

THE REFORM TEMPLE OF ROCKLAND

Brighter Together

DECEMBER 2019 3 Kislev—3 Tevet 5780





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

OFFICE HOURS

Monday-Thursday 9:00 AM - 5:00 PM

Friday 9:00 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:

- 1 NO RELIGIOUS SCHOOL
- 3 Religious School Committee
- 4 Executive Committee
- 5 WRJ/Sisterhood Meeting
- 6 Erev Shabbat Family Service
- 7 3rd Annual Family Trivia Night
- 8 Global Jewish Day of Learning Adult B'nei Mitzvah Class
- 9 WRJ/Sisterhood Chocolate Event
- 10 Knitting Circle
 - Membership & Marketing Committee
 - Finance Committee
- 11-15 URJ Biennial Chicago
- 15 K'tanim: Chanukah
- 17 Ritual Committee
 Social Action Committee
- 18 Security Committee
 Board of Trustees Meeting
- 20 Erev Shabbat Chanukah Rock Shabbat
- 22 NO RELIGIOUS SCHOOL
- 24 OFFICE CLOSES at 2 PM NO RELIGIOUS SCHOOL
- 25 CHRISTMAS DAY: OFFICE CLOSED
- 27 Erev Shabbat: Torah Service
- 29 NO RELIGIOUS SCHOOL
- 31 OFFICE CLOSES at 2 PM NO RELIGIOUS SCHOOL

SEE PAGE 17 FOR OUR COMPLETE CALENDAR



RTR welcomes our new members:
Fran Heller and Family of Congers

Peek Inside...

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FROM THE RABBI

The evening of December 22nd marks the beginning of the minor festival of Chanukah. We will be lighting the first candle 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) and place it in a visible location like by a door or a window. This mitzvah is called *pirsumei nisah*, or publicizing the miracle. We then perhaps sing a few songs of our miraculous redemption.

Given the disturbing rise of anti-Semitism, which we sadly have spoken about at length and continue to encounter, one wonders, is it even safe to place a *chanukiah* 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. Some rabbis even decreed that one is obligated to keep the menorah hidden. Then there is the debate about the placing and lighting of giant *chanukiyot* in public spaces, but that is a conversation for another day.

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. 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 that 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 5780, let us use the lights of our *chanukiah* to drive away the shadows of hatred and intolerance so that peace may once again reign. In the meantime, one way you can help us with this celebration is by joining us at our Rock Shabbat Chanukah service on December 20th. We will be light the Chanukah candles along with the Shabbat candles on the following Friday, December 27.

Chag Chanukah Sameach!

B'Shalom,

Rabbi Benjamin Sharff RabbiSharff@RTRny.org



Shabbat and holiday services may be seen live at www.RTRny.org/live

EDUCATION CAMPAIGN UPDATE

Honoring Our Past...Educating Our Future Education Campaign for RTR to offer FREE RELIGIOUS SCHOOL for all grades!

Our 3-year Education Campaign continues towards our goal of \$360,000 – and you can follow our progress by checking the "thermometer" in the main lobby. Our goal of providing free religious school for all grades, is a program that no other congregation is attempting. Our commitment to educating our children, who will take Reform Judaism into the future, is firm and deliberate. With everyone's participation we will succeed in providing a tuition free quality Jewish education to the children in our congregation!

Together we can do this!

commitments or donations in honor of our children's future:

Thank you! Thank you to the GROWING list of donors who have made

Anonymous Donors
Eugene Arkin
Alvin & Jane Aronoff
Dave & Pamela Auerbach
Stewart & Suzanne Bader
Bruce Beck & Tama Shor Beck

Steven & Laurie Becker Steven & Janice Bergman Simon & Stefany Bergson

Marcia Berk

Eric & Lisa Berkowitz
Phillip & Patricia Beutel
Mark & Nancy Brecher
Matthew & Felice Burgay
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Gwenn Canfield

Elaine Casper

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June Fischer

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Jason & Hilary Schwartz Leon & Beatrice Schindel Seth & Ruth Schlanger Barry & Sally Schoenberg

Jorie Sear

Rabbi Benjamin & Joy Sharff Benjamin & Jane Shavitz Larry Beck & Susan Silver Leonard & June Silverman James & Marcia Simon Samuel & Elaine Simon Myrna Soslowitz Boris & Bella Spektor Barry & Cris Sperman

Lillian Spier

Daniel & Heidi Spitzer Edward & Eva Steen Peter & Rikke Stone Jordan & Deborah Turner Donald & Jo Ann Waldorf Madeline Weinberg Barry & Laura Weiss Howard & Barbara Wilen Warren & Terry Willen

FROM THE PRESIDENT



During this month of December, we will celebrate the holiday of Chanukah. It occurs on the 25th day of Kislev. Guess what else occurs during this week this year? Correct! Christmas!

