



Affiliated with  
**RECONSTRUCTING  
 JUDAISM**  
 Deeply rooted. Boldly relevant.

## Who We Are

Reconstructionists approach Judaism – and life – with deep consideration for the past and a passion to relate it to the present. In a rapidly changing world, Reconstructionist communities share and create new ways of being Jewish to connect us to the Divine and ensure our lives are filled with joy, community, meaning, and purpose.

We view Judaism as the evolving civilization of the Jewish people in an ongoing relationship with God. Our shared culture – rituals, traditions and practices – reflect over 3,000 years of that evolution, and we continue to share and shape it today.

We break down the walls that divide us – demonstrating what it means to be Jewish today – standing up for justice and creating a better world for all.

We experience – and discover – God through our daily acts of ritual, creative expression and humanity, which leads to individual spiritual fulfillment.

We have originated many of the core innovations within American Judaism and lead efforts to make our community even more forward-thinking, inclusive and relevant.

We are committed to democratic practice in Jewish life and believe that people hold the right – and obligation – to reconstruct Judaism in order for it to remain relevant in our lives.



Temple Emek Shalom  
 קהילת עמק שלום



SHIR  
 HADASH  
 RECONSTRUCTIONIST COMMUNITY  
 Progressive. Relevant. Judaism.



KADIMA  
 RECONSTRUCTIONIST COMMUNITY



MAYIM RABIM  
 מים רבים  
 RECONSTRUCTIONIST  
 CONGREGATION



OR HADASH  
 אור חדש



Shaarei  
 Shamayim  
 Inclusive Jewish Community



Columbia  
 Jewish  
 Congregation



Congregation  
 Kehillat Israel



String of Pearls  
 Princeton Reconstructionist Synagogue



congregation  
 bet haverim  
 DARCHEI NOAM  
 קהילת דרכי נועם  
 TORONTO'S RECONSTRUCTIONIST CONGREGATION



Jüdische Gemeinde  
 Michelsberg



בני קשת  
 Bnai Keshet  
 Reconstructionist Synagogue



Open Joodse Gemeente  
 Klal Yisrael  
 הקהילה היהודית הפתוחה כלל ישראל



CONGREGATION DORSHEI EMET

## About Us

### The Reconstructionist movement has two central organizations:

- **Reconstructing Judaism** is the name of the central non-profit organization of the movement. Based in Wyncote, PA, Reconstructing Judaism includes the movement's rabbinical seminary and its congregational services staff. We are the hub for our creative, grassroots-oriented network of synagogues and havurot.
- **The Reconstructionist Rabbinical Association (RRA)** is the movement's professional association of rabbis. Currently there are over 430 rabbis who are members.



### Our Affiliated Congregations and Havurot:

- There are currently 98 congregations affiliated with Reconstructing Judaism, representing approximately 16,000 households serving about 50,000 people. While 92 of our congregations are in the US and Canada, we also have affiliates in Brazil, Curacao, Germany, Italy, the Netherlands, and Russia.
- Our most recent affiliates are Congregation P'nai Tikvah in Las Vegas, NV, USA, and Jüdische Gemeinde Michelsberg (The Jewish Community of Michelsberg) in Wiesbaden, Germany. Currently, we are having discussions with congregations that are considering affiliation in Philadelphia and in Boston.



## Firsts...

**1922**

**World's first bat mitzvah at the Society for the Advancement of Judaism in Manhattan.**

**1934**

**First major Jewish treatise to conceive of Judaism as a civilization. With religion at its core, Judaism also includes culture, arts, food, history, ethics, languages, and humor.**

**1984**

**First movement to accept and train gay and lesbian rabbis.**

**1989**

**First siddur developed by a committee made up of roughly equal numbers of rabbis and lay people, men and women.**

**2014**

**First woman rabbi and first lesbian rabbi to head a major U.S. rabbinic seminary and congregational union.**

**2015**

**First rabbinic seminary to accept worthy candidates for rabbinic study regardless of the Jewish status of their partner.**

