

In the words of *The Forward* this year, "The Reconstructionist movement has had an outsized effect on American Jewry, often embracing progressive stands years or decades before the more established denominations followed along." We are small yet mighty, and we continue to blaze new paths of inclusion, ritual, social justice, and congregational structure within our communities, at our rabbinical college, and to the Jewish world at large. We forge new paths that create a dynamic Jewish future.

These new paths have also allowed us to foster important relationships. Here are just a few of the ways RRC/Jewish Reconstructionist Communities builds and strengthens our relationships with you and on your behalf.

- We, Deborah and David, represented the movement to the World Zionist Congress. We claimed our place among worldwide Jewish leaders and raised our voices for a Reconstructionist approach and progressive values in Israel. And RRC/Jewish Reconstructionist Communities formalized a relationship with Israel Experts to support your Israel travel needs. Learn more about our work on our Gateways to Israel Facebook page: [facebook.com/IsraelGateways](https://www.facebook.com/IsraelGateways).
- Cyd Weissman, Director of Reconstructionist Learning Networks and a nationally recognized expert in learning and entrepreneurship, is spearheading the creation of networks among Reconstructionists which help develop new ideas and solutions and address shared challenges.
- Through [Ritualwell.org](http://Ritualwell.org), our award-winning online resource for ritual of all kinds, we connect with other innovative organizations. [Ritualwell.org](http://Ritualwell.org) reached more than 170,000 unique visitors last year and partnered with Interfaith Family, [G-dcast.com](http://G-dcast.com), Repair the World, T'ruah and American Jewish World Service.

In the year ahead, we'll build networks that connect different congregations. Members will be able to ally themselves even more deeply with each other and experience the richness these relationships make in their lives.

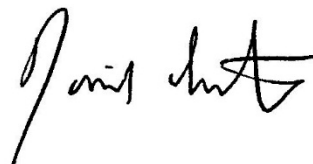
As we continue to make a greater impact on the world, we continue to depend upon your support. Just as your members' dues support your congregation's aspirations, your annual dues are vital to building our shared future.

Attached, you will find the dues pledge form and schedule of benefits. Please note that the dues levels and percentages have not changed from last year. Because we steward our budget carefully and frugally, we are able to set lower dues than other Jewish denominations. As you develop your budget for 2016-17, hold room for the great investment in our movement.

We can't achieve our shared goals without you.



Rabbi Deborah Waxman, Ph.D.  
President



David Roberts  
Chair, Board of Governors

P.S. Thank you for considering an increase in your dues. We count on your support.



## Belonging to Something Larger

Your dues to the Jewish Reconstructionist Communities help:

- Nurture communities that are inclusive, participatory, and dynamic
- Run Camp JRF
- Print prayer books
- Educate Jewish leaders
- Renew Jewish thought and philosophy at large
- Expand the presence of progressive Jewish communities throughout North America and the world
- Represent the Jewish Reconstructionist Communities in larger Jewish settings

## Affiliated Congregations and *Havurot*:

- Identify as Reconstructionist congregations
- Participate in our movement-wide Plenum
- Receive help searching for, hiring, and retaining a Reconstructionist rabbi
- May apply for an Aviv no-interest loan, designed to help grow individual congregations and the Reconstructionist movement
- Receive regular news of the movement electronically, including a relaunched *Reconstructionism Today!*
- Qualify for discounts on Reconstructionist Press publications, including the *Kol HaNeshamah* prayer book series and the three-volume *Guide to Jewish Practice*
- Receive help marketing their congregations and growing membership

## Resources

- Congregational Marketing Resource Kit
- New in 2016: a preferred partnership with Israel Experts to support Israel engagement and Israel travel
- JewishRecon.org, relaunching in 2016
- Ritualwell.org
- Jewish distance learning
- Peer listservs for Reconstructionist community leaders
- Experts among the RRC faculty and Jewish Reconstructionist Communities staff in such areas as Israel engagement, ritual and theology, marketing, communications, and modern Jewish identity
- Assistance with experiential and informal education
- Information about best practices for congregational administration and governance
- Participation in local presidents' and/or rabbis' groups where available
- Membership for your executive director in CEDAR, the professional organization for Reconstructionist executive directors
- Membership for your educators in RENA, the Reconstructionist Educators of North America



