

The logo for Wrt70 features the letters 'wrt' in a dark blue, lowercase, sans-serif font, followed by a large '70' in a bright orange, bold, sans-serif font. Below the 'wrt70' text is the tagline 'We Rejoice Together' in a smaller, dark blue, sans-serif font.

The diagram is a circular flow chart. On the left side, the word 'Tikun' is written vertically, followed by 'Olam', 'Talmud', 'Torah', 'Learning', 'Olam', 'Talmud', 'Torah', 'Learning', 'Olam', 'Talmud', 'Torah', 'Learning'. On the right side, the word 'Chavurah' is written vertically, followed by 'Community', 'Chavurah', 'Community', 'Chavurah', 'Community', 'Chavurah', 'Community'. In the center, the words 'The Jewish People' and 'The Jewish People' are written. The diagram is divided into two main sections: 'Torah' (left) and 'Chavurah' (right). The 'Torah' section includes 'Tikun Olam', 'Talmud', 'Torah', 'Learning', 'Olam', 'Talmud', 'Torah', 'Learning', 'Olam', 'Talmud', 'Torah', 'Learning'. The 'Chavurah' section includes 'Chavurah', 'Community', 'Chavurah', 'Community', 'Chavurah', 'Community', 'Chavurah', 'Community'. The diagram also includes a central section for 'The Jewish People' and 'The Jewish People'.



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Cover Photos (starting top left):

Rabbi Blake reading Torah at Masada, Israel (2009), Rabbi Blake's WRT Tour at S'de Boker, Israel (2016), ECC children lighting the menorah, Rabbi Jacob's WRT Family Tour in Israel (2003).

Westchester Reform Temple is committed to the value of inclusion, and strives to make worship and programming fully accessible. Our building and bima are wheelchair accessible, and the sanctuary is equipped with assistive listening devices and large-print prayer books. ASL interpretation is available for any worship service upon request, and remote viewing of most services is available via webcasting from our website. If you need any additional accommodations to participate in a temple program, please contact Cantor Amanda Kleinman.

WJCS [Westchester Jewish Community Services]: Through the *Partners in Caring Program*, WRT is able to offer the support of an onsite Social Worker from WJCS, as well as offer social services to congregants in need.

UJA-Federation of NY: We are grateful for a special grant to enable and empower WRT to be the most inclusive congregation we can be. UJA-Federation also facilitates our partnership with the Jewish Deaf Resource Center, to provide ASL interpretation on demand at services and WRT programs.

URJ [Union for Reform Judaism]: Our Reform Movement's synagogue arm; WRT is a proud member of the URJ and celebrates the leadership of URJ President, WRT Rabbi Emeritus Rick Jacobs.

HUC-JIR [Hebrew Union College - Jewish Institute of Religion]: WRT supports the HUC-JIR, the official training ground for Reform Jewish professionals.



Rabbi Blake's Message

Dear WRT Family,
Said the Kotzker Rebbe:
"אין שלם מלב שבור"

There is nothing so whole as a broken heart.

It is a paradox, and yet it is true: we grow more whole when our hearts break, because we grow in compassion, empathy, wisdom, and understanding.

All this awareness has grown in the cracks of our broken hearts, mine as much as yours, ever since Hamas terrorists attacked Israel on October 7th.

When it comes to a Jewish understanding of morality, the Torah provides eternally relevant precepts. The shedding of innocent blood is one of the first topics that the Torah takes up. When, in the very first portion of the Torah, Cain slays his brother Abel, the Torah reports:

וַיֹּאמֶר מֶה עָשִׂיתָ

קוֹל דְּמֵי אָחִיךָ צֹעֲקִים אֵלַי מִן־הָאֲדָמָה:

And God said, What have you done? Your brother's blood cries out to Me from the ground! Your brother's blood cries out to Me from the ground!

In Judaism, to shed innocent blood is a gross affront to God. Even in a world where human justice and compassion are in short supply, the Divine demand for justice and compassion is unrelenting.

Whole families, whole communities, snuffed out in an orgy of violence. 1,400 Israelis murdered (as I write this in late October). Human beings targeted simply because they were Jews living in the world's only Jewish state. Children butchered in front of their parents and parents in front of their children. Revelers at a desert party gunned down in cold blood. Our Israeli family members, maimed, tortured, raped and beheaded—the young, the old, the defenseless and disabled. Jews kidnapped and paraded through the streets of Gaza while onlookers cheered. You know all this and yet we must repeat it, again and again, for the world to hear, to hear that our brothers' blood, our sisters' blood, cries out to God—and to us—from the ground.

Picture Adam and Eve, helpless parents clutching each other when they learn that their boy was slaughtered in an open field, and you know the heart of every Israeli, every Jew, every person with an even rudimentary grasp of basic morality and human decency.

Do not stand for the sophistry of those who want to convince you that the situation is "complicated."

Do not accept the specious argument that Hamas cares about the lives of Palestinians living in Gaza or the West Bank, or about a two-state solution, or about 1967 borders, or about human rights or freedom. Hamas has been crystal clear, in word and in deed, about their motives: to murder and terrorize as many Jews as they can, to shed as much Jewish blood as they can—not only Israeli blood but Jewish blood, targeting us wherever we live.

Do not stay silent when pundits on TV, and your so-called "friends" whom you follow on social media, and your college and high school classmates, and your elected officials, engage in "both sides-ism," or rationalize the murder of Jews as the legitimate tactics of a desperate and deprived Palestinian people, or blame Israel for the entirety of Palestinian suffering, or try to link this vicious program on the "occupation."

There is no moral justification for murder, full stop. Hamas has announced its intention to avenge "Al Aqsa," the chief Islamic shrine in Jerusalem, meaning that they see this as an Islamic Holy War against the Jews and the Jewish state—not the IDF in the West Bank, or the blockade of Gaza overseen jointly by Israel and its strategic ally Egypt... which, by the way, has never misconstrued Hamas's intentions, correctly categorizing them as a terrorist organization in league with the Muslim Brotherhood, and a direct threat to Egypt and the Middle East. Do not be seduced by the reductionist and intellectually shoddy arguments of those who analyze this nightmare according to body count, fetishizing "proportionality," as if morality were simply a game of tit for tat, as if it would be an acceptable outcome to allow even a single Israeli family to live in terror and trauma in their own country. Would any of us Americans ever accept such an arrangement?

Rabbi Blake's message continues on page 4

Rabbi Blake's message continued from page 3

It is this last point, especially, that merits a return to the wisdom of Torah and the Rabbis who interpreted it:

קול דמי אחיך צעקים אלי מן-האדמה:

Your brother's blood is crying out to me from the ground!

The definitive *midrash* on this verse, *Bereshit Rabbah* 22:9, quoted by RaSHI, observes that the word for blood, usually the Hebrew דם "dam," is presented here in the plural, דמי אחיך "d'mei achicha," literally, "your brother's bloods cry out to me from the ground," affirming that when Cain slew Abel he also destroyed all possible descendants. The blood of all *potential* life was also on the hands of the murderer. So the Talmud says, and so we must affirm, that to destroy one life is to destroy an entire world.

And, to save a life is to save an entire world.

So let us do what we must to save lives, the paramount mitzvah of the Jewish tradition.

Our website, wrtemple.org, maintains a regularly updated list of organizations for which we encourage your robust support, placing a priority on those that are saving lives and providing care for Israelis in harm's way. WRT's Rabbis' Discretionary Fund sends significant contributions each year to support our partner organizations in Israel, and, this year, we will be directing our tzedakah foremost toward those charities that are saving lives and healing wounds (physical and emotional), including the many incredible Israeli medical facilities that work tirelessly to save lives without regard for nationality or creed: Jewish and Muslim lives, Israeli and Palestinian lives.

Even as our brothers' and sisters' bloods cry out to us from the ground, we must never tarnish our humanity by losing our ability to care about, and for, noncombatant Palestinian lives that have been lost or injured in the war.

Our hearts are broken but our spirits are not.

Our hearts are broken but our resolve is not.

Our hearts are broken but our ability to show compassion is not.

Our hearts are broken but our people, the people of Israel, the Jewish people, are not.

Am Yisrael Chai





Make a Donation to Support Israel:

There are many worthwhile organizations that you may consider donating to in support of Israel, and choosing one can feel overwhelming. To help you navigate these options, WRT has identified 6 organizations that are addressing specific needs in Israel right now, including in the South. Visit our website at <https://bit.ly/497FPId> or scan the QR code on page 4 for a more extensive alphabetical list.

