



RABBINICAL ASSEMBLY

הנה מה טוב – *Hinei Mah Tov: Finding Blessings In Challenging Times*



Israel Convention Participants at Kotel

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FROM JACOB AND JAY

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Dear Colleagues and Friends,

As of this writing, forty-eight hostages remain in Gaza. Tragically, almost two years after the events of October 7, we have still not reached October 8. Our Israeli colleagues, families, and communities have endured trauma and hardship as the war has raged on. Our communities throughout the world face increased and often violent antisemitism. In so many locales, we see a rise in political polarization and threats to democratic norms and institutions. And as rabbis, the need for our Torah, pastoral presence, and leadership has never been greater. In every corner of the globe, our work is crucial, challenging, and exhausting.

And yet, we have titled this annual report, **הנה מה טוב ומה נעים**.

Even in times of great personal and communal struggle, our challenge as rabbis is to find – or even create – blessings. Indeed, this past year our RA has achieved a great deal as we have sought to bring our colleagues together, find mutual support, and provide resources to help us serve our communities.

- Over 200 colleagues gathered for a moving and inspiring convention in Israel
- Hundreds of colleagues have participated in webinars, communities of practice, and affinity groups to learn Torah, train in new skills, and support one another
- Over 40 volunteers have reached out to almost 200 colleagues who are experiencing personal loss or life challenges
- Our joint Masorti campaign raised almost \$150,000 to support our colleagues in Israel and other communities outside North America, we developed a new fund to celebrate and support our women colleagues, and completed the sponsorship of our new *Lev Shalem Siddur for Weekdays*
- We assisted hundreds of colleagues with personal and career counseling along with support in the job search process
- We implemented our new Code of Conduct and strengthened our *Vaad Hakavod* procedures
- We served as a key partner in our Movement's success in the World Zionist Congress elections, nearly doubling our vote in the US alone

We are grateful to our Executive Council, the hundreds of colleagues who serve on committees, and our dedicated staff who make it all possible. And we thank each of you for strengthening our bonds with one another, being a part of our organization, and for the many ways you support Our RA.

May the blessings you helped create this past year move us toward a world that is more just, secure, democratic, and peaceful going forward.

Warmly,
Rabbi Jay Kornsgold, RA President
Rabbi Jacob Blumenthal, RA/USCJ CEO



OUR RA BY THE NUMBERS

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Our Global Membership

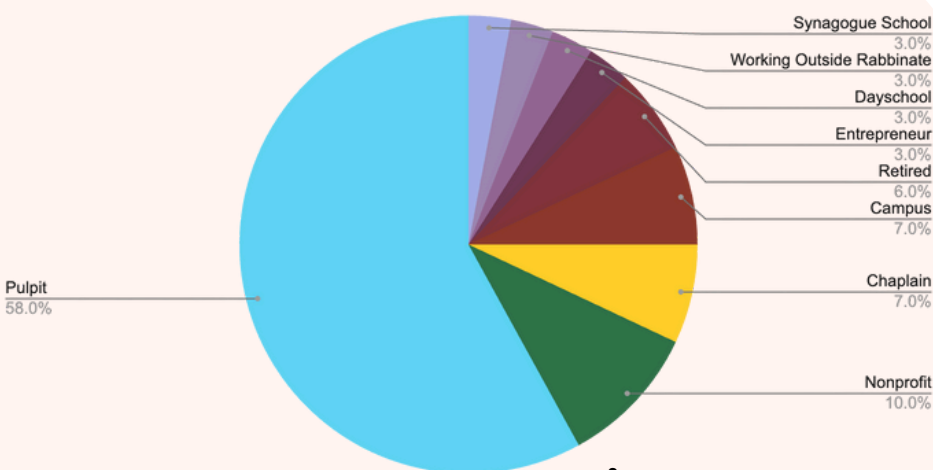
Our global membership includes **over 1600 colleagues**. They serve across **26 countries*** and are alumni of **more than 15 seminaries** around the world.



