



Jewish Reconstructionist Federation

Transformative Judaism for the 21st Century

Building on the unique historical legacy, perspective, and contemporary relevance of Reconstructionism, the Jewish Reconstructionist Federation is dedicated to making Judaism compelling to Jews in the 21st century by building communities and by providing leadership and service through innovative ideas and resources to our affiliated communities and the broader Jewish world.

Here are some of the many services JRF provides for congregations.
See more on JRF's interactive website: www.jrf.org

Strengthening Congregations 2009

Programs for Congregational Leaders

<http://www.jrf.org/cong-resources>

The **JRF North American Leadership Series** launched this year to help congregational leaders build strong, dynamic and growing communities:

- **Congregational Growth: The Dynamics of Membership, Outreach and Financial Resources** presents a congregational systems approach to help participants understand the dynamics of how congregations grow, while gaining important skills to attract new members and grow the congregation's financial resources. This year's seminar was held Sunday March 29, 2009 at Congregation Beth Israel in Media, PA, with 25 leaders from the United States and Canada in attendance.
- **PEARL 2009: Navigating Difficult Times.** (PEARL: Providing Education and Resources for Leadership)



Adat Shalom (Bethesda, MD) congregants with Torah unfurled.

Following a successful inaugural year, these free distance-learning classes will provide relevant information and strategies beneficial to congregational leaders and staff. In the context of the present economic crisis, expert speakers will partner with JRF staff and lay leaders with the objectives to keep congregations and havurot strong; grow leadership and continue critical tikkun olam work. Specific classes include: Dynamics of Growth, Embracing Change, Outreach + Marketing, Values-Based Budgeting, Sustainability, Money & Spirituality, Fundraising, Community Organizing and more. Participation is via phone classes and webinars.

A resource packet will be available for each of these topics. We invite you to visit www.jrf.org/PEARL for a full listing of this year's program and last year's resources and previous audio downloads.

- **The JRF Leadership Institute for Rabbis and Presidents** brings together rabbi-president pairs at JRF-affiliated congregations across North America. The seminar, facilitated by Dr. Carl A. Sheingold, JRF's EVP, and innovative corporate consultant and therapist Esther Perel, utilizes a systems approach to help congregational rabbis and presidents maximize their effectiveness as a leadership team.

Strengthening Congregations (cont'd)

Regional Programs

JRF's regional lay leaders and staff plan *Shabbatonim*, workshops, retreats and movement-building galas. The scope of activities varies by region. For more information, please come to your region's meeting at Convention on Sunday morning at

Development

JRF provides consultative/support services to congregations regarding capital campaigns and annual campaign readiness, development, and management. Please contact Marla Friedenbergl in the Development office at 215-885-5601, ext. 28 or mfriedenberg@jrf.org.

Tikkun Olam

JRF leads and supports congregations in *tikkun hanefesh v'tikkun olam*, the healing of the individual person and the broader world. Initiatives include Congregation-Based Community Organizing (CBCO), Darfur action, green building, sustainability and the environment, hunger and poverty, service learning and economic justice. Learn how you and your congregation can become involved at www.jrf.org/to and www.jrf.org/omer

Listserves List serves for congregational leaders and members promote exchange of ideas and best practices. Sign up at www.jrf.org/listserves

List	Who Should Join
Ed Directors	Religious school education directors, principals, and administrators
Executive Directors	Professional administrators
EdTalk	Parents, teachers, education directors, education committee members, Rabbis, and others interested in Jewish education
Lomdim (learners)	Adult Education planners and leaders
Membership	Outreach and membership chairs
Money and Values	Those involved in managing congregational financial resources
Music Network	Reconstructionist musicians come together to share, consult, network, and become a hevra
Presidents	Presidents and chairs
Ritual	Ritual and Religious Life chairs and committee members
Tikkun Talk	Tikkun Olam chairs, social action activists
Webkeepers	

JRF's Interactive Website — www.jrf.org + Electronic Resources

Great things are happening at your congregation, so spread the word! JRF is actively seeking stories about successful programs and special events at JRF communities to share across the movement.

Numerous resources are available in the JRF *Resource Library* at www.jrf.org/resources-library; download transcripts from PEARL teleclasses from Spring 2008: www.jrf.org/PEARL-Resources, and listen to audio on a wide array of topics at www.jrf.org/heart-mind-spirit.

