

CONNECTIONS

THE REFORM TEMPLE
OF ROCKLAND
Brighter Together

JANUARY 2020
4 Tevet—5 Shevat 5780





**THE REFORM TEMPLE
OF ROCKLAND**
Brighter Together

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



JANUARY DATES AT A GLANCE:

- 1 OFFICE CLOSED: New Year's Day
- 3 Erev Shabbat Family Services
- 5 Men's Club: Bagels & Business Meeting
Adult Ed B'nei Mitzvah Class
- 7 Adult Ed: Book Discussion
- 8 Executive Committee
- 9 Volunteer at Rockland Warming Center
Car Club
- 10 Erev Shabbat Service
- 11 Men's Club West Point Hockey Game
- 14 Knitting Circle
Membership & Marketing Committee
Finance Committee
- 17 Erev Shabbat: Torah Service
- 19 NO RELIGIOUS SCHOOL/ADULT HEBREW
- 20 OFFICE CLOSED: Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
- 21 Committee Chair Meeting
- 22 Security Committee
Board of Trustees
- 23 Yarmulke Making with Cantor Neff
Volunteer at Rockland Warming Center
- 24-27 L'taken Trip: Confirmation Class
- 28 Ritual Committee
- 29 Purim Rehearsals Start
- 30 Rosh Chodesh

SEE PAGE 17 FOR OUR COMPLETE CALENDAR



Peek Inside...

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FROM THE RABBI

As of the writing of this Connections article, the Israeli officials have declared that they will now attempt a third round of elections due to the failure to form a coalition

government. No one is entirely sure what this will mean for the immediate future, except as one colleague informed me, he will be receiving lots more robocalls from candidates.

In the meantime though, there is another important election related to Israel, and that is for the World Zionist Congress. According to ARZA.org “Established by Theodor Herzl in 1897, the Zionist Congress (as it was originally known) was the legislative body of the World Zionist Organization (WZO), a non-governmental entity that promotes Zionism. Today, the two bodies are known respectively as the World Zionist Congress (WZC) and the World Zionist Organization (WZO).

The WZC, also known as the Parliament of the Jewish People, comprises 500 delegates and meets in Jerusalem every five years. It enables delegates to exert ideological influence on both Israeli society and the global Jewish agenda, as well as allocate financial and other resources to various organizations – including the Reform Movement – in Israel.

The 38th World Zionist Congress is scheduled to meet in Jerusalem from October 20-23, 2020; the elections will determine the size of the various delegations to the Congress and are scheduled to be held from January 21 to March 11, 2020 (MLK Day to Purim).

Currently, the United States has 145 delegates in the WZC, the largest single delegation outside Israel. Thanks to a robust turnout in the 2015 elections, 56 of the 145 delegates (39 percent) represent the Reform Movement and, as a result, have been able to ensure that more than \$4 million a year (\$20 million over five years) is being directed to the Israeli Re-

form Movement. By comparison, the Israeli government annually provides nearly 4 billion NIS (\$1.1 billion) to Orthodox and Haredi institutions in Israel.” Regardless of how we feel about the current state of affairs in Israel, it is important for us to support a strong and vibrant Reform Community there. They are the ones leading the charge for a progressive, inclusive, forward-thinking Jewish State that should and must recognize all forms of Jewish observance.

This year voting will be easier than ever. “All voting will be completed online and will be accessible from mobile devices. It is a simple process and will take only a few minutes.”

We’ll be providing more information of how you can participate as it becomes available. Please join me in voting for the World Zionist Congress Elections in 2020. Like the third round of elections in Israel, your vote could potentially make a huge difference in the lives of fellow Reform Jews and for the life of Israel, especially given the huge disparity in financial support. Your vote counts and your vote matters.

As an aside, a huge thank you to the Cantor, lay leadership under President Adrian Modansky, staff, WRJ/Sisterhood, and Men’s Club, and you the members for supporting us and joining us in the celebration of Emily being called to the Torah as a Bat Mitzvah. It was an amazing weekend. So many of our friends and family kept telling us what a wonderful experience they had because of the warm and welcoming nature of you, the RTR community. We are touched by how much you have embraced our family and we were honored to spend the weekend celebrating with you.

B’Shalom,

Rabbi Benjamin Sharff
RabbiSharff@RTRny.org

**Shabbat 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!

Thank you!

