

# A Time for Connection

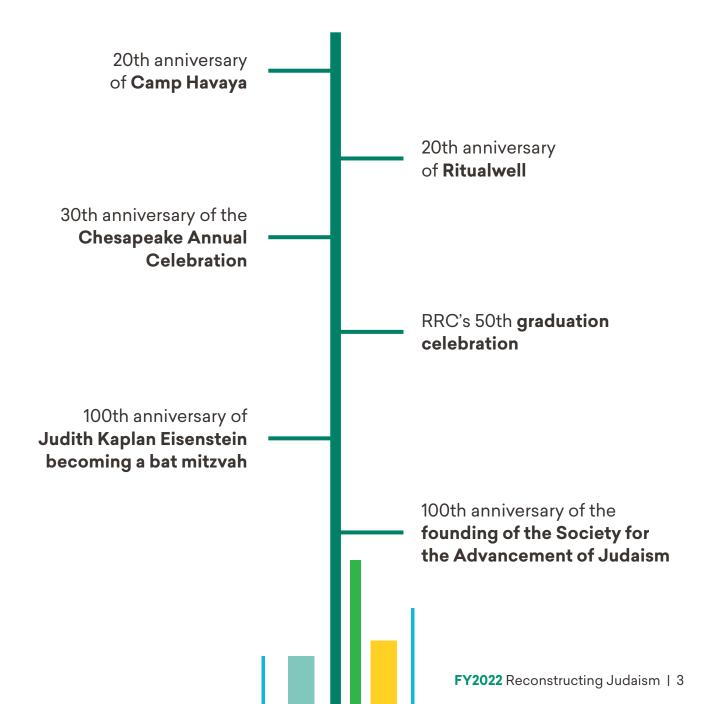
A Glance at Reconstructing Judaism's Fiscal Year '22



Reconstructing Judaism inspires people to imagine a better world and cultivates the resilience that helps to bring that world to life. Guided by our new strategic plan, we focus on strengthening diverse communities, connecting people through digital platforms, training dynamic rabbis, combating systematic racism and ensuring the sustainability of our organization. This report offers a glimpse of our impact through concrete numbers and the voices of those we serve. Our reach and influence will continue to expand as we grow our resources.

## **FY22 Milestones**

Over the last year, Reconstructing Judaism has been proud to celebrate several joyful milestones, evidence of the vitality and strength of our shared approach.



## Support vibrant communities

Our nurturing of congregations and havurot fosters Jewish experiences and deepens connections. Reconstructing Judaism helps our communities tackle logistical, technological and financial challenges as we collectively reimagine what it means to gather in an increasingly hybrid world. We provide resources and help communities network with each other as we reflect and act on how to live lives of interconnection and meaning.

affiliates

continents

46,000+ people





427

### summer program participants

427 individual participants across our programs (Camp Havaya and Havaya Israel), from 293 families and 37 affiliated congregations

- Campers from 23 states and provinces
- Campers from 32 Reconstructing Judaism affiliated congregations
- 101 staff, doctors, faculty members and volunteers
- Staff from seven countries

## 730 attendees

Our convention, B'Yachad: Reconstructing Judaism Together, in March 2022 in Tysons Corner, Va, reached more than 730 in-person and virtual attendees.

- 75 affiliated congregations represented
- 56 unaffiliated congregations and partner organizations represented



66 In the same way that Shabbat is supposed to be a taste of the world to come, this convention can be a taste of the world we hope to build."

#### Rabbi Steve Segar

1995 graduate of the Reconstructionist Rabbinical College who serves Cleveland's Reconstructionist community, Kol HaLev

## Cultivate platforms for connection

Reconstructing Judaism reaches people where they are, offering nourishing, enriching and engaging online content. Our digital properties, most prominently Ritualwell and Evolve: Groundbreaking Jewish Conversations, as well as our podcasts and social media streams, continue to impact a growing number of lives.