Chanukah begins the evening of Sun, Dec 22 and runs through Mon, Dec 30. Many people think of Chanukah as the Jewish Christmas, but any Jewish person will tell you that's not true. Chanukah has nothing to do with Christmas, but usually occurs close to both Thanksgiving and Christmas.

There are two different spellings of the holiday, Hanukkah and Chanukah. While the word is spelled differently, it has the same meaning. It is the Jewish celebration that is held for eight days and is the historical commemoration of the victory of the Maccabees or Israelites over the Greek Syrian ruler Antiochus about 2200 years ago. The Chanukah menorah (Chanukiah), has nine branches which represent the shamus (servant), and the eight night miracle of the oil burning. Each night during the celebration we light the shamus first, then the servant is used to light the other candles.

The significance of the nine branches is that one day's supply of kosher oil burned for eight days (the time it took to make a new portion of oil), as overseen by the servant. While there are Jewish families and Christian families, there are also many Interfaith families. These families may choose to celebrate both Chanukah and Christmas to bring their families together. What our children really want, especially if they are young, is more fun family time. Sharing stories, games, cooking and candle lighting should be shared as much as possible.

Children play with dreidels, and usually win chocolate coins called gelt. The dreidel has four sides and each side has a different Hebrew letter (Nun, Gimel, Hay, Shin). Together these 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. We need to weaken the linkage between love and big presents. One way to do this is by putting a cap on what we spend which can be a good model for our children.

You can acknowledge the gift giving season within reason. As you know, \$18 is chai meaning "life." Giving multiples of this number is common for Jews to give as gifts. Do a mitzvah by bringing your child to a toy store with you and let them purchase something for a child in a shelter or in need. Giving them money for *tzedakah* will also teach them to help less fortunate children, and appreciate what they have in their lives.

You can see festival lights going up everywhere earlier and earlier in the season. We light a Chanukiah while others light up their homes and decorate trees. It is a very festive time of year for all. Many Jewish composers have written famous Christmas carols. Mel Torme, Julie Styne, Sammy Cahn and Irving Berlin, just to name a few. There are a number of Jewish songs that have similar tunes during the holiday season, and one of the best Chanukah songs was written by Adam Sandler.

The smell in the house during Chanukah is amazing! Latkes (potato pancakes) being fried in oil with potatoes and onions leave a lasting smell, along with *sufganiyot* (jelly donuts). While the tastiness of these foods is reason enough to eat them, it's the oil used to cook them that makes them a staple for most people.

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

B'Shalom,

Adrian Modansky, President

adrear Modansky

President@RTRny.org



DEC 7 from 5-7 PM

Dinner Will Be Served

\$10 per person OR \$30 per family \$100 to reserve a Table of 12 for You and Your Friends

- ⇒ Answer Fun Trivia
- ⇒ All Ages Welcome
- \Rightarrow Compete as a Table
- ⇒ Fabulous Prizes

Contact Brad Zicholtz to RSVP by 845-358-2248 OR Brad@RTRny.org

All Proceeds to Benefit RTR Religious School & Academy





FROM BRAD ZICHOLTZ, DIRECTOR OF CONGREGATIONAL LEARNING

December could very well be called "The Month of the Family." There are numerous opportunities to come

together as a family and share with each other. It's what being part of a community is all about!

- Friday, December 6 6:00 Family Dinner followed by the Family Shabbat Service at 6:30. Skip the rushed Shabbat meal prep and clean up and join us at Temple instead! Take time as a family to celebrate and enjoy Shabbat.
- Saturday, December 7 The 3rd Annual Family Trivia Night 5-7PM Join together with families, seniors, students, anyone who loves to show off their ridiculous knowledge and be competitive. Table competes against table to decide who knows the most useless knowledge possible. Categories include: Science, Geography, Judaism, Movies, Music, and much more.
- Saturday, December 21 **Star Wars Shabbat** As the great Rabbi Yodawitz
 once said: "May the Force and Shabbat
 be with You." We will have a very special
 Star Wars themed Shabbat morning service, a Star Wars themed lunch (*Han Burgers anyone?*), and then heading to
 see the new movie, *Star Wars The Rise*of Skywalker in 3D.

• Sunday, December 15th - Nursing Home Visit to the Esplanade - Join us after school to meet and celebrate Chanukah with our elderly neighbors. This is an incredible chance to take part in a mitzvah!

Coming up in January...

- Family Gaga-palooza January 12
- January 31-February 2 Middle School Weekend Retreat to Eisner Camp

Adult Education

- We are continuing to offer our Adult Hebrew class on Sunday mornings from 10:00-10:45.
- Our Adult B'nei Mitzvah class also continues, please contact me if you are interested in joining the class.
- Tuesday, January 7th *Button Man* **Book Talk** *Button Man* is a historical novel about a Jewish man who fought back against the corrupt, mob-led unions during the 1930's.