Thank you to the GROWING list of donors who have made commitments or donations in honor of our children's future:

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
Brett & Susan Caminez
Gwenn Canfield
Elaine Casper
Jerome & Simona Chazen
James & Robin Condoluci
Steven & Nancy Dachs
Thomas & Wendy D'Arminio
Ira & Susan Emanuel
Allen & Miriam Fetterman
Walter & Barbara Fiedler
David & Laurie Firstenberg
June Fischer
Barry & Wendy Fleischman
Matthew & Fawn Fleissig
Steven & Deborah Forman
Mimi Frishman
Howard & Leslie Gabler
Barbara Gass
Marshall Gilbert
Ellis Gitlin
Eric & Jodi Gischner
Jeffrey Glaser

Marcia Glasser
Stanley & Shelle Goldstein
Marty & Norma Gottlieb
Leonard Gross & Libby Tulin
Jeff & Fran Grossman
Michael & Lisa Haber
William & Estelle Hans
Stephen & Sharon Hittman
Ellen Holtzman
Anne Jacobs
Michael & Rita Jacobs
Adam & Jenn Kalender
Murray Kaplowitz
Rita Katz
Judith Kiss
David & Susan Klein
Michael & Catherine Klein
Aaron & Michelle Kleinman
Gerald & Petrina Koblin
Steve & Irene Kopelman
Michael & Joanna Landau
Edward & Marilyn Lawner
Jeffrey & Marcy Leif
Joseph & Andrea Leighton
Sean & Susan Levin
Gerald & Joan Lenkowitz
Stephen & Judith Levy
Stuart & Rochelle Linder
Richard & Robin Loeb
Michele Lowy
David & Jeanne Marks
Tina Miller
Robert & Adrian Modansky
Ronald & Sherri Nahum
David Greenberg & Cantor Sally Neff
Christopher Nelson & Jill Barkan

Evan & Jeri Newman
Bernie Perry
Jeff & Helayne Pfeffer
Lawrence & Amy Rapoport
Norman & Vivian Resnick
David & Libbi Rosenblum
Lawrence & Barbara Rosenzweig
Larry & Shelley Ruderman
Elliot & Diane Sachs
Sheryl Santi
Peter Schaefer & Margaret Schwartz
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

Happy and healthy New Year to The Reform Temple of Rockland family! The New Year brings with it an opportunity for a fresh start and a sense of rejuvenation. What the New Year brings to you will depend a great deal on what you bring to the New Year. Traditionally, we make New Year's resolutions in an attempt to improve ourselves and be better towards others. Here at RTR we want to do just that. We want to express our gratitude, respect and appreciation to you. New Years is a great time to share in the "Spirit of Renewal" with friends, family, congregants and coworkers.

New Years is the mid-point in our Temple year. Let's look at what has happened during the past 6 months of this year.

Our ongoing Education Campaign has our Religious School enrollment growing. With new students come new family memberships. We welcome all our new families.

Our clergy have continued to make our religious services a source of joy to attend. They continue to be a bonding agent for our community. Whether it is Rabbi Sharff's moving sermons and his wonderful guitar playing or the beautiful music provided by Cantor Neff and the Chai Life Band and Choir, there is nothing more inspiring than our Shabbat services. Our Rock Shabbats really rock, and our festival services are well received. We had great participation at our holiday dinners for Simcha Torah and Sukkot that preceded energetic services sponsored by our Men's Club and WRJ/Sisterhood.

Our many committees are hard at work at RTR. Adult Education along with WRJ/Sisterhood and Men's Club sponsored a wonderful Scholar-in-Residence weekend. There were special discussion sessions offering a variety of topics and services throughout the weekend. Social Action is ongoing with collecting gift cards, toys, hats and scarves for people not as fortunate as ourselves. Our Judaica Shop continues to provide our RTR family with a beautiful selection of everything Jewish.

The Fundraising Committee along with Cantor will hold *Jewsical the Musical* in March. Torah Topics, Taste of Torah and K'tanim continue to bring congregants together. The Caring and Inclusion Committee visit the sick and are always available to assist a congregant with any special needs. Marketing advertises all our functions, designs beautiful ads for honoree journals as well as getting RTRs name out in the community. Our thanks go out to them for the delicious honey sticks given out at the High Holy Days. Membership is always looking for new innovative ideas to retain our members as well as attracting new ones. The Youth Committee along with our Youth Groups keep our children busy with wonderful events and functions. Please join a committee and help where you can.

Once we start the second half of the year there will be new challenges. Our Treasurer and the Finance Committee will be starting the budget process. Our Audit Committee started their process. Our Education Committee will be making plans for the upcoming school year. They will be working to bring on new programs to continue to foster growth of our Religious School enrollment. Our Building and Grounds Committee will be moving on with the renovations to make RTR a facility we can all be proud of. I hope you have noticed the many changes that have already taken place. Shortly the renovation of the kitchen, bathrooms and front ramp will begin.

