



RECONSTRUCTING JUDAISM



FY2023
Annual Report

A Time for Connection

A Glance at Reconstructing
Judaism's *Fiscal Year '23*



We are the flame-keepers of the Reconstructionist approach to Judaism, supporting people as they build inclusive communities and live deeply rooted, values-driven lives.

Reconstructing Judaism's people, programs and platforms offer intellectual and spiritual sustenance, bolstering communities committed to democratic practices and effective pluralism.

Our organization focuses on strengthening diverse communities, connecting people through digital platforms, training dynamic rabbis and ensuring Reconstructing Judaism's sustainability for future generations of the Jewish people.

Because of our work, more and more people can bring their full selves to Jewish living. When so many people retreat into individuality, Reconstructionists draw on Jewish wisdom and lean into community. In response to hate and intolerance, we cultivate empathy and activism.

This report offers a glimpse of our impact in a year (Sept. 1, 2022-Aug. 31, 2023) when we emerged from the shadow of the pandemic into complexity and creativity. May our shared endeavors inspire all of us to continue building the future we want to see.

Connecting Through Community and Racial Justice

Reconstructing Judaism supports congregations and *havurot* to envision communities that embody their highest values. Our Thriving Communities team partners with Reconstructionist communities to establish participatory governance structures and set in motion values-based decision-making processes. Communities turn to us as thought partners on questions related to religious observance, education and inclusivity, as well as how to be secure while pursuing anti-racism, and combating antisemitism and other forms of intolerance.

IMPACT BY THE NUMBERS

46,000 people on three continents bring their full selves to Jewish living at 95 affiliated communities

In 2023, we also brought people together for transformative shared experiences, including a civil rights pilgrimage for Jews of African descent who are Reconstructionist leaders. This was followed by “Reckoning Together: Pilgrimage for Racial Justice,” where **200 Reconstructionists from 44 congregations engaged in guided learning around racial justice** while exploring sites from the civil rights movement, then partnered with staff to bring insights back to their home communities.



“It was very deep. It was very nuanced; it was emotional, it was visceral. I was able to be there fully as a Black person and fully as a Jew.”

SHAHANNA MCKINNEY-BALDON,
OF CONGREGATION SHAAREI SHAMAYIM IN MADISON, WIS.
Member, Reconstructing Judaism Board of Governors and
Chair, Jews of Color and Allies Advisory Group



Connecting Through Rabbinic Education

The Reconstructionist Rabbinical College continues to **make rabbinical education more accessible, equitable and meaningful to students from diverse backgrounds** and with wide-ranging visions for their rabbinate. With our new field education program featuring immersive internships in students' final years of study, we are more fully integrating classroom learning with essential on-the-job-training.

*“My favorite thing about studying at RRC is the **hevre, the community**. It feels like such a special place to spend this period where I am studying to be a rabbi. The student body, the staff and the faculty are all really invested in students’ rabbinic development. From the second I moved to Philadelphia, it was clear that this is a community that really takes care of one another and supports that growth and education.”*

JOSIE FELT

RECONSTRUCTIONIST RABBINICAL COLLEGE,
THIRD-YEAR STUDENT, KATONAH, N.Y.



IMPACT BY THE NUMBERS

FY23 Enrollment:

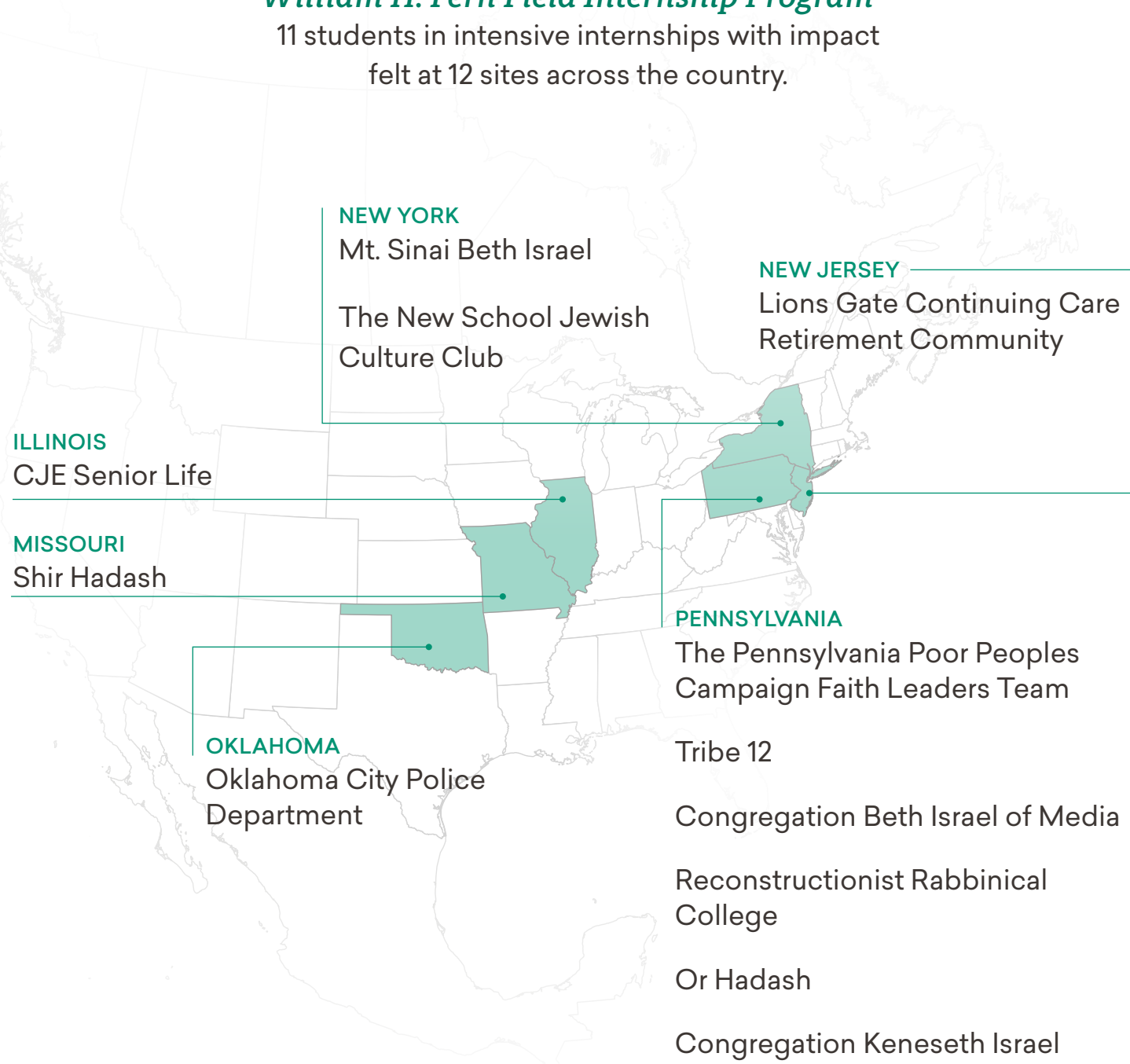
54 students

85 percent of students
received financial aid

The average award was \$13,370
or 48 percent of full-time
tuition of \$28,000



Fall 2023 first year of the
William H. Fern Field Internship Program –
11 students in intensive internships with impact
felt at 12 sites across the country.



Connecting Through Creativity, Ritual and Dialogue




Reconstructing Judaism serves the spiritual and creative needs of people across the globe through online platforms, which include a network of websites, podcasts and virtual learning opportunities. Our digital communities foster relationships, nurture creative Jewish engagement and model respectful conversations on challenging topics. Our resources empower people to live more informed, Jewishly connected and meaningful lives.

IMPACT BY THE NUMBERS

1.1 million pageviews and downloads from across the globe

2,604 unique program registrants were enabled to bring their full selves to Jewish living



PLATFORM	PAGEVIEWS/ DOWNLOADS	TOP RESOURCE
	654,983	Abortion Ritual by Rabbi Geela Rayzel Raphael, RRC '97
	73,649	Being White is Not the Jewish Norm: How the Mishnah Can Help Us Deconstruct a White-Normative Approach to Judaism by Rabbi Armin Langer, RRC '21
<i>Evolve Podcast</i>	27,810	A Cry for Help, Breaking the Stigma on Mental Health Episode with Rabbi Lauren Grabelle Herrmann, RRC '06
	17,738	Tikkun Middot Episode with Rabbi Marc Margolius, RRC '89
<i>Reconstructing Judaism.org and RRC.edu</i>	352,630	D'var Torah: The Goal of Life by Rabbi Lewis Eron, RRC '81
		Attitudes, Beliefs and Values Shaping Jewish Practice by Rabbi David Teutsch, Ph.D.