L'shalom,

Brad Zicholtz

Director of Congregational Learning Brad@RTRny.org

JOIN US FOR A SPECIAL SATURDAY STAR WARS THEMED SHABBAT!



SATURDAY DECEMBER 21ST
11:30 AM
COST: \$ 18.00 PER TICKET
(INCLUDES LUNCH AND MOVIE TICKET)

Please sign up as soon as you can so that we can purchase tickets when they go on sale.



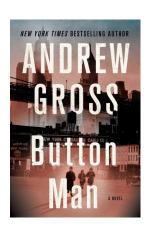
MAY THE FORCE BE WITH US!

For more information please contact Brad Zicholtz Director of Congregational Learning 845.358.2248 • Brad@RTRny.org

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



EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES



Adult Ed/WRJ: Book Discussion Button Man by Andrew Gross Tues, Jan 7, at 6:00 PM

A historical thriller, Button Man, "traces the rise of a Jewish immigrant family in the dawn of the women's garment business collapse under the hammer of organized crime." Read it on your own and then come to the lively and engaging discussion group. All opinions are welcome. Bring your meat or parve dinner!



December 4 at 7:00 PM

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 Kislev (the month of Chanukah). Feel free to bring a friend! Please RSVP to the RTR Office with the name(s) and number attending.

Times for Torah...

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 us 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 own 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.

Clergy will read from the Torah at Erev Shabbat Services on the following dates:

December 27, January 17



The Reform Temple of Rockland

women of reform Judaism sisterhood The Mitzvot of Membership



More About Us...

Our Sisterhood is an organization of women who join together in friendship. We are women of all ages and bonded by many factors. We support the tenets of Reform Judaism and The Reform Temple of Rockland in many ways.

Our programs, activities and fundraising efforts benefit our congregation, our children and our community. We meet for social



and spiritual activities. Sisterhood provides the arena for us to expand and grow in a Jewish atmosphere. As a member of Sisterhood, you will join with other Women of Reform Judaism supporting issues affecting women and families around the world.

We are a caring community that strives to put our Jewish ideals into action. As we learn and serve, we share friendship, fun and prayers and gain a sense of belonging. **Please join us for a wonderful year!**



What is WRJ? A Sampling of What We Do...

- Sponsor, arrange and host Oneg Shabbatot
- Present gifts to Bar & Bat Mitzvah celebrants
- Provide Jewish holiday parties for the Religious School
- Provide scholarships to our Temple youth for NFTY and camp
- Send Chanukah, Rosh Hashanah and Passover packages to our college students
- Decorate the bima for Sukkot

- Support Israel Bonds, The Union of Reform Judaism, Women of Reform Judaism & YES Fund
- Support Community Charities
- Sponsor Broadway Theater Group
- Provide Financial Support for The Reform Temple of Rockland
- Operate the Judaica Shop
- Support the Women of ARC Skokie House
- Support Helping Hands Initiative

MEMBERSHIP FORM

Please complete membership application and make check made payable to WRJ.

Address:		
Home Phone:	Cell Phone:	
Email:		

Please mail to:

WRJ/Sisterhood Membership The Reform Temple of Rockland 330 North Highland Avenue Upper Nyack, NY 10960

Please Select N	/lembers	hip	Level	
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General	\$36
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General & YES contrib. \$41

☐ Chai \$54

Chai & YES Fund contrib. \$59

Golden Chai \$72

Golden Chai & YES contrib. \$77

We offer different levels of membership. Members who enroll at either the Chai or Golden Chai levels will receive free raffle tickets at events, and the gratification in knowing that you have given our WRJ an 'extra boost.'

WRJ /Sisterhood encourages support of the **Youth, Education and Special Projects (YES) Fund.** This Fund supports youth and education programs throughout the Reform movement. This includes educational and cultural programs for high school and college age youth, as scholarships and grants for future rabbis. Resources are also provided for service and humanitarian causes in the areas of social justice, human rights, early childhood education, human services and world peace. **Please support the YES Fund by adding \$5.00 to your dues check**.



WRJ/SISTERHOOD

November's big event was our Fall Brunch and Boutique on Sun, Nov 17. We welcomed new members and potential new members with our audacious hospitality.

Information on the work that WRJ/Sisterhood and the YES fund do locally and on a global scale was presented.

Our THANK YOUS go to Sally Marvin for the wonderful selection of vendors, and to Amy Rapoport for taking the lead in organizing the food portion of our event. We would like to thank all the women who cooked and baked, set up and/or cleaned up, and did anything and everything else to make this morning such a success.

The Theater group finished the fall season with *The Rose Tattoo*. The team headed by Eadie Kanchuger that we thanked last month was only part of the many who help during the year. In addition, and in alphabetical order, we would like to thank: Mimi Fetterman, Phyllis Kaminsky, Marilyn Lawner, Adrian Modansky, Helayne Pfeffer, and Barbara Rich.

