



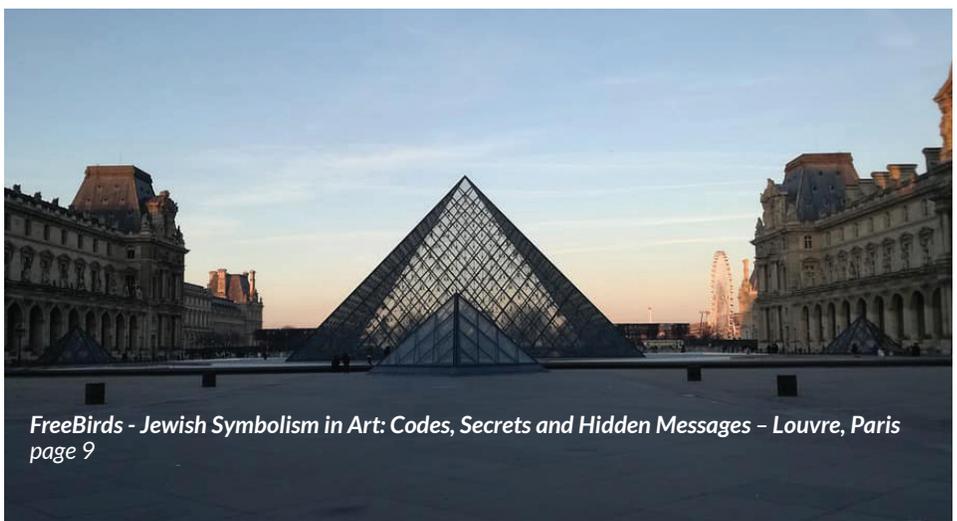
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Adult Education:
Mishna: The Building Blocks of Jewish Life
And She Said:
Women's Commentaries on the Bible
Rosh Chodesh 5781
Advanced Hebrew Bible Class:
A Study Of Tanach
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Nominating Committee for 2021-22

We are pleased to announce the members of the Nominating Committee, who will recommend a slate of WRT trustees and officers for 2021-22:

- Lori Gertzog, chair (lori.gertzog@gmail.com)
- Jodi Barrow (jodiLbarrow@gmail.com)
- Bill Blumstein (wblumstein@verizon.net)
- Stacey Mayer (staceymayer628@yahoo.com)
- Dave Shuster (dshuster51@gmail.com)
- Jocelyn Sontag (jocelynsontag@gmail.com)
- Michael Vickers (mvickers@vickers.nyc)
- Scott Zemachson (scott.zemachson@gmail.com)

Members are welcome to suggest themselves or others for consideration by the Nominating Committee. Please contact any of the Nominating Committee members directly with your questions or suggestions.

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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.

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Fran Scheffler-Siegel, WRJ President
Franklin Speiser, Men's Club President

Brooke Vaupen, ECC Liaison



Rabbi Blake's Message

The New Jazz of Judaism

Now that the fall holidays are well in the rearview mirror, we have enjoyed the opportunity to reflect on the experience of praying and gathering, celebrating and observing Judaism in unprecedented ways. Our teacher, celebrated author and scholar Rabbi Larry Hoffman has noted that the fall holidays represented Judaism's "first serious foray into post-print culture.

"In the Rabbinic oral culture of late antiquity," he continues, "worship was like jazz: an agreed-upon outline of an underlying liturgical structure, but dependent on the local artistry of the prayer leader, unencumbered by a book with fixed wording.... Liturgy was *ad hoc*, local, face to face, unmediated.

"With print, words became fixed.... Worship went beyond the immediacy of the prayer leader's artistry to include the private experience of engaging with a book. Print also expanded experiential residue: the oral prayer was not capturable, except in individual memory. Print provided a permanent prayer text and endless written commentaries on it.

"For some time now, we have been flirting with the post-print culture; but just flirting. These 'covidic' High Holidays have forced the issue."

Indeed! Necessity is the mother of invention, and, way back in the late spring when we realized that congregations of our size would have to move almost all of our Holiday services online, we took a leap of faith and ingenuity into creating a memorable spiritual experience for every age and stage of life. For many in our community, the services we prepared in partnership with a digital production company ticked all of the boxes: the beauty of our sanctuary, captured elegantly on film; stirring, gorgeous choral music featuring the voices of our clergy singers and professional musicians; Torah readings accompanied by a rolling side-by-side translation so that, perhaps for the very first time, everyone could follow and understand the Hebrew text; scholarship presented by the four Aaron D. Panken Professors of Hebrew Union College who—precisely because of the way in which online prayer erases the in-person obstacle of geographical distance—were able to participate meaningfully in WRT's services from their homes in New York City, Cincinnati, Los Angeles, and Jerusalem.

Others in our community have lamented the paucity of real-time live engagement from the sanctuary, at least for those "main sanctuary" services. And of course we all missed actually being together. The fact remains that online engagement—no matter how thoughtful, polished and professional—is no substitute for the real thing. Starting only four days after Yom Kippur—on the mornings of Sukkot and Simchat Torah—we held small but meaningful in-person gatherings outdoors in our sukkot, in ideal weather, on WRT's warm and inviting campus. We continue to conduct as many outdoor, in-person B'nei Mitzvah and other lifecycle services as we can safely and reasonably accommodate.

Still, even our recent in-person worship experiences have nudged us in new and creative directions. How can we help the entire community feel intimately connected to one another from more than six feet away, while wearing masks that hide facial expressions and muffle congregational participation in prayer? How can we create what the Psalmist describes as a "joyful noise unto God" (Ps. 66:1) when congregational singing is discouraged and the cantor must stand at an even greater remove, so as to minimize the spread of a dreaded virus?

Each of these urgent questions has prompted us, as clergy and congregation working together, to experiment with new technologies and new modes of liturgical expression. A dear colleague of mine who serves a small pulpit in Western Michigan used these disconnected High Holidays to teach his congregants American Sign Language (ASL) for key prayers like the Shema and the Torah Blessings so that everyone could "chime in" visibly over Zoom and the worshippers could see a gallery of their fellow congregants all responding to the prayers in unison. Another colleague in Washington, DC, invited a painter to create a mural depicting the themes of the prayers as they unfolded in real time, with cameras trained both on the clergy and on the artist.

