

# Contents

<b>3</b>	Rabbi Blake's Message	<b>12</b>	Early Childhood Center
<b>6</b>	President's Message	<b>13</b>	Jewish Learning Lab
<b>8</b>	Women of Reform Judaism	<b>14</b>	Mazal Tov!
<b>9</b>	Men's Club	<b>15</b>	Condolences
<b>10</b>	Caring Community Cooking4HOPE	<b>16-18</b>	Contributions
	Racial Justice Equity Initiative	<b>19</b>	WRT Calendar
	FreeBirds		
<b>11</b>	Evening Book Group		
	Family Mitzvah Corps		
	BetterTogether		

## 4-5 Services and Events

Kabbalat Shabbat
Torah Study
Sharing Shabbat
Connections Shabbat
Family Tefillah with the JLL
Community Outdoor Menorah Lighting
Shabbat Service with guest speaker
Rabbi Nir Barkin

## 7

## Talmud Torah: Adult Education

Mishna: The Building Blocks of Jewish Life
Rosh Chodesh 5782
Unpacking the Prayerbook
Bible as Literature
Advanced Jewish Learning for Melton Alumni
Advanced Hebrew Bible Class
Alef, Bet and Beyond: Beginner Hebrew

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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# Rabbi Blake's Message

A favorite teaching:

**דַע, שְׁהָאָדָם אָרֵיךְ לְעֹבֵר עַל גֶּשֶׁר צֶרֶם מִאֵד, וְהַפְּלֵל וְהַעֲקֵר – שֶׁלֳא יַתְפַּחַד בְּכָלְלָן:**

Know this: a person needs to cross a very, very narrow bridge. The essential thing is not to be at all afraid.

- Reb Nachman of Breslov (Bratslav), 1772-1810, *Likutei Moharan*, Part II, 48:2:7 (1821).

Reb Nachman was a great-grandson of the Ba'al Shem Tov, the founder of Hasidism. In Nachman's all-too-brief lifespan (thirty-eight years), he composed reams of influential Torah lessons and stories, many of which were published posthumously, were promulgated by his disciples, and which remain cherished throughout the Jewish world.

Among the teachings published only after his death is the very one we need most:

*"Know this: a person needs to cross a very, very narrow bridge. The essential thing is not to be at all afraid."*

For nearly the past two years, we have all been standing on a very, very narrow bridge:

Movement has been constrained.

Familiar and comforting routines have been disrupted – maybe forever.

Work and school have been re-imagined, and remain clouded in uncertainty.

Our public (that is, political) discourse remains fractured.

Tasks we all took for granted—sending a child on a bus; shopping for groceries; going out for dinner; visiting out-of-town relatives and friends; planning a celebration; participating in the life of the synagogue—have prompted complex, at times fraught, decisions. And, maybe even a little bit of paralysis.

So many of you are sharing with me pervasive feelings of loss, dislocation, exhaustion, anxiety, frustration, yearning.

I guess that's what happens when one stands on a very, very narrow bridge for a very, very long time.

Picture yourself standing in the middle of such a narrow bridge. There's no turning back, no safe way to jump off the side. And, yet, the landscape ahead of you remains shrouded in fog. There's no telling what the destination exactly looks like, or when we'll get there.

What I can tell you is that we're on the same narrow bridge together.

Also this: that "the essential thing is not to be at all afraid."

The *chutzpah* of such a statement—am I right? How not to be afraid at a time such as this? When, even should we see a way through this pandemic, we now feel so much more vulnerable—to the next runaway virus, the sweeping damage of climate change, the uncertainty of sending our children and grandchildren off into a world replete with challenges and short on reassurances.

But here's the thing about a bridge (even a very, very narrow one): all they do is create connection. That's literally the function of a bridge. To connect.

The reason, I think, we must not fear where we stand, is because we have not lost our ability to connect. And we need to connect, now, more than ever.

I know many of us have retreated from connection, which makes re-connecting seem all the more daunting. Some of us (the introverts among us, to be sure) have in fact felt comforted by the reduced social pressure of the last two years.

But prolonged isolation is spiritually and emotionally depleting and destabilizing. Let's pledge, as 2022 arrives, to re-connect, intentionally and meaningfully, starting with our WRT community.

In this Bulletin, you'll read about the many ways you can connect with your WRT community and clergy and find warmth in the coldest months of the year. Read and discover the many innovative and uplifting opportunities for adult and family engagement, both in person and online, in groups large and small. We have put the safety of our WRT community at the forefront of every consideration and want you to feel protected and embraced every time you set foot on our beautiful campus, every time you log on to a WRT event or live stream a service or program.

And, if you don't know how to take that next step toward the other side of the bridge, please reach out to me or my clergy colleagues. So much of the connection that we create at WRT begins one-on-one, with a heart-to-heart with any of the rabbis and cantors who serve our sacred community. We will meet you or speak with you wherever, whenever, and however you feel most comfortable. But let's start to connect, again.

