

CONNECTIONS

THE REFORM TEMPLE
OF ROCKLAND
Brighter Together

MARCH 2020
5 Adar—6 Nisan 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



**UNION for
REFORM
JUDAISM**

A Proud Member of the URJ

MARCH DATES AT A GLANCE:

- 1 Adult B'nei Mitzvah Class
- 3 Adult Ed Committee Meeting
- 6 Erev Shabbat Family Service: Purim Service
- 8 Family Purim Spiel & Carnival
- 9 Adult Purim Cocktail Hour & Spiel
- 10 Knitting Circle
- Membership & Marketing
- Finance Committee
- 11 Executive Committee Meeting
- 12 Car Club
- Security Committee Meeting
- 15 Men's Club Bagel Breakfast
- Adult Ed: Rabbi Mitelman Speaker
- Adult Hebrew
- 18 **Special Congregational Meeting**
- Board of Trustees Meeting
- 19 WRJ/Sisterhood Meeting
- 21 **JEWSICAL THE MUSICAL CONCERT**
- 22 Adult Hebrew Class
- 26 Purim Lunch & Learn
- Band Rehearsal
- 27 Erev Shabbat Service: Rock Shabbat
- 29 Annual Women's Seder
- 31 Ritual Committee Meeting

SEE PAGE 17 FOR OUR COMPLETE CALENDAR

Welcome

RTR welcomes our new
members:

**Mark Fagelman & Joan Dabrush
of Pomona, NY**

Peek Inside...

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FROM THE RABBI

Given the rise of anti-semitic attacks and the incredibly polarizing political environment, I struggle with the appropriateness of writing a tongue-in-cheek article in commemoration of the holiday of Purim. Two years ago, I decided to write about the history and traditions surrounding the purim spiel, whereas last year, I returned my practice of focusing on my candidacy for the Presidency of the United States of New York. I made a lot of promises, some of which I promise to keep promising.

All kidding aside, this examination of recent events gets to the larger question of the appropriate use of humor as a reflection of the times as opposed to an escape. In Judaism we clearly have a tradition of both of these. Though, for the most part, we find humor tends to be more topical and satirical than simply observational. There is also a strong tradition of gallows humor especially during times of suffering and persecution which can be found before, during, and after the Holocaust.

We like to think of Jewish humor as part of our people's eternal existence. For example, the Torah tells us of Sarah laughing when she heard the news she was going to become pregnant at her old age and bear a son. This is why she named Isaac, Yitzhak, or to laugh. The Talmud also has some witty give and take as well. However, Jewish humor, as we know it, really came to the forefront of the Jewish experience in the 19th century.

Yiddish in particular is filled with ideas and maxims and we can find numerous tales of the Wise men (and women) of Chelm. Much of our humor tends to be of the self-deprecating variety, perhaps as a way to disarm our enemies, which gets us back to the story of Purim.

As I mentioned a couple of years ago, scholars vigorously debate the veracity of the Book of Es-

ther. What they do agree upon is that the first versions of the narrative only date back to the 2nd Century B.C.E. The first observances of the festival were noted in the 2nd Century C.E, but the purim spiel, as we know it, did not take its form until the nineteenth century. Nowadays the purim spiel is filled with mirth, irreverence and inappropriate humor. It is as if we are being reminded that sometimes when we have faced hatred and persecution, laughter may not be the best response, but it is certainly a way to help us cope.

In this tumultuous season, let us gather together, even if for just one evening and/or one morning to forget about our troubles, and laugh. Or as the Jerusalem Talmud teaches, "God's spirit rests on one who has a joyous heart."

In the meantime, please join us for our Family Purim spiel *Scooby Doo* and Carnival on Sunday, March 8 and our Purim Cocktail Hour and Adult Purimspiel *Guys and Dolls* on Monday, March 9.

I promise to get to work on my campaign promises for next year, you have my word, which is as good as all of my other campaign promises. It is essential I keep up my chops for the campaign trail, for as we know, it's always an election season except when it's a season leading up to an election ... sigh.

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 Buryay
Brett & Susan Caminez
Gwenn Canfield
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James & Robin Condoluci
Steven & Nancy Dachs
Thomas & Wendy D'Arminio
Ira & Susan Emanuel
Allen & Miriam Fetterman
Walter & Barbara Fiedler
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Howard & Leslie Gabler
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Gerald & Joan Lenkowitz
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Robert & Adrian Modansky
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David Greenberg & Cantor Sally Neff
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Henry 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
Morton & Marlene Stoll
Peter & Rikke Stone
Jordan & Deborah Turner
Donald & Jo Ann Waldorf
Madeline Weinberg
Barry & Laura Weiss
Howard & Barbara Wilen
Warren & Terry Willen



FROM THE PRESIDENT

In the month of March we join together to celebrate Purim. It is celebrated annually according to the Hebrew calendar on the 14th day of the Hebrew month of Adar. This year it begins on Monday evening March 9th and goes through Tuesday, March 10th. Here at The Reform Temple of Rockland we have many celebrations planned. All are welcome, and please bring your friends and come in costume if you choose.

