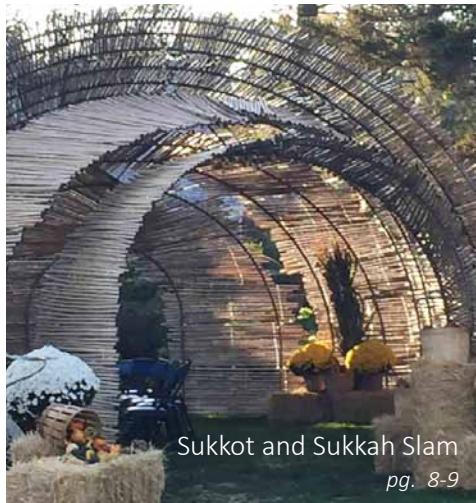


WRT Bulletin

WESTCHESTER REFORM TEMPLE 255 MAMARONECK ROAD, SCARSDALE, NY 10583

www.wrtemple.org

Fall 2017 / 5777 - 5778



Adult Education:
Everything You Ever Wanted to
Know About Reform Judaism
Women's Commentaries on the Bible
Advanced Hebrew Bible Class
Rosh Chodesh: 5778
The Bible as Literature
Adult Confirmation
pg. 10





Marcy R. Harris President's Message

How lucky I am to begin serving as President of Westchester Reform Temple! This is my spiritual home – I raised my family here, celebrated lifecycle events here, laughed, cried, prayed and dreamed here. And I hope to continue doing all those things at WRT with my family, and with yours, in this New Year, 5778, and in the years to come.

Much has been written about the challenges facing synagogues today, as the number of affiliated Jews declines and people look outside organized religious communities to find meaning and connection in their lives. While WRT is not immune from those challenges, our response to them has made us stronger: we've opened our doors wider, and found new ways to be welcoming and inclusive. We've taken our members and our message outside of WRT, to Israel, the Deep South, NYC, and our nation's capital, to name just a few places where WRT congregants and clergy this year have traveled, learned and shared meaningful Jewish moments together.

There will be many more opportunities to build community and create enduring Jewish memories together. This Bulletin offers a glimpse into the vibrancy and richness of WRT, where, on a daily basis, our talented clergy help us discover the wisdom and beauty of our traditions and ways to bring those gifts into our own lives.

Read on, dream on, sign up, walk in. Join me in making WRT your spiritual home in 5778. I know you won't be disappointed.

Wishing you and your loved ones a Happy and Sweet New Year!

Marcy

Westchester Reform Temple is committed to the value of inclusion, and strives to make worship and programming fully accessible. Our building and bima are wheelchair accessible, and the sanctuary is equipped with assistive listening devices and large-print prayer books. ASL interpretation is available for any worship service upon request, and remote viewing of most services is available via webcasting from our website. If you need any additional accommodations to participate in a temple program, please contact Cantor Amanda Kleinman.

WJCS [Westchester Jewish Community Services]: Through the *Partners in Caring Program*, WRT is able to offer the support of an onsite Social Worker from WJCS, as well as offer social services to congregants in need.

UJA-Federation of NY: We are grateful for a special grant to enable and empower WRT to be the most inclusive congregation we can be. UJA-Federation also facilitates our partnership with the Jewish Deaf Resource Center, to provide ASL interpretation on demand at services and WRT programs.

URJ [Union for Reform Judaism]: Our Reform Movement's synagogue arm; WRT is a proud member of the URJ and celebrates the leadership of URJ President, WRT Rabbi Emeritus Rick Jacobs.

HUC-JIR [Hebrew Union College - Jewish Institute of Religion]: WRT supports the HUC-JIR, the official training ground for Reform Jewish professionals, and celebrates the leadership of its President, our congregant, Rabbi Aaron D. Panken.

WRT Bulletin (USPS #359350), Fall, 2017, volume 63 number 1. Published quarterly by Westchester Reform Temple, 255 Mamaroneck Road, Scarsdale, New York, 10583. Periodicals postage paid at Scarsdale, NY and additional mailing offices. POSTMASTER: Please send address changes to WRT, 255 Mamaroneck Road, Scarsdale, NY 10583.

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Rabbi Blake's Message

Dear Friends,

One can never enter the same river twice, observed the Greek philosopher Heraclitus, because that person is no longer the same person, and the river is no longer the same river.

And so it is with the river of time. Another year has come and gone, and we return to these Days of Awe. But we are not the same, and the holidays—comforting though they may feel with their old familiar melodies and words—are not the same, and—to say the least—the world, this year of all years, is not the same.

Still, to this place and this time we return, and how meaningful and necessary it will be, this Rosh HaShanah and Yom Kippur, to fill the halls of our beloved WRT with our voices and our bodies, our yearnings and longings, our dreams and hopes for a new year.

If you have recently joined our congregation, please allow me to extend a heartfelt welcome on behalf of WRT's clergy, professional team, and congregation. We already feel blessed by your presence and look forward to making you feel embraced in your new spiritual home. Please take a moment to introduce yourselves to me, my colleagues, and your fellow congregants during the Holidays. We will also go out of our way to help you feel at home, knowing that for you, things may indeed feel more different than the same as the new year begins—and that "beginnings," as the Talmud says, "are always difficult."

As we mark the new year 5778, we acknowledge with gratitude that in the coming year, WRT will turn 65. Many of our founding generation have gone to their eternal rest, but still many remember our earliest days as a fledgling congregation responding to the influx of Jewish families to Scarsdale and central Westchester in the 1950s. Our longest-standing congregants testify to the ways in which the calendar may read the same days and months, feast-days and fast-days, year after year; but the river of time flows on ceaselessly, and change is dramatic when measured by decades.

We have grown, over these 65 years, from eight founding families to a congregation almost 1,200 households strong. Despite what the number "65" may conjure up in most of our minds, we are nowhere in a "retiring" state of mind!

In fact, our congregation has never felt more vibrant. This year we will debut a new model of education for our youth and families. We are thrilled to announce the launch of WRT's Jewish Learning Lab (JLL), headed by Rabbi Levy in his capacity as Jewish Learning Lab Director. We celebrate the leadership of our new temple President, Marcy Harris, who assumes this sacred and demanding responsibility after many years of service on our Board of Trustees and Executive Committee. Marcy, her husband John, and their sons Andrew and Justin have affiliated with WRT for 26 years. We look forward to the wisdom and wealth of experience that Marcy will bring to her new leadership role, and we are immensely grateful for her energy, enthusiasm, and commitment.

Please plan to celebrate WRT at 65 with us. Over the weekend of April 13-15, 2018, we will honor our history and our legacy in a gala weekend of festivities, learning, worship, and community-building. This weekend will highlight our synagogue's place in the wider Reform Movement. Our rabbi emeritus and President of the Union for Reform Judaism, Rabbi Rick Jacobs, will join us, as will our congregant Rabbi Aaron Panken, President of the Hebrew Union College—Jewish Institute of Religion, alongside Rabbi David Stern, who grew up here as the son of our own Rabbi Jack Stern of blessed memory. Rabbi Stern the younger now serves as the President of the Central Conference of American Rabbis—a distinction held by his late father and grandfather, Rabbi Jacob Philip Rudin of blessed memory. We also will welcome familiar faces from WRT's past, and special guests including Anat Hoffman, celebrated director of the Israel Religious Action Center—a tireless advocate for justice in the Jewish state. The weekend will be one for the ages! So save the dates: April 13-15, 2018, to celebrate WRT at 65.

How best to describe Westchester Reform Temple, then, on the cusp of a new year? Your still point in a reeling world. Your touchstone for the Jewish world beyond our building. Your source of Jewish pride, Jewish inspiration, and Jewish wisdom.

Your home.

L'Shanah Tovah!
Rabbi Jonathan E. Blake

Avodah: Worship and Spirituality



WRT Clergy
(pictured left to right)

Rabbi Daniel Reiser
Cantor Jill Abramson
Rabbi Jonathan Blake
Cantor Amanda Kleinman
Rabbi David Levy

Kabbalat Shabbat

Our Shabbat evening service is held each Friday in the Temple's main sanctuary and features the rituals, melodies, and warmth of our congregation. The service often includes a reading from the weekly Torah portion and a sermon or presentation by one of our rabbis, cantors or special guests. At the conclusion of prayer, our Oneg Shabbat provides worshippers with a wonderful setting for sharing stories and greetings in the joy of Shabbat.

The first Friday Service of each month will begin at 6:15 pm. Services on all other weeks (2nd, 3rd and 4th week) will begin at 7:45 pm. Please check the calendar and website for changes in times due to Shabbat services with special programming or holiday weekends. During the summer our Friday Services take place at 6:15 pm in our CJL Summer Sanctuary.

Tot Shabbat

Friday, September 15 at 5:30 pm - New Year

Friday, October 27 at 5:30 pm - The Torah

Experience the joy of Shabbat with your children, parents, grandparents, siblings and friends. Tot Shabbat, designed for families with children ages six and younger, starts with a short service led by our clergy followed by an arts and crafts activity and child-friendly dinner. Children must be accompanied by an adult for this program. Please no drop-offs. RSVP by the Tuesday before the program to Ellen.Rosenberg@wrtemple.org.

iSing Shabbat - K-4th graders and their families

**iSing
Shabbat**
food. song. soul.

Friday, October 20 at 6:00 pm

Join us for 30 minutes of soulful music led by clergy and live instrumentalists, projected lyrics so you can sing along, and candle lighting. Delicious catered Israeli-style food for the adults and kid-friendly foods, including an ice cream bar for dessert, will be offered. Please RSVP to Suzanne.Saperstein@wrtemple.org, and let her know how many adults and children are attending, so that we can plan appropriately.