**דַע, שְׁהָאָדָם אָרֵיךְ לְעֹבֵר עַל גֶּשֶׁר צֶרֶם מִאֵד, וְהַפְּלֵל וְהַעֲקֵר – שֶׁלֳא יַתְפַּחַד בְּכָלְלָן:**

Know this: a person needs to cross a very, very narrow bridge. The essential thing is not to be at all afraid.

Wishing you warmth and brightness with the lights of Chanukah, and a healthy, joyful new year filled with love and spiritual connection.

# Avodah: Worship and Spirituality

## Kabbalat Shabbat

**Fridays at 6:15 pm (December 24 and 31 - early service at 5:00 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.

Participate alongside fellow congregants in-person, or join us on any of our live-streaming platforms:

WRT Livestream - [www.wrtemple.org/live-stream/](http://www.wrtemple.org/live-stream/)

WRT Facebook - [www.facebook.com/WestchesterReformTemple/](http://www.facebook.com/WestchesterReformTemple/)

WRT YouTube - [www.youtube.com/user/WRTempleNY](http://www.youtube.com/user/WRTempleNY)

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 morning begins with a brief Shabbat service at which mourners who wish to say Kaddish are warmly welcomed. The group is led by volunteers, with clergy participation. No prior experience with Torah is necessary.

## Sharing Shabbat

**Saturdays at 9:00 - 10:00 am, during the Jewish Learning Lab year**

Our engaging, musical Shabbat 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 organized by cohort – a special JLL curricular experience for the children, and time for the adults to concurrently study, share stories, and ask questions together with a member of the clergy team. All are welcome! (September - May)

## Connections Shabbat

**Fridays, January 7 and February 11, 5:30 - 6:00 pm**

Experience the joy of Shabbat with children, parents, grandparents, siblings and friends. Designed for families with children ages eight and younger, Connections Shabbat starts with songs and stories led by our clergy, followed by an arts and crafts activity, social action project and family-friendly dinner. (These activities may be adjusted depending on public health conditions.) Children must be accompanied by an adult for this evening (no drop-offs). RSVP by the Tuesday before the program to [Ellen.Rosenberg@wrtemple.org](mailto:Ellen.Rosenberg@wrtemple.org).

## 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)



## Chanukah begins Sunday, November 28

### Community Outdoor Menorah Lighting

Friday, December 3 at 5:45 pm

followed by Shabbat Service at 6:15 pm

Gather with your WRT community on our campus to celebrate the Festival of Lights by kindling our giant, outdoor Chanukah menorah! Please note additional events specific to the ECC and JLL's participation will be sent via email.

## Shabbat Service with guest speaker Rabbi Nir Barkin

December 17 at 6:15 pm

Join Rabbi Nir Barkin of Kehillat YOZMA, one of WRT's cherished "sister congregations," a thriving Progressive (Reform) Jewish community in Modi'in, Israel. Many delegations of WRT travelers have enjoyed the incredible warmth and hospitality of Rabbi Barkin and the YOZMA community. A Torah donated by WRT sits in the center of their synagogue. Let's link our hearts and hopes as we learn from Rabbi Barkin, who will offer the evening's D'var Torah.

*More About our Distinguished Guest:*

Rabbi Nir Barkin, a sixth-generation Jerusalemite, is YOZMA's Senior Rabbi and Executive Director.

Rabbi Barkin returns to YOZMA from his previous position as IMPJ founder and director of the "DOMIM – aLike" project – a joint effort of the Government of Israel and the Israel Movement for Reform and Progressive Judaism, to strengthen relationships between Israel and Progressive Jewish communities around the world.

From 2004 through May 2015, Rabbi Nir served together with Yozma's founding rabbi Kinneret Shiryon as one of YOZMA's two partner rabbis. Rabbi Nir worked as a community Shaliach in Milwaukee, Wisconsin from 1999 to 2003.

Nir graduated cum laude with a bachelor's degree from the Department of Middle Eastern and African studies at Tel Aviv University. Nir received his master's degree in Contemporary Jewish Studies from the Hebrew University in Jerusalem. Rabbi Nir Barkin was ordained at HUC-JIR in 2007.

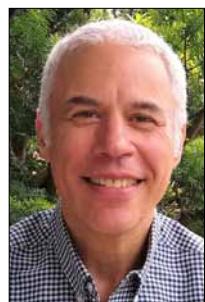


## WRT Chai Society Homecoming - SAVE THE DATE!

Please mark your calendar for the 12th Annual Chai Society Dinner and Service on Friday, May 13, 2022. Following our tradition, we will honor WRT members who have earned the distinction of 18+ years of membership.

We hope to finally reconnect in person, when we will joyfully celebrate seeing each other and worshiping together. We anticipate being with you in the Spring!





# Warren Haber

## President's Message

Throughout my family's religious journey at WRT, we frequently sang *L'dor Vador* ("from generation to generation") with the community. Those of you familiar with the lyrics (see below) know that the song highlights both the importance of our history and of our future. By looking backwards and forwards *together*, our role bridging the two perspectives becomes clearer. For this reason, I find myself frequently contemplating this question: How can we reinforce these links in the chain so as to ensure a stronger future for the next generation? To that end, below are three examples in which "the words bring us meaning" so that we have the "strength to say *l'dor vador*."