Purim is celebrated by reading the Scroll of Esther, known in Hebrew as the Megillah Esther, which relates the story of Purim. Under the rule of King Achashverosh, Haman, the king's prime minister, plots to terminate all the Jews of Shushan (Persia). His plan is spoiled by Queen Esther and her cousin Mordechai, who ultimately save the Jews of the land from destruction. When the Megillah is read it is usually a rowdy loud time, with booing and noise makers when Haman's name is read aloud. Haman's name is mentioned 54 times in the Megillah. Purim is definitely full of fun.

Purim has more of a national character than a religious character. Its status as a holiday is different than those ordained holy by the Torah. Places of business stay open and most everyday occurrences continue on.

There are four main mitzvot and obligations to celebrate Purim. They are; 1) listening to the reading of the Megillah or Book of Esther usually in temple, 2) sending Shalach Manot or gifts of food, 3) giving charity to the poor and 4) eating a festive meal called Seudat mitzvah. RTR is holding a fundraiser spearheaded by WRJ, for you to send Shalach Manot to your congregant family. I am hoping you will participate in this joyous tradition as it is a heartfelt way to connect with your community.

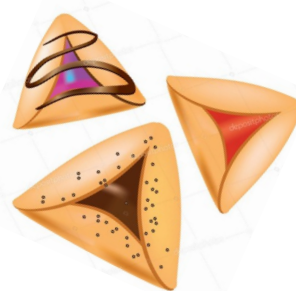
The Megillah is usually chanted in a different

way than the traditional Torah is. I hope you will join us on Sunday March 8th for our Religious School Family Purim Spiel and Carnival 9:00am-11:30am. It is not only a children's holiday. Please join us for a Purim Cocktail Hour and Adult Purim Spiel Monday March 9th starting at 6:30pm.

Hamantaschen is the traditional pastry of Purim, and has 3 corners like Haman's hat. It is filled with either a fruit filling, poppy seed or chocolate chips.

Please enjoy the following recipe to make hamantaschen:

- 3 eggs
- 1 c sugar
- $\frac{3}{4}$ c oil
- 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ t vanilla extract
- $\frac{1}{2}$ c orange juice
- 5 $\frac{1}{2}$ c flour
- 1 T baking powder
- 1 c fruit preserves (any flavor), or chips etc.



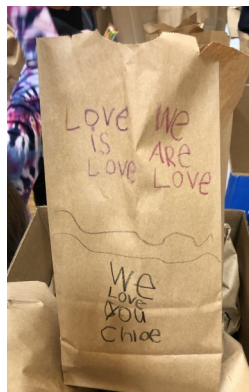
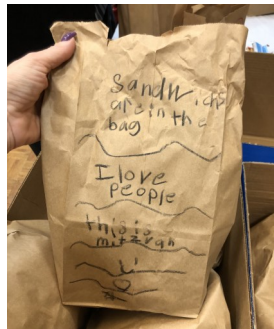
Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Grease cookie sheets. Beat eggs and sugar till fluffy. Stir in oil, vanilla and orange juice. Combine flour, baking powder, and stir into batter. On a floured surface roll out dough to $\frac{1}{4}$ in thickness. Cut into circles using a cookie cutter or glass rim. Place cookies 2 inches apart. Spoon 2 teaspoon of filling in middle of each one. Pinch the edges to form 3 corners. Bake 12-15 minutes until lightly browned. Allow to cool. Enjoy!

Hoping you will join with us to celebrate this fun holiday. Wear a costume or mask and get in the spirit of Purim.

B'Shalom,

Adrian Modansky

Adrian Modansky, President
President@RTRny.org



Pics from top to bottom: Religious School celebrating Tu B'Shevat, the 2-4 Grader Family Service, and congregants helping prepare for Midnight Run.



FROM BRAD ZICHOLTZ, DIRECTOR OF CONGREGATIONAL LEARNING

Religious School in March

March 1 - is Yom
Mezuzah in our
Religious School!

Through a generous donation from the Waldorf family, we will be dedicating and hanging beautiful new mezuzot on all our classrooms. Jo Ann Waldorf will be reading a very special book to all of our students and will be there as we hang each mezuzah.

Students will also have a chance to make their own mezuzah to take home a kosher scroll also provided for by the Waldorf family. I cannot thank the Waldorf family enough for their incredible gift and for making a Jewish learning experience come to life.

March 8 - is our Purim Spiel and Carnival! In addition to all the silliness and fun, each of our classes are creating a display for their Mitzvah Mall. Each class has chosen a charitable organization to raise money for. Please bring extra money for tzedakah!

Adult Education in March

March 5 - Rabbi Sharff will lead a discussion about NY Times writer and editor Bari Weiss' important book *How to Fight Anti-Semitism*. It is an urgent wake-up call to all Americans exposing the alarming rise of antisemitism in this country—and explains what we can do to defeat it. 7:00 PM

March 15 - *Has Science Replaced God?* Come hear guest speaker Rabbi Geoffrey Mitelman who runs the organization Sinai and Synapses,

which bridges the religious and scientific worlds, offering people a worldview that is scientifically grounded and spiritually uplifting.

