



The Jewish
Reconstructionist
Federation

2010 Directory
Services, Benefits
& Resources

for Affiliates

Beit Devora

101 Greenwood Avenue, Suite 430

Jenkintown PA 19046

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www.jrf.org info@jrf.org

The JRF: Transformative Judaism for the 21st Century.

The Jewish Reconstructionist Federation (JRF) is dedicated to making Judaism compelling to Jews in the 21st century by building on the unique historical legacy, perspective and contemporary relevance of Reconstructionism. JRF provides leadership and service, through innovative ideas and resources, to our existing and new communities as well as to the broader Jewish world.

Board of Directors

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Judy Spatz, Director at Large

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Ex-Officio Board Members

RRA

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Rabbi Yael Ridberg, RRA President

RRC

Rabbi Dan Ehrenkrantz, RRC President

David Roberts, RRC Chair

RENA Representatives

Nancy Hersh, Chair

Lori Rubin, JRF Liaison

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Regional Staff Contacts

Chesapeake Region

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8409 Snowden Loop Court
Laurel, MD 20708
Ph: (301) 651-3078
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jland@jrf.org

Midwest Region

Rabbi Shawn Zevit
2669 Green Road
Shaker Heights, OH, 44122
Ph: (216) 591-1886
szevit@jrf.org

Southeast, Mid-Atlantic, New England, and Canada

Rabbi Nancy Epstein
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Jenkintown PA 19046
Ph: (215) 885-5601 x 11
nepstein@jrf.org

Western Region and Texas

Rabbi Jane Rachel Litman, Director
574 Arlington Avenue
Berkeley CA 94707
Ph: (510) 527-7117
jlitman@jrf.org

Dan Cedarbaum (Chicago area)
1574 Ashland Avenue
Evanston, IL 60201
Ph: (847) 492-5200
dcedarbaum@jrf.org

New York/Northern NJ Region

Melanie Schneider, Director
475 Riverside Drive, Suite 1367
New York, NY 10015
Ph: (212) 870-2483
Fax: (212) 870-2862
mschneider@jrf.org

Congregation & Havurah Affiliates

Congregation/Havurah	City	ST	Web Address
CANADA			
Temple Sinai	Amherst	NY	http://www.jrf.org/templesinai
Or Haneshamah - Ottawa's	Ottawa	ON	http://orh.ca
Congregation Darchei Noam	Toronto	ON	www.darcheinoam.on.ca
Congregation Dorshei Emet	Hampstead	QB	www.dorshei-emet.org
CHESAPEAKE			
Beit Tikvah	Baltimore	MD	www.beittikvah.org
Adat Shalom Reconstructionist Cong.	Bethseda	MD	www.adatshalom.net
Columbia Jewish Congregation	Columbia	MD	www.columbiajewish.org
Congregation Mishkan Torah	Greenbelt	MD	www.mishkantorah.org
Congregation Oseh Shalom	Laurel	MD	www.oseh-shalom.org
Recon Havurah of Greater			

Washington	Silver Spring	MD	
Kol Ami: NVRC	Annandale	VA	www.kolaminvrc.org
MID-ATLANTIC			
Temple Beth El	Newark	DE	www.tbede.org
Congregation Kehilat Shalom	Belle Mead	NJ	www.ksnj.org
Temple B'nai Abraham	Bordentown	NJ	www.bnai-abraham.org
Temple Beth El	Hammonton	NJ	www.tbenj.org
String of Pearls	Princeton	NJ	www.stringofpearlsweb.org
Congregation Am Haskalah	Allentown	PA	www.amhaskalah.org
Beth Samuel Jewish Center	Ambridge	PA	www.bethsamuel.org
Congregation Or Hadash	Ft Washington	PA	http://www.jrf.org/orhadash
Temple Beth Shalom	Mechanicsburg	PA	http://www.jrf.org/tbshalpa
Congregation Beth Israel	Media	PA	www.bethisraelmedia.org
Kehilat HaNahar	New Hope	PA	www.kehilathanahar.org

Continued....

Congregation/Havurah	City	ST	Web Address
Tzedek v'Shalom	Newtown	PA	www.tzedekvshalom.org
Kol Tzedek	Philadelphia	PA	www.kol-Tzedek.org
Leyv Ha-Ir	Philadelphia	PA	www.leyvhair.org
Minyan Dorshei Derekh	Philadelphia	PA	www.germantownjewishcentre.org
Mishkan Shalom	Philadelphia	PA	www.mishkan.org
Congregation Dor Hadash	Pittsburgh	PA	www.dorhadash.net
Congregation Kol Emet	Yardley	PA	www.kolemet.org
MIDWEST			
Temple Israel	Duluth	MN	www.templeisraelduluth.org
Jewish Reconstructionist Congregation	Evanston	IL	www.jrc-evanston.org
Shir Hadash Reconstructionist Synagogue	Northbrook	IL	www.shir-hadash.org
Ezra Habonim NTJC	Skokie	IL	www.ehnt.org
Congregation Beth El Zedek	Indianapolis	IN	www.bethelzedek.org

