

Elul / Tishrei 5775

August / September 2015

The Current

“The VOICE over many waters ...” Psalm 29

MAYIM RABIM
מֵיִם רַבִּים
CONGREGATION



Elul/Tishrei 5775

August / September 2015



Judaism's Program of Transformation

Enter any bookstore and you will find a wide array of self-help books. Larger bookstores have them categorized under different categories- - parenting, relationships, self-esteem and so on. What's amazing is that the High Holidays have their own book, the *machzor* or prayer book, which is devoted to our own self-actualization. Now while I can't say that it is an encyclopedic collection able to address all of our needs for human growth, it is our tradition's response to our need to become more refined human beings. We pull the same book off the shelf each year and grapple with core issues in our need to forgive, contemplate our fleeting days, remember our loved ones who have passed on and regain a sense of hope that we can do better in our lives. We also discover that we are not alone. The *machzor* reminds us that the Almighty is in our corner – slow to anger and showing infinite kindness. And we find ourselves in community, all reciting the same prayers out of the same book, each of us having the opportunity to embrace the same program of transformation.

While our secular society bombards us with ads prior to January 1 of why one food diet program is the best to embrace at the start of the New Year, Judaism takes a different approach to how to get our attention. The entire month of Elul, the month prior to Rosh Hashanah, has its own way to beckon our awareness. The tradition is for the Shofar to be blown each day during Elul as a wake up call. We don't have to call a 1-800 number to get started. Instead, we use our prayers to begin our introspective work and approach others to clear up misunderstandings and hard feelings. And the old book that's been on the shelf since last year's High Holidays becomes the new book each year, speaking to us anew from a vantage point of whatever the last year has brought our way.

There are no fads. We don't have to contemplate whether low-carb or high-protein is truly the way to go. Forgiveness remains the diet. The place of interaction remains our hearts, our relationships, and our grappling with the Divine. Support is in our midst. No one is shamed. No one is singled out for being the biggest loser. We all stand to make gains as we enter the High Holidays.

Wishing you and your families a shanah tovah u'metukah – may it be a sweet New Year full of growth! *Rabbi Sharon Stiefel*





Ritual and Program Schedule



*All events are held at 4401 York Avenue South
in Minneapolis (Friends Meeting House)
unless otherwise specified.*

Saturday August 15, 9:30 AM – Noon
Shabbat Morning Service
Torah Portion: Re'eh (observe)

Led by Rabbi Stiefel and congregants and followed by a dairy vegetarian potluck lunch. This Shabbat is Rosh Chodesh Elul, the first day of the month of Elul, so we will recite the prayers for Rosh Chodesh. Childcare is provided.

Thursday August 20, 7:00 – 9:00 PM
Taking Measure of our Souls: Mussar for the High Holidays
Where: Shir Tikvah Congregation,
1360 W Minnehaha Parkway, Minneapolis
Facilitated by Rabbi Debra Rappaport and Julie Dean
Suggested Donation: \$18

Mussar is a traditional Jewish system of thought and practice that encourages ethical and spiritual growth. In this program, you will study samples of the wisdom of Mussar as a way of thinking about your own life and experience Mussar practices, particularly as they relate to the themes of the High Holidays. The program will speak both to those with and without prior experience of Mussar practice.

*Co-sponsored by Hineni, Shir Tikvah, and Adath Jeshurun,
in partnership with Mayim Rabim.*

Friday August 28, 6:15 – 7:30 PM
Kabbalat Shabbat Service

Led by Rabbi Stiefel and congregants and followed by a dairy vegetarian potluck Shabbat dinner. The service will include a wedding blessing for Rene Michaels and Amy Ollendorf.



Sunday, August 30, 1:30 – 3:30 p.m.

Is Reconstructionist Judaism For You? Get To Know Mayim Rabim

Where: The Friends' Meeting House, 4401 York Ave S, Minneapolis, MN 55410

This annual event is a wonderful opportunity for anyone who is thinking about getting involved with the Mayim Rabim community or who wants to learn more Reconstructionist Judaism. Rabbi Stiefel and other leaders of the Mayim Rabim community will lead an informal discussion and answer questions about the tenets of Reconstructionism and the history, values and practices that make our congregation unique. Refreshments will be served.