In 2007, our Congregation initiated a capital campaign to construct a new sanctuary and *Beit Midrash* (a house for lifelong Jewish learning) showcasing our Jewish values. Many of us have celebrated lifecycle events in this sacred space. We have prayed there on Shabbat and Holidays, and have studied our sacred tradition within its walls. However, not everyone is aware that in August of that year, in order to fulfill this dream, we secured a \$12 million loan with Allied Irish Bank which was subsequently refinanced with a Bank of America loan which matures in June 2022. Over time, we have made annual principal payments to reduce this obligation. Nevertheless, due to the constraints it placed on our operating budget, this loan has been a recurring topic of discussion for our Finance Committee, Board and congregation. After fourteen years, I am proud to announce that under the fiscal stewardship of our lay (Andrew Frankle, Treasurer) and professional leadership (Eli Kornreich, Executive Director), we are fortunately in the financial position to retire this debt. I also want to thank past presidents Marcy Harris, Helene Gray, Lisa Messinger, and Ellen Sunness, and past treasurers Franklin Speiser, Mark Ellman, and Peter Gatof, all of whom had a hand in negotiating and helping WRT to carry this loan from inception to completion.

Another example of "protecting the chain" is our Jewish Learning Lab. Our community of teachers and learners is literally tasked with educating the next generation on our stories. We are blessed with leaders who have educated the next generation's "carriers of wisdom," especially Rabbi David Levy who has directed the Jewish Learning Lab since its debut with eagerness and strength. To continue to go from strength to strength, a Search Committee led by trustees Rabbi Sharon Forman and Andrew Levine worked tirelessly throughout last year to identify a full-time Director of the JLL. Their exhaustive process resulted in recruiting a WRT alum who was committed to bringing their collective wisdom back to our community. As was recently announced, we are so fortunate that Rabbi Leah Citrin will be returning home in July 2022 to lead the Jewish Learning Lab. We are confident in her ability to continue the legacy of *nagid godelecha* ("telling of your greatness").

Our leadership stories are diverse. Although not widely publicized, there are noteworthy Jews who have distinguished themselves in sports. Thanks to an initiative by the Men of Reform Judaism at WRT and the Jewish Learning Lab, Coach Joe Levine will facilitate a discussion with Robb Paller who is an American baseball player. His life experiences led him to play for Team Israel at the Tokyo Olympics this year. Among other topics, he will discuss the feelings that come with being Israeli. On Sunday, November 21, Mr. Paller visits WRT to share his experience becoming a citizen of Israel while remaining an American. His career exemplifies what it means to "learn to be strong," both physically and spiritually.

In summary, I invite you to join our sacred WRT community in seeking out ways to "protect this chain."

*L'Dor Vador - From Generation to Generation*

*Words and Music © 2007 Josh Nelson Music (BMI)*

*We are gifts and we are blessings, we are history in song  
We are hope and we are healing, we are learning to be strong  
We are words and we are stories, we are pictures of the past  
We are carriers of wisdom, not the first and not the last*

*L'dor vador nagid godelecha*

*(From generation to generation, we will tell of Your greatness)*

*L'dor vador... we protect this chain*

*From generation to generation*

*L'dor vador, these lips will praise Your name*

*Looking back on the journey that we carry in our heart*

*From the shadow of the mountain to the waters that would part*

*We are blessed and we are holy, we are children of Your way*

*And the words that bring us meaning, we will have the strength to say*

*L'dor vador*

# Talmud Torah: Adult Education

תלמוד תורה

Learning

## Mishna: The Building Blocks of Jewish Life

Led by Rabbi Jonathan Blake

Thursdays, December 2 and 9 at 10:15 am (via Zoom)

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

## Rosh Chodesh 5782

Led by Cantor Amanda Kleinman and Cantor Danielle Rodnizki

Tuesdays, December 7, January 4 and February 1 at 11:30 am

Join our cantors and a diverse group of women for a monthly, midday infusion of community, ritual, sharing, and study as we mark each new month on the Hebrew calendar. This year, Rosh Chodesh will include opportunities to learn in the style of our "And She Said" class, to celebrate happy occasions, and to hold space for one another in times of challenge or healing.



Cantor Amanda Kleinman



Cantor Danielle Rodnizki

## Unpacking the Prayerbook

Led by Rabbi David Levy

Thursday January 6 and 13 at 9:30 am (via Zoom)

If you want to know what Jews believe: look at our prayer book. Within its pages you will find an outline of our belief system, and in this class we will carefully look at the Hebrew words and phrases, and unpack the deeper meaning of each prayer. No previous Hebrew knowledge is required.



Rabbi David Levy

## Bible as Literature

Led by Rabbi Daniel Reiser

Thursdays, January 20, 27, February 3, 10, 17 at 10:15 am

Back by popular demand! 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 five-week course, we will study the first five chapters of the Book of Genesis (our origin stories), 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.



Rabbi Daniel Reiser

## Advanced Hebrew Bible Class: A Study Of Tanach

Led by Jane Roberts

Wednesdays, 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 janeteach@aol.com.



