

THE REFORM TEMPLE OF ROCKLAND Brighter Together

DECEMBER 201823 Kislev— 23 Tevet 5779





RTR is a welcoming beacon in Rockland County where Reform Jews can explore their individual Jewish identity and connectivity, inspiring friendship, spirituality and community service.

SERVICES

Friday Erev Shabbat 7:30 PM
First Friday-Family Shabbat 6:30 PM
Saturday Taste of Torah 9:00 AM
Saturday Morning Shabbat 10:30 AM

OFFICE HOURS

Monday-Thursday 10:00 AM - 5:00 PM

Friday 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM

Office: 845-358-2248

Fax: 845-358-3450

Website: www.RTRny.org Email: info@RTRny.org



DECEMBER DATES AT A GLANCE:

- 2 FIRST NIGHT CHANUKAH K'tanim: Chanukah
- 5 Executive Committee
- 6 Rosh Chodesh
- 7 Erev Shabbat Family Service: 5 & 6 Grades CHANUKAH ROCK SHABBAT & CONSECRATION
- 9 LAST NIGHT CHANUKAH Men's Club: Breakfast & Tax Talk Lil' ReTRo Chanukah Nursing Home Visit
- 11 Knitting Circle
 Adult Ed Movie Discussion: Religulous
 Membership & Marketing
 Finance Committee
- 13 Religious School Committee Car Club
- 15 Adult Ed/WRJ BYO Dinner, Havdallah with Kindertransport Guest Speaker
- 18 Social Action Committee
- 19 Board of Trustees
- 21 Erev Shabbat: Torah Service
- 23 NO RELIGIOUS SCHOOL
- 24 OFFICE CLOSES AT 2PM: CHRISTMAS EVE
- 25 OFFICE CLOSED: CHRISTMAS DAY NO RELIGIOUS SCHOOL
- 30 NO RELIGIOUS SCHOOL
- 31 OFFICE CLOSES AT 2PM: NEW YEAR'S EVE

SEE PAGE 17 FOR OUR COMPLETE CALENDAR



RTR welcomes our new members:

Joani deVries of Nyack Howard & Rachel Medgal and Family of River Vale

Peak Inside..



FROM THE RABBI

The evening of December 2nd marks the beginning of the minor festival of Chanukah. We will be lighting the first can-

dle with the *shamash* (helper) candle. We will be singing songs and possibly even giving gifts, though this is an adopted custom as Purim is the gift-giving holiday. Chanukah is also the first Jewish holiday to occur after the celebration of Simchat Torah over a month ago. Chanukah is a vital holiday in our history as it was the battle for the existence of Judaism. Without the successful revolt against the Selucid-Greeks, there quite possibly would not be Jews today.

Yet, Chanukah gets the short shrift when it comes to winter celebrations. It pales in comparison to the majesty, music, lights, and decorations that abound. Instead we are told by the rabbis that all we are obligated to do is light a *chanukiah* (nine-branched menorah), place it in our windows, and perhaps sing a few songs of our miraculous redemption.

Given the disturbing rise of anti-Semitism, one wonders, is it even safe to place a *chan-ukiah* in their window? There was a rabbinic ruling that in times of *sakanah*, danger, one is not obligated to place a menorah in a visible spot. And some rabbis even decreed that one is obligated to keep the menorah hidden.

At the same time, one might also argue that in order to push back the shadows of hatred that linger in the darkness, one should shine

a light upon them. And what better symbol than the light of redemption and freedom?

In many ways, the nine-branched *chanukiah* is a symbol of revolution. This is in contrast to the seven-branched menorah which is the symbol of the State of Israel with olive branches, the symbol of peace, on each side. Or to look at it another way, without the freedom to express ones' religion, there can be no peace.

So this Chanukah of 5779, let us use the lights of our *chanukiah* to drive away the shadows of hatred and intolerance so that peace may once again reign.

Chag Sameach,

Rabbi Benjamin Sharff





Honoring Our Past... Educating Our Future

Dear RTR Family,

The future of our congregation and of Reform Judaism in our local and broader community depends upon the education of our children. At High Holy Day services Rabbi Sharff and First Vice President, Sean Levin, spoke about the innovative way in which we are encouraging new students to enroll in RTR's Religious School and to stay engaged with our Jewish community.

This year, we offered free education to all students enrolled in Kindergarten through 3rd grade, and our enrollment in our school is already up over 30% compared to last year. And next year, **FREE** education for ALL grades will be offered! Kudos to the School Committee and the Board of Trustees for initiating this endeavor. It is at the forefront of Jewish education in the country and we are proud of this accomplishment.

We believe that both our school and congregational membership will be enhanced by this initiative. **But, needless to say, this doesn't come without a cost**, albeit a small cost in comparison to the overall benefit.

With this in mind the Board has launched a three-year capital campaign to **SUPPORT OUR JEWISH EDUCATION**. Our goal is simple: support and expand this program without invading our endowment established by the sale of the Spring Valley property. Those monies are meant to secure our future, whereas the money raised in this campaign is intended to ensure our congregational survival.

It is with great pleasure that we announce that a **CHALLENGE GRANT**, entitled Honoring Our Past...Educating Our Future, has been established in the amount of \$80,000. A group of generous and committed donors challenges us to raise, at a minimum, an amount equal to that number, which will then be graciously matched by the donor[s]. Your payments can be made however you please - monthly, quarterly or yearly.

Our three-year goal is to raise \$360,000. We encourage everyone to participate as a demonstration of support for RTR and for our children. All donations are welcome, regardless of the amount you wish to contribute.

In the near future, you will be receiving a letter and pledge card in the mail. Please be generous and join us in elevating and expanding our educational endeavors **FOR OUR CHILDREN**. All donations are tax deductible and can be paid over the course of the year for your convenience.

Please contact us or Rabbi Sharff with any questions.

With appreciation and solidarity,

Jill Barkan Cathy Klein Joel Koral Ron Nahum Barry Schoenberg Eva Steen



FROM THE PRESIDENT

With the holiday season upon us, there is much controversy on the similarities and differences between Chanukah and Christmas. The season seems to start earlier and earlier every year. It officially begins on Thanksgiv-

ing (although unofficially we see promotions starting immediately after Halloween). For Christmas, which takes place on December 25, people still have three weeks to prepare. On the other hand, Chanukah begins this year on December 2. It starts the evening of the 24th day of the Hebrew month of Kislev. The last time we celebrated Thanksgivukkah (Thanksgiving and Chanukah together) was in 2013. Chanukah and Christmas saw dual celebrations in 2005 and will again in 2024. Due to the differences in calendars, every year Jewish people are left googling the start date for Chanukah.