December starts with our Treasured Memories event on Thurs, Dec 5 at 7:00 PM. Please bring your Treasured Memories to share. These can be stories based on objects, photos or family lore. We all have memories to share; some funny, some sweet, some poignant. Join your sisters to listen and share.

Mon, Dec 9 is our Chocolate Event. Registration is full, but just in case more space be-

comes available, you can contact Sally Marvin at 914-645-5163.

WRJ/Sisterhood is involved in a Toy Drive for People to People: Project Joy. People to People has requested donations of unwrapped children's gifts to distribute to families in the county. The more, the merrier. Also, we are sponsoring Gift Cards for Seniors. The goal is to give these cards to seniors to help make their holiday season brighter. Gift cards of \$25 denominations or donations of any amount to purchase these cards can be given directly to the WRJ. Some suggestions are: CVS, Walgreen's, Home Depot, Target and Lowes.

REMINDER: Jan 7 at 6:00 PM, WRJ and Adult Ed will present a joint book discussion of Button Man by Andrew Gross. This entertaining tale about real life Jewish gangsters in the greater New York area will be sure to bring about a lively discussion. Please bring your meat or parve dinner to eat as we discuss.

Wishing everyone a Happy Chanukah!







Sunday, Dec 15 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'll learn about Chanukah. Contact Brad at Brad@RTRny.org for more information.



We all have an opportunity to support the continued vitality of the Jewish organizations important to us—including The Reform Temple of Rockland.

To create your Jewish legacy contact:



Rabbi Benjamin Sharff RabbiSharff@RTRny.org 845-358-2248 www.RTRny.org

CAR CLUB

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 bar-rymb@aol.com or by phone at 845-494-4023.

NEXT MEETINGS: DEC 12, JAN 9

The Knitting Circle 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: Dec 10 at 10 AM; Jan 14 at 10 AM

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.

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES



Day	Name (up to age 25)
1	Max Auerbach
4	Noah Goldmann
5	Aaron Aufgang
7	Jianshin Nemeroff
13	Michael Buonocore
14	Olivia Stone
23	Jessica Gerber
24	Jordan Kleinman
28	Jasper Stone
30	Ari Mendes

Those with December birthdays are invited To join us on December 6 to receive a birthday blessing and get a sweet treat!

Happy Anniversary

Day	Names	Years
4	David & Michelle Tucker	36
6	Ronald & Sherri Nahum	44
19	Philip & Diane Gottfried	54
21	Elliot & Diane Sachs	34
21	Cyril & Roberta Ross	62
21	Ira & Eileen Laderman	51
23	Martin & Rehna Levine 54	
24	Norman & Carole Nudelman 64	
24	Stuart & Rochelle Linder	47
24	24 Steven & Elaine Geller 50	
26	6 Peter G & Rikke Stone 45	
28	Ethan & Polly Scher	39
31	Russell & Lisa Jay	25

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

GOOD & WELFARE

Mazel Tov to **Susan & Stephen Schlussel** on the marriage of their daughter, Samantha to Rodney Sukhnanand.

Mazel Tov to **Kenneth & Janet Levitt** on the engagement of their son Perry, to Erin Segal.

CONDOLENCES

Our deepest sympathies to Eric Berkowitz, his uncle, David Berkowitz, died November 20.

Our deepest sympathies to **Susan Silver & Larry Beck**, their brother-in-law, Len Gimbel died in November.

Our deepest sympathies to Terry Stone, her mother, Patricia Strauss, died November 2.

Our deepest sympathies to **Shari Brodsky**, her father, Nathan (Norman) Isaacson, died October 28.

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 bowling and NFTY-GER Fall Kallah! ReTRo members who attended got to meet up with old friends and meet some new friends! In addition, they went out in the community in Aberdeen, NJ to volunteer at two different senior living centers, Elijah's Promise soup kitchen/Backpack Buddies and the local Emergency Housing Advocacy Center. Our teens were a tremendous help in all locations! Be proud of them!

Upcoming LilReTRo events are:

December 15: Visit to Esplanade Senior Center for Chanukah



Upcoming ReTweens events are:

December 1 from 12:00-2:00 PM: Make chocolate Chanukah candy with ReTRo for fundraiser

December 6-8: NFTY-GER Taste of NFTY (TON) Kallah for 6th/7th/8th graders

December 15: Visit to Esplanade Senior Center for Chanukah

Upcoming ReTRo events are:

December 1 from 12:00-2:00 PM—Make chocolate Chanukah candy with ReTweens for fundraiser

December 15: Visit to Esplanade Senior Center for Chanukah

SAVE THE DATE—January 10-12 is NFTY-GER Winter Kallah: Registration is open for all 9th-12th graders



Watch your e-mailboxes for the newest event fliers and information for January-June 2020!



