April 8-9
Morgan z”l and Marjorie Scholar-in-Residence Weekend:
Featuring Rabbi Dr. Wendy Zierler  pg. 5

May 20 -22
A Weekend to Honor and Bless
Rabbi David Levy  pg. 5

Community Purim Celebration pg. 7
JLL Pre-Purim-Palooza pg. 13

Passover Services  pg. 5
WRJ Passover Seder pg. 10
MenRJ Passover Round Table Discussion pg. 11

FreeBirds Winter Series - Sound of the Spirit pg. 9
Contents

3 Cantor Kleinman’s Message
6 President’s Message
7 Purim Celebration
8 Adult Education
9 Living with Divorce Group
10 Women of Reform Judaism
11 Men of Reform Judaism
12 Early Childhood Center
13 Jewish Learning Lab
14 Mazal Tov
15 Condolences
16-17 Contributions
18 Inspired Giving
19 Calendar

4-5 Services and Events

Kabbalat Shabbat
Torah Study
Sharing Shabbat
Connections Shabbat
Family Tefillah with the JLL
Scholar-in-Residence Weekend
Weekend to Honor Rabbi Levy
Passover Services
Service of Responsibility Shabbat
Chai Society Shabbat

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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Cantor Kleinman’s Message

My first Passover seder with my husband Danny’s family awakened me to the power of communal song in a new way. Not only are Danny’s parents both renowned cantors themselves, but they are each descended from generations of clergy before them. I watched, mesmerized, as my father-in-law (guitar in hand) and my mother-in-law, (chiming in from the piano) told the stories of our people and the stories of their family through the melodies of the seder. I listened as my father-in-law chanted the narrative passages of the Haggadah to a nusach (musical chant) handed down to him by his own father, and I heard, for the first time, a beautiful Middle Eastern setting of Ha Lachma Anya (“This is the bread of the affliction”). I especially loved how, following the festive meal, even as the hour grew late, we sang many of the concluding songs of the seder twice, once to the melody composed and handed down by my mother-in-law’s ancestors, and once to the melody of my father-in-law’s family. Every song brought to life its own story. By singing those songs together, we all became part of their family’s story and, in an indescribable sort of way, we all became part of the story of our people.

We begin many services at WRT with a declaration of the power of congregational song and prayer from Psalm 133: “Hinei mah tov u’mah na-im, shevet achim gam yachad” - “Behold, how good it is when brothers and sisters dwell together” (and sing together!). I became a cantor because I believe congregational song binds us to our community, to our history, and to the Jewish people. This experience of the pandemic has challenged the very foundations of that purpose, as we have struggled to find ways to sing together safely. I admit, I long for the day when we can once again raise our voices in song together in a packed sanctuary. Still, I am proud of the creative ways in which we have continued to sing together: we have created beautiful music videos, highlighting the voices of our congregation; a few months ago, our community braved the chilly weather to welcome Chanukah outdoors as our youth and adult choirs sang together for the first time in over a year; in the fall, we welcomed some of our Movement’s leading musical artists, composers, and prayer leaders for a powerful weekend of song formally welcoming Cantor Rodnizki into our WRT community.

As we approach Passover, I draw inspiration from our people’s very first congregational song, the Song of the Sea, which the Israelites sang when they crossed the Red Sea as newly freed people, and which we will chant as our Torah portion at the end of the holiday. While the Israelites certainly felt tremendous joy, gratitude, and the excitement of possibility, I can only imagine that the crossing of the Red Sea was also filled with anticipation of the unknown and fear of the wilderness ahead. And yet, in that moment, the Israelites set aside the uncertainty of the future to lean into the present together. The psalmist bids us: “Shiru l’Adonai shir chadash” - “Sing unto God a new song.” The past two years have challenged us to find new ways to sing, to gather, and to observe. Let us strive, each day, even (and especially) as the world continues to throw curveballs our way, to find new ways to come together in song, in prayer, in service, and in community.
Avodah: Worship and Spirituality

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.

