



# Men of Reform Judaism at Westchester Reform Temple

## Monthly Newsletter

November 2021 Issue 3 5782

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### Men's Club Liaison

Rabbi Daniel Reiser

### Business Meetings

Tuesdays at 7:00 PM

#### 2021

November	2
November	30

#### 2022

January	4
February	1
March	15
April	12
May	3
June	7

## **Shalom: Men of Westchester Reform Temple. Coming Up**

**November 21 Sunday 1:00 PM** To Register <https://bit.ly/3C5mfvp>

**Free for Adults, \$18 for a Family with Children**

Hear from Robert Paller about his experiences qualifying for and playing at the Tokyo Olympics for **TEAM ISRAEL**.

- His Mother's family traces from Spain to Greece to Turkey to Yugoslavia to Palestine to the United States
- Growing up in Brooklyn he had Major League dreams. He attended Columbia College and played varsity baseball.
- Find out how he was recruited to play for Israel. What did that entail?
- Follow him playing in Europe so that Israel could qualify for the Olympics
- What happened in Tokyo this year?
- Find out how his experiences changed him forever.
  - Baseball in Israel
  - Connection to Israel
- Heading Home

#### The movie is A TALE OF TEAM ISRAEL

The underdog journey of Israel's national baseball team competing for the first time in the World Baseball Classic after years of defeat. The team laughs, cries, and discovers the pride of representing Israel on the World Stage.



**December 14 Tuesday 7:30 PM** Spend an hour on an interactive zoom meeting talking with Award-winning actor, director, speaker, and activist, Aaron Wolf about his personal story of rediscovery during the restoration of a landmark temple.



## Here is what we did in October



**October 1<sup>st</sup>** A group of 5 people from MRJ-WRT spent 2 hours sorting medical supplies at the AFYA warehouse in Yonkers. With our help the foundation was able to prepare supplies that will go soon to:

- *South Africa*
- *NY, NJ and TX Federally Qualified Health Centers*
- *Haiti*
- *St. Vincent Grenadines*



**October 3<sup>rd</sup>** A group of 15 people had breakfast with Rabbi Blake and Nadav Shachmon. The essence of Nadav's talk was:

*Israeli society is based on Solidarity and Mutual Responsibility. This fosters core values of belonging and patriotism and a need to support one another against any threat.*

*These beliefs fostered their structure, originally put in place in the early kibbutzim that the common good is an overriding requirement. Thus:*

- *Their educational system is public, same for all. (There are only 4-5 private schools mainly for diplomats.)*
- *Their health system is based on the HMO model. Everyone has access to the same hospitals, doctors, medicine and care.*

*Throughout Israel's history they have fought against outside threats where they have been united against the threat. However, with the advent of Covid-19 the people and the government are experiencing two converging threats where a substantial portion of the society (30% Haredim and 20% Arabs) have resisted measures to fight Covid and the rising crime rate among Arabs.*

*This has caused not only a change in government but also a new awareness that the needs of the Arabs can't be neglected nor can the Haredi be treated differently than the rest of Israeli society.*



**October 10<sup>th</sup>** Many of us watched an interview, on zoom, with the first Reform Rabbi to serve as member of the Knesset in Israel. Rabbi Gilad Kariv gave us a first hand look at the goals that Reform Jews in Israel are working towards:

- *Religious pluralism*
- *Working with the Modern Orthodox*
- *Implementing an agreement for equal access to the Kotel*
- *Building an inclusive society*
- *Working towards a solution to the Palestinian problem by creating a reality on the ground that will improve the economic situation in the West Bank*

Rabbi Kariv said there is a long way to go. At present there are only 50 Reform congregations in Israel. ARZA is helping by building relationships with Israeli congregations.



**October 24<sup>th</sup>** Our "Annual Blood Drive Resumed" We registered 29 blood donors resulting in **26 life-saving donations**. Once divided into its 3 components (red cells, platelets, plasma) each blood donation will help save the lives of approximately 78 area hospital patients in need of blood transfusions

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