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 RTRI

- IF YOU HAVE A JEWISH FRIEND WHO IS NOT A MEMBER OF THE REFORM TEMPLE OF ROCKLAND AND WOULD LIKE A YOUTH GROUP PACKET, LET US KNOW.
- FEEL FREE TO CALL ELISE OR ROBIN WITH ANY QUESTIONS ABOUT LilReTRo, ReTweens or ReTRo YOUTH GROUPS.



We wish everyone a Happy Chanukah and Happy New Year!

Elise Lehrman 914-715-9845, Youth Group Advisor, grades 6-12 Robin Condoluci 845-638-2655, Youth Group Advisor, grades 3-5

The Men's Club Invites you to:

The 2nd Annual West Point Hockey Game

JANUARY 11

7:05 PM







ARMY WEST POINT

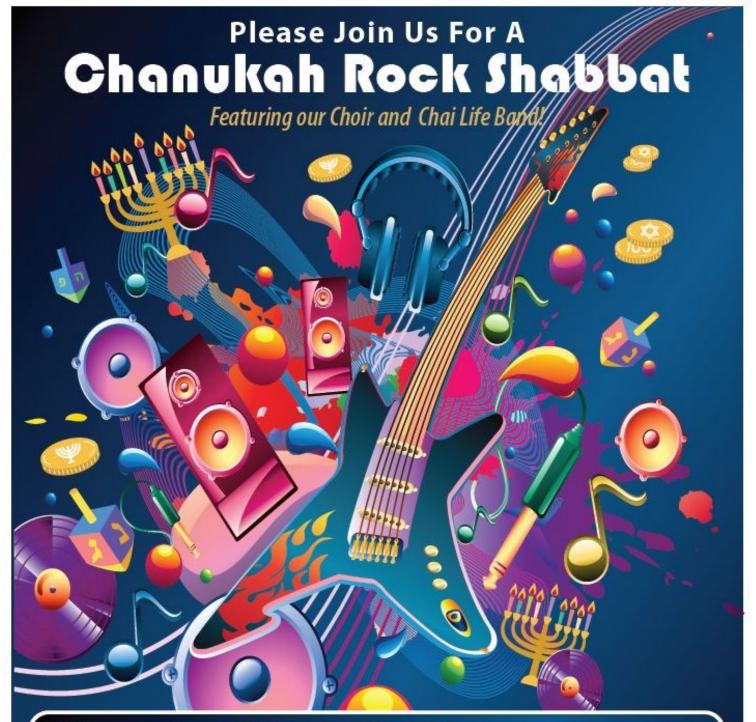
U.S. AIR FORCE

We are excited to announce the 2nd Annual hockey event for all Men's Club members and others who wish to attend. Last year we had a blast! So come and join us! Tickets are \$40 per person. We have a limited number of backed seats so please commit as soon as possible. Concession food is available. We are not permitted to bring in food from the outside. Meet at The Reform Temple of Rockland at 5:00 PM and we will take cars to West Point.

Make checks payable to RTR Men's Club by Dec 20 send to:

Cliff Malat 25 Prides Crossing New City, NY 10956

Any questions, please contact Cliff Malat at 845-638-0337 or cliffmalat@gmail.com



December 20th, 7:30 PM

Join us after the service for a special Chanukah Oneg with donuts and treats! Hosted by WRJ/Sisterhood and Men's Club

Bring \$25 Gift Cards or any financial donation for local senior citizens in need.

Collected by the Social Action Committee for the Rockland County DDS (Please make checks payable to WRJ)