Jane Roberts

## Advanced Jewish Learning for Melton Alumni

Tuesday evenings, ongoing from  
September to May

Alumni of our Melton school are invited to continue their advanced Jewish learning through an alumni initiative. Interested in learning more? Contact Rabbi Reiser at [rabbi.reiser@wrtemple.org](mailto:rabbi.reiser@wrtemple.org).

## Alef, Bet and Beyond: Beginner Hebrew

Led by Nancy Abraham

Have you always considered learning Hebrew? Now is the perfect time! For more information, please contact Nancy Abraham at [nancy.abraham@wrtemple.org](mailto:nancy.abraham@wrtemple.org).



Nancy Abraham

# 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.

For more information about WRJ, go to the WRT website at [www.wrtemple.org/engage/women-of-reform-judaism](http://www.wrtemple.org/engage/women-of-reform-judaism), or contact Fran Scheffler-Siegel, *WRJ President*, [franschefflerwrj@gmail.com](mailto:franschefflerwrj@gmail.com), or Sarah Kagan, *WRJ Vice-President, Membership*, [WRJoin@wrtemple.org](mailto:WRJoin@wrtemple.org)

## Rosh Chodesh

Rosh Chodesh (Head of the Month) is the name for the first day of every month in the Hebrew calendar, marked by the birth of a new moon. The connection between Rosh Chodesh and women dates back to the times of the Bible. When women refused to participate in the sin of the Golden Calf, they were rewarded with Rosh Chodesh. (see page 7 for details)

## Havdallah with Cantor Kleinman and Cantor Rodnizki

**Saturday, December 4 and February 5 at 7:30 pm**

Join the WRT Cantors as WRJ and friends bid farewell to Shabbat with one of Judaism's most beautiful rituals, the ceremony of Havdalah. As the symbols of Havdalah engage our senses and its beautiful melodies feed our souls, we'll explore how this brief but powerful ritual can nourish our spirits for the week ahead. ALL ARE WELCOME.



Sasha Baken

## Mussar

**Friday, December 10, January 14, and February 11 at 12:00 noon**

Rabbinical student Sasha Baken guides us in our spiritual study and heightens our understanding of the principles of Mussar. Mussar elevates our spiritual perspective as well as offering insights into the 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.

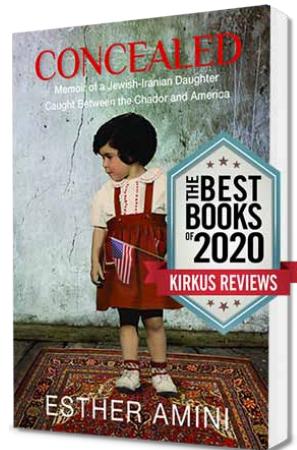
We will examine lessons from Jewish scripture and apply techniques like journaling, chanting and meditating as methods to balance our middot. According to the practice of Mussar, all character traits (even anxiety!) are valuable to our lives, but we can manage the levels to which they affect our being. 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. ALL ARE WELCOME.

## Book Discussion

**Thursday, December 16 (via Zoom)**

**Meet and Greet at 6:45 pm, Author Book Talk at 7:00 pm**

Join WRJ online for an online book talk with the author of "Concealed: Memoir of a Jewish-Iranian Daughter Caught Between the Chador and America." Author Esther Amini grew up in Queens, New York during the freewheeling 1960s. She also grew up in a Persian-Jewish household, the American-born daughter of parents who had fled Mashhad, Iran. In Concealed, she tells the story of being caught between these two worlds: the dutiful daughter of tradition-bound parents who hungers for more self-determination than tradition allows. Registration for Zoom login will be available in upcoming eblasts.



## General Meeting and Winter Program

**Tuesday, January 25 (via Zoom)**

**General Meeting at 12:00 noon, Program 12:30 pm**

The Word Mavens: A humorous look at Jewish Culture and language.  
Save the date for this special zoom event. More information to follow.

# Men of Reform Judaism

The Men of Reform Judaism at WRT (formally the Men's Club) is a fellowship of men who aspire to Tikkun Hanefesh (Self Improvement) and Tikkun Olam (Repair of the World). MRJ at WRT is a group who provide intellect, vision and develop spirit. Our members recognize their obligation to our Jewish heritage and values.

Our purpose as one of the active pillars of Temple is to:

- Build friendships and community within WRT.
- Create occasions which will enhance the mutual interests of our congregants and in doing that create long lasting relationships.
- Help assure that our community and institution continue L'dor V'dor. (From Generation to Generation).
- Provide resources, both human and financial to support community service programs.
- Strengthen the voice of Jews world wide by participating in our Temple efforts and those of the URJ organization of Men of Reform Judaism which promote justice and understanding.