In Hebrew, the language from which the Jewish festival originates, the word for Chanukah is not easily transliterated into English. This accounts for why there are so many spelling variations. But Chanukah and Hanukkah are the two versions that are most widely used and accepted. While the word is spelled differently, it has the same meaning. It is the Jewish celebration that is held for eight days. A Menorah, which is a seven branched candelabrum, is different from a Chanukiah. This has nine branches. Chanukah is a historical commemoration (as compared to holidays like Rosh Hashanah and Passover which are religious), of the victory of the Maccabees or Israelites over the Greek-Syrian ruler, Antiochus about 2200 years ago. Christmas (spelled one way) is a more religious celebration, though it's date was changed under Constantine to coincide with the winter solstice, celebrated by many of the Roman Empire's conquered subjects.

Both groups of people celebrate or observe Christmas. It is a paid day off from work. Jewish tradition is going to the movies (no lines) and eating Chinese food.

On Chanukah the Jewish children play with dreidels. It is a four-sided spinning top used to play a gambling game. They play for chocolate coins called gelt. Each side of the dreidel has a different Hebrew letter, which tells the player how much to put in or take out of the pot. Together these four letters form the acronym for "Nes Gadol Hayah Sham," which means, "a great miracle happened there," referring to the miracle of the oil lasting eight days.

A possible similarity is that we all use light in our celebrations. We light a Chanukiah while others light up their homes and decorate their trees. Gifts are usually given each night of the Chanukah week while Christmas gifts take place in one day. Chanukiot were lit daily using olive oil of the purest quality. On each of the eight nights a new candle is lit (celebrating the miracle of oil lasting eight days) as well as the *shamash* (helper or servant) that helps light each one and so is an extra light.

There are Christmas carols sung with beautiful melodies and Chanukah songs about dreidels and dancing around. Many carols were written by Jewish composers, such as Mel Torme, Jule Styne, Sammy Cahn and Irving Berlin. Homes celebrating Christmas smell from home baked cookies while other homes smell like oil, onions and potatoes. But can't you just taste those latkes (potato pancakes)? Also deep fried are the sufganiyot (jelly donuts). While the tastiness of these foods is reason enough to eat them, it's the oil used to cook them that make them a staple for most of us at Chanukah.

I want to wish you all a very Happy Chanukah, along with my husband Robert and children, Andrew, Matthew, Anna, Erik and Jenna, and granddaughters Evelyn and Maggie. May you eat lots of latkes with applesauce and enjoy special time together with family.

B'Shalom,

Adrian Modansky, President President@RTRny.org



Adult Education & WRJ/Sisterhood invite you to a special evening:

KINDERTRANSPORT

Dinner & Havdallah with Guest Speaker Erika Estis*

Sat, Dec 15, at 5:00 PM

Please bring your own meat (kosher-style) dinner to be followed by Havdallah Services with Rabbi Sharff. Sides and desserts will be provided. Erika Estis will then share her incredible stories and answer questions.

RSVP is required.

Wendy Fleischman at WendySue55@aol.com or Susan Klein at rsdsk@aol.com



330 N. Highland Avenue ● Upper Nyack, NY, 10960 ● 845-358-2248 ● www. RTRny.org

*In the event, Erika Estis is unable to attend, a film will be shown followed by a discussion led by our Director of Congregational Learning.

ERIKA ESTIS was born in Hamburg, Germany, on November 14th, 1922. She was the youngest daughter of Paul and Irma Beith Freundlich. She attended the Jewish girls' school, Juedische Toechter Schule, and was active in Bar Kochba and Habonim, Zionist sports club and youth group. She was ten years old when Hitler assumed power in January 1933. One of her teachers suggested that she ask her parents to send her to England on the next Kindertransport. Her parents arranged for her to leave Hamburg on the second Kindertransport, which left on December 14, 1938, and arrived in Harwich, England on December 15, 1938. Erika never lost hope of being reunited with her parents when the present disaster came to an end, but she never saw her parents again. They were sent to Auschwitz on July 11, 1942, and murdered upon arrival.



FROM BRAD ZICHOLTZ, DIRECTOR OF CONGREGATIONAL LEARNING

Exciting Adult Ed Programs

This past month we held two incredibly interesting

events. First we had author Ellen Umansky come to talk about her book, *The Fortunate Ones*, which *Booklist* named one of the best debut novels of 2017. There was a great discussion as we spoke about her book and her other writings.

Then we traveled along with WRJ/Sisterhood to visit the historic Central Synagogue in Manhattan. The building, constructed in 1872, is a masterpiece of art and function. Designed in the Moorish style that was popular during the time, famed architect Henry Fernbach created a gorgeous sanctuary that looks like something out of a movie. With cathedral high ceilings and hand-stenciled walls, the Temple was designated as a National Historic Landmark. The sanctuary was nearly destroyed by a fire 20 years ago but they were able to restore it to its original beauty over the course of three years.

In December and January, we have four amazing events for you to expand your Jewish knowledge and connection:

- Kindertransport Speaker and Program Come and meet someone who was on the Kindertransport, which saved around 10,000 Jewish children during the Holocaust. We will have dinner, make havdallah, and hear from Erika Estis, Kindertransport survivor. Sat, Dec 15, at 5 PM.
- Religulous Movie Discussion I will be leading a discussion about the Bill Maher documentary, "Religulous." The movie which can be found on iTunes and other platforms is Bill Maher's atheistic look at organized religion and religious fundamentalism. It is a fantastic movie and

one with a lot to discuss. Thurs, Dec 11, at 12:00 PM.

- **Yentl** We will be discussing the differences between the Barbra Streisand movie and the original short story which inspired the movie: Sun, **Jan 13**, at **9:30** AM.
- Rock in the Red Zone A program for Adult Ed and our teen Youth Groups. We will be showing the incredible film "Rock in the Red Zone." It is a documentary about the Israeli city of Sderot, a city of factory workers and rock musicians the children of Jewish refugees from North Africa and the Middle East. It is a documentary about the music and perseverance of this small city under the constant barrage of missiles from the Gaza Strip. After the film, we will have a Skype session with the filmmaker, Laura Bialis: Sat, Jan 26 at 7 PM.

