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

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

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

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

HUC-JIR [Hebrew Union College - Jewish Institute of Religion]: WRT supports the HUC-JIR, the official training ground for Reform Jewish professionals.

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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

תורה

Spirituality

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.



Todah Rabah Rabbi Levy!



Save the date!
May 20-22

**A Weekend to Honor and Bless
Rabbi David Levy**

Friday, May 20 - Festive Shabbat service and oneg
*The entire WRT community will gather
to honor and bless Rabbi Levy*

Saturday, May 21 - Sharing Shabbat Send-off

Sunday, May 22 - JLL Family Tribute & Celebration
*Our JLL families will gather for the last day of
the JLL season and pay tribute to Rabbi Levy.*

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.



Warren Haber

President's Message

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 him(her)self 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. The formatting of one of our most cherished songs illustrates the power of music in our tradition

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 cantilations, 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.



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.

Talmud Torah: Adult Education



Cantor Amanda Kleinman



Cantor Danielle Rodnizki

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.



Rabbi David Levy

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.



Jane Roberts

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 janer teach@aol.com.

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.



Rabbi David Levy

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.



Jane Slevin

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.



Cantor Laura Stein

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



Rabbi Daniel Reiser

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 (freedmanrj@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 Polayes, *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 (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



Cantor Amanda Kleinman



Cantor Danielle Rodnizki

JNF-USA's Annual Westchester Water & Wine (and Whiskey) featuring Chef Lior Lev Sercuz

Thursday, May 12 at 7:00 pm

Lior Lev Sercuz 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 papooheads@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



Cantor Amanda Kleinman

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)



Cantor Danielle Rodnizki

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.



Sasha Baken

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 a 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.

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 Genealogy

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



תְּבוּרָה

Community

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MenRJ Fishing Trip



Rabbi Jonathan Blake and Nadav Shachmon (Westchester Shaliach)



Robert Paller speaking about his experience playing on TEAM ISRAEL.

Additional past event photos can be found on the MenRJ page of the temple website.

Early Childhood Center (ECC)



Susan Tolchin
Director of 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.



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."

JLL Calendar Dates

March

- 13 Pre-Purim Palooza
- 16 PURIM

April

- 9-17 NO CLASSES
Passover Break
- 20 Parent Session
(6th/7th Grade)
- 22 6th Grade Shabbaton
& Service of
Responsibility
- 23 6th Grade
Shabbaton (*continues*)

May

- 21-22 End of Year
Celebrations
(K-5th Grade)
- 22 JLL Family Tribute
& Celebration
Our JLL families will
gather for the last
day of the JLL
season and pay
tribute to Rabbi Levy.

For more information, contact:
David E. Levy,
Associate Rabbi and
JLL Director at
Rabbi.Levy@wrtemple.org
or
Felicia Block,
JLL Associate Director at
Felicia.Block@wrtemple.org.

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 WR Families Initiatives, in partnership with our 7th Graders and WR Teens! 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

Tuesday, March 1

11:30 am Rosh Chodesh 5782

Thursday, March 3

9:30 am Unpacking the Prayerbook

Friday, March 4

6:15 pm Shabbat Service

Saturday, March 5

9:00 am Torah Study
9:00 am Sharing Shabbat
10:00 am Bat Mitzvah of Riley Magidson
12:30 pm Bar Mitzvah of Noah Dembitzer
5:00 pm Bat Mitzvah of Alexis Perry
7:30 pm WRJ Havdalah

Thursday, March 10

9:30 am Unpacking the Prayerbook
7:30 pm Racial Justice Initiative

Friday, March 11

12:00 pm WRJ Mussar
6:15 pm Shabbat Service

Saturday, March 12

9:00 am Torah Study
9:00 am Sharing Shabbat
10:00 am Bar Mitzvah of Walker Lewis

Sunday, March 13

9:30 am Family Purim Service, Spiel and Megillah Reading (online)
10:30 am Community Purim Drive-Thru Carnival

Tuesday, March 15

7:30 pm MenRJ Meeting
7:30 pm Evening Book Group

Wednesday, March 16

11:30 am Spousal Loss Support Group
7:00 pm Purim Celebration

Thursday, March 17 - Purim

9:30 am Unpacking the Prayerbook

Friday, March 18

6:15 pm Shabbat Service

Saturday, March 19

9:00 am Torah Study
9:00 am Sharing Shabbat
10:00 am B'nei Mitzvah of Dylan and Michelle Meiselman

Sunday, March 20

1:00 pm MenRJ Program- "Heading Home"

Tuesday, March 22

7:00 pm Living with Divorce

Wednesday, March 23

11:30 am Spousal Loss Support Group

Thursday, March 24

9:30 am Unpacking the Prayerbook
7:00 pm FreeBirds- Sounds of the Spirit

Friday, March 25

5:30 pm Connections Shabbat
6:15 pm Shabbat Service

Saturday, March 26

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

Wednesday, March 30

11:30 am Spousal Loss Support Group

APRIL

Friday, April 1

6:15 pm Shabbat Service

Saturday, April 2

9:00 am Torah Study
9:00 am Sharing Shabbat
10:00 am Bat Mitzvah of Brooke Munter
5:00 pm Bat Mitzvah of Ella Kroloff

Tuesday, April 5

11:30 am Rosh Chodesh 5782

Wednesday, April 6

11:30 am Spousal Loss Support Group

Thursday, April 7

4:00 pm Bat Mitzvah of Reese Newman
4:00 pm WRJ Passover Seder
7:30 pm Racial Justice Initiative