## The Benefits of Affiliation:

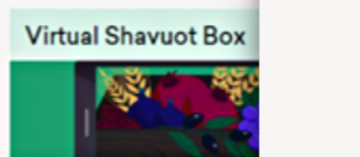
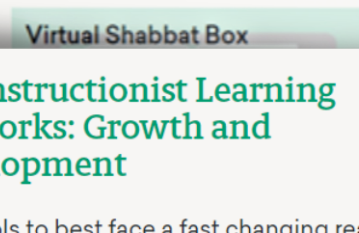
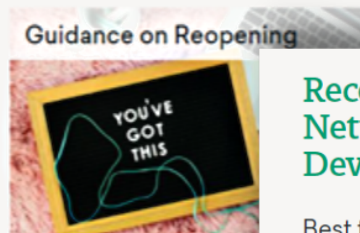
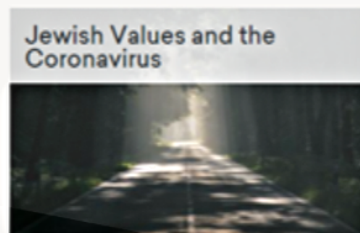
• **Direct and personal staff support** from the department for Thriving Communities of Reconstructing Judaism. Thriving Communities is led by Dr. Tresa Grauer, Vice President for Thriving Communities. The rest of the team includes Rabbi Maurice Harris, Jackie Land, Rabbi Sandra Lawson, Jacob Weinberg, and Rabbi Micah Weiss. One of the team members would become your congregation's liaison to Reconstructing Judaism if you decide to affiliate. Because we're a smaller movement, you won't get lost in the shuffle.



• **Connections and networking opportunities** with close to 100 congregations that your congregation has a lot in common with. Online, members of affiliates connect through dedicated webinars, regional gatherings, and listservs for congregational presidents, educators, and administrators. There's also a new tikkun olam focused listserv that members of Reconstructionist congregations can join. Thriving Communities staff often play the role of matchmaker between rabbis, educators, and lay leaders of congregations that are dealing with similar issues. Reconstructionist congregations are also members of the **World Union for Progressive Judaism (WUPJ)**, the international network of the Reform, Liberal, Progressive and Reconstructionist movements, serving 1.2 million members worldwide in more than 1,250 congregations in over 50 countries. Belonging to WUPJ opens the doors to many different opportunities to access online learning events, Jewish education materials, travel opportunities, and people who share your progressive Jewish values in many different parts of the world.



Below, you can find materials from across the Reconstructionist movement created in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.



### Reconstructionist Learning Networks: Growth and Development

Best tools to best face a fast changing reality

Strategic Marketing for Online Events

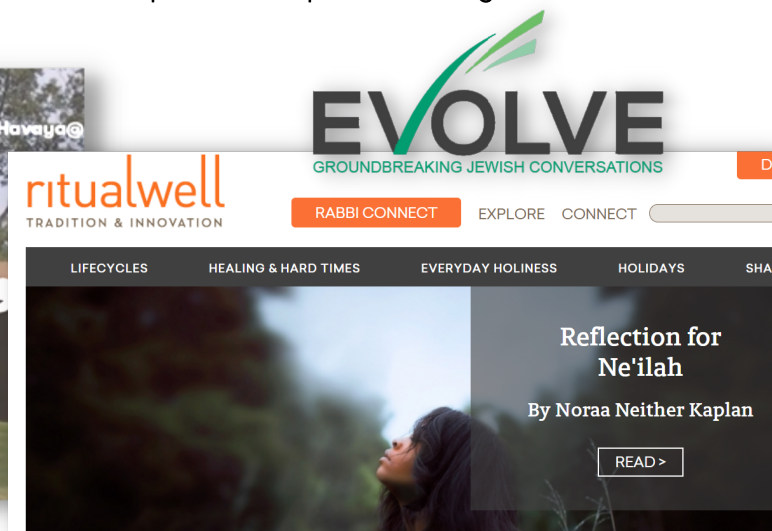
Fundraising & Development Strategies

A Year of Racial Justice Learning



- **The Aviv Revolving Loan Fund:** aviv means “spring” in Hebrew, and this fund was established through the generosity of anonymous donors to promote fresh, energizing initiatives intended to help grow the membership of affiliated congregations. Congregations affiliated with the movement for at least 2 years can apply for these no-interest loans of up to \$20,000. Up to two loans will be disbursed each year. Recipient congregations will have up to five years to repay the loans.