## Programs for 5782 (2021-2022)

### • Community Service

- Blood Drive
- AFYA Foundation Sorting medical supplies to donate to areas of natural disasters and poverty
- Sponsor the Westchester Jewish Basketball League 5th -12th grades
- Deliver food to home-bound people at times like Passover



### • Occasions of Mutual Interest

- Fishing trip
- Meet and interact with an American Baseball player who competed for Israel at the Tokyo Olympics
- Learn about Jewish Genealogy
- Participate in a Men's Seder

### • Learning Opportunities

- A breakfast with Nadav Shachmon and Rabbi Blake
- Jewish Hero's – discussions with the originators of the Pfizer and Moderna Covid 19 vaccines (webinar)
- What is the first Reform Rabbi serving as a member of the Knesset saying and doing? (webinar)
- A Retreat with the Rabbi to allow the body, mind and soul to replenish its energies away from the often-exhausting routine of daily life

### • From Generation to Generation

- Meet Actor/Producer Aaron Wolf who made the documentary "Restoring Tomorrow." Why we need to be good ancestors (Zoom)
- Joellyn Zollman, Professor of Jewish History will tell us about Pacific Jews -Jewish History and Identity in the American West (Zoom)



For more information visit:  
[www.wrtemple.org/engage/men-reform-judaism](http://www.wrtemple.org/engage/men-reform-judaism)

Or contact our Co-Presidents:

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תְּבָרֶךָ

Community

## WRT Helping Neighboring Communities During the Pandemic

"Neighbor is not a geographic term. It is a moral concept"  
(Rabbi Joachim Printz)

Embodying Rabbi Prinz's comment, early on in the pandemic, the WRT community mobilized to mitigate food insecurity with five neighboring community partners —HOPE Community Services in New Rochelle, Meals on Wheels in Port Chester, Mt. Vernon Social Services Dept., Community Center of Northern Westchester in Katonah, and the Good Shepherd Presbyterian Church in Yonkers.

Volunteers alternate weeks according to their availability, and we usually have about 20 shoppers, bakers and packers helping out every week! Over 100 WRT households have prepared about 40,000 lunch or snack bags (at a cost of about \$1.60 each)— bags contain a cheese sandwich (whole wheat bread!), a mustard pack, apple or vegetable sauce, an organic juice box, a granola bar, and a home-baked goodie to add a sweet personal touch to the bags. Last fall and this fall we even added to the bags hundreds of apples provided by one of our members with a home and many apple trees in the Berkshires.



Our volunteers span all WRT demographics from ages 2-96 — ECC families with very young children, JLL Family Mitzvah corps families and children, teens, students, free birds, and seniors. Many of the volunteers have told us how meaningful and important their participation has been to their families as so many of us looked for ways during such a difficult period to feel we were reaching out to families facing food insecurity, unemployment and even eviction.



And, during the time that the WRT kitchen has been closed for our last-Monday-of-the-month preparation of 110-125 hot meals, we have delivered to our long-term partner HOPE about 2000 catered Chinese dinners ((at a cost of \$7.20 per meal), supporting a local Chinese take-out as well as providing a special treat to those who line up at HOPE for hot meals.

WRT's Cooking4HOPE team has also mobilized congregants together with our clergy to help our partners with more than food: winter clothing, children's backpacks filled with school supplies, and gift cards to distribute to families to buy turkeys and Thanksgiving supplies.

We've been able to do this because well over 100 members have donated more than \$75,000 to WRT's Hungry & Homeless Fund to cover our outlays since the pandemic began. In addition, the fund has been able to make several generous financial donations in support of Feeding Westchester and HOPE.

Our cash reserves are running down after such a busy year, so please help us continue helping our neighbors in the coming winter months by supporting the HUNGRY AND HOMELESS FUND. Donations may be made by credit cards online through the WRT website or by checks mailed to WRT. And we are always looking for new volunteers to bake or pack or organize. Congregants interested in giving a few hours a week occasionally or regularly can sign up with Deb Kolodner at [debra.kolodner@gmail.com](mailto:debra.kolodner@gmail.com).

We can all be incredibly proud of our WRT community's mobilization to help neighboring communities in the past year and a half. May we have the strength and energy to continue building our Tikkun Olam pillar.

The Cooking4HOPE team

### Caring Community

Caring Volunteers continue to support members of our temple community in times of joy and in times of need.

Please contact us at [caringcommunity@wrtemple.org](mailto:caringcommunity@wrtemple.org), if you or someone you know is in need of care, or if you would like to volunteer. Donations to the Caring Community Fund dedicated to Ann R. Miller are welcome.

Joan Frankle and Donna Polayes, Co-chairs  
and Amy Rossberg, Pastoral Care Coordinator

## Parental Loss Support Group

**Wednesdays, January 5, 12, 19, 26 and February 2 at 11:30 am (via Zoom)**

This Support Group meets to create community for those in mourning over the loss of a parent, and to help find comfort and process feelings of loss through caring discussion and in sacred Jewish context. Led by Jane Slevin, LMFT (Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist from Westchester Jewish Community Services), and Cantor Laura Stein, LMSW, a social worker who specializes in spiritual care. RSVP to Suzanne.Saperstein@wrtemple.org and register your attendance to join this group.