May the New Year bring you gifts of joys, good health and surprises! The year is new, the hopes are new, the aspirations are new, but my warm wishes for happiness and prosperity remain the same for you and your family. Wishing this year brings the warmth of love and illuminates your path of life towards a positive direction.

My husband Robert, children Andrew, Matthew, Anna, Erik and Jenna along with grandchildren Evelyn, Maggie and Jacob all share in my New Years wishes to you and your entire family.

Happy New Year and B'Shalom,

Adrian Modansky, President
President@RTRny.org



Message from Social Action

As we begin 2020, we would like to thank our generous Congregants who have supported our Social Action Committee, who in return supports the Rockland County community at large. As you already know, the needs of the county are great. We have had many different collections and programs going on throughout the year.

We began 5780 with delivering school supplies to help the families who reach out to People to People. We then had collections for The Rhoda Bloom Food Pantry, Center for Safety & Change, and several other organizations to assist with those less fortunate than us.

We hope all of you have a wonderful 2020, filled with Peace, Joy, and good Health.

Thank you,

Susan Emanuel, Helayne Pfeffer, and The Social Action Committee

Message About the Coat Drive

We collected over *sixty* coats and lots of hats and scarves. The donations were delivered to People to People and the Rockland Community Action Program in Spring Valley. We can't thank you enough for all of your thoughtful donations that helped our community stay warm!



FROM BRAD ZICHOLTZ, DIRECTOR OF CONGREGATIONAL LEARNING

At the beginning of February, our teens will be participating on the Midnight Run. On “the run,” we will

deliver food, clothing, toiletries, and conversation to homeless men and women living on the streets of New York City. The Midnight Run organization has been around for about 30 years. It was created as a coordinated effort by faith-based organizations to help bring vital and sometimes life-saving goods to the homeless. It is an incredibly unique experience that is sometimes hard to put into words.

I myself have been on upwards of about forty runs. The best part of the run is after helping the clients find what they need, there is usually an opportunity to spark up conversations with them. For most of the week, they are treated as invisible or harassed for being somewhere they shouldn't be. For the thirty minutes or so we are there, they are treated as, and seen as human beings. It is such an important life lesson for our teens that all people, no matter what their station in life, should be treated with respect. *G'milut Chasadim*, acts of loving kindness, is one of the pillars of Judaism.

While we can't take all of you with us on the run, you can still help us and the homeless out by donating the goods we need to bring with us.

WE NEED:

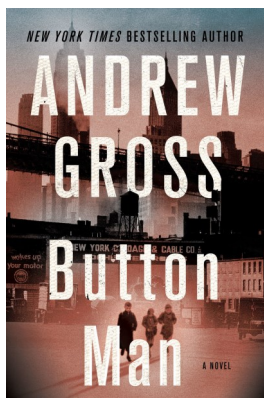
- **Warm coats.** Large and extra large sizes, as even small men and women like to layer. Dark colors preferred.
- **Durable pants.** Large sizes preferred. Sort into waist sizes between 32 and 48, with inseam sizes marked. Blue jeans preferred over khakis. Mostly men's sizes.
- **Socks.** Tube socks, White or dark.
- **Underpants.** Sizes 32 through 46. Women's briefs as well - NEW ONLY
- **Sweaters, sweatshirts and long-sleeve shirts.** Large and extra large. Dark colors preferred. Hooded sweatshirts are especially popular.
- **T-shirts.** Medium through extra large. Any color.
- **Gloves.** Ski gloves or knit gloves. Dark colors.
- **Hats.** Knit and warm for winter.
- **Shoes.** Sizes 9 through 14. Lightly worn sneakers, soft-soled shoes, and work boots.
- **Long underwear.** Large sizes. Any color.
- **Belts.** Sizes 32 to 46.

L'shalom,

Brad Zicholtz

Director of Congregational Learning
Brad@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!



January 30 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 Shevat. 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:
 January 17, February 7, March 20

K'tanim

"Little Ones"



**Sunday, Jan 12
9:00 AM**

Parents and grandpar-
ents are invited to
bring their "little ones"

to our free monthly preschool pro-
gram. Through interactive play, crafts
and music children will learn the basics
of Judaism. This month we'll learn
about Jewish Stories. Contact Brad at
Brad@RTRny.org for more
information.

HOW WILL YOU ASSURE JEWISH TOMORROWS?