Torah Study

Saturdays in the Sifriyah (Library) from 9:00 am to 11:00 am

Each Shabbat morning we gather informally to read and discuss the week's Torah portion. The group is led by volunteers, with clergy participation. The morning begins with a brief Shabbat service at which mourners who wish to say Kaddish are warmly welcomed. No prior experience with Torah is necessary; just come as you are, with an open mind!

Sharing Shabbat

Saturdays in the Center For Jewish Life (CJL) at 9:00 am

Our engaging, musical family service for children in grades K-6 and their families is open to the congregation and community! This weekly service is followed by bagels, coffee, cookies, and conversation for children, parents and teachers. Consult the Shabbat Services calendar for Sharing Shabbat dates during the Jewish Learning Lab year.

Services and Events

Shabbat Service - 9/11 Commemoration

Friday, September 8 at 7:45 pm

Welcome Back BBQ

Sunday, September 10 at 4:00 pm

Join clergy and friends to welcome a new year at WRT! We look forward to seeing familiar faces and meeting new members. There is no cost for the dinner, but we would appreciate your signing up in advance. RSVP at www.wrtemple.org or call the Temple office 723-7727.

Selichot

Saturday, September 16

Program at 7:30 pm

Service at 9:00 pm

Our moving and reflective Selichot service marks the beginning of the High Holiday season. As we clothe our Torah scrolls in white and hear some of our favorite High Holiday melodies for the first time this year, we will begin our spiritual preparation for the upcoming Days of Awe.

Shabbat Evening Service

Sharsheret Pink Shabbat/Breast Cancer Awareness

Friday, October 20 at 7:45 pm

On this special Shabbat we partner with Sharsheret, a Jewish organization that raises awareness of breast cancer in the Jewish community and provides support for survivors and their loved ones.

Chai Society Shabbat Dinner and Service

Friday, November 10

Dinner at 6:00 pm, Service at 7:45 pm

WRT's Chai Society honors longstanding members of the Westchester Reform Temple family with 18 years or more of tenure. Each year since 2009, we have recognized a new class of dedicated congregants. Continuing that tradition, we will welcome the Class of 1999 on Friday, November 10th, at 7:45pm who will be called to the bimah for a blessing at services along with the entire Chai Society cohort. The service will also feature liturgical compositions of Pete Malinvern and our Adult Choir

Please join us for Shabbat Dinner honoring all our Chai Society members at 6:00 pm. Our past dinners have attracted a remarkable turnout of congregants connecting and reconnecting to WRT and each other. We anticipate another memorable evening of celebration together. RSVP is required for dinner, and the cost will be listed in the weekly eblast during the weeks leading up to the event. For further information, please call the Temple Office at 723-7727.

Musical Offerings 2017-18

WRT's music program is rich and diverse, affording musical opportunities for participation and learning. Please find below a summary of our musical highlights!

October 4 at 6:15 pm

Sukkah Slam: Featuring live outdoor Sephardic music trio.

November 10 at 7:45 pm

Chai Society Shabbat, featuring the liturgical compositions of Pete Malinvern and our Adult Choir.

December 10 at 4:00 pm

Youth Choir Community Chanukah Concert at Larchmont Temple.

December 15 at 6:15 pm

Outdoor Chanukah candle lighting and singing.

January 19 at 7:45 pm

MLK Shabbat featuring Chabibeat, our youth choir, and the Mass Gospel Choir from Greater Centennial AME Zion Church.

January 26 at 7:45 pm

Shabbat Shirah featuring the rich harmonies of *a cappella* ensembles with American Sign Language interpretation.

March 25 at 4:00 pm

Selected Works of Leonard Bernstein: WRT Intergenerational Choral Festival, featuring adult, teen and youth choirs and orchestra. Concert in memory of Cantor Stephen H. Merkel z'l.

April 11 at 5:00 pm

Service of Responsibility, featuring original composition by WRT's own Gregory Levy, entitled "Festival Under the Stars" for orchestra in memory of those who perished in the Shoah.

April 13 at 7:45 pm

WRT Past and Present Voices: Youth, Adult and Teen Choirs celebrating WRT's 65th year.

April 20 at 7:45 pm

Yom Ha'atzmaut

Celebrating Israel's 70th Year; Featuring Pilpel Israeli band (Oren Neiman, Idan Santhaus, Nadav Snir-Zelniker and Koby Hayon).

High Holidays

The High Holidays at WRT bring our entire congregation together in joyful connection and re-connection. Think of it as our annual family reunion! These 10 Days of Awe invigorate our spiritual core through *Teshuva* (repentance), *Tefila* (prayer), and *Tzedakah* (righteous giving and living). We leave the experience of the Days of Awe more deeply connected to one another as a community, more in touch with the themes of our tradition. Music both intimate and soaring, and wisdom that nourishes both mind and heart, will complement and enrich our prayer experience.

Our clergy and volunteer leadership are especially eager to meet you during the holidays and to invite you into a deeper relationship with WRT. This year, please take a moment to meet our talented clergy team: Rabbi Jonathan E. Blake, Cantor Jill Abramson, Rabbi David E. Levy, Cantor Amanda Kleinman, Rabbi Daniel Reiser, Cantor Mia Fram Davidson, and Rabbinic Intern Eliana Fischel.

From all of us at WRT, we wish you a sweet and satisfying conclusion to 5777 and a hopeful and happy welcome to 5778 when we gather in September.

B'shalom u'vrakha — with peace and blessing,



Rabbi Jonathan Blake

Main Sanctuary services: This service is recommended for adults and children ages 10 and older. Enhanced by our professional choir and instrumentalists, our worship experience utilizes the Reform Movement's recently published High Holiday prayer book, *Mishkan HaNefesh*, and features a sermon.

Family services: Led by our clergy, this prayer service is designed for elementary school-aged children and their families, and features a story in lieu of a sermon. The evening service features our professional Israeli band and incorporates "visual worship," with words and images projected on a large digital display. The morning service utilizes our own WRT family-friendly High Holiday prayer book.

Tot services: Preschool-aged children and their families will love celebrating the High Holidays at this bite-sized service, led by our clergy and featuring sing-along songs and stories.

Parking: We will once again arrange for off-site parking, and two comfortable Shuttle Buses from the Scarsdale Pool. Shuttle buses will be available for all evening and daytime services, for both Holidays.

Security: Have your Entrance Cards and Photo ID (for adults) ready to show at the entry. If you don't bring your Entrance Cards or Photo ID, you will be diverted to the Temple Office for identification and to have replacement Entrance Cards printed for you. Leave bags and packages at home. All bags and packages will be inspected. This will take time, and may result in our needing to place them in an alternative location. Please avoid bringing unnecessary items into the building.

New this year...Additional Entrance Cards and changes can be made at the Temple from Tuesday, September 5 to Tuesday, September 19, between the hours of 4:00-6:00 pm (week days only.) Weekend hours will not be available, so please plan accordingly.





* Services marked with an asterisk (*) are open to the community.
Non-Member Entrance Cards must be requested in advance at www.wrtemple.org.

EREV ROSH HASHANAH

Wednesday, September 20

5:00 pm: *Family Service - Beit Midrash

5:45 pm: Main Service - Sanctuary

ROSH HASHANAH

Thursday, September 21

8:45 am: Early Main Service (Lew-Z) - Sanctuary

9:15 am: Early Family Service (Lew-Z) - Beit Midrash

11:30 am: Late Family Service (A-Lev) - Beit Midrash

11:45 am: Late Main Service (A- Lev) - Sanctuary

3:00 pm: *Tot Service - Beit Midrash

5:45 pm: *Tashlich with Young Israel of Scarsdale - Carpenter's Pond Park

Our communities meet at the stream behind Young Israel to symbolically cast off the sins of the previous year by tossing bread crumbs into the water. Please park in the neighborhood, not in the Young Israel parking lot, to respect the traditions of those who do not drive on the Holiday.

ROSH HASHANAH (second day)

Friday, September 22 - Entrance Cards not required. Non-members welcome

10:00 am: *Morning Service - Sanctuary

10:00 am: *Alternative Movement Service - CJL

All movers, ages, and abilities are welcome to join Eliana Fischel, our talented Rabbinic Intern (and former modern dancer!) in this prayer experience. We will use our bodies to more fully engage with our High Holiday liturgy.