## Programs and Education

- Participation in peer-to-peer networks on topics of shared concern and facilitated by RRC/JRC staff
- Participation in local programs organized by movement staff and crafted to match local interest (*Program planning and execution will require local volunteers*)
- Leadership training for presidents and rabbis
- Access to visiting scholars (*Scheduling to be mutually agreed upon. Fees depend upon the length and format of the visit and the scholar. A listing of RRC faculty can be found at [www.rrc.edu/faculty](http://www.rrc.edu/faculty)*)
- Jewish distance learning
- Reconstructionist youth retreats designed for grades 4-12

## Knowledge of the Movement

Affiliated communities have access to the expert knowledge of RRC/JRC faculty and staff on topics such as:

- Reconstructionist thought and practice
- Assistance in searching for, hiring, and retaining a Reconstructionist rabbi
- Governance (e.g., budgets, dues, bylaws, personnel policies)
- Leadership development and board training
- Communications and new media
- Curriculum development and teacher training
- Lifelong learning programs
- Experiential education
- Membership growth strategies and congregational marketing
- Liturgy and ritual, including use of the *Kol HaNeshamah* prayer books
- Israel programming, politics, and culture
- Jewish spiritual practice

# Benefits of Belonging

2016-17

## Benefits of Affiliation with the Reconstructionist Movement

	ENTER	ENGAGE	INVEST
Your support helps the Reconstructionist movement nurture inclusive communities, run Camp JRF, print prayer books, educate Jewish leaders, renew Jewish thought and philosophy, and represent modern, progressive Judaism in larger Jewish settings.	•	•	•
Your greater investment helps the movement have greater impact both in our communities and in the world.	•	•	•
Movement resources to support your community.	•	•	•
<b>Discounts on Reconstructionist Press publications</b> Includes the <i>Kol HaNeshamah</i> prayer books series and the three-volume <i>Guide to Jewish Practice</i> .	10%	20%	40%
<b>Visiting scholars</b> Scheduling to be mutually agreed upon. Fees depend upon the length and format of the visit. (Find a listing of RRC faculty at <a href="http://www.rrc.edu/faculty">www.rrc.edu/faculty</a> )	•	•	•
<b>Holiday gift packages for college-age students</b> Two Jewish holiday gifts will be mailed to congregation's college-age students during the year.	Price per student (two gifts per year):		
	\$36	\$18	\$9
<b>Discounts on rental of Camp JRF facilities</b>		5%	15%
<b>Early-bird registration for Camp JRF</b> New families of Invest congregations can reserve space for their campers at the early date traditionally offered only to returning families.			•
<b>Ability to allocate 5-10% of dues to the Aviv no-interest loan fund and/or rabbinical scholarships</b>			•

For the entire guide to programs, services, and resources available from RRC / Jewish Reconstructionist Communities visit [www.jewishrecon.org/member-benefits](http://www.jewishrecon.org/member-benefits)



# Congregational Affiliation Dues

2016-17

**PLEASE RETURN BY OCTOBER 15, 2016**

Name of congregation \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Street address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

**1** This dues form reflects a decision made by (choose all that apply):

- Rabbi
- Executive committee
- President
- Board
- Treasurer
- Congregational meeting
- Head administrator/executive director

**2** We choose the following dues category:

- ENTER *Choose a dues factor within the range .002–.008  
The minimum dues payment is \$300.*
- ENGAGE *Choose a dues factor within the range .009–.019*
- INVEST *Calculate using ONE of the following methods:*

- a. *Choose a dues factor of .02 or more of your budget.  
The minimum dues payment using this method is \$3,000.*
- b. *Choose a dues factor of .10 or more of your budget. No minimum applies.*
- c. *Choose a dues factor of .01 or more of your budget. The minimum dues payment using this method is \$30,000.*

Budgeted expenses	_____
x	
Dues factor	_____
=	
Annual dues	_____

- Determine your congregation's budgeted annual expenses for the fiscal year that includes September 2016 and enter this number in "budgeted expenses." (Annual expenses should not include capital expenses—funds for assets you use over multiple years.)  
**Please attach either a copy of your budget or a budget summary with this form.**
- Find the dues range attached to your category (above). Pick a number in that range as your dues factor and enter in "dues factor."
- Multiply your budgeted expenses by the dues factor to calculate your annual dues.