WRT has always embraced innovation—it's in our congregation's spiritual DNA. Not every experiment in prayer, education, or community programming has been a smashing success; but we always strive to study our sacred engagement and to learn from mistakes and missteps while honing and refining the experiments that resonate positively. Your feedback, affectionately and respectfully offered even when presented in the form of question or critique, is a necessary tool in our ongoing development of meaningful, uplifting, and vibrant prayer experiences for our entire community.

I, for one, embrace the opportunities for spiritual growth and worship evolution and experimentation that our current, forced living conditions have provided us. I have long held that a good prayer service should be more like a jazz suite than a through-composed symphony, with some elements carefully sketched out so that the leaders all know the "chord changes," while the congregants can join with the clergy in other elements that are improvised, all while adhering to the basic liturgical scaffolding of the Jewish prayer service.

So, in that spirit, let me leave you with a handful of fantastic quotes about jazz from genius Miles Davis, each of which, I think, comments equally well on the art of public prayer:

- "Do not fear mistakes. There are none."
- "I'll play it first and tell you what it is later."
- "Don't play what's there, play what's not there."
- "It's not about standing still and becoming safe. If anybody wants to keep creating they have to be about change."

Let's embrace the challenge of today as an invitation to creativity and change.

L'Shalom,

Rabbi Jonathan E. Blake

Avodah: Worship and Spirituality

We look forward to a time soon when we can gather again in our Sanctuary in-person safely. Until then, please join us for services online via any of these platforms:

WRT Livestream - www.wrtemple.org/live-stream/
WRT Facebook - www.facebook.com/WestchesterReformTemple/
WRT YouTube - www.youtube.com/user/WRTempleNY

Kabbalat Shabbat

Fridays at 6:15 pm

Our Friday evening Shabbat service features the rituals, melodies and warmth of our congregation. The service includes a sermon or presentation by one of our rabbis, cantors or special guests.

Shabbat services times are typically at 6:15 pm and we always livestream our services to our website, Facebook, and Youtube. Please check the calendar and website for any changes due to special programming or holiday weekends.*

Torah Study

Saturdays, 9:00 - 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 an informal gathering, followed by an invigorating learning session. No prior experience with Torah is necessary; just come as you are, with an open mind!*

Sharing Shabbat

Saturdays, 10:30 - 11:15 am, during the Jewish Learning Lab year

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 led by our clergy, and followed by engaging learning and conversation for children, parents and teachers. All are welcome! (September - May)*

Family Tefillah with the Jewish Learning Lab

Sundays, 10:30 - 11:00 am, during the Jewish Learning Lab year

This 30-minute family service includes familiar prayers, explorations of holidays, music and stories for children in Grades K-6 and their families. Designed for our Jewish Learning Lab families and led by our clergy, this service is always open to the congregation and community. (September - May)*

* Please check our Weekly Update email or our website calendar for links to participate in these services.

Talmud Torah: Adult Education

תלמוד תורה

Learning

The Florence Melton School of Adult Jewish Learning

Tuesday evenings from October to May

The Melton School of Jewish Learning sets the standard for high-quality, text-based, interactive Jewish study. Learners who completed 50 hours of study in Year I of the Melton curriculum will continue their studies this year, focusing on Jewish Ethics and Jewish History.

Great Israeli Hebrew Poets with Professor Rachel Korazim, Ph.D.

Tuesdays, December 1, 8, 15, 22, 29, January 19, 26 and February 2 at 2:00 pm

Thursdays, December 3, 10, 17, January 21, 28 and February 4 at 2:00 pm



Rachel Korazim, Ph.D.

Every week, renowned Israeli Educator and Professor of Israeli Literature Rachel Korazim teaches an online class featuring the works of classic and modern Hebrew poets. Class is taught in English, over Zoom, to an international audience. WRT is proud to join dozens of other congregations in participating in this special opportunity to learn from a master educator while connecting with members of Jewish congregations from around the world.

Rachel Korazim, Ph.D., is a renowned Israeli Educator with a passion for teaching Israeli literature. In the field of Holocaust Studies, Dr. Korazim is second to none; she served as the lead educator in the 2005 redesign of Yad VaShem and has captivated WRT congregants on trips to Israel, and as WRT's Scholar-in-Residence in 2016.

Mishna: The Building Blocks of Jewish Life

Led by Rabbi Jonathan Blake

Thursdays, December 3 and 10 at 10:15 am

This program continues taking us into a detailed analysis of the most important and influential book of Rabbinic Literature, the *Mishna* ("Teaching"), which itself becomes the cornerstone of the Talmud. The *Mishna* was compiled in the early-mid 3rd Century (CE) and reflects generations of Rabbinic teaching.



Rabbi Jonathan Blake

And She Said: Women's Commentaries on the Bible

Led by Ariel Milan-Polisar, WRT Rabbinic Intern

Fridays, December 11 and January 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.



Ariel Milan-Polisar

Rosh Chodesh 5781

Led by Cantor Amanda Kleinman

Tuesdays, December 15, January 12 and February 9 at 11:30 am

We will be reading and discussing *The Color of Love: A Story of a Mixed-Race Jewish Girl*, by Marra Gad. *The Color of Love* is a memoir about Gad's experience as a Jewish woman of color, and about how she navigated experiences of racism in her community and in her own family. This year will provide us an opportunity to discuss issues of diversity and race within the Jewish community through the lens of the experiences of women.



Cantor Amanda Kleinman

Advanced Hebrew Bible Class: A Study Of Tanach

Led by Jane Roberts

Wednesdays, beginning September 16, from 10:00 am to 11:30 am

Students must have knowledge of Torah, Hebrew roots and basic Hebrew vocabulary, and a familiarity with the Siddur. For more information about sign-up and fees, please contact Jane Roberts at janerteach@aol.com.



Jane Roberts

Alef, Bet and Beyond

Would you like to learn Hebrew? If you are interested in joining a weekday morning class for adults, please contact Nancy Abraham at nancy.abraham@wrtemple.org.



Marcy R. Harris

President's Message

Staying Connected To WRT

The year 5781 began as the Jewish new year always begins -- with the piercing blast of the shofar. But this year, the shofar's cry came to us digitally, or across our neighborhoods. It was hard to hear, and it's been harder still to heed its call.

Since the start of the Covid-19 pandemic last March, everything seems a little harder. It's harder to make sense of our world, harder to make connections, harder even to distinguish one day from the next.

