

Chesapeake Day of Learning & Celebration

Sunday, March 19

Oseh Shalom
Laurel, Maryland

At this year's annual celebration, we honor
community members who help their congregations and
havurot in the eager, willing spirit of **Hineni**—“Here I am.”

הִנֵּנִי

PARTICIPATING CONGREGATIONS

Adat Shalom
Reconstructionist Congregation
Bethesda, MD
www.adatshalom.net • 301.767.3333

Columbia Jewish Congregation
Columbia, MD
www.columbiajewish.org •
410.730.6044

Congregation Beit Tikvah
Baltimore, MD
www.beittikvah.org • 410.464.9402

Kol Ami: Northern Virginia
Reconstructionist Community
Arlington, VA
www.kolamivirginia.org •
571.271.8387

Kol HaLev Synagogue
Baltimore, MD
www.kolhalevmd.org • 410.299.7967

Mishkan Torah Congregation
Greenbelt, MD
www.mishkantorah.org •
301.474.4223

Oseh Shalom
Laurel, MD
www.oseh-shalom.org •
301.498.5151

The Reconstructionist Havurah
at Riderwood
Silver Spring, MD
301.890.4960

HONORING THOSE WHO SHOW THE WILLING & EAGER SPIRIT OF *HINENI*

הִנְנִי

Adat Shalom:

Beit Tikvah:

Columbia Jewish Congregation:

Kol Ami:

Kol HaLev:

Mishkan Torah:

Oseh Shalom:

Hannah Lipman and Phil Zipin

Rabbi Larry Pinsker

Sheldon Gnatt and David Glaser

Ervin Walter

Rabbi Steve Silvern

Marilyn Langfeld

Lynne Gaynes-Kaplan & Steve Kaplan

The Reconstructionist Havurah at Riderwood honors all of its members

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Reconstructionist Rabbinical College and
Jewish Reconstructionist Communities



Jewish Reconstructionist Communities

In Association with the Reconstructionist Rabbinical College

As the Reconstructionist communities of the Chesapeake region gather, we all stand at the threshold of spring. This season of rebirth is a time to take stock of how we've weathered the winter together, and to revitalize our joy in Jewish learning and our commitment to living meaningful Jewish lives that make a positive difference in our world.

They say it takes three repetitions of a ritual in order to make it a tradition. Well, this unique gathering of learners and seekers is now in its 26th year, and as such it is a well-established tradition! But moreover, it's a tradition that has matured and become a vital part of the glue that connects the Reconstructionist communities of this region.

Congratulations on the vibrancy of this annual gathering, where people discover and discuss new ideas, consider and debate essential Jewish issues of the day, and meet and befriend one another. And *kol hakavod* – congratulations and great respect – to all of this year's honorees. This year's honorees are a wonderful cohort of rabbis, educators, leaders, and sustainers of progressive Jewish life in the region. *Mazal tov* on being recognized today for all that you've done.

On behalf of the Reconstructionist movement, blessings to all who are gathered today in Laurel – blessings for vitality, renewal, curiosity, and strength in community.

Rav todot – many thanks,

Rabbi Deborah Waxman
President

David Roberts
Chair, Board of Governors

ABOUT THE MOVEMENT

In the Reconstructionist movement we are committed to our roots in tradition; to egalitarianism and inclusion; and to helping Jewish communities flourish. The Jewish Reconstructionist Communities provide services for today's congregations and *havurot*. We work with our affiliates to build Jewish communities that are spiritually and intellectually vibrant, and committed to Jewish learning, ethics and social justice. We provide publications, consulting services and resources on topics such as education, *tikkun olam*, fundraising and marketing resources, and spiritual community building. The Reconstructionist Rabbinical College provides cutting-edge training for tomorrow's rabbis. The movement promotes Reconstructionist values among our youth through Camp JRF and No'ar Hadash—the Reconstructionist youth movement.

WELCOME

Dear Members of the Chesapeake Reconstructionist Communities:

Welcome to all who've gathered today at Oseh Shalom to honor this wonderful group of Jewish leaders! This gathering is an inspiring opportunity for all of us in the movement to appreciate the time, creativity, work, commitment, and love that each of the people being honored today has gifted to our communities.

Reconstructionist Judaism is rich in ideas, values, texts, rituals, and innovations. But what makes it thrive is *people* – people who make their talent, experience, and effort into an enduring resource that supports meaningful Jewish life. Some of their work is visible and recognized, and some of it happens under the radar but has profound impact nonetheless. To these leaders – for their leadership and lasting impacts – we say thank you – *Todah Rabbah* – on behalf of Jewish Reconstructionist Communities, and from me personally. May you all go from strength to strength!

With appreciation,



Tresa Grauer

Director of Affiliate Support

Jewish Reconstructionist Communities in association with the Reconstructionist Rabbinical College

WELCOME

B'rakhim Ha'baim,

Welcome to the 26th Chesapeake Annual Celebration! It is wonderful to have the opportunity to acknowledge that for the last 26 years, we've been celebrating our regional congregations, members, and leaders. This year is a true celebration of all of our years of honor. We appreciate your presence at this special event and your support of the Jewish Reconstructionist Communities in association with RRC. This year we have added an education component to this program for the first time. We hope that this new addition was both meaningful and a worthwhile part of the program.

Yasher koach to all our *Hineni* honorees. You exemplify what makes our Reconstructionist congregations and *havurot* special; each of you has stepped up to help our community and your own congregation in the eager, willing spirit of *Hineni*—"Here I am." Thank you for all your participation and hard work.