Please spread the word!

Tuesday, September 1, 7:00 – 8:30 PM

Going Deeper into the High Holiday Prayers

Reconnect with the words of the Machzor prayerbook. Rabbi Sharon Stiefel will guide us through some of the major High Holiday prayers.

Saturday, September 5, 8:30 PM

Selichot will be held on the Saturday evening before Rosh Hashanah to help us prepare for the High Holiday season. This year's community-wide Selichot program will take place at Adath Jeshurun Congregation, 10500 Hillside Lane W, Minnetonka, 55305. The evening will begin at 8:30 PM with Havdalah and an interactive evening, previewing excerpts from a new work *The Abraham Play*, by playwright Jon Adam Ross, of the inHEIRitance Project. The play, inspired by Abraham's story, utilizes shared stories of the Twin Cities Jewish community as it explores who we are, stories we tell and what we want to hold onto in the future. Refreshments will be offered at 10:00 PM and the Selichot service will start at 10:30 PM, with local cantors and choirs.



John Adam Ross



Rosh Hashanah Schedule

Sunday September 13, 6:00-7:15 PM
Erev (evening) Rosh Hashanah Service

Monday September 14, Rosh Hashanah Day 1,

8:30 – 9:00 AM: High Holiday Meditation

9:00 AM – 12:30 PM: Services

10:00 AM – 12:00 PM: Children's Educational Programming

12:30 PM: Light catered dairy vegetarian lunch

(childcare provided from 9:00 AM to 12:30 PM)

Tuesday September 15, Rosh Hashanah Day 2,

9:30 AM to 12:30 PM: Services

12:30 PM: Kiddush

(childcare provided from 9:30 AM to 12:30 PM)

September 17, 7:00 – 8:30 PM
and every subsequent 3rd Thursday of the month,
Monthly Mussar Va'ad (community of practice)
Where: Shir Tikvah Congregation,
1360 W Minnehaha Parkway, Minneapolis
Facilitated by Rabbi Debra Rappaport, Rabbi Amy Eilberg,
and Sara Lynn Newberger.

Fee \$180 for the 10-month series.

As a followup to the August 20th program, those who want to devote themselves to a practice of Mussar are invited to join a Va'ad (community of practice) that will meet monthly September through June, 2016.

Through group discussion, text study, personal journaling, and spiritual exercises, group members will explore middot (qualities of soul) with the explicit goal of applying them in their lives. Support between meetings will also be provided. *Co-sponsored by Hineni, Shir Tikvah, Adath Jeshurun, In partnership with Mayim Rabim*



Sunday, September 20, 2:00 p.m.

**High Holiday Meditation With Traditional Yiddish Music
A Collaboration with the Minneapolis Friends Meeting**

Noted local musician Judith Eisner and her ensemble will lead a meditation through her interpretations of traditional Yiddish songs on the Sunday between Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur. During this holiest time of the year, the Mayim Rabim and Minneapolis Friends communities will join together to experience this introspective music to quiet our minds in stillness, contemplation, and devotion. Structured as a meditation rather than a concert, there will be no commentary or applause. All are invited - free of charge.



The Klezmerim: from left to right — Stu Janis, Matt Miller, Doug Cole, Gretta Hunstiger, Judith Eisner



Ritual and Program Schedule



Yom Kippur Schedule

Tuesday September 22, 6:45 – 9 PM
Kol Nidre Service

Wednesday September 23
Yom Kippur

10:00 AM – 1:30 PM: Morning Services, including Yizkor Memorial Service

10:00 AM – 12:00 PM: Children's Educational Programming

4:30 – 5:30 PM: Study Session, *Broken Tablets and Second Chances*

5:45 – 7:53 PM: Minchah/Afternoon and Concluding/Neilah Services

Immediately following Neilah, Havdalah, and the sounding of the Shofar, we will break the fast together with Mayim Rabim's traditional vegetarian dairy potluck meal.

(childcare provided from 10:00 am to 2:00 PM)

Sunday September 27 – Sunday October 4, Sukkot

The festive holiday of Sukkot begins the evening of Sunday September 27 and ends after sundown on Sunday October 4. Mayim Rabim will not hold services, but please join us for the following events.