Everything seems a little harder at WRT as well, where it takes more planning and the efforts of more people to care for and connect with our temple community. Yet throughout this pandemic, WRT's clergy, staff, educators and volunteers have managed to touch and inspire, engage and uplift us, in ways we couldn't imagine just a year ago. I marvel at the creativity and drive they've exhibited as they continue to find ways to meet our needs and be present for each of us despite the limitations imposed by the coronavirus. Here are just a few ways WRT has adapted with creativity and ingenuity in these challenging times.

Life Cycle Events. During the first months of the pandemic, for health reasons, WRT's clergy officiated at all life cycle events remotely. Although families missed the warmth of in-person ceremonies, even remotely they were able to experience meaningful and uplifting family rituals. By late June, clergy also began officiating at small, outdoor weddings, funerals, shivas, unveilings, baby namings and b'nei mitzvah ceremonies, all with limited numbers of attendees, social distancing, mask wearing, and other safety measures in place. Outdoor b'nei mitzvah ceremonies continued throughout the fall and will continue all winter under a tent on WRT's campus, warmed by heat lamps. During inclement weather and on the coldest days, the services are conducted in the main sanctuary, with further safety measures in place.

Shabbat and Holiday Worship. WRT's Shabbat services, available online on Friday nights starting at 6:15 pm, continue to draw us together for worship and community. Hundreds of households participate each week, demonstrating our ongoing need for connection with clergy and each other. Our majestic High Holiday worship, led from WRT's main sanctuary, likewise offered inspiration and connection, even while we participated from home. We also experienced the beauty and fragility of Sukkot, and shared personal stories on Simchat Torah, both remotely and sitting in and around the sukkot erected on our campus. And while we couldn't attend Sukkah Slam this year, our youngest families enjoyed "Pizza in Your Hut" with the ECC staff, while Free Birds enjoyed "Spirits From the Sukkah," an interactive wine tasting, over Zoom, led by Rabbi Blake.

Learning Opportunities for Children and Families. The pandemic forced teachers in the Early Childhood Center (ECC) and Jewish Learning Lab (JLL) to convert to remote learning last March in a matter of days or weeks. During the summer break,

our teachers were able to plan ahead for pandemic teaching this year, consulting with experts and incorporating new modalities and safety protocols into their teaching programs. For the ECC, which opened for daily, in-person classes in September, the changes included new practices for drop-off and pick-up, additional outdoor learning, and the creation of school pods to limit interactions among children, teachers and specialists. For the JLL, which adopted a hybrid learning model this year, some students come to the temple for in-person learning weekly and supplement their in-person learning remotely, while others learn exclusively at home. Pop-up programs offer additional ways for JLL students and families to connect with WRT's clergy, educators and each other, while engaging in fun, meaningful Jewish learning.

Enrichment Activities. WRT has continued to offer salons, concerts and adult learning to members and the wider community. Educational series taught by our clergy and interns are ongoing, with new classes starting this winter. Classes offered by Hebrew Union College and other providers, listed in WRT's weekly eblast, offer us additional learning opportunities. In addition, our Spring Salons and Fall Music Series were moving and entertaining. We look forward to new musical programs in the months ahead.

Social Action & Racial Justice Initiatives. Throughout the pandemic, congregants have donated food, funds, household and school supplies to neighbors in need. These contributions include the assembly and the delivery of more than 400 lunch and snack bags each week to programs in New Rochelle and Mt. Vernon, and the monthly delivery of dinner for 120 participants of HOPE Community Services in New Rochelle, underwritten by WRT's Hungry and Homeless Fund. The need is great, as is the generosity of our temple community. We've also begun a program of study and learning around issues of racial justice and human dignity. During the fall, we joined with Machon Hadar and 11 area congregations applying Talmudic teachings to the study of racism. During the winter, we'll read and discuss books and articles on race and racism, and workshops are planned for the spring on ways to combat racism.

* * *

Amid the uncertainty all around us, let's take comfort that WRT is here to challenge us, uplift us, and connect us with each other and with that unbroken chain of Jewish history and tradition that brings us hope and strength, even when times are hard. I hope you'll discover new ways to engage with WRT this winter and wish you a light-filled Chanukah.

Chanukah Menorah Lightings on WRT's Campus

Gather with your WRT community on our campus to celebrate the Festival of Lights by kindling our giant, outdoor Chanukah menorah! Registration required, please stay tuned to our e-communications to let us know when you'll be there!

Thursday, December 10

4:00 pm - ECC

5:00 pm - ECC

Friday, December 11

5:45 pm - Entire Community

7:30 pm - Entire Community

Sunday, December 13

5:45 pm - Teens - followed by Ugly Sweater and Dreidel Making

7:00 pm - Entire Community

Monday, December 14

4:00 pm - ECC

5:00 pm - ECC

Tuesday, December 15

5:00 pm - JLL 3rd and 4th Grade pick-up

Wednesday, December 16

5:00 pm - JLL 3rd and 4th Grade pick-up

7:00 pm - 6-7 JLL pick-up - Allée

7:00 pm - Teen drop-off (grades 10th - Confirmation) - CJL

Thursday, December 17

4:00 pm - ECC

5:00 pm - ECC

WRT Chanukah Toy Drive

December 10 -16

Help the WRT Monthly Mitzvah committee bring some light to children and teens who will not receive holiday gifts this year and participate in the WRT Chanukah Toy Drive. With the Pandemic, the need is greater than ever.

As in past years, we will be participating in a holiday toy drive with WJCS and the gifts will be sent to the Pleasantville Cottage School.

Look out for an eblast from the ECC, JLL or WRT with the details for an outdoor toy drop off during Chanukah, December 10 -16.

If you are looking for a contact free drop off — gifts can be sent through an Amazon Wishlist at <https://amzn.to/2HNVTeK> where you can select gifts that will be sent directly to The Cottage School. If you would like to send gifts on your own or through another retailer, please contact us for shipping information.

Gifts can be sent at anytime.

Our friends at WJCS and The Cottage School are very appreciative of your generosity and thank you for helping with this Mitzvah of bringing light and happiness to a child or teen in need, Todah Rabbah!