Magen David Adom

Magen David Adom operates Israel's ambulance and Medivac units, runs its emergency dispatch system, dispatch system, trains its paramedics, and serves as the sole blood supplier for the Israeli Defense Forces. Michael Bloomberg has pledged to match all contributions.

United Hatzalah

Israel's largest independent, non-profit, fully volunteer emergency medical service organization that provides the fastest emergency medical service throughout Israel, free of charge. They are currently conducting an emergency campaign for emergency equipment. You can make a monetary donation or donate specific medical equipment.

Friends of the Israeli Defense Forces

Gifts to the FIDF go toward temporary field hospitals, intensive care ambulances and hygiene kits, as well as other urgent needs identified by the IDF.

American Friends of Soroka Medical Center

American Friends of Soroka Medical Center is a nonprofit organization dedicated to supporting Soroka Medical Center, Israel's only major hospital in Southern Israel.

UJA NY Emergency Fund For Israel

UJA NY's Emergency Fund is mobilizing urgently needed relief for the people of Israel, including emergency cash assistance for victims of terror trauma counseling, care for children in shelters, burial expenses, and funds to relocate people to safer areas.

NATAL

NATAL is the Israel Trauma and Resiliency Center. It is an apolitical organization providing multidisciplinary treatment and support to direct and indirect victims of trauma due to terror and war in Israel.

Additionally, the **Rabbis' Discretionary Fund of WRT** is currently supporting critical organizations that are addressing humanitarian needs, support for Israel's soldiers, and traumatized communities throughout Israel.

To make a donation to the Rabbis' Discretionary Fund, go to <https://bit.ly/wrtfunds>.



Thank you to JLL students, Bryn Bass and Alexa Shabsels for organizing a bake sale where all the proceeds will go to Magen David Adom and the IDF.

Avodah: Worship and Spirituality



Kabbalat Shabbat

Fridays at 6:15 pm

Our Friday evening Shabbat service features the rituals, melodies and warmth of our congregation. The service includes a sermon or presentation by one of our rabbis, cantors or special guests.

Participate alongside fellow congregants in-person, or join us on any of our live-streaming platforms:

WRT Livestream - www.wrtemple.org/live-stream/

WRT Facebook - www.facebook.com/WestchesterReformTemple/

WRT YouTube - www.youtube.com/user/WRTempleNY

Please check the calendar, our weekly email updates and website for any changes due to special programming or holiday weekends.

Shabbat In The Round

Saturdays, December 9 and January 27 at 9:00 am

Shabbat in the Round is an inclusive, musical, family-friendly congregational Shabbat morning service. Additional dates: March 30 and May 11

Torah Study

Saturdays, 9:00 - 11:00 am

Each Shabbat morning we gather informally to read and discuss the week's Torah portion. The morning begins with a brief Shabbat service at which mourners who wish to say Kaddish are warmly welcomed. The group is led by volunteers, with clergy participation. No prior experience with Torah is necessary.

Tot Shabbat

Fridays, November 17 (70th Birthday Party Celebration) and January 19, 5:30 - 6:30 pm

Experience the joy of Shabbat with children, parents, grandparents, siblings, and friends. Designed for families with children of preschool age and younger, Tot Shabbat starts with songs and stories led by our clergy, followed by a family-friendly dinner. Children must be accompanied by an adult for this service (no drop-offs).

Additional dates: March 1, April 6 and May 31.

Sharing Shabbat

Saturdays, 9:00 am - 12:00 pm, during the JLL year*

Our engaging, musical Shabbat service for children in Grades K-6 and their families is open to the congregation and community. This weekly service is led by our clergy, and followed by engaging learning and conversation organized by cohort – a special JLL curricular experience for the children, and time for the adults to concurrently study, share stories, and ask questions together with a member of the clergy team. All are welcome! (September - May)*

Services and Events

Shabbat with Guest Speaker and Author, Rabbi Matthew Gewirtz

Friday, December 1 at 6:15 pm

Rabbi Matthew Gewirtz's newest book, *To Build A Brave Space: The Making of a Spiritual First Responder*, is a memoir that takes the reader on the Rabbi's journey of self-discovery and intellectual evolution from a free-spirited liberal teenager to the leader of a large suburban congregation, through various national and global crises and personal experiences.

Having served the congregation of Shalom Shalom on Manhattan's Upper West Side, Rabbi Gewirtz has been Senior Rabbi of Temple B'nai Jeshurun in Short Hills, NJ since 2006, and is a leading voice in the American Jewish community. Join us for a memorable service featuring Rabbi Gewirtz's warm and engaging presence and the opportunity to meet him and pick up his latest book.



**Postponed to
a later date**



WRT@70 Gala/Broadway Night

Thursday evening, May 9

At a Gala celebration to mark WRT@70, we will give thanks for our community that has brought our remarkable congregation to this special point in time, and look forward together to a bright and dynamic future. Please join us for a magical evening of celebration and support for WRT!

The WRT@70 Gala includes: Cocktails, Dinner, Dessert and Entertainment (Broadway Night).



Community Chanukah Candle Lighting & Celebration

Friday, December 8

5:00 - 5:30 pm - Community Candle Lighting

5:30 pm - Community Shabbat Service and Lab Shabbat

Join the clergy and our WRT families as we light our 10-foot tall outdoor menorah, sing songs and enjoy some treats. Performances by the youth and adult choir will make the evening festive.

Save the dates...

Purim Celebration

Saturday, March 23

Megillah reading and fun entertainment.

Look for more information in our weekly eblast.

**Join us to celebrate
Rabbi Jonathan Blake's
20 years at WRT!**

**SAVE THE DATE:
FRIDAY, APRIL 5
(RESCHEDULED)**

**SPECIAL SHABBAT SERVICE AT 6:15 PM
FOLLOWED BY
A FESTIVE ONEG WITH FOOD AND MUSIC**



Talmud Torah: Adult Education

Adult Learning: Talmud Shiur (Class)

Led by Rabbi Jonathan Blake

Thursdays, January 4, 11, 25, February 1, 8, and 15 at 10:15 am (Zoom)

Every Thursday morning, eager learners from our WRT community gather with Rabbi Blake to learn Talmud together. During the current crisis between Israel and Hamas, Rabbi Blake will be teaching on subjects related to the war. Class meets for 90 minutes, over Zoom.



Rabbi Jonathan Blake

Meditation Lab

Fridays, December 1, 15, January 5, 19, February 2, and 16
11:00 - 11:45 am (CJL Livingroom)

Are you curious about meditation? Are you wondering how meditation connects to Judaism? Believe it or not, meditation has been utilized by Jews for centuries, benefiting our ancestors (and us!) in mind, body, and spirit. Meditation can enhance calm, clarity, and creativity. You can try it yourself!

Come join Rabbi Blake, Rabbi Baken, and congregant (and mindfulness meditation practitioner and guide) Norm Goldstein on Friday mornings to explore meditation and the ways in which Jewish life can inform this practice. Beginners (and more experienced meditators) are warmly welcome!



Norm Goldstein



Rabbi Sasha Baken

Rosh Chodesh 5784

Led by Cantor Amanda Kleinman
and Cantor Danielle Rodnizki

Tuesdays, December 12, January 16, and February 13
at 11:30 am

Join our cantors and a diverse group of women for a monthly, midday infusion of study and sharing as we mark each new month on the Hebrew calendar. We will come together as a community to celebrate happy occasions, and to hold space for one another in times of challenge or healing.



Cantor Amanda Kleinman



Cantor Danielle Rodnizki

Advanced Hebrew Bible Class: A Study Of Tanach

Led by Jane Roberts

Wednesdays, from 10:00 am to 11:30 am

Students must have knowledge of Torah, Hebrew roots and basic Hebrew vocabulary, and a familiarity with the Siddur. For more information about sign-up and fees, please contact Jane Roberts at janerteach@aol.com.



Jane Roberts

Judaism on the Vanguard of the Future

A Special Adult Learning Course with Rabbi Geoffrey A. Mitelman of Sinai and Synapses

Thursdays, January 11, 25, February 1, 8, and 15 (via Zoom)

10:15 - 11:45 am

You won't want to miss this special mid-winter online (Zoom-only) learning opportunity with a distinguished and brilliant teacher who works at the intersection of science and spirituality. Rabbi Geoffrey A. Mitelman has been a featured guest teacher at WRT for years, elevating both the minds and souls of our congregants and community. Over five sessions taught on Thursday mornings, 10:15 - 11:45 am in January and February, Rabbi Mitelman will engage us in the exploration of how Judaism will grapple and interact with unprecedented developments in new technologies and discoveries (AI, genetic engineering, new theories of the origins and size of the cosmos) that are already shaping the 21st century. How will our spiritual tradition change along with changing times? What time-honored wisdom does Judaism offer us as we contemplate a future almost inconceivably different from the present?