I hope that you take these opportunities to learn, expand your understanding of the Jewish experience, and meet other RTR members in the process.

See you soon,

Brad Zicholtz Brad@RTRny.org



Featuring Brad! Doors open at 3:30 PM. Concert at 4:00 PM. Garcia's at Capitol Theater. Tickets online.



Midnight Run November 11

Our Lil'ReTRo & ReTweens
Youth Groups prepared
sandwiches and toiletry bags
for NYC's Homeless. That
evening ReTRo handdelivered the packages.























EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

TORAH TOPICS

Thursdays at 10:30 AM

Torah Topics is an informal discussion group. Elements of the Torah are related to today's life through readings and personal narratives. The group freely shares observations and opinions and welcomes drop-ins and regular participants. Coffee, tea, and a small nosh are provided.

TASTE OF TORAH

Saturdays at 9:00 AM

Join in as we make sense of each week's (English translated) Torah portion and find out what meaning it has in our lives today. Listen to the discussion or put in your two cents and let our commentators put in theirs. Great fun and learning! Facilitated by our Clergy. Bagels at 9 AM. Study 9:15-10:15 AM.

Torah Services at RTR

Clergy will read from the Torah at Erev Shabbat Services on the following dates: Dec 21, Jan 18 (Shabbat Shira), Feb 15





Sunday, December 2 9:00 AM Chanukah

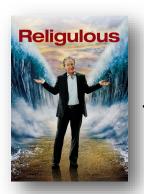
Parents and grandparents are invited to bring their "little ones" to our free monthly preschool program. Through interactive play, crafts and music children will learn the basics of Judaism. This month we learn about Chanukah. Contact Brad at Brad@RTRny.org for more information.



DEC 6 7:00 PM TEVET

Rosh Chodesh is a monthly celebration of the new moon, traditionally observed by Jewish women. At RTR, we observe with candlelight, music, some study, and meditation. It is a beautiful and meaningful way to take some time just for you, to reconnect and renew.

ALL women are welcome. Please come and join us as we celebrate the upcoming month of Tevet. Feel free to bring a friend! Please RSVP to the RTR Office with the name(s) and number attending.



Adult Ed
Movie Discussion
"Religulous"
Tues, Dec 11 at 12 PM
Bring your Dairy Lunch!
Drinks and desserts
provided

Watch on your own the hilarious and thought-provoking documentary about Bill Maher's understanding about religion coming from the view of a devout atheist. He interviews Jews, Christians, Muslims, Mormons, and others to seek the answer to the question: why? We will then meet, watch clips, and discuss aspects of the film. Bring your dairy lunch!

TREE OF LIFE & YAHRZEIT PLAQUES

Honor or memorialize your loved one or an event. Forms are available through our Office by calling 845-358-2248 or by emailing:

Susan@RTRny.org.



MI SHEBEIRACH LIST

If you have names you would like to add or keep on the list, please email Susan@RTRny.org or call 845-358-2248. Please let us know when a name can be removed. A new list will start Jan 1, 2019.

RTR CREATES COMMUNITY



The RTR Car Club encourages our members to help build friendships through a mutual enjoyment of automobiles. We hold a monthly meeting generally on the second Thursday of every month and share stories and experiences and help each other with answers to all questions regarding automobiles. We also attend events off site. If you are interested in joining our Car Club, please contact Barry Fleischman by email at barrymb@aol.com or phone at 845-494-4023.

NEXT MEETINGS: DEC 13, JAN 10

RTR'S KNITTING CIRCLE

Do you crochet, knit, or want to learn how?
Bring what you're working on or just show up and we'll get you started. Come join us and schmooze, craft and enjoy refreshments with fellow congregants.

UPCOMING MEETING DATES: <a>Dec 11 at 10 AM; Jan 29 at 7:00 PM

If you know of a temple member who is in need of some comfort, please do not hesitate to let us know so we can provide one of our handmade Mi Shebeirach bears or comfort shawls.

Contact: Helayne Pfeffer at 845-429-2939.

All names will be kept confidential.



WRJ/SISTERHOOD

Where does the time go? Our month of November was very busy, filled with many gatherings both at RTR and on trips away. We truly enjoyed our

Paid-Up Membership Brunch and shopped for many holiday gifts at our outstanding boutique. But the most fun was sharing time with our ladies. A special thank you to Amy Rapoport for taking the lead role in organizing this delightful morning.

We hope you and your family had a wonderful Thanksgiving even as we mourn the unnecessary loss of lives in our beautiful country.

Pictures will highlight the events listed below:

- Your Co-Presidents' trip to Framingham, Massachusetts for the Regional WRJ Convention, where we heard so many new ideas to share with our local Sisterhood. We were joined by three of our members, two of whom were awarded a scholarship by our Sisterhood as first-time attendees. Great bonding time!
- Our Theater Group trips to two Broadway plays, Pretty Woman and King Kong, with delicious lunches before each show. Most of us enjoyed using the planned bus transportation from the county to the theaters. We schmoozed from 10 AM until 6 PM when we returned.
- Our lovely lunch at *Bellissimo's* located off Route 304 at the Rockland/Jersey border.
- Our Paid-Up Membership Brunch and Boutique with great food, shopping and Social Action projects. Our Temple Social Action Chair and Sisterhood Board Member, Helayne Pfeffer, organized these projects.
- A true highlight of our experiences: our visit, jointly with Adult Ed, to Central Synagogue with a

docent-led tour followed by a lunch in the city. We guess food is always part of our events!

- As occurs every month, we celebrated the beginning of the new moon with a Rosh Chodesh event.
- We met at another joint event with Adult Ed and welcomed a fabulous author, Ellen Umansky as she shared how she created her excellent book, <u>The Fortunate Ones</u>. It isn't often you get a chance to ask an author about the book you so enjoyed!

The next book we will be discussing is <u>The Witch Elm</u> by Tana French. This is presently on the NY Times Bestseller List. We will inform you when a date for discussion has been chosen.