KOL NIDRE / YOM KIPPUR

Friday, September 29

5:00 pm: *Family Service - Beit Midrash

5:45 pm: Early Main Service (A- Lev) - Sanctuary

8:30 pm: Late Main Service (Lew-Z) - Sanctuary

YOM KIPPUR

Saturday, September 30

8:45 am: Early Main Service (A- Lev) - Sanctuary

9:15 am: Early Family Service (A- Lev) - Beit Midrash

11:30 am: Late Main Service (Lew-Z) - Sanctuary

11:30 am: Late Family Service (Lew-Z) - Beit Midrash

11:30 am: Adult Study Group - CJL

2:15 pm: *Musical Meditation and Alternate Yizkor - Sanctuary

2:30 pm: *Tot Service - Beit Midrash

3:30 pm: *Afternoon Service, Yizkor, Ne'ilah - Sanctuary



Photo credit: Marjorie Meiman

Community Sukkah Build @WRT

Sunday, October 1

9:00 am to 11:00 am

Join the Rabbis and Cantors of WRT at this special event for the entire family! Help us build our two Sukkah structures for the upcoming Holiday, and participate in the decorating process too. (Adult supervision is required for children participating.)

Annual Sukkah Slam

Wednesday, October 4

6:15 pm - Welcoming Sukkot

All members of WRT and the wider community are welcome to our special celebration. All ages are encouraged to participate!

Service in the Sukkah: A short, intergenerational-friendly service, with just enough time to shake the lulav and etrog, gives everyone a chance to learn and experience the rituals, songs and prayers of Sukkot.

Dinner will be available for purchase from food trucks, as well as a pizza station and dessert station. Enjoy a bite, and stay for family and kids' activities in and around the beautiful sukkot on our lawn, while taking in live music featuring a Sephardic music trio.

8:15 pm - Spirits in the Sukkah

Rabbi Blake leads a tasting of locally sourced beers and wines (21+ only, please) accompanied by discussion in the Sukkah. Light bites and non-alcoholic beverages will also be provided.

Please consider bringing non-perishable foods to help supply the Food Bank for Westchester.



Photo credit: Steve Schnur

Sukkot, Simchat Torah and Sh'mini Atzeret

Sukkot Festival Morning Service (outdoor Sukkah weather permitting)

Thursday, October 5 at 10:00 am, at the Center for Jewish Life

Join us for our Festival service where we will celebrate Sukkot, participate in its rituals, and study its signature traditions and texts.

Israel Conversation and Lunch in the Sukkah

Sunday, October 8 at 12:00 pm

WRT invites you to help kick off a new year of Israel programming at our annual Sukkot event. Our lunch of Israeli food and conversation will be led by Omer Nisanov, WRT's Israeli Sh'lacha (Israeli emissary). RSVP online at wrtemple.org. For more information, contact Omer at omer.nisanov@wrtemple.org.

Sukkot Men's Night:

A Night of Sports, Sukkot, Steak, and Socializing

Monday, October 9 at 7:30 pm, at WRT

Join men from WRT and Young Israel of Scarsdale in our third annual get-together during Sukkot. Come for the fun; stay for the great food. Weather permitting, we'll spend part of the evening outside in our WRT beautiful Sukkahs. Stay tuned for information about a special guest speaker and gift opportunities courtesy of Steiner Sports Memorabilia.

WRJ Ushpizot – Sukkot Harvest Luncheon and Study Session

Tuesday, October 10 at 11:00 am (See page 13 for details)

Sukkot Celebration for Families with Young Children

“Pizza in the Hut”

Tuesday, October 10 at 5:00 pm

Please come for pizza and activities in the Sukkah. RSVP to Rachel.Crouch@wrtemple.org.
(Open to the community)



Photo credit: Steve Schnur

Simchat Torah

Wednesday, October 11

6:15 pm - Service

7:00 pm - Dinner and Dancing with the Torah

Singing and dancing accompany the annual unrolling of the Torah as we read the last verses of Deuteronomy and begin Genesis again. Children, students and adults gather to see the entire scroll at once, to learn and to celebrate the gift of Torah.

Sh'mini Atzeret and Yizkor Service

Thursday, October 12 at 10:00 am

Simchat Torah (“rejoicing of the Torah”) and *Sh'mini Atzeret* (“the eighth day of assembly”) mark the end of Sukkot, the end of the fall holiday season, and the end and recommencement of the Jewish people’s annual retelling of the Torah story. Our festival morning service marks these many conclusions and new beginnings, and is followed by a Yizkor memorial service.

Need to order a lulav and etrog set for your Sukkot celebration?

Email Tim.Wagner@wrtemple.org to place an order for a small set at \$36 or large set at \$46. Include your name, phone number and the size you would like to order.



Photo credit: Steve Schnur



Eliana Fischel



Jane Roberts



Cantor Jill Abramson



Rabbi Jonathan Blake



Rabbi Daniel Reiser

Talmud Torah: Adult Education

And She Said: Women's Commentaries on the Bible

Led by Eliana Fischel, WRT Rabbinic Intern

Wednesdays, September 13, October 18 and November 15 at 11:00 am

This class will use *The Torah: A Women's Commentary*, Nehama Leibowitz's interpretations, and Judith Plaskow's philosophy to understand important Biblical passages from the feminine and feminist perspectives. This class is for everyone—those new to Torah study and those more experienced with it. Additional class dates are December 13, January 17, February 14, March 14, April 18 and May 16.

Advanced Hebrew Bible Class: A Study Of Tanach

Led by Jane Roberts

Wednesdays, beginning October 4, 9:30 am to 11:00 am

This class will review the journey of the Hebrews to the Promised Land as we read from the Book of Joshua. As we continue our study of Biblical women, we will also study Portions of Samuel I and II as they relate to the wives of King David. As well as knowledge of Torah, students in this class must know Hebrew roots and have a basic Hebrew vocabulary and a familiarity with the Siddur. Cost: \$180.00. For more information or to sign up, please contact Jane Roberts at janeteach@aol.com.

Rosh Chodesh: 5778

Jewish Women and The Refugee Experience

Led by Cantor Jill Abramson

Tuesdays, October 17 and November 14 at 11:30 am

Bring your lunch and join together with a diverse group of women to investigate the topic of women and the refugee crisis across decades. Our text for this year will be Mary Pipher's *The Middle of Everywhere: Helping Refugees Enter The American Community*. Supplemental articles will bolster our conversation as we seek to understand how women across culture, but especially in Jewish history, are affected by the refugee experience. Each woman is asked to procure her own copy of the book in advance of the class. Additional class dates are December 19, January 16, February 13, March 20, April 17 and May 15.

Everything You Ever Wanted to Know About Reform Judaism

Led by Rabbi Jonathan Blake

Thursdays, October 19, 26, November 2, 9 and 30 at 9:30 am

Join Rabbi Blake for a comprehensive tour of Reform Jewish history, heritage, values, principles, and projections for the future, culminating in a spotlight on WRT and its role in our Movement. This course will prepare you for WRT's 65th Anniversary Celebration, to be held in April 2018.

10/19/17 The Roots of Reform

10/26/17 Reform in a New World

11/2/17 From Classical Reform to the Baby Boom

11/9/17 Reform Judaism From 1972 to Today

11/30/17 Westchester Reform Temple: Our History, Our Mission, Our Future

The Bible as Literature

Led by Rabbi Daniel Reiser

Tuesday, November 28 at 11:30 am

The Bible has been referred to as the world's best selling, least read book. Many of us have a passing familiarity with the Bible's most famous stories—Jonah, who was swallowed by a fish, or Esther, who saved her people from destruction. But beneath these simple plot lines lies a sophisticated literary artistry. In this two-part course, we will study the Book of Jonah and the Book of Esther, with an eye towards their literary character. In so doing, we will hope to discover the complexities of motive and ambiguities of character that are essential not only to good literature, but to the human experience. Additional class dates are December 5, 12, 19, February 27, March 6 and 13.

New this year!

Adult Confirmation

Led by Cantor Amanda Kleinman

Beginning this fall, WRT will be offering a two-year Adult Confirmation experience. Check the eblast over the coming weeks for more details about this opportunity to study topics of interest regularly with a dedicated cohort of learners! If you are interested in receiving more information, contact Cantor Amanda Kleinman at Amanda.Kleinman@gmail.com.



Cantor Amanda Kleinman

Travel to Israel (without leaving WRT)...

Israeli Cooking for Adults with Omer

Led by Omer Nisanov

Tuesdays, September 12, October 17 and November 14, from 10:30 am to 11:30 am

Join our Sh'lacha (Israeli emissary), Omer Nisanov, as she introduces foods of different cultures within Israel.

Through class conversation using Hebrew vocabulary, Omer will explain the background and significance of these foods, as well as provide recipes. Additional class date is December 12. No registration required.



Omer Nisanov

Kickboxing

Led by Omer Nisanov

Every Wednesday at 9:30 am, beginning October 11

Join Omer Nisanov for a weekly workout of Israeli-style kickboxing, while listening to Israeli music and learning some Hebrew. All are welcome. No registration required.

Hebrew Cafe

Led by Omer Nisanov

Every Monday at 2:00 pm, beginning October 16

Always wanted to learn conversational Hebrew? Join our Sh'lacha (Israeli emissary) Omer Nisanov for conversational Hebrew and coffee. Come add your voice to the conversation! No registration required.



Yoel Magid

Shabbat in Jerusalem

Led by Yoel Magid

While we all know Jerusalem through windows of religion, politics, antiquities, and ethnic conflict, Yoel Magid's four Shabbat classes this year will discuss "The Other Jerusalem": how secular Israeli writers use Jerusalem to open the door of contemporary Israeli character and identity.

Come to our fascinating Shabbat discussions that will draw on Yoel's expertise as a brilliant teacher of literature and his decades of experience living in Israel.