Congregation Beth-El Zedeck	Indianapolis	IN	www.bez613.org
Ann Arbor Recon Havurah	Ann Arbor	MI	www.aarecon.org
Reconstructionist Congregation of Detroit	Detroit	MI	http://www.jrf.org/recondetroit
Kehillat Israel	Lansing	MI	www.kehillatisrael.net
Congregation T'Chiyah	Oak Park	MI	www.tchiyah.org
Congregation Mayim Rabim	Minneapolis	MN	www.mayimrabim.org
Shir Hadash Reconstructionist Community	Clayton	MO	www.shirhadashstl.org
Kol HaLev	University Hts	OH	www.kolhalev.net
B'nai Tikvah	West Chester	OH	www.bnai-tikvah.org
Knesseth Israel Temple	Wooster	OH	www.kitemple.net
Shaarei Shamayim	Madison	WI	www.shamayim.org
Little Minyan	Columbus	OH	www.littleminyan.org

Continued....

Congregation/Havurah	City	ST	Web Address
Shir Hadash	Milwaukee	WI	www.cshmilw.org
NEW ENGLAND			
Temple Bnai Israel	Willimantic	CT	www.templebnaiisrael.org
Jewish Community of Amherst	Amherst	MA	www.j-c-a.org
Havurat Shalom	Andover	MA	www.havuratshalom.org
Congregation Agudas Achim	Attleboro	MA	www.agudasma.org
Congregation Shirat Hayam	Duxbury	MA	www.shirathayam.org
Congregation Ahavath Sholom	Great Barrington	MA	www.ahavathsholom.com
Shir Hadash	Newton Highlands	MA	www.jrf.org/shirhadash
Dorshei Tzedek	West Newton	MA	www.dorsheitzedek.org
Temple Hillel B'nai Torah	West Roxbury	MA	www.templehbt.org

Temple Tifer D'har Torah	West Roxbury	MA	www.templetbt.org
Congregation Ahavas Achim	Keene	NH	www.keene-synagogue.org
Congregation Beth El	Bennington	VT	www.cbevermont.org
NY & NORTHERN NEW JERSEY			
Reconstructionist Temple Beth Israel	Maywood	NJ	www.rtbi-online.org
Bnai Keshet	Montclair	NJ	www.bnaikeshet.org
Congregation Beth Hatikvah	Summit	NJ	www.bethhatikvah.org
Kehillath Shalom	Cold Spring Harbor	NY	www.kehillathshalom.org
Reconstructionist Congregation Beth Emeth	Hewlett	NY	www.rcbe.org
Havurah Mishkan Ha'am - Westchester-Riverdale Recon Group	Irvington	NY	www.mishkanhaam.org

Continued....

Congregation/Havurah	City	ST	Web Address
Kehillat Ahavat Achim	New Paltz	NY	www.newpaltzshul.org
Society for the Advancement of Judaism	New York	NY	www.thesaj.org
West End Synagogue	New York	NY	www.westendsynagogue.org
Reconstructionist Synagogue of the North Shore	Plandome	NY	www.rsns.org
Congregation M'vakshe Derekh	Scarsdale	NY	www.mvakshederekh.org
Hebrew Congregation of Somers	Shenorock	NY	www.hebrewcongregationofsomers.org
Woodstock Recon Havurah	West Hurley	NY	
Bet Am Shalom	White Plains	NY	www.betamshalom.org
SOUTHEAST			
Kol Ami	Boca Raton	FL	www.kolami-bocaraton.org
Temple Beth Or	Miami	FL	www.bethormiami.com

Ramat Shalom	Plantation	FL	www.ramatshalom.org
Temple Beth El	Punta Gorda	FL	
Congregation Bet Haverim	Atlanta	GA	www.congregationbethaverim.org
Chapel Hill Kehillah	Chapel Hill	NC	www.CHKehillah.org
Havurat Tikvah	Charlotte	NC	http://havurattikvah.org
Kol Haneshamah	Sarasota	FL	www.congkh.org

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Congregation/Havurah	City	ST	Web Address
WESTERN & TEXAS			
Havurat Olam	Altadena	CA	
Or Zarua Havurah	Berkeley	CA	
Sacramento Reconstructionist Havurah	Fair Oaks	CA	
The Chico Havurah	Chico	CA	www.chicohavurah.org
Ner Shalom	Cotati	CA	www.nershalom.org
University Synagogue	Irvine	CA	www.universitysynagogue.org
Whittier Reconstructionist Havurah	Laguna Woods	CA	
Malibu Jewish Center & Synagogue	Malibu	CA	www.mjcs.org
Kehillat Israel	Pacific Palisades	CA	http://kehillatisrael.org
The Keddem Congregation	Palo Alto	CA	www.keddem.org
Congregation Dor Hadash	San Diego	CA	www.dorhadash.org
Or Shalom Jewish Community	San Francisco	CA	www.orshalomsf.org
P'nei Havurah	Denver	CO	www.pnei-havurah.org