For centuries, religion provided answers for our ancestors to all of life's questions. But as modern Jews, we usually look to science to tell us where we came from, who we are, or even how we should act. So how should we look at, think about and talk about the relationship between science and religion in today's world? Breakfast beforehand at 9:30 AM, sponsored by the Mne's Club. Rabbi Mitelman's program will begin at 10:00 AM.

L'shalom,

Brad Zicholtz

Director of Congregational Learning
Brad@RTRny.org

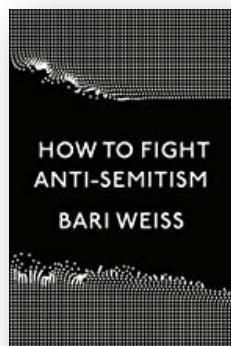


Our second graders learning about Tu B'Shevat.



K'tanim: Tu B'shevat

EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES



Adult Ed:
Book Discussion
How To Fight
Anti -Semitism
 by Bari Weiss
Thurs, Mar 5 at 7 PM

Discussion will be led by
Rabbi Benjamin Sharff

This book will discuss the “alarming rise of antisemitism in and around Europe,” and will propose ways to address the problem. Read the book and join the discussion.



Adult Ed
Presents:
Guest Speaker
Rabbi Geoff
Mitelman
Mar 15 at 10 AM

9:30 AM Bagel Breakfast
 sponsored by Men's Club

Has Science Replaced God?

For centuries, religion provided answers for our ancestors to all of life's questions. But as modern Jews, we usually look to science to tell us where we came from, who we are, or even how we should act. So how should we look at, think about and talk about the relationship between science and religion in today's world?

Adult Ed Introduces: **Breaking News & Views**

ONCE A MONTH

AT RTR, WEDNESDAY, APRIL 1

FREE

ARE YOU INTERESTED IN WHAT'S GOING ON IN THE WORLD?

PARTICIPATE

in a lively
 discussion and
 debate on the
 hottest topics
 in the news.

Then Join us for...
**A Current Events
 Discussion Group**

Wed, April 1 at 10 AM

Join us for bagels and coffee
 and we'll talk amongst
 ourselves

SHARE YOUR VIEWS

Group Leaders:
 Alan Sadovnick
 &
 Jerry Lenkowitz



MANAGING CONCERNS ABOUT FALLS

Every day in Rockland County, about five seniors visit the Emergency Room for treatment of a fall-related injury.

Two out of five are hurt badly enough and need to stay in the hospital.

The good news is... falls can be prevented!

RTR's Social Action Committee is offering this FREE nationally recognized class.

A Matter of Balance Fall Prevention Program is led by trained facilitators.

**Classes will be held at RTR
Every Tuesday from April 21 to June 2
10 AM to 12 PM**

You will learn how to:

- Reduce your fear of falling
- Set realistic goals for increasing your activity
- Do simple exercises to increase your strength and balance
- Change your environment to reduce your risk of falling

Call Estelle Hans at (845) 304-8021 to sign up for the class.

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:

March 20, April 17

Bring The Gang & Join Us For The RTR
Children's Purim Spiel, Megillah Reading & Carnival

SCOOBY-DOO!

NEW GAMES!

NEW MENU!

MORE FUN!

BOUNCE HOUSE!

ZOINKS!

PLUS, 2nd
bounce house
just for the
little ones!



Bring a box, use it as
your grogger, and we'll
donate it to a food pantry.

Games for pre-k to 6th Grade

Sunday MARCH 8th 9:00am
\$20 per person unlimited band OR \$50 for three wristbands OR pay as you go!

Please don't forget money for food (now serving new breakfast items)
and for the Tzedakah (Charity) Mall. For more info call Susan at
845.358.2248 or email susan@RTRny.org.

330 North Highland Avenue (Rte. 9W) • Upper Nyack, NY 10960 • RTRny.org • 845-358-2248



THE REFORM TEMPLE
OF ROCKLAND



Hi! My name is Maya Kalender and I live in Nyack, New York with my parents and younger brother Dylan as well as my pets, Coco and Milo. I am a student at Blue Rock School in 7th grade. My favorite subjects in school are Social Studies and Art. When I am not in school, I like to ski, read, and hike. I am a mid-fielder on my field hockey team and a forward on soccer.

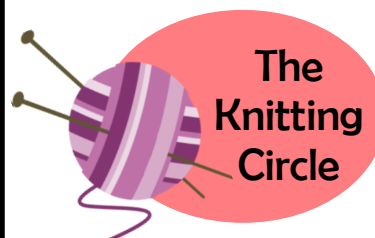
For over a year now, I have been involved with different organizations who help feed people who do not have enough to feed their own families. I have helped at The Rhoda Bloom Food Pantry, the Rockland Warming Center, and most recently helped out with the Midnight Run here at RTR. For my mitzvah project, I am working with the Clarkstown Resource Center in collecting Shop Rite gift cards to give to families in Clarkstown that need our help. I left a basket in the temple, labeled Maya Kalender, for anyone to drop off Shop Rite gift cards. Any amount is appreciated! Wish me mazel tov as I celebrate my special day on March 14!

A Special Congregational Meeting will take place on **Wednesday, March 18** **7:00-7:30 PM** *If able, please attend.*



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 by phone at 845-494-4023.