...and coming in October

Sukkot, Sunday October 4, 2:00 to 4:00 PM

Open House in St. Paul at the sukkah of Rabbi Sharon Stiefel, Davida Alperin, Michael, and Emi.

Simchat Torah, Monday evening, October 5

Celebration with Adath Jeshurun Congregation,
10500 Hillside Lane W, Minnetonka, 55305.

Save the Date

Saturday November 14, 2015

for a surprise filled evening of
entertainment and a silent auction.

Details to follow



We gratefully acknowledge these donations to the General Fund —

- Amy Lange
- Elaine Frankowski — *in honor of my delightful neighbor Carolyn Belle.*

If you would like to make a contribution, send it to Mayim Rabim Congregation, 2751 Hennepin Ave S, Suite 236, Minneapolis, MN 55408. You may also donate online through PayPal on our website: www.mayimrabim.org

We express our thanks to -

Denise Pasmarter and Sydne Westorff, for their years of service on the Board of Directors; and those who helped out when the power went off at the Friends Meeting House: Bruce and Barbara Nordstrom-Loeb who made a candle lit trip to rescue our frozen challahs, Jeremy Fisher and Isaac Kaufman who cleaned out the freezer and refrigerator, and Dana Fox for various logistical support.

Dear Mayim Rabim Congregants -

I was deeply touched by the gift made to the Reconstructionist Rabbinical College by the Board, on behalf of the congregation, in recognition of my receiving an honorary Doctor of Divinity. It was so thoughtful of the congregation to honor my milestone of twenty-five years in the rabbinate. I am delighted that you chose to recognize my connection to RRC and the movement in this way. And I feel so fortunate to serve as the rabbi for Mayim Rabim. L'Shalom, *Rabbi Sharon Stiefel*



Welcome New Members Amy Ollendorf and Rene Michaels



Irene ("Rene") Michaels was born and raised in Cincinnati, Ohio then lived in Houston, Texas and raised two daughters over 26 years. She took a circuitous route to Minnesota a few years ago by serving as a Travel Nurse in several states west of the Mississippi River over several years. Today, Rene works in two metro-area hospitals saving babies and helping scared parents cope as a Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) Nurse, and also helping new mothers adapt to their new roles in the Post-Partum Unit. She is also trained in Lactation counseling and Soul Collage™ (art therapy), and is training to be a Wellness Coach. She has a BA in Anthropology and next May is scheduled to be her last year of coursework before she embarks on a semester-long research practicum to complete a Masters in Holistic Health Studies. Her daughters now live in Illinois and Texas, and she has two granddaughters. Rene loves to sing and dance, play the piano, bike ride and garden when there is time in her busy schedule!

Amy Ollendorf was born in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania and raised in a Maryland suburb of Washington, DC. She came to Minnesota as a graduate student in 1984, first living in Duluth while working in her Masters advisor's Archaeometry Laboratory then moving in 1987 to the Twin Cities to work in her PhD advisor's Limnological Research Center. Her interdisciplinary academic training was in Anthropology, Geology, Ecology/Botany and she has been blessed to have traveled worldwide for work and pleasure. Following grad school, Amy has worked in the non-profit, State, and private sectors doing environmental consulting and project management. She helped raise two daughters in a previous relationship and she has two grandchildren. Amy enjoys singing, playing her guitars, gardening, and bike riding.

Amy and Rene were married on May 22, 2015 and are planning a Jewish celebration later this year.



Fiscal Year 2014-15 Financial Report



Mayim Rabim had a successful financial year in 2014-15. Income met projections almost exactly. Expenses came in under projections by approximately \$2,500 as a result of small cost savings in several administrative categories. The original plan was to withdraw funds from the Rabbi Development Fund to cover the difference between budgeted expenses and income. However, due to sufficient cash reserves from previous years, this action was not needed. As of the end of the fiscal year, Mayim Rabim has 44 member households.