B'nai Havurah	Denver	CO	www.bnainavurah.org
Congregation Beth Evergreen	Evergreen	CO	www.bethevergreen.org
P'nai Tikvah, Valley Outreach Synagogue	Las Vegas	NV	www.valleyoutreach.com
Temple Beth Israel	Eugene	OR	www.tbieugene.org
Havurah Shalom	Portland	OR	www.havurahshalom.org
Temple Beth Sholom	Salem	OR	www.tbsholom.org
Congregation Shalom Rav	Austin	TX	www.main.org/shalomrav
Kol HaLev	Houston	TX	http://www.jrf.org/houstntx
Congregation Beth Am	San Antonio	TX	http://www.jrf.org/bethamtx
Chavurah B'Yachad	Salt Lake City	UT	www.cbyachad.org
Temple Beth Hatfiloh	Olympia	WA	www.bethhatfiloh.org
Kadima	Seattle	WA	www.kadima.org

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Congregation/Havurah	City	ST	Web Address
OUTSIDE OF CANADA AND USA			
Bejt Simcha	120.00 Prague 2 Czech Republic		http://www.bejtsimcha.cz
United Congregation Mikve Israel- Emanuel	Willemstad Nether- land Antilles Curacao		www.snoa.com
Klal Israel	Delft, Holland		www.klal-israel.nl

Listserve Directory

Contact Person: Beverly Vitek
bvitek@jrf.org

Overview:

One of the best resources that comes with JRF affiliation is the opportunity to connect with your peers in other JRF synagogues and havurot. The following listserves provide an exciting forum in which to share ideas, problem-solving strategies, challenges and success stories. Please sign up at www.jrf.org/listserves

LISTSERVE NAME

Presidents

Executive Directors

Clergy

Education Directors

EdTalk

WHO SHOULD JOIN?

Congregational presidents and board chairs

Congregational executive directors and senior administrators

Rabbis and Cantors

Congregational school education directors, principals, administrators

Parents, teachers, education directors, education committee members, rabbis, others interested in Jewish education

Money & Values	Those involved in managing congregational financial resources
<i>Tikkun</i> Talk	Tikkun Olam chairs and social activists
Membership	Outreach and membership chairs
<i>Lomdim</i> (learners)	Adult education planners and leaders
Ritual	Ritual and religious life committee chairs and members
Webkeepers	People responsible for the affiliate's website
Music Network	Reconstructionist musicians come together to share, consult, network and become a <i>hevra</i> /community
Youthfocus	Professionals and lay leaders committed to informal education in Reconstructionist communities
Fortyorfewer	Leaders of congregational schools with forty or fewer students

Financial Benefits for Clergy & Staff

Contact Person: Maryanne Thompson

mthompson@jrf.org

Health and Dental Care

Rabbis, cantors and staff who serve JRF affiliates (25 hours a week or more) located in the United States are eligible to participate in JRF's health and dental plans.

Long-term Disability

JRF rabbis (working 25 hours a week or more) located in the United States, who are also members of the Reconstructionist Rabbinical Association (RRA), are eligible to join JRF's long-term disability plan.

Anna Marie Lombardi
Lombardi & Associates
Fortune Financial Services
233 W. Broad Street

E-mail: amlombardi@lombardi-associates.com

Website: www.lombardi-associates.com

Quakertown, PA 18951

Phone (215) 529-4537

For more information, please contact JRF's insurance agent, Anna Marie Lombardi (see above for contact information and website). Anna Marie will review plan options, which vary by state, and provide pricing. Anna Marie is also available to work with JRF rabbis and staff on individual life, long term care and disability coverage

Pension Plan

Reconstructionist rabbis, cantors and staff who serve JRF affiliates, may be eligible to participate in JRF's pension plan through Vanguard. The plan is a 403(b) and is in compliance with the new 2009 IRS restrictions.

Enrollment in JRF's 403(b) pension plan requires your synagogue or *havurah's* governing body to pass, or already have passed, a resolution approving the congregation's participation in the plan and stipulating eligibility and payment guidelines for its clergy and staff. A copy of the resolution must be sent to JRF, which will then submit the resolution to the Executive Committee of the JRF Board for approval. JRF can provide a sample resolution for adaptation for your congregation's use. The minutes of your board meeting must reflect that the resolution was duly adopted. Contact Maryanne Thompson at JRF for more information.

Planned Giving

Contact Person: Daniel G. Cedarbaum

dcedarbaum@jrf.org

Overview:

The JRF is pleased to be able to offer consulting and other services to our congregations and *havurot* in the area of planned giving. Planned giving encompasses the use of wills, trusts and other vehicles and arrangements, some relatively simple and some relatively complex, that include gifts to the donor's congregation or *havurah*, and to the Reconstructionist movement and at the same time further the donor's other tax or estate planning goals.