NEXT MEETINGS: MAR 12, APR 16



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:

Mar 10 at 7 PM, Apr 10 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.

TREE OF LIFE & YAHREZEIT 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.**

YOUTH GROUP NEWS AND NOTES

We hope everyone has been enjoying the 2020 school year so far! There are wonderful events for March and April coming up. E-mails for all events go out periodically. Make sure to keep checking your email. If your child is not yet involved, please contact us and we will send you information! If you know anyone interested in joining, have them email Elise at Leesee54@gmail.com for ReTRo and ReTweens information or Robin at rtrlilretro@gmail.com for Lil' ReTRo information. We encourage all of you to sign your son/daughter up for these wonderful experiences and opportunities to meet lifelong friends.

ReTRo recently helped out at the RTR Annual Super Bowl Blood Drive – many thanks to our RTR family for donating **28 pints of blood!** They also ran a Midnight Run, feeding and clothing the homeless in NYC. Many thanks to all who donated clothing, toiletries, food and time to make this a success!

Please see below for a list of upcoming events/trips:

Lil' ReTRo (Grades 3-5):

Sun, March 8: Purim Carnival!

Sun, March 29 : Family Bowling 12:00-2:00

Sun, April 22 : Family Challenger Center Moon Mission 12:00-2:00 PM



ReTweens (Grades 6-8):



Sun, March 8: Purim Carnival – 7-12 graders needed to run games!

Community Service hours and bagels will be given!

Sun, March 15: ReTRo/ReTweens cooking event 11:30-2:00 PM

SAVE THE DATE: Fri, April 24-26— 8-12 graders to NFTY-GER Spring Kallah!

ReTRo (9th-12th grades):

Sun, March 8: Purim Carnival – 7-12 graders needed to run games!

Community Service hours and bagels will be given!

Sun, March 15: ReTRo/ReTweens cooking event 11:30-2:00 PM

Sun, March 22: NFTY-GER Elections at Barnert Temple in Franklin Lakes, NJ

Register at <https://gardenempire.nfty.org/>

SAVE THE DATE: Fri, April 24-26— 8-12 graders to NFTY-GER Spring Kallah!



FEEL FREE TO CALL US WITH ANY QUESTIONS ABOUT JUNIOR OR SENIOR YOUTH GROUP.

Robin Condoluci 845-836-2655, Lil' ReTRo Advisor

Elise Lehrman 914-715-9845, ReTweens and ReTRo Advisor

All youth group activities coordinated by RTR Youth Committee
and financially supported by RTR Men's Club.



Annual Women's Seder

SISTERHOOD & ROSH CHODESH GROUP

of The Reform Temple of Rockland



**Invite You To Take
A Spiritual Journey
Celebrating Women!**

Sunday, March 29, 2020

Doors open at **4:00pm** for sign-in, gathering, and appetizers. Program is from **4:30-7:30 PM.**

\$36.00 per RTR & WRJ member / \$40 for guests, \$18 for pre-teens and teens.
Our Seder includes a catered dinner, dessert, live music, Manischewitz wine & grape juice (or BYO wine)

PLEASE SEND YOUR RSVP FORM & CHECK (no credit cards please)

To: RTR, 330 N. Highland Ave, Upper Nyack, NY 10960 **ATTN: WRJ SEDER**

Make check payable to WRJ Seder. RSVP BY: March 20, 2020.

Name _____

Email _____ # of additional guests _____

Names & Emails of Guests _____

Please write seating requests on the back of this form. We may not be able to accommodate requests that are made after the deadline.

☐ I would like to donate \$ _____ to support those who might need assistance to attend the Seder.

☐ I will contribute: _____ # of lbs of Charosis, ☐ _____ # doz. Hard Boiled Eggs (peeled).

☐ Enclosed is my check for \$ _____. Total should include guest tickets and optional donation.

☐ I am interested in doing a reading from the Haggadah: Contact Shelle Goldstein at shellego@optonline.net

For more information, please contact Linda Vinecour at LVinecour@gmail.com or 914-714-0362.

To apply for a discount based on financial need, please contact Linda in strict confidence.

WRJ/SISTERHOOD



This month's message starts with a thank you to all who participated in our Super Bowl Sunday morning Bake Sale on February 2nd. Whether you baked,

bought and brought, came to kibitz, helped sell or bought for yourselves- thank you. Our WRJ presence was noted and appreciated by all who were at RTR that morning – the families of our Religious School children, the Men's Club who had breakfast and a meeting, the blood donors and the blood drive staff and our Youth Groupers who worked the successful Annual Blood Drive. It was a busy wonderful day at RTR!

March goes in like a lion and out like a lamb – so they say. All we can say is that March is another activity filled month. Purim is coming! WRJ led by Jane Aronoff, Estelle Hans, Jodi Gischner and the temple staff set up the logistics of the Mishloach Project. We hope that you enjoy your "basket" and the well wishes that come from your temple family and friends.

March 8th is the *Scooby-Doo!* Purim spiel for the youth in our temple. Support their effort and bring a box of Mac & Cheese to use as a grogger and then donate it to the food pantry. March 9th is the adult Purim spiel send-up of *Guys and Dolls*. Come for a rollicking evening of adult entertainment brought to you by your sisters and brothers in the temple. Bring your box of Mac & Cheese to use as a grogger and then donate it to the food pantry. Then please join us on March 10 for our Knitting Circle.

