

# wrtimes

Westchester Reform Temple

SPRING 2026

## And You Shall Love...



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# And You Shall Love...

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Annual Celebration  
on April 30, 2026,  
ECC Passover Seder,  
Purim Event from 2025,  
JLL Hamantaschen baking  
& Game Night 2025

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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.



## Rabbi Blake's Message

I recently attended a short conference in Chicago that convened the President's Rabbinical Council of Hebrew Union College. It's a fancy title for an otherwise unostentatious working group of about twenty Reform rabbis from across the country who dedicate time and effort to supporting the President and senior administration of HUC, the Reform Movement's flagship seminary and training ground for rabbis, cantors, and Jewish professionals. Last year, I accepted an invitation to co-chair this group as, outside of my service to WRT, my other great professional calling prompts me to do what I can to develop the next generation of Jewish leaders who will carry our synagogues from strength to strength.

During our 48 hours at the scenic O'Hare Hilton, the Council had the opportunity to study with Rabbi Michael Marmor, Ph.D., one of the great Jewish thought-leaders of our time, a noted public intellectual, scholar, and theologian. I first met Dr. Marmor more than 30 years ago upon my

matriculation to HUC in Jerusalem; for a time he served as Dean of the Jerusalem Campus before being elevated to the role of Provost (the chief academic officer for the College). These days he continues in his teaching role, educating emerging rabbis and cantors in classical and modern Jewish philosophy and developing a cohesive theology that will speak to non-Orthodox Jews in the exciting and challenging Jewish era in which we presently find ourselves.

A preeminent scholar, humanitarian who has served as the Chair of the Board of Rabbis for Human Rights, and above all a mensch, Dr. Marmor is also a fierce player in the Scrabble™ clone app Words With Friends. He and I have tussled over tiles in a no-holds-barred, no-word-too-esoteric, running back-and-forth Words With Friends match-up since the pandemic.

That is to say, for the last six years, we've engaged in a nonstop contest of letters. Perhaps this was on Dr. Marmor's mind as he composed and recently published an outstanding book about letters, an alphabet of Jewish thought that is intended to engage us non-Orthodox Jews to take our Judaism seriously; to speak to the hearts and minds of those who, outside the norms and strictures of halakha (Jewish law) nonetheless want to live lives of Jewish meaning; people who are thoughtful and both emotionally and intellectually engaged in the project of being Jewish in the 21st century, who want to live in a way that is comprehensively in dialogue with

modernity while also authentically Jewish, even if not governed by the constraints of Orthodox law and practice.

Marmor's new book, *Living the Letters: An Alphabet of Emerging Jewish Thought* (2025), deserves a place on the bookshelves of every Jewish home—including yours! With compelling, far-ranging, and concise chapters arranged in alphabetical order, the book takes the form of a glossary that can be read cover-to-cover, or piecemeal, out of order. Following a substantive introduction that outlines his project of creating a lexicon of Jewish living for the thoughtful, engaged, decidedly non-Orthodox Jewish person, each of the following chapters follows the path of the aleph-bet, the Hebrew alphabet, from aleph to tav.

Surprises, unconventional choices, await at every turn. *Aleph* (א), for starters, doesn't introduce well-trod (some might say, worn out) terms like *Adonai* (God), or *Ahavah* (love), but rather the esoteric word *Aspaklaria* (meaning, a "lens," a "spiritual scope" through which we may perceive wisdom.) *Mem* (מ), to Marmor, doesn't stand for *Mitzvah* (commandment), but rather for *Masoret* (tradition), and there's a world of difference between the Orthodox notion of "commandedness" and the Reform invitation to respond to profound wellspring of "tradition," which may summon us to serious Jewish commitments without demanding unquestioning loyalty to the totality of Jewish law.

In our age of Jewish anxiety, with antisemitism having become a global conflagration and Israel a pariah in much of the world, I am often asked, "Rabbi—what can I do? What can we do?" Marmor's response, and mine, is this: Commit more deeply to a life of Jewish engagement. Deepen Jewish learning and your participation in the life of the Jewish community. Strengthen your spiritual practice, whether through prayer, study, acts of lovingkindness, or advocacy for the just and the good. Model for your children, grandchildren, family, and friends the meaning of Jewish pride and Jewish joy by leaning into your Jewish heritage and the incredible culture of creativity that continues to evolve the vast and beautiful civilization called Judaism.

Michael Marmor's *Living the Letters* inspires us to do all this and more, in a digestible and approachable fashion: letter by letter and word by word. Out of these building blocks we might construct Jewish lives of purpose, joy, and moral clarity in a reeling world.

You can order *Living the Letters* in print wherever you get your favorite books; it is also available as a free download on Kindle or as a PDF at the Open Source online library, [library.oapen.org](http://library.oapen.org) (search for "Marmor" or "Living the Letters"). I look forward to hearing your thoughts about this important contribution to modern Jewish thought and to sharing "words with friends" — with you!



# President's Message

## Steven Masket

“Let’s eat!” is a frequent refrain connected with Jewish holidays. Hamentashen at Purim, matzah at Passover, cheese blintzes at Shavuot; they are eaten for a reason. These foods carry symbolic meaning and assure that all of our senses are engaged when learning about these (and other) holidays. From the V’ahavta passage of Torah that follows the recitation of the Shema, we understand that we are to teach our children. Teaching doesn’t happen only in a classroom and it’s not just an exercise for the eyes and ears. Recognizing that there are many different ways to learn and many paths to knowledge, lessons are imparted about the holidays through music, song, story, and (especially) food. And so, we learn why they are celebrated and how they connect us to our tradition, the world we live in, and one another: latkes tell the story of the Chanukah miracle; matzah tells the story of our slavery and liberation; blintzes teach us to find sweetness in our encounter with Torah and the “land of milk and honey”; ripe fruits and vegetables teach us to rejoice in our harvest on Sukkot.

At WRT we are engaged in living and teaching our tradition to our children in the ECC, the JLL and in our WRTEens program which includes Confirmation and culminates in Graduation in 12th grade. And since Jewish learning is a lifelong pursuit, WRT is deeply committed to adult education. Whether through Talmud study with Rabbi Blake, clergy and guest-led lectures, adult B’nei Mitzvah classes with Rabbi Platcow, Haggadah study with Cantor Kleinman, or our two communal seders, this issue of WRTimes, and this coming spring season, is chock full of opportunities to learn, grow and connect deeply with our tradition and one another. Take advantage of what we have to offer!

Please mark your calendars for April 30th and join us in celebration of the release of an album highlighting the Music of WRT at our Spring Celebration Annual Fundraiser. It will be a beautiful night reflecting the strength and commitment of our community to one another and to WRT’s future.

Also, on May 8th we will celebrate the seven years of inspired service that Cantor Sonett-Assor has devoted to our congregation, and thank him as he prepares to move on to lead his own congregation as Cantor of Congregation Emanu-El of Westchester. It will be a beautiful, albeit bittersweet, occasion. As we say goodbye, we take pride in WRT’s rich history of nurturing the talents of our junior clergy. This congregation has created an environment to allow Cantor Sonett-Assor to flourish, just as we have for many before him. We wish him well as he begins this new chapter in his life and career.

These are just a few highlights of the spring calendar. Through prayer, study, Tikkun Olam, music, social events, or just sharing the special tastes of the spring season over a meal or an Oneg Shabbat, WRT is a home for each of us and for all of us, and we are here for you to deepen your connection to your congregation, community, and the Jewish tradition.