Participate alongside fellow congregants in-person, or join us on any of our live-streaming platforms:
- WRT Livestream - www.wrtemple.org/live-stream/
- WRT Facebook - www.facebook.com/WestchesterReformTemple/
- WRT YouTube - 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, March 25 and May 20, 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.

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)
Services and Events

Annual Morgan z”l and Marjorie Miller Scholar-in-Residence Weekend: Featuring Rabbi Dr. Wendy Zierler

Friday and Saturday, April 8-9 (specific times and topics forthcoming)
Join us for our annual weekend of high-level learning as we welcome to WRT our scholar-in-residence, Rabbi Dr. Wendy Zierler -- and as we honor and pay tribute to the late Morgan Miller, of blessed memory, in whose name, along with his wife, Margie, our annual scholar-in-residence weekend has been established.

Rabbi Wendy Zierler, Ph.D., M.A., M.F.A., is Sigmund Falk Professor of Modern Jewish Literature and Feminist Studies at HUC-JIR in New York. She received her Ph.D. and her MA from Princeton University and her BA from Stern College of Yeshiva University and an MFA in Fiction Writing from Sarah Lawrence College. In June 2021, she received rabbinic ordination from Yeshivat Maharat. She is the author of Movies and Midrash: Popular Film and Jewish Religious Conversation (SUNY Press, Finalist for the National Jewish Book Award in Modern Jewish Thought and Experience, 2017) and of And Rachel Stole the Idols: The Emergence of Hebrew Women’s Writing (Wayne State UP, 2004), and has also authored, edited, and translated many other articles and books in the fields of Jewish literature, and Jewish Gender Studies.

Passover Festival Morning Service
Saturday, April 16 at 10:00 am

Passover Yizkor Service
Friday, April 22 at 10:00 am

Service of Responsibility Shabbat
Friday, April 22 at 6:15 pm
Yom HaShoah v’Ha-G’vurah is a day for remembering the tragedy and celebrating the heroes of the Holocaust. Join us at Shabbat for our observance of this solemn day, as we hear the story of a local Holocaust survivor — and in so doing, honor the memories of the six million Jews and five million others who perished at the hands of the Nazi regime.

Chai Society Shabbat
Friday, May 13 at 6:15 pm
Join us to honor members of long standing whose dedication and devotion to WRT has been so vital to its success. The first WRT Chai Society event was held in the fall of 2009. Now we look forward to our 13th year of honoring congregants who have been WRT members for 18 years or more.

Confirmation Service and Shavuot
Sunday, June 5, 10:00 am
Over the past year, our twenty-nine 10th grade Confirmation students have been learning, engaging in community service, and building community with one another — in preparation for their Confirmation service. Join us on Shavuot as this remarkable group of teenagers leads the congregation in prayer, study, and song — and they take on a new mantle of Jewish leadership.

This year’s Confirmation class: Monica Afran, Danielle Barro, Natalie Beldner, Samantha Fenigstein, Jack Finegold, Ariella Fishman, Leo Fried, Cole Gerson, Ryan Goldenberg, Daniel Gray, Ashley Gross, Noah Grossberg, Dillon Harris, Ben Kawai, Alexander Klein, Ella Krausz, Remy Leuchter, Emily Levine, Riley Meltz, Luke Polatsch, Max Siegel, Samantha Siegel, Chase Simon, Evan Smith, Randee Smith, Vanessa Thurman, Abigail Underweiser, Gabrielle Wiener, and Rachel Zwaig.
What is it about music that is so integral to our tradition? At the end of Moses’ storied leadership, he is preparing to pass the torch to his successor Joshua. Before this shift, God commands Moses to “write for yourselves this song and teach it to the children of Israel, put it in their mouths, that this song may be a witness for Me among the children of Israel” (32:19).

Although Rashi and others literally interpret the verse to refer to the following song of Haazinu (32:1-43), the oral tradition interprets the statement differently. Specifically, “this song” actually refers to the entire Torah as a melody.