THE REFORM TEMPLE OF ROCKLAND

Brighter Together

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

December 2019

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 3 Kislev NO RELIGIOUS SCHOOL 12:30a Band Re- hearsal	2 4 Kislev	3 5 Kislev 10:00a Food Addicts 4:45p Religious School 6:00p Academy 6:30p Religious School Comm.	4 6 Kislev 6:30p AA 7:00p Rosh Chodesh 7:30p Exec. Comm. 8:00p PFLAG	5 7 Kislev 10:30a Torah Topics 7:00p Band 7:30p WRJ/ Sisterhood Mtg	6 8 Kislev NFTY Taste of NFTY 6:30p Erev Shabbat Family Service	7 9 Kislev NATA NFTY Taste of NFTY Parashat Vayetzei 9:00a Taste of Torah 10:30a Shabbat Service 5:00p 3rd Annual Family Trivia Night
8 10 Kislev NATA NFTY Taste of NFTY 9:00a Religious School 10:00a Adult Hebrew 10:30a Adult B'nei Mitzvah NO JR. CHOIR	NATA	10 12 Kislev NATA 10:00a Knitting Circle 4:45p Religious School 6:00p Academy 7:14p Membership 8 Marketing Comm. 7:30p Finance Comm.	URJ Biennial 6:30p AA	URJ Biennial 10:30a Torah Topics	13 15 Kislev URJ Biennial 7:30p Erev Shabbat Service	14 16 Kislev URJ Biennial Parashat Vayishlach 9:00a Taste of Torah 10:30a Shabbat Service
15 17 Kislev URJ Biennial 9:00a Religious School 9:00a K'tanim: Chanukah 10:00a Adult Hebrew 1:00p Esplanade Visit	16 18 Kislev	17 19 Kislev 4:45p Religious School 6:00p Academy 7:30p Ritual Com- mittee	18 20 Kislev 6:30p AA 6:30p CANDLE 6:30p Security Com- mittee 7:00p TransParents 7:30p Board of Trus- tees	10:30a Torah Topics 7:00p Band Re-		21 23 Kislev Parashat Vayeshev 9:00a Taste of Torah 10:30a Shabbat Service: Star Wars Shabbat 12:00p Lunch & Star Wars Movie
22 24 Kislev Erev Chanukah I NO RELIGIOUS SCHOOL	23 25 Kislev Chanukah II	24 26 Kislev Chanukah III Christmas Eve NO RELIGIOUS SCHOOL OFFICE CLOSES at 2PM	25 27 Kislev Chanukah IV Christmas Day OFFICE CLOSED		Chanukah VI	28 30 Kislev Parashat Miketz Chanukah VII NFTY Virtual Lighting 9:00a Taste of Torah 10:30a Shabbat Service
				Links Control		
29 1 Tevet Chanukah VIII NO RELIGIOUS SCHOOL	30 2 Tevet	31 3 Tevet New Year's Eve OFFICES CLOSES at 2PM NO RELIGIOUS SCHOOL				

VOLUNTEERING & OUTREACH OPPORTUNITIES

Volunteer for RTR...



Be a Yahrzeit Caller

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.



Join Our Caring Team

There are members within our congregational family who could use an occasional friendly phone call or a visit. Do a *mitzvah* and join this group of other able and compassionate members who can show that we care for each other! To volunteer, email Eva Steen at Chesed@RTRny.org.

Volunteer in Our Community...



Rockland Warming Center

You can help Rockland homeless by volunteering only a few hours of your time. It's never been easier! All you need to do is bring some store bought desserts, serve dinner and have fun. The Warming Center is staffed by a manager and security personnel. Meals are provided by a local caterer. Volunteer time is 6:00-9:00 PM. If you're interested, have questions, or ready to sign up—contact Barbara Wilen at Barbwilen@live.com or call 845-596-5061.



Dec 12, Jan 9 & 23, Feb 6 & 27, Mar 6 and Apr 30



The Rhoda Bloom Food Pantry

Volunteers are needed monthly to help bag and distribute groceries to local families who need assistance. The shift starts at 8:45 AM and ends before noon.

Upcoming Dates are: Dec 8, Jan 20, Feb 17

Give To Our Ongoing Collections...



Items for Women of Domestic and Sexual Abuse

Social Action will be collecting items for women of domestic and sexual abuse and donating them to the Center for Safety & Change. Please help by bringing in the following items in all sizes: NEW sweatpants, NEW plain tee-shirts without writing and NEW flip flops. Thank you in advance for your support. Please direct any questions to Martha Siegel at mrsiegel48@gmail.com.



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.



Kosher Barley

Rockland Jewish Family Service works to alleviate hunger (one in six people go hungry) 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 over 200 (Kosher and non-Kosher) families in our community. RTR is collecting bags of barley for this cause. While you're welcome to bring in bags of barley, the Social Action Committee encourages members to make donations to the Social Action Fund to help cover the cost of these donations when we don't meet our monthly quota.





Donate \$25 Gift Cards from the following businesses or send in a check of any amount made payable to WRJ and they will purchase gift cards on your behalf.



For the month of December the Social Action Committee and WRJ/Sisterhood ask you to help bring some love and light into someone's holiday season by collecting gift cards (\$25 in value) for seniors and adults 18 years of age and older who are receiving services from the Rockland County Department of Social Services (DSS). The cards allow the adults to feel remembered at the holiday season and retain their dignity by ensuring personal choice on how the funds are spent (with input from DSS). These are individuals:

- with mental or physical impairments who cannot provide for their basic need for food, clothing or shelter
- who need to protect themselves from neglect, abuse or hazardous conditions

DONATIONS & DEDICATIONS (Oct 11, 2019—Nov 10, 2019)