983,972 unique pageviews

On Ritualwell, Evolve and other Reconstructing Judaism platforms

1,018

writers, teachers, facilitators and artists

> represented across platforms

2,086

unique registrants

for online programming

for programs from September 2021 - August 2022

The class was profoundly useful to me. Wonderful. Beyond wonderful. ... I felt very much lightened and soothed at the end. The Torah selections were so deep and provocative. Real learning and wisdom. I'm so grateful."

Program Participant

Cultivating a Courageous Heart: A Month of Guided Practice for Elul



Most read and listened to resources on Ritualwell #1 Traditional Mikveh Blessings

BY RITUALWELL

#7 Marking the First Yahrzeit

BY RABBI ANNE LEWIS & RABBI YOSEF GOLDMAN

ritualwell

#3 Prayer for Ukraine

BY JOANNE FINK

Most popular episodes of Hashivenu: Jewish Teachings on Resilience #1 Being an Ally with Empathy, Humility and Courage

A conversation between Rabbi Deborah Waxman and Rabbi Sandra Lawson

RELEASED 12/28/21

#2 The Smooth River

A conversation between Rabbi Deborah Waxman and Richard Cohen, lawyer and Reconstructionist leader

RELEASED 4/8/22

#3 JewAsian

A conversation between Rabbi Deborah Waxman, Rabbi Sandra Lawson and Helen K. Kim, co-author of JewAsian: Race, Religion, and Identity for America's Newest Jews

RELEASED 10/26/21

Most popular episodes of the Evolve podcast

#1 Rethinking the Circumcision Part 1

Featuring bestselling novelist Gary Shteyngart and Max Buckler

**RELEASED 7/27/22** 

**#7** Warm and Welcoming?

Featuring Warren Hoffman and Miriam Steinberg-Egeth

RELEASED 5/10/22

**#3** The Reconstructionist

A conversation between Rabbi Deborah Waxman and Rabbi Jacob Staub

RELEASED 12/29/21



## Launch a new generation of Reconstructionist rabbis

The Reconstructionist Rabbinical College continues to make rabbinic education more accessible, equitable and meaningful. We train leaders who inspire, connect and empower others.



Amanda Beckenstein Mbuvi, Ph.D., completes her first year as Vice President for Academic Affairs

countries

**32** U.S. States

RRC graduates serve in eight countries and 32 U.S. states, plus the District of Columbia, and serve congregations, campuses, hospitals, senior centers and more

22.7% growth

RRC's student body enrollment grows by 22.7%

80% of students received scholarships

As we strive to make RRC's innovative, rigorous education accessible to talented future changemakers, 80 percent of the student body receives financial aid





It felt important to me to be in the school that was the first to start ordaining queer folks, among the first to admit women, and generally the first to be on the right track and the right side of history."

#### Rabbi Adam Cerino Jones

2022 graduate of the Reconstructionist Rabbinical College



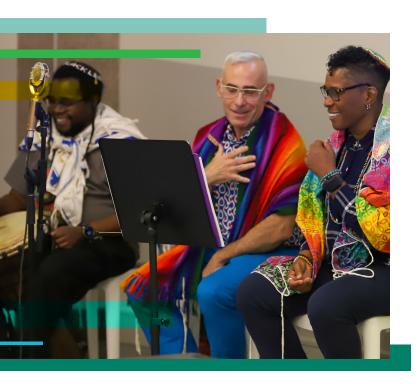
# Advance racial justice and equity in the Reconstructionist movement and beyond

Since 2016, Reconstructing Judaism has committed resources to combating systematic racism. With the passage of our strategic plan in 2021, racial justice was named as a core institutional priority. Through our Tikkun Olam Commission, which focuses on racial justice, and our staff and lay leadership, who bring crucial conversations to communities and the public square, we are tackling an urgent issue with a Jewish lens.

I'm increasingly convinced that racial justice is crucial not only to the mission of Reconstructing Judaism but to that of the Jewish people. The stakes are high, and our destination is unknown. Jewish organizations must be like Nachshon, walking in faith onto uncertain ground because we have no other choice and because these steps will create a path forward."

Rabbi Deborah Waxman, Ph.D.