Steven Masket, WRT President

### OFFICERS

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Steven Masket

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Lori Gertzog  
Andrew Levine  
Jon Mark

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Michael Gorelick

**Secretary**  
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Mallorie Corcoran  
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Drew Kramer  
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Michael Leibert  
Jeffrey Mutterperl  
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Cynthia Samwick  
Eric Scheffler  
Jonathan Siegel  
Mara Steiner  
Brooke Vaupen  
Jessica Weiland  
Mauri Zemachson  
Jessica Zweifach

**President,  
Women of Reform Judaism**  
Sarah Kagan

**President,  
Men of Reform Judaism**  
Robert Meyerson

**ECC Co-Chair**  
Jessica Weiland



# Avodah: Worship and Spirituality

## Pre-Negs at WRT

**Fridays, March 6, March 20, April 10, June 5, 5:30 pm**

Join us for a special “Pre-Neg” as we share food and drink and connect with each other before Services. Make our experiment a success as we envision new ways to enrich our Shabbat experience at WRT. All are welcome.

## Kabbalat Shabbat

**Fridays, 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/](http://www.wrtemple.org/live-stream/)

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

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

Please check the calendar, our weekly email updates and website for any changes due to special programming or holiday weekends.

## Lab Shabbat

**Fridays, April 24 and May 15, 5:30 - 7:00 pm**

An opportunity to welcome Shabbat with a family-friendly service followed by a delicious and different dinner each time. Designed for families with children in Kindergarten through fifth grade, each Lab Shabbat will include participation by a particular grade to showcase their JLL learnings.

## Tot Shabbat

**March 13, April 10, May 29, 5:30 - 6:30 pm**

Experience the joy of Shabbat with children, parents, grandparents, siblings, and friends. Designed for families with children of preschool age and younger, Tot Shabbat starts with songs and stories led by our clergy, followed by a family-friendly dinner. Children must be accompanied by an adult for this service (no drop-offs).

## Torah Study

**Saturdays, 9:00 - 11:00 am**

Join us every Saturday morning as we gather for a brief service, nosh, and lively discussion of our weekly Torah portion. Our service is clergy led and features moments of gratitude, healing and remembrance. Following some snacking and schmoozing, we come back together for engaging Torah study. All are welcome and no experience is necessary.

## Sharing Shabbat

**Saturdays, 9:00 am - 12:00 pm, during the JLL 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)\*

# Services and Events



## Adult Purim Celebration: Dueling Pianos!

**Monday, March 2 at 6:00 pm**

You do not want to miss Dueling Pianos with a Purim twist! Grab your friends and come to WRT for a night of music, megillah chanting and fun.

## Refugee Shabbat

**Friday, March 13 at 6:15 pm**

Join us at our 6:15 PM Kabbalat Shabbat service as we highlight WRT's sacred work of resettling global refugees fleeing conflict in some of the world's most dangerous places and helping them establish new lives within our community. Welcoming the stranger is a core Jewish value, deeply intertwined with many of our own family stories of fleeing persecution. Learn how you can be involved in this meaningful work, especially at a time of rising xenophobia and discrimination against refugees.

## Pesach Festival Morning Service

**Thursday, April 2 at 10:30 am**

Join Rabbi Blake and Cantor Kleinman for a sweet welcome to the Passover season with song, prayer, and study. Followed by a Matzo Brei lunch sponsored by the MRJ.

## 7th Day Pesach Service, Yizkor, and Mimouna Festive Dinner

**Wednesday, April 8 at 6:15 pm**

As Passover concludes, join WRT's

clergy, and congregants of all ages, for a warm service featuring Yizkor memorial prayers, followed by a family-friendly Mimouna, a festive feast for breaking the Passover fast from unleavened bread practiced by Jews from communities across North Africa (especially Morocco). Come learn about the festival and enjoy the return to chameitz with a Moroccan dinner and live music!



## Rabbi Angela W. Buchdahl in Conversation with Rabbi Blake: Heart of a Stranger

**Wednesday, April 15 at 7:00 pm**

Rabbi Angela Buchdahl, the first Asian-American ordained as Jewish clergy, is one of the world's preeminent Jewish spiritual leaders (both rabbi and cantor). Having begun her training at HUC alongside her classmate Jonathan Blake, and having developed her rabbinate and cantorate at WRT, Angela now serves as Senior Rabbi of Central Synagogue in Manhattan, and has recently published an acclaimed memoir, *Heart of a Stranger*. Hear Rabbi Buchdahl in conversation with Rabbi Blake, followed by an opportunity to buy a signed copy of her book.

## Service of Responsibility

**Friday, April 17 at 6:15 pm**

Our annual Service of Responsibility features acclaimed American documentary filmmaker and journalist Daniel Lombroso. His Academy

Award-shortlisted documentary *Nina & Irena* shares the Holocaust survival story of his grandmother, exploring the intergenerational silence that can exist between survivors and their children and grandchildren. Daniel has led educational programs about his film around the country, emphasizing the urgency of listening to survivor testimony before it is too late. Watch the film in advance, then join us for an unforgettable evening of reflection, memory, and conversation.



## Sharp Again with WRT Congregant Lisa Feiner - at the Scarsdale Public Library, in Partnership with WRT

**Sunday, April 26, from 1:00 pm -  
2:30 pm (at Scarsdale Library)**

Are you or a loved one starting to have lapses in memory or worry about getting dementia? Please join WRT's own Lisa Feiner and Robert Kachko, ND in the Scott Room of the Scarsdale Library, where she will discuss the underlying causes of memory loss and how to keep our brains sharp through life. Lisa Feiner, MBA, M.Ed., is a board-certified health and wellness coach, Brain Longevity Specialist, and co-founder of Sharp Again, a nonprofit dedicated to preventing Alzheimer's disease and intervening early when memory issues start. She and her family have been

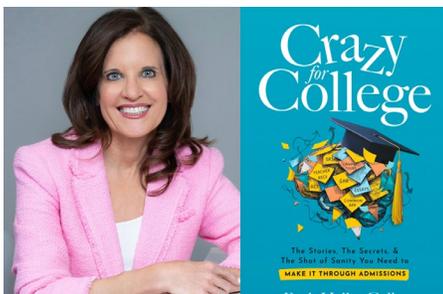
affiliated with WRT for 30 years, her recent book, *Minding Your Memory: What You Can Do Now to Prevent Dementia and Stay Sharp for Life* (2025), will be available at the event.



### Service of Gratitude for Cantor Isaac Sonett-Assor

**Friday, May 8 at 6:15 pm**

Join us for a special Shabbat service as we celebrate and express gratitude to Cantor Isaac Sonett-Assor for his seven years of devoted service to WRT, and as we offer our congregation's blessings to him and his family as they embark on the next stage of their journey.



### Beth Gelles, Author of Crazy for College, in Conversation with Rabbi Blake

**Sunday, May 17 at 12:00 pm**

The College admissions process has become exhausting. For parents. For students. For families who are trying to do the right thing without losing their minds in the process. Acceptance rates are down. Application numbers keep climbing. The pressure on kids feels

constant. Many families feel like they're missing something—or doing something wrong—when, in reality, the rules themselves have changed.

For more than a decade, WRT congregant Beth Heller Gelles has worked with nearly five hundred families and walked more than 160 college campuses, in all kinds of weather and footwear. *Crazy for College* grows out of what she sees every day: anxious parents, capable kids, and a process that has grown far more complicated than it needs to be.

Join Beth and Rabbi Blake, and bring your friends with high-school age kids or grandkids for a helpful look at how to approach college admissions with humor and perspective.