ADULT & FAMILY EDUCATION FUND

from Allen & Miriam Fetterman from Jeff & Helayne Pfeffer

in honor of

Alan & Susan Sadovnick's 50th Anniversary from Myrna Soslowitz Elaine & Sam Simon's 69th Anniversary from Stewart & Suzanne Bader

in memory of

Sylvia Antelman from Mr. Douglas Antelman Helen C. and Horace Z. Kramer and Laura Evans Hecht from Murray & Linda Evans Gussie Stein from William & Estelle Hans Miriam Stein from William & Estelle Hans

with appreciation for

Adult Ed & Bible Study from Aaron & Peg Kershenbaum

BUILDING FUND

in memory of

Blanche Grossman from Jeff & Fran Grossman

CANTOR GEORGE WEINFLASH MUSIC FUND

in honor of

Emily Sharff's Bat Mitzvah from Philip & Diane Gottfried in memory of

Len Gimbel from Larry Beck & Susan Silver Helen Hans from William & Estelle Hans



from Sharon Trubitt

in honor of

Cantor Neff for making the holidays so beautiful from Jeff & Helayne Pfeffer

Cantor Sally Neff from Michael & Eileen Rutter

the marriage of their daughter Samantha to Rodney Sukhnanand from Stephen & Susan Schlussel

Tina Miller's 70th Birthday from William & Estelle Hans

Tina Miller's 70th Birthday from Penny & Mike Contente

in memory of

Pearl Winter from Martin & Pamela Winter David Fihlstein from Michael & Eileen Rutter Max Shatsky from Paul & Ellen Ratisher

with appreciation for

Cantor's deeply moving and uplifting High Holiday Services from Arthur Leibowitz & Victoria Ficco-Panzer

CHESED FUND

in honor of

the birth of Adrian & Robert Modansky's grandson from Stephen & Irene Kopelman

in memory of

Jack Sterman from Mr. Michael & Mrs. Iris Jacobs Louis Schulman & Esther Schulman from Mr. Mitchell & Mrs. Karen Schulman



(Continued from page 21)

EDUCATION CAMPAIGN 2019

in honor of

the celebration of Emily Sharff's Bat Mitzvah! from Christopher Nelson & Jill Barkan the Bat Mitzvah of Jane & Alvin Aronoff's granddaughter from Jeff & Helayne Pfeffer the birth of Cathy & Michael Klein's grandson from Jeff & Helayne Pfeffer the birth of Adrian & Robert Modansky's grandson from Jeff & Helayne Pfeffer

in memory of

Syd & Morris Kelmar from June Fischer

FAMILY IN CRISIS FUND

from Anonymous

in memory of

Ann Rubin Shenkin from Dr. Cyril & Roberta Ross Arthur Siegel from Enid Gross Judith Krauss from Mr. Mitchell & Mrs. Karen Schulman

KAREN AMI SOCIAL ACTION FUND

in honor of

the birth of Jacob Albert Modansky from Gwenn Canfield
Rabbi and Cantor's inspirational services during the holiday from Samuel & Elaine Simon
in memory of

Wilbert Emanuel from Ira & Susan Emanuel Nathan Spier, Joel Winkler, Goldie Weinberg & Frances Rosenberg from Lillian Spier William Friedman from Myron & Nina Lazar Murray Hans from William & Estelle Hans

MORTON TROY EDUCATIONAL ENRICHMENT FUND

from Harvey & Norma Gultz

ONEG FUND

in memory of

Abraham Stein from William & Estelle Hans

OPERATING FUND

from Eric & Jennifer Rotbard

in honor of

Mimi & Alan Fetterman from Daniel & Heidi Spitzer Sylvia Avstreih's 101st birthday from Daniel & Heidi Spitzer Sylvia Avstreih's 101st birthday from Esther Cember

in memory of

Alice Sack from Andrew & April Solomon
Freda Rosenblum from David & Libbi Rosenblum
Arthur Dubin from Harvey & Barbara Erdsneker
Aaron Sandler from Michael & Rochelle Berger
David Haberman from Mr. Irwin & Mrs.Marilyn Haberman
Sidney Bader from Mr. Lester & Mrs.Seema Bader
Herman Fishlin from Mr. Lewis & Mrs.Judith Fishlin
Gertrude Davis from Mr. Sidney & Ms.Toby Fleisher
Murray Spitzer from Norman & Vivian Resnick

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

OPERATING FUND (continued...)

Yetta Sackoff amd Goldie Greenberg from Walter & Barbara Fiedler

RABBI LOUIS FRISHMAN YOUTH ENDOWMENT FUND

in memory of

Abe Kroch from Bernie Perry Elayne Mandell from Mr. David & Mrs. Linda Goldstein Joseph Weiner from Richard Wiener & Ilene Weitzner

RABBI'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

from Gwenn Canfield from Ruth Lipman

in honor of

Emily Sharff's Bat Mitzvah from Elliot & Diane Sachs

Emily Sharff's Bat Mitzvah from Harvey & Barbara Erdsneker

Rabbi Sharff for putting us in the holiday spirit from Jeff & Helayne Pfeffer

Rabbi Benjamin Sharff from Michael & Eileen Rutter

Emily's Bat Mitzvah from Michael & Lisa Haber

the marriage of their daughter Samantha to Rodney Sukhnanand from Stephen & Susan Schlussel