Today would not have been possible without the ongoing support of many staff members at the central office, including the Affiliate Support Department led by Tresa Grauer, Director, Stella Sytnik, Events Director and Barbara Lissy, Assistant Vice President for Development. Thank you very much to Jennifer Glowacki, whose tireless efforts make sure that we have accurate records for the event. A very special thank you to Victoria Guentter who has been my partner in this program with all facets of this event since we started working on it sometime last summer. She also created the beautiful tribute journal that you can look at on your table or on the screen in the Social Hall and when you return home on your computer. This year, because I am currently in Israel I want to especially thank Tresa, Stella, Victoria and Barry Nove, Allison Holtz and Mary Meyerson from Oseh Shalom for stepping up to make sure that this program runs smoothly and is worthwhile. I would also like to thank Rabbi Maurice Harris, Rabbi Sid Schwarz and Rabbi Sonya Starr for providing the educational pieces of today's program. Thank you to Rachael Burgess for recording sections of the program and taking photographs for future use. Thank you to John Riehl, my partner in Chesapeake for many, many years. We work together and share ideas to keep Chesapeake in the forefront of the Reconstructionist movement. Thank you to all the lay leaders and professional staff at Oseh Shalom for making today happen.

Lastly I would like to say *I'hitraot* to Cantor Jan Morrison, Rabbi Jonathan Cohen and Rabbi Doug Heifetz as they move to the next steps of their journeys. We wish you great success and happiness as you move on from your current roles in our community. We will miss you being a regular part of our future programming and we have valued all of you as part of the Chesapeake area and hope that you will stay connected in some way in the future.

I am with you today in spirit and will livestream all or part of today's program.

Todah Rabbah! Hag Pesach Sameach!

Kol Tuv!

Jackie Land

Associate Director of Affiliate Support, Jewish Reconstructionist Communities



The Reconstructionist Rabbinical Association
Congratulates

All of the Honorees

For Your Vision, Commitment and Caring
Your devotion and support
help make it possible
for our future colleagues
to study in a rabbinical program
that trains leaders to meet the needs
of the North American Jewish community
in the 21st century

Rabbi Nina Mandel, President
Rabbi Elyse Wechterman, Executive Director

First Birthright Israel Trip of the Reconstructionist Movement



HONOREES

Hannah Lipman Adat Shalom Congregation

Biography:

Hannah, and her husband, Tim, joined Adat Shalom 19 years ago.

Before retiring seven years ago, Hannah spent 18 years working with Rabbi Sid Schwarz, Adat Shalom's founder, at PANIM, a leadership development program for Jewish Youth. Through her work at PANIM, Hannah recognized how her Jewish values dictated her responsibility to contribute to the betterment of the world. Early in working with Rabbi Sid, Hannah was introduced to Adat Shalom. After experiencing Shabbat with Rabbi Fred, Hazzan Rachel, and the Adat Shalom community, Hannah knew she had found her spiritual home.

Soon after joining Adat Shalom, Hannah became active on the membership team and continued her involvement, holding numerous positions on the board. The more involved Hannah became, the more she appreciated the special community that she had joined.

Prior to joining Adat Shalom, Hannah spent many years in various volunteer leadership positions including Hadassah and local PTAs. Currently she volunteers at Manna Food Center in Gaithersburg, where she assists clients in need to access a monthly supply of food that is available to them. She also volunteers at A Wider Circle, working with new immigrants, formerly homeless members of our community, and others who are ready to join the workforce. The goal is to help dress clients for success for job interviews as well as provide clothing for the work environment.



HONOREES

Hannah Lipman Adat Shalom Congregation

She is the proud parent of two sons, in-law to one daughter, and Grammy to two amazing grandkids. She travels often to Boston to be with them.

Statement:

Serving as the co-president of Adat Shalom's Board of Trustees was one of my most rewarding life experiences. My service to the community not only allowed me to be involved in the everyday working of the *shul*, but provided me with the opportunity to meet and work with some great folks. Working as a team, we were able to support our mission and continue to make Adat Shalom a warm and welcoming community. I feel blessed to have served and been part of such a vibrant synagogue community.



HONOREES

Phil Zipin Adat Shalom Congregation

Biography:

Phil grew up with three brothers and a sister near the RRC in the Philadelphia suburbs. Although there was a strong cultural Jewish identity in his family, his parents were dedicated agnostics and never affiliated with a synagogue. The only times Phil set foot in a synagogue during his youth was for his friends' b'nai mitzvot. His exposure to religion was largely through the one sedar each year that his Russian grandfather insisted upon. Phil and his wife Marla became founding members of Adat Shalom in 1988, beginning Phil's exposure to Reconstructionist Judaism. Over the years, Phil has been involved with many board-level and community activities at Adat Shalom, including the fundraising and membership committees, acting as general counsel, coordinating (and playing in) the popular "Hoops for Hunger" basketball tournament for 10 years to raise money for MAZON, and organizing the "Shtetl Olympics" for kids at the Adat Shalom Retreat. His service culminated with his stint as Co-President during 2014 to 2016.

When he is not volunteering his time at the synagogue, Phil is an employment lawyer helping exploited workers get paid and redressing other workplace grievances on behalf of his clients.