President and CEO of Reconstructing Judaism



## **80+** participants

Rabbi Micah Weiss led a year-long Learning Network on Racial Justice with more than 80 participants.

> 425 registrants

425 people registered for a Day of Learning on Reparations in August 2021.



Rabbi Sandra Lawson '18 was hired as the inaugural Director of Racial Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion in March 2021. She has been featured in outlets including *The New York Times, NPR, The Forward, Hadassah Magazine*, eJewishphilanthropy, Religion News Service and JTA.

# 7 pilot communities

She created racial justice tools for congregations and supported leaders from seven communities in the first two training phases.

The next stage will expand this work to more communities and offer resources for implementation.

#### Pilot communities:

Or Haneshamah in Ottawa, Canada

**Jewish Reconstructionist Congregation (JRC)** in Evanston, III.

Oseh Shalom in Laurel, Md.

Kadima in Seattle, Wash.

Dorshei Tzedek in Newton, Mass.

Kol Emet in Yardley, Pa.

**Temple Beth Hatfiloh** in Olympia, Wash.

# 27 public appearances in FY22

Rabbi Lawson also gave more than two dozen in-person and virtual talks and has been a featured guest on many podcasts, including "Unorthodox" and *The Times of Israel's* daily show.

76,000+ social media followers

She has over 76,000 followers across social media platforms, including TikTok, Instagram, Twitter and Facebook.

## Build a sustainable organization

Achieving our bold vision requires resources — people with the skills to support our communities and educate our students; technological infrastructure to share our message and resources online; scholarship funding to expand accessibility for students of all backgrounds; and more. We are grateful for the support of our generous philanthropic community for making our work possible.

1,530 donors

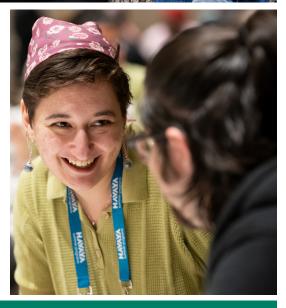
11 countries

44 states



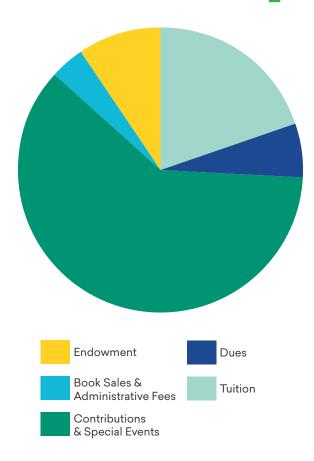






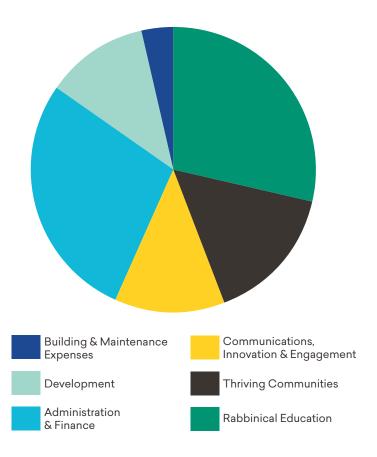
Visit **ReconstructingJudaism.org/annual-reports/** to view our FY2022 financials and our list of generous supporters

## **Unrestricted Operations**



FY22 Unrestricted Revenue	
Tuition*	\$1,231,100
Congregational Dues	\$368,183
Contributions & Special Events	\$3,770,967
Book Sales & Admin Fees	\$234,904
Endowment	\$577,097
Total	\$6,182,251

\*Tuition revenue includes both out of pocket payments from students and scholarships funded by donors and our endowment. In FY22 this latter category totaled \$556,325.



FY22 Unrestricted Expenses	
Rabbinical Education	\$1,591,496
Thriving Communities	\$858,248
Communications, Innovation & Engagement	\$697,180
Administration & Finance	\$1,551,351
Development	\$650,739
Building & Maintenance Expenses	\$188,892
Total	\$5,537,906