**3 DUES MUST BE PAID IN FULL BY AUGUST 31, 2017.**

We would like to plan our payments according to the following schedule:

- One annual payment (date) Month \_\_\_\_\_ Day \_\_\_\_\_
- Two annual payments (dates) Month \_\_\_\_\_ Day \_\_\_\_\_ Month \_\_\_\_\_ Day \_\_\_\_\_
- Four quarterly payments (dates) Month \_\_\_\_\_ Day \_\_\_\_\_ Month \_\_\_\_\_ Day \_\_\_\_\_  
Month \_\_\_\_\_ Day \_\_\_\_\_ Month \_\_\_\_\_ Day \_\_\_\_\_
- Monthly payments
- Payments will be made by check (made out to Jewish Reconstructionist Communities or RRC).
- Payments will be made by credit card.

We're paying this amount today:

Please check here if you require us to send you invoice(s).

Type of card	<input type="checkbox"/> VISA	<input type="checkbox"/> MasterCard	<input type="checkbox"/> American Express
Credit card #	_____		
Name on card	_____		
Expiration date	_____		
Security code	_____		

If we have questions about your payment, whom should we contact? Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

**Please complete page 2.**

## PLEASE RETURN BY OCTOBER 15, 2016

# 4

INVEST category may choose to allocate a portion of dues in either or both of the following ways:

- Five percent of our dues to the revolving loan fund
  - Five percent of our dues to rabbinical student scholarships
- 

# 5

Have you included:

- A budget or budget summary for the fiscal year that includes September 2016

Membership information:

- Will be sent electronically, by EXCEL or similar file, to [affiliation@rrc.edu](mailto:affiliation@rrc.edu) (PREFERRED OPTION)
  - A paper copy is included.
  - A paper copy will be sent within two weeks to **Affiliate Support, RRC, 1299 Church Road, Wyncote, PA 19095.**
  - Staff/officers list with updates and/or corrections
- 

Please use the enclosed envelope to return all paper documents to: Affiliate Support, RRC, 1299 Church Road, Wyncote, PA 19095

If you have questions and need immediate assistance, please contact Tresa Grauer, Director of Affiliate Support, [tgrauer@rrc.edu](mailto:tgrauer@rrc.edu) or 215.576.0800, ext. 144.

Additional comments:

## Expert Perspective

Affiliated congregations and *havurot* can draw on the expertise of the Reconstructionist movement, whether through staff of Jewish Reconstructionist Communities, faculty of the Reconstructionist Rabbinical College, or networks of our congregational leaders. We can advise on everything from curriculum development to organizational issues such as leadership training, marketing, and growth. Congregational leaders should contact Director of Affiliate Support Tresa Grauer at [tgrauer@rrc.edu](mailto:tgrauer@rrc.edu) or 215.576.0800, ext. 144 to discuss their questions.

## Movement Plenum

The plenum of the Reconstructionist movement embodies the democratic ideals we share for Judaism. This group of representatives from each affiliated congregation and *havurah* discusses pressing issues—both those internal to the movement and those that grow out of our relationship to the world. Plenum members share perspectives on conversations that take place in their respective communities, covering topics such as how to preserve a sense of connection while a congregation grows. The plenum votes on various matters and has input into the future direction of Reconstructionist Judaism.

Plenum members enjoy ongoing communications using a private email listserv and hold twice-yearly business meetings in a virtual format, such as a web-based meeting or conference call. This democratic body clearly distinguishes the Reconstructionist working process from that of other movements. It will continue to play a pivotal role in the growth and influence of Reconstructionist Judaism. Additional information on the plenum is available at [www.jewishrecon.org/plenum](http://www.jewishrecon.org/plenum).