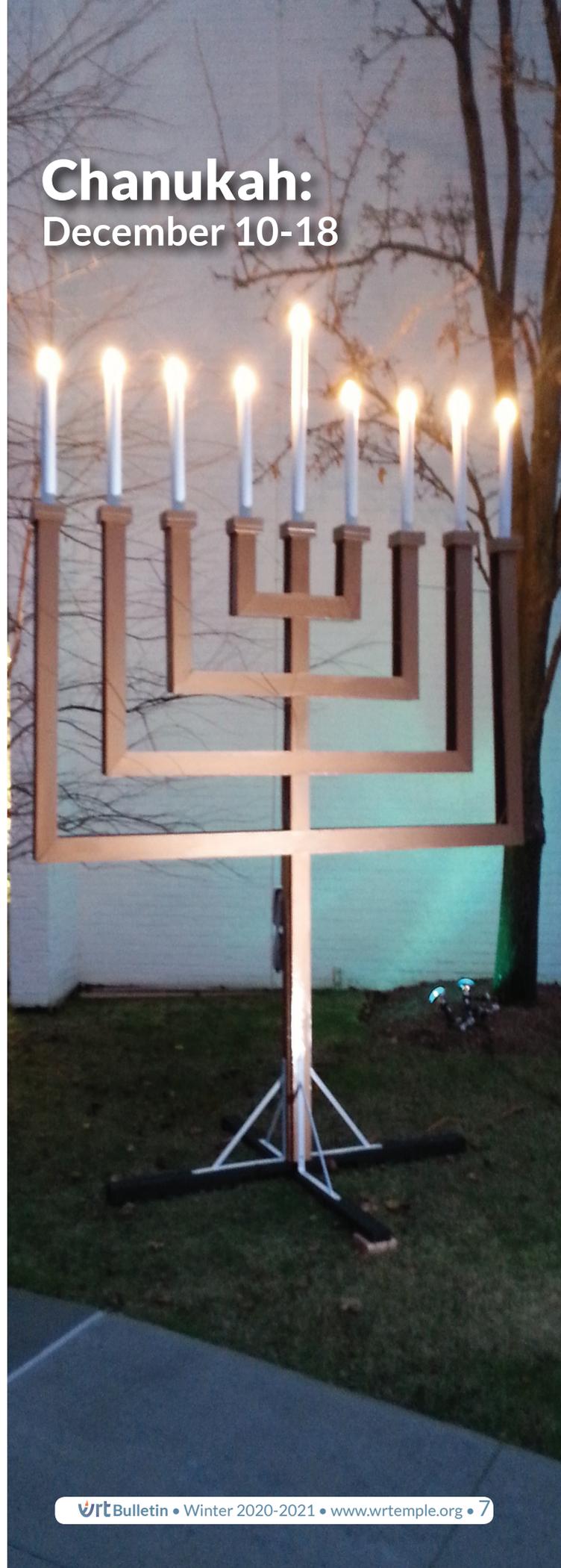
If you have any questions, please contact:

Ronny Hersch 914- 472-1659 hersch32@optonline.net

Irena Turner 917-865-4195 monetis@aol.com

Co-Chairs, Monthly Mitzvah Program

Chanukah: December 10-18





Sasha Baken

Women of Reform Judaism

Women of Reform Judaism (WRJ) is the sisterhood of Westchester Reform Temple. As a member of the National WRJ, we are among hundreds of sisterhoods with tens of thousands of members around the globe. On a national and global level, WRJ is an integral part of the Reform Movement. WRJ national works closely with the Union of Reform Judaism and its affiliates to strengthen Reform Jewish life.

WRJ of WRT works daily, weekly, and monthly, year round, to strengthen the voices of women in our area in order to create a caring community, nurture our congregation, cultivate personal and spiritual growth, and advocate for and promote progressive Jewish values.

Membership in WRJ is step one in making community connections, so please join (or rejoin). Step two in making community connections is to join our committees, attend our events and programs, and volunteer to organize or create a project. We welcome your ideas. We have myriad ways for each of us to use our energies to connect to each other as we navigate in new ways to make our days enriched.

Our monthly newsletter will update you on specific program and project dates. Our weekly email blasts will remind you when to logon for virtual events or meet in person when possible.

For more information, please contact
 Fran Scheffler-Siegel, *WRJ President* at franschefflerwrj@gmail.com
 or Sarah Kagan, *WRJ Vice-President, Membership* at WRJoin@wrtemple.org.

Mussar- Spiritual Balances through study and meditation

Led by Sasha Baken, rabbinical student

Fridays, December 18, January 22 and February 19 at 12:00 pm

In this class, we will explore Mussar as a spiritual perspective as well as a discipline of transformative practices. Mussar asks that we engage in thoughtful interaction with our soul traits (middot). These include qualities such as humility, generosity, trust and many others. We will examine lessons from Jewish scripture and apply techniques like journaling, chanting and meditating as methods to balance our middot. According to the practice of Mussar, all character traits (even anxiety!) are valuable to our lives, but we can manage the levels to which they affect our being. Together we have the ability to make use of our challenges so we can flourish in our lives. This class is for anyone seeking depth, looking to discover more about themselves, or interested in analyzing Jewish scripture with a new lens.

WRJ Winter Program: General Meeting and Virtual Exhibition

Thursday, January 14, Time TBD

Join us for a virtual tour of the Jewish Museum: Rachel Feinstein: Maiden, Mother, Crone—exploration of duality (good/evil, masculine/feminine) characters borrowed from biblical and folk sources and objects from material culture, deconstructed and reimagined...there is no fact without fiction, light without darkness, tranquility without chaos.

WRJ Book Group

Friday, January 22 at 11:00 am

WRJ Book Group led by WRJ members Ann Lewis and Peggy Jackson (via ZOOM). Look for more information in the WRJ and weekly newsletters.

Save the date for our 21st Women's Seder

Thursday, March 18, 6:00 - 9:00 pm

More information to come.

Men's Club

The WRT Men's Club is a fellowship of men of WRT who aspire to Tikkun Hanefesh (self-development and self-fulfillment) and Tikkun Ha-olam (repair of the world).

The Men's Club helps build and enhance the overall sense of community at WRT and beyond by creating occasions for congregants to create long-lasting relationships through engagement and community service. The Men's Club fosters a love of Judaism amongst its membership.

Our active WRT Men's Club is a group of "doers," sponsoring a variety of programs throughout the year. Events include, but are not limited to: working with the less fortunate, sponsoring blood drives, channukiah building with the JLL, delivering cartons of Passover food to needy area seniors, leading the annual Men's Club Retreat and Men's Club Seder, partnering with other WRT groups to plan events, creating festive onegs for special shabbats or holidays, sponsoring speakers and movies, providing Plaut Commentaries to B'nei Mitzvah students, and sponsoring the WRT Basketball teams for over 150 students. Come and "do" with us!

