas and enjoy new experiences.



“Wise Years has been my opportunity to give back to Stephen Wise, which has been an integral part of my life.”

Wise Years is a program designed for Temple members who are 60 years of age and better, that offers a variety of engaging programs, educational classes, leisure activities, and lunch once a month on the Temple's campus.

Dear Friends and Supporters,

You are an investor in Stephen Wise Temple and this is our “report to shareholders.” You are an integral part of our mission to build and grow community, commit to lifelong education, celebrate life-cycle events, secure the Jewish future, connect to and support Israel, and engage in improving our world.

All corporations report on their revenue, expenses, product lines, and profits. So let me speak about each of these.

REVENUES. Our Temple has three primary revenue sources—membership dues, additional fundraising and school tuition. Your Board of Directors is committed to holding the line on dues and tuition. This means that we look to those who can give more to contribute toward making a rich Jewish life accessible to everyone, regardless of financial status. I am pleased that this was one of our best fundraising years ever.

EXPENSES. We are stewards of your contributions and we strive to make every dollar go as far as possible. This year we have made great strides in a number of areas to become more efficient, outsourcing many administrative functions, streamlining systems and working with senior staff to squeeze every bit of value out of every dollar.

PRODUCT LINES. This is the crux of our mission and here are some highlights:

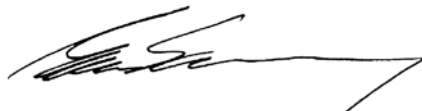
- This summer, over 60 of our Jewish teens (and many of our older members) have worked at two campuses—Stephen Wise Temple and Milken Community High School—to put their Jewish values to work in serving inner city kids through the Freedom School.
- Our Florence Melton Adult School continues to be one of the largest synagogue-based adult learning programs in America.
- Our Center for Jewish Life sponsors a robust schedule of speakers, classes and dialogues.
- Wise School has been rebranded and reimagined, including new spaces, a new music program and science lab, a sustainability initiative and more—all while building enrollment.
- High holiday services, b’nai mitzvah program, Soulful Shabbats, Sukkot in the Neighborhood, bang-up Jubilee events—the list is endless!

PROFITS. How profitable are we? Our profits are realized every day in the children’s smiles at play and learning. They are realized when families gather to celebrate a simcha, participating in Wise Hearts or Wise Years. Profits are in providing our youth values and a sense of belonging to the Jewish People.

In summary, this annual report is our way to inform you—our members, our supporters and our stakeholders—on what we did this year, how we handle our fiduciary responsibility, and how we manage your investment to effectively deliver value. I hope this report helps you understand more of what goes into managing this complex institution.

Thank you for your support, your guidance and your continuing commitment to the good works your Temple does every day!

Warm regards,



Glenn Sonnenberg

PRESIDENT, STEPHEN WISE TEMPLE

Stephen Wise Temple Year in Review



1 Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti presents City proclamations to Rabbi Eli Herscher and Temple President Glenn Sonnenberg at the Jubilee Gala Concert at the Orpheum Theatre. **2** Wise Religious School students participating in the Jewish World Watch Walk to End Genocide 2014. **3** Stephen Wise community celebrates Purim at Pacific Park on Santa Monica Pier. **4** Temple Executive Committee Member Janine Kolodny and Temple President Glenn Sonnenberg light the Hanukkah menorah at a special holiday concert to begin our Temple's Jubilee Year.



5

5 Cantor Nathan Lam and Rabbi Eli Herscher raise a glass to toast our Temple's Jubilee Year. 6 At a Center for Jewish Life (CJL) program attended by over 1200 people, Rabbi David Woznica dialogues with Professor Alan Dershowitz and Dennis Prager. 7 Camp Wise field trip to the California Science Museum.

Year in Review



6



7



8

Year in Review

8 Wise preschoolers celebrate Yom Ha'atzma'ut at the interactive Kibbutz playground on the Temple campus. **9** Cantor Nathan Lam, and Grammy award winning composer Charles Fox, with fellow Cantors and Cantorial Interns, with the Los Angeles Children's Choir perform at the Temple's Jubilee Gala concert held at the Orpheum Theatre. **10** Wise Temple youth in Jerusalem for the TALAVI (Tel Aviv-Los Angeles-Vilnius) summer experience.



9



10

Stephen Wise Temple By the Numbers

140 students from low income, at-risk environments attended Stephen Wise Temple Freedom School

40% increase in number of donors to the Annual Campaign

547 people participated in one or more In Your Neighborhood programs

90 adults and children experienced Israel with our Temple Clergy on our Jubilee Israel Trip

Over **5,600**

Temple members and guests worshipped with us at High Holy Day Services

12 Community organizations and agencies partnered with our Temple's Social Justice Engagement Center to improve our community and world