## Aviv Revolving Loan Fund for Growth of the Reconstructionist Movement

The Aviv Revolving Loan Fund supports new initiatives by Reconstructionist affiliates. *Aviv* means "spring" in Hebrew, and this fund was established through the generosity of anonymous donors to promote growth opportunities by offering fiscal assistance and tangible expertise. Communities affiliated with the Reconstructionist movement at any level—Enter, Engage or Invest—can apply.

Aviv Loans are interest-free, up to \$20,000 each, with a three-year term; up to two loans will be disbursed each year. For more information and to apply, please visit [www.jewishrecon.org/AvivLoans](http://www.jewishrecon.org/AvivLoans).

## Topical Conversations and Support for Interest Groups

We offer a distance learning series on subjects of interest to Reconstructionist Jews. You can find more information on the Virtual Bet Midrash and sign up for sessions at <http://www.jewishrecon.org/virtual-bet-midrash>. Topics in the Virtual Bet Midrash range from new Israeli poetry and prayer to creative ritual, Jewish Prayer in a Time of Eco-Crisis, and much more.

We also offer administrative support for four interest groups within the Reconstructionist community:

- Education (Reconstructionist Educators of North America)
- Administration (Congregational Executive Directors and Administrators in Reconstructionism)
- Presidents (Presidents Forums and a listserv)
- Music (Harmoniyah)



## Special Programming

Based on the responses we received when we surveyed congregations by geographical location, we are organizing special programs in coordination with affiliated congregations. Recent area events have included a long-weekend learning retreat, a two-day program on New Ideas in Reconstructionist Thought and Practice, two Days of Learning around themes of Reconstructionism and *tikkun olam*, and a travelling scholar program.

## Tikkun Olam and Other Organizational Affiliations in the Wider Community

RRC and the Jewish Reconstructionist Communities represent the movement in *tikkun olam* efforts and in other broad-based community coalitions. Our *Tikkun Olam* Commission—which includes rabbis and lay representatives from our affiliates—has selected the wealth gap as our current focus. We will add a strong Jewish voice to efforts to reverse the widening discrepancy between rich and poor in North America.

Having a movement-wide focus allows us to make a greater impact in an area that we hold as a high priority. You can read more about the **Tikkun Olam Commission and the wealth gap** focus on our website at <http://jewishrecon.org/about-wealth-gap>.

We continue to maintain other *tikkun olam* alliances, and the Commission evaluates new possibilities on an ongoing basis. Currently we are partners with the following groups:

- Coalition on the Environment and Jewish Life (COEJL): [www.coejl.org](http://www.coejl.org)
- Faiths United to Prevent Gun Violence: [www.faithsagainstgunviolence.org](http://www.faithsagainstgunviolence.org)
- Green Hevra: <http://jewcology.org>
- Jewish Council for Public Affairs (JCPA): [www.jewishpublicaffairs.org](http://www.jewishpublicaffairs.org)
- Jewish Day of Constructive Conflict: <http://9adar.org>
- Jewish Social Justice Roundtable: [www.jewishsocialjustice.org](http://www.jewishsocialjustice.org)
- *Mazon*: Jewish Response to Hunger: [www.mazon.org](http://www.mazon.org)
- Religious Coalition for Reproductive Choice: [www.rcrc.org](http://www.rcrc.org)





RRC produces rabbis who can meet the needs of congregants, introduce new ideas and new thinking—and help attract new members. When you engage with a rabbi or student rabbi from RRC, you encounter a person who is:

- **Creative in forming spiritual community.** Reconstructionist rabbis can create a great variety of experiences in prayer and community spiritual practice. They also facilitate healthy group dynamics and help inform religious decision making.
- **Knowledgeable about Jewish sources, resources and texts.** Reconstructionist rabbis are immersed in classical Jewish texts and can help your members dive into traditional and contemporary sources. They model lifelong independent learning and help others pursue it.
- **Ready to lead in social justice work.** Reconstructionist rabbis and rabbinical students understand that congregants want to make a real difference in the world. They stand ready to help members identify their deepest priorities and lead them in activism and advocacy.
- **Expert in nurturing interfaith understanding.** Our outstanding Department of Multifaith Studies and Initiatives equips rabbis to build bridges and lead in forming the interfaith alliances that are so important to congregants today. Because of our specialized field work and courses in this area, Reconstructionist rabbis often start their careers with interfaith networks already in place.
- **Proficient from day one.** Reconstructionist rabbis are prepared and confident because they train thoroughly to lead rituals, provide pastoral counseling, create communities and understand group dynamics. We place our rabbinical students in a wide array of work environments and provide extensive supervision—which means that even while they're in training, RRC students can jump into all sorts of projects, able to bring knowledge, fresh ideas and unique perspectives.
- **Innovative and grounded.** Our core curriculum emphasizes how Jewish life has evolved over time in response to each era's challenges. Because students and graduates have immersed themselves in the texts, philosophy and literature of the past, they understand how the Jewish community has continually changed and must continue to change in order to stay relevant. They apply ancient wisdom to today's questions and challenges.

To inquire about working with a Reconstructionist rabbi, contact Placement Director, Rabbi Joel Alpert at 215-576-0800, ext. 304 or [jalpert@reconplacement.org](mailto:jalpert@reconplacement.org). To find out more about working with an RRC student, contact Vice President for Student Development, Rabbi Amber Powers at 2015-576-0800, ext. 123 or [apowers@rrc.edu](mailto:apowers@rrc.edu).



RRC students and graduates follow unique paths, using all of their talents, passions and strengths. The warm, egalitarian and intellectually rigorous culture of the College empowers them to build similarly inviting communities wherever they go. You—or someone you know—may benefit from the presence of RRC students and graduates in a wide variety of settings.

Our rabbis:

- **Serve as chaplains.** In nursing homes, hospitals, hospice, military settings and prisons, our students and graduates bring comfort to Jews and non-Jews alike.
- **Engage college students.** Our campus rabbis help students express their Judaism in authentic new ways and embrace it, even if they face anti-Semitism or find themselves in unfamiliar cultural settings. They have both the Jewish knowledge and the open-mindedness to relate to students from all backgrounds. RRC students and graduates are recognized as excellent Hillel directors and campus rabbis.
- **Teach youth and adults.** Many congregational schools, Jewish day schools, adult education programs and departments of Jewish studies benefit from the scholarship and creative teaching abilities of RRC rabbis and students.
- **Lead social service agencies and social change organizations.** From Jewish Family and Children's Services to the Jewish Council for Public Affairs, our people serve the Jewish community and wider society in advocacy, leadership and development positions. They work in immigrant and workers' rights, human rights at home and abroad, and peace and social justice organizing.
- **Inspire youth in camping or teen groups.** Our students and graduates connect the next generation of Jews to our heritage in many settings, where they form individual relationships to Judaism that can last a lifetime.

## Camp JRF

Camp JRF is a joyful and welcoming Jewish youth community that transforms lives. This top-rated summer camp provides a fun, creative and inclusive Reconstructionist community for young people ages 7 to 17.

Every day, campers enjoy arts and crafts, basketball, canoeing, concerts, dance, drama, street hockey, gardening, hiking, soccer, softball, swimming, tennis, a ropes challenge course and much more. Camp JRF is a place where our children can open up to the possibilities of life—and Judaism—and become their best selves. We provide our campers with countless opportunities to try new things and experience success in ways they never thought possible. We help them discover that being Jewish isn't something that only happens in a classroom a few hours a week; together they learn that being Jewish is cool, fun and part of everyday life.

A recent addition to Camp JRF is the Eco-Village for teens which features six round canvas yurts and house bunk beds made of sustainable wood. The deck of recycled planking includes stadium seating which forms an outdoor amphitheater and meeting place for teens to hang out. Nearby, two large, accessible bathhouses with bright yellow metal panels on the outside and eco-friendly modern design elements inside are the result of a successful multi-million dollar fundraising effort.