## Living with Divorce: Support Group

**Wednesday, December 15, Tuesday, January 11 and February 15 at 7:00 pm**

**Thursday, January 6 at 10:30 am (off-site)**

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 serves as the clergy partner in this endeavor, alongside Jane Slevin, LMFT (Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist) from Westchester Jewish Community Service. Together, they lead our monthly support group. Wherever you are in the journey of divorce or single parenting, we welcome 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.

## Racial Justice Equity Initiative

**Thursday, December 9 at 7:30 pm**

WRT's Racial Justice Working Group is exploring the function of race in our society – and fighting for a more equitable world. For more information about upcoming opportunities to learn and to act for justice, please email co-chairs Eve Landau at elal2922@gmail.com and Rita Freedman at freedmanrj@aol.com.

## Evening Book Group

**Tuesdays (once a month) at 7:30 pm**

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

## FreeBirds

If you're at a stage of life where you are feeling "free as a bird," with more time to engage with peers and explore your interests, come join us! Offering a variety of monthly activities, ranging from game nights to trips to Europe, the Free Bird community offers members a fun and active way to create connection with each other, our clergy, and Judaism. For more information about our Free Birds events, please contact Lori Gertzog at lori.gertzog@gmail.com.

## Chanukah Happy Hour

**Thursday, December 2 at 7:00 pm**

Join Rabbi Blake and the FreeBirds with an evening celebration for Chanukah. More details to be announced.



## 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 homeless shelters, 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 (allisonefriedland@gmail.com), or sign-up here: [bit.ly/WRT\\_FMC](http://bit.ly/WRT_FMC) (case sensitive)

## BetterTogether: Community from Generation to Generation

The BetterTogether program, run through WRT's Jewish Learning Lab, seeks to create intergenerational relationships within our community.

We believe that everyone has the ability to connect, come together, pray and learn. This year-long program creates life long memories and mentorship opportunities. If you are a senior or a teen looking for the opportunity to engage in services, social action and learning, e-mail [JLLAdmin@wrtemple.org](mailto:JLLAdmin@wrtemple.org).

# Early Childhood Center (ECC)



**Susan Tolchin**  
Director of ECC

At WRT's Early Childhood Center, we endeavor to connect with children and parents in meaningful ways. Children learn and practice Jewish values, here at WRT. Our warm, nurturing teachers provide them with creative ways to express their ideas. At the ECC, all children and parents are valued.

Within our Early Childhood Center, we focus on small group learning. There are many benefits to small group activities in the classroom, for both children and educators. 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 great 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 develop cooperation skills, conversation skills, and discover how to share and be fair.

Small group activities allow teachers to encourage friendships between children who may not normally gravitate to one and other. This can help create a more inclusive atmosphere within the classroom. These smaller groups also allow staff to watch children more closely and observe their behavior when working as a team. This child-centered developmental strategy for teaching young children has been successful. We always look for growth and happiness, which is what preschool is all about!

At the ECC, one of our goals is to instill a love of Jewish learning that will continue after the children have moved on from our ECC. WRT's Jewish Learning Lab (JLL) is the next step in fostering a continuation of Jewish learning and values for students. During their preschool years, we introduce children to holidays and traditions through songs and celebrations. This learning continues in the JLL.

As always, our ECC is a family and we welcome parent volunteers and parent involvement. Our ECC Co-chairs help us organize many of these parent participation events and opportunities. Parents participate in both social and philanthropic events surrounding our community.

Please note that registration for the 2022-2023 school year is on-going. Summer Play Place Camp information will be available in January. For more information or to tour our school, contact the ECC Director Sue Tolchin at [sue.tolchin@wrtemple.org](mailto:sue.tolchin@wrtemple.org) or the ECC Assistant Director Rebecca Roseman at [Rebecca.roseman@wrtemple.org](mailto:Rebecca.roseman@wrtemple.org) or call 914-723-5493.



Pictured: Sue Tolchin and Rebecca Roseman cutting the ribbon at the dedication ceremony of the new ECC Playground on October 7, 2021.

## September Saturday Event

### Family Apple-Picking at Wilkens Fruit Farm

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

## Sukkot Musical Family Program - Fall Event

Celebrate Sukkot with WRT in an outdoor story and song experience for families with young children led by master storyteller, educator, folk singer, and banjo player, Bill Gordh, along with Cantors Kleinman and Rodnizki. Sukkot is a celebration of the fall harvest, during which we give thanks for what we have and also acknowledge the fragility and vulnerability of life. Sitting together in the Sukkah, Bill's stories and music will transport us and help us reconnect with a sense of inner gratitude.

## Other events that take place during the year and offered to our ECC families (*offered as guidelines allow*):

### Connections Shabbat Monthly

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

### ECC Enrollment for 2022-23

Enrollment is ongoing until we are completely enrolled.

### Chanukah Celebration: Milk and Cookies with the Cantors

This festive pajama event includes story time, cookies, milk and Chanukah songs.

### Mom's Night Out

### Dad's Night Out

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

### Israel Virtual Trip

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

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

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

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)

### Summer Play Place Camp

Registration information available in January.