Session 1 (January 11): Are We Using Technology, or Is Technology Using Us?

How is technology changing the way we interact with others and our world? What are the limits and opportunities that technology creates for our relationships? How can we understand and appreciate Shabbat in our 24/7 ever-connected world?

Session 2: (January 25):

Intelligence, Consciousness or a Soul? Some Jewish Views on AI

How do we define "intelligence" and how do we define "artificial"? Does AI have consciousness? A soul? And while traditional Jewish texts wouldn't know about ChatGPT, what analogies can we draw from Biblical, Rabbinic and later Jewish texts?

Session 3 (February 1):

The Cosmos and the Covenant — Just How Special Are We?

As we discover more exoplanets, and learn just how expansive our universe is, how do we situate ourselves in the cosmos? Are we insignificant, or are we special?

Session 4 (February 8):

Is Genetic Engineering Allowing Us to Play God?

As CRISPR helps us edit genes, new technology floods us with reams of new information instantly, and immortality seemingly becomes within our grasp, is science replacing God? What happens as our ethical and religious structures struggle to keep up?

Session 5 (February 15):

The Future of the Jewish Future

Judaism holds both memories of the past and a vision of the future. But what Judaism hopes for in "the future" also comes with accelerating change and new and unprecedented technologies, including ones we can't imagine right now. How can Judaism balance its traditional values with its embrace of innovation, and what have we learned from previous sea-changes in technological advancements?



Cantors' Happy Hour Concert with special guest, Cantor Becky Mann

Sunday, December 3, 5:30 pm in the CJL

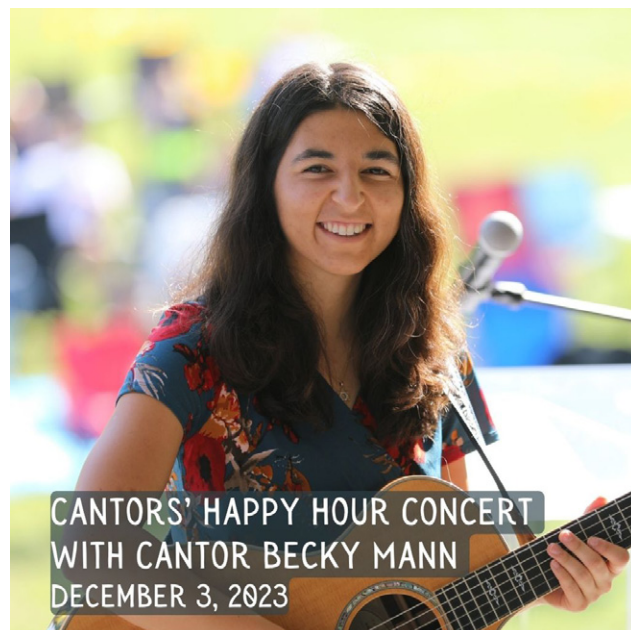
Join the Cantors and our visiting artist, Cantor Becky Mann, for an evening of singing, sipping, and schmoozing. Bring a friend; meet new friends!

A composer, guitarist, and newly-ordained cantor, Becky Mann has been called "one of the brightest voices of a new generation of Jewish songwriters carrying our tradition forward in new and exciting ways."

This event is open to everyone and hosted by the Freebirds.

We know that music has immense power to connect us, lift us up, and inspire us. What better way to be in community than to experience the beauty of music with fellow congregants and leading Jewish artists, cantors, and composers!

To discover our wonderful artists in this series, please visit the website, <https://bit.ly/3MSTYfV>



**CANTORS' HAPPY HOUR CONCERT
WITH CANTOR BECKY MANN
DECEMBER 3, 2023**

Holidays-in-residence with special guest, Shira Kline:

Sunday, December 10, 10:45 - 11:30 am in the Sanctuary

Our youngest congregants and their grown-ups are invited to celebrate Chanukah with the JLL Community. Our concerts will feature acclaimed performer and Jewish music educator, Shira Kline, who "travels with her kiddie rock band, delivering an interactive program of joy and spirit, story and song."



**HOLIDAYS-IN-RESIDENCE
WITH SHIRA KLINE
OCTOBER 6, 2023 - ECC SUKKOT
DECEMBER 10, 2023 - JLL CHANUKAH**

Shabbat Shira with special guests, Rabbi-Cantor Shani Ben Or and Boaz Dorot **Friday and Saturday, January 26 -27, 2024**

Celebrate the Shabbat of Song, named for the joyous song the Israelites sang as they crossed the sea from slavery into freedom. Our Shabbat worship and learning will feature special guests from Israel, Rabbi-Cantor Shani Ben Or and Boaz Dorot. With their beautiful compositions inspired by the sounds of their Israeli upbringing along with their liturgical expertise, Shani and Boaz's soulful voices and melodies will lift our spirits, just as Miriam with her timbrel.

Rabbi-Cantor Shani Ben Or is the first to be ordained as a Reform Cantor in Israel. She and Boaz Dorot are the co-founders of the Nigunim Ensemble, a pioneering Israeli ensemble that creates, arranges, and performs sacred music. Shani aspires to establish a thriving liberal cantorate in Israel: one that is authentic and relevant to the multi-cultural climate of Israeli society and fluent in the musical treasures of Ashkenazi and Mizrahi Jewish traditions.



Installation of Cantor Isaac Sonett-Assor **Friday, March 29, 2024**

Our community will commemorate a moment of sacred transition, as we formally welcome Cantor Isaac Sonett-Assor as WRT's Assistant Cantor with the time-honored ritual of installation. To offer blessings to Cantor Sonett-Assor, we will welcome leading voices in the Jewish world, Cantor Sonett-Assor's cherished mentors, Cantors Gerald Cohen, Richard Cohn, and Benjie Ellen Schiller. This service will also feature WRT's choirs. A celebratory community oneg will follow our service.



WRT@70 Gala/Broadway Night **Thursday, May 9, 2024**

Save the date for a gala celebration of WRT at 70! Our program will feature clergy and beloved friends of our congregation singing Broadway classics spanning the seven decades of WRT. Stay tuned for more information!

The WRT@70 Gala includes: Cocktails, Dinner, Dessert and Entertainment.

The WRT Music Series is made possible by donations to the *Jewish Music and Spirituality Fund* at WRT.





President's Message

Warren Haber

As the days become shorter and darker, it's enlightening to think about those people who bring a little more light into the world. Some heroes even take advantage of their unique positions to help those in need. You may have heard of Gino Bartali, whether or not you're a cycling fan. Preceding the second world war, "Gino the Pious" (a designation he earned because of his religious beliefs) won the noteworthy *Giro d'Italia* in both 1936 and 1937. He also earned the famous "King of the Mountains" title seven times. Nevertheless, the European media questioned his ability to compete outside of Italy. With the rise of Italian fascism, Benito Mussolini and his proponents identified Bartali's athletic achievements as an opportunity to validate the superiority of the "Italian race" on the international stage.

Gino's son Andrea Bartali later recalled, "it was a matter of national pride and fascist prestige that my father won the 1938 Tour [de France], so he was under real pressure" to honor Mussolini (aish.com). Following an unfortunate accident during the 1937 *Tour de France*, Bartali returned in 1938 to win the race, as well as the hardest stage, which required him to brave the cold rain from *Digne to Briançon*. Upon returning to Italy, Bartali refused to honor Mussolini thereby denying him the national validation he was seeking. That same year, Italy began instituting the Nuremberg Laws which excluded Jews from schools, universities, and professions. By 1943, Germany invaded Italy and increased deportation.

As the German antisemitic initiatives intensified in Italy, Florence became a hub for Italian resistance which was home to Bartali. At great risk to his own family, Bartali hid Shlomo Goldenberg and his family in the basement of an apartment he owned from 1942 through the liberation of Italy. Separately, two local religious leaders, Rabbi Nathan Cassuto and Cardinal Elia Angel Dalla Costa, were clandestinely expanding the scope of the Florence resistance movement.