March 21st is "Jewsical", a celebration of Jewish music on Broadway. It is a fun filled evening at RTR with a minyan of cantors hosted by our own Cantor Neff! Looking forward to seeing you there to cheer on the performances.

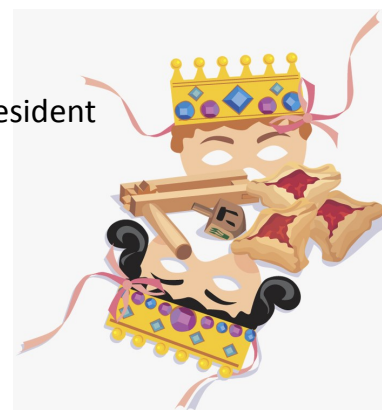
The month of March is rounded out with the Women's Seder on March 29th at 4pm. Our annual WRJ event is user-friendly and women-centric. Whether you help with writing, reading, singing, set-up, clean-up, food preparation, registration or hostessing – we appreciate your help and participation.

There is still time to volunteer to be a part of this special event. Please contact Laurie Firstenberg at laurie.rpc@gmail.com or Jodi Gischner at jodigischner@gmail.com. Please come and connect with your sisters and their Audacious Hospitality!

Wishing you all a Chag Purim Sameach!

Please note: On Sunday morning, April 26th, Ally Karpel from The URJ (Union of Reform Judaism) WRJ (Women of Reform Judaism) RAC (Religious Action Center) will speak to us on Reproductive Rights, citing US, New York and halakic law. All viewpoints of the attendees will be honored in a non-judgmental environment. Look for more details to come.

Jill Tanney
WRJ/Sisterhood President
jillscout@aol.com



A celebration of Jewish Music on Broadway

JEWSiCAL

SAVE THE DATE!

Saturday, March 21, 2020

Doors Open: 7:00 PM - Concert: 7:30pm

Tickets: \$36 per person

Special Sponsor Package: \$118

(Includes two reserved center seats)

Special Benefactor Package: \$360

(Includes two reserved center seats, two drink vouchers & your own parking spot)

Featuring Performances By:

Cantor Sally Neff
Cantor David Perper
Cantor Faith Steinsnyder
Cantor Hayley Poserow
Cantor Tracey Scher

Cantor Chanin Rosen
Cantor Randall Schloss
Cantor David Rosen
Cantor Anna Zhar
Cantor Erica Rubin



\$5.00 Cash Wine Bar












**THE REFORM TEMPLE
OF ROCKLAND**

For more information or to reserve your tickets email
susan@rtrny.org subject "Jewsical" or call 845.358.2248.

330 North Highland Avenue (Rte. 9W) • Upper Nyack, NY 10960 • RTRny.org • (845) 358-2248

March 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>1 5 Adar</p> <p>AIPAC 9:00a Religious School: Yom Mezzuzot 10:00a Adult B. Mitzvah 11:30a Jr. Choir</p> 	<p>2 6 Adar</p> <p>AIPAC</p>	<p>3 7 Adar</p> <p>AIPAC 10:00a Food Addicts 4:45p Religious School 6:00p Academy 7:30p Adult Ed Comm.</p>	<p>4 8 Adar</p> <p>6:30p AA 8:00p PFLAG</p>	<p>5 9 Adar</p> <p>10:30a Torah Topics</p>	<p>6 10 Adar</p> <p>6:30p Erev Shabbat Family Service: Purim Service</p> 	<p>7 11 Adar</p> <p>Parashat Tetzaveh Shabbat Zachor 9:00a Taste of Torah 10:30a Shabbat Service</p>
<p>8 12 Adar</p> <p>9:00a Family Purim Spiel & Carnival</p>  <p>1:00p Esplanade Visit NO ADULT HEBREW</p>	<p>9 13 Adar</p> <p>Erev Purim 6:30p Cocktail Hour 7:30p Adult Purim Spiel</p> 	<p>10 14 Adar</p> <p>Purim 10:00a Food Addicts 4:45p Religious School 6:00p Academy 7:00p Knitting Circle 7:15p Membership & Marketing 7:30p Finance Comm.</p>	<p>11 15 Adar</p> <p>Shushan Purim 6:30p AA 7:30p Exec. Comm.</p>	<p>12 16 Adar</p> <p>10:30a Torah Topics 7:30p Car Club 7:30p WRJ/ Sisterhood Mtg 7:30p Security Comm.</p>	<p>13 17 Adar</p> <p>7:30p Erev Shabbat Service</p>	<p>14 18 Adar</p> <p>Parashat Ki Tisa Shabbat Parah 9:00a Taste of Torah 10:30a Shabbat Service: Bat Mitzvah Kalender</p> 
<p>15 19 Adar</p> <p>NFTY Elections 9:00a Religious School 9:00a Men's Club 10:00a Adult Hebrew 10:00a Adult Ed: Rabbi Mitelman Speaker 11:30a Jr. Choir 12:30p Band</p>	<p>16 20 Adar</p>	<p>17 21 Adar</p> <p>10:00a Food Addicts 4:45p Religious School 6:00p Academy</p>	<p>18 22 Adar</p> <p>6:30p AA 6:30p CANDLE 7:00p TransParents</p> <p>7:00p Special Congregational Meeting 7:30p Board of Trustees</p>	<p>19 23 Adar</p> <p>10:30a Torah Topics 7:00p Band</p>	<p>20 24 Adar</p> <p>7:30p Erev Shabbat Service: Torah Service</p> 	<p>21 25 Adar</p> <p>Parashat Vayakhel-Pekudei Shabbat HaChodesh 9:00a Taste of Torah 10:30a Shabbat Service</p> <p>7:00p Jewsical Musical</p> 
<p>22 26 Adar</p> <p>9:00a Religious School 9:00a Parent/RS Mtg 10:00a Adult Hebrew 11:30a Jr. Choir</p>	<p>23 27 Adar</p>	<p>24 28 Adar</p> <p>10:00a Food Addicts 4:45p Religious School 6:00p Academy</p>	<p>25 29 Adar</p> <p>6:30p AA</p>	<p>26 1 Nisan</p> <p>10:30a Torah Topics 1:00p Purim Lunch & Learn 7:00p Band</p>	<p>27 2 Nisan</p> <p>7:30p Erev Shabbat Service: Rock Shabbat</p> 	<p>28 3 Nisan</p> <p>Parashat Vayikra 9:00a Taste of Torah 10:30a Shabbat Service</p>
<p>29 4 Nisan</p> <p>9:00a Religious School 10:00a Adult Hebrew 11:30a Jr. Choir 12:30p Band</p> <p>4:00p Annual Women's Seder</p>	<p>30 5 Nisan</p>	<p>31 6 Nisan</p> <p>10:00a Food Addicts 4:45p Religious School 6:00p Academy 7:30p Ritual</p>				