Friday, April 8

12:00 pm WRJ Mussar
6:15 pm Shabbat Service- Morgan and Marjorie Miller Scholar-in-Residence with guest speaker Dr. Wendy Zierler

Saturday, April 9

9:00 am Torah Study
9:30 am Scholar-in-Residence guest speaker Dr. Wendy Zierler

Tuesday, April 12

7:30 pm MenRJ Passover Round Table Discussion

Friday, April 15 - Erev Passover

5:00 pm Shabbat Service

Saturday, April 16 - Passover

10:00 am Festival Passover Service

Tuesday, April 19

7:30 pm Evening Book Group

Wednesday, April 20

11:30 am Spousal Loss Support Group

Thursday, April 21

7:00 pm FreeBirds- Sounds of the Spirit

Friday, April 22

10:00 am Passover Yizkor Service
6:15 pm Shabbat Service- Service of Responsibility

Saturday, April 23

9:00 am Torah Study
9:00 am Sharing Shabbat
5:00 pm Bar Mitzvah of Ethan Grossberg

Friday, April 29

6:15 pm Shabbat Service

Saturday, April 30

9:00 am Torah Study
9:00 am Sharing Shabbat
10:00 am Bat Mitzvah of Hannah Stockton
5:00 pm Bar Mitzvah of Zachary Klein

MAY

Sunday, May 1

12:30 pm MenRJ Retreat

Tuesday, May 3

11:30 am Rosh Chodesh 5782
7:30 pm MenRJ Meeting

Wednesday, May 4 - Yom Hazikaron

Thursday, May 5 - Yom Ha'Atzmaut

7:30 pm MenRJ Jewish Geneology

Friday, May 6

6:15 pm Shabbat Service

Saturday, May 7

9:00 am Torah Study
9:00 am Sharing Shabbat
10:00 am Bat Mitzvah of Kayla Fieldston
10:30 am Living with Divorce
5:00 pm Bar Mitzvah of Tahl Ziegler
7:30 pm WRJ Havdalah

Tuesday, May 10

7:30 pm Racial Justice Initiative

Thursday, May 12

5:00 pm JNF Westchester Water and Wine

Friday, May 13

6:15 pm Shabbat Service - Chai Society Shabbat

Saturday, May 14

9:00 am Torah Study
9:00 am Sharing Shabbat
5:00 pm Bat Mitzvah of Morgan Klein

Sunday, May 15

8:30 am Confirmation Car Wash Fundraiser

Tuesday, May 17

7:00 pm Living with Divorce
7:30 pm Evening Book Group

Thursday, May 19 - Lag Ba'Omer

12:00 pm WRJ Spring Program with Rabbi Blake

Friday, May 20

5:30 pm Connections Shabbat
6:15 pm Shabbat Service- Recognition of Rabbi Levy's Leadership

Saturday, May 21

9:00 am Torah Study
9:00 am Sharing Shabbat- Rabbi Levy send-off
10:00 am Bar Mitzvah of Theo Hochberg
5:00 pm B'not Mitzvah of Maya Glaser and Sarah Meyer

Thursday, May 26

4:00 pm Bat Mitzvah of Ryan Hirschhorn

Friday, May 27

6:15 pm Shabbat Service

Saturday, May 28

9:00 am Torah Study
10:00 am Bar Mitzvah of Maxwell Harrison
12:30 pm Bat Mitzvah of Lily Josephs

Monday, May 30 - Memorial Day (Building closed)

JUNE

Thursday, June 2

10:00 am Bat Mitzvah of Paige Matty

Friday, June 3

6:15 pm Shabbat Service

Saturday, June 4 - Erev Shavuot

9:00 am Torah Study
10:00 am Bar Mitzvah of Brian Goldban
7:30 pm WRJ Havdalah

Sunday, June 5 - Shavuot

10:00 am Confirmation Service

Tuesday, June 7

11:30 am Rosh Chodesh 5782
7:30 pm MenRJ Meeting

Friday, June 10

6:15 pm Shabbat Service - MenRJ Brotherhood Award

Saturday, June 11

9:00 am Torah Study
10:00 am Bar Mitzvah of Ryan Sussberg
5:00 pm B'not Mitzvah of Natalie and Sarah Kobi

Wednesday, June 15

7:30 pm Racial Justice Initiative

Friday, June 17

6:15 pm Shabbat Service

Saturday, June 18

9:00 am Torah Study
10:00 am Bat Mitzvah of Claire Breslow
5:00 pm Bat Mitzvah of Zoe Rabinowitz

Monday, June 20 - Juneteenth (Building closed)

Tuesday, June 21

7:30 pm Evening Book Group

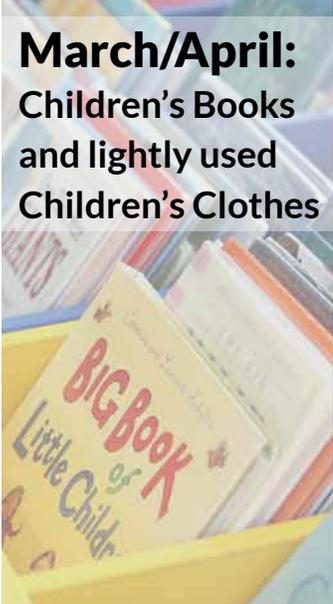
Friday, June 24

6:15 pm Shabbat Service

Saturday, June 25

9:00 am Torah Study

Monthly Mitzvah



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