HONOREES

Phil Zipin Adat Shalom Congregation

Statement:

I still wake up occasionally wondering how someone with my (lack of) Jewish experience and education was ever permitted to be co-president of our synagogue. I am grateful that many people at Adat Shalom had confidence that I could contribute in this way. The experience was a deeply rewarding one for me. I encourage all who are asked to say "yes" when your "Hineni" moment arises and you are given an opportunity to contribute to your community. You will not regret it.

I would like to thank Adat Shalom's Founding Rabbi (and my dear friend and tennis partner), Sid Schwarz for opening my eyes and heart to a Judaism I could embrace and which embraced me. I would also like to extend my appreciation to my co-president, Hannah Lipman, for pulling more than her fair share of the laboring oar during our tenure, and always managing to make me look good in the process.



HONOREES

Rabbi Larry Pinsker Beit Tikvah

Statement:

Since formal redirect of this honor isn't allowed, I'd like to thank the leaders of Beit Tikvah and to say a few blessings of appreciation for them – both people who were honored in previous years and those who've come forward to shoulder the challenges of congregational life in this moment. Their courage, devotion, and spirit have lit up the elegance and beauty of Jewish life and especially of Reconstructionist Judaism as a place for lovers and seekers of all things Jewish. You bring surprise to synagogue community with song, prayer, and study that teaches. You've created Jewish life centered around mutual support, learning that leads to action, and a compelling, intelligent spirituality. Thank you for your listening hearts and your inspiring hope.



HONOREES

Rabbi Larry Pinsker Beit Tikvah

Biography:

Rabbi Pinsker grew up in Chicago, Ill., the son of Eastern European immigrants who hoped their hard work would enable him to become a scientist or engineer. Instead, at the recommendation of Al Denman, his philosophy and religion professor at Antioch College, he chose a career in the rabbinate, though he retains a lifelong love for the sciences and science fiction.

Rabbi Larry holds degrees in philosophy, religion, and psychology and was ordained by the Reconstructionist Rabbinical College. He received Doctor of Divinity degrees, honoris causa, from the Reconstructionist Rabbinical College and the Jewish Theological Seminary. He has served synagogues in Niagara Falls, San Antonio, New York City, Toronto, and Winnipeg. He founded Manhattan's West End Synagogue. Currently he serves Congregation Beit Tikvah in Baltimore.

In Baltimore, Rabbi Larry has opened new perspectives on Judaism and the practicality of prayer and ritual. He attracts a new cohort of curious Jews with programs on peoplehood, the "subversive function of daily prayer," and "Science Fiction, Judaism and Religious Imagination." Rabbi Larry's programs about Judaism, Jewish ethics, and the social function of religions incorporate film, television, and unique study guides. He has initiated inclusive learning opportunities with groups such as Baltimore's Faith Communities with Pride, Roland Park Interfaith Council, and the new Corner Community Center. He is also a "conveyor belt regular" in Beit Tikvah's social action initiative supporting the Maryland Food Bank, makes connections for members with medical and social support needs, and drives members to appointments, classes, and services. He invites novice and seasoned Jews and non-Jews alike to shed their stereotypes and have a fresh look at the life-sustaining force of Jewish beliefs and practices.



HONOREES

David Glaser Columbia Jewish Congregation

Biography:

David grew up in Queens, N.Y., where he became a Bar Mitzvah and celebrated the home-based holidays of Pesach and Chanukah with family. It was when he moved to Columbia, MD and married Judy Vogel, who was a long time member of Columbia Jewish Congregation, that he became actively involved in congregation life.

After serving on the Board of Directors in several roles, David became President in 2011 and then Past President, during which he provided leadership for important operational initiatives. He led efforts to modernize the congregation's phone and internet systems, its by-laws, board and committee processes, and staff development initiatives. He led celebrations of the wonderful clergy, including Rabbi Starr's "Bat Mitzvah Year."

During the past two years, he has been a part of the just rolled-out change of CJC's financial process from membership dues to pledges. David has been active in the implementation of this effort, using his skills and experience as a consultant to organizations undertaking major changes – strategic planning, reorganizations, leadership transitions, and management development. He is partnered in this business with Judy in Vogel Glaser & Associates in Columbia and in Fort Lauderdale, FL.

Statement:

I have enjoyed being a part of CJC's vibrant, innovative Jewish life and working closely with our clergy and staff over many years. Their dedication and professionalism are a constant source of inspiration for me. Our strong focus on Jewish engagement, community building and tikkun olam have provided an opportunity to actively engage in complex and urgent issues with smart and delightful people. I look forward to more satisfying work, and I am very grateful to have this honor today.



HONOREES

Sheldon Gnatt Columbia Jewish Congregation

Biography:

Sheldon grew up in Silver Spring, MD. His family affiliated with a Conservative synagogue; however, his father had Reconstructionist leanings without knowing it. Sheldon's wife, Susan, was raised in another faith, but converted to Judaism having been impressed with their daughter Melanie's Jewish preschool experience.

The couple experienced Columbia Jewish Congregation (CJC) as a welcoming, embracing community. Sheldon's involvement in communal life came largely at Susan's behest. Susan joined and later became President of CJCS (Sunday School) Board. She then nudged Sheldon to offer his expertise in personnel law to the CJC Board and Sheldon said yes: He's now serving his eighth year on the board. He served four years as Vice President for Administration, which involves chairing the Personnel Committee and negotiating clergy contract renewals. Sheldon enjoyed that challenge, utilizing respectful dialogue in negotiations. He chaired the committee that completed a thorough revision of CJC's by-laws, created a special fund to augment the budget and served on fundraising committees.