As luck would have it, the Cardinal had married Bartali's parents and decided to approach the young cycling star in 1943 to play a critical part in the resistance movement. The Cardinal

asked Bartali to join a secret network offering protection and safe passage to Jews and other endangered people. Bartali's role was uniquely suited to his talents in that he became a courier.

From the German's perspective, Bartali was a decorated cycling star who rigorously trained on a regular basis. In reality, Bartali was hiding documentation in the frame and handlebar of his bicycle ferrying pivotal documents for the Florence-based underground rescue ring and the Assisi network. His rides, as far afield as Florence, Lucca, Genoa, Assisi and Rome, allowed for delivering forged identity papers and passports for Jews. When he was stopped on the road, Gino refused to allow the Germans to touch his bike by asserting that it was specially calibrated for maximum speed. By some accounts, Bartali's cycling trips resulted in the saving of over 800 Jewish lives.

However, it wasn't until long after the War that the world became aware of Bartali's covert cycling pursuits. When his son asked Bartali why he wouldn't tell anyone, he responded, "You must do good but you must not talk about it. If you talk about it you're taking advantage of others' misfortunes for your own gain" (bbc.com). In 2013, *Yad Vashem* awarded Gino Bartali the distinguished honor of Righteous Among Nations posthumously, an award bestowed by Israel's Holocaust Memorial upon non-Jewish individuals who risked their lives to aid Jews during the Holocaust.

He used his unique skills to help others in need thereby bringing a little more light into the darkness. When people eventually found out about Bartali's life-saving missions, they were eager to characterize him as a hero but Gino responded, "No, no - I want to be remembered for my sporting achievements. Real heroes are others, those who have suffered in their soul, in their heart, in their spirit, in their mind, for their loved ones. Those are the real heroes. I'm just a cyclist" (bbc.com).

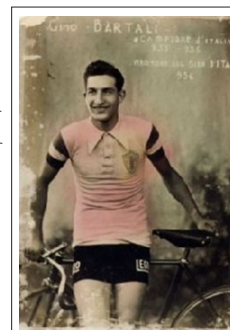


Photo courtesy of aish.com

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The Next Twenty Years...



1974:

- First Kenneth B. Corlin Memorial Program for Human Relations in cooperation with Scarsdale Board of Education.
- First Scholar-in-Residence Series with Dr. Martin A. Cohen as lecturer.
- Dedication of outdoor memorial sculpture.
- Dedication of Youth Lounge as a gift of Temple Men's Club.

1975:

- Social Action Committee receives Abraham J. Heschel Award of Federation of Jewish Philanthropies for outstanding contribution to aged and impoverished Jews.
- Worship from Gates of Prayer is initiated at Men's Club Sabbath.

1976:

- Rabbi Peter Weintraub selected a second assistant rabbi and director of Religious Education.

1977:

- Under President Ralph Wienshienk, Rabbi Stern is honored with life contract.

1978:

- Year-long celebration of Silver Jubilee - under President Alfred Ronald.
- First Adult Bar/Bat Mitzvah at the Temple.

1980:

- First WRT sponsored Youth Group trip to Israel.

1981:

- WRT adopts two Vietnamese families.
- Richard Jacobs begins a year as rabbinic intern at WRT.

1982:

- Celebration service in honor of Jack and Priscilla Stern's twenty years at WRT.
- Dedication of the Outdoor Sanctuary under President Joseph Bernstein.
- Rabbi Deborah Zecher, our third Assistant Rabbi and Director of Education, comes to WRT.

1983:

- Temple celebrates its 30th anniversary with a Shabbat service and gala dinner dance.

1984:

- First Jules Bloch Memorial Lecture.
- Temple inaugurates Shabbat morning Torah study service
- Sculpted chupah dedicated in Outdoor Sanctuary.

1985:

- WRT Parenting Center opens. Susan Cheskin appointed director.

1986:

- Under President Rosemary Berdon, the Congregation approves the addition of nursery school classrooms to Religious School wing and the renovation and extension of Temple facilities.
- Congregation begins its ongoing support of Mazon, the Jewish response to world hunger.
- WRT joins an interfaith coalition to feed and house the homeless of Westchester.

1987:

- Temple celebrates its 35th anniversary, the completion of its renovation and Jack and Priscilla Stern's 25th anniversary at WRT.

1988:

- Cantor Boardman is named Cantor Emeritus.
- Stephen Merkel is appointed cantor & music director at WRT.

1989:

- Beth Mauser is appointed first full-time executive director at WRT.
- First Russian family is adopted.
- Congregation welcomes Beth Singer as fourth assistant rabbi.

1991:

- Under President William S. Miller, the Fund for the Generations is established in honor of Rabbi Jack and Priscilla Stern.
- Rabbi Jack Stern, Jr. retires and is named Rabbi Emeritus
- The congregation welcomes Rabbi Richard Jacobs as its fourth senior rabbi.
- Rabbi Beth Singer is appointed associate rabbi.

1992:

- WRT welcomes Sharon Halper as full-time director of education.
- Congregation begins to use new Gates of Prayer for Shabbat.
- Outreach Committee is formed.

1993:

- Under President William S. Miller, Temple purchases 257 Mamaroneck Road for expansion purposes.
- William A. Blumstein becomes Temple President.
- The Caring Community is created to care for members during difficult times such as illness and bereavement.

Women of Reform Judaism

WRJ Chanukah Party for all generations!

December 5, 7:00 pm

WRJ "Songs and Sweets" A Musical evening with Cantor Kleinman

Date to be announced.

Writing Workshop and Book Discussion with author Barbara Josselson

Date to be announced



WRJ Fall Harvest Dinner

President

Frances Scheffler

Vice President Membership

Allison Weinberg

Vice President Programs

Emily Spector

Vice President Community Connections

Sharon Weinberg

Treasurer

Alice Gorelick

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Caryn Pitchon

Financial Officer Judaica Shop

Karen Scheffler

Immediate Past President and WRJ North America Rep

Carole Princer Levy.

Men of Reform Judaism

Upcoming MRJ Lectures for 2023-2024:

The Menorah Project

Sunday, December 10

Children will be building Menorahs out of scrap material. Parents are welcome to join their children in building Menorahs.

The Blood Drive - Held at Kol Ami

Sunday, December 17

A partnership blood drive between Westchester Reform Temple and Kol Ami in White Plains

Jewish American Series with Dr. Joellyn Zollman

Wednesdays, March 13, 20 and 27

Dr. Zollman will be speaking about Jewish immigration and Jews living in the U.S after the Revolutionary War and through the Civil War.

MRJ Seder

Thursday, April 4

Last year we had over 100 participants and each person was sent home with a Haggadah.

Retreat with Rabbi Jonathan Blake at WRT

Saturday, May 4

Rabbi Blake will speak on a topic to be determined.

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Vice President

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Secretary

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TRUSTEES

Jordan Black

Douglas Birns

Gerald Friedman

James Glucksman

Jeffrey Levin

Roy Polayes

Jeff Simon

Jeffrey Underweiser

FreeBirds

Author Talk with Liel Leibovitz

November 30, 7:00 - 8:45 pm

Join Rabbi Blake and Liel Leibovitz, author of *How the Talmud Can Change Your Life* for a fun talk and a happy hour. Have a drink, talk about the book, have a few laughs, see old friends and welcome new ones. You can purchase extra books at the event – makes a great Chanukah gift!

Sunday Sing Along Happy Hour with the Cantors

December 3, 5:30 - 7:00 pm

Join the Cantors and Becky Mann, classmate of Cantor Isaac Sonett-Assor, to sing along with popular songs, have some drinks and light bites. Bring a friend, meet new friends. Becky Mann has been called “one of the brightest voices of a new generation of Jewish songwriters carrying our tradition forward in new and exciting ways.”

Winter Film Series

Join Rabbi Blake for Afternoons at the Movies and Conversation as we continue to explore the Jewish Experience in film!

January 7 - Crossing Delancey (1988)

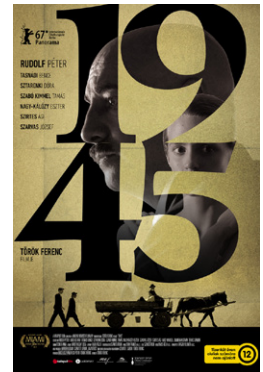
January 21 - 1945 (2017)

February 4 - The Fabelmans (2022)

Save the Date

Happy Hour with the Cantors

March 3, 5:00 - 6:30 pm



FreeBirds Lunch and Tour at Blue Hill Stone Barns



Tzedek, Tzedek, tirdof- Justice, justice, we shall pursue!