And here are the figures —

	BUDGET	ACTUAL	+/-
INCOME			
Dues	\$35,000	\$34,406	-2%
Fundraiser	\$1,500	\$2,493	66%
Contributions	\$2,600	\$2,472	-5%
High Holiday Contributions	\$2,000	\$2,563	28%
Miscellaneous program income	\$1,750	\$912	-48%
Total Income	\$42,850	\$42,846	0%
EXPENSES			
Administrative/Office Expenses	\$3,994	\$2,227	-44%
Personnel/Contracted Services	\$34,479	\$34,692	1%
Food/Related	\$1,200	\$958	-20%
Movement Dues	\$700	\$700	0%
Rents	\$4,846	\$4,620	-5%
Rabbi Expenses/Conference	\$2,575	\$2,092	-19%
Insurance	\$1,641	\$1,586	-3%
Total Expenses	\$49,435	\$46,875	-5%



SAVE THE DATE. The Mayim Rabim Book Group will meet again on Sunday October 25, 2015 at 4:00 PM at Elaine Frankowski's home. We'll be reading **The Golem of Hollywood** by Johnathan and Jesse Kellerman. There are more than 10 copies in the Hennepin County Library system.

Possible next in line: **My Promised Land: The Triumph and Tragedy of Israel** by Ari Shavit.

with questions email Gravitz Larry larrygravitz@earthlink.net

At our most recent meeting we discussed **My Russian Grandmother and Her American Vacuum Cleaner: A Family Memoir** by Meir Shalev

When the boy Meir Shalev would come from Jerusalem to Nahalal and stand near the cowshed, the moshav members who didn't know who he was would ask, "Who do you belong to?" Now, many decades later, the best-selling Israeli novelist is trying to answer that question for himself and his readers. His new book offers an enjoyable, entertaining and partial answer.

The tone of the memoir is set in the first few sentences, as he describes what happened to him a few years ago when he was asked to speak before moshav members at the unveiling ceremony for a reconstructed Haganah arms cache. There is a story, there is humor - and there is room for interpretation and reasonable doubt. Yes, Shalev gives this biographical book a Hebrew title that translates into English as "It Was Like This," in honor of the sentence with which his Grandma Tonya began every story she told, but he acknowledges that in his family, "memory and imagination were two different words for the same thing."

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...and a review & recommendation from Larry Gravitz

When RRC President Rabbi Deborah Waxman visited Mayim Rabim, she told us that it is very difficult to have a calm conversation about Israel. The various points of view and the high emotional level can become so heated on this topic that it may lead to shouting and even a split of a congregation.

I would like to recommend a book about Israel that is filled with facts and sensitively presents many of the various viewpoints on a whole range of topics. It is ***My Promised Land: The Triumph and Tragedy of Israel*** by Ari Shavit.

The range of topics covered is truly encyclopedic. How and why Israel was founded, the advantages and disadvantages of being a nuclear power, how did Israel become "the start-up nation," the effect of having a large and growing ultra orthodox community, what kind of government does Israel have, how are non-Jewish Israelis treated, and what is necessary to achieve peace in the Middle East?

Shavit is not afraid to tackle big questions such as "Can Israel survive as a Jewish Nation surrounded and outnumbered by Arabs?" He asks many such difficult questions and provides some possible solutions, but leaves it to the reader to draw his own conclusions. This is an important book and may help us to engage in a fact-based, informative, **rational** discussion about Israel, its past, present and future.





**TIKKUN
OLAM**

TOILETRIES DRIVE CONTINUES!

The Tikkun Olam Committee, working with Jewish Family and Children's Service (JFCS), is collecting toiletries to pass on to families in need.

Please bring hotel/airline and full size unopened products to services all month. There will be a collection box at the door. Dave Kopperl will collect and deliver them to JFCS.



Medicine Bottles For Malawi Landfills Do Not Need Medicine Bottles!



For some months now the empty, label free medicine bottles you've been supplying have stayed out of landfills and made their way to rural hospitals in Malawi where they replace torn pieces of paper as packaging for medicine. They can help families in a third world country keep their medicines clean, out of reach of small children, and safe while they are being used.

Do keep bringing these valuable little bottles to Mayim Rabim for Elaine Frankowski to deliver directly to the Malawi project. There's a white plastic collection container where you can drop them off."