The Next Generation

Education

JRF's Department of Education consults on best practices in youth and adult education programming and curricula. Two new initiatives under development that seek to bring new vigor to congregational education programs are:

- **The Reconstructionist Curriculum Resource Finder.** This exciting tool allows educators to identify Reconstructionist and Reconstructionist-compatible resources for formal and informal Jewish educational settings. It contains a place for users to comment on resources and to suggest additional resources. Visit the web site at www.curriculum.jrf.org.
- **Reconstructionist Readymades** are lesson plans on all aspects of Reconstructionism that are "ready made" for a teacher to pick up and teach. A teacher's guide and student activity sheets will be included in each packet. We plan to have these packets available by fall 2009. Contact the departments of Education or Development if you are interested in sponsoring a lesson or a series of lessons.

Camp JRF: The Aaron and Marjorie Ziegelman Campus

As the official summer camp of the Reconstructionist movement, Camp JRF plays a key role in transmitting the Reconstructionist values of Spiritual Peoplehood to our youth:

- **Give your child the summer of a lifetime — Registration is now closed for Summer 2009. Register early for 2010** at www.campjrf.org.
- **The Challenge for Camp JRF** — We are close to meeting our goal! Help us succeed in reaching our goal by February 2009. Camp JRF is seeking to raise \$1 million of which the first \$500,000 contributed will be matched dollar-for-dollar. This challenge grant is made possible through the auspices of the Harold Grinspoon Foundation and The Gottesman/DeBode families to help Camp JRF pursue its vision for long-term dynamic growth and economic vitality. Please join us in supporting Reconstructionist camping as a major vehicle for building Jewish identity among our youth. To learn how you can participate, please contact Marla Friedenbergl in the JRF Development office at 215-885-5601, ext. 28 or mfriedenberg@jrf.org.



No'ar Hadash — The Reconstructionist Youth Movement

No'ar Hadash (Hebrew for "New Youth") promotes and fosters creative, innovative, and fun Jewish youth programming to meet the religious, intellectual, spiritual, and social needs of our teens.

- **Teen Kallot** — No'ar Hadash sponsors regional and North American weekend retreats throughout the year for teens in grades 8-12. Save the dates for these upcoming events:

- **North American Teen Kallah**, held April 17-19 in the Chicago area

To register log on to www.noarhadash.org. Contact No'ar Hadash Program Coordinator Alanna Sklover at ASklover@jrf.org or 215-885-5601, ext. 26.

- **The No'ar Hadash Israel Experience** — Teens entering 11th grade - join us for a month in Israel on the No'ar Hadash Israel Experience, July 12 - August 9, 2009. Contact

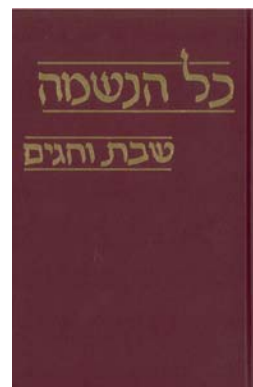
Rabbi Isaac Saposnik at 215-885-5601, ext. 12.



Publications

JRF's Reconstructionist Press — 877-JRF-PUBS

Qualified congregations receive discounts on most publications. Visit our online catalog at www.jrf.org and click on "Book Store."



Enjoy these selections:

- ***A Night of Questions: A Passover Haggadah*** Commemorative 10th Anniversary hardcover edition by Rabbis Joy Levitt & Michael Strassfeld
- ***Moadim Le'Limud/Seasons for Learning: Mishnah on Holidays of the Year*** by Rabbi Gail Diamond
- **Online Store now live!** JRF's Reconstructionist Press offers one-stop shopping for books, resource guides, CDs, Camp JRF apparel and memorabilia, gift certificates and more.

Reconstructionism Today (RT)



RT magazine is JRF's "voice for creative Jewish living."
Read it online at www.jrf.org/rt.

Articles from *RT*, organized by topic, can be accessed online at www.jrf.org/resources-library.

Ma Nishma

Our monthly e-Newsletter *Ma Nishma* keeps JRF congregations up to date with the latest

news and announcements of JRF national and regional events and happenings at Reconstructionist congregations across North America. Subscribe today at www.jrf.org.

מה נשמע?