### 72nd Annual Meeting of the Congregation

**Tuesday, May 19 at 7:30 pm**

We convene as a sacred community to review our affairs and plan for the year ahead. To that end, we will vote on the proposed budget for the next fiscal year, vote to ratify a new slate of trustees/officers and honor outgoing Board Trustees.

### Confirmation Service

**Thursday, May 21 at 5:30 pm**

Over the past year, our 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 as this remarkable group of teenagers leads the congregation in prayer, study, and song — as they take on a new mantle of Jewish leadership.

### Tikkun Leil Shavuot

**Thursday, May 21**

**(Time and Location TBD)**

Stay tuned for details for this year's Westchester-wide joint Reform observance of the Evening of Shavuot,

when we study Torah in innovative ways and get to meet our local community of rabbis, cantors, and outstanding teachers.

### Chai Society Shabbat and Presentation of the 2026 Brotherhood Award

**Friday, May 29 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. We look forward honoring congregants who have been WRT members for 18 years or more.

### Pride Shabbat

**Friday, June 5 at 6:15 pm**

Rabbi Amichai Lau-Lavie, star of the award-winning documentary *Sabbath Queen*, joins the WRT clergy for Kabbalat Shabbat, followed by a conversation with Rabbi Alissa Platcow and filmmaker Sandi DuBowski on LGBTQ+ and Jewish identity, storytelling, and community.

*Read more on pg.11.*

### Kabbalat Shabbat Service Featuring the Presentation of the Tracy Kreisberg & Bauman Scholars Awards

**Friday, June 12, 6:15 pm**

Join us for a memorable Shabbat service where we will observe cherished WRT traditions of awarding special recognition to outstanding members of the Confirmation (10th grade) class and Graduation (12th grade) class.

### WRT Celebrates Juneteenth

**Friday, June 19, 6:15 pm**

With the newest federal holiday falling this year on a Friday, WRT will offer a special Shabbat service reflecting the themes of Juneteenth.

# Talmud Torah: Adult Education



Rabbi Jonathan Blake



Cantor Amanda Kleinman



Rabbi Alissa Platcow



Jane Roberts

## Rosh Chodesh 5785 Led by Cantor Amanda Kleinman Tuesdays, March 24, April 21, May 19, June 16, at 11:30 am

Join Cantor Kleinman and a diverse group of women for a monthly, midday infusion of study and sharing as we mark each new month on the Hebrew calendar. We will come together as a community to celebrate happy occasions, and to hold space for one another in times of challenge or healing.

## The Passover Haggadah: Online Learning with Cantor Kleinman

Thursdays March 5, 12, 19 & 26  
from 10:15 - 11:45 am  
(on Zoom)

Prepare to lead your family's Passover seder! Join Cantor Kleinman for an exploration of the magid section of the Passover Haggadah (the section retelling the story of the Exodus from Egypt). Using classical rabbinic commentaries, we'll delve into the history and interpretation of some of the Haggadah's most well-known passages, such as The Four Questions, The Four Children, and the famous story of the five rabbis who stayed up all night retelling the story of the Exodus.

## Weekly Online Learning with Rabbi Blake: "Treasures of Talmud"

Thursdays, April 9 - May 21,  
10:15 - 11:45 AM (on zoom)

Join Rabbi Blake's popular weekly Talmud Shiur (class) where a community coalesces around deep learning and conversation. Our study for the 7-week Omer period between Pesach and Shavuot will explore "Treasures of Talmud," a collection of literary, ethical, and practical gems of learning that are among Rabbi Blake's personal favorite teachings from Talmud and related Jewish tradition. No previous experience with Talmud required - join us!

## Advanced Hebrew Bible Class: A Study Of Tanach Led by Jane Roberts

Wednesdays, from 10:00 am to  
11:30 am (via Zoom)

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](mailto:janerteach@aol.com).

# Community

## Meditation Lab

Fridays, 11:00 - 11:45 am

Many of us are aware that mindfulness and meditation have become increasingly present in people's lives as a set of tools to navigate stress, increase calmness and clarity, and to promote joy. Our Meditation Lab is led by Norm Goldstein. Norm utilizes his 25 years of training and experience in mindfulness meditation to support temple members to explore Jewish meditative techniques.

## Chair Yoga Series at WRT Thursdays, 2:00 pm

We invite you to come and try this series to nurture your body and soul. RSVP via email to [receptionist@wrtemple.org](mailto:receptionist@wrtemple.org) or call the temple office at 914-723-7727.

## Evening Book Group Tuesdays, 7:30 - 9:00 pm

Interested in joining the evening book group? The group meets on a Tuesday evening of each month at WRT for review and discussion about the month's selected title. For more information, please contact Marcia Goldfinger at [marcia.goldfinger@gmail.com](mailto:marcia.goldfinger@gmail.com)

## Israel on Fifth Parade Sunday, May 31

The annual Israel on Fifth -Celebrate Israel Parade in NYC will take place on Sunday May 31, 2026 and the Westchester Jewish Council will again be organizing the Westchester marching group. More than ever, it is so important that Westchester unite in support of Israel. More information to come.

WESTCHESTER REFORM TEMPLE  
2026 ANNUAL SPRING CELEBRATION

AND YOU SHALL LOVE

Thursday, April 30, 2026, 6:30 PM

Join us for a special evening celebrating our WRT community and the release of **WRT SINGS**, a brand-new album recorded by our phenomenal clergy.

**wrt**  
Westchester Reform Temple



We are thrilled to announce the release of WRT's new album of congregational music! Our album, entitled **WRT Sings**, captures the soul and spirit of our community through our music, highlighting what Rabbi

Blake calls our unique "musical DNA" - the melodies that enrich our observance of Shabbat and holidays, lift us up in times of celebration, bring us comfort in times of challenge, and offer strength, inspiration, and connection in the sacred work of building our community.

The album features many cherished musical voices, from our WRT clergy and interns, to our volunteer choir, to the beloved instrumentalists who lift up our worship every Shabbat. Stay tuned for more information about how to access **WRT Sings**, which will be released as part of our annual spring celebration, and for more details about the second phase of our recording project, highlighting the music of our ECC and JLL communities.

# FreeBirds

## Cantors' Happy Hour: A Few of Our Favorite Things Sunday, March 22 at 5:00 pm

Cantor Kleinman and Cantor Isaac Sonett-Assor are excited to lead a singalong of some of their favorite music of various genres, with an emphasis on their favorite duets over their 7 years of singing together. Come enjoy some good food, good wine, good company, and, of course, great music!



## Game Night is Back! Thursday, May 14, 7:00 - 10:00 pm

Join us at WRT for another fun night! Mahjongg. Canasta. Bridge. Dinner and wine will be served. Questions? Contact Audrey: drey52555@aol.com or Iris: irg.green@gmail.com





# Justice, justice, we shall pursue!

**Sharon Stiefel**

*Director of Social Impact and Community Engagement*

We have all heard it before: the shorthand description of Jewish holidays—“They tried to kill us, we survived, let’s eat.” As spring approaches, so does the headliner of these holidays: Passover. And yes, the familiar framework holds true. We were persecuted—enslaved in Egypt. We survived—escaping Pharaoh and oppression. And the food, thankfully, can be delicious.

But what if, when we told the Passover story, we asked the deeper question: Why do the Jewish people continue to survive?

As we witness the alarming rise of antisemitism, this is a question I grapple with often. Is our persistence rooted in the idea of being the Chosen People? Is it something carried in our genes, or in the unbroken transmission of Torah from generation to generation? Is it our insistence on memory, our commitment to community, or perhaps that famously Jewish stubbornness—our refusal to disappear?

Or is it something more?