Our planned giving services are primarily provided by JRF's Director of Planned Giving, Dan Cedarbaum, a graduate of Harvard Law School who practiced trusts and estates law for more than 20 years before joining the JRF staff. These services are generally offered at no charge to our affiliates (with the exception of travel expense reimbursement in some cases).

The JRF maintains a website (www.jrfplannedgiving.org) that provides a wealth of information about planned giving, both for potential donors and for professionals in the field.

Reconstructionist Press & Publications

Contact Person: Joseph Getzoff

jgetzoff@jrf.org

Overview:

The Reconstructionist Press is the producer of the best-selling Reconstructionist liturgy, the *Kol Haneshamah* Series, as well as other popular titles. You can buy your books online at our bookstore: www.jrfbookstore.org or call us at 1-877-JRF-PUBS. All JRF affiliates and individual members receive a 20% discount on all of our publications. To receive this discount at the online bookstore, enter the discount code: "09MEMJRF" at checkout.

We continue to field manuscripts from Reconstructionist educators and authors on an ongoing basis. We are always looking for distribution partnerships, so please contact us if you have a title you'd like to distribute through us and our bookstore. The Reconstructionist Press is also looking to publish some of our prayer books into large print and Braille.

The Reconstructionist Press also loans out copies of *Kol Haneshamah* for limited use.

The Reconstructionist Press also loans out copies of *Kol Haneshamah* for limited use.
Email press@jrf.org for more information.

Here are our five bestsellers!

Kol Haneshamah: Shabbat Vehagim

A Night of Questions: A Passover Haggadah edited by Rabbi Joy Levitt
and Rabbi Michael Strassfeld, Illustrated by Jeffrey Schreir

Kol Haneshamah: Mahzor Leyamim Nora'im

Exploring Judaism: A Reconstructionist Approach by Rabbi Rebecca Alpert and
Rabbi Jacob Staub

Siddur Kol Ha'Noar: A Children's Siddur edited by Rabbi Sandy Eisenberg Sasso and Rabbi Jeffrey
Schein (Available with or without Transliteration)

Biennial Convention 2010

Contact Person: Rabbi Erin Hirsh
ehirsh@jrf.org

Overview:

JRF's signature event is the biennial convention for affiliates and supporters. The next convention, [*California Dreaming: Visioning Our Jewish Future*](#) will take place on November 11 – 14, 2010 in Newport Beach, CA. This largest gathering of Reconstructionist Jews and like-minded people is a four-day experience of learning, building connections, and sharing best practices. It is an opportunity for personal enrichment as well as communal growth and congregational development. Many Reconstructionist Jews come to convention to “recharge” on a personal level and reconnect to the movement as a whole.

Convention is an opportunity for JRF affiliates and supporters to be on the cutting-edge of Jewish Reconstructionist thought and practice as well as to directly impact the future of the Reconstructionist movement. Programming includes compelling major speakers, scores of

stimulating workshops, inspirational communal service, and more. Workshops are offered on every aspect of congregational life -- leadership, finance, governance, growth, outreach, administration, education, ritual & liturgy, tikkun olam, music & art, as well as a variety of political and sociological topics that are of interest today to North American Jews and Israel.

The location of the JRF convention changes from convention to convention to insure maximal accessibility to member congregations. Each JRF congregation is encouraged to send participants to represent the congregation's particular perspective and experience.

Congregational Relations

Contact Person: Rabbi Nancy Epstein

nepstein@jrf.org

Overview:

The Department of Congregational Relations is the umbrella for direct resources, programs, consultation and services to support your congregation or *havurah*.

Relevant Listserves: www.jrf.org/listserves

Presidents	Presidents and Board Chairs
Executive Directors	Professional Administrators
Clergy	Rabbis and Cantors
Membership	Outreach and Membership Chairs

Services and Resources:

Consultation and Technical Assistance

JRF staff is available for individual congregational or *havurah* consulting, technical assistance and training.

Workshops:

The JRF Leadership Institute for Rabbis and Presidents brings together rabbi-president partnerships from JRF-affiliated congregations across North America. The seminar, facilitated by Dr. Carl A. Sheingold, JRF's Executive Vice President utilizes a systems approach to help congregational rabbis and presidents maximize their effectiveness as a leadership team.

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, develop congregational capacity and skills to attract new members and grow the congregation's financial resources.

Resources:

JRF has many written resources for your use. To access materials go to:

www.jrf.org/resources-library.

Congregational Relations, cont'd.

Contact Person: Rabbi Nancy Epstein
nepstein@jrf.org

Programs:

Long-Distance Learning: PEARL (Providing Education and Resources for Leadership)

A free, distance-learning program with guest experts, staff and lay leaders from our movement, will offer another year of programming in 2010. Sessions are taped and subsequently posted on the JRF website. The following PEARL programs are available as either an audio recording and/or a written packet of resource materials.