For more information visit <http://malawiproject.org>.



Maple Challah Board
engraved w/ "Hamotzi"
approx. 8½ x 14½"
Price: \$60

Click "donate" button at mayimrabim.org or send check to
Mayim Rabim Congregation, 2751 Hennepin Avenue S,
Suite 236, Minneapolis, MN 55408.
Pickup/delivery can be arranged or add \$20 for shipping.

A Challah Board Opportunity!

There are only 6 challah boards left for sale by Mayim Rabim.

Do you have a wedding, anniversary or other simcha coming soon?

Do you need a unique gift?

Do you want to buy a gift that also raises funds for Mayim Rabim?

If so, grab one of the challah boards before they're gone.



Programs through Hineni, A Center for Adult Jewish Education and Contemplative Practices at the Talmud Torah of St. Paul, in partnership with agencies and synagogues across the Twin Cities.

Register by emailing hineni@ttsp.org or calling 651.698.8807.

Elul Holy Listening Group

Wednesdays, August 26, September 2, and September 16, 7:00 – 8:30 PM

Where: Talmud Torah of St. Paul, 768 Hamline Avenue South, St. Paul, MN 55116.

Leader: Pam Winthrop Lauer

Cost: \$45.00 for the three sessions.

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Torah and Mindfulness: Weekly Torah Portion through the Lens of Hasidic Masters

Tuesdays August 11, August 25, September 8, September 22 (continues twice a month throughout the year) 8:15 – 9:30 AM

Where: Talmud Torah of St. Paul, 768 Hamline Avenue South, St. Paul, MN 55116.

Leader: Sara Lynn Newberger

Suggested donation: \$10.

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Meditation

Shabbat mornings September 5, September 19, October 3, October 17 (continues twice a month throughout the year), 9:15 – 9:45 AM

Where: Beth Jacob Congregation, 1179 Victoria Curve, Mendota Heights, MN 55118

Leader: Sara Lynn Newberger

In partnership with Beth Jacob Congregation

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Contemplative Chanting

Thursday September 10, 7:00 – 8:00 PM (continues monthly throughout the year)

Where: Beth Jacob Congregation, 1179 Victoria Curve, Mendota Heights, MN 55118

Leader: Sara Lynn Newberger

In partnership with Beth Jacob Congregation

Suggested donation: \$10

also

Tuesday September 8, 6:30 – 8:00 PM (continues monthly throughout the year)

Where: Beth El Congregation, 5225 Barry St W, St Louis Park, MN 55416

Leader: Cantor Audrey Abrams

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Wonder and Wander - The Four Seasons of Judaism, the first in a series of four seasonal outdoor experiences

September 20, 1:30 – 3:30 PM, Fort Snelling State Park

Leader: Rabbi Lynn Liberman

In collaboration with the St. Paul JCC

Cost: \$20 for JCC members and Hineni supporters (donation of \$72 or more), \$30 for others.

Minnesota Jewish Theatre Company Announces

BECOMING DR. RUTH

A Solo Show with Miriam Schwartz

Written by Mark St. Germain

Directed by Craig Johnson

This **regional premiere** runs from **August 20 – 30** at the **Highland Park Center Theater**, 1978 Ford Parkway, St. Paul, MN 55116. **Tickets** range in price from \$20 - \$32. Student and group discounts are available. To order, call **(651)647-4315** or visit **mnjewishtheatre.org**.

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Dr. Ruth Westheimer is well-known for her career as a pioneering sex therapist, but few people know her incredible life story. From fleeing the Nazis in the Kindertransport and becoming an Israeli sniper, to her struggle to succeed as a single mother in America, Mark St. Germain deftly illuminates this remarkable woman's untold story. *Becoming Dr. Ruth* is filled with the humor, honesty, and life-affirming spirit of Karola Ruth Siegel, the girl who became Dr. Ruth.

Miriam Schwartz (*Dr. Ruth*) is a Seattle native and graduate of the University of Minnesota/Guthrie Theater B.F.A. Actor Training Program. She was previously seen at MJTC as Jessica in *Jericho*, and Ayelet in *Handle With Care*.