Saturday, November 4, from 11:15 am to 12:45 pm

Is it raining in Jerusalem? Israel's most celebrated writer, Amos Oz, explores Jerusalem and the changing personality of Zionism in his early novel *My Michael*, his autobiographical *A Tale of Love and Darkness*, and his most recent novel *Judas*.

Saturday, November 11, from 11:15 am to 12:45 pm

David Grossman, winner of the 2017 Man Booker prize, writes about growing up and running through (and away from) Jerusalem: "A dog runs through the streets, a boy runs after it. A long rope connects the two and gets tangled in the legs of the passersby who grumble and gripe." —(opening of *Someone to Run With*).

And save the dates for our Spring 2018 classes: May 5 and May 19. Jerusalem as viewed by A.B. Yehoshua, Yehuda Amichai, and other Israeli writers.



Men's Club

In appreciation to our Men's Club...

WRT BASKETBALL

Most of you know that there is a fun and less structured type of basketball league in Westchester County. It's named Westchester Jewish Basketball League (WJBL).

It began almost 30 years ago, and still is coordinated by Jill Caslin. Her goal was to have teams from 5th through 12th grade participate in the league. Every synagogue can enter teams in any and all divisions. Temple b'ball or "Jew ball" has been an outlet for play in addition to Tri-County and recreational basketball at the various schools.

I began coaching my boys in this league many years ago. After they went on to play varsity, I continued to assist Jill with the administrative duties of the league. My role is also to coordinate teams from our temple, WRT. Last year WRT had 18 teams playing in all divisions. Ten years ago, that number was half. Today, WJBL has a total of 85 teams with over 900 children playing. The league is open for boys and girls, although most teams are boys only.

One of the benefits is that many parents get an opportunity to coach their children and others in a very relaxed atmosphere. This has become a bonding experience as 5th grade coaches usually continue to coach their teams through 12th grade. The coaches and children always remember their fun days playing in Jew-ball when the final season ends. The process of organizing teams will begin in late September. The season starts around Thanksgiving and ends in late February. The WRT Men's Club has been the proud sponsor of this program from its inception. We thank all of the WRT parents who have coached throughout the years, and look forward to welcoming a new group of 5th grade parents to help coach for this season!

I am available to answer any questions and to sign you up.

Gil Fishman – Commissioner and Executive Board Member, and WRT Trustee
gfishman@yorkintl.com



Pictured: Jake Fischer, Leo Katz, Matthew Sherr, Max Bunzel, Jared Shulman, Scott Galst, Jack Solodar, Jacob Brief, George Samwick, and Andrew Nussbaum.



Fishing Trip

Sunday, September 10, the Men's Club (with the Duke Alumni Association) is sponsoring a fishing trip on the Long Island Sound aboard the Snow Goose II.

The boat sails from Port Chester promptly at 2:30 pm, and returns at 5:30 pm. The cost is \$45 per person, which includes all fishing gear, snacks and refreshments, and personalized service (baiting the hooks, landing and cleaning the fish and taking your photo) by Captain Reynolds and his expert crew. Capacity is limited, so book early to guarantee a place on-board! Sign-up at www.wrtemple.org.

Women of Reform Judaism



WRJ Opening Fall Dinner

Thursday, September 14 at 6:00 pm

The program will feature Dr. Jane Gerber, a professor emeritus from City College who has published many books and articles about the history and fate of Sephardic Jews. She will discuss Jewish Women in Muslim lands. There will be a Q and A following her talk.

This program is free to WRJ members and \$36 for non-members.

To make reservations or pay as a non-member, please visit the WRT website at www.wrtemple.org, and click on the WRJ page (from the "Community" menu).

WRJ Honey Fundraiser

Bring in the New Year by ordering honey for your family and friends, and at the same time support the endeavors of Women of Reform Judaism at WRT. Order an 8 ounce bottle of honey for \$12. Additionally, you can send honey to WRT Clergy and Professional Staff for \$10 a bottle. To order, go to: www.wrtemple.org and click on the honey jar logo for more information. DEADLINE for all orders is SEPTEMBER 6. For information contact Jane Klein: janedklein@gmail.com or Fran Scheffler-Siegel: franschefflersiegel@gmail.com.

WRJ Ushpizot - Sukkot Harvest Luncheon and Study Session

Tuesday, October 10 at 11:00 am

Beginning with a prayer in the beautiful sukkah, we will then move inside for a fascinating study session with Cantor Jill Abramson and Rabbinic Intern Eliana Fischel. Afterwards, we will enjoy a seasonal feast of homemade harvest dishes. No charge. To volunteer to make a dish, please contact one of the chairs: Fran Osinoff at franrayo@optonline.net, Kristin Friedman at kristinwfriedman@gmail.com or Sarah Kagan at sgkagan@gmail.com.

Lunch & Learn with award-winning author Ayelet Tsabari

Thursday, November 16, 12:00 pm to 1:45 pm

Join Ayelet Tsabari, a remarkable new talent in literature, as she describes the influence on her writing of her upbringing as an Israeli-Canadian born of a Yemenite Jewish family. Tsabari is the author of *The Best Place on Earth: Stories* [Random House, 2015], winner of the Sami Rohr Prize for Jewish Literature, and the Edward Lewis Wallant Award for Jewish Fiction. The book was also a *New York Times Book Review* Editor's Choice, and was on *Kirkus Review*'s list of Best Fiction of 2016. Check out www.ayelettsabari.com for more information about this extraordinary new Jewish voice. More details to be announced in future eblasts.

Thanksgiving Dinner for the Visually Impaired

Thursday, November 16 at 6:00 pm

The WRJ has sponsored this event for more than 30 years for guests who are blind or visually impaired, their families and aides. It is a catered holiday dinner that is heated and plated by the WRJ and Temple members, with desserts baked by congregants and served by students from our J-lectives program. It is an intergenerational evening that is one of the longest standing social action projects at WRT. Look for more information about volunteering in future eblasts. For questions, contact Harriet Rachlin at drachlin@optonline.net or 914-472-5753.

Save the date!

WRJ Annual Holiday Boutique

Monday, December 4

Shop for holiday gifts for family and friends, and treat yourself as well! You will have your choice of an amazing and diverse selection of beautiful and useful items. WRJ will donate a portion of the proceeds to charity.



Living with Divorce: Support Group

Tuesdays, September 26, October 24 and November 21 at 7:30 pm

Please join us for our monthly support and discussion group with Jane Slevin, LMFT (Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist), our skilled and kind partner from Westchester Jewish Community Services. Participate in a conversation and connect with others facing similar challenges. For those at all stages of the divorce process.

Holiday Lunch for Singles

Sundays, Noon to 1:30 pm

December 3: Pre-Chanukah and March 25: Pre-Passover

In addition to the Support Group, we will also offer holiday lunches. Join us for a conversation and catered lunch as we discuss themes of the holiday and how family is re-imagined with a separation or divorce.

Please RSVP to Suzanne.Saperstein@wrtemple.org for support group meetings and lunches.

Bereavement Group

Wednesdays, September 6, October 11, November 1 and December 6 at 5:30 pm

Join us for a monthly support and discussion group led by Cantor Jill Abramson and Jane Slevin, LMFT (Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist), our skilled and caring partner from Westchester Jewish Community Services. Find comfort in community and caring discussion, and process feelings of loss in a sacred Jewish context. Please RSVP to Suzanne.Saperstein@wrtemple.org.

Preparing For Aging Series

Sundays, October 22, November 12 and December 3, from 10:00 until 11:30 am

This series is for adults who are concerned for themselves as well as those who are caring for aging family members, and will include a panel of experts who will share information, suggestions and advice.

October 22- Geriatric Care Management

November 12- Trigger Events / Rehabilitation

December 3- Memory Care and Dementia

For additional information, please contact caringcommunity@wrtemple.org.

Caring Community

WRT's Caring Community provides support and friendship during difficult times and also celebrates the joyful simchas of our congregation.

Note Writing – Volunteers Appreciated

You don't need great handwriting, just a caring heart. There are times when a note offering condolences or mazal tov can mean so much. If you are interested in writing notes to fellow congregants on behalf of the Caring Community, please volunteer to take a month (your choice), which generally means 3-5 notes per month. We will provide all the materials and support to get you started.

There are many ways that we provide support, concern and understanding. If you are interested in helping Care for our Community, please contact us via email: caringcommunity@wrtemple.org.

Allison Buonamassa, Joan Frankle, Donna Polayes and Cantor Abramson

Evening Book Group

Interested in joining the evening book group? Once a month (usually Tuesdays) the group meets for review and discussion on the month's selected title. Meeting dates and titles are announced in the weekly eblast.

For more information, please contact Lenore Rosenbaum at papoo beads@optonline.net.

Baby Boomers - Trip to Dia:Beacon

Sunday, November 5

In May 2003, Dia Art Foundation opened Dia:Beacon on the banks of the Hudson River in Beacon, NY, in a former Nabisco box printing factory. The museum presents Dia's collection of art from the 1960s to the present as well as special exhibitions and public programs.

Join WRT Baby Boomers for a day of art and lunch in the city of Beacon. More details to be announced in the weekly eblast. If you would like to stay informed of year-round Baby Boomers scheduled events. email office@wrtemple.org, with your full name and contact email.