Maimonides states that every Israelite is commanded to write a Torah scroll for himself as it says “Now therefore write this song” meaning, “write for yourselves [a complete copy of] the Torah that contains this song.” According to Rabbi Sacks, “the oral tradition is hinting at a set of very deep ideas. ‘We received the Torah from Moses,’ or ‘from our parents.’ We have to take the Torah and make it new in every generation.” While the Reform tradition embraces change, this oral tradition hints at something deeper: that music can be viewed as an actual catalyst for change.

By singing The “Song of the Sea” we emulate what our ancestors did, as they crossed the Red Sea into safety. The layout of the Hebrew text is unique to the entire scripture. Pundits posit that the text is actually scribed onto the parchment as if the reader were looking at the actual sea. So, the question remains, why was it so important for our predecessors to orient this text in such an unusual configuration? Although there are many interpretations of this passage, the most compelling one is that the formatting mimics singing through its wave-like versification. The reason is that singing draws us into the present while simultaneously harkening us back to the past.

This transcendence of time empowers us to make meaning of the Torah by envisioning it as a scaffold for our future.

Consider that the entire Torah has been cantillated so that any individual, irrespective of their musical background or skills, can chant every single verse of the scripture. Despite the predominant uniformity of the musical inflections transposed onto our text, each individual chants a portion in their own unique way. In essence, chanting is a means to encourage any Jew to sing the text aloud bringing their unique tune to the overall diasporic symphony. Sages concur that chanting clearly distinguishes between a secular and sacred reading. However, there is an additional perspective. The actual process of chanting, given each of our unique interpretations of the text and the cantillations, enables the individual to re-imagine the text in their own unique way, offering a personal contribution to our tradition.

In essence, singing sacred texts allows us Jews to not only transcend time but to also reform our tradition in an intimate way.

Since music serves as an emotional and spiritual access point to our traditions, WRT strives to bring the joy of music to congregants in every stage and cohort through the infusion of music into all areas of synagogue life. For this reason, we are establishing a Fund for Jewish Music and Spirituality which will support special programming, vocal artists, instrumentalists and technical support. So when you begin celebrating the Passover Seder on April 15, take a moment to not only think about the generations of our ancestors who have celebrated their freedom in song, but to also give some thought to how you are reforming our tradition through music, and expanding the sharing of song with our community. Each and every time we sing our melodies or chant Torah, we are making a unique contribution to our evolving tradition.
Talmud Torah: Adult Education

Rosh Chodesh 5782
Led by Cantor Amanda Kleinman and Cantor Danielle Rodnizki
Tuesdays, March 1, April 5, May 3 and June 7 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.

Unpacking the Prayerbook
Led by Rabbi David Levy
Thursday March 3, 10, 17, 24 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.

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 janerteach@aol.com.

The Whole Megillah....in less than an hour!
Wednesday, March 16
7:00 - 8:00 pm
Join us for a fun and festive outdoor Purim celebration. Hear parts of the Megillah being chanted while enjoying hot drinks and light bites under our tents.
**Living with Divorce: Support Group**  
Tuesdays, March 22 and May 17 at 7:00 pm  
Saturday, May 7 at 10:30 am  
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.

**Spousal Loss Support Group**  
Wednesdays, March 16, 23, 30 and April 6, 20 at 11:30 am (via Zoom)  
This Support Group meets to create community for those in mourning over the loss of a spouse, 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. Please RSVP to Suzanne.Saperstein@wrtemple.org to join this group.

**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 (case sensitive)

**Racial Justice Working Group meetings**  
Thursdays, March 10, April 7; Tuesday, May 10 and Wednesday, June 15 at 7:30 pm  
Join WRT’s Racial Justice Working Group, as we learn about how racial inequity is baked into the fabric of American society, and work together to make positive changes in our society. For more information, please contact Eve Landau (elal2922@gmail.com), Rita Freedman (freedmanjr@aol.com), Rabbi Daniel Reiser (rabbi.reiser@wrtemple.org), or WRT’s Director of Social Impact and Community Engagement, Sharon Stiefel (sharon.stiefel@wrtemple.org).