Sharon Stiefel

Director of Social Impact and Community Engagement

The three pillars of Social Impact at Westchester Reform Temple are Equity and Justice, Local and Global Community, and Environmental Sustainability. We strive to meet these goals through in-house initiatives, such as our Zero Waste program, as well as through partnership with local, national, and international agencies and organizations that strive to promote these same goals. Read on to learn of just a few of our ongoing programs that make up our Social Impact program.

Our WRT community donated 4,762 pounds of food to Feeding Westchester through our annual Yom Kippur Food Drive. Each month, WRT supplies over 600 sandwich bags to HOPE Community Services, in addition to the hot meals we provide once a month. We do this in a variety of ways: through participation of JLL students during Sunday religious school, Sharing Shabbat families, families and individuals at home, and part of our once a month hot meal cooking program. WRT also supports the efforts of Sharing Shelf (sharingshell.org) and has converted the two large drawers in the WRT lobby into a place where people can drop off used and new clothing and shoes for those in need. Sharing Shelf provides clothing and other essential items to low income children and teens right here in Westchester County. Sharing Shelf has strict quality control for used clothing, and those items that do not pass inspection are sent for recycling, saving items from the landfill, and Sharing Shelf receives a monetary donation. In addition, Sharing Shelf partners with The Arc, through which teens and adults with developmental disabilities volunteer to pick up donations and bring them to Sharing Shelf. Our Racial Justice Working Group has been ongoing for three years. And now, in response to the brutal attacks by Hamas on Israel and the ongoing risk to Israel and civilian life, we have created a "WRT Stands with Israel" website page that provides places to donate to Israel, ways to be together as a community, action items, and resources for learning and speaking to our children and one another.

These initiatives, and so many more, are made possible by our community leadership and members coming together and making these programs a reality. From the youngest children at our ECC, we strive to make the Jewish idea of *tikkun olam* a part of our everyday lives at Westchester Reform Temple. I hope you'll continue to check out the Impact page on the WRT website (<https://wrtemple.org/impact/social-impact-calendar/>)

to learn about ways that you can make a difference. And if you know of a way that WRT can help make a difference in the lives of others, I would love to hear from you.

On a personal note, I love being Jewish. After working for Women of Reform Judaism, I went to law school and practiced law for 15 years. During that entire time, I yearned to be back in the Jewish professional world. I am not the most religious person or the most traditional Jew (whatever that may mean). But that is the amazing part about being Jewish; you can find your way of celebrating Judaism and being Jewish in so many ways. We can each connect with our Judaism through *tefillah* (prayer), *kehillah* (community), *emunah* (faith), *limud* (study), or as I do *Tikkun Olam* (repairing our world). Our WRT community will continue to support those who are marginalized and need extra support, because that is who we are at Westchester Reform Temple.



Making sandwiches and meals for HOPE Community Services.

Community



Cantor Laura Stein

Spousal Bereavement Group General Bereavement Group

These Support Groups meet to create community for those in mourning over the loss of a loved one, and to help find comfort and process feelings of loss through caring discussion and in sacred Jewish context.

Both Bereavement Groups are led by Jane Slevin, LMFT (Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist from Westchester Jewish Community Services), and Cantor Laura Stein, LMSW, a social worker who specializes in spiritual care. Meeting dates and information will be posted in the Weekly Eblast or you may send an email to Suzanne.Saperstein@wrtemple.org to learn more.



Jane Slevin

Living with Divorce: Support Group

WRT is committed to embracing and supporting people as they live through divorce and single parenting, and find their new family rituals in the face of that change.

Rabbi Sasha Baken serves as the clergy partner in this endeavor, alongside Jane Slevin, LMFT (Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist) from Westchester Jewish Community Service. Together, they lead our monthly support group.

Wherever you are in the journey of divorce or single parenting, we welcome you and are at the ready to provide you with support and community. Meeting dates and information will be posted in the Weekly Eblast or you may send an email to Suzanne.Saperstein@wrtemple.org to learn more.



Rabbi Sasha Baken

Evening Book Group

Tuesdays, December 19, January 16 and February 20

7:30 pm to 9:00 pm

The book title for December is *The Weight of Ink* by Rachel Kadish.

Interested in joining the evening book group? The group meets on the third Tuesday of each month at WRT for review and discussion on the month's selected title. For more information, please contact Lenore Rosenbaum at papoobeads@optonline.net.



WERE YOU



Men of Reform Judaism Annual Conference



Sukkot Block Party



WRJ Fall Harvest Dinner



WRJ Fall Harvest Dinner



First day of the Early Childhood Center (ECC)



Sukkot Block Party

THERE?



Sukkot Block Party



Apple Picking Event at Wilkens Farm



Caring Community Luncheon



Supplies for Success Event



ECC Parents Coffee



ECC Parents Coffee

Early Childhood Center (ECC)



Jennifer Brauntuch
ECC Assistant Director

Rebecca Roseman
ECC Director

Home. When we consider the definition of home, “the social unit formed by a family living together,” or “a familiar or usual setting,” it’s impossible not to think about our ECC and the unique experience our children and families gain just from being part of our community. We are now entering the second half of our 2023-2024 school year, and this idea of “home” has remained front and center for both of us each and every day we step foot in our hallway.

As the new leadership team of the ECC, creating an environment where children feel safe, loved, respected and valued is woven into everything we do. There are some key elements of our program that aim to specifically foster an environment in which children feel that school is an extension of their home:

TEACHERS WHO BECOME FAMILY

Our student-teacher ratio is 4:1 for our 2 and 3 year old students, and 8:1 for our 4-year olds, allowing for excellent supervision, one-on-one support, and differentiation. In addition to our full-time classroom teachers, we have 7 floaters, 3 part-time teachers, and an on-staff speech and language pathologist, social worker, and occupational therapist. Collectively, we have a tremendous team of trusted adults that care for our children, snuggle with them when they’re hurt, rejoice in their successes, and know just when they need a hug, or when they need a little space.

CIRCLE TIME

One of the foundations of each of our classrooms is our daily circle time. Circle time differs across our grade levels in order to be developmentally appropriate, but the fundamentals and core values are consistent: creating connections, sitting together as a group, developing communication and interpersonal skills, and allowing children to express their thoughts and feelings.

GATHERING AROUND A FAMILY TABLE

Each Friday, our children come together to celebrate Shabbat as a community, both in the sanctuary and in their own classrooms. Children sit together at a communal table in their classrooms, reciting the blessings, eating challah together, and learning about Shabbat traditions. The goal is for our children to share Shabbat with their school family, and then ideally bring their learnings home to their own families.

YOU WANNA BE WHERE EVERYBODY KNOWS YOUR NAME

Perhaps the most special part of our ECC is that when you come here, you immediately belong. Whether you are the fourth sibling of a long line of ECC alum, or a brand new ECC family, you will be known and loved. Our dedicated staff get to know your child inside and out: their likes and dislikes, their fears, their interests and hobbies, and the way they learn best.

When children come to our ECC, they learn a remarkable amount. They learn early reading, writing and math skills, they develop a deep understanding of Jewish holidays and traditions, and they are prepared socially and intellectually to thrive in the world around them. But above all, our children and families become integral pieces in the fabric of our community. They are nurtured, they are supported, they are loved. We think our home away from home is pretty special. Come stop by our main office -- we’d love to show you around!

Warmly,
Rebecca and Jen



Upcoming events:

Monthly Tot Shabbats:

Fridays: November 17, January 19, March 1 and May 31, 5:30 – 6:30 pm;

Saturday: April 6 at 9:00 am

Experience the joy of Shabbat with children, parents, grandparents, siblings and friends. Designed for families with preschool aged children and led by WRT clergy.

Chanukah Celebration – Milk and Cookies with the Cantors:

Tuesday, December 12, 4:00 pm

This festive event includes story time, milk, cookies and Chanukah songs. (loved ones and children attend; siblings welcome)

Moms the Word:

Thursday, January 18, 5:30 pm

Take the night off and enjoy a glass of wine and a hilarious cabaret show about the challenges of parenthood. Join three New York Moms, including WRT's own Erika Radin, as they turn a comic eye on the things that make us crazy about parenthood, as well as the joy our children bring to us.

Israel Virtual Trip: (in the spring)

ECC classes partake in a virtual trip to Israel. Food, arts and crafts, and a "plane ride" are a great way to visit Israel. This event is led by clergy and ECC staff.