Passover reminds us that survival alone has never been the end of our story. We endure not simply to exist, but to bear witness—to freedom, to justice, and to hope. We survive so that, in every generation, we can continue to bring light into dark places, to insist on dignity in the face of cruelty, and to remind the world that liberation is possible.

I offer a special thank you to the more than 100 volunteers who brought light into the darkness during Mitzvah Week. Together, we continue to tell



a story that goes beyond survival—through programming, advocacy, and service rooted in our Jewish values, including reproductive freedom, welcoming the stranger, environmental justice, feeding those in need, and advocating for those without a voice.



# WRT HAS PRIDE

This June, join WRT for a deep exploration of love, drama, religion, film, faith and community!

## A Special Pride Kabbalat Shabbat Friday, June 5, 6:15 pm



On Friday night, June 5, Israeli-American, performer, writer, educator, social activist and star of *Sabbath Queen*, Rabbi Amichai Lau-Lavie will join the WRT clergy team on the bimah for Kabbalat Shabbat. Following services, our own Rabbi Alissa Platcow will engage in conversation with Rabbi Lau-Lavie and Sandi DuBowski reflecting on how their own LGBTQ+ and Jewish identities intersect alongside their creation of critically acclaimed movies and their visions of Jewish community.

Rabbi Amichai is the star of *Sabbath Queen*, Sandi DuBowski's award-winning documentary film, which premiered at the Tribeca Film Festival in June 2024. Rabbi Amichai Lau-Lavie (he/him) is the Co-Founding Spiritual

Leader of the Lab/Shul community in NYC and the creator of the ritual theater company Storahelling, Inc.

Sandi DuBowski, film director and producer, explores the intersection of LGBTQ+ communities and their religion and faith.

## Sabbath Queen with Conversation Following Sunday, June 7, 2:00 - 5:00 pm



Filmed over the course of 21 years, *Sabbath Queen* follows Rabbi Amichai Lau-Lavie's epic journey as the dynastic heir of 38 generations of Orthodox rabbis including the Chief Rabbis of Israel. The film depicts how he is torn between rejecting and embracing his destiny, becoming a drag-queen rebel, building a family, and then founding NYC's Lab/Shul.

The *Hollywood Reporter* called this film "awe inspiring" and it was named one of *NY Times'* "Movies We've Loved Since 2000." This movie is no longer shown openly online nor in theaters so don't miss this opportunity to be moved and experience *Sabbath Queen!*

## Trembling Before G-d with Conversation Following Sunday, June 14, 2:00 - 5:00 pm



*Trembling Before G-d* is an unprecedented documentary film that shatters assumptions about faith, sexuality, and religious fundamentalism through intimately told personal stories of LGBTQ+ Hasidic and Orthodox Jews. The film follows a group of people who face a profound dilemma: how to reconcile their passionate love of Judaism and the divine with the drastic biblical prohibitions that forbid homosexuality.

Both films will be followed by a discussion with Rabbi Alissa Platcow.



MARK YOUR CALENDARS -  
THE WRT FLEA IS BACK!  
**SUNDAY,  
APRIL 12, 2026  
1-4 PM**

**CLEAR OUT YOUR CLOSETS AND DONATE ITEMS.  
100% OF THE SALES WILL GO TOWARDS SUPPORTING ISRAEL!**

**DONATE NOW THROUGH  
APRIL 5th, 2026.  
DESIGNER BRANDS &  
LUXURY ITEMS WELCOME!**

**DONATIONS  
CAN BE DROPPED IN  
THE BIN LOCATED INSIDE  
THE WRT LOBBY.  
LOCAL PICK UP CAN ALSO  
BE COORDINATED.**

**WHAT TO DONATE**

**WOMEN, MEN & TEEN CLOTHING & SHOES:** GOOD CONDITION DRESSES, SKIRTS, BLAZERS, JACKET/COATS, FURS, SWEATERS, JEANS, VINTAGE & COLLEGE GEAR IN HIGH-DEMAND!

**ACCESSORIES:** JEWELRY, WATCHES, HANDBAGS, BELTS, HATS, SCARVES, SUNGLASSES, READING GLASSES

**HOUSEHOLD GOODS:** ART, TCHOTCHKES, VASES, COFFEE TABLE BOOKS ONLY

**WHAT NOT TO DONATE**

BABY/CHILDREN'S CLOTHING, STAINED OR BROKEN ITEMS, UNDERWEAR, SWIMSUITS, BOOKS, LARGE HOUSEHOLD ITEMS / FURNITURE

**QUESTIONS? WANT TO ARRANGE A LOCAL PICK UP? SPONSOR OUR EVENT? JOIN OUR COMMITTEE?  
EMAIL US AT [WRTFLEA@GMAIL.COM](mailto:WRTFLEA@GMAIL.COM)**

ALL ITEMS DONATED THAT ARE NOT SOLD AT OUR SALE WILL BE DISTRIBUTED TO LOCAL COMMUNITY PARTNERS IN NEED. WE ARE COMMITTED TO REDUCING WASTE AND MAKING SURE ALL ITEMS ARE EFFICIENTLY REUSED, REPURPOSED OR RECYCLED.



# WERE YOU



WRT Delivers Thanksgiving



WRT Delivers Thanksgiving



Cantor's Happy Hour



WRT Delivers Thanksgiving



WRJ Challah Bake



WRJ Challah Bake



WRJ Challah Bake

# THERE?



ECC Milk & Cookies



Cantor's Happy Hour



WRT Delivers Thanksgiving



ECC Milk & Cookies



WRT Delivers Thanksgiving



Cantor's Happy Hour



Chanukah Community Candle Lighting

# Women of Reform Judaism



**WOMEN OF REFORM JUDAISM**

at Westchester Reform Temple 

**President**  
Sarah Kagan

**Communications and Media Officer**  
Caryn Pitchon

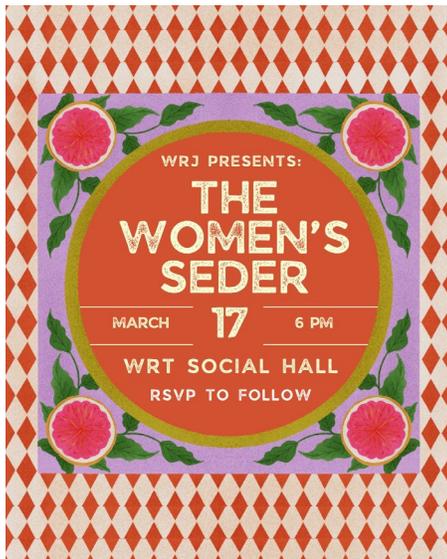
**Vice President for Membership**  
Alena Markley

**Secretary**  
Rachel Berk

**Vice President for Programs and Events**  
Allison Weinberg

**Treasurer**  
Alice Gorelick

**Vice President for Community Connections**  
Drew Kramer



**25th Annual Women's Seder**  
Tuesday, March 17 at 6:00 pm



**Mezuzah Making with the WRJ**  
Wednesday, May 6 at 8:00 pm

**Shavuot Celebration: Dinner with Rabbi Blake & Cantor Kleinman**  
Wednesday, June 3 at 7:00 pm

# Men of Reform Judaism



**Westchester Knicks**  
Thursday, March 19

Join your fellow WRT families as we cheer on the Westchester Knicks!