December is a busy month and we are adding to it:

- A Chanukah Dinner, along with Men's Club and the Temple, for all WRJ, Men's Club and RTR members. Please join us for the food and the holiday celebration, Fri, Dec 7, at 6 PM. Please RSVP for the dinner. Do not forget to stop in at our Judaica Shop for lovely gifts and gorgeous Chanukah candles.
- An Unsung Heroes Brunch on Sun, Dec 16 from 10
 AM to 12 PM, as we honor three of our members
 who have worked tirelessly for Rockland Jewish
 Family Services: Michelle Kleinman, Adrian
 Modansky and Helayne Pfeffer. The brunch will
 be held at The Rockleigh; cover charge is \$60.

Please follow RTR's Temple Calendar for additional dates of more WRJ events at www.RTRny.org.

We pray for our entire country to have a Healthy, Happy and Peaceful New Year and that as a people, we can help to bring **tikkun olam** – repairing the world, to a world in much need of healing.

We are stronger together,

Jane Aronoff & Estelle Hans
Co-Presidents



WRJ/Sisterhood
Northeast District Sixth
Biennial Convention
October 2018















WRJ/Sisterhood Theater Group enjoyed "Pretty Woman" on Broadway and "King Kong."











YOUTH GROUP NEWS AND NOTES

We hope that everyone had a happy and healthy Thanksgiving holiday. Our Youth Groups have been enjoying activities such as a Lower East Side food tour and preparing and participating in a Midnight Run! This was an amazing experience bringing food, coffee, clothing, shoes and toiletries to the homeless of NYC. They were so appreciative. Many thanks to everyone from RTR who helped, donated and chaperoned! ReTRo members also attended NFTY-GER's Mitzvah Day and did some much needed community service in New Brunswick, NJ!

Lil' ReTRo Grades 3-5

UPCOMING:

Dec 9: Visit to Esplanade Senior Center for Chanukah

ReTweens Grades 6-8

UPCOMING:

Nov 30-Dec 2: NFTY-GER Taste of NFTY (TON) Kallah Dec 9: Visit to Esplanade Senior Center for Chanukah Dec 16: Ice Skating at Bear Mountain 2:00-3:30 PM

ReTRo Grades 9-12

UPCOMING:

Dec 16: Ice Skating at Bear Mountain 2:00-3:30 PM

Dec 27-30: NFTY-GER Winter Kallah

Register at: http://gardenempire.nfty.org

Watch your e-mailboxes for the newest event fliers and information for January-June 2019!

We are still accepting Youth Group members – all RTR 3rd-12th graders are automatically members – please contact Elise for ReTRo registration information for anyone not from RTR!

IF YOU HAVE A JEWISH FRIEND WHO IS NOT A MEMBER OF RTR AND WOULD LIKE A YOUTH GROUP PACKET, PLEASE LET US KNOW.

Join our CLOSED Facebook group (Reform Temple of Rockland Youth Groups) for up-to-the-minute information and photos of your children at events!

WE WISH EVERYONE A HAPPY CHANUKAH AND HAPPY NEW YEAR!



If you have any questions please contact: Elise Lehrman (914) 715-9845, Advisor: ReTRo and ReTweens Robin Condoluci (845) 638-2655, Advisor: Lil' ReTRo

DONATIONS (October 11—November 10, 2018)

Adult & Family Education Fund

Marian Schwartz in memory of Jerome Schwartz Stewart & Suzanne Bader in memory of Mimi Nahum Warren & Wendy Witt in memory of Florence Witt

Art Fund

Edward & Marilyn Lawner in honor of Sylvia Avstreih's 100th Birthday Edward & Marilyn Lawner in memory of Mimi Nahum Linda Goodsmith in memory of Warren Goodsmith

Building Fund

Samuel & Elaine Simon in honor of The Rothbards: wishing them well in their new home

Cantor George Weinflash Music Fund

Richard Wiener & Ilene Weitzner in memory of Evelyn Wiener & Joseph Wiener

Cantor's Discretionary Fund

Anna Kozak

Samuel & Elaine Simon in honor of Sylvia Avstreih's 100th Birthday

Jeff & Fran Grossman in memory of Blanche Grossman

Leonard Gross & Libby Tulin in memory of Lynn Lever

Martin & Helene Leibowitz in memory of Harry Weinberger

Martin & Helene Leibowitz in memory of Mimi Nahum

Martin & Pamela Winter in memory of Benjamin Klugerman

Neil Cohn in memory of Charles Cohn

Todd & Risa Askenas in memory of Walter Askenas

Wayne & Bonnie Michaels in memory of Lynn Lever

Linda Goodsmith with appreciation for Cantor Neff

William & Giovanna Czander with appreciation for Cantor Neff

Chesed Fund

Morton & Rhoda Klibonoff in memory of Jacob Estorick

Family in Crisis Fund

Paul & Judy Melter in memory of Joseph Strumlauf Phillip & Patricia Beutel in memory of Roslyn Weiss

Karen Ami Social Action Fund

Ira & Susan Emanuel in honor of RJFS Heroes: Michelle Kleinman, Adrian Modansky and Helayne Pfeffer Samuel & Elaine Simon in honor of the birth of Jeff & Fran Grossman's grandchild

Oneg Fund

Douglas Antelman in memory of Rachel Scheffler

Operating Fund

The Estate of Herbert Kurz

David & Libbi Rosenblum in honor of the birth of their first grandchild, Benjamin Samuel Cassidy

Gerald & Joan Lenkowitz in honor of Sylvia Avstreih's 100th Birthday

Arnie & Sue Garelick in memory of Raselle Fisher

David & Arlene Hulnick in memory of Sarah Hulnick

Ellen Holtzman in memory of Albert C. Holtzman & Harry Holtzman

Harvey & Vivian Glassman in memory of Sumner Glassman

Lawrence & Carol Miller in memory of Moe & Goldie Miller and Abe & Yetta Glanstein

Lester & Seema Bader in memory of Sidney Bader

Matthew & Felice Burgay in memory of Ruth Burgay

Mr. & Ms. Sidney Fleisher in memory of Gertrude Davis



THANK YOU FROM BERNIE PERRY

I want to thank all those who took the time and made the effort to share in my 75th Anniversary of my Bar Mitzvah! Thank you! (Continued from page 14)

Operating Fund (continued)

