



RECONSTRUCTING
JUDAISM



FY2024
ANNUAL REPORT

Meeting the Moments

A Glance at Reconstructing Judaism's
Fiscal Year '24



In a year of the unexpected and unimaginable, Reconstructing Judaism responded in longstanding Reconstructionist fashion — grounded in tradition, focused on the moment, envisioning a brighter future.

We met the moment — really, many moments — with resilience, compassion and hope. Some moments were uniquely horrifying, like Oct. 7, 2023. Others, like instances of deep polarization arising from the American presidential campaign, were destabilizing. Many were inspiring, including [the comfort so many people found in turning toward Jewish community](#). Reconstructing Judaism responded to these and other moments guided by our values, with a goal of helping individuals and communities meet their moments.

We supported Reconstructionist communities as they served as spaces for meaning making. Our seminary trained rabbinical students to meet people's deepest spiritual needs. Ritualwell and Evolve staff convened people virtually to

create connections and counteract isolation. Again and again, people sought solace and inspiration in Reconstructionist community. Despite a year full of responding to unexpected challenges, we forged ahead on our commitments to foster disability inclusion, racial justice and Jewish education.

This year, [we demonstrated that when we honor our shared values](#), we can work toward a world filled with compassion, meaning and justice — even when we disagree with each other.

This report traces Reconstructing Judaism's work over Sept. 1, 2023-Aug. 31, 2024 and offers a glimpse of our impact in a year full of many unforeseen moments. May our shared values, connections and work inspire all of us to continue building the future we want to see.

Connecting Through Thriving Communities

As the central address for 95 Reconstructionist affiliates, the Thriving Communities team has been a continuous presence for congregational leaders throughout upheaval and uncertainty. We helped communities process grief and fear following Oct. 7, 2023, and navigate difficult conversations in the aftermath.

Our team also supported communities as they tackled organizational challenges and sought new opportunities for leadership development and growth. We remain committed to helping affiliated Reconstructionist communities meet the needs of this moment as together we imagine and plan for the future.



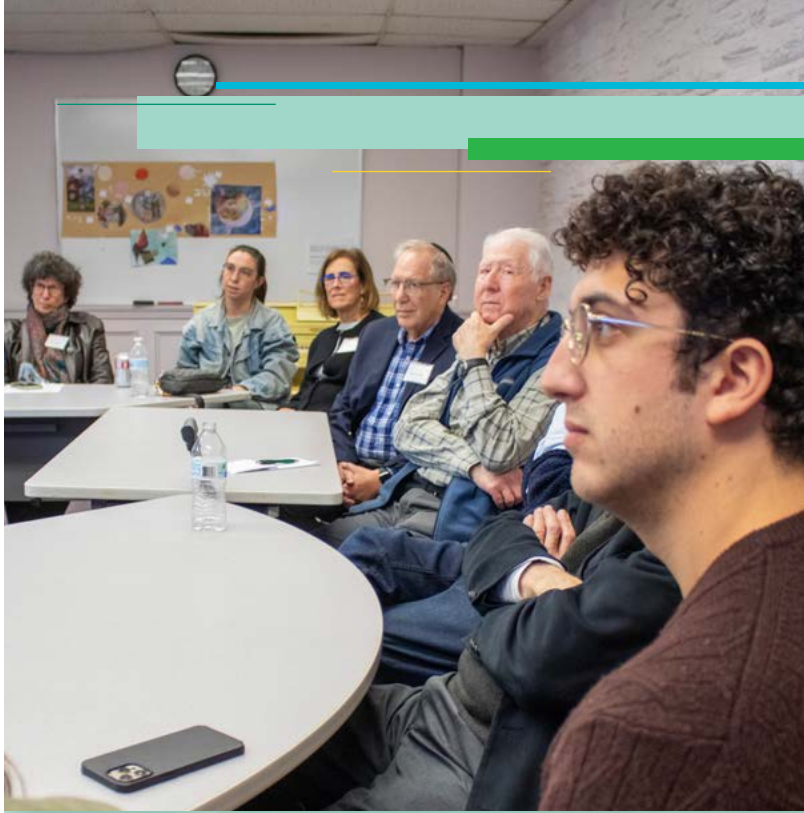
IMPACT BY THE NUMBERS

15,500 households
across 95 congregations

More than 10,000 views on our Thriving Communities-crafted Israel resources page and four Thriving Communities-convened Israel learning opportunities

