

Dear Hevre,

We are deeply grateful for your commitment to your community and the Reconstructionist movement.

Over the last 2+ years, the Reconstructionist movement has created new modes of gathering, and has drawn on them to implement multi-access programming of unprecedented scale and depth. We are thrilled that our 2022 movement-wide convention, *B'Yachad: Reconstructing Judaism Together*, gathered more than 725 people – 465+ in-person and 260+ online – to learn, pray, sing, and connect across 146 workshops, services, and plenaries, 89 of which were conducted in hybrid or online formats. We look forward to sharing some of the richness of convention with you in coming months.

Reconstructing Judaism continues to provide pathways to help Reconstructionist communities thrive. In addition to consulting with individual congregations, the Thriving Communities team facilitates Leadership Calls where congregational lay leadership and staff gather and learn each month. We distribute thought-provoking materials and innovative rituals through our Virtual Shabbat and Holiday Boxes, and share the wisdom of the faculty of the Reconstructionist Rabbinical College, movement rabbis and lay thought leaders through our Ritualwell and Evolve platforms. Our Office of Rabbinic Placement and Employment provides support, consultation, and resources to congregations and rabbis.

This year, Reconstructing Judaism made strides towards the goals outlined in our recently adopted strategic plan. Through the work of Rabbi Sandra Lawson, we have launched our pilot racial diversity, equity, and inclusion assessment tool, which has already invigorated approaches to racial justice work across its initial congregational cohort. This assessment is a major piece of our work to bring about a holistic culture change of striving to become a movement of anti-racist communities. We continue to provide ongoing consultation and learning opportunities around racial justice, diversity, equity, and inclusion. Stay tuned for more information about a movement-wide racial justice trip to the American South in the Spring of 2023.

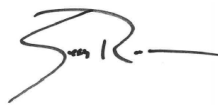
Inside this packet, you will find the 2022-2023 affiliation dues pledge form, our programming highlights, contact information for the Thriving Communities team, and information about Havaya Summer Programs and Ritualwell. Please note that our dues levels and percentages have not changed since 2017, and our dues are lower than those of other Jewish denominations. We carefully manage our budget in order to channel our funds toward the future of the Reconstructionist movement. In fact, in direct expenses alone (and not counting any allocation of overhead), each year we spend hundreds of thousands of dollars more supporting our affiliates through the Department of Thriving Communities than we collect in congregational dues. Those dollars are hard to find. Every dollar counts and every dollar is needed.

Thank you again for your heartfelt dedication to a future of inclusive, joyful, and innovative Jewish communities.

L'shalom,



Rabbi Deborah Waxman, Ph.D.
President and CEO



Seth Rosen
Chair, Board of Governors



RECONSTRUCTING JUDAISM

Affiliation Dues 2022-23

PLEASE RETURN THIS PLEDGE FORM BY SEPTEMBER 16, 2022

You may also fill out this form online at ReconstructingJudaism.org/fy23duesform

Name of congregation _____ Date _____

Street address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Current number of member households _____

1 This dues form reflects a decision by... (choose all that apply)

- Rabbi President Treasurer Head Administrator/Executive Director
- Executive Committee Board Congregational Meeting

2 We choose the following dues category:

- Enter Dues factor = .01 (1% of your budget), with a minimum dues payment of \$360.
- Engage Dues factor = .015 (1.5% of your budget)
- Invest Dues factor = .02 (2% or more of your budget)

Calculating Dues:

1. Determine your congregation's budgeted annual expenses for the fiscal year that includes September 2022 and enter this number in "budgeted expenses." You may exclude from your annual expenses capital expenditures such as the cost of a new building or renovation, but please include expenses for routine repairs and maintenance. Please attach either a copy of your budget or a budget summary with this form.
2. Locate the percentage associated with your membership level and enter it on the line for "dues factor."
3. Multiply your budgeted expenses by the dues factor to calculate your dues.

Budgeted expenses	
X	
Dues factor	
=	
Annual dues	

Continue on next page



3 DUES MUST BE PAID IN FULL BY AUGUST 31, 2023

We would like to plan our payments according to the following schedule:

- One annual payment Date: _____
- Two annual payments Date: _____ Date: _____
- Four quarterly payments Date: _____ Date: _____ Date: _____ Date: _____
- Monthly payments

Payments will be made by: Check (made out to Reconstructing Judaism) Credit card

Type of card: VISA Mastercard American Express

Credit card # _____ Expiration date _____

Name on card _____ Security code _____

We're paying this amount today: \$ _____

Please check here if you want us to send you invoice(s).

If we have questions about your payment, who should we contact?