# 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."

## Celebrating the Dedication of our newest JLL Learners

**Friday December 3, 2021**

5:45 pm - Outdoor Candle lighting, Hot Cocoa, and Jelly Doughnuts  
6:15 pm - Shabbat Service & Blessing our newest learners

On this Shabbat Chanukah, we invite all of our new learners to be blessed as a part of our Friday night service. At 5:45 pm, come join us for a sweet taste of Chanukah, and please bring an unwrapped new toy to donate to The WJCS Annual Have a Heart for the Holidays Gift Drive. We will then gather for an intergenerational service at 6:15 with a story, a special blessing from the clergy, and a Shabbat gift.

## Sixth Grade Family Shabbaton

**Friday, February 4 and Saturday, February 5**

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.

## Beyond the Lab!

Throughout the year, you will see invitations to a variety of Beyond the Lab initiatives, including pop-up events for our WRKids (K-4), J-Lective opportunities for our WRTweens (5-7) & a series of engaging opportunities for our WRTeens (8-12). Also, keep an eye out for special travel opportunities for our 3rd & 4th grade families, 5th grade families, 8th grade families, & 9th grade families.

## 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 knew that they 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 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.
- 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 [JLL@wrtemple.org](mailto:JLL@wrtemple.org) to be added to our weekly email updates.

For more information, contact: **David E. Levy**, Associate Rabbi and JLL Director at [Rabbi.Levy@wrtemple.org](mailto:Rabbi.Levy@wrtemple.org)

# WRT Calendar of Events and Services

## December

**Wednesday, December 1** - Chanukah - fourth candle  
11:30 am Parental Loss Support Group

**Thursday, December 2** - Chanukah - fifth candle  
10:15 am Mishna Class with Rabbi Blake  
7:00 pm FreeBirds Chanukah Happy Hour

**Friday, December 3** - Chanukah - sixth candle  
5:45 pm Outdoor Menorah Lighting  
6:15 pm Shabbat Service- Chanukah Celebration

**Saturday, December 4** - Chanukah - seventh candle  
9:00 am Torah Study  
9:00 am Sharing Shabbat  
10:00 am Shabbat Morning Service  
B'nei Mitzvah of Jacob Barr  
and Rachel Barr  
5:00 pm Shabbat Afternoon Service  
Bar Mitzvah of Gavin Wollen  
7:30 pm WRJ Havdalah

**Saturday, December 5** - Chanukah - eighth candle

**Tuesday, December 7**  
11:30 am Rosh Chodesh 5782

**Wednesday, December 8**  
11:30 am Parental Loss Support Group

**Thursday, December 9**  
10:15 am Mishna Class with Rabbi Blake  
7:30 pm Racial Justice Initiative

**Friday, December 10**  
12:00 pm WRJ Mussar  
6:15 pm Shabbat Service

**Saturday, December 11**  
9:00 am Torah Study  
9:00 am Sharing Shabbat  
10:00 am Shabbat Morning Service  
Bar Mitzvah of Micah Robins  
5:00 pm Shabbat Afternoon Service  
Bat Mitzvah of Ella Trager

**Wednesday, December 15**  
11:30 am Parental Loss Support Group  
7:00 pm Living with Divorce

**Thursday, December 16**  
6:45 pm WRJ Book Discussion

**Friday, December 17**  
6:15 pm Shabbat Service

**Saturday, December 18**  
9:00 am Torah Study

**Friday, December 24** - Offices Closed  
5:00 pm Early Shabbat Service

**Saturday, December 25**  
9:00 am Torah Study

**Friday, December 31** - Offices Closed  
5:00 pm Early Shabbat Service

## January

**Saturday, January 1**  
9:00 am Torah Study

**Tuesday, January 4**  
11:30 am Rosh Chodesh 5782  
7:00 pm Men of Reform Judaism Meeting

**Thursday, January 6**  
9:30 am Unpacking the Prayerbook  
10:30 am Living with Divorce (off-site)

**Friday, January 7**  
5:30 pm Connections Shabbat  
6:15 pm Shabbat Service

**Saturday, January 8**  
9:00 am Torah Study  
9:00 am Sharing Shabbat

**Tuesday, January 11**  
7:00 pm Living with Divorce

**Thursday, January 13**  
9:30 am Unpacking the Prayerbook  
7:30 pm Men's Club Webinar

**Friday, January 14**  
12:00 pm WRJ Mussar  
6:15 pm Shabbat Service

**Saturday, January 15**  
9:00 am Torah Study  
5:00 pm Sharing Shabbat Service  
Bat Mitzvah of Reese Newman

**Monday, January 17** - Offices Closed  
Martin Luther King, Jr. Day (observed)

**Thursday, January 20**  
10:15 am Bible as Literature with Rabbi Reiser

**Friday, January 21**  
6:15 pm Shabbat Service

**Saturday, January 22**  
9:00 am Torah Study  
9:00 am Sharing Shabbat  
5:00 pm Sharing Shabbat Service  
Bar Mitzvah of Nash Vickers