Monthly Mitzvah

We wish you a sweet 5778, and thank everyone who contributed during the 2016-2017 school year.

Your contributions helped many children and adults. Todah! For the new year, please consider the following:

- 1. Join our committee.** Help contact groups in need in Westchester and/or deliver donated items.
- 2. Make Mitzvah a Family Affair.** Sign up to make a delivery of Monthly Mitzvah items with your family.
- 3. Let us know of people, groups or institutions in need** or of people who want to make donations.
- 4. Donate boxes of diapers.** Food Stamps do not pay for diapers. All the groups we contact need diapers.

Contact Ronny Hersch at hersch32@optonline.net

Here is our calendar for 2017-2018. Please open your closet – and your heart, see what you might be able to donate.

September: Backpacks and school supplies for the Edward Williams School in Mt. Vernon and PS 112 in The Bronx.

If you are buying new backpacks for your children please consider donating the old ones. If you are buying school supplies please consider buying a little extra for these children.

October: Children's and Adults winter coats and sweaters. New and used. If you are buying new coats this month please consider donating the used coats. We deliver them to many groups in Westchester.

November and December: Toys. Talk with your children about sharing one or more gifts they receive at birthday parties with children who will not get any Holiday presents because their families are too poor. Encourage your child to bring the gift to WRT and place it in the monthly mitzvah bin.

January: Coats, Hats, Gloves, Scarves and Sweaters

February: Baby Month at WRT

March: Pet Supplies / Used Sneakers

April: Children's Books / Used Eyeglasses (adult and children)

May: Children's summer clothes

June: Project Grad Bag

This year the need is greater than ever for every WRT Member to step up and perform acts of Tzedakah (justice) to fulfill our obligation as Jews to do Mitzvot (Commandments) for Tikkun Olam (mend a broken world).

"Tzedakah is as important as all the commandments together"

- Babylonian Talmud

Henry Simon 478-1342 hrsimon91@gmail.com

Ronny Hersch 472-1659 hersch32@optonline.net

Co-Chairs, Monthly Mitzvah Program

Do you have a child at college?

Let us know their mailing address so the WRT Youth Committee can send them a few holiday gifts during the year. SHHHHHHH...don't tell. We want it to be a surprise!

Please email the following information: student's name, school and address. Also let us know if they will be abroad and which semester?

Please send this information by August 31. Lisa Goldberg, lisabeth2mom@gmail.com and Vivienne Braun, vivienneb17@gmail.com

Cooking4HOPE

Mondays, September 25, October 30 and November 27 at 10:00 am

Once a month, WRT members gather in our kitchen to cook a multicourse, delicious hot dinner for 125 hungry clients of HOPE Community Services, an ecumenical soup kitchen and food pantry in New Rochelle. Please help us to make lasagna, cookies, salad, hot vegetables, and bagged lunches. We meet from 10:00 am to 12:00 noon on the last Monday of the month. If you can help us shop on Fridays once a month, or if you can help deliver the food, that would be a big help, too!

If you'd like to join the rotating cast of big-hearted WRT members to perform a mitzvah, email one of us: Susan Ross (susan.kessler.ross@gmail.com), Kristin Friedman (kristinwfriedman@gmail.com) or Debbie Radov (djradov@aol.com).



Meet our newly elected Officers and Trustees



Marcy Harris



Michael Ostow



Elaine Rosenstein



Leah Dembitzer



Lori Gertzog

Marcy Harris President

Marcy and her family are long-time WRT members. Marcy was a Vice President for the last four years and a Trustee before that. She served as Chair of the most recent Rabbinic Search Committee and, with Nancy Michaels, was Co-Chair of WRT's Greeters Initiative since its inception. With her family, Marcy was a founding member of Sharing Shabbat and traveled to Israel on a WRT family trip. Marcy's husband, John, who celebrated his adult Bar Mitzvah at WRT, serves on the national executive committee of the Anti-Defamation League and as Chair of the ADL's national legal affairs committee. Their adult sons, Andrew and Justin, both attended the ECC and WRT's Religious School and celebrated their B'nei Mitzvah and Confirmation at WRT.

Outside of WRT, Marcy serves on the Board of Overseers at Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion and is a member of the Board of Advocates of Human Rights First. A graduate of Yale College and NYU School of Law, Marcy has been a practicing lawyer at the New York law firm Schulte Roth & Zabel LLP for the past 31 years.

Michael Ostow Vice-President

Michael has been a WRT board trustee since 2014, and served on WRT's Finance Committee and the Board Nominating Committee. He has also participated in SULAM, our leadership program. Michael works as an investment banker in New York City. He and his wife, Allison, have two sons who currently attend Scarsdale Schools, and have been WRT members since 2007.

Elaine Rosenstein Secretary

Elaine and her family have been members of WRT since 2002, when she co-chaired the ECC Parent Committee. Recently, Elaine served as the co-chair of the Strategic Visioning Task Force, and she was the co-chair of the Religious School Board. Elaine also chaired the Raising the Bar Committee and served as registration coordinator for the Women's Retreat. She has been involved in many other committees at WRT such as the Youth Committee, the Jacobs/Friedman Fund Committee, the WRJ Nominating Committee and the Sharing Shabbat Task Force.

Outside of WRT, she has volunteered in many PTA roles at Heathcote School including chairing the Visiting Author program and the Learning From Our Differences program, as well as serving on the Compact Committee. She also volunteers in the Scarsdale High School library.

Elaine earned a B.A. in History from Boston University and a J.D. from University of Pittsburgh School of Law. She and her husband, Ira, an employment lawyer, have lived in Scarsdale since 1999. They have three children, David, 19, Abigail, 17 and Jonah, 13, who participated in the ECC, the Religious School and Confirmation. The Rosensteins were a Sharing Shabbat family, and in 2011, they traveled to Israel on the WRT family trip. Elaine is honored to serve as Secretary of the Board of Trustees and is proud and grateful to be a part of the WRT family.

Leah Dembitzer Board Trustee

Leah moved to Scarsdale in early 2009 with her young family and enrolled her oldest in the ECC. Leah, her husband, David, and their three children, Lucas (10), Noah (8) and Sloan (4), have been members of WRT since 2011. Leah served as the co-chair of the Early Childhood Center Parent Committee for three years (2011-2014) and worked to develop various ECC programs with her co-chairs, Erika Rublin and Dara Gruenberg. Together, they brought programs like Dad's Club, Dishin' in the Kitchen, Park Playdates for New Families and Joint ECC/ Sharing Shabbat Apple Picking to the ECC. Leah is the outreach volunteer for the Sharing Shabbat program, in which her family is actively involved. She is also on the WRT Refugee Resettlement Committee.

In the greater community, Leah has served as PTA President for Quaker Ridge School (2015-16) and has chaired various committees and worked on many projects for the Quaker Ridge PTA and Scarsdale PT Council. She is also on the Board of the League of Women Voters of Scarsdale (LWVS).

Lori Gertzog Board Trustee

Lori has been a Scarsdale resident and a WRT member since 1997, along with her husband, Gary. Lori has two children, Allison (27) and Bryan (25), who both attended Hebrew School and celebrated their Bar Mitzvah at WRT. They are both Scarsdale High School graduates and now live and work in NYC. Lori has led the Baby Boomer committee over the past few years. She is also part of the Communications Committee, helping to update WRT's communication vehicles. Professionally, Lori worked at Unilever/Sun Products for 30 years, leading teams to develop new products for brands such as Dove Skincare, All Laundry Detergent and Snuggle Fabric Conditioner. Lori is now a Marketing and Business Strategy Consultant. In addition, she works on Scarsdale10583.com, helping to manage the calendar and the weekly real estate column.



Michael Gorelick



Jon Mark



Jay Musoff



Ellen Rabina

Michael Gorelick Trustee

Michael Gorelick has been a Scarsdale resident and active member of the WRT community since 2010. He, together with his wife, Alice, and daughters, Ava and Sarah, have participated in the Sharing Shabbat program for the past seven years, with Michael serving as an occasional member of the Sharing Shabbat band "Black Shabbos." He and his family traveled to Israel in December 2016 as part of the WRT family trip with Rabbi Levy.

Michael is a Managing Director and the Head of Ratings Advisory for Mizuho Securities, a member of the Scarsdale Procedure Committee, and a former member of the Scarsdale Citizens Nominating Committee.

Jon Mark Trustee

Jon and his wife BK Munguia have been members of WRT since 1992 and have two adult children, Ramona Orley (nee Mark) and Sandor Aaron Mark, who became Bat and Bar Mitzvah at WRT. Jon and BK along with Ramona and Aaron were among the early members of Sharing Shabbat, and BK has been a member of the Adult Choir for many years. Jon, a nearly lifetime Scarsdale resident, is well known and respected for his many years of service in Scarsdale Village government. After serving two terms as a Village Trustee, Jon became Scarsdale's Mayor in 2015 for a two-year term he completed in April of 2017. Jon is currently serving as Chair of the Freightway Steering Committee, in addition to serving as Scarsdale Forum Vice President.

Jon earned an A.B. in Drama from Dartmouth College in 1969 and a J.D. from Columbia Law School in 1974. He served as a law clerk to the Honorable Thomas P. Griesa in the U.S. District Court in the Southern District of New York for one year and then practiced corporate law at the New York law firm of Cahill Gordon & Reindel LLP for over 41 years. He retired as a partner of that firm at the end of 2016.