**WRT's "World of Passover Celebrations" Seder**  
Thursday, March 26 at 6:00 pm

Join us for the MRJ's 4th Annual "World of Passover Celebrations" Seder. Led by Cantor Isaac Sonett-Assor and Rabbinic Intern Michah Glickman, we will explore Passover traditions, songs, stories, and of course, cuisine from all around the Jewish world. We will celebrate the diverse faces of our WRT family and our global

Jewish community as well as the common threads that bind us together. Sponsored by the MRJ, the Seder is open to all members of WRT and their families.

**Climate Change and Infectious Diseases**  
Sunday, April 19 from 10:00 am - 12:00 pm

Climate change has increased the prevalence and geographic distribution of many infectious diseases including those caused by bacteria, viruses, parasites, and fungi. In this lecture, Dr. Michael Simberkoff, Professor of Medicine/Infectious Diseases NYU Grossman School of Medicine, will discuss this emerging public health problem and describe four important examples: Lyme disease, malaria, Dengue, and Candida aureus infections.



**MEN OF REFORM JUDAISM**  
Westchester Reform Temple

**President**  
Bob Meyerson

**Treasurer**  
Lee Goldsmith

**Vice Presidents**  
Joe Levine  
Mark Lewis  
Bob Rosenbaum  
Michael Simberkoff  
Jeff Simon  
Eugene Weissman

**Secretary**  
Michael Grant

**Board Members**  
Jay Landau



**Fred Price and Jeff Simon**



# Jewish Learning Lab (JLL)

**Rabbi Leah Citrin**

*Associate Rabbi & Jewish Learning Lab Director*

*This spring, we're bringing our traditions to life in ways that feel personal, social, and meaningful for our students. Here is what we're looking forward to:*

### The Purim Mitzvah Circuit:

Purim is about so much more than just costumes! We're setting up a high-energy "Mitzvah Circuit" where students travel through stations to experience the four core traditions of the holiday. From the joy of hearing the Megillah to the heart of Matanot La'Evyonim (giving to those in need), they'll see how a single holiday can impact both our friends and the wider world.

### Unlocking the Seder:

Instead of just reading the Haggadah, we're inviting students to get their hands dirty—metaphorically speaking! We'll be exploring the "hows" and "whys" of the Seder rituals, helping each student find their own voice at the table so they can head into their family celebrations feeling like experts and storytellers.

### Connecting with Israel:

Together, we'll navigate the emotional journey of the three Israeli "High Holy Days." From the solemnity of Yom HaShoah and Yom HaZikaron to the dancing and music of Yom HaAtzma'ut, we're helping our students feel the heartbeat of modern Israel in age appropriate ways and understand their own place in our global Jewish family.

**To learn more about our JLL programs, please contact us at 914-723-5224.**



### Calendar Dates:

Saturday, February 28  
**Purimpalooza**

Sunday, March 1  
**A Special Family T'Filah With Costumes and Shtick Followed by Purim Programming as Part of Regular Classes**

Friday, March 13 - Monday, March 16  
**Confirmation Class Washington DC trip to L'taken Seminar**

Thursday, March 19 - Monday, March 22  
**8th Grade parent/child Civil Rights Journey with Rabbi Citrin & Rabbi Blake**

Sunday, March 22  
**Pesach programming in the JLL**

Saturday, March 28 - Sunday, April 5  
**NO JLL CLASSES (Pesach/SPRING Break)**

Friday, April 17  
**Service of Responsibility with 6th Grade dinner and Shoah Pairings**

Sunday, May 3  
**Taste of Kindergarten**

Sunday, May 3  
**Teen Mitzvah Corps/ Confirmation Car Wash**

Sunday, May 17  
**Last Day of JLL**

Thursday, May 21  
**Erev Shavuot Confirmation Service**

Friday, June 12  
**Bauman & Kreisberg Awards; Senior Sendoff**

**purimpalooza**

**Saturday, February 28**  
**11:00 am - 1:00 pm**

Celebrate Purim with the whole family! Games, bouncy houses, crafts, treats and so much more.

**wrt** Westchester Reform Temple  
For questions, contact 914-723-7727

# Early Childhood Center (ECC)



**Rebecca Roseman**  
ECC Director

**Jennifer Brauntuch**  
ECC Associate Director

It's hard not to smell the burning wax of candles when you think about Chanukah. It's virtually impossible not to taste the acidic crunch of that first bite of matzah and charoset when you begin to picture your Passover table. How could you possibly begin a Shabbat celebration without hearing the familiar and comfortable tunes of the blessings? At the ECC, our curriculum is infused with teachings about the Jewish holidays and traditions. During the 2025-2026 school year, we have been focused on exposing children to the joy and traditions of the Jewish community through a more organic, sensory-based approach that explores sounds, sights, smells, tastes and touch.

While part of the joy of Jewish preschool is creating long-lasting symbols of the Jewish holidays that can be brought out and cherished year after year, we believe that the process of exposing children to the rituals, music, food and stories of the holidays is just as important, if not more so, than the physical take-



home project. Early childhood is a time of wonder, discovery, and deep learning through the senses. When Jewish holidays are taught through a multi-sensory approach, they become joyful, meaningful experiences that children can truly internalize and remember.

This is why this school year, we baked, we sang, we danced and we created in ways that reinforced the true meanings of the holidays. We shook the lulav and smelled the etrog on Sukkot while listening to our cantors share the songs of the holiday in the beautiful WRT Sukkah. We giggled with joy as our faces became coated in the powdered sugar deliciousness from the sufganiyot we tasted on Chanukah. We were elbow-deep in matzah dough that we created and cooked ourselves as Passover approached.

For our preschoolers, our goal is not mastery of facts about Jewish holidays. Our goal is to guide each of our students in developing a positive Jewish identity and emotional connection to the traditions that make our faith so special. Should you find yourself in the building around holiday time, come on down to our ECC hallway and join us as we plant the seeds of joy, meaning and belonging that will continue to grow for years to come.



**To learn more about our ECC programs, please contact us at 914-723-5493.**

# Upcoming ECC Events

## Tot Shabbats

**Fridays, March 13, April 10, May 29,  
5:30 – 6:30 pm**

Experience the joy of Shabbat with children, parents, grandparents, siblings and friends. Designed for families with young children and led by WRT clergy.

## EAT, SLEEP, POOP Parenting Mini Series: "POOP"

**Thursday, April 23, 7:15 – 8:30 pm**

WRT Clergy and ECC faculty invite you to the final workshop in our parenting speaker series. Enjoy light bites, wine and expert speakers in these important toddler/early childhood parenting topics. This event is designed for parents/guardians of young children.

## ECC Enrollment for the 2026-2027 school year begins

Registration opened to the public on Nov 3 and will be ongoing.



## ECC Cocktail Party

**Thursday, March 12**

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

## STEAM Extravaganza

**Thursday, March 19, 4:00 – 5:30 pm**

Join us for this fun afternoon where ECC children can explore teacher-led booths experimenting with various scientific, technological, engineering, art and math experiences. Pizza dinner to follow.

## Virtual Trip to Israel

**Wednesday, April 22**

ECC students partake in a virtual trip to Israel. It is so much fun traveling on our ECC Airplane, visiting the shuk, planting flowers, fishing in Eilat and so much more! This event is led by WRT clergy and ECC staff.



## New Family Welcome

**Thursday, May 14, 5:30 – 6:30 pm**

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

## Truck Day

**Wednesday, May 20**

All ECC children have an opportunity to view and explore trucks during their ECC school day. Trucks that often visit us are: a fire engine, a police car, a garbage truck, a backhoe, an ambulance, a mail truck and the ever popular ice-cream truck!