**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, 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 Poleyes, Co-chairs  
and Amy Rossberg, Pastoral Care Coordinator
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 FreeBirds events, please contact Lori Gertzog at lori.gertzog@gmail.com.

FreeBirds Winter Series - Sounds of the Spirit
Thursdays, March 24 and April 21 at 7:00 pm (via Zoom)
Please join Cantor Kleinman and Cantor Rodnizki for an evening of connection through music.

What music moves you? Is it the majestic sound of the organ accompanying the cantor’s Avinu Malkeinu on the High Holidays? Is it Debbie Friedman’s folk-inspired melodies, the music of modern Israel? Or is it the music of Bob Dylan or Leonard Cohen, Taylor Swift or Lin Manuel Miranda, classical music, or even the music of another religious tradition? Believe it or not, music of every genre has a place within Jewish prayer. Join Cantors Kleinman and Rodnizki for an exploration of how music can bring modern relevance to our ancient prayers. Our sessions will focus on different approaches to Jewish prayer; we’ll listen and sing together as we consider how innovative musical interpretations help us connect to ourselves and our tradition in new ways.

There is no charge for these events. Register at https://bit.ly/33yScjt
Please contact Lori Gertzog with any questions: lori.gertzog@gmail.com

JNF-USA’s Annual Westchester Water & Wine (and Whiskey)
featuring Chef Lior Lev Sercaz
Thursday, May 12 at 7:00 pm
Lior Lev Sercaz is a world-renowned chef, spice blender, cookbook author, and culinary personality. His most recent book, Mastering Spices was named one of the best cookbooks of the year by The New York Times Book Review. Join us to hear from Lior about his groundbreaking work, and learn how he’s helping shape the future of the culinary arts through the Galilee Culinary Institute.

Galilee Culinary Institute by the Jewish National Fund is a one-of-a-kind culinary institution that combines culinary and restaurant expertise, tourism and entrepreneurship. Based in the heart of Israel’s Galilee, a mountainous region and micro-climate where fertile lands, mountains, and rivers create an unparalleled location for a thriving agricultural region, GCI is a total-immersion culinary institution. Learn more here: https://www.galileeculinaryinstitute.com/

This program is co-sponsored by Jewish National Fund and WRT. Registration and ticket packages to follow. Please email Rebecca Zimilover at rzimilover@jnf.org to learn more.

Evening Book Group
Tuesdays, March 15, April 19, May 17 and June 21 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.
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, or contact Fran Scheffler-Siegel, WRJ President, franschefflerwrj@gmail.com, or Sarah Kagan, WRJ Vice-President, Membership, 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)

Havdalah with Cantor Kleinman and Cantor Rodnizki
Saturdays, March 5, May 7 and June 4 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.

Mussar
Fridays, March 11 and April 8 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 thoughtfull 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.

WRJ Seder
Thursday, April 7 (more details to be announced)

WRJ Spring Program with Rabbi Blake
Thursday, May 19 (more details to be announced)
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.

We welcome all community members interested in developing new friendships and participating in activities which will enhance comradeship and provide meaningful service to the Temple and the community.

Our events range from fun outings to meaningful speakers/discussions to impactful community services. There is something for everyone and if not, let us know and we will do it!

MenRJ Board Meetings
Tuesdays, March 15, May 3 and June 7 at 7:30 pm
Attend monthly board meetings for a bite and discussion. We kibbitz and plan the many events and activities that the Men of Reform Judaism are part of throughout the year.

Heading Home
Sunday, March 20 at 1:00 pm
Join the MRJ trustee Joe Levine and the community for a screening of “Heading Home: The Tale of Team Israel” followed by a baseball clinic for all in attendance.

Passover Round Table Discussion
Tuesday, April 12 at 7:30 pm (via Zoom)
Passover seders past and present. How do they provide a way to pull a family together?