Name: _____ Email: _____ Phone: _____

HAVE YOU INCLUDED OR EMAILED TO JWEINBERG@RECONSTRUCTINGJUDAISM.ORG:

- Budget or budget summary for the fiscal year that includes Sept. 2022 Membership information, including email addresses Staff/officer list with updates and/or corrections

Please email all completed documents to JWeinberg@ReconstructingJudaism.org, or mail to:

Thriving Communities
Reconstructing Judaism
1299 Church Road
Wyncote, PA 19095

If you have questions and need immediate assistance, please contact Jacob Weinberg at 215.576.0800, ext. 131 or at JWeinberg@ReconstructingJudaism.org.

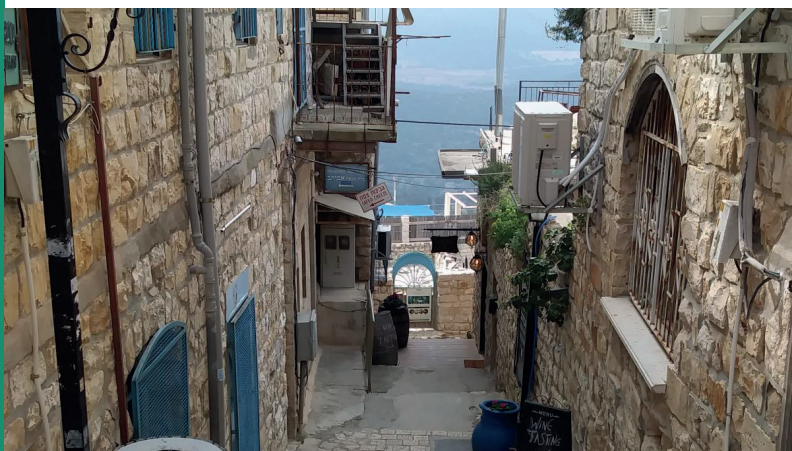
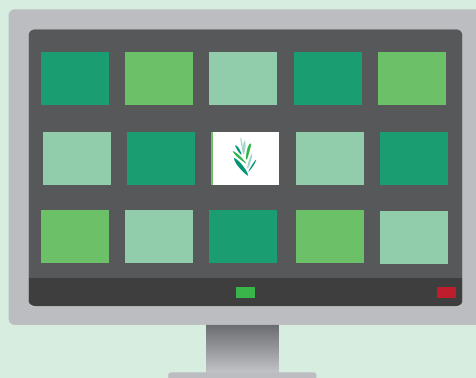


Convention

B'Yachad: Reconstructing Judaism Together, convened more than 725 people – 465+ in-person and 250+ people online – to learn, pray, sing, and connect across 146 workshops, services, and plenaries, 89 of which were conducted in hybrid or online formats. This event was held concurrently with the Reconstructionist Rabbinical Association's (RRA) Convention and the Reconstructionist Educators of North America (RENA) Conference. We look forward to sharing some of the richness of Convention with you in the coming months.

Leadership Calls

Thriving Communities continues to hold online Leadership Calls, where leaders of affiliated congregations and *havurot* gather to discuss emergent topics affecting our communities, and the ways that communities are envisioning the future of Jewish Reconstructionist communal life. This year's topics have included racial diversity, equity, and inclusion, the 2020 Pew study, rabbinic transitions, leadership succession planning, Israel programming, and navigating the pandemic landscape.



Israel Resources

The movement's Joint Israel Commission (JIC) continued its work in developing resources for Reconstructionist communities and engaging in respectful discussion and debate on key issues. The JIC led three excellent workshops during Convention in March and developed two webinars, one on the topic of annexation and the other on the future of the two-state solution. For more information, please visit our Israel resource page: ReconstructingJudaism.org/israel.

Strategic Plan

In March 2021, the board of governors unanimously adopted a five-year strategic plan for Reconstructing Judaism. The new strategic plan reaffirms our longstanding commitments, transforms our ideological interest in innovation into strategy, and charts new paths forward around engagement of individuals and communities through both in-person and online platforms. Please be sure to read and review the plan, which is published on our website: ReconstructingJudaism.org/reconstructing-judaism-strategic-plan-2021-2026/





Pilot Racial Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Assessment

In pursuing the RDEI goals set out in our strategic plan, Reconstructing Judaism has piloted an assessment tool for congregational leaders to discern where their communities are in terms of racial diversity, equity and inclusion. Developed and led by Rabbi Sandra Lawson, Director of Racial Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion, this tool is part of our commitment to supporting congregations in the work of transformational change.