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

MARCH BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES



Happy Anniversary

Day	Names (up to age 25)
2	Mark Shapiro
5	Samantha Haber
9	Ethan Jacobs
9	Jonathan Rotbard
10	Henry Gelman
16	Brooklyn Grossbard
16	Hollis Grossbard
17	Adam Forman
18	Brad Schulman
21	Jared Jay
25	Charlie Wilen
26	Lily Warren
27	Rosella Dunkerley
29	Mirabelle Megdal
30	Emily Jacomowitz
30	Kyle Leader

Day	Names	Years
18	Eliot & Deborah Studnitzer	30
23	Stuart & Renee Kratter	51
26	Sharon & Warren Cohen	43
27	David & Dara Warren	21
28	Mark & Nancy Brecher	50
28	Clifford & Sima Malat	50
30	Herbert & Natalie Plaut	62
30	James & Marcia Simon	57

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



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

GOOD & WELFARE

Mazel Tov to **Debbie Erdheim** on the marriage of her son, Daniel to Rachel Wasserman.

Mazel Tov to **Howard & Barbara Wilen** on the birth of their great-nephew, Liam Harrison Kobb, born on January 20.

Mazel Tov to **Jeffrey & Robin Lubatkin** on the birth of their granddaughter, Ellie Gray Tatarsky.

CONDOLENCES

Our deepest sympathies to **Joy Sharff**, her cousin Itai Yaffe died February 7.

Our deepest sympathies to **Eric Gischner**, his mother Fran Gischner died February 6.

Our deepest sympathies to **Fran Keegan**, her cousin, Meryl Markey died January 20.

JOIN US FOR RTR'S ANNUAL PURIM SPIEL & MEGILLAH READING

The Reform Temple of Rockland Presents

GUYS AND DOLLS

MONDAY - MARCH 9TH

6:30 - 7:30 COCKTAIL HOUR

7:30 MEGILLAH READING AND SPIEL

BRING A BOX OF MAC & CHEESE, USE IT AS YOUR
GROGGER, AND WE'LL DONATE IT TO A FOOD PANTRY.

FOR MORE INFORMATION EMAIL SUSAN@RTRNY.ORG
SUBJECT: "GUYS AND DOLLS" OR CALL 845.358.2248

330 North Highland Avenue (Rte. 9W) • Upper Nyack, NY 10960 • RTRny.org • (845) 358-2248



THE REFORM TEMPLE
OF ROCKLAND

BRIT OLAM: SOCIAL JUSTICE COMMITTEE

PROTECT OUR COURTS ACT

The Brit Olam Committee (RTR's Social Justice Committee) will support RAC-NY's (Religious Action Center of New York's) 2020 legislative campaign: Protect Our Courts Act, which ensures that ALL New Yorkers can access our courts without fear of being arrested by ICE.

In an effort to support this cause, please look for the informational display in our main lobby: materials will be made available to you so you can write postcards to your legislatures and urge them to speak publicly on this issue in support of this bill.

In addition, if you are interested in becoming a part of this committee or if anyone is particularly interested in this issue and able to spearhead an educational campaign perhaps with an action please reach out to Brit Olam Chair, Nancy Bermon at n.bermon@verizon.net.

ALBANY LOBBY DAY

Attention all Activists! Registration is now open to participate in Albany Lobby day on Monday, March 16.