More than 110 consultations and visits with community leaders on leadership challenges, board development, educational models and more

More than 20 topical calls with congregational presidents, executive directors and education directors to share Reconstructionist-aligned resources and expertise furthering community goals



Training Rabbis to Meet the Moment

Continuing RRC’s long tradition of pioneering innovative models of rabbinical education, RRC launched the Study & Action curriculum, which joins intensive study of Jewish life and text with practical training in the field. After spending their first three years immersed in Jewish learning in the seminar room and *Beit Midrash* (study hall), students spend their final years learning how to meet the moment through intensive field internships in a variety of settings. In the wake of the heartbreak of Oct. 7, students and faculty struggled and learned what it means to be in community during the most difficult of times. In spring 2024, RRC also successfully completed a rigorous reaccreditation process that ensures and communicates our academic excellence. On campus and in fieldwork placements, RRC prepares rabbis to create respectful and caring community across difference.

IMPACT BY THE NUMBERS

FY24 Enrollment:
59 students

83 percent of students received financial aid

Average financial aid award was \$14,038
(50 percent of full-time tuition of \$28,000)

Reconstructionist Rabbinical College Advanced Fieldwork Placements

DELAWARE
University of Delaware
Hillel

MASSACHUSETTS
Congregation Dorshei
Tzedek

MISSOURI
Shir Hadash

NEW YORK
Congregation Beit
Simchat Torah

Liberation Limmud NYC
OKLAHOMA
Oklahoma City Police
Department

PENNSYLVANIA
Congregation Keneseth
Israel
Eden Village Camp
Germantown Jewish
Centre

Congregation Kol Tzedek
Congregation
Mishkan Shalom
Congregation
Ohev Shalom
Congregation Or Hadash
Poor People’s Campaign,
Faith Leader’s Team
Tribe 12



In May, six rabbinical students joined nine lay leaders from our Board of Governors, Tikkun Olam Commission, and Jews of Color and Allies Advisory Group for a week of learning about RRC’s history with a racial justice lens. They focused on its move from the city to the suburbs, and Jewish teachings about justice and responsibility.

Events of the past year demonstrated, more than ever, the importance of Israel education in rabbinic formation. Faculty members traveled to Israel in July to strengthen relationships with our educational partners at BINA: The Israeli Movement for Social Change, to learn about the impact of the war on Israelis and Palestinians, and to collaborate on new initiatives for uniting study and action in our Israel program.



“The most surprising thing about rabbinical school is how fun it is. I knew that I would get to be studying these things that I love, and I would get to be discovering new passions. But I’m also getting to do that alongside other people who are so excited to learn and be immersed.”

ANNIE PRUSKY



Connecting People Through Life's Moments

Immediately after Oct. 7, Ritualwell convened “Holding Each Other,” where hundreds of people came together in community to grieve. Continuing throughout the year, “Holding Each Other” created space for more than 600 people to join together weekly in prayer, poetry and song. That’s one of countless ways Reconstructing Judaism’s digital efforts have met the moment. Our online classes, websites and podcasts sparked creativity, learning and discussion across differences during disruption and war. [Responding to antisemitism and a desire for Jewish connection, people turned to Reconstructionist platforms.](#) These offerings provide a trusted source of wisdom, solace and community.

IMPACT BY THE NUMBERS

[1.4 million pageviews and downloads](#) across all our platforms

[2,360 unique program registrants](#)

PLATFORM	PAGEVIEWS/ DOWNLOADS	TOP RESOURCE
	710,705	Abortion Ritual by Rabbi Geela Rayzel Raphael, RRC '97
	178,999	Lovingkindness in a Time of War by Rabbi Amy Eilberg
<i>Reconstructing Judaism.org</i>	381,131	Directory of Reconstructionist Congregations and Havurot
<i>RRC.edu</i>	66,875	Graduation 2024

“What a delight! This Ritualwell learning session was stimulating, opened new avenues of thought, sparked creativity and felt very safe.”

AUDREY C.



“Wonderful, wise and compassionate reflections and pointers.”