Jay Musoff Trustee

Jay and his wife Stephanie moved to Scarsdale in 2001, and joined WRT with their sons Charlie (19) and Will (15) in 2006. Jay currently serves as a co-chair of the WRT Refugee Resettlement Committee, which is working with HIAS to resettle a refugee family from Syria, Iraq, or Afghanistan in Westchester. Previously, Jay served on the Scarsdale School Board Nominating Committee, the Scarsdale Bowl Committee, the Board of The Little School and Kids' Base Before and After School Enrichment Program, and was president of the Sherbrooke Park Neighborhood Association. Jay is a partner at the law firm Loeb & Loeb LLP, where he co-chairs the White Collar Criminal Defense and Investigations Group, and previously served as an Assistant U.S. Attorney in the Southern District of New York.

Ellen Rabina Trustee

Ellen Rabina and her husband, Mickey, have been members at WRT since 2011. Ellen has been a co-chair with Sindy Croen of the Rosh Chodesh group and a member of the Women's Seder Committee, and served on the Board of Women of Reform Judaism at WRT as the Communications Secretary.

For many years, Ellen was a classroom teacher at the Solomon Schechter School of Westchester and also taught at Solomon Schechter as a resource room and writing enrichment teacher. After retiring from the Solomon Schechter School, she was an adjunct professor at Manhattanville Graduate School of Education. She is currently teaching English as a Second Language to immigrants at Westchester Community College. Ellen has been a board member of the Reading Reform Foundation, Westchester Children's Museum Education Committee and the NYC Writing Project.

A Scarsdale resident since 1979, Ellen and Mickey, are the parents of Josh, Danielle and Talya and the proud grandparents of six wonderful grandchildren.

Jewish Learning Lab (JLL)



Rabbi David Levy
Associate Rabbi &
Jewish Learning Lab Director

* Formerly WRT Religious School

Welcome to the Jewish Learning Lab*: Kindling a Lifelong Love of Jewish Learning & Living

The Jewish Learning Lab is WRT's vision for Jewish education. Through the Jewish Learning Lab, WRT aspires:

- To support the development of a strong Jewish identity, strengthened with the Hebrew language, rooted in the Jewish tradition, nurtured by the study of Judaism, and guided by Jewish values.
- To create enduring and joyful Jewish memories, bringing Torah to life and inspiring Jewish dreams.
- To celebrate both the richness of our traditions and the limitless possibilities of innovation, preparing us to engage with the unique blessings and challenges of being Jewish in the 21st century.
- To foster the development of an inclusive and caring community, reflecting the diversity of Jewish life today.
- To empower our community to help repair the world.

The Jewish Learning Lab advances Westchester Reform Temple's mission: "to ensure the perpetuation of the Jewish people and to cultivate a love of our Jewish heritage: God, Torah and Israel."

September

23 - Apple Picking - offsite (Sharing Shabbat & ECC)
(Special Welcome Back)
24 - Alzheimer's Walk - offsite (Special Welcome Back)

October

1 - 1st Day of JLL Classes for K - 6 ALEF & BET Sessions
4 - Sukkah Slam! (All Grades); 1st Night of Mercaz
5 - No Class - Sukkot
7 - 1st Day of JLL Classes for Sharing Shabbat
8 - Ushpizin—Meet the Teacher (K - 6)
9 - No Class - Columbus Day
11 - Joy in Torah (3rd Grade) & Communal Simchat Torah Celebration
12 - No Class - Simchat Torah
15 - ALEF & BET Parent Session (5th /6th)
17 - 7th Grade & D'var Torah Workshop Parent Meetings (6:15pm)
20 - iSing Shabbat (K - 4)
31 - No Class - Professional Development Day

November

3 - B'nei Mitzvah Class of 2020: What to Expect When You're Expecting a Bar/Bat Mitzvah
7 - No Class - Professional Development Day / Election Day
10 - No Class - Veteran's Day
17-19 - Confirmation Class Retreat Weekend (10th Grade)
22-26 - No Class - Thanksgiving Break
27-30 - Meet the Teacher

2017 Walk to End Alzheimer's

Take the first step to a world without Alzheimer's
September 24

The first day of our Jewish Learning Lab this year will be an opportunity to do a Mitzvah. We ask all JLL families, and invite the whole congregation, to join us for this family-friendly walk held at Purchase College. Please sign up at <http://act.alz.org/goto/WRT>.

Joy in Torah

October 11, from 6:15 pm to 8:00 pm

Everyone is welcome to our annual "Joy in Torah" event, our way of observing Simchat Torah, where we will bless all of our third grade students. The program will begin with a special service, followed by dinner and dancing. More details to come.

What to Expect When You're Expecting a Bar/Bat Mitzvah

November 3

6:15 pm- 7:30 pm- Service

7:30 pm- 9:00 pm- Dinner followed by a parallel program for youth and their parents

Please come to a special service and program where we will celebrate your children's learning to this point as a part of our service, and articulate a vision for their learning moving forward.

For any questions or more information, call the Jewish Learning Lab at 914-723-5224.

Welcome Felicia Block

We are excited to announce our new Jewish Learning Lab Assistant Director: Felicia Block. She brings a wealth of education and community experience to the role and we hope you will join us in welcoming her.



Early Childhood Center (ECC)



Susan Tolchin
Director of ECC

WRT's ECC brings families together on a regular basis to interact with one another, become acquainted with the clergy and fellow congregants, and help build a Jewish community. We are a warm, caring and supportive environment. Within the ECC, we expose children to

Jewish music, art, dance, food, stories, symbols, ritual and language. Our teachers provide meaningful experiences related to Jewish holidays, Shabbat and life-cycle events. All told, the ECC delivers a fully integrated approach to Jewish education and family life, from birth through adulthood. We continually create a community where adults and children recognize new possibilities for making the world a better place.

Since many young children are attending school for the first time, we recognize that parents too are just beginning to learn about and understand their children's education. We are committed to helping families with young children transition to a new environment while providing them with a warm, welcoming experience. Offering daytime or evening events for parents provides newcomers with a sense of belonging as they move into a new community.

We are committed to guiding, supporting and enriching young children's lives, in addition to partnering with parents. Working together, our experienced and dedicated educators, dynamic clergy and specialists implement programs and best practices to meet the needs of all families.



Thursday, September 7, 11:00 am

Park Play

Get together with old friends and make new ones at Corell Park. (For ECC-enrolled families)

Sunday, September 10, 10:00 am to noon

Family Field Day

ECC families are invited to Crossway Field in Scarsdale to celebrate the start of the school year. There will be food, music, games, crafts and Happy Feet soccer. It's a great way to start the year by seeing familiar faces and meeting new people. WRT clergy mingle with families to begin fostering relationships. (For ECC-enrolled families)

Friday, September 15, 5:30 pm to 6:30 pm

Friday, October 27, 5:30 pm to 6:30 pm

Tot Shabbat

Led by WRT clergy, Tot Shabbat Services are offered on a monthly basis for families with infants through 5 year-olds. A short service, craft project and supper are offered. These services are both special and meaningful for parents and children as well as grandparents and their grandchildren. Children must be accompanied by an adult for this program. (No drop-offs). RSVP to Ellen.Rosenberg@wrtemple.org. (Open to the community)

Saturday, September 23 at 9:30 am

Family Apple-Picking at Wilkin's Fruit Farm

Join our Sharing Shabbat and Early Childhood Center families for Sukkot songs and storytelling followed by a snack and apple picking. The program will be led by Cantor Mia Fram Davidson.

Weekly, Fridays 9:00 am to 10:15 am

begins October 6

Babies and Bagels drop-in playgroup

Offered each Friday when ECC is in session. Come make new friends and celebrate Shabbat with ECC Director Sue Tolchin. Challah is provided. No RSVP needed. (Open to the community)

Tuesday, October 10 at 5:00 pm (rain or shine)

Sukkot Celebration for Families with Young Children

Join us for pizza and activities in the Sukkah, all designed for families with young children. RSVP to Rachel.Crouch@wrtemple.org. (Open to the community)

Other events that take place during the year and offered to our ECC families:

Dad's Club - Sundays, October 15 and November 19 Offered on specific Sunday mornings. Geared to ECC dads and their children who want to make new friends and re-connect with existing ones. Give mom a break on Sunday morning at 9:30 am. Enjoy bagels and socializing. (No charge) Additional dates: 12/10, 3/25, 4/15 and 6/3

Mom's Night Out - Thursday, October 19

Dad's Night Out - Thursday, November 16

Two social evening gatherings off-site for ECC moms and dads. Organized by parents.

Dishin' In the Kitchen - Tuesday, October 24

Offered several times during the year. After morning class drop-off of children, ECC moms or dads are welcome to come to the WRT kitchen to cook and learn creative new recipes with helpful hints on how to create healthy and child friendly meals. These events are organized and led by ECC moms. (No charge) Additional dates: 12/5, 2/6 and 4/11

Israel Virtual Trip - Thursday, April 19

Families are invited to partake in a virtual trip to Israel with their children. Food, arts and crafts, and a "plane ride" are a great way to visit Israel. (ECC families and their children)

ECC Cocktail Party - Saturday, April 28

An evening event held at WRT for parents. Cocktails and hors d'oeuvres. This social gathering offers new families the opportunity to come and meet existing ECC families in a fun and festive setting.