Annual MenRJ Retreat
Sunday, May 1 at 12:30 pm
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.

Jewish Geneology
Thursday, May 5 at 7:30 pm
Genealogist Jeff Levin will explain the process of researching our ancestors, and provide guidance on how to use the online programs and resources that are available today.

Annual MenRJ Brotherhood Award
Friday, June 10 at 6:15 pm
Find out who has been awarded this honor and listen to an inspiring message.

For more information about the MenRj, past newsletters, and upcoming programs, go to: www.wrtemple.org/engage/men-reform-judaism.

Or contact our Co-Presidents:
Eugene Weissman 914-693-4289 rweissman490@gmail.com
Mark Lewis 914-723-3766 markannelewis@msn.com
Early Childhood Center (ECC)

The Westchester Reform Temple/Early Childhood Center focuses on creating a caring atmosphere in which children are introduced to Jewish culture and traditions. Warm and nurturing teachers and clergy, coupled with the support of loving parents, allow children to engage with their peers and make significant personal progress. Our goal is to teach children the importance of kindness, compassion for others, and the significance of belonging to a community. The unconditional love and support that our staff provides help foster growth, both personally and academically. Simply put, we are here to have fun, learn and make friends!

As early childhood educators, we weave kindness into our lessons and curriculum every day. Chesed is the Hebrew word for kindness. Chesed guides how we act towards each other, it is something we do for others, it is kind heartedness. Chesed is so important that it is mentioned in the Torah almost 200 times!

Kindness is taught in a variety of ways. As teachers and parents we simply model kindness for our children. However sometimes for preschoolers, we teach empathy intentionally. For example, when we are helping children resolve conflict, we help them to see the situation from the other child’s point of view. This may be complex for preschoolers, but we are setting the groundwork for the development of empathy.

Along with our social-emotional curriculum, we celebrate Jewish holidays with one another and engage in meaningful units of study. We implement programs and play-based practices that are developmentally appropriate for all of our students. We focus on a STEAM approach to learning through Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Math. The curriculum builds from the 2’s up through the 4’s preparing your children for kindergarten and beyond. As educators, we are aware that children have a variety of learning styles and our staff is trained by professionals to enhance everyone’s experience and capabilities.

To our ECC staff, you are the best in the profession and your dedication is unmatched. To Ellen Rosenberg, our Administrative Assistant, your hard work and commitment to the ECC is so valued and appreciated!

We are so grateful to our co-chairs Mallorie Corcoran and Brooke Vaupen, along with all the parent volunteers who helped make our school year thus far a success. To our community of parents, thank you for your support, partnership, and for trusting your children to us and allowing them the gift of learning, fun and friendship. A special shout out to WRT clergy and lay leaders for their support!

For our ECC Graduate Families, this is only goodbye for now. We look forward to seeing many of you in the JLL. Please keep in touch over the summer and in the future.

With gratitude and love,

Sue Tolchin, ECC Director
Rebecca Roseman, Assistant ECC Director

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. 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.

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 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 different trucks and vehicles that include a fire engine, police car, garbage trucks, backhoes, ambulance, mail truck and the ever popular ice cream truck! (ECC children only)

Shalom Service - June 10
Our annual moving up ceremony for our fours, celebrating their accomplishments while attending our ECC.

Summer Play Place Camp - June 27- August 12
Our ECC Summer Play Place offers a fun-filled seven week program for Toddlers through Three-year-olds. Sports, water play, theme days, nature and music/movement.
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.”

Drive-Thru Pre-Purim-Palooza!
Sunday, March 13
9:30 am - ONLINE Family Purim Service, Spiel & Megillah Reading
10:30 - 1:00 pm - Community Purim Drive-Thru Carnival in the WRT Parking Lot

Join us for our incredible Drive-Thru Purim-Palooza (Purim begins the evening of March 16)! Our entire WRT community and friends are invited to experience Purim through music, stories and celebrations! The adventure begins online with a short Service and Spiel followed by our Purim CARnival in the WRT parking lot! No need to park and exit your vehicle! All activities will take place through your open car windows. The JLL team is looking forward to merry making with you and your family! This experience is a part of our WRFamilies Initiatives, in partnership with our 7th Graders and WRTeens! Note: There are no JLL Classes; Come to PURIM-Palooza!