Mr. & Ms. Sidney Fleisher in memory of William Morris Davis Ruth Lee in memory of Mimi Nahum

Phyllis & Morton Simon Prayer Book Fund

Doris Bass in memory of Steven M. Bass

Rabbi Louis Frishman Youth Endowment Fund

Bernie Perry
Barbara Gass in memory of Mimi Nahum
Barbara Gass in memory of Phyllis Katz
Gwenn Canfield in memory of Eugene Tannenbaum
Larry & Sandy Markowitz in memory of David Markowitz
Mimi Frishman in memory of Julius Mandell
Mr. & Mrs. Thomas Kenney in memory of Charles Gorovoy
Richard Wiener & Ilene Weitzner in memory of Evelyn Wiener & Joseph Wiener

Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

Andi & Richie Gold in honor of Bernie Perry's 75th Bar Mitzvah Anniversary Bernie Perry in honor of the congratulatory card for his 75th Bar Mitzvah Anniversary Dave & Judy Pravidlo in honor of Bernie Perry's 75th Bar Mitzvah Anniversary Esley Issak & Jay Sussman in honor of Bernie Perry's 75th Bar Mitzvah Anniversary Jane & Ed Iuzzini in honor of Bernie Perry's 75th Bar Mitzvah Anniversary Jerry & Ricki Caspe in honor of Bernie Perry's 75th Bar Mitzvah Anniversary Linda & Neal Wagenheim in honor of Bernie Perry's 75th Bar Mitzvah Anniversary Marvin & Linda Belnick in honor of Bernie Perry's 75th Bar Mitzvah Anniversary Pat Lieberman in honor of Bernie Perry's 75th Bar Mitzvah Anniversary Samuel & Elaine Simon in honor of Sylvia Avstreih's 100th Birthday Sol & Sue Loeser in honor of Bernie Perry's 75th Bar Mitzvah Anniversary Bernard & Elaine Berson in memory of Raselle Fisher Bernard & Elaine Berson in memory of Hilda Haffer Cyril & Roberta Ross in memory of Ann Rubin Shenkin Elaine Casper in memory of Hazel Haber Jeff & Fran Grossman in memory of Fannie Walter Larry & Judith Greenberg in memory of Ben Greenberg Neil Cohn in memory of Charles Cohn Simon & Stefany Bergson in memory of Milton Bergson Susan Brand in memory of Irving Newman Todd & Risa Askenas in memory of Walter Askenas Wayne & Bonnie Michaels in memory of Lynn Lever Linda Goodsmith with appreciation for Rabbi Sharff

Religious School Campaign

Jordan & Deborah Turner

Rose & Moe Aranow Library Fund

Aaron & Peg Kershenbaum in honor of Sylvia Avstreih's 100th Birthday Joel & Rona Katz in honor of Sylvia Avstreih's 100th Birthday Douglas Antelman in memory of Louis Shelofsky

Sylvia & Hyman Rosenzweig Scholarship Fund

David & Arlene Hulnick in memory of Gerald Hulnick

RTR greatly appreciates all donations. If any have been overlooked or improperly allocated, please call the office and let us know.



High Holy Day Appeal (Oct 11-Nov 10)

Alvin & Jane Aronoff Bruce Beck & Tama Shor Beck Robert & Kathleen Bookman Barbara Caren June Fischer Ellis Gitlin Paul & Ellen Gould Martin & Vanessa Greenberg Michael & Lisa Haber Ellen Holtzman Anne Jacobs Michael & Rita Jacobs Michael & Catherine Klein Norman Klinger Ruth Lee Jeffrey & Marcy Leif **Ethel Levine** Stephen & Judith Levy David & Jeanne Marks Evan & Jeri Newman Arthur & Cindy Norton Joel & Sheila Rosenberg Cyril & Roberta Ross Barry & Sally Schoenberg Barry & Cris Sperman Eliot & Deborah Studnitzer Jordan & Deborah Turner

Howard & Barbara Wilen



Bring a menorah with seven candles *Plus*

NEW unwrapped child's toy to donate

(Social Action for People to People)

Joining us for dinner? RSVP to Jolie Levy at 845 358 2248.



THE REFORM TEMPLE OF ROCKLAND

Brighter Together

330 North Highland Avenue (Rte. 9W) • Upper Nyack, New York 10960 • www.RTRny.org

December 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				Hap Chanu	py Ikah	1 23 Kislev Parashat Vayshev Taste of NFTY at Camp Harlam 9:00a Taste of Torah 10:30a Shabbat Service
Erev Chanakah I Taste of NFTY at Camp Harlam 6-8:30a 3rd NJC 9:00a Religious School 9:00a K'tanim: Chanukah 11:30a Jr. Choir 12-5p 3rd NJC		School	7:30p Choir	6 28 Kislev Chanukah V 10:30a Torah Topics 7:00p Rosh Chodesh 8-10p 3rd NJC	7 29 Kislev Chanukah VI 6:00p WRI/MC Din- ner for RTR mem- bers. RSVP required. 7:30p Erev Shabbat Family Service: Rock Shabbat & Conse- cration & 5/6th Grade Service	8 30 Kislev Chanukah VII 9:00a Taste of Torah 10:30a Shabbat Ser- vice
7:30p Band				Children Children		
9 1 Tevet Chanukah VIII 9:00a Religious School 9:00a Men's Club Bfast 10:00a MC Tax Law Talk 11:30a Jr. Choir 1:00p Lil'ReTRo at Nursing Home			12 4 Tevet 6:30p AA 7:30p Choir	13 5 Tevet 10:30a Torah Topics 7:15p RS Comm. 7:30p Car Club	14 6 Tevet 7:30p Erev Shabbat Service	15 7 Tevet Parashat Vayigash 9:00a Taste of Torah 10:30a Shabbat Service 5:00p Adult Ed/WRJ: BYO Dinner, Kindertransport Program & Havdallah. RSVP Required.
9:00a Religious School 11:30a Jr. Choir		10:00a Food Addicts 4:45p Religious School 6:00p Academy	6:30p AA 6:30p CANDLE 7:00p TransParents 7:30p Board of Trus- tees	20 12 Tevet 10:30a Torah Topics 7:30p Choir 8-10p 3rd NJC	21 13 Tevet 7:30p Erev Shabbat Service— Torah Ser- vice	22 14 Tevet Parashat Vayechi 9:00a Taste of Torah 10:30a Shabbat Ser- vice
23 15 Tevet NO RELIGIOUS SCHOOL	24 16 Tevet Christmas Eve OFFICES CLOSES at 2PM		26 18 Tevet 6:30p AA	27 19 Tevet NFTY Winter Kallah at Camp Harlam 10:30a Torah Topics	28 20 Tevet NFTY Winter Kallah at Camp Harlam 7:30p Erev Shabbat Service	29 21 Tevet Parashat Shemot NFTY Winter Kallah at Camp Harlam 9:00a Taste of Torah
12-5p 3rd NJC		8-10p 3rd NJC		8-10p 3rd NJC	11:30p-3a 3rd NJC	10:30a Shabbat Ser- vice
30 22 Tevet NO RELIGIOUS SCHOOL NFTY Winter Kallah at Camp Harlam 12-5p 3rd NJC	31 23 Tevet New Year's Eve OFFICES CLOSES at 2PM					