For more information, please contact Franklin Speiser, Men's Club President speiser325@gmail.com or 914-997-7604.

FreeBirds

Details for all programming will be forwarded in FreeBirds eblasts. Let us know if your youngest child is a high school junior and you would like to join the FreeBirds. Email your request to office@wrtemple.org.

הַבּוֹרָה

Chanukah Cooking

Friday, December 4 at 11:00 am -12:30 pm

Join Rabbi Reiser and Israeli Chef Iris for some Chanukah cooking, new recipes and some good stories. Over zoom, we will make four delicious dishes for you to enjoy at home. Iris will provide step by step directions, as we hear about the Israeli cuisine and get some inside Israeli cooking tips. More information can be found on Chef Iris' website at <https://en.amechayeisrael.com>. \$54 per Zoom box.

Latkes and Shotkes

Thursday, December 17, 6:30 - 7:30 pm

Join Rabbi Blake for Chanukah drinks and stories; holiday gift donation, wear ugly sweater – *chotchkes* and *schmattes*. \$72 per Zoom box (includes alcohol and festivities).



Steven Wilkes Photography Tour

Tuesday, January 19, 12:00 noon - 1:30 pm

Join Cantor Rodnizki and photographer Stephen Wilkes for an inside view of a Chelsea photography gallery. Stephen Wilkes is one of America's most iconic photographers. His photographs are included in many public collections such as the George Eastman Museum, Jewish Museum of NY, Library of Congress, Museum of the City of New York, 9/11 Memorial Museum, and numerous private collections. \$54 per Zoom box.

Jews and Blacks in the Civil Rights Era and Today

Thursday, January 21 at 7:00 pm - 8:15 pm

Join Rabbi Levy and Billy Planer, Civil Rights expert, to explore the reality of the relationship between the Jewish and Black communities during the Civil Rights Era. Some of the topics we will discuss are: Why were there Jews on both sides of the issues, and Jews on the sidelines of the Civil Rights movement? What role did Judaism play in the activism of the young people in the 1960's? What can we apply to the civil unrest today? \$54 per Zoom box.

Jewish Symbolism in Art: Codes, Secrets and Hidden Messages – Louvre, Paris

Thursday, February 11 at 11:00 am - 12:30 pm

Join Cantor Rodnizki and an art expert who will decode the hidden Jewish messages in some of the famous masterpieces found in the paintings in the Louvre, including Esther, the Jewish Heroine of the Purim Story, and other important artwork with Jewish influence/meaning. \$54 per Zoom box.



Evening Book Group

Tuesdays, December 15, January 19 and February 16, at 7:30 pm

The Evening Book Group is going on its 12th year of meeting. Started by Lenore Rosenbaum as an initiative for members who worked during the day, it has grown into a fun, community of people, many who are long-time participants.

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. We are scheduled to meet online via Zoom for the winter meetings. For more login information, please contact Lenore Rosenbaum at papoobeads@optonline.net.



Community



Rabbi David Levy



Jane Slevin



Cantor Laura Stein

Living with Divorce: Support Group

Tuesdays, December 15, January 12 and February 9 at 7:00 pm

Saturday, December 5 at 10:00 am - Chanukah Brunch

Families come in all shapes and sizes. WRT is committed to embracing and supporting people as they live through divorce and single parenting, and find their new family rituals in the face of that change. Rabbi Levy is joining as the clergy partner in this endeavor, alongside Jane Slevin, LMFT (Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist) from Westchester Jewish Community Service, who will continue to lead our monthly support group. Wherever you are in the journey of Divorce or Single Parenting we welcome you, and are at the ready to provide you with support and community. Please RSVP to Suzanne.saperstein@wrtemple.org if you're able to join us.

Bereavement Group

Wednesdays, December 16, January 13 and February 10 at 6:00 pm

A monthly support and discussion group led by Jane Slevin, LMFT (Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist), and Cantor Laura Stein, LMSW. Jane is our skilled and caring partner from Westchester Jewish Community Services, and Cantor Laura Stein is a social worker who specializes in spiritual care. Find comfort in community and caring discussion, and process feelings of loss in a sacred Jewish context. Please RSVP to Suzanne.Saperstein@wrtemple.org.

Family Mitzvah Corps

The Family Mitzvah Corps is a community of WRT families with children in grades K-6 engaging in hands-on social action work together. Providing the opportunity for young people and their families to interact with the broader world, past efforts have included working with residents of homeless shelters and nursing homes, educational programs for low-income children, and more. Programs are held monthly from September to June. To learn more about these programs, please email Allison Friedland (allisonfriedland@gmail.com), or sign-up here: bit.ly/WRT_FMC (case sensitive)

Caring Community

The Caring Community provides support and friendship during times of crisis and life transitions, and lifts up the joyful moments of our congregation's simchas. For more information, please contact us at caringcommunity@wrtemple.org. Donations to the Caring Community Fund Dedicated to Ann R. Miller help support this effort.

Cooking4HOPE

These difficult times have wrought significant challenges, broadly across our nation and specifically throughout our Westchester community. Finding consistent employment, reliable and safe child care and securing personal protective equipment are some of the challenges experienced by members of our community. In light of these uncertainties, WRT's Cooking4HOPE team has a mission to help provide the most basic of human needs – food. The funding for our program comes from generous donations to WRT's Hungry & Homeless Fund and the effort to make and distribute the meals is done by our generous WRT volunteers.

Located in the St. Gabriel's parish center in downtown New Rochelle, HOPE Community Services operates a kitchen, food pantry and hot meal in its dining hall. Each diner receives a lunch bag to take home for the next day. For many years, WRT's Cooking4HOPE team would provide a monthly hot meal (lasagna, veggies, salads, cookies) for 125 people, together with 125 lunch bags, on the last Monday of each month. Since the beginning of the pandemic, HOPE has been serving five hot meals weekly to between 100-150 daily diners. After the pandemic forced the closure of the WRT kitchen, we have been providing a monthly catered hot meal. In June, we also began our weekly lunch bag campaign with just a couple of volunteers, a campaign that has since expanded. Our weekly production is 352 lunch bags, which is the result of eight families preparing 44 bags each. In addition, 80 snack bags weekly are being distributed to school kids in after-school programs. Some bags have also gone to the more than 275 seniors in our home delivered meals program as an addition to other meals delivered to them. Given recent additional participation, we will increase our "production" to 500 lunch and snack bags. At the current weekly rate, our Cooking4HOPE volunteers will have provided over 10,000 lunch bags by the end of Chanukah!