6th Grade Shabbaton
Friday, April 22 and Saturday, April 23
The annual 6th Grade Family Shabbaton is an enthusiastically-attended event and a highlight of the 6th 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. This year, we’ve moved it to April to plan an experience that will be safe, stretching and uplifting for our 6th Grade families.

On Friday, we will observe Yom HaShoah and “Children of the Shoah Pairing Program”. 6th graders will be asked to accept an important responsibility: to be paired with the memory of a child who perished in the Shoah. During this time in the evening’s program, each student will receive a pairing, with information about the children who were not able to reach their own B’nei Mitzvah. At services, following the program, WRT will invite a Holocaust survivor to share their story and memories and to answer your questions.

On Saturday we will experience a model B’nei Mitzvah service at which time students receive their Torah portion, make a personalized silver Torah Yad (Torah pointer) to use at their service and learn with and from Confirmation students. Parents will converse with clergy on the meaning of the B’nei Mitzvah experience. Details will be provided before the end of March.

End of Year Celebrations
Saturday, May 21 and Sunday, May 22
During regularly scheduled JLL classes and T’fillah

Sharing Shabbat (Saturday) and Alef/Bet (Sunday) families of learners in Grades K-5 are invited to celebrate our year of joyful Jewish learning! Special projects, music and culminating experiences will be a part of these special mornings. Thank you for a wonderful year!
### WRT Calendar

#### MARCH

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday, March 1</td>
<td>11:30 am Rosh Chodesh 5782</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday, March 3</td>
<td>9:30 am Unpacking the Prayerbook</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday, March 4</td>
<td>6:15 pm Shabbat Service</td>
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<tr>
<td>Saturday, March 5</td>
<td>9:00 am Torah Study</td>
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<tr>
<td>Saturday, March 5</td>
<td>9:00 am Sharing Shabbat</td>
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<tr>
<td>Saturday, March 5</td>
<td>10:00 am Bat Mitzvah of Riley Magidson</td>
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<tr>
<td>Saturday, March 5</td>
<td>12:30 pm Bar Mitzvah of Noah Dembitzer</td>
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<tr>
<td>Saturday, March 5</td>
<td>5:00 pm Bat Mitzvah of Alexis Perry</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday, March 10</td>
<td>9:30 am Racial Justice Initiative</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday, March 11</td>
<td>12:00 pm WRJ Mussar</td>
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<tr>
<td>Saturday, March 12</td>
<td>9:00 am Torah Study</td>
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<tr>
<td>Saturday, March 12</td>
<td>9:00 am Sharing Shabbat</td>
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<tr>
<td>Saturday, March 12</td>
<td>10:00 am Bar Mitzvah of Walker Lewis</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sunday, March 13</td>
<td>9:30 am Family Purim Service, Spiel and Megillah Reading (online)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sunday, March 13</td>
<td>10:30 am Community Purim Drive-Thru Carnival</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday, March 15</td>
<td>7:30 pm MenRJ Meeting</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday, March 16</td>
<td>11:30 am Spousal Loss Support Group</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday, March 17</td>
<td>7:30 pm Purim Celebration</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday, March 18</td>
<td>6:15 pm Shabbat Service</td>
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<td>Saturday, March 19</td>
<td>9:00 am Torah Study</td>
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<tr>
<td>Saturday, March 19</td>
<td>9:00 am Sharing Shabbat</td>
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<tr>
<td>Saturday, March 19</td>
<td>10:00 am Bar Mitzvah of Dylan and Michelle Meiselman</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sunday, March 20</td>
<td>1:00 pm MenRJ Program- “Heading Home”</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday, March 22</td>
<td>7:00 pm Living with Divorce</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday, March 23</td>
<td>11:30 am Spousal Loss Support Group</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday, March 24</td>
<td>9:30 am Unpacking the Prayerbook</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday, March 24</td>
<td>7:00 pm FreeBirds- Sounds of the Spirit</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday, March 25</td>
<td>5:30 pm Connections Shabbat</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday, March 25</td>
<td>6:15 pm WRJ Service</td>
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<tr>
<td>Saturday, March 26</td>
<td>9:00 am Torah Study</td>
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<tr>
<td>Saturday, March 26</td>
<td>9:00 am Sharing Shabbat</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday, March 30</td>
<td>11:30 am Spousal Loss Support Group</td>
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#### APRIL