**Tuesday, January 25**  
12:30 pm WRJ Winter Program

**Thursday, January 27**  
10:15 am Bible as Literature with Rabbi Reiser

**Friday, January 28**  
6:15 pm Shabbat Service

**Saturday, January 29**  
9:00 am Torah Study  
9:00 am Sharing Shabbat  
5:00 pm Sharing Shabbat Service  
Bar Mitzvah of Joshua Sherman

## February

**Tuesday, February 1**  
11:30 am Rosh Chodesh 5782  
7:00 pm Men of Reform Judaism Meeting

**Thursday, February 3**  
10:15 am Bible as Literature with Rabbi Reiser

**Friday, February 4**  
6:15 pm Shabbat Service

**Saturday, February 5**  
9:00 am Torah Study  
9:00 am Sharing Shabbat  
7:30 pm WRJ Havdalah

**Thursday, February 10**  
10:15 am Bible as Literature with Rabbi Reiser

**Friday, February 11**  
12:00 pm WRJ Mussar  
5:30 pm Connections Shabbat  
6:15 pm Shabbat Service

**Saturday, February 12**  
9:00 am Torah Study  
9:00 am Sharing Shabbat

**Tuesday, February 15**  
7:00 pm Living with Divorce

**Thursday, February 17**  
10:15 am Bible as Literature with Rabbi Reiser

**Friday, February 18**  
6:15 pm Shabbat Service

**Saturday, February 19**  
9:00 am Torah Study

**Monday, February 21** - Offices Closed  
Presidents Day (observed)

**Friday, February 25**  
6:15 pm Shabbat Service

**Saturday, February 26**  
9:00 am Torah Study



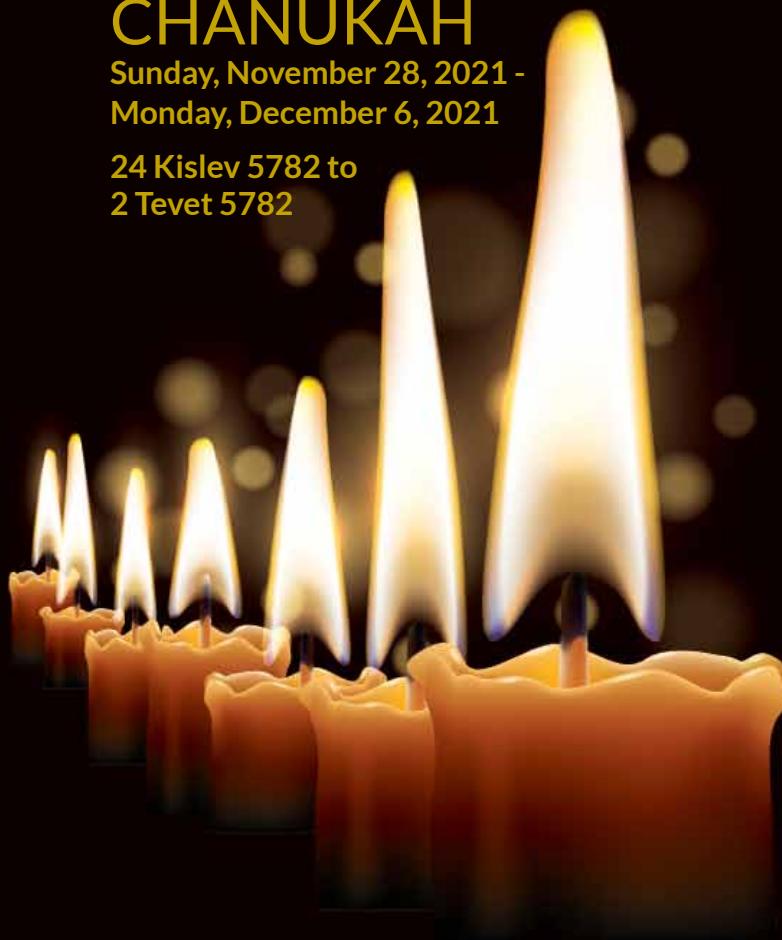
## CHANUKAH

Sunday, November 28, 2021 -

Monday, December 6, 2021

24 Kislev 5782 to

2 Tevet 5782



### Lighting of the Candles

The Festival of Chanukah begins at sundown on Sunday, November 28 with the lighting of the first candle. On each successive night we add one more candle to the Menorah. The candles are placed in the Menorah from right to left and are lighted from left to right.

Each new candle is special. Let us acknowledge the uniqueness of Chanukah by dedicating each one to an important theme inherent both in Chanukah and Judaism.

The following words can be used to preface the blessings. Members of your household might add their own hopes and prayers on these themes.

*"Tonight as we celebrate the \_\_\_ day of Chanukah, we kindle these lights and rededicate ourselves to the concept of..."*

- First night – *Herut* (freedom)
- Second night – *Mishpachah* (family)
- Third night – *Talmud Torah* (learning)
- Fourth night – *Tikvah* (hope)
- Fifth night – *Shalom* (peace)
- Sixth night – *Tzedakah* (deeds of righteousness)
- Seventh night – *Chevrutah* (partnership)
- Eighth night – *Emunah* (faith) from which we can find inspiration and guidance as our ancestors did.