WRJ/Sisterhood Paid-Up Membership Brunch & Boutique November 18



























MEN'S CLUB

I hope everyone had a very Happy Thanksgiving. And I wish you all a very Bright and Happy Chanukah. Friday night, Dec 7, is a very busy Shabbat Service preced-

ed by a WRJ/Sisterhood and Men's Club Chanukah dinner and including a Rock Shabbat. I hope to see you there.

On Sun, Dec 9, the Men's Club has their monthly Bagels & Business Meeting at 9:00 AM followed by a presentation on what the current Tax Law means to you. The Tax Law

Talk is open to everyone; invite your friends to attend this very informative talk. I invite everyone to read:

https://www.irs.gov/pub/irs-pdf/p5307.pdf Tax Reform Basics for Individuals and Families.

I will lead a discussion on the subject along with a discussion about RMD (required minimum distributions) for taxpayers who have reached that magic age of 70.5 and ways to reduce your income.

David Firstenberg, President DavidFirstenberg@gmail.com





Accepting Religious Kids

A support group for parents or family members navigating relationships with their more observant children. Please join us to share your hopes and stories, and gain the guidance and support you need.

First Meeting
Thursday, December 13 at 7:00 PM
Rockland Jewish Family Service
450 West Nyack Road, Suite 2
West Nyack, NY 10994

For more information or to let us know you're coming, please contact Carol King at (845) 354-2121 x 142 or cking@rjfs.org. Co-sponsored by RJFS and The Reform Temple of Rockland.









Come Visit The RTR WRJ/Sisterhood

JUDAICA SHOP

For ALL Your Chanukah Needs!

Chanukah is the first week of Dec! Shop now!

We have picture frames, salad bowls, serving platters, and a tremendous assortment of Michael Aram!

We have incredible gifts for the children in your life!

Select from an assortment of wonderful toys and gifts for your children and grandchildren!

Make your appointments now:

Email JudaicaShop@RTRNY.org or call: Lisa Jay at 914-572-0200 Renee Kratter at 845-357-6715 Helayne Pfeffer at 845-429-2939

We look forward to seeing you soon!

A portion of all sales go to support our Temple and Religious School



The Joy Project

This year, the Social Action Committee is coordinating the Temple's effort in support of People to People's "Project Joy!" Project Joy! provides donors with the opportunity to "adopt local families" for the holidays and purchase toys from children's wish lists. Last year, almost 900 families had gift-filled holidays thanks to those that participated in Project Joy!

Please consider donating to this worthy project by sending a check to the Temple office made out to RTR no later than December 1st designated as a Project Joy contribution. Committee members will be responsible for purchasing the items and delivering them to People to People. The names of the families who make a donation will be placed on a leaf on our "Tree of Joy" that will be displayed in the temple lobby. Let's make the lives of some local families in need a little brighter during this season!

Please direct any questions to Kathy Bookman at katcar05@aol.com or 845-639-6057.

Thank You!

Social Action would like to give a **HUGE thank you** to everyone who took the time to bring in coats, hats and gloves to donate during the month of October.

The following cleaners also donated their services to ensure the coats were cleaned and ready for their new owners:

Dan Allen Cleaners 222 S. Main Street New City, NY 10956

Garnerville Cleaners

Foremost Shopping Center 120 West Ramapo Road Garnerville, NY 10923

Park Plaza Cleaners 191 Route 59 Suffern, NY 10901



VOLUNTEERING & OUTREACH

The Rhoda Bloom Kosher Food Pantry



RTR is committed to donate **200 HALF GALLON KOSHER APPLE JUICE CONTAINERS** *each month* to the Rhoda Bloom Kosher Food Pantry.

WHAT YOU MIGHT NOT KNOW: When we don't meet that number... we purchase the difference. Please help us out.

Rockland Jewish Family Service works to alleviate hunger in our community through the Rhoda Bloom Kosher Food Pantry, which delivers kosher food to anyone in Rockland who is in need.

The Food Pantry currently feeds approximately 200 families in our community. One in six people goes hungry.

WHAT YOU MIGHT NOT KNOW: The Food Pantry doesn't serve only Kosher families, it serves ALL families in our community.



Upcoming Volunteer Days: Dec 9, Jan 20, Feb 17

Volunteers are needed monthly. The shift starts at 8:45 AM and ends before noon.



Isn't it funny how just one little phone call or text can make your bad day suddenly wonderful?

Yahrzeit Callers Needed

Callers are needed to make a few (3-4) brief, weekly calls to remind people of the service schedule for their loved one's Yahrzeit. Names, relevant information and the script are provided weekly via email. You must have access to email to help with this project. If interested in helping, please email Jorie Sear at volunteer@RTRny.org. Your help would be greatly appreciated!

Please Note: Any request for changes to Yahrzeit name readings made with the office will not be reflected in the reminder calls.

Compassionate Callers Needed

Some in our RTR family would love an occasional friendly phone call or visit. Let's do a mitzvah and show that we care for each other!

To volunteer, email Eva Steen:
Chesed@RTRny.org

VOLUNTEERING & OUTREACH



Assist Homeless Women

Donate **sanitary napkins and tampons** for the women who are served by the Warming Center, Rockland's program to aid and shelter homeless Rocklanders. Kindly bring them to a WRJ/Sisterhood meeting or place them in the collection bin either outside the temple office or the one in the upstairs lobby. Thank you for your generosity and kindness.