DONALD ROTHBERG
on Rabbi Amy Eilberg’s Evolve essay,
“Lovingkindness in a time of war.”



Meeting the Moments Through Generous Philanthropy

Our committed donors met the moment by providing scholarships to underwrite rabbinic training both in the classroom and in the field, in congregational, chaplaincy and other settings. Supporters enabled Reconstructing Judaism to bolster our congregations on their journeys to combat racism and build out educational resources. Funders enabled Reconstructing Judaism to train the next generation of rabbis, strengthen vibrant communities and perform all our **core work in service of Reconstructing Judaism for our time.**

IMPACT BY THE NUMBERS

In FY24, **1,260 donors spanning 45 states (plus the District of Columbia) and eight countries gave \$3.36 million.**

These funds enabled us to robustly meet the needs of Reconstructionist communities and the broader Jewish world.



“Shifting from being an essential worker back into full-time study is financially daunting, and I literally would not be able to follow this calling without donor support.”

HOLLY SMITH
RRC student



“We are happy to support the RRC as we feel it is forward-looking and inclusive, and produces excellent rabbis.”

LEN WEINBERG AND
FRAN GALLUN

Hundreds gathered virtually to acknowledge **Rabbi Deborah Waxman’s decade of leadership as our CEO** and hear from other visionary female CEOs of Jewish organizations. Many loyal and new supporters gave generously in celebration.

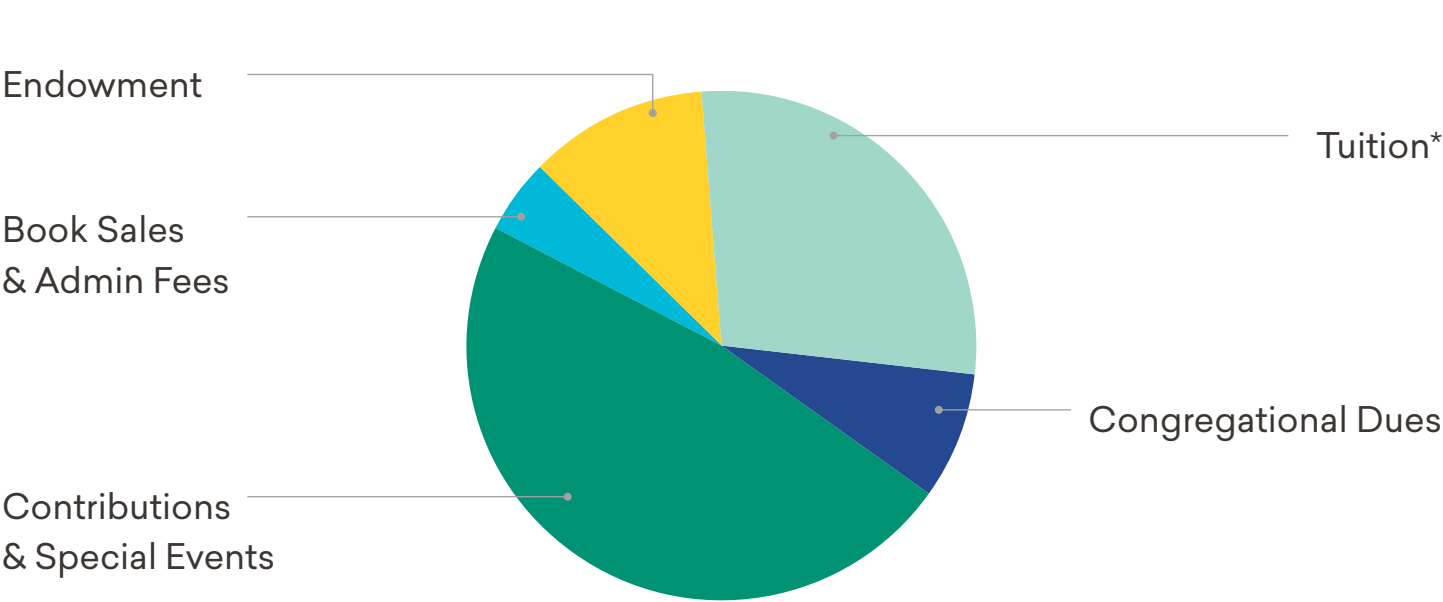


“Reconstructionism is a way for Jewish people to love their tradition, to learn and soak up the wisdom our tradition has to offer. Reconstructionist Judaism empowers us to then boldly apply it to the world we live in and think about what it can mean and how it can guide us. There is really no other place I would be in Judaism but Reconstructionism, and so I’m a shameless advocate for it.”