Sheldon recently proposed that CJC consider an alternative to fixed dues and is excited to be chairing the committee implementing a voluntary sustainable pledge model adopted by the congregation. He has also played an active role in CJC's tikkun olam activities, chairing the committee one year, helping develop a policy for adopting congregational positions on social issues. He has coordinated Red Cross Blood Drives for many years.



HONOREES

Sheldon Gnatt Columbia Jewish Congregation

CJC members have heard him play piano at Men's Club services or Mother's Day brunches. On those rare occasions when he isn't attending a meeting, he joins the CJC Little Jewish Biker Boys, attends a Men's Club brunch, visits his dear grown children and three young grandsons, walks the streets of Historic Downtown Frederick with Susan, or rehearses roles in his daughter's ballet productions.

Statement:

Through my affiliation with CJC, I have learned to appreciate the value and virtue of community. CJC members are intelligent, inquisitive, opinionated and socially engaged and my life is enriched by time spent with you. I am humbled by this honor.



HONOREES

Ervin Walter

Kol Ami, The Northern Virginia Reconstructionist Community

Biography

Ervin was born in Sweden to Romanian parents. He grew up in an Orthodox home and completed his Jewish studies at the Hebrew Academy of Greater Washington. His Jewish upbringing was shaped by his parents and their many friends representing most of the Eastern European cultures.

Ervin has been a member of Kol Ami since 2003. He was a teacher in the early years of JCEP (Kol Ami's Jewish Children's Education Program) and was given the remarkable opportunity to teach his children for their b'nai mitzvot. He has been on the steering committee for many years and is currently the Treasurer.

Ervin is a CPA and a graduate of the University of Maryland where he also received his MBA in finance. He is President of Federal Management Services, a software development company providing research support technologies to the National Institutes of Health.

He is married to Laura and has four children: Elizabeth, Katherine, Melissa, and Benjamin. He enjoys running, biking, and old-time radio.

Statement

I am truly honored to be recognized by Kol Ami. Our *shul* brings together all that is warm and welcoming in a community. I especially value the wonderful services, both large and small, that Kol Ami provides. We are very fortunate to be part of such a caring, spiritual and friendly religious family.



HONOREES

Rabbi Steve Silvern Kol HaLev

Biography:

Steven was raised in an active Conservative home; his parents served on committees and provided leadership in their local shul and broader community in southern Maryland. He was raised to be engaged. Living in rural Alabama for 31 years, Steven and his partner of 45 years, Linda, sought ways to make Judaism meaningful and engaged in practices at the personal and family level (householder Judaism). Moving to Baltimore, they found a community in Kol HaLev that supported individually meaningful practice. The open community invited Steven to share his skills in planning, computer technology, and music—ultimately joining in the KHL ensemble, Shabbat Unplugged.

Steven earned his doctorate in human development from the University of Wisconsin and taught Early Childhood Education for 32 years, retiring as Professor Emeritus from Auburn University in 2008. He was ordained as a Rabbi by the ALEPH Rabbinic Program in 2001. He provided spiritual leadership to Beth Shalom in Auburn, AL for 13 years, and currently serves on the ALEPH Ordination Program Academic Board and is the Administrative Dean. Steven remains active as a teacher focusing on the development of spirituality and how teachers can develop spirituality. He teaches classes in hasidic philosophy and Kabbalah.

Statement:

Kol HaLev is a community rich in human resources. We have many members with multiple skills and talents, many more deserving than me. To be singled out for honor at the regional celebration is a humbling experience. Our community's engagement in spiritual experiences, tikkun olam, education, and Jewish programming is both uplifting and enlightening. And, the leadership provided by Rabbi Geoff Basik, Hazzan George Henschel, and President Bernie Guyer is inspiring. I look forward to many years of engagement in co-developing programs, building infrastructure for communications, and making joyful noise with the entire community.



HONOREES

Marilyn Langfeld Congregation Mishkan Torah

Biography:

Soon after Marilyn was born in St. Louis, MO, her family moved to North Miami, FL, where she grew up. Her family were members of two Reform synagogues in the area.

Marilyn studied in Nashville, TN, moved to Atlanta, GA, then to Maine and then to San Rafael, CA, where she finished her B.A. while working for Community Type and Design, opened her first design studio in Petaluma, then her second studio in San Francisco.

For a number of years there, she worked with a variety of clients, including the Shanti Project (buddy system of support for HIV+ people), the San Francisco Foundation, and Pacific Bell, among others.

During that time, the World Health Organization's senior graphic designer saw Marilyn's designs for the Shanti Project and invited her to work with WHO. So Marilyn moved to Geneva, where she spent 12 years. She loved using her graphic design skills in service to the global health community.

For her birthday one year, a Jewish/Swiss friend gave her a book by Rabbi Sid Schwartz: "Finding a Spiritual Home." Marilyn was very impressed by it, so she looked for Rabbi Sid when she returned to the United States and settled in Silver Spring. She found him at Adat Shalom, where she first encountered Reconstructionist Judaism.



HONOREES

Marilyn Langfeld Congregation Mishkan Torah

Marilyn loved the synagogue, Rabbis Sid and Fred, Hazzan Rachel and the wonderful congregants, so she joined and kept her connection with Adat Shalom even after her business failed in the recession of 2008.