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

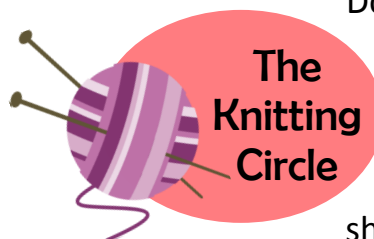
To create your Jewish legacy contact:

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



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 automo-
biles. 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
by phone at 845-494-4023.

NEXT MEETINGS: JAN 9, FEB 13



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:
Jan 14 at 10 AM, Feb 18 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.



The Reform Temple of Rockland

WOMEN OF REFORM JUDAISM SISTERHOOD

The Mitzvot of Membership

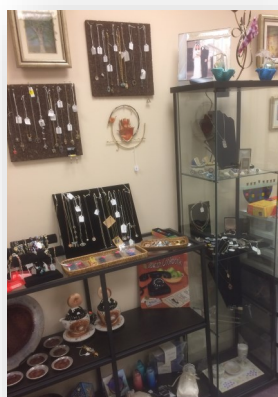


More About Us...

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.

Name: _____
 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 Membership Level:

- General \$36
- 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.**

For additional information please contact our Co-VP's of Membership:

Anne Jacobs at (845) 735-3161 or jbareader@aol.com, OR
 Jorie Sear at (845) 634-3060 or jsear1@verizon.net

WRJ/SISTERHOOD



January started so soon after the last day of Chanukah that it felt like an extension of the year. We hope that you all enjoyed the

candles glowing with your families and friends. The taste of latkes and sufganiyot and playing the dreidel game helped us all round out the eight days. There was a treat for each of our senses!

We shared our Treasured Memories at the December meeting. What a wonderful set of family histories were shared; some funny, some poignant. We represent a wealth of experiences. Within our initiative of Audacious Hospitality, consider sharing some of these memories with other members of WRJ and the temple. You might get stories in return that remind you of your past or connect you to the present in new and interesting ways.

Our participation in Project Joy from People to People was a success. We were credited with a donation of \$400 worth of toys. Thank you

all for your participation. You will make a difference in the holidays of many children. Also, thank you for your participation in the gift cards for seniors project. The numbers are not yet in, but many people did donate cards or funds to purchase cards.

New members are joining WRJ and we welcome them with our Audacious Hospitality. If there is some activity that you, our sisters new and old, would like us to sponsor – don't be shy. Contact us with suggestions. We have many activities in the works for the winter and spring, so keep reading Connections and our emails for more details.

Reminder: we will be participating with Adult Education in a book discussion on January 7 at 6 PM. The book is *The Button Man* by Andrew Gross. Please bring your meat or pareve dinner; we will supply the drinks and something for dessert.

Enjoy the beauty of winter!

Jill Tanney

WRJ/Sisterhood President
jillscout@aol.com

What is Audacious Hospitality?

Audacious Hospitality is the focused effort to embrace our diversity and reach out to those currently not engaged in Jewish life. The URJ believes that everyone can feel at home in Jewish community – and that Judaism must meet people where they are today to thrive tomorrow. As a movement, we stand for a Judaism that is inclusive and open – we believe that there is more than one authentic way to be Jewish. Audacious Hospitality is a transformative spiritual practice rooted in the belief that we will be a stronger, more vibrant Jewish community when we fully welcome and incorporate the diversity that is the reality of modern Jewish life.

www.urj.org/audacioushospitality



RTR's Annual Youth Group Super Bowl Sunday **BLOOD DRIVE!**

Sunday, February 2, 2020

9:00 am to 1:30 pm

In the Social Hall

For more info or to sign-up, contact Elise Lehrman at 914-715-9845 or leese54@gmail.com

New donors NEEDED...Walk-ins welcome!

You must be at least 16 years old to donate.

Donors age 76 or over may donate with a note from their physician.

16 year old donors require parental permission on New York Blood Center form.

You must weigh at least 110 pounds

(additional height/weight requirements apply to donors under the age of 19).

Please eat and drink well, and bring identification with photo or signature.







NYBC donor I.D. preferred

Medical Eligibility Questions? Please call (800) 688-0900.

**Men's Club Super Bowl Breakfast & WRJ/Sisterhood's Bake Sale
BOTH at 9:30 AM**

The Men's Club will celebrate Super Bowl Sunday with a *Super* Bowl Breakfast. All are welcome to participate. WRJ/Sisterhood will hold a Bake Sale in the Oy Vey Café. If you'd like to donate a nut-free treat to sell, please contact Jill Tanney at jillscout@aol.com.