**COMMUNITY-WIDE
TZEDEK SUMMIT ON**

ECONOMIC JUSTICE

**HOSTED BY MOUNT ZION TEMPLE
AND JEWISH COMMUNITY ACTION**

SUNDAY, AUGUST 30TH, 10am-12pm

MOUNT ZION TEMPLE

1300 SUMMIT AVENUE, ST. PAUL

Conversation on economic justice and shmita (the Jewish sabbatical year) was the first step with 7 synagogue programs and 40 house meetings across the Jewish community.

Now, we are preparing to take action. Help us write the next chapter!

Whether you attended a house meeting or synagogue Shmita 5775 program or simply want to learn more about economic justice efforts in Minnesota, in the Twin Cities, and in the Jewish community, please bring your voice to the summit! For more information, please contact JCA organizer Rachel English, rachel@jewishcommunityaction.org or call 651-632-2184.



**RSVP AND MORE INFORMATION:
RACHEL@JEWISHCOMMUNITYACTION.ORG**



Florence Melton School of Adult Jewish Learning A project of the Hebrew University of Jerusalem



Headquartered at the Florence Melton Adult Mini-School Institute of the Hebrew University of Jerusalem with a national office for North America in Northbrook, IL, the Melton School forms an international network of community-based schools offering adults the opportunity to acquire Jewish literacy in an open, trans-denominational, intellectually stimulating learning environment. Founded in 1980 at the initiative of Florence Zacks Melton, a community activist and longtime supporter of Jewish education, there are now 47 Melton Schools in 47 cities throughout the United States, Canada, United Kingdom, Australia, South Africa, New Zealand and Hong Kong, attended weekly by some 5,500 students. For more information check out <http://www.meltonschool.org/>.



Hineni is partnering with Twin Cities area synagogues and agencies, including Mayim Rabim, to bring this highly regarded and popular program our community.

Tuesday September 8, 7:00-8:30 PM Taste of Melton

Where: Adath Jeshurun Congregation, 10500 Hillside Lane W, Minnetonka
Teachers: Sara Lynn Newberger and Rabbi Alan Shavit-Lonstein

Come for a "taste" of the Florence Melton School of Adult Jewish Learning. Meet the teachers, sample a lesson, and experience Melton's text-based, discussion-oriented approach to Jewish learning.

Mondays, 7:00 – 9:30 PM, beginning Oct. 12, for 26 sessions Florence Melton School of Adult Jewish Learning First Year Core Curriculum: Rhythms and Purposes of Jewish Living

Where: Adath Jeshurun Congregation 10500 Hillside Lane W, Minnetonka
Teachers: Sara Lynn Newberger and Rabbi Alan Shavit-Lonstein
Cost: \$500 + books

This two-year course goes far beyond one-shot lectures or short-term seminars, challenging adult Jewish learners to engage in Jewish learning in a serious and comprehensive way. Each lesson is designed to inspire and enlighten students irrespective of their prior experience or background. Through this text-based, discussion oriented, pluralistic program participants will

- come to understand Jewish practices in new and meaningful ways,
- connect ethics and everyday life
- build community within and beyond the classroom.
- consider the big ideas and important events that have animated Jewish life over the millennia
- deepen understanding of Judaism and Jewish life.

This course is ideal for those looking to deepen their understanding of the basics of Judaism and Jewish living.



From the Reconstructionist Press:

The Reconstructionist High Holiday prayer book (machzor), *Kol Haneshamah; Yamim Nora'im*, is an inclusive comprehensive volume for Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur services, rooted in the traditional Hebrew liturgy, yet fully contemporary. You may place your order through your high-holiday registration packet from Mayim Rabim.

5776 Pocket Calendars are now in stock. These handy little calendar books include contact information for the Reconstructionist movement's offices and a directory of Reconstructionist affiliates. Place your order today via the Reconstructionist Press Bookstore:
<http://stores.jewishreconbooks.org>.

Tikkun Middot: Cultivating Our Character

You are invited to participate in RRC's *Tikkun Middot* program, with the goal of introducing the Jewish practice of *Musar*, which offers each of us a method of cultivating character traits that we want to embody. The program has been developed by the Institute for Jewish Spirituality (IJS) and is funded by the Templeton Foundation.