Give Your Old Shoes a New Life!

WRJ/Sisterhood continues their fundraiser collecting used shoes which are "worn, but definitely not worn out!" Used shoes are in great demand in developing countries. Recycled shoes create jobs and fuel local economies. Please drop off pairs of men's, women's or children's shoes. Look for donation boxes in the upstairs lobby and downstairs entrance.



College Care Packages

Do you have a child in college? Please email the mailing address to RTR's College Chair, Ruth Schlanger, at rjs521@aol.com. RTR and the WRJ/Sisterhood want our college students to remain part of our family and will send them some surprises while they are away at college.



Baby Items

The Social Action Committee will be collecting **NEW diapers, wipes, clothing and SMALL baby items such as bibs** for The Center for Safety and Change. Collection bins are available at RTR. This will be an ongoing effort.

LARGE items such as bassinets, strollers, high chairs, large bags of gently used clothing/bibs can be donated directly to The Center for Safety and Change at 9 Johnson Lane in New City.

Please direct any questions to Lisa Fox at otlf@aol.com or 845-304-1669.



Rockland County Warming Center

Volunteering to help Rockland County's homeless has never been easier! All our volunteers need to do it: donate your time 6:30-9:30 PM, bring a store bought dessert, serve dinner and have fun! RTR's youth are leading the way and have already committed to dates. The Warming Center is staffed by a manager and security personnel. Meals are provided by a local caterer. Interested? Have Questions? Ready to Sign Up?

Barbara Wilen: barbwilen@live.com / 845-596-5061 Lillian Grossbard: lgrossbard@gmail.com/917-273-6105

5779 VOLUNTEER DATES AT YEAGER HEALTH CENTER IN POMONA: Feb 27, 28 Apr 10, 11



Get to know your RTR family one story at a time. Names will be randomly selected so, yes... YOU may be our next call!

Meet Cindy Norton



Cindy, one of RTR's newest Board Members, is a true "Rocklander." Cindy was born in Suffern, raised in Pearl River and, as she puts it, "I've probably lived in most of the county at one time or another but our home is currently in Congers."

There are many sides to Cindy. She works in IT but is also a NYS licensed massage therapist, Reiki Master and Young Living Essential Oil Distributor; yet she still finds the time to make sure she passes on Jewish traditions and culture to her children.

In addition to being involved with the school and now the RTR board, Cindy connects with her Jewish heritage through

family members and gatherings. When asked about her family events, Cindy proudly told us, "We always have extended family, cousins, aunts and uncles for Rosh Hashanah, Chanukah and Passover. It's important to pass on our heritage to my children."

How many of you can say that you had a triple baby naming for your children without having triplets? Here's a fun fact that Cindy shared with us. "After our third child was born, we decided to have a baby naming for all three of our children. At the time of the birth of our third child, our oldest daughter was 8 and our middle child 4 years old. They all had a baby naming on the same day at Temple Beth Torah. It was a very special celebration!"

Cindy has been part of the TBT, now RTR, community for a while. Giving to others is high on her priority list, as well as her desire to share in cultivating the next generation to be individuals who want to learn, be proud of and understand their heritage. Thank you, Cindy, for sharing with us and being part of our RTR family.

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES



Day	Name (up to age 25)	
1	Max Auerbach	
4	Noah Goldmann	
7	Jianshin Nemeroff	
7	Jonathan O'Neill	
13	Michael Buonocore	
14	Olivia Stone	
23	Jessica Gerber	
24	Jordan Kleinman	
27	Jadyn Turner	
28	Jasper Stone	
30	Ariella Mendes	

Those of any age with December birthdays are welcome to join us at Family Rock Shabbat at 7:30 PM on December 7 to receive a birthday blessing and get a sweet treat! November birthdays will also be recognized at this service.



Day	Names	Years
4	David & Michelle Tucker	35
6	Ronald & Sherri Nahum	43
19	Philip & Diane Gottfried	53
21	Ira & Eileen Laderman	50
21	Cyril & Roberta Ross	61
21	Elliot & Diane Sachs	33
23	Martin & Rehna Levine	53
24	Stuart & Rochelle Linder	46
24	Norman & Carole Nudelman	63
25	Herb & Anne Bernstein	49
26	Peter & Rikke Stone	44
28	Ethan Scher & Polly Marks-Scher	38
31	Russell & Lisa Jay	24

If you are celebrating a special anniversary and would like a special blessing, please let us know.

GOOD & WELFARE

Mazel Tov to **Bernie Perry** on the 75th Anniversary of his Bar Mitzvah.

Mazel Tov to **David & Libbi Rosenblum** on the birth of their first grandchild, Benjamin Samuel Cassidy. Proud parents are Wendi & Evan Cassidy.

Mazel Tov to **Seth & Ruth Schlanger** on the birth of their granddaughter, Aviva Esther Juni. Proud parents are Jillian & Mordechai Juni.

Mazel Tov to **Simon & Stefany Bergson** on the marriage of their daughter, Brianne, to Miguel Gluckstern.

...to Michelle Kleinman, Adrian Modansky & Helayne Pfeffer on being honored at Rockland Jewish Family Service's Unsung Heroes Brunch on December 16.

CONDOLENCES

Our deepest sympathies to **Shelly Jacobs**. Her father, Charles Cohn, died October 23.

Our deepest sympathies to **Ronald Nahum**. His mother, Miriam Nahum, died October 27.

LET'S TALK ART

SERIES XI

Located on the lower level opposite the Tucker Lounge, framed by the original inserts from the TBE Ark Doors, are the following group of paintings and photographs:



Rabbi and Musicians by Chaim Gross



Unnamed by Sarinson
Mixed media in relief
Contributed by Barry & Laura Weiss



Praying at the Western Wall by Beth Shephard



View of a Village Israeli School



View Israeli Town by Shmuel Katz Blume



Russian Funeral by Frederic Bremmer



Jerusalem Diamond by Bracha Brym-Lavee

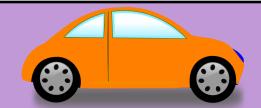


Old Man Sleeping-Young Boy Seated Israeli School



Funeral Carriage

Jerusalem Landscape
by Lashai Feridah
is on the wall opposite the above display.