Every summer, over 400 youngsters come to Camp JRF from communities across North America, Israel and the world. Our community includes all kinds of families— interfaith, multiracial, LGBTQ and families from all socio-economic situations. On a campus of 120 wooded acres in South Sterling, PA, our staff, campers, and faculty experience a safe and fun summer, make lasting friendships, forge their own Jewish identities and participate in creating a values-driven Jewish culture. Year after year, our campers say that a summer at Camp JRF is “one of the most awesome and unique experiences ever.”

## No'ar Hadash

No'ar Hadash (“new youth”) promotes innovative and fun Jewish youth programming year round from a uniquely Reconstructionist perspective. Teens from across North America take part in creative activities designed to meet their religious, intellectual, spiritual and social needs. Through No'ar Hadash, Reconstructionist teens generate and participate in programs that are important to them and that speak to who they are as teens and as Jews. In addition to the summer Israel Experience, an annual teen *kallah* (retreat) offers a wonderful weekend experience in cities that have included New York, Boston, Chicago, and Philadelphia.

## No'ar Hadash Israel Experience

Teens who join this unique summer trip to Israel begin and end the experience at Camp JRF, where they engage in community building. Participants travel to Israel for a month-long interactive experience of the land and the people. They spend time in all parts of the country as they climb, swim, sing, hike, learn and explore. The program includes Shabbat in Jerusalem, tikkun olam projects, experiences with Israeli peers, and discussions of life in contemporary Israel; it also connects the teens with Reconstructionist rabbis who live in Israel.



RRC has made digital resources a priority, including the relaunches of a digital *Reconstructionism Today* and JewishRecon.org, our website. As an e-newsletter, *Reconstructionism Today* arrives directly to your inbox on your favorite device. Our website will be available 24/7 and provide information about our movement, congregations and leaders as well as resources for learning and celebration.

**Curriculum Library:** This comprehensive list of textbooks, story books and resource materials on topics ranging from holidays to Hebrew, from *tikkun olam* to Torah is a valuable guide for educators, parents, librarians and anyone interested in resources for Jewish education evaluated from a Reconstructionist point of view.

**Special-Interest Listservs:** Listservs allow people across the movement to communicate directly with others who share specific congregational responsibilities and interests. We offer listservs for educators, musicians, congregation presidents, executive directors and others.

**Ritualwell.org:** Where can you find a Shabbat blessing for your dog or a ritual to mark becoming an empty-nester? Ritualwell.org is filled with creative Jewish resources for once-in-a-lifetime events and everyday moments. Ritualwell's resources cover Jewish holidays, everyday holiness, life cycle celebrations, healing, Shabbat and more—through personalized prayers, readings, poetry and rituals that encourage individualized expressions of Jewish life. Join Ritualwell's online community and share your own rituals. Sign up for emails or like Ritualwell on Facebook.

**RRC Press:** The Press offers a wide array of guidebooks for all aspects of Jewish ethics and practice, including everyday spirituality, death and mourning, and *tzedakah*. It is the home of the award-winning *Guide to Jewish Practice* series. At Reconstructionist Press you'll find one-stop shopping for Reconstructionist prayer books, congregational resources, children's literature and books about our movement's history, theology and philosophy. Reconstructionist community members receive discounts on all purchases.

## Distance Learning Programs:

- **Judaism through a Reconstructionist Lens:** This self-paced online learning program teaches the philosophy of Reconstructionist Judaism through a framework of questions. Users can explore the thinking of Rabbi Mordecai M. Kaplan and find out how Reconstructionist Judaism differs from other branches of Judaism. The thoughts of real-world Reconstructionist rabbis and congregants are available in audio clips. The program can be used by individuals or groups.
- **Disabilities and Inclusion Minicourse:** "Look into My Eyes: Coming Face to Face with Disability" offers valuable information and guidance for anyone in the Jewish community who seeks to include people of different abilities. It was originally presented as a minicourse at RRC, where it was spearheaded by [Rabbi Judith Abrahamson](#). The course was designed to help rabbis, educators and congregational leaders increase their capacity to work with people of differing abilities in a Jewish setting. The course has been re-created online with six videos and articles that offer insights from Jewish tradition, explorations of the heart and teachings from rabbis who are leaders in serving diverse communities.