New Family Welcome - Tuesday, May 15

Families that are new to our school are invited to meet one another over pizza and dessert. A tour of the ECC is given and children get a first glimpse of their new school.

Truck Day - Wednesday, May 23

All children in the ECC have an opportunity to view and explore trucks during a morning. A few examples of the vehicles involved are: fire engine, police car, garbage trucks, backhoes, ambulance, mail truck and the ever popular ice cream truck! (ECC children only)

For further information contact,

Sue Tolchin, ECC Director

sue.tolchin@wrtemple.org

or

Ellen Rosenberg, Administrative Assistant

ellen.rosenberg@wrtemple.org

Westchester Reform Temple Special Funds

What better way to celebrate, honor, and remember loved ones...than through a generous, tax deductible donation. Thank you for making a culture of giving an integral part of your Jewish life.

HELP SUPPORT ALL THE PILLARS OF OUR COMMUNITY

General Fund • supports all events and activities

Security Fund • to provide for enhancements to our campus security

The Rabbi Richard J. Jacobs and Susan K. Freedman Fund for Innovation in Jewish Life •

supports initiatives to live the lessons and traditions of Judaism, to learn and think deeply, to repair our world, to stand steadfastly with Israel, and to care for one another and the world around us.

Rabbi Jack and Priscilla Stern Fund for the Generations • WRT's Endowment Fund

AVODAH – SPIRITUALITY

Rabbis' Discretionary Fund • supports needy individuals, organizations and worthy projects

Cantors' Discretionary Music Fund • supports our music programs

Cantor Stephen H. Merkel Fund • supports Jewish Music and Yiddish Culture at WRT

Frances G. Horowitz High Holiday Flower Fund • helps defray the cost of sanctuary flowers

Prayer Book Fund • helps purchase and publish prayer books for special creative services

TALMUD TORAH – LEARNING

WRT's Education Fund • supports educational and social action initiatives, lectures and scholarships

Early Childhood Fund • helps buy new equipment for our preschool

Library Fund • helps purchase new material for our library

Morgan & Marjorie Miller Scholar-in-Residence • supports the annual Scholar-in-Residence program

Norman L. Blumstein Memorial Fund • helps children attend Jewish camps and programs

Jewish Learning Lab Family Fund • provides hospital gifts & shiva meals to families and staff in our learning community, and also supports scholarships for families in need.

Jewish Learning Lab/Sharing Shabbat Special Projects Fund • provides funds to enhance our Jewish Learning Lab programs

Teacher (Madrichim) Education & Training Fund • supports continuing education for our Jewish Learning Lab teachers

Vivienne Sulds Memorial Fund • supports special lectures and adult education programs

WRJ Jewish Learning Lab Scholarship Fund • Jewish Learning Lab tuition support

TIKKUN OLAM – REPAIRING THE WORLD

Hungry and Homeless Fund • assists hungry and homeless in Westchester County

Jewish Poor Fund • provides financial assistance to the Jewish Poor

Maimonides Fund • in memory of Frederick P. Rose; provides anonymous support to the needy

Global Refugee Initiative Fund • to support the resettlement of refugees in Westchester and the region.

CHAVURAH – COMMUNITY

Caring Community Fund Dedicated to Ann R. Miller • support for the ill or bereaved

Men's Club Youth Fund • supports various activities for Jewish youth

Women of Reform Judaism Mitzvah Fund • supports individuals and worthy projects

CLAL ISRAEL – THE JEWISH PEOPLE

Sister Synagogues Fund • Kehilat Mevasseret Zion, Israel / Kehillat Yozma, Modi'in, Israel

Alfred and Doris Ronald Israel Scholarship Fund • for WRT teen travel on Israel Programs

Making a contribution:

Online: Go to www.wrtemple.org, select the DONATE button and fill-in required information. We only accept Mastercard and Visa online.

Mail: You can download a contribution form to print, by going to www.wrtemple.org, select the DONATE button, click on Download a Contributions Form.

Mail the form and check to WRT, 255 Mamaroneck Road, Scarsdale, NY 10583, attn: Suzanne Saperstein.



WRT Cemetery Plots

WRT has plots available at Mt. Eden Cemetery in Hawthorne, N.Y., for members of the congregation and their relatives. The cost of our plots is considerably less than those available commercially in our area.

Memorial Wall Plaques

Jewish tradition provides many meaningful ways to perpetuate the memory of our dear ones: lighting yahrzeit candles, reciting Kaddish, and giving charity. Among those traditions at WRT is the placing of a stone on a memorial wall near the plaque that bears the name of a relative.

If you would like more information about purchasing a cemetery plot or a memorial plaque, contact Amy Rossberg, Pastoral Care Coordinator, at 914-468-0522.



Save the Dates!



The Night of Jewish Learning and Celebration presented by the Westchester Board of Rabbis and Westchester Jewish Council

Saturday evening November 18

Join nearly 400 people on a Saturday evening for Jewish learning and celebration. Participants are able to choose workshops to attend from over 30 offerings, all taught by Westchester clergy. More details to be announced.

5th Annual Water & Wine Reception sponsored by Jewish National Fund and WRT.

Thursday, November 30 at 7:30 pm with VIP Dinner at 6:15 pm

We hope to see you at an Israeli wine-tasting and delicious dessert reception sponsored by JNF and WRT. Learn how Israel is sharing its water solutions with the world. More details to be announced in the weekly eblast.

2017 Union for Reform Judaism (URJ) Biennial

Boston, MA

December 6 - 10, 2017

At the largest Jewish gathering in North America, 5,000 attendees will come together to worship, learn, sing, build community, and shape the future of the Reform Movement. Get recharged with learning sessions, networking opportunities, plenaries, worship, and entertainment — all tailored to inspire and empower lay leaders, clergy, and synagogue professionals. Visit www.URJ.org for more information and to register.

**1953-2018
5713-5778 65**
Westchester Reform Temple @

**Save the date...
WRT@65 Gala Weekend
April 13-15, 2018**



Rabbi Richard Jacobs



Rabbi Aaron Panken

WRT Classes, Events and Holidays Calendar

September

Monday, September 4 - Labor Day

Office and Building are closed

Wednesday, September 6

5:30 pm Bereavement Group

Sunday, September 10

2:30 pm Men's Club Fishing Trip (off-site)

4:00 pm Welcome Back BBQ

Tuesday, September 12

10:30 am Israeli Cooking for Adults with Omer

Wednesday, September 13

11:00 am Women's Commentaries on the Bible

Thursday, September 14

6:00 pm WRJ Fall Opening Dinner with Speaker Jane Gerber

Saturday, September 16

7:30 pm Selichot Program (followed by Selichot Service at 9:00 pm)

Wednesday, September 20 - Erev Rosh Hashanah
(schedule on page 31)

Thursday, September 21 - Rosh Hashanah
(schedule on page 31)

Friday, September 22 - Rosh Hashanah - second day
(schedule on page 31)

Monday, September 25
10:00 am Cooking4HOPE

Tuesday, September 26
7:30 pm Living with Divorce

Friday, September 29 - Kol Nidre / Erev Yom Kippur
(schedule on page 31)

Saturday, September 30 - Yom Kippur
(schedule on page 31)

October

Sunday, October 1

9:00 am Community Sukkah Build

Wednesday, October 4 - Erev Sukkot

9:30 pm Advanced Hebrew Bible Class
6:15 pm Sukkah Slam
8:15 pm Spirits in the Sukkah

Thursday, October 5 - Sukkot

Main Office and JLL closed / ECC in session
10:00 am Sukkot Festival Morning Service

Sunday, October 8

12:00 pm Israel Conversation and Lunch in the Sukkah

Monday, October 9 - Columbus Day

Main Office open / JLL and ECC closed
7:30 pm Sukkot Men's Night

Tuesday, October 10

11:00 am WRJ Sukkot Harvest Lunch & Study Session
5:00 pm Sukkot Celebration for Families with Young Children

Wednesday, October 11 - Simchat Torah

9:30 am Kickboxing with Omer
9:30 am Advanced Hebrew Bible Class
5:30 pm Bereavement Group
6:15 pm Simchat Torah Service
7:00 pm Dinner and Dancing with the Torah

Wednesday, October 12 - Sh'mini Atzeret

10:00 am Sh'mini Atzeret and Yizkor Service

Monday, October 16

2:00 pm Hebrew Cafe

Tuesday, October 17

10:30 am Israeli Cooking for Adults with Omer
11:30 am Rosh Chodesh

Wednesday, October 18

9:30 am Kickboxing with Omer
9:30 am Advanced Hebrew Bible Class
11:00 am Women's Commentaries on the Bible

Thursday, October 19

9:30 am Everything You Ever Wanted to Know About Reform Judaism

Sunday, October 22

10:00 am Preparing for Aging Series

Monday, October 23

2:00 pm Hebrew Cafe

Tuesday, October 24

7:30 pm Living with Divorce

Wednesday, October 25

9:30 am Kickboxing with Omer
9:30 am Advanced Hebrew Bible Class

Thursday, October 26

9:30 am Everything You Ever Wanted to Know About Reform Judaism

Monday, October 30

10:00 am Cooking4HOPE
2:00 pm Hebrew Cafe

November

Wednesday, November 1

9:30 am Kickboxing with Omer
9:30 am Advanced Hebrew Bible Class
5:30 pm Bereavement Group