ECC Cocktail Party: (in the spring)

An evening event held at WRT for existing and incoming ECC parents. Cocktails and hors d'oeuvres are served. This social gathering offers new families the opportunity to come and meet existing ECC families in a fun and festive setting.

New Family Welcome:

Thursday, May 16, 5:30 pm

Families that are new to our school are invited to meet one another over pizza and dessert. Tours of the ECC are given and children get a first glimpse of their new school.

Truck Day: (in the spring)

All ECC children have an opportunity to view and explore trucks during their ECC school day. Trucks that often visit us are: a fire engine, a police car, a garbage truck, a backhoe, an ambulance, a mail truck and the ever popular ice-cream truck! (ECC children only)

ECC Enrollment for 2024-2025 school is ongoing.



Jewish Learning Lab (JLL)



Rabbi Leah Citrin
Associate Rabbi &
Jewish Learning Lab Director

Welcome to Westchester Reform Temple's Jewish Learning Lab:

Kindling a Lifelong Love of Jewish Learning & Living

The Jewish Learning Lab is WRT's vision for Jewish education. Through the Jewish Learning Lab, WRT aspires:

- To support the development of a strong Jewish identity, strengthened with the Hebrew language, rooted in the Jewish tradition, nurtured by the study of Judaism, and guided by Jewish values.
- To create enduring and joyful Jewish memories, bringing Torah to life and inspiring Jewish dreams.
- To celebrate both the richness of our traditions and the limitless possibilities of innovation, preparing us to engage with the unique blessings and challenges of being Jewish in the 21st century.
- To foster the development of an inclusive and caring community, reflecting the diversity of Jewish life today.
- To empower our community to help repair the world.

The Jewish Learning Lab advances Westchester Reform Temple's mission: "to ensure the perpetuation of the Jewish people and to cultivate a love of our Jewish heritage: God, Torah and Israel."

Lab Shabbat

Fridays, December 8 and February 9, 5:30 - 7:00 pm

An opportunity to welcome Shabbat with a family friendly service followed by a delicious and different dinner each time. Designed for families with children in Kindergarten through fifth grade, each Lab Shabbat will include participation by a particular grade to showcase their JLL learnings.

December 8th: 3rd Grade Participation

February 9th: 1st Grade Participation

Chanukah Family Program

Sunday, December 10, 9:00 am - 11:30 am

Parents will join their JLL students for the entire morning for a special Chanukah family t'filah, creating chanukiyot out of recycled materials with the Men of Reform Judaism, and a concert with Shira Kline.

Paint-a-Prayer

With generous funding from the Jacobs-Freedman Fund, we have engaged artist Jennifer Levine for this entire year to guide our students in the process of imagining and painting murals on the walls of the JLL.

Jenn writes, "I developed Paint-a-Prayer as a way to deepen our connection with Tefilah. Though the method involves art making, I lean on my background in Jewish education and experience with Jewish meditation to center the experience, making the act of painting the prayer itself. The final product is wonderful, giving the participants a goal and the synagogue a testimony, but my focus is on setting the stage for a transcendence experience for the community."

Sharing Shabbat students will paint on December 2nd. Sunday January 28th our 4th grade students will paint. Our 6th grade students will paint at the Shabbaton on February 3rd.

Other students will be painting throughout the rest of the year.

6th Grade Shabbaton: February 2 - 3

10th Grade Trip to DC for L'taken Seminar: February 9 - 12

Family T'filah: December 10, January 21, and February 11

JLL Closed for Winter Break: December 22 - January 7

JLL Closed for MLK Weekend (1/13-1/14)

JLL Closed for February Break: February 16 - 25



Mazal Tov!

July 12 - October 24, 2023

Births

Sarah and James Kirch

on the birth of their son Isaac Neil Kirch

Sydney and Jordan Solomon

on the birth of their daughter Sloane Ava Solomon

Tara and Peter Seligson

on the birth of their daughter Maren Paige Seligson

Madeleine Feldman-Albert and David Albert

on the birth of their granddaughter Isabelle Mika Jennings
and to the parents Ariel and Spencer Jennings

Alisa and Kenneth Kaplan

on the birth of their grandson William Joel Bradford
and to the parents Courtney and Luke Bradford

Judith West Edelman

Mark and Monique Edelman

on the birth of her great-granddaughter/his granddaughter
Isabel Kamen Keene
and to the parents Brooke Edelman and Jason Keene

Elizabeth and Jake Eisenberg

on the birth of their daughter Eden Lily Eisenberg

Bonnie and Mitchell Rudin

on the birth of their grandson Max Alexander Rudin
and to the parents Jessie and Scott Rudin

Michal Kedem-Biton and Ron Biton

on the birth of their son Jonathan Biton

Julie and David Welinsky

on the birth of their daughter Zoe Brooke Welinsky

Katie and Zachary Fierman

on the birth of their daughter Lily Anabelle Fierman

Rachel and Guy Schaller

on the birth of their son Dylan Cooper Schaller

Betsy Stern

Sarah Stern and Mark Rosenblatt

on the birth of her great-grandson/their grandson Max Bernard Manson
and to the parents Bex Rosenblatt and Ben Manson

Bonnie and Peter Gatof

on the birth of their grandson Hudson Theodore Gatof
and to the parents Lauren and Alex Gatof

Sharon and Benjamin Blum

on the birth of their son Dylan Henig Blum

Debbie and Chip Glassman

Iris and Fred Green

on the birth of their granddaughter Zoe Olive Glassman
and to the parents Melissa and Daniel Glassman

Engagements

Charles Opolinsky

on the engagement of his daughter Harley to Zachary Fiegel

Cheryl and Paul Waters

on the engagement of their son Samuel to Samantha Wintner

Joanne and Duane Fiedler

on the engagement of their son Evan to Ali Hyman

Madeleine Feldman-Albert and David Albert

on the engagement of their son Harrison Jennings to Andrea Biel

Joan and Michael Grant

on the engagement of their daughter Allison to Jay Canarick

Lauren and Remy Issembert

on the engagement of their daughter Nicole to Adrian Obeso

Marriages

Tina and Victor Marks

on the marriage of their son Jonathan to Andrea Benitez

Rebecca and Martin Eisenberg

on the marriage of their son Jack to Maya Katalan

Joyce Baumgarten

on the marriage of her granddaughter Jamie Warren to Jordan Brett

Susan Epps-Ginsberg and Daniel Ginsberg

on the marriage of their daughter Ariel to Jared Bolnick

Nancy Segal and Richard Liebman

on the marriage of their daughter Tracey to Andrew Shapiro

Helene Getz and Michael Carlin

on the marriage of their son David to Rachel Arnold

B'nei Mitzvah

Ilona and Jonathan Pokoik

on the Bar Mitzvah of their son Noah

Dana and Robert Mitchell

on the Bat Mitzvah of their daughter Brooke

Raina and David Cheikin

on the Bar Mitzvah of their son Zachary

Michelle and Jed Schwartz

on the Bar Mitzvah of their son Jacob

Valerie and Eric Arnold

on the Bar Mitzvah of their son Dylan

Jennifer and Adam Galeon

on the Bat Mitzvah of their daughter Juliet

Venera and Brandon Ziegler

on the Bat Mitzvah of their daughter Reya

Marne and Jeff Gorman

on the Bar Mitzvah of their son Blake

Ali and Josh Horowitz

on the Bar Mitzvah of their son Chase

Julie Thysen and David Heimann

on the B'nei Mitzvah of their children Emma and Jonas

Deborah and Andrew Gorrin

on the Bar Mitzvah of their son Jeremy

Rickie and Jacob Broff

on the Bar Mitzvah of their son Cooper

Sali and Michael Rakower

on the Bat Mitzvah of their daughter Hannah

Allison and Justin Arest

on the Bat Mitzvah of their daughter Madeline

Condolences

The entire WRT community is heartbroken by the devastating attack on Israel on October 7th. We mourn the victims, together with Israel, the global Jewish community, and our many friends and allies, and we pray for all whose lives have been affected by the terrorist attack and ensuing war against Hamas.

The congregation of WRT mourns the death of our member
Martin J. Finkelstein
and extends sympathy to his bereaved family.

The congregation of WRT mourns the death of our member
Edmund Mantell
and extends sympathy to his bereaved family.