WRT's Hungry and Homeless Fund will allow us to continue these efforts for the foreseeable future and we hope our volunteers will continue to assist, even as children return to school and adults to work.

To help plan our activities, please contact Yoel Magid at yoel.magid@gmail.com on a weekly basis if you are available to support this effort.





Dear WRT Family,

I write to you with a grateful heart and have never felt more blessed or proud to serve Westchester Reform Temple. You, our WRT Family, have demonstrated extraordinary adaptability, belonging, and commitment throughout these unprecedented months.

You helped make the High Holidays meaningful and inspiring for our community, and you continue to show up with open hearts and open minds for Shabbat and Holiday services, Jewish learning, and special programs for all ages, both online and in-person. Your generous participation in our new Inspired Giving Campaign continues to lift our spirits. I am most grateful to see you supporting one another, helping the people in greatest need during a difficult time.

These months have been among the most challenging in my 17 years of service to this holy congregation, but also among the most rewarding. I am grateful to work with the most extraordinary team of clergy, senior staff, educators, administrative professionals, and so many engaged officers, trustees, and volunteers—all committed to the strength and vibrancy of WRT.

A periodic sabbatical (traditionally provided at a seven-year interval) is a common practice among congregations that see the relationship with their senior clergy as a sacred covenant—the way WRT does. Last winter, prior to the start of the pandemic, WRT's senior leadership and I began planning a six-month sabbatical, which would allow me to rest, recharge, and rejuvenate so that I can continue to serve the congregation vigorously, sensitively, and joyfully when I return. My sabbatical would be divided into two periods of three months each, spread across two years. It would run from January through March of 2021 and again from January through March of 2022. As discussed below, my amazing clergy colleagues would continue to care for the congregation in my absence.

When the pandemic arrived, we put these plans on hold until after the fall Holidays, as we devoted our full attention to helping our community negotiate the new reality. Since then, the terms of my sabbatical have been finalized with the temple's Executive Committee and shared with the Board of Trustees.

Studying and teaching Torah is the heart of my rabbinate. I am looking forward, during my sabbatical, to independent reading and study, and also to learning with colleagues through NYC-based *Hadar*, an internationally recognized, multi-denominational Jewish seminary. Additionally, I will continue to participate in the Clergy Leadership Program of the Institute for Jewish Spirituality (IJS), which provides a transformative, multi-disciplinary approach to religious leadership that I am undertaking with Cantor Kleinman and a cohort of wonderful and diverse colleagues from across the country.

I also intend to spend significant time exploring, together with colleagues from around the world, how spiritual leaders and congregations are preparing for the challenges and opportunities of 21st century Jewish life, both during and beyond the immediate upheavals that have already reshaped the Jewish landscape. My goal is to share ideas and innovative approaches from Jewish communities around the world, and to inspire our WRT community to move forward boldly and creatively into a future of rapidly evolving needs and demands. WRT has always been a thought leader in the Reform Jewish community; our openness to innovation has made us both adaptable and resilient.

In order to give my full attention to the conversations, books, and experiences that await during my sabbatical, I will need to disconnect from all work-related e-mail, phone calls, and social media for this period.

I am able to avail myself of this generous opportunity knowing that all of your needs will be met comprehensively and compassionately by my rabbinical and cantorial colleagues. With my full and heartfelt confidence, they will address your pastoral needs, officiate at life cycle ceremonies, and in all ways continue to serve you while I'm out of the office. As always, our Pastoral Care Coordinator and my Executive Assistant Amy Rossberg will continue to coordinate pastoral care for the community.

Thank you, WRT family, for this meaningful opportunity. I look forward to returning to you replenished and refreshed, and ever grateful for the trust you've placed in me as your rabbi.

Bivrakha - With Blessing,

Rabbi Jonathan E. Blake

Early Childhood Center (ECC)



Susan Tolchin
Director of ECC

The ECC is open in-person and our children are thriving! Amidst the COVID-19 pandemic, we have continued to focus our efforts on keeping our children safe, happy and engaged. During these uncertain times we are offering them consistency and routine while instilling a love of learning. Even our youngest students have adapted beautifully to in-person school. They have adjusted to life with static classroom pods and mask-wearing. At its heart,

the ECC remains a place where children learn about kindness, empathy, charity and respect for one another.

Within our static classroom pods, we often break into smaller groups for activities. There are many benefits to small group activities in the classroom. Since preschoolers are still in the process of developing their cognitive and social skills, they often function best when in small group settings. These activities offer opportunities for children to further develop their social skills through structured interaction, using language to express their thoughts and needs with peers to accomplish a task.

Cooperation is also taught through small group activities. By working with just a few peers towards a common goal, children will develop their cooperation and conversation skills, and will discover how to share and be fair. Through small group play, children learn to compromise.

Additionally, small group work encourages friendships among children who may not normally play together and, thus, creates a more inclusive classroom atmosphere. We rotate the makeup of the groups regularly to help new friendships form and to expose preschoolers to the concept of working with different types of people with different points of view. These are very important life skills!

Please note that registration for the 2021-2022 school year is open to the public and on-going. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, we are not offering in-person tours, but we are happy to email you our ECC Video link and speak with you via phone or zoom to learn about our program.

For more information or a virtual tour of our school, contact ECC Director Sue Tolchin at Sue.Tolchin@wrtemple.org or ECC Assistant Director Rebecca Roseman at Rebecca.roseman@wrtemple.org or call us at (914) 723-5493.

Wishing you all a very happy, peaceful and healthy 2021!

Due to the current COVID situation, we are hoping to offer some of our previous events in person; however we also need to be aware that some will be done virtually. With guidance from our healthcare and licensing consultants, we will carefully determine what is the safest and most cautious way to proceed.

Family Apple-Picking at Wilkens Fruit Farm *(offered as guidelines allow)*

Sharing Shabbat and Early Childhood Center families joined for Shabbat songs and storytelling followed by a snack and apple picking. The program was led by Cantor Mia Fram Davidson.