Thursday, November 2

9:30 am Everything You Ever Wanted to Know About Reform Judaism

Saturday, November 4

11:15 am Shabbat in Jerusalem with Yoel

Sunday, November 5

10:00 am Baby Boomer's Trip to Dia:Beacon

Monday, November 6

2:00 pm Hebrew Cafe

Wednesday, November 8

9:30 am Kickboxing with Omer
9:30 am Advanced Hebrew Bible Class

Thursday, November 9

9:30 am Everything You Ever Wanted to Know About Reform Judaism

Friday, November 10

6:00 am Chai Society Dinner (followed by Shabbat Services at 7:45 pm)

Saturday, November 11

11:15 am Shabbat in Jerusalem with Yoel

Sunday, November 12

10:00 am Preparing for Aging Series

Monday, November 13

2:00 pm Hebrew Cafe

Tuesday, November 14

10:30 am Israeli Cooking for Adults with Omer
11:30 am Rosh Chodesh

Wednesday, November 15

9:30 am Kickboxing with Omer
9:30 am Advanced Hebrew Bible Class
11:00 am Women's Commentaries on the Bible

Thursday, November 16

12:00 pm Lunch and Learn with Author Ayelet Tsabari
6:00 pm Thanksgiving Dinner for the Visually Impaired

Saturday, November 18

7:00 pm Night of Jewish Learning (offsite)

Monday, November 20

2:00 pm Hebrew Cafe

Tuesday, November 21

7:30 pm Living with Divorce

Wednesday, November 22

9:30 am Kickboxing with Omer
9:30 am Advanced Hebrew Bible Class

Thursday, November 23 - Thanksgiving Day

Building closed

Monday, November 27

10:00 am Cooking4HOPE
2:00 pm Hebrew Cafe

Tuesday, November 28

11:30 am The Bible as Literature

Wednesday, November 29

9:30 am Kickboxing with Omer
9:30 am Advanced Hebrew Bible Class

Thursday, November 30

9:30 am Everything You Ever Wanted to Know About Reform Judaism
7:30 pm 5th Annual Water to Wine Program

2017 Union for Reform Judaism (URJ)
Biennial - December 6 - 10, 2017

And God blessed the seventh day and called it holy.

Shabbat and High Holidays Schedule of Services

Genesis 2:3

September

Friday, September 1

6:15 pm Early Shabbat Service

Saturday, September 2

9:00 am Torah Study
5:00 pm Shabbat Morning Service
Bar Mitzvah of Jacob Lubin

Friday, September 8

7:45 pm Shabbat Service
9/11 Commemoration Service

Saturday, September 9

9:00 am Torah Study
10:00 am Shabbat Morning Service
B'nei Mitzvah of Sydney Block
and Mason Ruzumna
5:00 pm Shabbat Afternoon Service
B'nei Mitzvah of Jordan Cascade
and Max Trager

Friday, September 15

5:30 pm Tot Shabbat- New Year
7:45 pm Shabbat Service

Saturday, September 16

9:00 am Torah Study
5:00 pm Shabbat Afternoon Service
B'not Mitzvah of Abigail Fisher
and Robin Glicker
9:00 pm Selichot Service
(Selichot Program 7:30 pm)

Wednesday, September 20 - Erev Rosh Hashanah

5:00 pm *Family Service - Beit Midrash
5:45 pm Main Service- Sanctuary

Thursday, September 21 - Rosh Hashanah

8:45 am Early Main Service (Lew-Z)- Sanctuary
9:15 am Early Family Service (Lew-Z)
- Beit Midrash
11:30 am Late Family Service (A-Lev)
- Beit Midrash
11:45 am Late Main Service (A- Lev)- Sanctuary
3:00 pm: *Tot Service- Beit Midrash
5:45 pm: *Tashlich with Young Israel of Scarsdale
offsite- Carpenter's Pond

Friday, September 22 - Rosh Hashanah (second day)

10:00 am *Morning Service
10:00 am *Alternative Movement Service
6:15 pm Early Shabbat Service

Saturday, September 23

9:00 am Torah Study

Friday, September 29 - Kol Nidre/Erev Yom Kippur

5:00 pm *Family Service- Beit Midrash
5:45 pm Early Main Service (A-Lev)- Sanctuary
8:30 pm Late Main Service (Lew-Z)- Sanctuary

Saturday, September 30 - Yom Kippur

8:45 am Early Main Service (A-Lev) - Sanctuary
9:15 am Early Family Service (A-Lev)
- Beit Midrash
11:30 am Late Main Service (Lew-Z)- Sanctuary
11:30 am Late Family Service (Lew-Z)
- Beit Midrash
11:30 am Adult Study Group- CJL
2:15 pm *Musical Meditation and Alternate Yizkor
- Sanctuary
2:30 pm *Tot Service- Beit Midrash
3:30 pm *Afternoon Service, Yizkor, Ne'ilah
- Sanctuary

Friday, October 27

5:30 pm Tot Shabbat
7:45 pm Shabbat Evening Service

Saturday, October 28

9:00 am Torah Study
9:00 am Sharing Shabbat
5:00 pm Shabbat Afternoon Service
B'nei Mitzvah of Ethan Rifkin
and Henry Rifkin

November

Friday, November 3

6:15 pm Early Shabbat Service

Saturday, November 4

9:00 am Torah Study
9:00 am Sharing Shabbat
10:00 am Shabbat Morning Service
Bar Mitzvah of Charles Block
5:00 pm Shabbat Afternoon Service
B'nei Mitzvah of Jason Gans
and Alexandra Tretler

Friday, November 10

7:45 pm Shabbat Service
following Chai Society Dinner
Chai Society Shabbat

Saturday, November 11

9:00 am Torah Study
9:00 am Sharing Shabbat
10:00 am Shabbat Morning Service
Bar Mitzvah of William Reed
1:00 pm Shabbat Afternoon Service
Bar Mitzvah of Ethan Wachs
5:00 pm Shabbat Afternoon Service
Bat Mitzvah of Andie Farber

Friday, November 17

7:45 pm Shabbat Service

Saturday, November 18

9:00 am Torah Study
9:00 am Sharing Shabbat

Friday, November 24

6:15 pm Early Shabbat Service

Saturday, November 25

9:00 am Torah Study
10:00 am Shabbat Morning Service
Bat Mitzvah of Sabrina Finegold

* High Holiday Services marked with an asterisk (*) are open to the community. Non-Member Entrance Cards must be requested in advance at www.wrtemple.org.

Sign-up for the Westchester Reform Temple Weekly Eblast!

Just send your email address by text message:

Text **WRT** to **22828** to get started.

Message and data rates may apply.

or email: office@wrtemple.org



WRT Bulletin

WESTCHESTER REFORM TEMPLE 255 MAMARONECK ROAD, SCARSDALE, NY 10583

PERIODICAL

Volunteer for a Social Action committee:

Welcoming Our Neighbors:

Providing food and entertainment to the elderly, underserved and emotionally and physically challenged at WRT and other locations.

Contact: Neighbors@wrtemple.org

Educating Our Youths:

One-to-one support through mentoring and tutoring programs for elementary and high school students from an underserved area.

Contact: Mentoring@wrtemple.org

Donating for Others:

Gathering of seasonal or specialty goods from the WRT community.

Contact: Collecting@wrtemple.org

Feeding the Hungry:

Collecting, shopping, cooking and/or packaging food for distribution to soup kitchens and social service agencies.

Contact: Feeding@wrtemple.org

Sheltering and Helping the Homeless:

Feeding and providing temporary housing at WRT for local homeless population.

Contact: Sheltering@wrtemple.org

Responding to Emergencies:

Mobilizing effort for emergency relief to address local and global crises as they arise.

Contact: EmergencyRelief@wrtemple.org

Advocating for Change:

Working with decision makers and other communities to influence programming and policy.

Contact: Advocate@wrtemple.org

Teen Advocacy: Rabbi.Levy@wrtemple.org

Zero Waste: Recycling, reusing and composting to reduce WRT's environmental imprint. Contact: ZeroWaste@wrtemple.org

Westchester Reform Temple's Mission Statement

The mission of WRT is to ensure the perpetuation of the Jewish people and to cultivate a love of our Jewish heritage: God, Torah and Israel. We hope to realize this through:

***Avodah - Worship* (Spirituality)**

worship of God in a Reform Jewish congregation seeking to offer a variety of traditional and evolving spiritual practices for the religious development and fulfillment of our members.

Chavurah - Community

an open, dynamic community of women and men of all ages and sexual orientations, families of all configurations and backgrounds, all committed to creating a warm and welcoming Reform Jewish congregation.

Talmud Torah - Learning

an enlightened program of Jewish learning for all members, young and old.

***Tikkun Olam - Social Action* (Repairing the World)**

commitment to the ideals of our Jewish ethical heritage and to the prophetic work of meeting our responsibilities to our community, our nation and our world.

Clal Yisrael - Responsibility For All Jews

strengthening of our commitment to Israel and the Jewish people of all lands and working to establish understanding and commonality among the various expressions of Judaism.