Karen Green
on the death of her mother Judith Green

Robin Rosenberg
on the death of her mother Elaine Lee Nowak

Michelle Smith
on the death of her cousin Barry Chaikin

Joanne Citrin and Rabbi Leah Citrin (JLL Director)
on the death of her mother/her grandmother Phyllis K. Levy

Debra Glassman
on the death of her father Henry Goodman

Wendy Simon
on the death of her father Howard Goldman

David Freundlich
on the death of his father Jerry Freundlich

Sara Cass
on the death of her mother Rhoda Shemin

Jennifer Brooks
on the death of her father Charles Hatton

Freddie Finkelstein
on the death of her husband Martin J. Finkelstein

Rachel Klein (ECC 3s Teacher)
on the death of her mother Leah Klein

Tracy Nathanson
on the death of her stepfather David Globus

Jonathan Aubrey
on the death of his father Howard Aubrey

Rachel Schmerin
on the death of her grandmother Eileen Hyman

Eric Karp
on the death of his mother Gloria Karp

Judy Chamlin
on the death of her mother Rowena Goodfarb

Jay Canell
on the death of his father Roger Canell

Jamie Roitman
on the death of her grandmother Deanna Levine

Michael Greene
on the death of his mother Helen Greene

Howard Greenberg
on the death of his mother Betty Ferrante

Elise Flagg and Helene Getz
on the death of their brother Steven Getz

Lisa Alperin
on the death of her mother Ray Dardik Josell

Nancy Mantell
on the death of her husband Edmund Mantell

Anne Daniel (ECC Teacher)
on the death of her mother Susan Chapiro

WRT Cemetery Plots

WRT has plots available at Mt. Eden Cemetery in Hawthorne, N.Y., for members of the congregation and their relatives. The cost of our plots is considerably less than those available commercially in our area.

Memorial Wall Plaques

Jewish tradition provides many meaningful ways to perpetuate the memory of our dear ones: lighting yahrzeit candles, reciting Kaddish, and giving charity. Among those traditions at WRT is the placing of a stone on a memorial wall near the plaque that bears the name of a relative.

If you would like more information about purchasing a cemetery plot or a memorial plaque, contact Amy Rossberg, Director of Congregant Relations and Pastoral Care, at 914-468-0522 or email Amy.Rossberg@wrtemple.org.

Contributions

Contributions received from July 12 - October 24, 2023

The Temple gratefully acknowledges the following contributions:

SUPPORTING ALL THE PILLARS OF OUR COMMUNITY

Fund for the Generations

Ellen and Michael Bettmann
Pam and Eric Goldschmidt
Carole Levy
Nancy and David Michaels
Gloria Zuflacht
in memory of Judith Weinberg

Rabbi Richard J. Jacobs and Susan K. Freedman Fund for Innovation in Jewish Life

Joan Ross Sorkin and Laurence Sorkin
in memory of Judith Weinberg

Inspired Giving

Elizabeth and Greg Alkalay
Beth and Zachary Altschuler
Mimi Rocah and David Anders
Jodi and Jordan Barrow
Allison and Richard Beitler
Wendy and Howard Berk
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Iris and Andy Morse
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Stephanie Blank and Jay Musoff
Susan Newman
Judith Oestreich
Phyllis and Brad Perkins
Sarah and Marc Persily
Caryn and Steven Pitchon
Ayelet and Jason Pollack
Michael Potack
Shari and Leonard Potter
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Abby and David Salzman
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Ilissa and Jonathan Siegel
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Linda and Joseph Simon
Suellen and Howard Singer
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Jocelyn and Scott Sontag
Pam Frankel-Stein and Jon Stein
Evelyn Stock
Naomi and Joel Talish
Joan and Richard Toder
Jacqueline and Arthur Walker
Carol and Ken Weiser
Susan and Barry Weisfeld
Margery Wiesenthal
Carol and Lawrence Wolfe
Gilda Zalaznick
Venera and Brandon Ziegler

Nancy and Don Mutterperl
in honor of the B'nei Mitzvah of their twin grandsons, Gabriel and Alexander Mutterperl and in appreciation of Rabbi Blake, Cantor Kleinman, and our entire clergy team

Nancy and Stephen Karotkin
in memory of Henry Goodman, father of Debra Glassman

Joan and Andrew Frankle
in honor of Marcy Harris receiving the Brotherhood Award

Barbara and Marc Rowin
in honor of Rabbi Blake

Ellen and Bob Sunness
in memory of Henry Goodman, father of Debra Glassman and Elaine Nowak, mother of Robin Rosenberg

Gayle Lob and Jeff Simon
in memory of Marty Finkelstein, husband of Freddie Finkelstein

Nancy and Stephen Karotkin
in honor of the wedding of Megan Welch and Steven Schapiro

The Milich Family
wishing the Levine Family a Happy Rosh Hashanah

Julie and Ron Latz
in appreciation of Cantor Sonett-Assor

Barbara and Leonard Rich
in honor of Rabbi Blake's 20 years at WRT

AVODAH - SPIRITUALITY

Rabbis' Discretionary Fund

Tina and Cliff Adler
in honor of the marriage of their daughter Nicki to Alex Chouraqui and in appreciation of Rabbi Blake

Lynne Kushner
in honor of Ann Rose Simon's birthday

Karen and Bill Frommer
in honor of Bill's retirement and birthday and their 57th wedding anniversary

Jean Weinberg
in memory of her mother Judy Weinberg and in appreciation of Rabbi Blake

Bernice and Richard Hoffman
Lee Kern
in memory of Judy Weinberg

Dvora Fields
in memory of her husband Alfred Fields and in appreciation of Rabbi Blake

Emily and Mitchell Spector
Lawrence Heimowitz
in honor of the marriage of their daughter/ his granddaughter Olivia to Josh Goldman and in appreciation of Rabbi Blake

Meryl Freedman
Judy and Jay Lupin
in memory of Henry Goodman, father of Debra Glassman

Diane and Lloyd Loft
in honor of the marriage of their daughter Hayley to Matthew Moskowitz and in appreciation of Rabbi Blake

Madelaine Pilpel

in appreciation of Rabbi Blake

Iris and Fred Green

in honor of the baby naming of their granddaughters, Mila and Rye and in appreciation of Rabbi Blake

Caitlin Kelly and Jeff Kaplan

in honor of the baby naming of their son Leo and in appreciation of Rabbi Blake

Carole Levy

Elaine and Steven Masket

in memory of Carole Baken, grandmother of Rabbi Sasha Baken and father of Scott Baken

Gary J. Simon

in memory of his father Howard J. Goldman and in appreciation of WRT's wonderful clergy

Kim Reichig and Michael Ziegelbaum

in honor of the marriage of their daughter Dylan to Ryan Saxe and in appreciation of Rabbi Blake

Robin and Scott Gottlieb

in honor of the baby naming of their granddaughter, Madeline and in appreciation of Rabbi Blake

Deborah and Alan Annex

in honor of Amy Bauman and Alan Laves' wedding

Jackie Berlin

in appreciation of Rabbi Blake and WRT

Barbara and Walter Groden

Vivian and David Weinberg

in memory of their mother Judy Weinberg and in appreciation of Rabbi Blake

Laurie Disick and Jeffrey Allister

Ruthie, Daniel, Josie and Spencer Baruch Roslyn Black

Celia and Larry Brown

Jeri and Andrew Casden

Karen and Bill Frommer

Bonnie and Peter Gatof

Lanie and Jan Katzew

Janet Korins and Joseph Kaufman

Penny Goldsmith and Bob Meyerson

Harriet Rader

Irene and Bruce Schragger

Meredith Brown and Zachary Sheinberg

Spierer Family

Diane and Stanley Vickers

Jacqueline and Arthur Walker

in honor of Rabbi Blake's 20 years at WRT

Freddie Finkelstein and Family

in memory of her husband Martin Finkelstein and in appreciation of Rabbi Baken

Sherry and Robert Wiener

in appreciation of Rabbi Blake

Barbara Freundlich

in memory of her husband Jerry Freundlich and in appreciation of Rabbi Blake and WRT clergy

Debra and Charles Glassman

in memory of her father Henry Lewis Goodman and in appreciation of Rabbi Blake and Rabbi Baken

Wendy Gendel

in memory of her step-mother Leah Klein and in appreciation of Rabbi Blake

Jennifer Brooks

in memory of her father Charles Hatton and in appreciation of Rabbi Blake and Michael Rosenthal