Mom's Night Out Dad's Night Out *(offered only as guidelines allow)*

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

Israel Virtual Trip *(offered only as guidelines allow)*

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 *(offered only as guidelines allow)*

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 *(offered only as guidelines allow)*

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 *(offered only as guidelines allow)*

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 the Early Childhood Center at 914-723-5493

"Pizza in Your Hut" Sukkot Celebration for Families with Young Children

Families with children ages 7 and younger were invited for a participatory and dynamic Jewish music experience. Led by clergy through a Zoom experience.

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

Connections Shabbat Monthly *(offered as guidelines allow)*

Experience the joy of Shabbat with children, parents, grandparents, siblings and friends. Designed for families with children ages eight and younger.

ECC Online Book Fair and Milk and Cookies (via Zoom)

Join clergy for a Chanukah celebration. December 15 at 4 pm. Details will be provided by the ECC.

Dad's Club *(offered only as guidelines allow)*

Offered on specific Sunday mornings three times a year. Geared to ECC dads and their children who want to make new friends and re-connect with existing ones. Enjoy bagels and socializing. (No charge)



Jewish Learning Lab (JLL)



Rabbi David Levy
Associate Rabbi &
Jewish Learning Lab Director

Welcome to Westchester Reform Temple's 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."

December

- 6** - Parent Session (5th Grade)
- 16** - Havurah Chanukah Celebration (9th & 10th Grades)
- 21 - 31** - NO CLASS - Holiday Break

January

- 1 - 3** - NO CLASS - Holiday Break
- 6** - 6th & 7th Grade Parent Session
- Date TBD* - HUC Soup Kitchen (9th - 10th)

February

- 5 - 6** - 6th Grade Shabbaton/ Sharing Shabbat Chesed Day - Offsite (K-5th Grade)
- 7** - Parent Session (5th Grade)
- 14 - 21** - NO CLASSES - Winter Break
- 24** - Digital L'Taken Seminar (10th Grade)
- 28** - Purim Palooza (ECC - 5th Grade; 7th Grade JLection)

Sixth Grade Family Shabbaton

Friday, February 5 and Saturday, February 6

The annual Sixth Grade Family Shabbaton is an enthusiastically-attended event and a highlight of the Sixth Grade year in the WRT Jewish Learning Lab. This preview of the B'nei Mitzvah year introduces students and parents to the Jewish coming-of-age ceremony and all it entails. We know that this year will be different, and we are actively planning an experience that will be safe and uplifting for our 6th grade families.

- On Friday, we look forward to praying with you and your family.
- On Saturday we will experience a model B'nei Mitzvah service, receive your Torah portion, make a personalized silver Torah Yad (Torah pointer) to use at your service, and learn with and from Confirmation students. Parents will converse with clergy on the meaning of the B'nei Mitzvah experience.

Look for detailed information coming your way soon.

For more information, contact:

David E. Levy, Associate Rabbi and JLL Director
at Rabbi.Levy@wrtemple.org

or

Felicia Block, JLL Assistant Director
at Felicia.Block@wrtemple.org

WRTeens

Our new WRTeen Passport Program is designed to maximize the choice and flexibility of schedule, which means there are more ways than ever to engage! This new initiative, the result of a year long collaborative project of the WRT Teen Task Force, is centered around leadership, learning and social action.

Clergy, professional staff and lay leaders know that the key to teen programming is meeting each learner where they are with weekly, monthly and one-time opportunities. Some examples of how this was implemented this fall include:

Leadership

- 8th Grade Wednesday evening, bi-weekly leadership initiative
- 9th-12th Grade Leadership Council, guiding programming and gatherings for teens by teens.

Learning

- Grade specific courses taught by our clergy exploring Tanakh, Israel and pop-up events around social justice.
- The Bauman Scholar's Institute's initiative, The Rabbi's Table, a monthly program designed to engage learners who have an unbridled passion for Jewish study

Social Action

- 9th Grade Tikkun Olam Track as a first step in the Confirmation process to begin working as a class on meaningful activities and action as high school begins.
- Social Justice Opportunities for all teens:
 - Better Together in A Box program - A program developed and operated by a well-respected national foundation, this initiative builds intergenerational relationships between WRT teens and seniors.
 - From Civil Rights to Racial Justice - This ongoing track explores the intersectionality between race and social justice, historically and today.

For our current offerings, email JLLadmin@wrtemple.org to be added to our weekly email updates.



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 to WRT an integral part of your Jewish life.

HELP SUPPORT ALL THE PILLARS OF OUR COMMUNITY

Inspired Giving • Formerly known as “Benefactors,” this enhanced level of Membership support helps WRT provide financial assistance to our families in need for Membership and Tuition fees, and helps WRT cover unexpected budget gaps during the course of the year.

Annual Appeal / 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 Fund • supports our music programs and worthy organizations

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

Artist-in-Residence Fund • supports visiting artists bringing music and the arts to our community

TALMUD TORAH – LEARNING

Bauman Scholar Fund • encourages, recognizes and celebrates the Jewish learning and identity formation of WRT’s most academically inclined students, as exhibited by the fearless learning of Sam Bauman of blessed memory.

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

Early Childhood Fund • helps buy new equipment for our preschool

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 (Madrachim) 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 • supports 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, click on the GIVE tab to access MAKE A DONATION.

Mail: You can download a Special Funds Form on the MAKE A DONATION page.

Mail the form and check to:

WRT, attn: Suzanne Saperstein

255 Mamaroneck Road, Scarsdale, NY 10583.



WRT Calendar

December

Tuesday, December 1

2:00 pm Great Israeli Hebrew Poets with Prof. Korazim

Thursday, December 3

10:15 am Mishna Class with Rabbi Blake

2:00 pm Great Israeli Hebrew Poets with Prof. Korazim

Friday, December 4

11:00 am FreeBirds- Chanukah Cooking

6:15 pm Shabbat Service

Saturday, December 5

9:00 am Torah Study

10:00 am Living with Divorce Chanukah Brunch

10:00 am B'nei Mitzvah of Caleb Grasheim and Joshua Wagner

5:00 pm Bar Mitzvah of Spencer Goldfarb

Tuesday, December 8

2:00 pm Great Israeli Hebrew Poets with Prof. Korazim

Thursday, December 10 - Erev Chanukah - first candle

10:15 am Mishna Class with Rabbi Blake

2:00 pm Great Israeli Hebrew Poets with Prof. Korazim

4:00 pm ECC- Outdoor Menorah Lighting

5:00 pm ECC- Outdoor Menorah Lighting

Friday, December 11 - Chanukah - second candle

11:00 am Women's Commentaries on the Bible

5:45 pm Community- Outdoor Menorah Lighting

6:15 pm Shabbat Service

7:30 pm Community- Outdoor Menorah Lighting

Saturday, December 12 - Chanukah - third candle

9:00 am Torah Study

10:00 am Bar Mitzvah of James Kolodner

5:00 pm Bar Mitzvah of Zachary Weinberg

Sunday, December 13 - Chanukah - fourth candle

5:45 pm Teens- Outdoor Menorah Lighting

7:00 pm Community- Outdoor Menorah Lighting

Monday, December 14 - Chanukah - fifth candle

4:00 pm ECC- Outdoor Menorah Lighting

5:00 pm ECC- Outdoor Menorah Lighting

Tuesday, December 15 - Chanukah - sixth candle

11:30 am Rosh Chodesh

2:00 pm Great Israeli Hebrew Poets with Prof. Korazim

5:00 pm JLL- Outdoor Menorah Lighting

7:00 pm Living with Divorce

7:30 pm Evening Book Group

Wednesday, December 16 - Chanukah - seventh candle

5:00 pm JLL- Outdoor Menorah Lighting

6:00 pm Bereavement Support Group

7:00 pm JLL- Outdoor Menorah Lighting

Thursday, December 17 - Chanukah - eighth candle

2:00 pm Great Israeli Hebrew Poets with Prof. Korazim

4:00 pm ECC- Outdoor Menorah Lighting

5:00 pm ECC- Outdoor Menorah Lighting

6:30 pm FreeBirds- Latkes and Shotkes

Friday, December 18

12:00 pm Mussar- Spiritual Balances

6:15 pm Shabbat Service

Saturday, December 19

9:00 am Torah Study

Tuesday, December 22

2:00 pm Great Israeli Hebrew Poets with Prof. Korazim

Friday, December 25 - Building closed

6:15 pm Shabbat Service

Saturday, December 26

9:00 am Torah Study

5:00 pm Bar Mitzvah of Mateo Polak

Tuesday, December 29

2:00 pm Great Israeli Hebrew Poets with Prof. Korazim

January

Friday, January 1 - Building closed

6:15 pm Shabbat Service

Saturday, January 2

9:00 am Torah Study

Friday, January 8

6:15 pm Shabbat Service

Saturday, January 9

9:00 am Torah Study

10:00 am B'nei Mitzvah of Max Gasthalter and Grace Liebman

5:00 pm Bar Mitzvah of Max Kroloff

Tuesday, January 12

11:30 am Rosh Chodesh

7:00 pm Living with Divorce

Wednesday, January 13

6:00 pm Bereavement Support Group

Thursday, January 14

12:30 pm WRJ Program: Inspiring Women

Friday, January 15

11:00 am Women's Commentaries on the Bible

6:15 pm Shabbat Service

Saturday, January 16

9:00 am Torah Study

5:00 pm Bat Mitzvah of Amanda Gorrin

Monday, January 18 - Offices closed

Martin Luther King, Jr. Day (observed)

Tuesday, January 19

12:00 pm FreeBirds- Steven Wilkes Photography Tour

2:00 pm Great Israeli Hebrew Poets with Prof. Korazim

7:30 pm Evening Book Group

Thursday, January 21

2:00 pm Great Israeli Hebrew Poets with Prof. Korazim

7:00 pm FreeBirds- Jews and Blacks in the Civil Rights Era and Today

Friday, January 22

11:00 am WRJ Book Group

12:00 pm Mussar- Spiritual Balances

6:15 pm Shabbat Service

Saturday, January 23

9:00 am Torah Study

10:00 am Bar Mitzvah of Graham Fielding

5:00 pm Bar Mitzvah of Gil Krausz

Tuesday, January 26

2:00 pm Great Israeli Hebrew Poets with Prof. Korazim

Thursday, January 28 - Tu B'Shevat

2:00 pm Great Israeli Hebrew Poets with Prof. Korazim

Friday, January 29

6:15 pm Shabbat Service

Saturday, January 30

9:00 am Torah Study

5:00 pm Bar Mitzvah of Chase Kantor

February

Tuesday, February 2

2:00 pm Great Israeli Hebrew Poets with Prof. Korazim

Thursday, February 4

2:00 pm Great Israeli Hebrew Poets with Prof. Korazim

Friday, February 5

6:15 pm Shabbat Service

Saturday, February 6

9:00 am Torah Study

5:00 pm Bat Mitzvah of Samara Feuerstein

Tuesday, February 9

11:30 am Rosh Chodesh

7:00 pm Living with Divorce

Wednesday, February 10

6:00 pm Bereavement Support Group

Thursday, February 11

11:00 am FreeBirds- Jewish Symbolism in Art

Friday, February 12

6:15 pm Shabbat Service

Saturday, February 13

9:00 am Torah Study

Monday, February 15 - Offices closed

President's Day (observed)

Tuesday, February 16

7:30 pm Evening Book Group

Friday, February 19

12:00 pm Mussar- Spiritual Balances

6:15 pm Shabbat Service

Saturday, February 20

9:00 am Torah Study

Friday, February 26 - Purim

6:15 pm Shabbat Service

Saturday, February 27

9:00 am Torah Study

10:00 am Bat Mitzvah of Alexis Levine

Volunteer for a Social Action project:

Welcoming Our Neighbors: Providing food and entertainment to the elderly, underserved and emotionally and physically challenged at WRT and other locations. Contact: Debbie Radov at djradov@aol.com

Educating Our Youth: One-to-one support through mentoring and tutoring programs for elementary and high school students from an underserved area. Contact: Helene Getz at Helene.getz5@gmail.com

Donating for Others: Gathering of seasonal or specialty goods from the WRT community.
Contact: Ronny Hersch at hersch32@optonline.net

Feeding the Hungry: Collecting, shopping, cooking and/or packaging food for distribution to soup kitchens and social service agencies. Contact: Susan Kessler-Ross at susan.kessler.ross@gmail.com

Sheltering and Helping the Homeless: Feeding and providing temporary housing for local homeless population.
Contact: Franklin Speiser at fspeiser@rfstuart.com

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: Ron Schulhof at rkschulhof@gmail.com and Michelle Sterling at michellesterling1@gmail.com