85 Cantors and singers performed at our Temple Jubilee Kickoff Concert

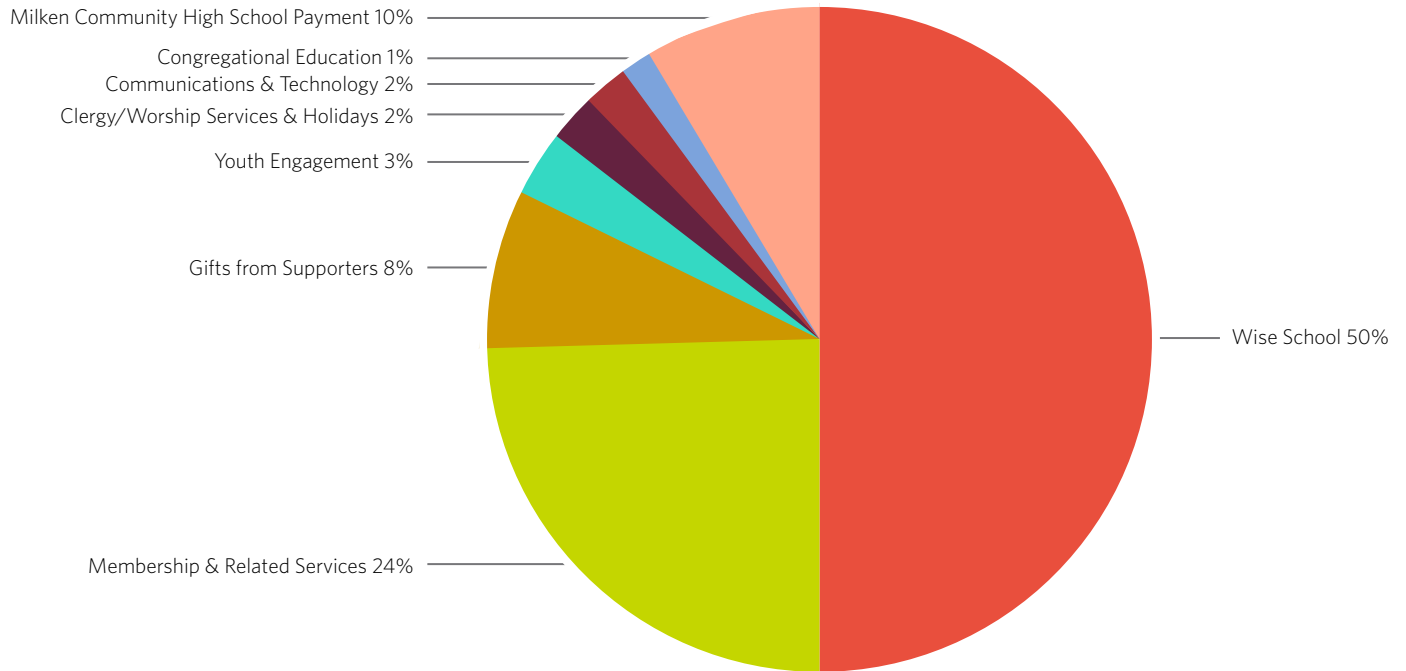
Collectively, our Wise Campers shared **27,000** hours of fun this summer!

2,550 lifelong learners attended one or more Center for Jewish Life dialogues, lectures, or classes

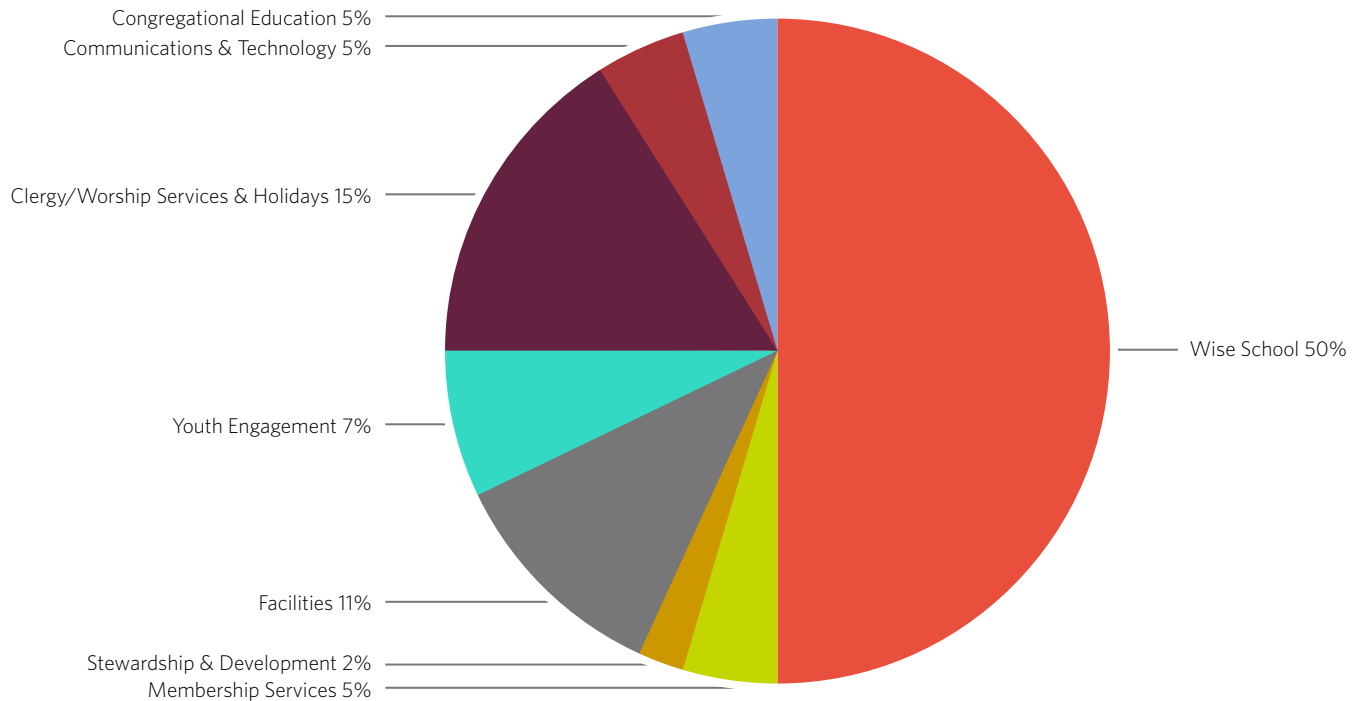
59 Temple members participated in the AIPAC Conference in Washington, D.C.

2013/2014 Stephen Wise Temple

SOURCES OF REVENUE - \$18 MILLION



EXPENSES - \$18 MILLION



Thank you to our generous donors

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