Gender Representation

1174 men, **372** women, **9** nonbinary colleagues.**

*Pins indicate countries. **Based on 1555 respondents



*Based on 1137 respondents

Diverse Careers

Financial Insights*

Total Annual Budget: \$3,766,013

Dues Collected: \$1,492,390

Fundraising: \$145,618 raised through various campaigns

Total Grants Received: \$350,881

Bequest: \$5M+ over 5 years pledged for Public Policy Center and Movement building

*Unaudited numbers

Programs & Events

Hosted **over 350 gatherings** for colleagues worldwide and online, ranging from conventions and *kallot* to practical *halakhic* training and career services. **This is a 36% increase from FY2024.**

Career Advancements

Mazal tov to 56 colleagues who took on new roles in FY2025:

38 pulpit; **5** at nonprofits; **4** on campus; **1** at day school; **4** chaplains; **2** at synagogue school; **2** at synagogue school & pulpit

Community Engagement

- **25+ Committees:** driving organizational initiatives and community efforts, powered by 200+ members
- **14 Affinity Groups and Communities of Practice:**
 - 11 Affinity Groups
 - 3 Communities of Practice
- **13 Learning Cohorts**
- **3 Active Listservs:** RA Connections, Women's Network, *Rav Dibbur*, fostering communication and collaboration among members

Sharing Our Torah

8 teshuvot and opinions published by the Committee on Jewish Law and Standards (CJLS).

Over **17K followers** on Facebook and Instagram.

163 articles published by Exploring Judaism (EJ), **61** authored by RA members.

EJ had **190,908 users** and **359,476 views** constituting a **10% growth** from FY2024.

And **we completed the Siddur Lev Shalem for Weekdays**, which will begin shipping in late 2025.



THE BIGGEST HUG: 4 RA ISRAEL CONVENTION

“During a time when many visitors from abroad were canceling their trips due to the ongoing war, the decision to hold the RA Convention in Israel was incredibly meaningful for our Israeli members. The chance for Israeli members to strengthen our hevruta with our colleagues from abroad, to share our experiences during the war, receive comfort and strength, and to stand together in prayer for the return of our hostages was a powerful example of the strength of Our RA during the darkest times.

– Rabbi Ma’ayan Belding-Zidon, Director of our RA in Israel; the Director of the Religious Services Bureau at the Masorti Movement in Israel Rishon LeZion, Israel

Bridging Dreams & Reality

The 2024 Israel Convention: Bridging Dreams & Reality was the largest gathering of our global RA. Built in close collaboration with our Israeli colleagues, it responded to what they needed most—space to be supported and to share their own strength.

Together, we engaged in innovative professional development, uncovered fresh approaches to Israel education and advocacy, and connected with new partners to strengthen our work worldwide. We also learned from our Israeli colleagues who have been at the forefront of spiritual leadership since the horrors of October 7th, the hostage crisis, and the war.

One of the most powerful parts of the week was simply being together—colleagues embracing after years apart or meeting for the first time, in a spirit of care and solidarity. In a difficult year for Israel and the Jewish people, the convention reminded us that we are truly each other's *hizzuk*.

We are especially thankful to the co-chairs, Rabbis Amirit Rosen (Jerusalem, Israel) and Jeffrey Arnowitz (Westchester, NY), for designing this moving Convention!

LET'S GET TOGETHER

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“The opportunity to be together with colleagues, reflecting on the joys and challenges of our own particular work settings and the big issues facing the Conservative/Masorti Movement in general is a gift - I always come back from RA meetings feeling strengthened, inspired, and better equipped to do my job.”

– Rabbi Annie Tucker, RA Financial Secretary, White Plains, NY

This year, we expanded opportunities for colleagues to gather in person—fostering the professional connections that help us thrive in our sacred work and nurturing friendships that last a lifetime.

In Israel, the *Post-Haggim Kallah* brought rabbis from across the country together to reconnect, reflect, and restore after a profoundly difficult year. Across Latin America, colleagues convened for *hevreschaft*, *limmud*, and to share their regional perspectives. While in Europe, the *Kallah* in Nice reflected a region growing in strength, vision, and collaboration.

This year, the Rabbinic Training Institute (RTI) was reimagined as a partnership between our RA and JTS. A new Family Systems Track Intensive offered colleagues strategies to examine the dynamics within our own families and the diverse communities we serve. From our Small Congregations Conference in Chicago to the NJ Regional Retreat, each gathering offered opportunities to strengthen our unique rabbimates and renewed our shared sense of purpose.

Members at LARA Kallah





NOURISHING YOUR CAREER 6

The "Brother Rabbis Support Group" has been extremely valuable. There is the value of being gathered into a peer group for discussion, which would not have happened independently of the invitation of our RA. There is the value of it being a facilitated group, and having a facilitator who is also a member of the group has allowed for a deeper experience. There is the value of stability of membership, which creates an environment of trust that allows for deeper sharing and processing.

