

WHAT MAKES OUR MOVEMENT?

MAKING AN IMPACT



Rabbi Rachel Gartner (RRC '02) spoke with CNN's Don Lemon on February 6 about her role as co-chair of T'ruah: The Rabbinic Call for Human Rights, and their protest against the travel ban targeting Muslim-majority countries as well as new policies on refugees. Rabbi Gartner is also the Director of Jewish Life at Georgetown University, engaging students while providing a progressive Jewish voice in the public square.

ENGAGING OUR YOUTH

Last December, more than 35 young adults went to Israel on our first-ever Taglit-Birthright Israel trip, thanks to Jewish Reconstructionist Communities' exclusive partnership with IsraelExperts. Many were Camp JRF graduates. As you would expect, their journey explored, questioned and discussed the richness, complexities, nuances, and challenges in Israeli society.



BUILDING COMMUNITY



Nestled in the Westchester town of Hastings-on-Hudson, Mishkan Ha'am is a vibrant, progressive and open Reconstructionist congregation focused on bringing democratic leadership, civic engagement and spiritual seeking into fruitful dialog with Jewish tradition. Student Rabbi Mackenzie Reynolds loves working with Mishkan Ha'am members and is getting the chance to lead, learn, and grow rabbinically while providing the community with deeply appreciated work. By hiring primarily students for its rabbinic leadership, Mishkan Ha'am in turn contributes to supporting, shaping, and training our future leaders.

GATHERING TOGETHER

More than 120 people from 11 Reconstructionist communities gathered at SAJ in Manhattan for the 2017 New York Day of Reconstructionist Learning. Members of these diverse communities learned from Jewish scholars and rabbis about bringing progressive Jewish values to many of today's urgent issues. Congregation Bet Haverim's Rabbi Joshua Lesser (RRC '99), a leader in Atlanta's civil rights scene, gave the keynote address.



LEARNING FROM EACH OTHER

Congregations are wondering how to cut through message clutter and reach the wider community in meaningful ways. In a Reconstructionist Learning Network led by Communications Associate Rachael Burgess, 22 people from communities across the world learned from communications experts and each other about how to attract and engage new members.