Reform Jews from across the state will gather together in Albany to learn together, prep together, and speak with a powerful voice about this year's campaign: Protect Our Courts Act.

If you would like to be a part of the cause, please register at:

<https://web.cvent.com/event/4bf16ad6-ddef-4169-9136-3d3a3e9aaadd/register>

Participation is \$18 per person. Depending on the number of Rockland participants we will either carpool or hire a bus. Cost should not be a barrier for anyone interested in attending. If this is at all a problem for you please email Russ Agdern of RAC-NY at RAgdern@rac.org. Please contact Nancy Bermon once you register at n.bermon@verizon.net.

For more information on the Immigrant Defense Project: immigrantdefenseproject.org.



**Albany Lobby Day
Monday, March 16
9:30-4:00 PM
Register Online Today!**



MEN'S CLUB

Just to fill everyone in on what happened on Super Bowl Sunday, we all know by now that Kansas City Chiefs beat the San Francisco 49er's. The real exciting news is that the

Men's Club was the winner of the Super Bowl Pool. There were some contenders for the half time prize and third quarter prizes, but those chances slipped away. Brad Zicholtz was counting his end of game prize money when the 49er's defense fell asleep and allowed the Chiefs to score another touchdown, and all the prizes became a sweep for Men's Club. To prevent this from happening next year everyone has to step up and make sure we leave no winning boxes for Men's Club.

A thank you to all the people who donated blood to the Youth Group Blood Drive, and even to those who tried but were turned away, your caring is most appreciated.

2020 is a leap year and that means we added a day to the month of February. But a day didn't give February any staying power and in

a flash it's March. March comes in like a lion, or at least a very busy month for Men's Club. That's because it's PURIM time!

Sunday March 8th is the family Purim Spiel and Purim Carnival. This event is brought to you by the Youth Committee, School Committee, and Men's Club. It's a great fun day for the kids, but we also need the PARENTS to help out. Make sure you bring your children to the event, and while there, give the committees a hand by volunteering a half hour of your time to help run this event. Don't miss the ADULT PURIM SPIEL Monday night. The RTR writers have put together a "Tony" winning adaptation of GUYS AND DOLLS with a renowned cast of performers. The Monday night cocktail hour is 6:30 to 7:30 PM. See you there!

The following Sunday, March 15, Men's Club is hosting a special breakfast for the Adult Ed program presenting Guest Speaker Rabbi Geoff Mitelman. Hope to see you all there.

David Firstenberg

Men's Club President

DavidFirstenberg@gmail.com



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...



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:

March 15

RTR Volunteer Day: April 5

Are you overrun with reusable shopping bags? The Rhoda Bloom Food Pantry is in need of extras. Please bring them to RTR and drop off in either of the lobby bins.



March 29-April 20
Tickets are on Sale now

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.

Come Visit The RTR WRJ/Sisterhood JUDAICA SHOP

Make your appointments now!

Email JudaicaShop@RTRny.org or call:

Lisa Jay at 914-572-0200

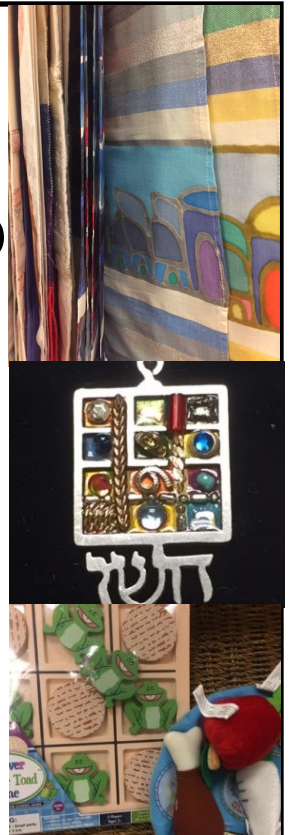
Irene Kopelman at 845-304-5673

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*



DONATIONS & DEDICATIONS (Jan 11—Feb 10, 2020)

Adult & Family Education Fund

in memory of

Fran Gischner from **Stewart & Suzanne Bader**

Harry Witt from **Warren & Wendy Witt**

Art Fund Donations

in memory of

Fran Gischner from **Edward & Marilyn Lawner**

Beverly Gilbert Scholarship Fund Donations

in memory of

Burt Katz from **Elaine Katz**

Building Fund Donations

in memory of

Ida Basch from **Matthew & Felice Burgay**

Cantor George Weinflash Music Fund

in honor of

Cantor Elizabeth Goldmann from **Lillian Spier**

in memory of

Annette Panken from **Marc Panken**

Cantor's Discretionary Fund

Neville & Felicia Clynes

in memory of

Annette Panken from **Marc Panken**

Chesed Fund

in memory of

Philip Silver from **Larry Beck & Susan Silver**

Charlotte Kratter from **Stuart & Renee Kratter**

Education Campaign

in memory of

Norman Essner from **Barbara Gass**

Family in Crisis Fund

in memory of

Joel Gross and Anne & Rubin Gross from **Enid Gross**

Frances Tannenbaum from **Gwenn Canfield**

Blima Gross from **Michele Lowy**

Thank you!