Congregational Growth

Growing the Soul of Your Community

Rabbi Shawn Zevit, Rabbi Jill Jacobs, Deane Root, Carole Caplan

www.jrf.org/node/2245 and www.63.115.67.94/pirke-avot/index.html

Dynamics of Growth

Marsha Katz Rothpan, Rabbi Shawn Zevit

www.jrf.org/pearl/2009/dynamics-of-growth

Growing Your Congregational Community

Rabbi Shawn Zevit, Noah Drezner, Jane Krantz, Rabbi Elyse Wechterman

www.jrf.org/pearl/2008

Innovations in Outreach - A Regional Case Study of Reaching Out to Unaffiliated and Intermarried Jews

Rabbi Hannah Greenstein and Susan Leon

www.jrf.org/node/2219

Fundraising in Difficult Times

Herb Tobin, Marla Friedenberg

www.jrf.org/node/2223

Facebook, Twitter and the Revolution of Social Media

Rabbi Jane Litman, Rabbi Shai Gluskin

www.jrf.org/node/2254

How Do We Run a Successful Congregational Fundraising Event?

Barry Nove, Carrie Greene - congregations with less than 250 units

Barry Nove, Ron Glickman - congregations with more than 250 units

Congregational Relations, cont'd.

Contact Person: Rabbi Nancy Epstein
nepstein@jrf.org

Programs:

Congregational Growth, cont'd.

Cultivating Leadership: Responding to the Volunteer Dilemma

Dr. Carl Sheingold, Dr. Saul Carliner, Jean Miller, Rabbi Steve Segar

<http://jrf.org/files/PEARL%20-%20Cultivating%20Leadership.pdf>

Congregational Dues: Models That Work

Rabbi Shawn Zevit, Melissa Segal, Francine Shetterly, Susie Speer

http://jrf.org/files/PEARL%20-%20Congregational%20Dues_0.pdf

Creating A Home: Thinking it Through From Building Renovation to LEEDs
Platinum Certification

<http://jrf.org/files/PEARL%20-%20Creating%20a%20Home.pdf>

Reconstructionist Leadership

How To Successfully Integrate and Use Reconstructionism in Synagogue Processes

Cultivating New Leaders for Your Congregation

Carol Feder

Money & Jewish Spiritual Values

Rabbi Shawn Zevit, Rabbi Mordechai Liebling

Values-Based Budgeting

Rabbi David Teutsch

Seven Strategies for Successful Organizational Change (includes PowerPoint presentation)

Rabbi Hayim Herring

Embarking on Strategic Planning for Smaller Congregations: Mission, Vision, and Values

Dr. Carl Sheingold, Rabbi Mordechai Liebling, Aura Ahuvia

Boards That Work: Building and Sustaining an Effective Governance Structure

Carol Feder, Rabbi Nancy Epstein

Congregational Relations, cont'd.

Contact Person: Rabbi Nancy Epstein
nepstein@jrf.org

Programs:

The Rabbi-Congregational Relationship

Everything You Ever Wanted to Know About Hiring a Rabbi

Rabbi Joel Alpert, Rabbi Nancy Epstein, Dr. Carl Sheingold

www.reconplacement.org

System Evaluation in the Rabbi-Congregation Relationship

Rabbi Richard Hirsh, Dr. Carl Sheingold, Rabbi Nancy Epstein

<http://jrf.org/files/PEARL%20-%20System%20Evaluation.pdf>

Tikkun Olam and Sustainability

Sustainable Synagogues, Part 2: JRF Congregations Best Practices of 2008

Rabbi Shawn Zevit, Carole Caplan, Rabbi Nina Beth Cardin, Tamara Zielony

http://jrf.org/files/Sustainability_0.pdf

Tzedek Tzedek Tirdof: Actively Pursuing Social Justice:

Congregational Based Community Organizing and Congregational Advocacy

Congregational-Based Community Organizing and Congregational Advocacy

Rabbi Shawn Zevit, Shuli Passow, Rabbi Steven Carr Reuben, Kathy Kaufman, Josh Goldstein

http://jrf.org/files/PEARL%20-%20CBCO_0.pdf

Living our Values of Tikkun Olam Inside and Outside: Processes and Programs in our
Congregations; Taking Action in the Larger World

*Rabbi Shawn Zevit, Rabbi Fred Dobb, Clifford Goldsmith, Rabbi Lauren Grabelle
Herrmann, Rabbi Cheryl Weiner*

<http://jrf.org/files/PEARL%20-%20Tikkun%20Olam.pdf>

<http://jrf.org/PEARL/audio/tikkun-olam>

Tikkun Olam: Maximizing the Reconstructionist Impact

Rabbis Fred Scherlinder Dobb, Toba Spitzer, Brant Rosen, and Shawn Zevit

www.jrf.org/tikkun-olam-forum

CBCO-Congregation Based Community Organizing

Rabbi Shawn Zevit, Rabbi Rachel Feldman, Rabbi Eliot Tepperman

www.jrf.org/node/2225

Sustainable Synagogues 3.0

Rabbi Shawn Zevit, Sarah Chandler, Nili Simhai

www.jrf.org/node/2224

Congregational Relations, cont'd.
Contact Person: Rabbi Nancy Epstein
nepstein@jrf.org

Programs:

Tikkun Olam and Sustainability cont'd

The Work of Jewish Social Justice Organizations: Collaborative Partnerships in Tikkun Olam

Tikkun Across the Congregational System: From Schools to Shuls

Social Justice "Omer" Initiative Resource Packets

Advocacy: How and When Do We Take a Stand Within Our Communities?