WESTCHESTER REFORM TEMPLE

*Come Join us For the Fun!*



*Summer Play Place 2026*

**7-Week Session**  
**June 29 – August 14, 2026**  
(no camp on Friday, July 3rd)



# Mazal Tov!

## Births

### Rebecca and Neal Weinstein

on the birth of their grandson Ellis Jasper Arora Weinstein and to the parents Natacha Arora and Eric Weinstein

### Susan Minster

on the birth of her granddaughter Rory Margaret Sanderson and to the parents Mallory and Chris Sanderson

### Rachel Fell (ECC Teacher and Social Worker) and Max Turowsky

on the birth of their daughter Goldie Fell Turowsky

### Alex and Spencer Cohen

on the birth of their daughter Reese Harper Cohen

## Engagements

### Clarissa and Steven Lefkowitz

on the engagement of their son Matt to Samantha Sherman

### Jocelyn and Scott Sontag

on the engagement of their daughter Haley to Jonah Goldberg

### Pam and Neil Rubin

on the engagement of their son Max to Sharon Pedowitz

### Ruth and Andrew Suzman

on the engagement of their son Evan to Hayley Blau

### Lynn and Michael Pollack

on the engagement of their daughter Laura to Jack Sheehy

### Amy and David Levere

on the engagement of their daughter Caroline to Spencer Mantis

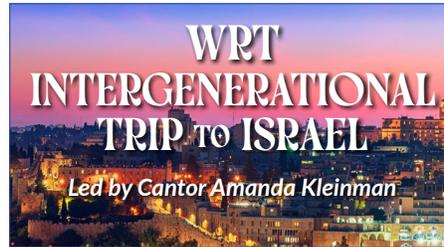
## Marriages

### Barbara and Marc Tartell

on the marriage of their son Jonathan to Kim Weber

### Suellen and Howard Singer

on the marriage of their son Eric to Isa Masvidal



**December 23, 2026 – January 1, 2027**

*We are so Excited to Announce an Intergenerational Trip to Israel in December 2026!*

Our trip will have a family track (those traveling with children) and an adult track (for those traveling without children).



REGISTER FOR FAMILY TRACK HERE



REGISTER FOR ADULT TRACK HERE

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## Make a Donation to Support Israel

The Rabbis' Discretionary Fund of WRT is currently supporting critical organizations that are addressing humanitarian needs, support for Israel's soldiers, and traumatized communities throughout Israel. To make a donation to the Rabbis' Discretionary Fund, go to <https://bit.ly/wrtfunds>.

### Julie and Mark Balsam

on the Bar Mitzvah of their son Jack

### Robin and Alex Tolston

on the Bat Mitzvah of their daughter Morgan

### Libby and Greg Alkalay

on the Bar Mitzvah of their son Dylan

### Amanda and David Glattstein

on the Bat Mitzvah of their daughter Winnie

### Erin and Robert Rescoe

on the Bat Mitzvah of their daughter Ellie

### Rachel and Jonathan Krisbergh

on the Bar Mitzvah of their son Dylan

### Amrita and Jade Rahmani

on the Bat Mitzvah of their daughter Laila

### Naomi and Ian Arons

on the Bar Mitzvah of their son Ryder

### Rachel Berk and Bruce Birns

on the Bar Mitzvah of their son Josh

### Rebecca and Matthew Kirschner

on the Bat Mitzvah of their daughter Ella

### Ledia Dworkin and John Dworkin

on the Bar Mitzvah of their son Jack

### Rebecca Gabin and Aaron Gabin

on the Bar Mitzvah of their son Zachary

### Andrea and Loren Weiss

on the marriage of their son Jacob to Pyone Su Aye

## B'nei Mitzvah

### Lisa and Paul Brewer

on the Bat Mitzvah of their daughter Jordyn

### Rachel and Joshua Reader

on the Bar Mitzvah of their son Aden

### Jessica and Jared Freede

on the Bar Mitzvah of their son Jayden

### Danna and David Freundlich

on the Bat Mitzvah of their daughter Emma

### Jennifer and Josh Sussberg

on the Bar Mitzvah of their son Brandon

### Jessica Zellner and Jason Polevoy

on the B'nei Mitzvah of their children Rebecca and Joshua

# Condolences

**Orly Kobi**

on the death of her uncles Yehudah Nachum and Azriel Nachum

**Stacey Goldfarb**

on the death of her father Mark Tishler

**Kevin Schwartz**

on the death of his grandfather Bernie Weiner

**Helena and Michael Singer and Alice Gorelick**

on the death of their brother-in-law/her uncle Barry Mendelson

**Marcy Klein**

on the death of her mother Rica Tarnoff

**Jamie Lemle**

on the death of her father Jeffrey Fishler

**Anne Ellman**

on the death of her mother Helaine Simon

**Marc Gurny**

on the death of his grandfather Martin Gurny

**Hope Stephens**

on the death of her father Steven Garner

**Barry Weinstein, Jacqueline and Emma Weinstein**

on the death of his wife/their mother Ellen Weinstein, ECC Teacher

**Ron Sernau**

on the death of his father Gerald Sernau

**Ross Feldman**

on the death of his mother Barbara Feldman

**Zel Rubins**

on the death of her brother Norman Goldberg

**Wendy Kutin, Craig Bassett, Heidi Schultz, and Evan Bassett**

on the death of their mother Charlotte Bassett

**Josh Gerber**

on the death of his mother Carol Colman Gerber

**Daniella Kamis-Brown, JLL Assistant Director**

on the death of her mother-in-law Helen Brown

**Ronald Hutzler and Jay Monitz**

on the death of his father/his father-in-law Harry Hutzler

**Jane Seides**

on the death of her husband Warren Seides

**Judy Grosz**

on the death of her sister Ruth Rabinowitz and on the death of her sister-in-law Judith Hertanu

**Heath Sroka**

on the death of his grandmother Barbara Block

**Steven Marx**

on the death of his mother Anne Marx

**Ronny Hersch**

on the death of her mother Esther Meth

**Lauren Grossberg**

on the death of her grandmother Gloria Glickson Weiser

**Michelle Friedman**

on the death of her mother Rita Lustberg

The congregation of WRT mourns the death of our member  
**Charlotte Bassett**  
and extends sympathy to her bereaved family

The congregation of WRT mourns the death of our member  
**Harry Hutzler**  
and extends sympathy to his bereaved family

The congregation of WRT mourns the death of our member  
**Warren Seides**  
and extends sympathy to his bereaved family

**WRT Cemetery Plots**

In recent years, space in local Jewish cemeteries has become increasingly limited. However, Westchester Reform Temple still has burial plots available for members of the congregation at Mt. Eden Cemetery in Hawthorne, NY, just a 20-minute drive from Scarsdale. Our inventory, in units of 8-grave and 4-grave plots for families, 2-grave plots for couples, and single graves for individuals, is priced lower than that available commercially in our area. Consider securing your burial site for peace of mind for yourselves and your families.

**Memorial Wall Plaques**

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

If you would like more information about purchasing a cemetery plot or a memorial plaque, contact Amy Rossberg, Director of Congregant Relations and Pastoral Care, at 914-468-0522 or email [Amy.Rossberg@wrtemple.org](mailto:Amy.Rossberg@wrtemple.org).

# WRT Inspirations

Dear Friends,

We are excited to serve as co-chairs of **WRT's Annual Spring Celebration**, returning on Thursday, April 30, 2026. Over the past two years, this special evening



has brought our community together in joyful and meaningful ways, and we can't wait to celebrate with you once again.

This year's fundraiser embraces our theme, "And you Shall Love," and supports WRT's commitment to innovative programming, meaningful worship, musical inspiration, and social action, ensuring we can continue serving our community with warmth and purpose, both within and beyond our temple walls. We invite you to help us reach our goals by becoming a sponsor, placing a journal ad, or purchasing tickets.