**High Holiday Audio Recordings:** Anyone leading or helping at High Holiday services will find these downloadable recordings useful. Corresponding page numbers are provided for *Kol Haneshamah: Prayerbook for the Days of Awe* from the Reconstructionist Press, making it easy to listen and refer to the Hebrew text.

**RRC.edu:** Our website offers a section devoted to Reconstructionist resources that range from historical recordings about Mordecai Kaplan to lectures on contemporary topics by RRC faculty. Rabbi Nancy Fuchs Kreimer's blog Multifaith World features essays, sermons, videos, and conference content which can enrich congregational activities and discussion. Cyd Weissman, Director of the Reconstructionist Learning Networks, brings Jewish learning together with entrepreneurial insights at Living Jewish Learning. And RRC faculty members provide an ongoing window into their teachings at Recon Torah.

**Monthly Content for Congregational Newsletters:** On a monthly basis, we send three different emails to groups of congregational leaders. *Reconstructionism Today*, newly relaunched in electronic format and available to everyone, contains news of our college and congregations, links to resources and other information of interest. Presidents, rabbis, officers and key staff receive a *Leadership Brief*, which offers a range of perspectives to leaders of Reconstructionist communities. Newsletter editors at each of our affiliated congregations receive myriad updates they can share in congregational communications. To receive one or more of these emails, please contact Communications Associate Victoria Guentter ([vguentter@rrc.edu](mailto:vguentter@rrc.edu)) and she will add your name to the list.

**Regular News of the Movement by Email:** Twice a month—once for congregational leaders (*Reconstructionist Leadership Brief*) and once for our entire mailing list (*Reconstructionism Today*)—we send an email featuring stories about Reconstructionist Judaism, our affiliated communities, the leaders of our movement, and links to information and resources of interest. If you would like to receive these emails or arrange for the members of your congregation to receive them, please contact Communications Associate Rachael Burgess ([rburgess@rrc.edu](mailto:rburgess@rrc.edu)).

**Periodic Updates for Congregational Leaders:** Rabbi Deborah Waxman and other movement leaders keep congregational leaders informed via topical, timely emails. In recent months, these emails have addressed violence in Israel and Gaza, the protests against police brutality in the United States and other issues of concern.



# Aviv Revolving Loan Fund

for Growth of the Reconstructionist Movement

2016-17

## What are Aviv loans and who can apply?

The Aviv Revolving Loan Fund supports growth and vitality in the Reconstructionist movement. Aviv means “spring” in Hebrew, and this fund was established through the generosity of anonymous donors to promote fresh, energizing initiatives. Congregations and *havurot* affiliated with the Reconstructionist movement at any level—Enter, Engage or Invest—can apply for these no-interest loans of up to \$20,000. Up to two loans will be disbursed each year.

## What kind of difference can the loans make?

The leaders of Or Haneshamah, the first community to receive a loan, say it best: “After 25 years as a member-led Reconstructionist community, we decided to take the monumental step of hiring our first permanent rabbi, fortuitously, at the same time we learned about the Aviv Loan Program. Our membership enthusiastically endorsed our application.

“For us, the loan has had two important impacts. First, it eases the financial burden for our members. It means that we have time to grow membership to support this new cost, as opposed to having to increase our membership fees dramatically. Second, it helps us manage our cash flow. Having the cushion of the Aviv loan allows us to plan for our future, instead of always having to worry about how we can afford it.”

## Criteria and support:

Initiatives supported by the Aviv Fund should produce measurable impact over three years. Loan recipients receive counseling from Jewish Reconstructionist Communities staff or Reconstructionist Rabbinical College faculty to help them implement their projects, solve problems, and measure results.

## When to apply:

Applications will proceed in two stages. Stage One applications are due Friday, January 10, 2017. Stage Two applications are due Friday, March 7, 2017.

For more information, go to <http://www.jewishrecon.org/AvivLoans>.