The central premise of *Musar* practice is that the ultimate purpose of each of our lives is to make this world a better place, and that integral to the work of repairing the world (*tikkun olam*) is the work of elevating the level at which we each individually behave in the world (*tikkun middot*). Through this practice, we are offered a way of becoming more patient, more trusting, more reliable, more forgiving and so on. Each of these character traits that we cultivate is called a *middah* (virtue or value).

Learn more about the first several *middot* and sign up to receive the "Middah of the Month" at <https://www.rrc.edu/middah>.

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Celebrating the recent Supreme Court decision on marriage equality the Reconstructionist movement issues the following statement —

The Reconstructionist movement celebrates the Supreme Court decision on *Obergefell v. Hodges*, ruling marriage equality for our country. We are *kvelling* that all couples will be seen as equal in our nation. Gay and lesbian couples now have the same rights, responsibilities and benefits as heterosexual couples. As important is the dignity this new status confers on all same-sex couples. We are in awe of the many acts, known and unknown, that brought us to this very place, a *shehechyanu* moment indeed.

This is an historic moment for our country and also for our movement. We have been among the first religious movements and institutions to support marriage rights for gays and lesbians. From signing onto many amicus briefs (including for this case), to education, to the creation of new ritual, to advocacy, Reconstructionist Judaism has long been a leader on this issue. We are grateful to all the rabbis, educators and lay people who helped pave the way for this decision.

Even in our celebration, we recognize that there is still more work to be done to secure equality for LGBT people, including passage of federal laws prohibiting discrimination based on sexual orientation or gender identity. With your help, we will continue to be a religious voice for justice and fairness for all marginalized groups.

May we continue to go from strength to strength.

Signed:

Rabbi Deborah Waxman — President

David Roberts — Chair, Board of Governors

Rabbi Joshua Lesser — Chair, Tikkun Olam Commission

Rabbi Mordechai Liebling — Director, Tikkun Olam Commission

Rabbi Nina Mandel — President, Reconstructionist Rabbinical Association



From Your Editor

My joy is almost boundless; I'm dizzy with delight. Many people, congregation members and others, have contributed material for this issue. Do keep the items and articles coming. It's a joy not to be alone on the page.

Save the Date

Saturday November 14, 2015

for a surprise filled evening of
entertainment and a silent auction.

Details to follow



MAYIM RABIM CONGREGATION is affiliated with the Jewish Reconstructionist movement (www.jewishrecon.org). We are an urban Jewish community that comprises people of diverse ages, abilities, sexual orientations, cultural backgrounds, and financial resources. It is our mission to create and sustain spaces that enhance the practice of Judaism in the contemporary world; to that end, we are a house of prayer, of study, and tikkun olam (the repair of the world). As Reconstructionists, we view Judaism as an evolving religious civilization and claim a shared heritage with all Jews. Our synagogue is governed by an elected board of directors:

Marc Lamm, President
Sandra Levine, Treasurer and Finance Co-Chair
Helen Romanishan, Secretary
Celia Gershenson, Member At-Large
Larry Gravitz, Member At-Large
Jeremy Fisher, President Emeritus
Sharon Stiefel, Rabbi
Dana Fox, Congregational Administrator
Committee Chairs: Ken Granle, Tikkun Olam
Isaac Kaufman, Membership;
Barbara Nordstrom-Loeb, Ritual
Dana Fox, Finance Co-Chair
Patty Diamond, Youth Programs

Need information about Mayim Rabim?
Want to know times and places of events?

Website: www.mayimrabim.org

Email: office@mayimrabim.org

Phone: 612-247-5490

Unless otherwise noted, events are held at the
Friends Meeting House,

4401 York Ave. S, Minneapolis

Mailing Address:

2751 Hennepin Ave. S, #236, Mpls, MN 55408



The Current is a monthly newsletter of Mayim Rabim
Congregation. Submission deadline is the 15th of each month
for the month following.

Submit to Elaine Frankowski at:
elaine.frankowski@gmail.com

Editor: Elaine Frankowski
Production: David Liss