Emily Sharff's Bat Mitzvah from Stewart & Suzanne Bader

Tina Miller's 70th Birthday from Penny & Mike Contente from William & Estelle Hans

Tina Miller's 70th Birthday from Bill & Estelle from William & Estelle Hans

in memory of

David Markowitz from Larry & Sandy Markowitz

David Fihlstein from Michael & Eileen Rutter

Nathan (Norman) Isaacson from Michele Lowy

Evelyn Weiner from Richard Wiener & Ilene Weitzner

Milton Bergson from Simon & Stefany Bergson

with appreciation for

a meaningful and spiritual High Holy Day Services from Arthur Leibowitz & Victoria Ficco-Panzer

SYLVIA & HYMAN ROSENZWEIG SCHOLARSHIP FUND

in honor of

Gwen & Steve Rosenzweig's grandson's Bar Mitzvah from Stephen & Irene Kopelman



\$100 OFF EARLY BIRD DISCOUNT • \$200 OFF FOR AIPAC CLUB MEMBERS

Every year our 10th Graders go to Washington, DC to lobby congress, this is your opportunity to join Rabbi Sharff in Washington, DC to have a similar experience. Early Bird Registration is open now. Any questions, please reach out to Rabbi Sharff at RabbiSharff@RTRny.org.



High Holy Day Appeal (Oct 11-Nov 10)



Anonymous Anonymous Anonymous Anonymous Anonymous Anonymous

Ariel & Sara Aufgang Alan & Valerie Bagun Steven & Laurie Becker Steven & Janice Bergman Simon & Stefany Bergson

Marcia Berk

Bernard & Elaine Berson Ronald & Deborah Bloom Robert & Kathleen Bookman Matthew & Felice Burgay Gerald & Linda Camhy Warren & Sharon Cohen James & Robin Condoluci Steven & Nancy Dachs Ira & Susan Emanuel

Harvey & Barbara Erdsneker Allen & Mimi Fetterman Walter & Barbara Fiedler Howard & Leslie Gabler

Barbara Gass

Steven & Elaine Geller Eric & Jodi Gischner

Michael & Cantor Elizabeth Goldmann

Linda Goodsmith

Marty & Norma Gottlieb Paul & Ellen Gould

Martin & Vanessa Greenberg

Jeff & Fran Grossman Scott & Robyn Haber Susan Haimowitz Janet Kaminsky Joel & Cantor Kanter Murray Kaplowitz

Rita Katz

Aaron & Peg Kershenbaum

David & Susan Klein Audrey Koenig

Ira & Eileen Laderman Michael & Joanna Landau

Ruth Lee

Martin & Helene Leibowitz

Jeffrey & Marcy Leif Joseph & Andrea Leighton Gerald & Joan Lenkowitz Jay & Marcia Lurch

Clifford & Sima Malat David & Jeanne Marks Lawrence & Carol Miller

Tina Miller

Robert & Adrian Modansky Norman & Carole Nudelman Norman & Vivian Resnick David & Libbi Rosenblum Cyril & Roberta Ross Michael & Mia Rothstein Alan & Susan Sadovnick

Sheryl Santi

Roger & Esther Siegel
Steven & Arlene Silverberg
Asher Seibert & Melissa Simon

Barry & Cris Sperman
Daniel & Heidi Spitzer
Edward & Eva Steen
Donald & Jo Ann Waldorf
Mark & Ellen Warner
Madeline Weinberg
Howard & Barbara Wilen
Warren & Terry Willen

Thank you!

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: Marcy@RTRny.org.

MI SHEBEIRACH LIST

or keep on the list, please email
Marcy@RTRny.org or call 845-358-2248.

Please let us know when a name can
be removed.

Noah's Ark AND Pajama Day at the Religious School

































Come Visit The RTR WRJ/Sisterhood

JUDAICA SHOP

For ALL your Chanukah Needs

The first night of Chanukah is Dec 22, 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

> Irene Kopelman at 845-304-5673 Helayne Pfeffer at 845-429-2939

Renee Kratter at 845-357-6715

We look forward to seeing you soon!

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



You can sponsor an Oneg after a service to honor a special occasion or person. You can also sponsor an Oneg in memory of a loved one and request his/her favorite treats. Call the office at 845-358-2248 to select a date. Sponsorship is \$250 and can be charged to your account.





Do you shop at DeCicco's?

If you do, just let the cashier know you belong to The Reform Temple of Rockland (RTR) in Nyack and a percentage of your purchase will be given to RTR.

PLEASE HELP US MAKE A MINYAN! Saturday morning Shabbat 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.

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
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Caring & Inclusion Initiative	Eva Steen <u>eesteen@optonline.net</u> Helayne Pfeffer hayne1954@gmail.com
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Youth	Russell Jay <u>ripjay@optonline.net</u> Sally Schoenberg <u>carrot1060@aol.com</u>

THE REFORM TEMPLE OF ROCKLAND

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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 announcements.

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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