Music has long been at the heart of our WRT experience, and this year we are especially excited to celebrate the release of **WRT SINGS**, a brand-new album recorded by our phenomenal clergy. Created over several months, this collection reflects the spirit of our community and is meant to bring comfort and inspiration into our lives, wherever we may be.

Please join us for an unforgettable evening as we connect, celebrate, and support the vibrant future of our congregation.

To make a gift or purchase tickets, please visit [www.wizevents.com/wrt2026](http://www.wizevents.com/wrt2026) or contact Laura Rosen Apostolou, WRT's Philanthropy Director, to pledge your support.

We look forward to celebrating with you on April 30, 2026.

With deep appreciation,  
Helene and Richard Gray  
Co-Chair

Samantha and Jeffrey Reemer  
Co-Chair

## Host Committee (in formation as of January 21, 2026):

Beth and Zach Altschuler  
Jodi and Jordan Barrow  
Erin and Matthew Bass  
Wendy and Howard Berk  
Bryar and Bradley Bernard  
Cheryl and Daniel Bernstein  
Allison and Josh Block  
Ellen and Bill Blumstein  
Laurie and Adam Citron  
Emily and Ben Cohn  
Mallorie and Daniel Corcoran  
Erica and Alexander Crisses  
Stefanie and Howard Elman  
Elizabeth and Boris Fabrikant  
Joan and Andrew Frankle  
Allison and Ben Friedland  
Francine and David Frydman

Lori and Gary Gertzog  
Helene and Richard Gray  
Iris and Fred Green  
Darlene and Warren Haber  
Marcy and John Harris  
Stefanie Lieberman and Adam Hellegers  
Jennifer and Avi Kollenscher  
Drew and Jon Kramer  
Claudia Green and Noah Kroloff  
Beth and Adam Lazarus  
Sara and Andrew Levine  
Elaine and Steve Masket  
Margot and Daniel Milberg  
Susie Newman  
Cortney and Dave Peretz  
Linda and Seth Plattus

Amanda and Jordan Reed  
Samantha and Jeff Reemer  
Nicole and Edward Risener  
Cynthia and Marc Samwick  
Karen and Eric Scheffler  
Emily and Arik Shteinhauz  
Sydney and Jordan Solomon  
Jocelyn and Scott Sontag  
Sheryl Spivack-Braun and Jim Aiello  
Abby and Heath Sroka  
Jessica Zweifach and Matthew Sternman  
Ellen and Bob Sunness  
Brooke and Mike Vaupen  
Jessica and Jeff Weiland  
Audrey Weinberg  
Mauri and Scott Zemachson



## Your Legacy. WRT's Future. Secure WRT's future with a planned gift.

When you include WRT in your estate plans—through a bequest or other planned gift—you create a lasting legacy for your spiritual home. Your support ensures that our vibrant Jewish community will continue to pray, educate, celebrate, and comfort for generations to come. By informing us of your planned gift, you will become a member of the Legacy Circle—a community of devoted congregants who share a belief in WRT's long-term vision and vitality. If this opportunity resonates with you, we would be honored to speak with you (and your advisor, if helpful) to craft a legacy gift that reflects your values and strengthens WRT's future.

**Together, we will build a legacy of Jewish life and learning for WRT!** To learn more, please visit [wrtemple.org/give/legacy-circle/](http://wrtemple.org/give/legacy-circle/) or call Laura Rosen Apostolou at 914-723-7727, ext. 8128.

# Giving Opportunities at Westchester Reform Temple

## SUPPORTING ALL THE PILLARS OF OUR COMMUNITY

- **Inspired Giving (Annual Fund)** – This is WRT’s annual campaign and supports all events and activities throughout the year. Gifts to this fund support our general operating budget.
- **Security Fund** – This fund enables us to support the many security needs of WRT, including equipment, resources, ongoing training and support for the law enforcement professionals who make up our security team at WRT.
- **The Rabbi Richard J. Jacobs and Susan K. Freedman Fund for Innovation in Jewish Life** – Supports initiatives to live the lessons and traditions of Judaism, to learn and think deeply, to repair our world, to stand steadfastly with Israel, and to care for one another and the world around us.
- **Rabbi Jack and Priscilla Stern Fund for the Generations** – WRT’s Endowment Fund

## AVODAH – SPIRITUALITY

- **Rabbis’ Discretionary Fund** – Supports needy individuals, organizations and worthy projects
- **Cantors’ Discretionary Music Fund** – Sustains and enhances WRT’s music programs, and supports worthy causes at WRT and in the wider community.
- **Jewish Music and Spirituality Fund** – Supports special initiatives in music and worship, including guest artists and concert programs.

## TALMUD TORAH – LEARNING

- **Bauman Scholar Fund** – Encourages, recognizes and celebrates the Jewish learning and identity formation of WRT’s most academically inclined students, as exhibited by the fearless learning of Sam Bauman of blessed memory.
- **Morgan & Marjorie Miller Scholar-in-Residence Fund** – Supports the annual Scholar-in-Residence program.
- **Norman L. Blumstein Memorial Fund** – Helps children attend Jewish camps and programs.
- **Vivienne Sulds Memorial Fund** – Supports special lectures and adult education programs.
- **Och Family Educational Fund** – Supports need-based financial assistance on JLL and ECC tuition for our students.
- **The Eslyn Fund** – To encourage, promote and support educational travel to Israel for the youth of WRT.

## TIKKUN OLAM – REPAIRING THE WORLD

- **Food & Housing Insecurity Fund** – Assists those who lack access to food and shelter in Westchester County.
- **Social Impact & Community Engagement Fund** – to support the work of social justice and social action at WRT and engaging our community.

## CHAVURAH – COMMUNITY

- **Caring Community Fund** – Dedicated to Ann R. Miller Support for the ill or bereaved.

To make a contribution or download a pdf form, go to [www.wrtemple.org](http://www.wrtemple.org), click on the GIVE tab to access MAKE A DONATION or visit <https://www.wrtemple.org/give/make-a-donation/>

# Contributions

Contributions received November 1, 2025 - February 3, 2026.

The Temple gratefully acknowledges the following contributions:

## SUPPORTING ALL THE PILLARS OF OUR COMMUNITY

### General Fund

Martha Rosen

### Fund for the Generations

Lori and Gary Gertzog

in memory of Helaine Simon, mother of Anne Ellman

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

Lorette Erlich

in memory of her husband Steven Erlich

Joanne and Barry Citrin  
Susan Freedman and Rabbi Richard Jacobs

### Inspired Giving

#### Visionary

Marcy Engel and Stuart Cobert  
Susan and Jeff Goldenberg  
Joy and Rick Handelman  
Marcy and John Harris  
Elizabeth and Michael Manasse  
Harriet and Doug Rachlin  
Dara and Michael Tisch  
Mindy and Gregory White

The Mathers Foundation  
in appreciation of the clergy team

#### Sustainer

Sara and Andrew Levine

#### Innovator

Alexandra and Mark Kleinman  
Ruth and Andrew Suzman  
Peri and Joshua Zelig

### Leader

**Nancy and Bruce Frank**  
**Arline Gardner**  
**Gloria Shugar**  
**Evelyn Stock**

### Supporter

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**Ann Rose Simon**  
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**Ruth and Burton Leibert**  
in honor of the Bat Mitzvah of Natalie Leibert