"I love this virtual community. I have made deep connections, and we've been able to learn from one another, sharing our art and approaches. I feel much more deeply connected to Jewish texts and that the connection has changed the nature of my poetry and painting. And working together has increased the reach for all of us."

CATHLEEN COHEN,
WYNNEWOOD, PA
commenting on Rituawell's ADVOT, the virtual
community of Jewish writers and liturgists

Connecting Through Impactful Philanthropy

We are only able to strive towards our bold vision thanks to the support of the broader Reconstructionist community. Our work requires sufficient resources: staff and faculty with the skills to nurture our communities and educate our students; technological infrastructure to support our hybrid world; and scholarships to educate future Jewish leaders, regardless of their financial background.

*Reconstructing Judaism is based on **collaboration and participation**; your partnership and philanthropy are essential.*

“We know that the team at Reconstructing Judaism spends almost every day rolling a big ball up a steep hill to help create a **vibrant, more inclusive Jewish future**, and we’re happy to be part of supporting that effort and lightening, if ever so slightly, its weight.”

HARRY AND KAREN WAIZER
MEMBERS OF BET AM SHALOM SYNAGOGUE,
WHITE PLAINS, N.Y.

IMPACT BY THE NUMBERS

In FY23, **1,109 donor households** spanning **40 states and nine countries** contributed **\$3.09 million**, powering our mission.



THE MOMENTUM CAMPAIGN

\$9.1 million raised towards \$10 million goal

(as of December 2023)



The Momentum Campaign, launched to the public in 2022, continued to positively impact our community throughout 2023.

New commitments ranged from \$5 to \$1 million. Donors like you made a difference by supporting our congregations, students and rabbis, and making sure we can continue to offer resources like Ritualwell and Evolve for free.

Landmark gifts in FY23 included:

A multi-year commitment to justice, equity, diversity and inclusion staffing, enhancing the resources we can offer our congregations around inclusion and accessibility

A significant scholarship endowment, enhancing access to rabbinic education for generations to come

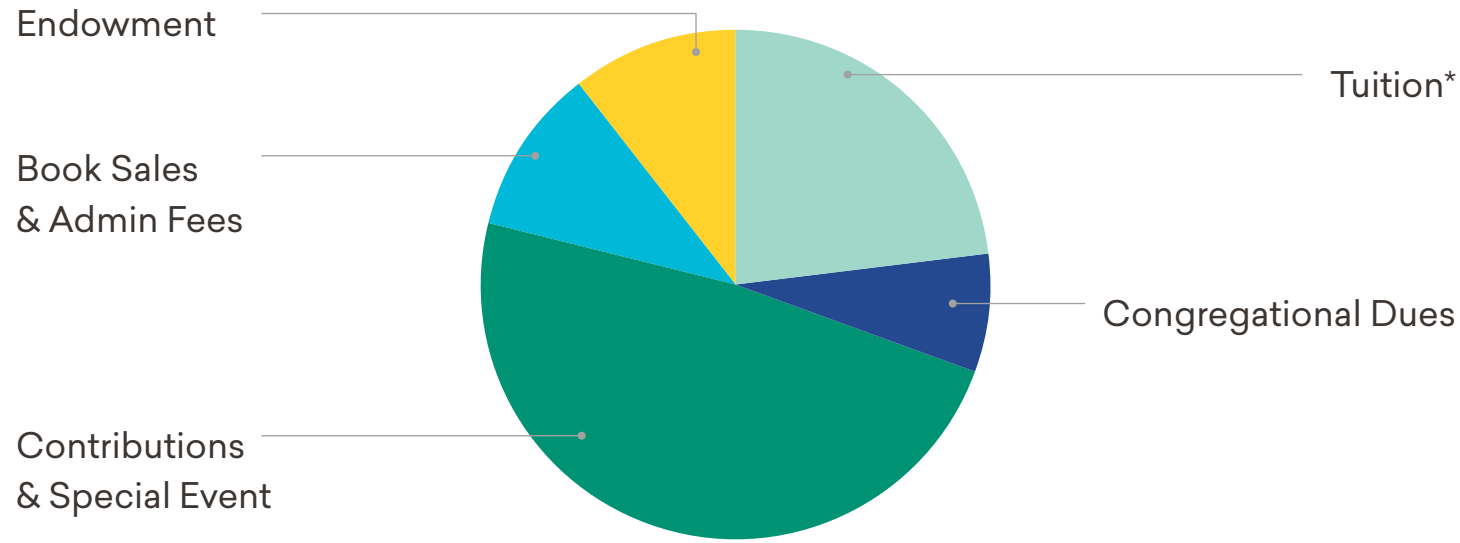
The Wenger-Markowitz Family Education Initiative, which will develop comprehensive youth and family education resources for Reconstructionist synagogues



Rabbi Lily Solochek, RRC '20, was hired in 2023 as the inaugural Wenger-Markowitz Family Education Initiative Director.

