# RECONSTRUCTING

# Annual Highlights



## Inaugural DEI Director Named

In working towards its strategic goal of becoming an anti-racist organization and movement, Reconstructing Judaism has named Rabbi Sandra Lawson as the inaugural Director of Racial Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion. Additionally, Reconstructing Judaism has formed a new Jews of Color and Allies Advisory Group, which, along with the Tikkun Olam Commission, will advise movement leadership on advancing its racial justice and *tikkun olam* efforts.



CONVENTION • MARCH 23-27, 2022

## Leadership Calls

Thriving Communities has continued to hold online Leadership Calls, where leadership of affiliated congregations and *havurot* have gathered to discuss emergent topics related to the ever-changing landscape of the pandemic, and how communities might envision the future of Jewish Reconstructionist communal life. Topics discussed have included budgeting, multi-access programming, digital membership, media relations and strategies for online teaching.

#### **Virtual Programs**

In the past year, Reconstructing Judaism took its annual programming online. In January 2021, nearly 400 attendees gathered online for our virtual day of learning, *God?: A Reconstructionist Conversation*. At the start of the pandemic, the Chesapeake area quickly shifted online for its annual celebration, followed by a series of online workshops. A second annual Chesapeake Celebration was held in 2021 with 200 attendees.



#### 2022 Convention

We are excited to gather on March 23 – 27, 2022 for our next movement-wide convention, *B'Yachad: Reconstructing Judaism Together*. Convention will be held both in person and virtually in the Washington, D.C. metro area. We will learn from experts, scholars, lay leaders, and each other. This will also be an opportunity to reconnect, form new relationships, and deepen your sense of belonging to this community of communities. For more information, visit reconvention2022.org.





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#### Through a Reconstructionist Lens

# An Adult B-/Re- Mitzvah Program



#### **Evolve**

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

# Adult B-/Re - Mitzvah Program

Reconstructing Judaism launched its adult B-/Re- Miztvah program, "Through A Reconstructionist Lens." The goal of this class is for adult learners to explore evolving Reconstructionist thought and practice. Participants can either be classes of students or individuals who study and prepare with teachers or clergy in their congregation. This program will culminate at our next Convention in March of 2022.





## **Ritualwell Immersions**

An initiative of Reconstructing Judaism, Ritualwell is the most extensive online resource that curates original Jewish rituals for Jews and fellow seekers. We publish rituals, ceremonies, prayers and poems to mark sacred moments in Jewish life. We now curate online learning experiences called Ritualwell Immersions, where you can engage with topics like writing contemporary liturgy, men's spirituality, writing feminist midrash and more. Learn more at www.ritualwell.org/learn.

#### Havaya Summer Programs

Havaya Summer Programs offer lively, welcoming, and diverse communities where kids explore Judaism and become their best selves. Camp Havaya is all about the joy of summer camp with the freedom to be who you truly are. On Havaya Israel, teens build connections and make up their own minds. Camp Havaya is currently open for enrollment for summer 2021! For more information, please visit https://havayasummerprograms.org.