**Fara and Jason Friedman**  
in honor of the Bar Mitzvah of their son Jack

**Barbara Lewis**  
in memory of her husband Bertram Lewis

### Friend

**Arlene and Robert Alin**  
**Doreen and Gilbert Bassin**  
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**Ellen and Bob Sunness**  
**Joan and Richard Toder**

**Linda Ellis**  
in honor of Stephanie Miller's birthday

**Sheryl Spivack Braun**  
**Roz Reich**  
in honor of Iain Pymm receiving their Hebrew name and in appreciation of Cantor Kleinman

**Tamar Stone**  
in memory of her mother Roberta Stone

**Rabbi Alissa Platcow**  
in appreciation of the WRT Board and Staff

**Sharon Forman and Steven Marx**  
in memory of his mother Anne Marx  
and in appreciation of the WRT clergy

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## AVODAH - SPIRITUALITY

### Rabbis' Discretionary Fund

**Ariel and Lee Garcia**  
in honor of baby naming of their son,  
Ben Marko Garcia  
and in appreciation of Rabbi Blake,  
Amy Rossberg and Suzanne Saperstein

**Mary and Jim Blum**  
in honor of the auf ruf for their daughter  
Priscilla and Matthew Schnitzer  
and in appreciation of Rabbi Blake

**Lisa and Mike Feiner**  
in memory of her father Harold Gelb  
and in appreciation of Rabbi Platcow

**Eileen and Michael Meyers**  
in memory of her father Henry Ruston  
and in appreciation of Rabbi Platcow

**Jill and Howard Fife**  
in honor of the wedding of their son Sam to  
Jesse Drucker  
and in appreciation of Rabbi Blake

**Gail Hoffman**  
in memory of her father Phillip Panfil

**Marcy Klein and Family**  
in memory of her mother Rica Tarnoff  
and in appreciation of Rabbi Platcow

**Ellen and David Freeman**  
in honor of Mary Blum's birthday  
and in honor of Priscilla's engagement

**Barbara Moss**  
in memory of her husband Richard Moss  
and in appreciation of Rabbi Blake

**Bruce Rader**  
in memory of his wife Ivie Rader  
in appreciation of Rabbi Blake

**Nancy and Stephen Karotkin**  
in memory of Helaine Simon, mother of Anne  
Ellman and Rica Tarnoff, mother of Marcy Klein

**Peggy and Russell DaSilva**  
**Linda and Joe Simon**  
**Margaret and Larry Smith**  
**Kate Solomon and David Wasserman**  
in appreciation of Rabbi Blake

**Elaine and Leon Papir**  
in memory of Jane Thomas, aunt of Rabbi  
Jonathan Blake and sister of Marjorie Blake

**Barbara and Bennett Josselson**  
in memory of Gerald Sernau, father of Ron  
Sernau

**Bill Kern**  
in memory of Stephanie Cohen, mother of Amy  
Bauman and in appreciation of Rabbi Blake

**The Lazarus Family**  
in honor of the Bat Mitzvah of Logan Lazarus  
and in appreciation of Rabbi Blake

**Ed Feinberg**  
in appreciation of Torah Study

**Judy, Maya and Peter Grosz**  
in memory of Judith Hertanu  
and in appreciation of Rabbi Platcow

**Mindy and Gregory White**  
in honor of the naming of their granddaughter  
Cleo and in appreciation of Rabbi Blake

**Hillary and Todd Emmerman**  
in honor of the marriage of their daughter  
Alexandra to Joshua Pascal  
and in appreciation of Rabbi Blake

**Susan and Jeffrey Landsberg**  
in honor of the marriage of their daughter  
Harley to Eric Belmont  
and in appreciation of Rabbi Blake  
and in memory of her father Herbert Rubins  
and in appreciation of Rabbi Platcow

**Valerie and Steven Abrahams**  
**Doreen and Gilbert Bassin**  
**Paul Lemberg**

### Cantors' Discretionary Fund

**Susan and Jeffrey Landsberg**  
in memory of her father Herbert Rubins  
and in appreciation of Cantor Sonett-Assor  
and in appreciation of Cantor Kleinman for sign  
language services

**Mary and Jim Blum**

in honor of the auf ruf for their daughter Priscilla and Matthew Schnitzer and in appreciation of Cantor Kleinman

**Dorothy Matza**

in honor of the marriage of her son Scott to Jessica Hirschberg and in appreciation of Cantor Kleinman

**Iris and Howard Burkat**

in honor of the marriage of their son Oliver to Kate DeSalvo and in appreciation of Cantor Sonett-Assor

**Marcy Klein and Family**

in memory of her mother Rica Tarnoff and in appreciation of Cantor Sonett-Assor

**Suzie Denmark**

in memory of her husband Richard Denmark

**Vicki Kravitz**

in appreciation of Cantor Kleinman, Cantor Sonett-Assor and Pete Malinverni

**Barry, Jackie and Emma Weinstein**

in memory of his wife/their mother Ellen Weinstein and in appreciation of Cantor Sonett-Assor

**Caryl Yanow**

in appreciation Cantor Kleinman and Cantor Sonett-Assor

**Joan and Andrew Frankle**

**Judy Grosz**  
in memory of Charlotte Bassett

**Iris and Howard Burkat**

**Rebecca and Marty Eisenberg**

**Karen and Ed Friedman**

**Joy Glaser**

**Ellen and Mickey Rabina**

**Cynthia and Marc Samwick**

in memory of Ruth Rabinowitz, sister of Judy Grosz

**Joan and Andrew Frankle**

**Harriet and Doug Rachlin**

in memory of Ruth Rabinowitz, sister of Judy Grosz and Judith Hertanu, sister-in-law of Judy Grosz

**Judy, Maya and Peter Grosz**

in memory of Judith Hertanu and in appreciation of Cantor Sonett-Assor

**Jewish Music and Spirituality Fund**

**Michele Braun**

in memory of Charlotte Bassett

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TALMUD TORAH - LEARNING

**Early Childhood Center Fund**

**Barbara and Stephen Chalk**

**Pam Heukerott**

**Renee Kasman and Nina Pacent**

in memory of Ellen Weinstein

**Norman L. Blumstein Youth Scholarship Fund**

**Ellen and Bill Blumstein**

in honor of Cantor Sonett-Assor

**Roz Reich**

in honor of the naming of Iain Pymm

**Bauman Scholars**

**Joanne Citrin**

in honor of Charlie Rosenthal's Bar Mitzvah

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TIKKUM OLAM - REPAIRING THE WORLD

**Food and Housing Insecurity Fund**

**Jeff Haber**

in memory of Alexandra Richmond, sister of Victoria Landau

**Jill Baten**

in memory of her daughter Melissa Baten Caswell and her husband Mickey Baten

**WRT Book Club**

in appreciation of Lenore Rosenbaum

**Ruth Raisfeld and Len Benowich**

**Deena Rosenthal**

**Global Refugee Fund**

**Helene Getz and Michael Carlin**

**Social Impact and Community Engagement Fund**

**WRT Book Club**

in appreciation of Lenore Rosenbaum

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CHAVURAH - COMMUNITY

**Caring Community Fund**

**Joan and Andrew Frankle**

in honor of Amy Rossberg and Susie Newman

**Deena Rosenthal**

in honor of Stephanie Miller's birthday

**Ronee and Eugene Weissman**

in memory of Barry Mendelson, brother-in-law of Helena and Michael Singer and uncle of Alice Gorelick

**Joanne and Barry Citrin**

in memory of Miriam Frydman, Adelle Zimbel, Laurace James, Roslyn Black, Gloria Byron, Gerald Friedman, Diane Chesler, Fran Osinoff, Helen Brown and Charlotte Bassett

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