- Invitations to participate in Reconstructing Judaism’s **sponsored events and learning experiences**, such as our upcoming movement-wide **Convention in March 2022** in the DC area. We also hold gatherings like our annual New York Day of Learning and periodic trips to Israel. When a small number Reconstructionist affiliates combine forces to offer their own Israel trips, we advise them and connect them with others who have organized their own recent trips. We also have good relationships with several tour companies, including companies and non-profits in Israel and the Palestinian territories that specialize in peacebuilding and dual-narrative trips.



- Access to our award-winning online resources, such as **Ritualwell**, our website that allows users to find, create and share Jewish rituals; **Evolve: Groundbreaking Jewish Conversations**, our newly launched platform that offers conversation-sparking essays from thought-leading rabbis, lay leaders and creators; and our **Reconstructionist Learning Networks**, which connect people across geography and perspectives in videoconference learning modules on a range of practical topics affecting Jewish communities.

- **Camp Havaya** is our outstanding Jewish summer camp, located in the Poconos. The Hebrew word “havaya” means “being,” and one of the slogans for camp is “Be you, boldly.” Our camp is a pioneer in the Jewish world in terms of celebrating diversity and supporting young people to develop their own authentic Jewish growing sense of self.

- Adding **the voice of your community** to those of other Reconstructionist congregations, the leadership of Reconstructing Judaism, and the Reconstructionist Rabbinical Association on **key moral and ethical issues of the day**. While members of Reconstructionist communities hold diverse views on many issues, there is wide agreement on a range of core beliefs and tikkun olam issues facing our society. Our issue-oriented commissions – made up of lay people, rabbis, and Reconstructing Judaism board members – discuss, debate, and seek to develop resource materials for our congregations on some of the central issues currently facing the Jewish people and our wider society. Our movement has been at the forefront of faith-based advocacy on issues such as combatting anti-immigrant xenophobia, LGBTQIA+ equality, women's reproductive rights, separation of church and state, Israeli-Palestinian peacebuilding, and ecological responsibility.

- Support for **your congregation's development of its own unique, bottom-up approach** to Jewish practice and ritual. While we have a wonderful prayer book series, we realize that many congregations have developed their own prayer books and liturgical materials, or have come to value liturgical materials from other movements. Affiliates are not required to use our materials or conform to a particular style of services. **Belonging** to the Reconstructionist movement means **being part of a network of creative, independent, progressive Jewish communities**, each one of which expresses its own unique combination of elements and influences. We also love to learn from our affiliates' different approaches to Jewish life, and to share and amplify different congregations' insights and best practices.
- **Dues to the movement that are reasonable and affordable.** We ask affiliated congregations to contribute 1 – 2 % of their annual budget in dues. That contribution goes a long way to supporting our rabbinical school, our sharable resources, and our ongoing support to our communities.

**Explore us online:**

[www.reconstructingjudaism.org](http://www.reconstructingjudaism.org)

[www.ritualwell.org](http://www.ritualwell.org)

[www.evolve.reconstructingjudaism.org](http://www.evolve.reconstructingjudaism.org)

**B'YACHAD: RECONSTRUCTING JUDAISM TOGETHER**  
**CONVENTION • MARCH 23-27, 2022**  
**LEARN • PRAY • SING • DANCE • CONNECT • ENGAGE**

**GATHERING**  
**WELCOMING**  
**STUDYING**  
**SINGING**  
**QUESTIONING**  
**TRAILBLAZING**  
**CARING**  
**PRAYING**  
**ENGAGING**  
**RECONSTRUCTING**  
**JUDAISM**

Chavurah B'Yachad (CBY) is a Jewish community integrating traditional Judaism with contemporary social, intellectual and spiritual life. Here you can be part of a small, warm and welcoming community, one that is participatory and lay-led. We have a flexible dues system, a monthly Torah Study group, and warm-hearted people. Welcome!

CHAVURAH  B'YACHAD | חבורה ביחד  
caring • contemporary • community

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JUDAISM**  
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**CBYACHAD.ORG**