Joint Placement Commission

Reconstructing Judaism, together with the RRA, has established a Joint Placement Commission comprised of rabbis and lay people working to develop policies and procedures for the placement of rabbis from the RRA in both congregational settings and non-congregation positions. As the employment landscape for rabbis evolves, the commission is tasked with researching, reviewing and revising placement materials and recommending guidelines for affiliated congregations and other employers.



Adult Be-/Re- Mitzvah Program

Our adult B-/Re- Mitzvah program, "Through A Reconstructionist Lens," was held over the last year in anticipation of our Convention in March. During this time, adult learners across the United States, Canada, and the Netherlands explored evolving Reconstructionist thought and practice through individual study or classes of students alongside congregational clergy. This program culminated at our Torah Service on Saturday morning of Convention. Watch your inbox for the opportunity to access the 13-class, asynchronous series in the very near future.

Evolve

Evolve publishes conversation-sparking essays, podcasts, and study guides from thought-provoking rabbis, leaders and creators. Its online platform seeks to promote the ongoing evolution of the Jewish community by launching collective, communal conversations about the urgent issues of our day. To that end, Evolve brings multiple voices together to listen to one another's point of view and to interact respectfully. Read and listen at: Evolve.ReconstructingJudaism.org.





RITUALWELL AT A GLANCE

Ritualwell is the most extensive online resource curating original, progressive Jewish rituals.

- 300,000+** web visitors annually
- 4,000+** participants in Ritualwell programs
- 2,300+** rituals published
- 400+** contributors to the site

“Prayer is singular; it’s between you and God, but the essence of Jewish prayer is that it’s done in a community, and Ritualwell offers another version of that community.”

—Ritualwell contributor Trisha Arlin



JOIN THE RITUALWELL COMMUNITY

Add your voice to Ritualwell! Submit your writing, learn with us, and get inspired!



Scan the QR code below for links to submit, browse rituals & more!



“Ritualwell shows the creativity and ingenuity of the Jewish people and our ability to continually create and determine our Jewish future in positive, joyful and meaningful ways.”

—Rabbi Lauren Grabelle Herrmann



Ritualwell is the go-to resource for discovering new Jewish pathways to meaning



www.ritualwell.org





ABOUT US

Founded in 2001, Ritualwell is a treasure trove of rituals, ceremonies, prayers and poems to mark sacred moments in Jewish life, celebrating diverse expressions of Jewish identity and practice. Ritualwell fosters a supportive environment for Jewish creativity, spiritual growth and discovery.

"Ritualwell has been greatly validating to me and helps strengthen me to follow the flow of the creative voice moving through me."

—Ritualwell contributor Tiferet Welch

ADVOT@RITUALWELL

Launched in 2021 with support from the Lippman Kanfer Foundation for Living Torah, ADVOT (Hebrew for "ripples") is an online creative community of ritual innovators, poets and liturgists who meet regularly to share work and support and empower each other to create and innovate Jewish ritual, poetry and liturgy.

"I am so grateful to you for birthing this idea and creating this amazing space with these incredible neshamot."

—ADVOT member Rabbi Janet Madden

EXPLORE OUR OFFERINGS

Ritualwell Immersions

Join us for online, interactive, creative learning opportunities

"It was a life transforming experience. The instructor was exceptional."

—Ritualwell Immersion participant

Ritualwell Store

Shop for lifecycle certificates, spiritual practice cards, ritual items, art prints, unique Judaica finds & more

Rabbi Connect

Connect one-on-one with a rabbi online for spiritual guidance, Jewish learning & more





CAMP HAVAYA

Camp Havaya is all about the joy of summer camp with the freedom to be who you truly are. In our incredibly diverse and welcoming community, all kids—no matter their race, sexual orientation, gender identity, family structure, or Jewish background—are more than welcomed. They're celebrated!

Campers from across North America swim, climb, sing, create, explore, play, and discover what being Jewish means to them; their different experiences and perspectives are a big part of what makes our camp so amazing. 2, 3, and 4-week sessions (and Family Camp!) in the Pocono Mountains of Pennsylvania.

.....

camphavaya.org





HAVAYA ISRAEL

On Havaya Israel, **entering high school juniors** encounter varied experiences and viewpoints that help them build personal connections and make up their own minds. They visit tourist sites and more out-of-the-way places, eat ice cream and climb mountains, surf in Tel Aviv and celebrate Shabbat in Jerusalem. And they engage with Israel/Palestine in new and meaningful ways, including experiences in Bethlehem and East Jerusalem, a visit to the LGBTQ Open House, learning with Bina, and more.

Throughout, they have inspiring and empowering opportunities to better understand what life is really like in this complicated and amazing place.

havayaIsrael.org