After housesitting a Japanese Buddhist Temple in DC over three years, Marilyn moved to Greenbelt in 2014. Adat Shalom was no longer a short drive away. So she visited Mishkan Torah, which felt very friendly and welcoming, with Rabbi Jonathan Cohen and Cantor Phil Greenfield uplifting her Shabbat mornings, and so became her new spiritual home.

Statement:

My goal has always been to be of service... in work, in spiritual matters, in life. I enjoy using my graphic design skills at Mishkan Torah: designing the Keter Shem Tov booklet and flyers, the Yizkor booklet, and other design projects as they arise. I also enjoy working with the Social Action Committee, the Sisterhood, and the Oneg crew. Mishkan Torah gives me many opportunities to be of service... and to say: "Hineni!"

Thank you so much for recognizing my efforts in such a heartwarming manner.



HONOREES

Lynne Gaynes-Kaplan Oseh Shalom

Biography:

Lynne grew up in small town in Upstate New York. Her parents worked hard to maintain a strong Jewish identity and attended a Conservative synagogue. After college, medical school, and residency, Lynne moved with her then husband and two daughters to Columbia. The family tried several congregations, but knew they had a fit at Oseh Shalom. Lynne found much solace there after the breakup of her marriage. Several years later at an Oneg Shabbat, she met, Steve Kaplan, an enthusiastic participant of the membership committee. This led to their marriage at Oseh Shalom in 2009, officiated by Rabbi Doug and Cantor Charlie. The rest is Oseh history. Lynne was especially honored to serve as the Administrative Vice President and President of the congregation. She will always be immensely grateful to the Oseh Shalom community for so many blessings.

Statement:

Steve and I are so honored to represent Oseh Shalom at this year's Reconstructionist Chesapeake celebration. Your recognition is so heart-warming. Over the past several years we have been active as members: Steve on the board as development chair and now financial secretary, as well as a host of other roles. It has been the greatest joy to become involved because of the phenomenal Oseh Shalom community. We have been so blessed to have great spiritual leadership by Rabbi Doug Heifetz and Cantor Charlie Bernhardt, as well as to have the support and friendship of so many extraordinary individuals in our congregation.



HONOREES

Steve Kaplan Oseh Shalom

Biography:

Growing up in the Midwood section of Brooklyn, Steve took Judaism for granted. The neighborhood was infused with Jewish sensibilities and values where almost every neighbor was culturally, although not necessarily religiously, Jewish. A mezuzah marked most doors. His mother maintained a kosher home, which helped to reinforce his Jewish roots. Public schools were predominately composed of Jewish kids and staff and the demographics didn't substantially change during his years at Brooklyn College.

Steve attended an after school Hebrew school at a conservadox synagogue. From his widowed working mother's perspective, its strength was the sanctuary it provided from city streets, rather than the content of its curriculum. Further cementing his Jewish identity were the eight summers he spent at Camp Kinder-Ring, a camp affiliated with the Workmen Circle, a Jewish fraternal organization. The Yiddish songs he learned still echo in his mind.

He later moved to the Washington, D.C., area where he completed graduate work and subsequently spent a satisfying public service career in governmental budgeting and finance. Joining Oseh Shalom almost ten years ago changed his life. It is where he met and married his loving wife Lynne Gaynes.



HONOREES

The Reconstructionist Havurah of Riderwood honors all of its members.

The Reconstructionist Havurah at Riderwood is the successor to the Reconstructionist Havurah of Greater Washington. The Greater Washington Havurah functioned for 50 years as a study and discussion group and fellowship, and was the oldest Reconstructionist Havurah in the United States. In 2015, when its membership had been reduced to eight members, it was clearly no longer a viable organization.

Its long-time president, Sam Seeman, had moved to Riderwood, a senior retirement residence in Silver Spring, and wished to continue affiliating with a Reconstructionist group. Together with Lew Priven, a Riderwood resident active in the Riderwood Jewish Community and a Reconstructionist, they invited the former Greater Washington Havurah members and the Riderwood residents who were interested in Reconstructionism to organize the Reconstructionist Havurah at Riderwood.

The Reconstructionist Havurah at Riderwood functions as a study and discussion group and a fellowship. Its discussions are led by members and visiting rabbis. It is affiliated with the Riderwood Jewish Community, which holds regular Shabbat and holiday services and other Jewish events. It is also affiliated with the Reconstructionist Rabbinical College and Reconstructionist Communities.



Mazel tov to this year's honorees!

Ritualwell.org offers a Reconstructionist approach to Jewish life, ritual and practice.



ritualwell
TRADITION & INNOVATION

www.twitter.com/ritualwell
www.facebook.com/ritualwell

Congratulations to all the 2017 Honorees, especially

Erv Walter



meeting at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Arlington
4444 Arlington Boulevard
Arlington VA 22204

571.271.8387
admin@KolAmiVirginia.org
www.KolAmiVirginia.org

Northerners always welcome! Shalom All Y'All!

We are so blessed
to be part of the
Oseh Shalom community
and are honored to be recognized
at this Chesapeake
Reconstructionist celebration.

Lynne and Steve

Yasher Koach to Rabbi Larry Pinsker

With appreciation and gratitude for your guidance, creativity, support, dedication, and for connecting us to the greater community and the world around us by modeling what it means to be present

Congregation Beit Tikvah

March 19, 2017
21 Adar 5777

“Let all who work for the community do so from a spiritual motive, for then the merit of their ancestors will sustain them, and their righteousness will endure forever.”