January 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 4 Tevet New Year's Day OFFICE CLOSED 	2 5 Tevet 10:30a Torah Topics	3 6 Tevet 6:30p Erev Shabbat Family Service 	4 7 Tevet Parashat Vayigash 9:00a Taste of Torah 10:30a Shabbat Service
5 8 Tevet 9:00a Religious School 9:00a Parent & Religious School Meeting 9:30a Men's Club Bagels & Business 10:00a Adult Hebrew 10:30a Adult B'nei Mitzvah Class 11:30a Jr. Choir	6 9 Tevet	7 10 Tevet 10:00a Food Ad- dicts 4:45p Religious School 6:00p Academy 6:00p Adult Ed: Book Discussion, <i>Button Man</i>	8 11 Tevet 6:30p AA 7:30p Executive Committee	9 12 Tevet 10:30a Torah Topics 7:30p Car Club 7:30p WRJ/ Sisterhood Meeting	10 13 Tevet NFTY Winter Kallah 7:30p Erev Shabbat Service	11 14 Tevet NFTY Winter Kallah Parashat Vayechi 9:00a Taste of Torah 10:30a Shabbat Service 5:00p Men's Club West Point Hockey Game Outing
12 15 Tevet NFTY Winter Kallah 9:00a Religious School 9:30a K'tanim: Jewish Stories 10:00a Adult Hebrew 11:30a Jr. Choir	13 16 Tevet	14 17 Tevet 10:00a Food Ad- dicts 10:00a Knitting Circle 4:45p Religious School 6:00p Academy 7:15p Membership & Marketing 7:30p Finance Comm.	15 18 Tevet 6:30p AA 6:30p CANDLE 7:00p TransParents	16 19 Tevet 10:30a Torah Topics 12:30p Purim Lunch N' Read Through	17 20 Tevet 7:30p Erev Shabbat Service: Torah Service 	18 21 Tevet Parashat Shemot 9:00a Taste of Torah 10:30a Shabbat Service
19 22 Tevet NO RELIGIOUS SCHOOL	20 23 Tevet Dr. MLK, Jr. Day OFFICE CLOSED 	21 24 Tevet 10:00a Food Ad- dicts 4:45p Religious School 6:00p Academy 7:30p Committee Chair Meeting	22 25 Tevet 6:30p AA 6:30p Security Comm. 7:30p Board of Trustees	23 26 Tevet 10:30a Torah Topics 7:00p Cantor Neff's Yarmulke Making Class	24 27 Tevet L'taken 7:30p Erev Shabbat Service	25 28 Tevet L'taken Parashat Vaera 9:00a Taste of Torah 10:30a Shabbat Service
26 29 Tevet L'taken 9:00a Religious School 10:00a Adult Hebrew 10:00a 4th Grade B'nei Mitzvah Meeting 11:30a Jr. Choir	27 1 Shevat L'taken	28 2 Shevat 10:00a Food Ad- dicts 4:45p Religious School 6:00p Academy 7:30p Ritual Committee	29 3 Shevat 6:30p AA 7:30p Cemetery Comm. 7:00p Purim Re- hearsals Start!	30 4 Shevat 10:30a Torah Topics 7:00p Rosh Chodesh	31 5 Shevat 7/8 Trip to Eisner 7:30p Erev Shabbat Service	

For the most up-to-date event information, please visit our online calendar at www.RTRny.org.



MEN'S CLUB

Happy New Year! Isn't it great that we get to celebrate *two* New Years? I hope your family had a healthy New Year and a Happy Chanukah.

February 2 is Super Bowl Sunday and is our next bagel breakfast in support of our Youth Groups Annual Blood Drive.

Sunday, March 8 is the Purim Family Spiel and Carnival and on Monday, March 9 is the Adult Purim Spiel.

Yes, it is now winter and many of your friends have made their journey south to the land of warmer climates while we brave the unpredictable weather of the northeast. The one positive aspect of winter is that the hours of sunlight slowly starts to increase.

On the following Sunday, March 15, we will have our next Bagels & Business Meeting.

While we didn't have a breakfast in December, we will be having our next Bagels & Business Meeting, January 5 at 9:30 AM as things start to get busy at RTR.

Don't get overly comfortable in that easy chair, come out this winter and support these Men's Club events and don't forget this year's Comedy Night is coming up on May 9!

On January 11 we have hockey night at West Point. I hope you all reserved your tickets.