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday, April 5</td>
<td>11:30 am Rosh Chodesh 5782</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday, April 6</td>
<td>11:30 am Spousal Loss Support Group</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday, April 7</td>
<td>4:00 pm Bat Mitzvah of Reese Newman</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday, April 7</td>
<td>4:00 pm WRJ Passover Seder</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday, April 7</td>
<td>7:30 pm Racial Justice Initiative</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday, April 8</td>
<td>12:00 pm WRJ Mussar</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday, April 8</td>
<td>6:15 pm Shabbat Service</td>
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<tr>
<td>Saturday, April 9</td>
<td>9:00 am Torah Study</td>
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<tr>
<td>Saturday, April 9</td>
<td>9:30 am Scholar-in-Residence guest speaker</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday, April 12</td>
<td>7:30 pm MenRJ Round Table Discussion</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday, April 15</td>
<td>10:00 am Passover Yizkor Service</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday, April 15</td>
<td>6:15 pm Shabbat Service</td>
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<tr>
<td>Saturday, April 16</td>
<td>10:00 am Festival Passover Service</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday, April 19</td>
<td>7:30 pm Evenig Book Group</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday, April 20</td>
<td>11:30 am Spousal Loss Support Group</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday, April 21</td>
<td>7:00 pm FreeBirds- Sounds of the Spirit</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday, April 22</td>
<td>10:00 am Passover Yizkor Service</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday, April 22</td>
<td>6:15 pm Shabbat Service</td>
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<tr>
<td>Saturday, April 23</td>
<td>9:00 am Torah Study</td>
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<tr>
<td>Saturday, April 23</td>
<td>9:00 am Sharing Shabbat</td>
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<tr>
<td>Saturday, April 23</td>
<td>5:00 pm Bar Mitzvah of Ethan Grossberg</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday, April 29</td>
<td>6:15 pm Shabbat Service</td>
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<tr>
<td>Saturday, April 30</td>
<td>9:00 am Torah Study</td>
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<tr>
<td>Saturday, April 30</td>
<td>9:00 am Sharing Shabbat</td>
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<tr>
<td>Saturday, April 30</td>
<td>10:00 am Bar Mitzvah of Hannah Stockton</td>
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<tr>
<td>Saturday, April 30</td>
<td>5:00 pm Bar Mitzvah of Zachary Klein</td>
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#### MAY