Adapted from Pirkei Avot 2:2

**To Phil Zipin and Hannah Lipman,
our very own “Lip and Zip” team –**

Thank you for steering our ship calmly,
in sacred waters.

You co-presidented us with grace,
humor, and dedication...

And building on your great work,
the best is yet to come!

The board and staff of Adat Shalom
congratulates you,
all the regional honorees,
and all who support
the holy work of Reconstructionist Judaism

Lynne & Steve

Thank you for making
our Oseh Shalom community
a better place
as well as helping us
create a strong and vibrant
Reconstructionist Community

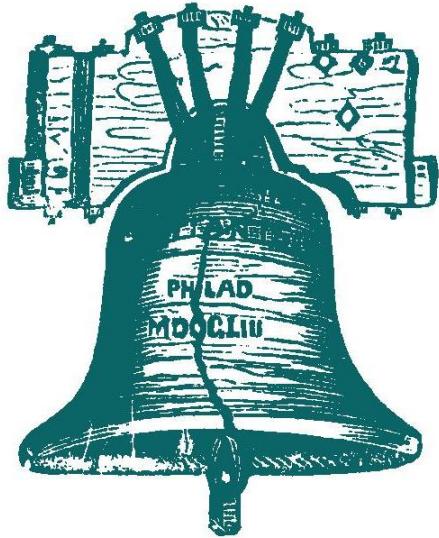
Oseh Shalom Congregation and board

The Reconstructionist Rabbinical Association



Mazal Tov!
to our colleague
Rabbi Larry Pinsker
as an honoree at the
Chesapeake Region Reconstructionist Celebration
for his support of and service to his community
and for over forty years in the rabbinate.

Rabbi Nina Mandel, President
Rabbi Elyse Wechterman, Executive Director



SAVE THE DATE
RECONSTRUCTIONIST CONVENTION

NOVEMBER 15-18, 2018
PHILADELPHIA

Community! Ruach/Spirit! Inspiration!

Join other Reconstructionists to sing, pray, learn, eat and be together.



Congratulations,
Phil and Hannah,
for a much deserved
honor! The melding of
your strengths created a
dynamic duo as co-
presidents. Thank you for
your inspirational and
steadfast leadership in
service to our beloved
Adat Shalom community.

With appreciation and
gratitude,

Steve and Jody Shapiro
Norm Schneider and Linda Kanefield
Neil and Lisa Makstein

Mazal tov
to all of this year's
Chesapeake Region
Honorees!

This region just keeps
getting stronger
and stronger;
may we continue to
go from strength to
strength!

Next year at
Convention
in Philadelphia!

John Riehl

**Congratulations to
Lynne Gaynes-Kaplan
and
Steve Kaplan.**

Oseh Shalom is
privileged to have you
as members and to
have benefited from
your leadership.

Mazel tov and
best wishes
from Shelley and
Adam Reese.

We are so proud
of our dear friends,
**Hannah Lipman
and Phil Zipin,**
who stepped up to take on
the Co-Presidency
of Adat Shalom.

The community is stronger
because of the time,
attention and love that you
both gave
to this holy task.

Rabbi Sid Schwarz and
Sandy Perlstein

CONGRATULATIONS!

Mazel Tov to Hannah and Phil!



We
deeply appreciate
their dedicated leadership
as co-presidents,
their support for the
Inclusion Advisory Group (IAG)
and for
Establishing the Kulanu Fund

Alan Levitt, Robert Lubran,
and Susan Kimmel

Inclusion Advisory Group

Adat Shalom Reconstructionist Congregation

We take pride and
pleasure in honoring
ERV WALTER,
our good friend,
a stalwart of Kol Ami,
and our beloved treasurer
who keeps us afloat,
all the Chesapeake area
2017 honorees,
and the RRC leaders
who honor us all
with their presence
and their service

Jim North and Richard Ruth

*"The plans of the diligent lead
to profit"*
Proverbs 21:5

**Mazal tov,
Lynne & Steve,
for being this year's
Oseh Shalom
honorees!**

**Thank you for
always being there
for Oseh and serving
the community
with such wisdom
and cheerfulness!**

John Riehl

**CONGRATULATIONS
to
Grammy,
Mom,
& Hannah**

from
Your Fan Club
Jonah & Mia
Ari, Scott, & Joanna
Tim

Rabbi Larry Pinsker

For responding to the call of
community and individuals

For expanding

our visions and knowledge

For sharing your enthusiasm

For nurturing and encouraging
students of all ages and backgrounds

For guiding, officiating,
volunteering, listening

For challenging assumptions
and misconceptions

For welcoming, caring,
motivating, leading

For being our teacher,
counselor, advisor

For announcing:
"Hineni"

TODAH RABAH

Congregation Beit Tikvah
Board of Directors

Hannah and Phil,

Mazel tov on your meritorious
and devoted service
to our beloved

Adat Shalom community!

Thank you for your great
teamwork and leadership,

Lip and Zip!

Marla

Phil/Dad,

Congratulations on being
honored tonight for your
"Hineni"! We admire, respect
and are inspired by your
service and dedication to
Adat Shalom.

Love,
Marla, Josh, and Jessica

Mazel Tov

Hannah Lipman

Phil Zipin

Rabbi Larry Pinsker

Sheldon Gnatt

David Glaser

Ervin Walter

Rabbi Steve Silvern

Marilyn Langfeld

Lynne Gaynes-Kaplan & Steve Kaplan

All members of The Reconstructionist

Havurah at Riderwood

on receiving the Hineni Award in 2017.