David Firstenberg

Men's Club President

DavidFirstenberg@gmail.com

The Men's Club Invites you to:

**The 2nd Annual
West Point Hockey Game**

JANUARY 11

7:05 PM



ARMY WEST POINT

VS



U.S. AIR FORCE

YOUTH GROUP NEWS AND NOTES

We would like to start by wishing everyone a happy and healthy New Year. Our 2020 calendar is shaping up and it looks like it will bring wonderful Youth Group events, some new, some old reliables! We are continuing to email updated event info! If you are not currently receiving information and reminders via email please contact us and we will add you to our lists! If you know any Jewish child (Temple member or not!) who may be interested in signing up for our Youth Groups, please have them email us, or give us their contact info and we'll happily contact them. We encourage all of you to sign your son/daughter up for these wonderful experiences and opportunities to meet life-long Jewish friends!

Lil ReTRo (our 3rd, 4th and 5th grades) had a great time making Chanukah gifts for the senior citizens at The Esplanade at Palisades. *Upcoming events are:*

FAMILY EVENTS TO BE SCHEDULED!

SAVE THE DATE: Mar 8 - Purim Carnival!



ReTweens (our 6th, 7th and 8th graders) participated in the Nyack Interfaith Thanksgiving service and community service project. *Upcoming events are:*

Jan 26 – 8th-12th graders visiting the Islamic Center of Rockland for an interfaith program

Jan 31-Feb 2 – Retreat at Eisner in Great Barrington, MA

Feb 2 – Blood Drive – we need tweens to help donors once they are done (Community Service hours!)

Mar 8 – Purim Carnival – we need tweens to help run games (Community Service hours will be given!)

SAVE THE DATE – Apr 24-26 – 8th graders join 9th-12th graders at NFTY-GER Spring Kallah @ Camp Harlam

ReTRo (our 9th-12th graders) also participated in the Social Action portion of the Interfaith Thanksgiving, as well as attending the beautiful service. *Upcoming events are:*

Jan 19 – X-treme Cupcake Wars with BSSTY (Beth Haverim Shir Shalom's youth group!) – details TBA

Jan 26 – 8th-12th graders visiting the Islamic Center of Rockland for an interfaith program

Feb 2 – RTR Blood Drive – we need teens to help donors once they are done (Community Service hours!)

Feb 7 – MIDNIGHT RUN! We need all hands on deck to make this successful. We leave after Shabbat service!

Mar 8 – RTR's Purim Carnival – we need teens to help run games (Community Service hours will be given!)

SAVE THE DATE – Apr 24-26 – NFTY-GER Spring Kallah @ Camp Harlam for 8th-12th graders

IF YOU HAVE A JEWISH FRIEND WHO IS NOT A MEMBER OF 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 Lil' ReTRo, ReTweens or ReTRo YOUTH GROUPS.

WE HOPE EVERYONE HAD A HAPPY HANUKKAH AND WE WISH YOU A HAPPY, HEALTHY NEW YEAR!

Robin Condoluci 845-638-2655, Youth Group Advisor, grades 3-5

Elise Lehrman 914-715-9845, Youth Group Advisor, grades 6-12



Youth Group activities are coordinated by the Youth Committee and financially supported by The Men's Club.

RTR CREATES COMMUNITY

Purim Spiel 5780



Get your dice ready and start placing your bets! We'll call snake eyes that you'll want to be a part of this year's Purim Spiel, *Guys and Dolls*! Be a part of the fun and get to know your fellow congregants as you rehearse. **The Read Through is January 16 at 12:30 PM. Rehearsals will start Wednesday, January 29 at 7 PM.** Adult volunteers are needed. No experience necessary.

If interested in being a part of the show, please contact Marcy at Marcy@RTRny.org or 845-358-2248 today!



Yarmulke Making Class with Cantor Neff Thurs, Jan 23, at 7:00PM

Learn about yarmulkes and how to crochet one of your own with Cantor Neff. Bring a 1.5mm crochet hook and light colored crochet cotton like Aunt Lydia's classic 10 (available at Michaels).

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

If you have names you would like to add 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.**

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES



Happy Anniversary

Day	Name (up to age 25)
1	Luca DeNardo
5	Matthew Fleischer Schutzbank
6	Dylan Marvin
7	Reuben Schaefer
9	Sydney DeNardo
11	Maya Kalender
14	Gabriella Rakhlin
14	Emmitt Grossbard
23	Jessica Bernadette-Hollman
23	Samantha Bernadette-Hollman
23	Joshua Weisberg
27	Ryan Rotbard
28	Hugo Caminez
31	Jack Wilen
31	Shawn Shapiro

Day	Names	Years
5	Norman & Vivian Resnick	56
7	Maxim Estroff & Rivka Kiman-Estroff	41
7	Murray & Linda Evans	47
14	Jacob & Judy Kusnetz	59
18	Jeffrey & Jennifer Hirsch	19
19	Leonard & Edith Kanchuger	63
20	Warren & Jane Livingston	40
23	Larry & Judith Greenberg	54
23	Brian Pulley & Vered Talmor-Pulley	14
25	Aaron & Peg Kershenbaum	50
26	Stewart & Suzanne Bader	56
29	Leon & Beatrice Schindel	71
30	Martin & Helene Leibowitz	54

Those with January birthdays are invited
 To join us on January 3 to receive a birth-
 day blessing and get
 a sweet treat!