Hunger and Poverty: *ways to alleviate the shadow of hunger and poverty*

The JRF website's main page for Tikkun Olam is located at www.jrf.org/to

Tikkun Olam

Contact Person: Rabbi Shawn Zevit
szevit@jrf.org

Overview:

JRF is committed to leading and supporting congregations in *Tikkun HaNefesh V'Olam*, the healing and repair of the individual person and the world at large. This includes developing and publishing resources for congregations in the various core areas that our synagogues are most involved in (e.g. hunger, poverty, health and environmental issues, interfaith coalitions, reproductive and same-sex couple rights, inclusivity and accessibility issues), collecting and distributing programs, actions and resources developed by our congregations (e.g. the annual *Omer Tikkun Initiative*, Sustainable Synagogue Initiative) and providing programmatic and consultative support for congregational social justice needs. From this integrative approach, our support to our member communities, our partnership through External Affiliations and coalitions, and the issues of our day are responded to and proactively addressed. The JRF website's main page for Tikkun Olam is located at www.jrf.org/to

Relevant Listservs: www.jrf.org/listserves

Resources:**Examples of recent JRF Tikkun Olam/ Social Justice programs:**

Sustainable Synagogue Initiative including 2009/5769 Year of the Sun/ Solar and Alternative Energy Initiative and national *Shabbat Noach*/Climate Change

Annual Omer Learning Initiative

Annual Jewish Social Action Month

Congregation-Based Community Organizing

Addressing labor ethics, kashrut and humane treatment of animals

World-wide and national poverty and hunger alleviation

JCPA/Interfaith national Coalition on Ending Poverty

Resolutions and Resources on Patrilineal descent, GLBT inclusion, accessibility issues, the role of non-Jews in Jewish congregational life, Israel Task Force report and more

Tikkun Olam Resource library: <http://jrf.org/tikkun-olam-resources>

Jewish service-learning programs: <http://jrf.org/service-learning>

Education

Contact Person: Rabbi Erin Hirsh
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Overview:

The Department of Education serves congregational schools, early childhood and adult education programs by:

- Helping lay and professional educators design the content of congregational educational programs
- Sharing curriculum, articles, and resources with lay and professional congregational educators
- Supporting best practices in the administration of congregational schools and other congregational educational programs

JRF works with rabbis, education directors, lay education leaders and teachers in person or through email/ telephone contact. JRF offers consultations on all aspects of operating congregational schools, including both content and structure. Upon request, we conduct curriculum reviews for congregations. JRF also develops new curricula for the Reconstructionist movement. We are particularly ex-

cited about forthcoming Reconstructionist lesson plans called *Reconstructionist Readymades*. The Department of Education guides the content of the Education workshops offered at the JRF Biennial Convention.

The TEL Post B'nai Mitzvah Program (Teens: Experience and Learning). Groups of teens from JRF congregations are invited to gather in the fall and spring for *kallot*/retreats to explore one of the Values of Spiritual Peoplehood. In between, groups meet in their respective congregations eight times to deepen their experience of that Value, utilizing a curriculum developed by the JRF Department of Education. The first year's theme is *Tikkun Olam*/Repair of the World/Social Justice, the second year's theme is *Hiddur Mitzvah*/Creativity and the Arts.

Reconstructionist Educators of North America (RENA) is a professional organization which works in conjunction with the JRF Department of Education. RENA offers continuing professional development through regular educational conference calls for Education Directors, as well as “virtual coffees” and “virtual martinis.” Education directors meet by phone and act as a mutual support system, debriefing and advising one another about activities within their congregational schools. There is a RENA conference every other year.

Education cont'd

Contact Person: Rabbi Erin Hirsh
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Services and Resources:

Consultation and Technical Assistance

JRF staff is available for individual congregation or *havurah* consulting, technical assistance and training.

The Reconstructionist Curriculum Resource Finder www.curriculum.jrf.org features Reconstructionist and Reconstructionist-compatible classroom resources on each of approximately 20 major topics. Topics are searchable by author, title and sub-categories. Built into this resource is a forum for users to comment on the materials.