Thank you so much for
all the hard work that you do
to make your communities
warm and welcoming places!

Thank you for saying Hineini and stepping up
and doing all that you were asked to do.

We appreciate your dedication to your communities
and the Reconstructionist movement.

Jackie & Eric Land

Thanks
Lip and Zip
for
your leadership
and for all you
do for Adat
Shalom.

The Bethesda Goils

Lynne & Steve,

**MAZEL TOV ON THIS
WELL DESERVED HONOR**

For all you do
at Oseh Shalom...
we thank you!

You truly epitomize
Hineni!

B'Shalom,

Holly & George

To all award recipients:

Our words of thanks:
writings on a page
don't say enough...

Thank goodness
your actions speak
so much louder

Mazel tov on being recognized
for all you do
to make our communities
places of action, support
meaning & tradition

Holly & George



To Rav Leyb Michael
Thank you for teaching me
to open my mind
and my heart

***Provide yourself with a teacher;
Find yourself a companion;
Judge others impartially.***

Pirke Avot 1:6, adapted

**“Those who can, do.
Those who can do more,
volunteer.”**

**Sheldon Gnatt and David Glaser,
thank you for always doing
more.**

with love,

Jan Morrison and Chick Rhodehamel

In honor of Rabbi Larry Pinsker
with appreciation for your
outstanding contributions
to our communities.

Faith Communities of Baltimore
with **PRIDE**
Interfaith Community
of Roland Park
Corner Community Center

**Thank you
Lynne and Steve**
For your endless
kindness and commitment.

You are an inspiration!

Allison Holtz and Marc Litz

מזל טוב

Sheldon Gnatt
and
David Glaser

*"Who is wise? One who learns from every man... Who is strong?
One who overpowers his inclinations... Who is rich?
One who is satisfied with his lot... Who is honorable?
One who honors his fellows."*

— Ben Zoma, Ethics of the Fathers, 4:1



Mazal tov to Lynn and Steve
on receiving the Hineni Award.

Thank you for all your hard work
to make Oseh Shalom
a warm and welcoming community.
It has been a pleasure
to study with you and get to know you
throughout our years together at
Oseh Shalom.

Jackie & Eric Land

To Phil and Hannah in gratitude for your leadership.

Vicki and Joel Breman

Steve Silvern—Beloved
member of the Kol HaLev
community, Hineni is his being—

*drummer, guitarist,
webmaster, latke
maker...Rabbi and Professor*



Kol HaLev

He shares his love of
learning, Torah and prayer
and gives freely of his heart
and time. He enriches our
Kol HaLev community.
From the KHL Community,
thank you, Steve!

MAZEL TOV TO
RABBI LARRY PINSKER

OUR RABBI, TEACHER &
FRIEND
WHO TRULY EMBODIES THE
WORD "HINENI"

DAVID & MARCIE LEVENSTEIN

***For our friend,
Steve Silvern.***

Our lives are richer with
you in them—bringing
your guitar and drums to
George's voice, bringing
music you love...



Sharing meals and concerts,
ideas, bad jokes and laughter.
Friends are family you
choose—
With love, George and Ricki



Dear Lynne and Steve,

*Always cheerful, thoughtful and welcoming,
you both have been so generous with your time,
your home, and much else. And your effort to
be fully present at the synagogue
for services and functions in addition to
performing all of your lay duties
illustrates well your dedication
to our community.
Thank you so much for all.*

Love, Seth and Candy

Yasher Koach to
Phil and Hannah
and all of the honorees.

Robert Barkin & Cathy Shaw

כל הכבוד
**Congratulations to
Lynne Gaynes-Kaplan
and Steve Kaplan**

From
Sue Robbins & Lou Spevack

Thank you to
Jewish Reconstructionist Communities
and Oseh Shalom.
I couldn't do my job without you!
Thank you especially to Victoria, Rachael,
Jennifer, Tresa, Stella, Rory, Maurice,
Barry, Allison, Mary, George, John
and everyone else who worked so hard
to make this Day of Learning
and Annual Celebration a great day!
I will miss being there with you!

Hugs! Jackie

**Mazel Tov and
Deepest Thanks
to Hannah Lipman
and Phil Zipin
for their Great Service
to Adat Shalom**

Harriet and Clem Shugerman



**Beit Kaplan:
The Rabbinic Partnership
for Jewish Peoplehood
is delighted to honor one of
our founding members,**

Rabbi Larry Pinsker

**Beit Kaplan is an organization of rabbis who are
inspired by the philosophy of Mordecai M. Kaplan
(1881-1983), whose writing provided the foundation of
classical Reconstructionist Judaism.**

"Warm congratulations to Marilyn Langfeld from the Mishkan Torah Board and Membership.

You came in as a new member and got right to work - the true personification of *hineni*."

MAZAL TOV and TODAH RABAH M'OD

LYNNE & STEVE

You are *everywhere*, and without you both....don't ask!

Hineni is your middle name!

With gratitude for your ongoing leadership and commitment to our Oseh community.

Val

Mazel tov and thank you to Lynne Gaynes-Kaplan, Steve Kaplan, and all our other Chesapeake Reconstructionist honorees.