RTR is seeking volunteer drivers (21 or older) to provide transportation for congregants who are unable to drive themselves. If you will be coming to Friday or Saturday services or any events and have room in your car, please contact Jolie Levy, Temple Administrator, at (845) 358-2248 or Jolie@RTRny.org to get matched up with someone in your area who might be in need of a ride. Your help would be greatly appreciated!



You Might Not Know....

That we now have spare reading glasses outside our sanctuary in various strengths as a courtesy in case you forget your pair. Simply borrow them and put them back in the basket before you leave.

Thank you, Larry Beck & Susan Silver!

PLEASE HELP US MAKE A MINYAN! As the temperatures drop, so does the attendance at our Saturday morning Shabbat services. These services take place downstairs and begin at 10:30 AM on Saturday mornings. Please join us and help us make a minyan. *Reminder:* Yahrzeits can be observed on a Saturday morning, not only on a Friday night. All names are read again on Saturday mornings.

RTR's Kashrut Policy:

All Temple-sponsored events held on Temple property shall be either a dairy or a meat event. Meat and dairy are never served together during the same course of a meal.

- Shellfish and pork products are prohibited on the Temple property.
- Any party renting or using the Temple facilities must comply with this policy.
- Fish and eggs are "parve" (considered neutral) and can be served with either meat or dairy.
- Chicken and other poultry are considered meat.
- All products that come from milk are considered dairy (cheese, butter, cream, etc.).

The Reform Temple of Rockland Committee Chairs

Adult Education	Susan Klein rsdsk@aol.com Wendy Fleischman wendysue55@aol.com
Brit Olam	Nancy Bermon n.bermon@verizon.net Julie Buffington-Rizner jbuffington2@gmail.com
Building and Grounds	Jeff Grossman jeffggrossman@gmail.com Barry Schoenberg BJSDOC@aol.com
Caring & Inclusion Initiative	Eva Steen <u>eesteen@optonline.net</u> Helayne Pfeffer <u>hayne1954@gmail.com</u>
Finance	Stephen Hittman stephen.hittman@gmail.com
Fundraising	Barry Schoenberg BJSDOC@aol.com
Marketing	Fran Grossman franzgrossman@gmail.com

Men's Club	David Firstenberg davidfirstenberg@gmail.com	
Membership	Sean Levin seanrichardlevin@verizon.net Michael Rutter shotime@aol.com	
Religious School	Tama Shor Beck shorbeck@verizon.net Cathy Klein kleincb@gmail.com	
Ritual	Jodi Gischner ritualcommittee@RTRny.org Judith Kiss ritualcommittee@RTRny.org	
WRJ/Sisterhood	Jane Aronoff aronoff@aol.com Estelle Hans estelleh1@verizon.net	
Social Action	Helayne Pfeffer hayne1954@gmail.com	
Youth Groups	Russell Jay <u>ripjay@optonline.net</u> Sally Schoenberg <u>carrot1060@aol.com</u>	

THE REFORM TEMPLE OF ROCKLAND

Tel.: 845-358-2248 ♦ Fax: 845-358-3450 www.RTRny.org ♦ info@RTRny.org

Clergy

Rabbi Benjamin Sharff RabbiSharff@RTRny.org Cantor Sally Neff CantorNeff@RTRny.org

Staff

Temple Administrator Jolie Levy Jolie@RTRny.org Dir. of Cong. Learning **Brad Zicholtz** Brad@RTRny.org **Administrative Assistant** Susan Caminez Susan@RTRny.org **Bookkeeper** Kama Clark Kama@RTRny.org

Board of Trustees

President Adrian Modansky President@RTRny.org **First Vice President** Sean Levin seanrichardlevin@verizon.net **Vice President** Eva Steen eesteen@optonline.net **Vice President** Cathy Klein kleincb@gmail.com

Vice President Ellen Holtzman ellenh@rocklandfamilylaw.com stephen.hittman@gmail.com Treasurer Stephen Hittman

Financial Secretary Jeri Newman jeri@ibcshell.com

Men's Club President davidfirstenberg@gmail.com **David Firstenberg**

WRJ/Sisterhood Co-President Jane Aronoff aronoff@aol.com

Trustee Pam Auerbach pamela.auerbach@gmail.com

Trustee Steve Dachs desdax@aol.com

Trustee Fran Grossman franzgrossman@gmail.com Trustee Jeff Grossman ieffggrossman@gmail.com Trustee **Estelle Hans** estelleh1@verizon.net **Trustee** Aaron Kleinman amrockland@msn.com Trustee Joanna Landau yona180@optonline.net

Trustee Robert Modansky rmodansky@citrincooperman.com

cinorton915@gmail.com Trustee **Cindy Norton**

Trustee Barry Schoenberg bjsdoc@aol.com **Trustee** Tama Shor Beck shorbeck@verizon.net **Trustee Deby Turner** deby1012@gmail.com Barbara Wilen barbwilen@live.com Trustee Jenn Woods Trustee

innywoods@optonline.net

Helpful Deadline Information & Guidelines

WEEKLY (Wednesdays): e-Connections

Our weekly email, "e-Connections," goes out to our distribution list every Wednesday. This communication is for upcoming events and important announcements only. It is intended to be a short (two-page max.) newsletter; it is not intended to run repetitive flyers or announcements (i.e., Soul Mates shoe collection). Text will be limited and graphics will be small. Flyers will be linked. **Please note:** stand-alone e-blasts are primarily for life cycle events.

WEEKLY (Fridays): Erev Shabbat Services Handout

Each Friday, we prepare the Yahrzeit and Mi Shebeirach lists for the Shabbat Services handout. If there are any changes/additions to these lists, please notify the RTR Office by 10 AM on Friday. Changes/additions made after the deadline will be communicated to clergy and appropriately read, but the handout will not be changed.

MONTHLY: Connections

Deadline: 10th of the Prior Month (Ex: Dec 10th for Jan)

Deadline: 3:00 PM Tuesday

Each month, we produce a bulletin that is mailed to homes and businesses. Entries are due in the Office by the 10th of the month for inclusion in the following month's bulletin. This communication is intended for ongoing events, flyers, news, articles, and an-

Submission Guidelines: Please submit your own flyers. Be sure to include a date, time, location, description and contact person. We accept all formats. All of the above information can be emailed to Susan@RTRny.org.



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