The main JRF website, www.jrf.org, offers numerous resources for congregational education programs in the "Resources" section

Relevant Listserves: www.jrf.org/listserves

EdDirectors Congregational school education directors, principals, and administrators

EdTalk Parents, teachers, education directors, education committee members,
Rabbis and others interested in Reconstructionist Jewish education

Lomdim/learners Adult Education planners and leaders

Fortyorfewer Leaders of congregational schools with forty or fewer students

Youth Listserve: <http://lists.jrf.org/lists/info/youthfocus>

Youthfocus A list for professionals and lay leaders committed to informal education in
Reconstructionist communities

Camp JRF & No'ar Hadash Youth Movement

Contact Person: Rabbi Isaac Saposnik

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Overview:

Camp JRF

Recognized as one of the “Top 10 Jewish Camps,” Camp JRF, nestled in the Pocono Mountains of Pennsylvania on the Aaron and Marjorie Ziegelman Campus, offers innovative, creative, and engaging programs for youth entering third through twelfth grades. For dates and more information about Camp JRF, please visit www.campjrf.org. Summer sessions run for two, three, and four weeks and/or a 5-day family camp. Camp JRF provides strong connections to Judaism, Reconstructionism, and positive human values through the creative arts, sports, experiential education, and caring for the environment.

Family Camp

Family camp is a wonderful opportunity for parents, children and other family members to come to Camp JRF for five fabulous days of swimming, sports, arts, singing, dancing, and experience all the best that Camp JRF has to offer. Come and share the magic of camp with your whole family! Family camp is held at the end of the summer camp season in August.

No'ar Hadash

No'ar Hadash, the Reconstructionist youth movement, provides opportunities for teens from across North America to join together for innovative and engaging programming. The No'ar Hadash Israel Experience, is a month-long exploration of Israel through a Reconstructionist lens. Entering high school juniors participate in *tikkun olam* social justice projects with their Israeli peers, marvel at the natural wonders of the land, discuss the realities of life in contemporary Israel, connect with Reconstructionist rabbis in Israel, and much more. For more information about No'ar Hadash and the Israel Experience, please visit www.noarhadash.org.

Visit Camp JRF's website for all information related to camp including photos and summer 2010 applications - www.campjrf.org.

Visit No'ar Hadash's website for all information related to teen events including photos and event applications - www.noarhadash.org

Next Generation Initiatives

Contact Person: Rabbi Jeff Eisenstat
jeisenstat@jrf.org

Overview:

Camp to Shuls Program

JRF congregations are invited to send their 5th and 6th graders to Camp JRF: The Aaron and Marjorie Ziegelman Campus for a wonderful spring Shabbaton that includes some of the wonderful CAMP JRF programs from across North America.

JRF Southern California Retreat Program

JRF religious schools in Southern California have opportunities to gather at JCA Shalom Institute in the Malibu Mountains for one of two types of retreats. Students engage in exciting learning and fun with the *Values of Spiritual Peoplehood* curriculum. Attendees dance, pray, sing, create art, read the Torah on Mt. Sinai and do the zip line.

The first retreat can be an all day Shabbat program for 3rd graders and the second is a complete weekend kallah for 4th-6th graders. In the program's inaugural year (2009) more than 150 students took advantage of this camp style educational program.

JRF West Mini Week-Long Camp in Malibu, CA

Under the direction of Rabbi Jeff Eisenstat, Founding Director of Camp JRF, a taste of Reconstructionist Camping comes to the JRF Western Region with an exciting week-long summer experiential educational program. Specialty areas such as challenge course, sports, environmental education, music, dance, ceramics, soccer and horse-back riding are available to all our Western Region JRFers from 3rd-7th grade.

Relevant Listserves: www.jrf.org/listserves

EdDirectors	Congregational school education directors, principals, administrators
EdTalk	Parents, teachers, education directors, education committee members
<i>Lomdim</i> /learners	Adult Education planners and leaders
Youth Focus	Professionals and lay leaders committed to informal education in Reconstructionist communities

External Affiliations and Partnerships

Contact Person: Rabbi Shawn Zevit
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Overview:

JRF represents its affiliates as a whole in the larger world through relationships and alliances with organizations and coalitions whose goals and objectives are aligned with JRF's. JRF participates in interfaith and Jewish denominational coalitions in many social justice areas and joins in supporting letters in response to forthcoming legislation or policies.

Decisions to endorse policy initiatives are carefully evaluated by JRF executive and senior staff and a JRF board subcommittee for their consistency with already-existing JRF resolutions and/or initiatives already underway. JRF has developed a 24 hour turn-around process for managing crisis and time-sensitive requests for collaboration. In the area of Tikkun Olam and social justice, sign-ons are consistent with the information gathered from JRF's survey of Tikkun Olam/social justice activities of JRF affiliates.

JRF alerts its affiliates to key information, events and policy initiatives that are carefully followed by these larger organizations and coalitions. Alerts are frequently sent to JRF affiliates at the state and

local level advising them of action needed in key policy and social justice areas. In addition, JRF represents its affiliates at large-scale national and international social justice events, such as Save Darfur rallies, which are also publicized to affiliates.

The following list of the organizations and coalitions with which JRF partners provides a sense of the breadth of these external relationships and affiliations with the wider world. More information and hotlinks to many of JRF's external affiliation partners can be found on the JRF website at www.jrf.org.