Shalom,
Elaine Lippmann & Rabbi Doug Heifetz

Rabbi Larry Pinsker is an intellectually courageous leader. He advocates tirelessly for integrity and honesty, while maintaining both hope and compassion. I personally have turned to him a number of times for the spiritual equivalent of a chiropractic adjustment, when I've needed my head and heart to be straightened out. The fact that he can provide this assistance in Yiddish is a bonus. His impressive intellect and scholarship, combined with a mental retrieval system that rivals that of the British Library, makes him a valuable comrade in our campaign to keep Rabbi Kaplan's philosophy front and center. Larry's friendship has been a treasure to me for years, and I look forward to many more.

-- Rabbi Shoshana Hantman



Lip and Zip A fabulous duo!

Alissa Stern and Louis Boorstin

Rabbi Larry brings a special perspective to our congregation. It is obvious to anyone attending the Rabbi's service that his wealth of knowledge knows no bounds. We are blessed with a kind and gentle soul who inspires us to be greater than the simple body that shuts the morning alarm and rolls out of bed. Rabbi Pinsker marks the distinction between cantation and incarnation and we are all the wiser to listen and step up.

Personally I feel fortunate to be part of this Jewish community and to be able to learn from and study with Rabbi Larry at Beit Tikvah.

SONiA

**Congratulations to all of our Regional Honorees
Thank you for stepping forward and responding
“HINENI”**

Congregation Beit Tikvah
at the Corner Community Center
5802 Roland Avenue, Baltimore, MD 21210
info@beittikvah.org 410-464-9402
www.beittikvah.org

We are a **Kehillah Mekabelet**,
welcoming families, couples,
and individuals of all races, heritages, ethnicities,
gender identities/expressions,
and sexual orientations.

Our space is wheelchair accessible.

L'hitraot Rabbi Doug, Rabbi Jonathan and Cantor Jan. It has been a true pleasure to work with you, listen to you and learn from you and we will miss you! We wish you the best in the next steps of your journey.

Hugs,
Eric and Jackie Land

**Marilyn,
You became an asset to Mishkan Torah
the minute you walked in our door.
Yasher Kochachech.**

With love,
Linda Spevack
Executive Vice-President

kol hakavod - **כל הכבוד!**
Lynne and Steve.

You are a light to Oseh Shalom
and a friend to us.

Love, Diane and Ray

**Thank you Rabbi Larry,
For introducing some of us to Judaism
and for introducing some of us to Science Fiction,
And for leading us in the exploration of
Science Fiction, Judaism and
Religious Imagination.**

Your Shabbat SF Students

**Kol HaKavod
to
Rabbi Larry Pinsker**
For whom "hineni" is a way of life

With love from your family and friends

**Mazal Tov to Phil and Hannah,
Co-Presidents, Adat Shalom**

Carol Stern & Miriam Eisenstein

Thanks, Sheldon and David,
for all you do to make CJC
a warm and welcoming community.

Ron & Roni Berkowitz

Mazel Tov to Lynne Gaynes-Kaplan and
Steve Kaplan for your outstanding contributions
to Oseh Shalom and the community

With Love,
Art and Linda Solomon



Rabbi Larry,
Thank you for mentoring us
and helping us navigate
on our journey to, into, and through Judaism.
You are truly our "JPS."

From your grateful students and congregants

Mazal Tov!

Thank you Rabbi Pinsker for sharing
your generous spirit with us!

Debbie Badawi

Mazel Tov Jackie & Eric,
on the birth of your grandson!

Beth Bugnaski

In honor of Hannah Lipman and Phil Zipin.
From Carol & Jack Feder

A heartfelt mazal tov and todah rabah
to "Lip and Zip!"
With affection, Shelley Sadowsky

Mazel tov Sheldon and David!
The Toller Family

Mazal Tov to all the honorees!

Kelly Benton-Klein

Susan Kimmel

Jackie Kling

Jackie & Eric Land

Marilyn Langfeld

John Riehl

Jeffrey Rubin & Michele Bloch

Rabbi Steve & Linda Silvern

Gary & Ilene Toller

Ervin & Laura Walter



Camp JRF congratulates
all the honorees

and applauds all in the Chesapeake Region
who continue to say “*hineni*” on behalf of
the Reconstructionist community.



Camp JRF is all about the joy of summer camp with the freedom to be who you truly are. In our incredibly diverse and accepting community, all kids—no matter their race, sexual orientation, gender identity, family structure, or Jewish background—are more than welcomed. They're celebrated! We're a Reconstructionist community where campers are encouraged to explore traditions and today's world to discover what being Jewish means to them. Their different experiences and perspectives are a big part of what makes our camp so amazing. Plus, with so many activities—from the high-ropes challenge course to learning a new song, from the trampoline in our lake to any number of sports—the biggest challenge at Camp JRF is figuring out what's the most fun!

Learn more about this extraordinary place at
www.campjrf.org



As the Reconstructionist movement explores its identity, we've been asking what words you think best describe this movement and the people in it. Here's what you've been saying:

adaptable

colorful

supportive

beautiful

environmentally-friendly

resilient

diversity

socially-awkward

calming

greenbelt

variety

intelligent

knowledge

hopefulness

environmentally-sound

freedom

multiple-textures

nutty

stuff-to-really-chew-on

emotional

warm

human

environmentally-conscious

quirky

diverse

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT

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John Riehl

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SUPPORT THE MOVEMENT



Please support your community's honoree and the Reconstructionist movement by making an online gift today at www.rrc.edu/giveonline. You can also scan this QR code with your smart phone.



Jewish Reconstructionist Communities
In Association with the Reconstructionist Rabbinical College