Deborah Anders and Family

Joan Posner

in appreciation of WRT streamed High Holiday Services

Allison and Josh Block and Family

Gail and Larry Dobosh

"Mike" and Dave Faust

Karen and Bill Frommer

Ann and Fredric Price

Debbie and Jeff Radov

Diane and Stanley Vickers

Dana Oliver and Adam Wolfson

for Israeli causes and in appreciation of WRT clergy

Tina and Victor Marks

in appreciation of Rabbi Blake for the auf ruf of their son Jonathan and Andrea Benitez

Robin and Steve Rosenberg

in memory of her mother Elaine Nowak and in appreciation of Rabbi Blake

Lee Kern

in memory of her father Irving Klein

Joan and Paul Gabin

in honor of their grandson Ethan's Bar Mitzvah and in appreciation of Rabbi Blake and WRT Clergy

Marilyn Bloomberg

in appreciation of WRT High Holiday services

Arlene and Martin Epstein

in memory of Martin Finkelstein, husband of Freddie Finkelstein and for Israel

Ellen and Bill Blumstein

Beth and Jeff Gelles

Dara and Jon Gruenberg

Nancy and Ken Rilander

Cantors' Discretionary Fund

Karen Green and Leslie Klein

in memory of their mother Judith Green and in appreciation of Cantor Kleinman

Dvora Fields

in memory of her husband Alfred Fields and in appreciation of Cantor Rodnizki

Erica German and Jonathan Potack

in memory of his mother Randi Potack and in appreciation of Cantor Rodnizki

Barbara and Marc Tartell

in honor of Cheryl and Paul Waters' 50th Wedding Anniversary

Freddie Finkelstein and Family

in memory of her husband Martin Finkelstein and in appreciation of Cantor Rodnizki

Debra and Charles Glassman

in memory of her father Henry Lewis Goodman and in appreciation of Cantor Kleinman

Barbara and George Sommerfeld

in appreciation of Cantor Sonett-Assor and WRT Torah Study

Wendy Gendel

in memory of her step-mother Leah Klein

Karen and Bill Frommer

in appreciation of Cantor Kleinman, Cantor Rodnizki and Cantor Sonett-Assor for the High Holy Days

Beth and Jeff Gelles

Dara and Jon Gruenberg

Stephen H. Merkel Fund

Marilyn and Arthur Master

in memory of Gale Stolzenberg

Jewish Music and Spirituality Fund

Joan Ross Sorkin and Laurence Sorkin

in honor of Ann Ross Simon's special birthday

Carole and Ronald Ries

Adie and Bill Shore

in honor of Cheryl and Paul Waters' 50th Wedding Anniversary

Irena and Jeff Spiegel

in honor of Ethan and Isabella's B'nei Mitzvah and in appreciation of Rabbi Blake, Cantor Kleinman, Rabbi Baken, Nancy Abraham, Ivy Schwartz and Idan Santhaus

TALMUD TORAH - LEARNING

Early Childhood Center Fund

Debbie Berman, Anne Chapiro

and Elaine Puchalsky

in honor of the Bat Mitzvah of Charlotte Roseman, daughter of Rebecca Roseman

Norman L. Blumstein Memorial Fund

Ellen and Bill Blumstein

WRJ JLL Scholarship Fund

Julie Leff
Phyllis Perkins

Morgan and Marjorie Miller Scholar in Residence Fund

Arlene Lauf and Marc Goldstein
Abby Stamelman Hocky and Eric Hocky
Andi and Jay Malamut
Sue Mahler and Dennis Ruff
Liz Weiler and Jim Shanahan
Missy Slauson
Dale McCreedy and Alex Taylor
in honor of David Sokal's birthday

Bauman Scholars Fund

Joshua Annex
Diane and Clive Martin
in honor of Amy Bauman and Alan Laves' wedding

Barbara and Marc Tartell
in honor of Cheryl and Paul Waters' 50th Wedding Anniversary

The Tobie Orlofsky Scholar Memorial Fund

Estate of Alan S. Plofsky

The Plofsky Educational Fund

Estate of Alan S. Plofsky

TIKKUM OLAM – REPAIRING THE WORLD

Food and Housing Insecurity Fund

Isaac Montefiore
in appreciation of Sandy and Paul Schiffman
for inspiring me to give back to the community

Anne Marie and Jeffrey Haber
in memory of Regina Haber

Sandy and Paul Schiffman
in honor of Mary Jo and Doug Skeet's 60th Anniversary

Karen and Bill Frommer
in honor of Cristina and Josh Bloom's wedding

The Benowich Family
Merle and Stephen Brenner
in memory of Marty Finkelstein,
husband of Freddie Finklestein

Suzanne and Robert Reiffel
in honor of Rabbi Blake's 20 years at WRT

Judy and Bruce Lass
to wish the clergy and staff of WRT a healthy 5784

Betsy and Mark Kleinman Philanthropic
Fund of the Dallas Jewish Community
Foundation
in appreciation of WRT Clergy

Carol and Michael Baum
Janet and Larry Bell
Anne and Mark Ellman
Jo Ann and Gordon Gaynor
Diane and Jeffrey Levin
Stephie and Bill Miller
Harriet Rader
Sue and Lew Rapaport
Judith and Arthur Rosenthal
Gloria and Joel Shugar

Social Impact and Community Engagement Fund

Jeannie and Brian Rosenthal
in memory of his father Haskell Rosenthal

CHAVURAH - COMMUNITY

Caring Community Fund

Lee Kern
in memory of Anna Klein

Rachel Miller and Kent Becker
in honor of Bill Miller's birthday

Karen Levin
Madelaine Pilpel
in appreciation of Amy Rossberg

Anne Krupman

in memory of Carole Baken, grandmother of
Rabbi Sasha Baken and father of Scott Baken

Ilene and Richard Dolins
Arlene and Richard Goldsmith
Stephanie and William Miller
Jane and Charles Roberts
Fran Scheffler-Siegel and Steve Siegel
Susan and Stewart Small and Family
in memory of Marty Finkelstein,
husband of Freddie Finkelstein

John Freiberg

Women of Reform Judaism Mitzvah Fund

Karen Levin
in appreciation of the WRJ Program Planners

CLAL ISRAEL – THE JEWISH PEOPLE

The Plofsky Israel Travel Fund
Estate of Alan S. Plofsky

Westchester Reform Temple Special Funds

What better way to celebrate, honor, and remember loved ones... than through a generous, tax deductible donation. Thank you for making a culture of giving to WRT an integral part of your Jewish life.

SUPPORTING ALL THE PILLARS OF OUR COMMUNITY

- **Inspired Giving (Annual Fund)** This is WRT's annual campaign and supports all events and activities throughout the year. Gifts to this fund support our general operating budget.
- **Security Fund** This fund enables us to support the many security needs of WRT, including equipment, resources, ongoing training and support for the law enforcement professionals who make up our security team at WRT.
- **The Rabbi Richard J. Jacobs and Susan K. Freedman Fund for Innovation in Jewish Life** Supports initiatives to live the lessons and traditions of Judaism, to learn and think deeply, to repair our world, to stand steadfastly with Israel, and to care for one another and the world around us.
- **Rabbi Jack and Priscilla Stern Fund for the Generations** WRT's Endowment Fund

AVODAH – SPIRITUALITY

- **Rabbis' Discretionary Fund** Supports needy individuals, organizations and worthy projects
- **Cantors' Discretionary Music Fund** Sustains and enhances WRT's music programs, and supports worthy causes at WRT and in the wider community.
- **Jewish Music and Spirituality Fund** Supports special initiatives in music and worship, including guest artists and concert programs.

TALMUD TORAH – LEARNING

- **Bauman Scholar Fund** Encourages, recognizes and celebrates the Jewish learning and identity formation of WRT's most academically inclined students, as exhibited by the fearless learning of Sam Bauman of blessed memory.
- **Morgan & Marjorie Miller Scholar-in-Residence Fund** Supports the annual Scholar-in-Residence program
- **Norman L. Blumstein Memorial Fund** Helps children attend Jewish camps and programs
- **Vivienne Sulds Memorial Fund** Supports special lectures and adult education programs
- **Och Family Educational Fund** to support need-based financial assistance on JLL tuition for our students.
- **The Eslyn Fund** To encourage, promote and support educational travel to Israel for the youth of WRT.

TIKKUM OLAM – REPAIRING THE WORLD

- **Food & Housing Insecurity Fund** Assists those who lack access to food and shelter in Westchester County

CHAVURAH – COMMUNITY

- **Caring Community Fund Dedicated to Ann R. Miller** Support for the ill or bereaved

To make a contribution or download a pdf form, go to www.wrtemple.org, click on the GIVE tab to access MAKE A DONATION.

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