FORMER U.S. REP. ANDY LEVIN
former president of Congregation T’chayah

FY2024

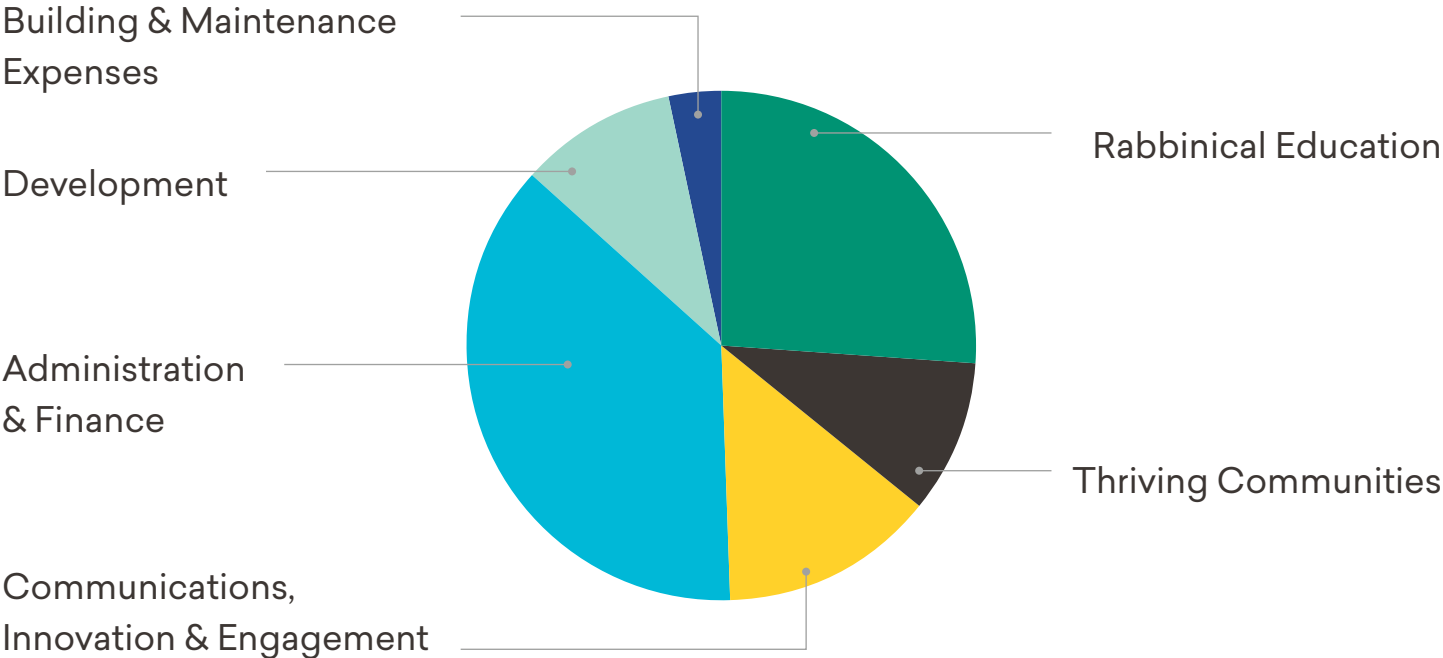
Revenue & Expenses



FY24 Unrestricted Revenue

Tuition*	\$1,342,776
Congregational Dues	\$372,726
Contributions & Special Events	\$2,264,631
Book Sales & Admin Fees	\$230,864
Endowment	\$533,340
Total	\$4,744,337

*Tuition revenue includes both out of pocket payments from students and scholarship funded by donors and our endowment. In FY24, this latter category totaled \$538,040.



FY24 Unrestricted Expenses

Rabbinical Education	\$1,345,333
Thriving Communities	\$490,251
Communications, Innovation & Engagement	\$702,343
Administration & Finance	\$1,901,036
Development	\$503,448
Building & Maintenance Expenses	\$169,188
Total	\$5,111,599