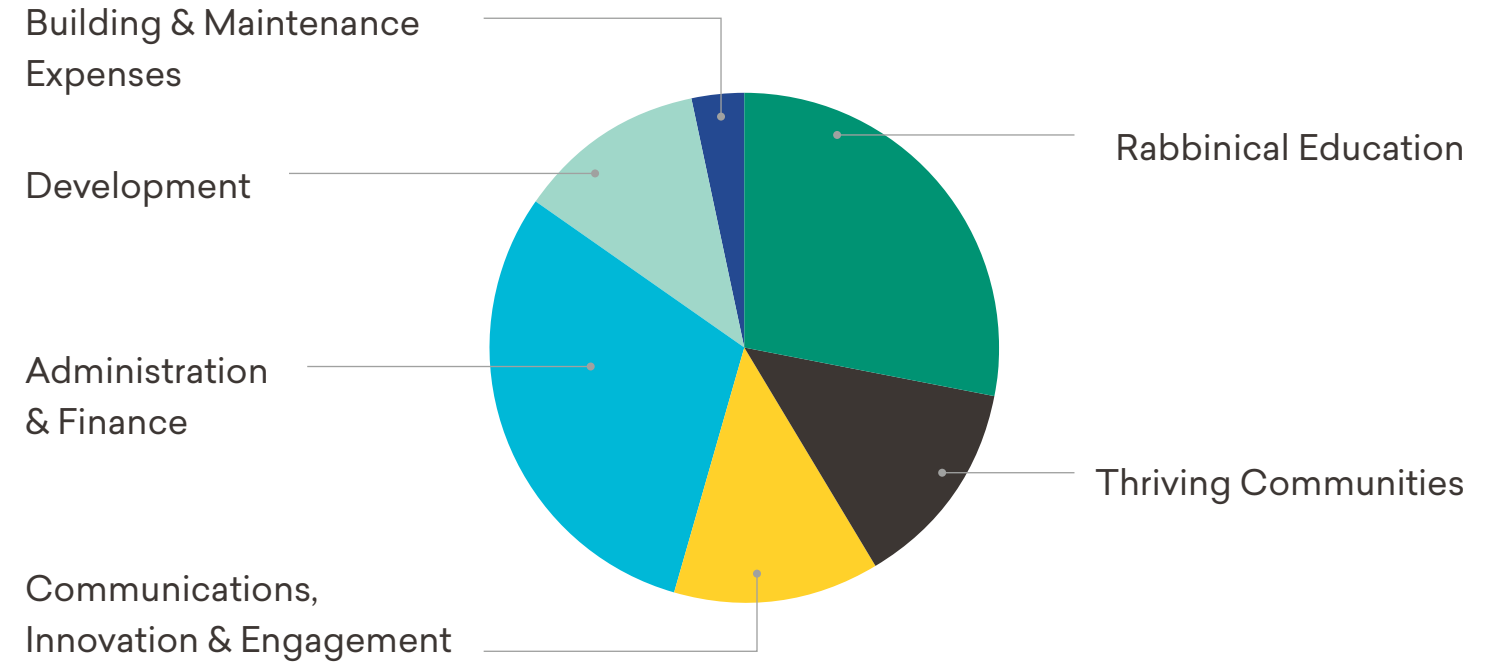
FY2023

Revenue & Expenses



FY23 Unrestricted Revenue

Tuition*	\$1,233,402
Congregational Dues	\$400,957
Contributions & Special Events	\$2,578,445
Book Sales & Admin Fees	\$566,695
Endowment	\$558,181
Total	\$5,337,680



FY23 Unrestricted Expenses

Rabbinical Education	\$1,506,978
Thriving Communities	\$712,293
Communications, Innovation & Engagement	\$693,226
Administration & Finance	\$1,606,891
Development	\$645,441
Building & Maintenance Expenses	\$168,547
Total	\$5,333,376

*Tuition revenue includes both out of pocket payments from students and scholarships funded by donors and our endowment. In FY23 this latter category totaled \$535,222.