—Rabbi David Cantor, Savannah, Georgia

This year, we strengthened our professional support network with new initiatives designed to meet the evolving needs of our colleagues. In partnership with USCJ, we launched the Partnership for Congregational Rabbinic Search (PCRS), transforming the former Joint Placement Commission into a truly collaborative framework with equal representation from both organizations—including lay leaders, staff, and deans from each North American seminary.

We also expanded opportunities for targeted professional learning. Our Lifecycle Refresher: The Role of the Rabbi in *Gittin* offered a comprehensive review—from initiating the *gittin* process to navigating sensitive challenges—ensuring colleagues remain equipped for this essential pastoral responsibility. Our Ethics Series focused on best practices for rabbis to ensure that safety and respect are at the cornerstone of all environments where rabbis and their communities interact.

To deepen peer-to-peer learning, we introduced a new model of facilitated Learning Cohorts, fostering small-group connection, skill-building, and the sharing of lived experiences. These cohorts now complement our ongoing professional development series and regular *limmud* offerings.

BUILDING OUR RA TOGETHER

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I have a home where my Torah is heard, a home for kindness and Tzedakah. We are part of a long and unbroken chain of history, each of us adding a new layer to Judaism's rich and enduring tradition. For the past forty years, women rabbis have brought their wisdom into this home—our Rabbinical Assembly.

—Rabbi Nathalie Lastreger, President of our RA in Israel, Kfar Vradim, Israel

40 Years of Women in our RA

This year marked a historic milestone for our RA: forty years since the ordination of women to the Conservative/Masorti rabbinate. This change—brought about through the leadership of our women colleagues and their peers—has reshaped not only our organization but the Jewish world. In celebration, we launched the Women Rabbis as Change Agents series, exploring how these trailblazers have transformed Jewish life and continue to inspire the next generation.

Co-Creating a Model 21st-Century Organization

Together with professional staff and experts, member volunteers also led major updates to our bylaws and Code of Conduct—crucial steps in co-creating a model 21st-century organization.

At its heart, our RA is a place where every member's voice helps shape who we are and who we become. We are grateful to the many colleagues who devoted countless hours, ideas, and energy to strengthening our collective work.



Celebrating 40 Years of Women in our RA

LEADING TOGETHER

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“We have the deep satisfaction of serving the Jewish people by strengthening the people who lead from the perches we occupy. No one knows us like us. And no one knows Jews quite the way we do.”

—Rabbi Jack Moline, Boca Raton, FL

This year, our RA has stood firm in its commitment to support the Conservative/Masorti Movement and the Jewish people. Our RA has advocated for the Jewish people with world leaders from former President Biden to Prime Minister Netanyahu. In these critical conversations, we represent the centrist Zionist voice and advocate for the protection and future of our people.

Our RA took the lead in get-out-the-vote efforts for global MERCAZ campaigns. In the recent US World Zionist Congress elections, MERCAZ secured nearly 28,000 votes—almost double our 2020 total—positioning the Conservative/Masorti Movement to expand our representation for the first time in decades.

Housed at our RA, our Movement’s Social Justice Commission expanded its work across our Movement: supporting new cohorts in the Jewish Climate Leadership Coalition, launching resources for food justice and ethical dining, and building multifaith and multiracial partnerships through learning trips and coalition work. We also inaugurated *Ruchot*, a community organizing and advocacy seminar for high school students, co-sponsored by our RA, USY, USCJ, Ramah, and JTS. *Ruchot* continues in February 2026.



Rabbi Ashira Konigsburg, RA COO, meets with Israel's President Isaac Herzog, Conference of Presidents Mission



SHARING OUR TORAH

This year, we expanded the reach of our Torah among colleagues and the wider Jewish world. We transitioned to the new RA bookstore, making our publications easier to find and more accessible—on average, sales of each publication rose by 60%.

Mahzor Lev Shalem sales climbed nearly 50%, and large-print editions reached wider audiences. New mitzvah products like Exploring Judaism's *Omer Counter* sold out its 2,500-copy run in just two weeks. Another highlight is the completion and forthcoming release of *Siddur Lev Shalem for Weekdays*, which will begin shipping after Sukkot 5786.

Alongside *Siddur Lev Shalem for Weekdays*, we invested in cultivating future voices of the rabbinate. The Exploring Judaism Writers Fellowship brought together six rabbinical students for a six-month stipended program, helping them develop their professional spiritual voice, expand their writing portfolios, and share their Torah with a broad audience.