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

GOOD & WELFARE

Mazel Tov to **Sue & Ira Emanuel** on the
 engagement of their son, Josh, to Shari Baitcher.

CONDOLENCES

Our deepest sympathies to **Jeffrey Hirsch**, his mother Davida Hirsch, died December 9.
 Our deepest sympathies to **Mike Rutter**, his mother Reitha Rutter, died December 8.
 Our deepest sympathies to **Jill Feibusch**, her mother Mildred Schwartz, died November 30.

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.

Upcoming Dates are:

Jan 9 & 23, Feb 6 & 27, Mar 5 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:

Jan 19, Feb 16, March 15

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.



Our Religious School students making beautiful Chanukah gifts to brighten up the rooms of the senior citizens at The Esplanade.

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

ADULT & FAMILY EDUCATION FUND

in memory of

Ruth Burgay from **Matthew & Felice Burgay**

Florence Witt from **Warren & Wendy Witt**

ART FUND

in memory of

Reitha Rutter from **Edward & Marilyn Lawner**

BUILDING FUND

in memory of

William Morris Davis from **Mr. Sidney & Ms. Toby Fleisher**

BUILDING FUND DONATIONS

in memory of

Abby Alpert from **Jorie Sear**



CANTOR GEORGE WEINFLASH MUSIC FUND

in honor of

The Aronoff's granddaughter's Bat Mitzvah from **Stuart & Sally Marvin**

in memory of

Betty Mischel from **Marcia Berk**

Reitha Rutter from **Myrna Soslowitz**

Morris Weinstein from **Paul & Ellen Gould**

Richard Singer from **Samuel & Elaine Simon**

CANTOR'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

in honor of

Cantor Neff to thank you for your guidance in Emily Sharff's Bat Mitzvah. from **Samuel & Elaine Simon**

in memory of

Reitha Rutter from **Alvin & Jane Aronoff**

Family and friends from **Howard & Leslie Gabler**

Eugene Wexler from **Karl & Nina Wexler**

Rachel Weinberger from **Martin & Helene Leibowitz**

Harry Weinberger from **Martin & Helene Leibowitz**

Edward Hewins from **Stephen & Kathleen Iger**

Eleanor Blake from **Steven & Janice Bergman**

CHESED FUND

in memory of

Jean Penschansky from **Mr. Mitchell & Mrs. Karen Schulman**

EDUCATION FUND

in honor of

the Bat Mitzvah of Jeff & Marcy Leif's granddaughter, Cameron Denman. from **Jeff & Helayne Pfeffer**

Emily Sharff from **Meir & Miriam Gur-Lavi**

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

*(Continued from page 20)***EDUCATION FUND (continued...)****in honor of**Emily Sharff's Bat Mitzvah from **Myrna Soslowitz**Emily Sharff's Bat Mitzvah from **Stanley & Shelle Goldstein****in memory of**Reitha Rutter from **Stewart & Suzanne Bader****FAMILY IN CRISIS FUND****in memory of**Moe Weiner from **Enid Gross**Elsie Mandel from **Gail Mandel**Julius Posner from **Marvin & Irma Meyeroff**Roslyn Weiss from **Phillip & Patricia Beutel**Rose Cherkiss from **Stewart & Suzanne Bader****KAREN AMI SOCIAL ACTION FUND****in honor of**Emily Sharff becoming a Bat Mitzvah from **Ira & Eileen Laderman**Emily Sharff's Bat Mitzvah from **Ira & Susan Emanuel****in memory of**Francis Gross from **Leonard Gross & Libby Tulin****OPERATING FUND****in honor of**Susan & Alan Sadovnick's 50th wedding anniversary from **Dave & Rebecca Bannerman****in memory of**Robert Gregg from **Larry & Judith Greenberg**Constance Jacobson and Charles Bernstein from **Lawrence & Amy Rapoport**Jacob Estorick from **Morton & Rhoda Klibonoff**Samuel Milber from **Burton & Linda Schain**Roslyn Singer from **Samuel & Elaine Simon**Mamie Simon from **Samuel & Elaine Simon****RABBI LOUIS FRISHMAN YOUTH ENDOWMENT FUND****in honor of**Emily Sharff's Bat Mitzvah from **Bernie Perry**Emily Sharff from **Judith Kiss**The Bat Mitzvah of Emily Sharff from **Steven & Janice Bergman**Emily Sharff's Bat Mitzvah from **Stuart & Renee Kratter****in memory of**Julius Mandell from **Cantor Mimi Frishman****RABBI'S DISCRETIONARY FUND****in honor of**Emily Sharff's Bat Mitzvah from **Alan & Susan Sadovnick**Emily Sharff's Bat Mitzvah from **Barbara Caren**Emily Sharff's Bat Mitzvah from **Gwenn Canfield**Emily Sharff's Bat Mitzvah from **Herbert & Natalie Plaut****Thank you!****HIGH HOLIDAY ANNUAL APPEAL****(Nov 11-Dec 10, 2019)**