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sunday, May 1</td>
<td>12:30 pm MenRJ Retreat</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday, May 3</td>
<td>11:30 am Rosh Chodesh 5782</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday, May 4</td>
<td>7:30 pm MenRJ Meeting</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday, May 5</td>
<td>7:30 pm MenRJ Jewish Genealogy</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday, May 6</td>
<td>6:15 pm Shabbat Service</td>
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<td>Saturday, May 7</td>
<td>9:00 am Torah Study</td>
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<tr>
<td>Saturday, May 7</td>
<td>9:00 am Sharing Shabbat</td>
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<tr>
<td>Saturday, May 7</td>
<td>10:00 am Bar Mitzvah of Kayla Fieldson</td>
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<tr>
<td>Saturday, May 7</td>
<td>10:30 am Living with Divorce</td>
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<tr>
<td>Saturday, May 7</td>
<td>5:00 pm Bar Mitzvah of Tahl Ziegler</td>
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<tr>
<td>Saturday, May 7</td>
<td>7:30 pm WRJ Havdalah</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday, May 10</td>
<td>7:30 pm Racial Justice Initiative</td>
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<td>Thursday, May 12</td>
<td>5:00 pm JNF Westchester Water and Wine</td>
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<td>Friday, May 13</td>
<td>6:15 pm Shabbat Service</td>
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<td>Saturday, May 14</td>
<td>9:00 am Torah Study</td>
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<tr>
<td>Saturday, May 14</td>
<td>9:00 am Sharing Shabbat</td>
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<tr>
<td>Saturday, May 14</td>
<td>5:00 pm Bar Mitzvah of Morgan Klein</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sunday, May 15</td>
<td>8:30 am Confirmation Car Wash Fundraiser</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday, May 17</td>
<td>7:30 pm Living with Divorce</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday, May 19</td>
<td>12:00 pm WRJ Spring Program with Rabbi Blake</td>
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<td>Friday, May 20</td>
<td>5:30 pm Connections Shabbat</td>
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<td>Friday, May 20</td>
<td>6:15 pm Shabbat Service</td>
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<td>Saturday, May 28</td>
<td>9:00 am Torah Study</td>
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<tr>
<td>Saturday, May 28</td>
<td>10:00 am Bar Mitzvah of Maxwell Harrison</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monday, May 30</td>
<td>10:00 am Confirmation Service</td>
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#### JUNE

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Thursday, June 2</td>
<td>10:00 am Bat Mitzvah of Paige Matty</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday, June 3</td>
<td>6:15 pm Shabbat Service</td>
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<tr>
<td>Saturday, June 4</td>
<td>5:00 pm Bar Mitzvah of Brian Goldban</td>
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<tr>
<td>Saturday, June 4</td>
<td>7:30 pm WRJ Havdalah</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monday, June 7</td>
<td>10:00 am Confirmation Service</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday, June 10</td>
<td>6:15 pm Shabbat Service</td>
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<tr>
<td>Saturday, June 11</td>
<td>9:00 am Torah Study</td>
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<tr>
<td>Saturday, June 11</td>
<td>10:00 am Bar Mitzvah of Ryan Sussberg</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sunday, June 5</td>
<td>7:30 pm MenRJ Brotherhood Award</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday, June 15</td>
<td>7:30 pm Racial Justice Initiative</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday, June 17</td>
<td>6:15 pm Shabbat Service</td>
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<td>Saturday, June 18</td>
<td>9:00 am Torah Study</td>
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<tr>
<td>Saturday, June 18</td>
<td>10:00 am Bar Mitzvah of Claire Breslow</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monday, June 20</td>
<td>5:00 pm Bar Mitzvah of Zoe Rabinowitz</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday, June 21</td>
<td>7:30 pm Evenig Book Group</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday, June 24</td>
<td>6:15 pm Shabbat Service</td>
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<tr>
<td>Saturday, June 25</td>
<td>9:00 am Torah Study</td>
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</table>
March/April:
Children’s Books
and lightly used
Children’s Clothes

May:
Baby Month-
Lightly used baby
clothing & boxes
of Diapers (or even
clean spares in a
plastic bag)

June:
Grad Bag

Gradbag is a green
initiative to reuse
college dorm supplies.
www.gradbag.org

1. Join our committee. Help
contact groups in need in
Westchester and/or deliver
donated items.

2. Make Mitzvah a Family Affair.
Sign up to make a delivery of
Monthly Mitzvah items with your
family.

3. If you know of people, groups
or institutions in need or know
people that want to make
donations please let us know.

4. Donate boxes of diapers. Food
Stamps do not pay for diapers.
All the groups we contact need
diapers.

Please contact Ronny Hersch
(hersch32@optonline.net)
or Irena Turner
(monetis10@gmail.com)
to get more involved in Monthly
Mitzvahs.

“Tzedakah is as important as all
the commandments together”
- Babylonian Talmud