Partners to date include:

[American Jewish World Service](#) /Jewish Coalition Responding to AIDS in Africa

[Coalition on the Environment and Jewish Life](#)

Coalition to Preserve Religious Liberty

[Conference of Presidents of Major Jewish Organizations](#)

[International Association for Religious Freedom](#)

[KolDor](#)

[Informed Meetings Exchange \(INMEX\)](#)

Interfaith Disability Advocacy Coalition

International Jewish Social Justice Network

[The Jewish Council for Public Affairs](#)

External Affiliations and Partnerships cont'd.

Contact Person: Rabbi Shawn Zevit
szevit@jrf.org

The Jewish Coalition Responding to HIV/AIDS in Africa

[The Jewish Coalition for Disaster Relief](#)

Mazon – A Jewish Response to Hunger [MAZON](#)

[MAZON Canada](#)

National Coalition Building Institute

[National Conference on Soviet Jewry](#)

National Council of Synagogues

National Committee for Public Education and Religious Liberty

Religion in American Life

[Religious Coalition for Reproductive Choice](#)

[Save Darfur Coalition](#)

[Secure Community Network](#) (SCN)

[The Shefa Fund -Tzedek/"Justice" Economic Development Campaign](#)

[The Informed Meetings Exchange](#)
[United Jewish Communities](#)
[World Union of Progressive Judaism](#)

External Affiliations and Partnerships cont'd.

Contact Person: Rabbi Shawn Zevit
szevit@jrf.org

The following two examples provide you with a sense of the importance of the coalitions and networks of which JRF is a member; representing its affiliates and sharing important information with them.

[The Jewish Council for Public Affairs](#) (JCPA) serves as the representative voice of the organized American Jewish community in addressing the mandate of the Jewish community relations field. The mandate is expressed in two, interrelated goals:

- To safeguard the rights of Jews here, in Israel, and around the world; and, in order to accomplish that,
- To protect, preserve, and promote a just American society, one that is democratic and pluralistic.

The JCPA reflects a unique and inclusive partnership of national member agencies, local community relations councils and committees, and the federations of which they are a component part or affiliated agency. It convenes the "common table" around which member agencies, through an open, representative, inclusive and consensus-driven process, meet to identify issues, articulate positions, and

develop strategies, programs, and approaches designed to advance the public affairs goals and objectives of the organized Jewish community.

[Secure Community Network \(SCN\)](#) was established in response to a heightened security concern among national Jewish leadership as a central address to serve and advise the American Jewish community concerning matters of communal safety, security and preparedness. Pioneering in scope, the mandate of SCN is sweeping: the institutionalizing of a culture of security awareness and preparedness into the consciousness and operations of the American Jewish community. Today, SCN has become a trusted partner and advisor for the Jewish community and law enforcement agencies across the country. Establishing and enabling a culture of security and preparedness, SCN provides countless consultations, training sessions, distributes important, timely, and credible communications, and assists communities and organizations in creating more secure environments for their constituents.

The Reconstructionist Placement Office

Contact Person: Rabbi Joel Alpert

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Overview:

The Reconstructionist Placement Office is a joint project of the Jewish Reconstructionist Federation (JRF), the Reconstructionist Rabbinical Association (RRA) and the Reconstructionist Rabbinical College (RRC). The office works with congregations and rabbis on rabbinic placement, contracts, contract renewals, sabbaticals and related areas. The website, www.reconplacement.org, is intended to help rabbis and congregations receive placement-related materials whenever they are needed.

A model first contract between a rabbi and a congregation is available at www.reconplacement.org. This sample contract is based on best practices that address what occurs most often in rabbi-congregation agreements. It is intended to provide the basis for a contract with the understanding that it may need to be adapted to the needs of a specific rabbi and congregation. The model contract was developed by the Reconstructionist Placement Office and completed after editing and negotiations with the Reconstructionist Rabbinical Association and JRF. It was passed by both the RRA and JRF boards in 2009. While it is intended as a first contract, most of the material would easily work

JRF boards in 2009. While it is intended as a first contract, most of the material would easily work for a second or subsequent contract with simple modifications.

Resources:

A section on resources is an ever-expanding section for congregations and rabbis. Among the areas covered are rabbinic contracts, evaluations, sabbaticals, rabbinic interviewing guidelines rabbinic liaison committees, clergy taxes, and websites for non-congregation positions.

Rabbi Joel Alpert, Director of Placement, can be reached at 215.576.5210 ext. 304 or jalpert@reconplacement.org.

The Reconstructionist placement office website is www.reconplacement.org.

JRF

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The JRF Convention is coming!

November 11-14, 2010

California Dreaming: Visioning our Jewish Future

**We hope you can join us this fall in warm, sunny,
beautiful Newport Beach, California**

Thought-provoking speakers!

Entertainment with a Hollywood flair!

Entertainment with a Hollywood flair!

Inspiring *tefillah* led by fellow Reconstructionists!

Rewarding workshops to offer and attend!

Overall fabulous Reconstructionist *ruach*!

Come teach, swim, sing, learn, celebrate, schmooze,
surf, dance, and help shape our collective
Reconstructionist future



www.jrf.org/convention

The Jewish Reconstructionist Federation



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