HIGH HOLIDAY ANNUAL APPEAL

(Jan 11 –Feb 10, 2020)

Eric & Lisa Berkowitz

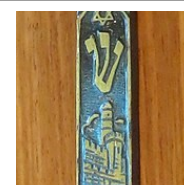
Leonard & Edith Kanchuger



THANK YOU!

Michael Jacobs

**For lending your time and
expertise!**



THANK YOU!

To

Donald & Jo Ann Waldorf
**for their donation of
mezzuzot for all the
classrooms and scrolls for
the children!**

(Continued from page 24)

Karen Ami Social Action Fund

in honor of

Lillian Spier's 100th birthday from **Jeff & Helayne Pfeffer**

in memory of

Fran Gischner from **Jeff & Helayne Pfeffer**

Jack Klonsky from **Jorie Sear**

Louisa Beck from **Larry Beck & Susan Silver**

Oneg Fund

in honor of

Laurie Firstenberg from **Lillian Spier**

in memory of

Lillian Levine from **Paul & Ellen Ratisher**

Operating Fund

in memory of

Irving Deitz from **Alan & Valerie Bagun**

Sylvia Schulman from **David & Libbi Rosenblum**

Edith Glassman from **Harvey & Vivian Glassman**

Evelyn Bernstein from **Lawrence & Amy Rapoport**

our cousin, Bernie Gilfix from **Leonard & June Silverman**

a wonderful person and friend, Alan Fleishman from **Leonard & June Silverman**

Sonya Lamster from **Melvin & Beryl Lamster**

Samuel P. Lewis from **Fredric & Vivian Lewis**

Blanche Blum Newirth from **Marion Kriegel**

Phyllis & Morton Simon Prayer Book Fund

in memory of

Sol Becker from **Steven & Laurie Becker**

Rabbi Louis Frishman Youth Endowment Fund

in memory of

Mae Kroch from **Bernie Perry**

Maurice Guralnick from **Janice Baker**

Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

in memory of

Anonymous

Fran Gischner from **Alvin & Jane Aronoff**

Mark J. Tucker from **David & Michelle Tucker**

Carol Fagelman from **Mark Fagelman & Joan Dabrush**

Max Haber from **Elaine Casper**

Dora Erdsneker and Ben Bard from **Harvey & Barbara Erdsneker**

Mamie Schwaede from **June Fischer**

Samuel Schwaede and Sally Kelmar from **June Fischer**

Ida Schadlow from **Larry Beck & Susan Silver**



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

Rabbi's Discretionary Fund (continued...)Bernard Feiner from **Michael & Eileen Rutter**Irving Sacknoff from **Walter & Barbara Fiedler****Rose & Moe Aranow Library Fund***in memory of*Jacob Mischel from **Marcia Berk**Abraham Solomon from **Marjorie Bernstein****Sylvia & Hyman Rosenzweig Scholarship Fund***in memory of*Oscar Newiger from **Marian Schwartz***Thank
you***CALLING ALL FAMILIES!!!****Please Join Lil'ReTRo****at New City Bowl****Bowling with a Purpose****HELP STRIKE OUT HUNGER!!****Bring a can of food to donate to "People to People"****Sunday, March 29, 2020****90 N. Main Street, New City, NY****12:00 -2:00 PM****\$18 per person/ \$45.00 per family***Includes 2 games, shoes, and lunch- choice of chicken nuggets,
pizza bites, hotdog, mozzarella sticks, and French fries and drink.***RSVP no later than March 15*****Find the link to RSVP in our weekly e-blast.*****Advisor: Robin Condoluci at 845-638-2655, rtrlilretro@gmail.com****DON'T FORGET YOUR CAN!!!!!!**

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.

DID YOU KNOW?



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	Men's Club	David Firstenberg davidfirstenberg@gmail.com
Brit Olam	Nancy Bermon n.bermon@verizon.net	Membership	Sharon Hittman sharonhittman@gmail.com Michael Rutter shotime@aol.com
Building and Grounds	Jeff Grossman jeffgrossman@gmail.com Barry Schoenberg BJSDOC@aol.com	Religious School	Tama Shor Beck shorbeck@verizon.net Cathy Klein kleincb@gmail.com
Caring & Inclusion Initiative	Eva Steen eeestein@optonline.net	Ritual	Jodi Gischner ritualcommittee@RTRny.org Judith Kiss ritualcommittee@RTRny.org
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THE REFORM TEMPLE OF ROCKLAND

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Sally Neff

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**Director of Cong. Learning
Executive Director
Bookkeeper
Administrative Asst.
Maintenance Staff**

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Susan Caminez
Kama Clark
Marcy Camacho
Michael Schmall
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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

Brighter Together.

330 N. Highland Avenue
Upper Nyack, NY 10960
www.RTRNY.org

Non-Profit Organization

U.S. POSTAGE

PAID

Monsey, New York

Permit No. 7009

Current Resident Or:

A celebration of Jewish Music on Broadway

JEWISICAL

**SAVE THE
DATE!**

Saturday, March 21, 2020

Doors Open: 7:00 PM - Concert: 7:30pm

Get your tickets today! Call the office 845-358-2248