Bruce Beck & Tama Shor Beck

Jerry & Louise Boyarsky

Brett & Susan Caminez

Cantor Mimi Frishman

Cantor Sally Neff & David Greenberg

William & Estelle Hans

Ellen Holtzman

Stephen & Kathleen Iger

Michael & Catherine Klein

Stephen & Judith Levy

Michele Lowy

Russell Rizner & Julie Buffington-Rizner

Jorie Sear

James & Marcia Simon

Samuel & Elaine Simon



RABBI'S DISCRETIONARY FUND (continued...)**in honor of**

Emily Sharff becoming a Bat Mitzvah from **Howard & Leslie Gabler**

Anne Jacobs from **Jorie Sear**

Emily Sharff's Bat Mitzvah from **Myrna Soslowitz**

Emily Sharff's Bat Mitzvah from **Paul & Ellen Ratisher**

Emily Sharff from **Rita Katz**

Rabbi Sharff to thank you for your guidance in Emily's Bat Mitzvah from **Samuel & Elaine Simon**

Emily Sharff's Bat Mitzvah from **Sheryl Santi**

Emily Sharff's Bat Mitzvah from **Stephen & Judith Levy**

Emily Sharff becoming a Bat Mitzvah from **Stephen & Kathleen Iger**

Emily Sharff's Bat Mitzvah from **Stephen Kiss**

in memory of

Phyllis Katz from **Barbara Gass**

Hazel Haber from **Elaine Casper**

family & friends from **Howard & Leslie Gabler**

Stanley Epstein from **Michele Lowy**

Louis Shelofsky from **Douglas Antelman**

Max Schildt from **Ethel Levine**

Evelyn & Irving Newman from **Susan Brand**

ROSE & MOE ARANOW LIBRARY FUND**in memory of**

Rose Alpert from **Jorie Sear**

Gerald Chernick from **Marilyn Chernick**

**THANK YOU!**

Jeff & Helayne Pfeffer

Lawrence & Amy Rapoport

For donating reupholstery for the
benches in our Main Lobby.

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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.

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

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Brit Olam	Nancy Bermon n.bermon@verizon.net Julie Buffington-Rizner jbuffington2@gmail.com	Membership	Sharon Hittman sharonhittman@gmail.com Michael Rutter shotime@aol.com
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Caring & Inclusion Initiative	Eva Steen eesteen@optonline.net Helayne Pfeffer hayne1954@gmail.com	Ritual	Jodi Gischner ritualcommittee@RTRny.org Judith Kiss ritualcommittee@RTRny.org
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THE REFORM TEMPLE OF ROCKLAND

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Cantor	Sally Neff	CantorNeff@RTRny.org

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	Calvin Evans	

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Helpful Deadline Information & Guidelines

- **WEEKLY (Wednesdays): e-Connections** **Deadline: 3:00 PM Tuesday**

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** **Deadline: 10:00 AM Friday**

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)**

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.

THANK YOU FOR HELPING US BE AS EFFICIENT AS POSSIBLE IN KEEPING OUR MEMBERS APPRISED OF RTR HAPPENINGS!



THE REFORM TEMPLE
OF ROCKLAND

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RTR's Got Talent!

ARTTR

Come out and Show Us Your Stuff!

We are looking for artists from all walks of life to share their talents for a "Get to Know Your Members Art Show" this year. If you have a passion or talent and would like to consider exhibiting our RTR art show please call the office at 845 358 2248.

- Photography
- Sculpture
- Needle point
- Jewelry Making
- Painting
- Mixed Media
- Knitting
- Book Design