

WE ARE...



THE REFORM TEMPLE OF FOREST HILLS

Your involvement makes our community stronger and gives you the opportunity to share in the energy of our Temple family!

— Diane Levy, President

WINTER 2018

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With so many exciting happenings at the Reform Temple of Forest Hills and the many new faces in our Temple family, we hope that both new and longstanding members will enjoy learning more about our dynamic and welcoming community.

—The Clergy, Executive Committee, and Board of Trustees of
The Reform Temple of Forest Hills



Dear RTFH Family,

In Torah study, we have been studying the long section describing the building of the tabernacle in the wilderness. For a book that is light on description, the Torah dives into deep specifics including the need for “fine twisted linen, of blue, purple, and crimson yards” (Exodus 26:1). Such vivid and varied images reflect on our synagogue too. We are a diverse, vibrant congregation with different interests, but with a joint desire to celebrate the rich tapestry of Judaism and our community.

New initiatives are continuously being developed to reflect who we all are. Meanwhile, the familiar is being reassessed for new generations and needs.

Many people joined us for our meaningful High Holy Days, but so much more happens all year long. In recent months, we had Pizza Under the Hut for Sukkot, unrolled and danced with the Torah on Simchat Torah, and experienced joyous Shabbat Reshon and Shabbat Unplugged – not the services you grew up with. We study Torah every Saturday morning and hold many other educational sessions, including those with our Men’s Study and Women’s Connection. RTFH hosted the larger Forest Hills community for an interfaith Thanksgiving service and held a special Martin Luther King service. We had spiritual yoga and a Rosh Hashanah meditation service, were visited by Elvis (yours truly) at Chanukah Rocks!, collected and distributed food and clothing to those in need, reached out for pastoral and personal support, smiled, laughed, cried, and built a stronger community.

If you missed some of this, just wait for what’s ahead. In the coming months, look for Cantor’s Gala benefit concert, *Broadway to Jerusalem*, celebrating Israel’s 70th birthday; a day of doing Mitzvot; 21 teens becoming B’nai Mitzvah and 13 adults celebrating an adult B’nai Mitzvah; a “Beastly” Purim; a Pet Blessing; and much more!

Come by and be part of the splendor of our tapestry by helping weave together our community full of brightness and love.

L’shalom,
Rabbi Mark Kaiserman

**To make it happen – for the ideas, for the planning, for the attendance –
all we need is you, the bright colors of our congregation.**

OUR MUSICAL *RUACH* (SPIRIT)

Our congregation connects deeply to each other and Judaism through music and communal singing. We even dance together in the aisles!

- **Adult Choir** – 21 singers strong – elevates our worship
- **Junior Choir** – 33 singers and growing – lifts our congregants' spirits
- Our **musical accompaniment** enhances traditional and new melodies and compositions
 - a flutist and pianist at every Friday night Shabbat service
 - guest musicians and artists
 - a full band—made possible by our generous sponsors—at special services such as *Shabbat Unplugged* and *Shabbat Shira*
- **Joyful holiday events**, including *Simchat Torah*, the *Purim Spiel*, and our *Chanukah Rocks!* concert
- **Music for all ages** from Temple Tots, to Bar/Bat Mitzvah preparation, to adult-ed Torah chanting
- **You** – sharing your voice and *ruach* with our Temple community

Together our voices reach *L'eylah U'l'eylah*, higher and higher.
— Cantor Deborah

THE REFORM TEMPLE OF FOREST HILLS
PROUDLY PRESENTS
CANTOR DEBORAH JACOBSON IN
BROADWAY
— TO —
JERUSALEM
A MUSICAL JOURNEY

SAVE THE DATE
SATURDAY, MAY 5TH, 2018



FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

Religious School. Nearly 150 smiling children come through our doors each week to learn about Judaism and themselves.

We offer:

- Basic Jewish education, including Hebrew, history, liturgy, ethics, and the holidays
- Whole school *Tefilah* (prayer)
- Enrichment through library, computer lab, and music
- Unique, hands-on learning through Project 613, a digital badging system (similar to Boy/Girl Scouts badges) which helps foster Jewish identity and connections between everyday actions and Jewish culture and customs

The **Parents' Association** supports our programming—financially and with volunteers—throughout the school year. You can join the Parents' Association directly on our website; it's an ideal way to help our Religious School and become involved!

Temple Tots. Member and non-member families with children under age 5 gather together Shabbat morning once a month to share Jewish songs, prayers, story time, snacks and other fun! Check our website for new session dates and to register.

ToFHY (Temple of Forest Hills Youth) high school program builds our teens' leadership and Jewish knowledge. A youth adviser and a student board work together to create engaging educational, recreational, and religious programming.

SHABBAT RESHON

6: 15 p.m. **Family-friendly Shabbat services**
The first Friday of each month
(check our calendar)

6: 00 p.m. **"Pre-Neg" (Pre-Oneg)**
Snacks and socializing

7:15 p.m. **Shabbat dinner**
Food, conversation, and fun!

Kindly register in advance in Chaverweb on our website to reserve your spot.

FOR ADULTS AND SENIORS

Women's Connection engages in intergenerational educational, recreational, and spiritual activities; doing mitzvot; and fundraising. Join and build community with women of all ages!

The **Social Action Team** plans activities and initiatives in the service of *Tikkun Olam* or repairing our world. Make a difference on Mitzvah Day 2018 on Sunday, March 18th!

MITZVAH DAY 2018 - MARCH 18TH

By the Numbers

- 30 pints of blood donated
- 100 bags of food donated
- 5 engaging speakers
- 6 dozen bagels to get us going
- 150 sandwiches served
- 15 wonderful volunteer team leaders
- 8 on-site activities for kids and adults
- Countless happy senior citizens at the Forest View and Fairway Centers and smiling patients at Ronald McDonald House
- Dozens of volunteers!

Register via Chaverweb on our website and help us reach our numbers!

DOLLARS AND SENSE

Dues and donations are critical to our ability to provide all the programming that makes RTFH such a warm and welcoming Jewish community.

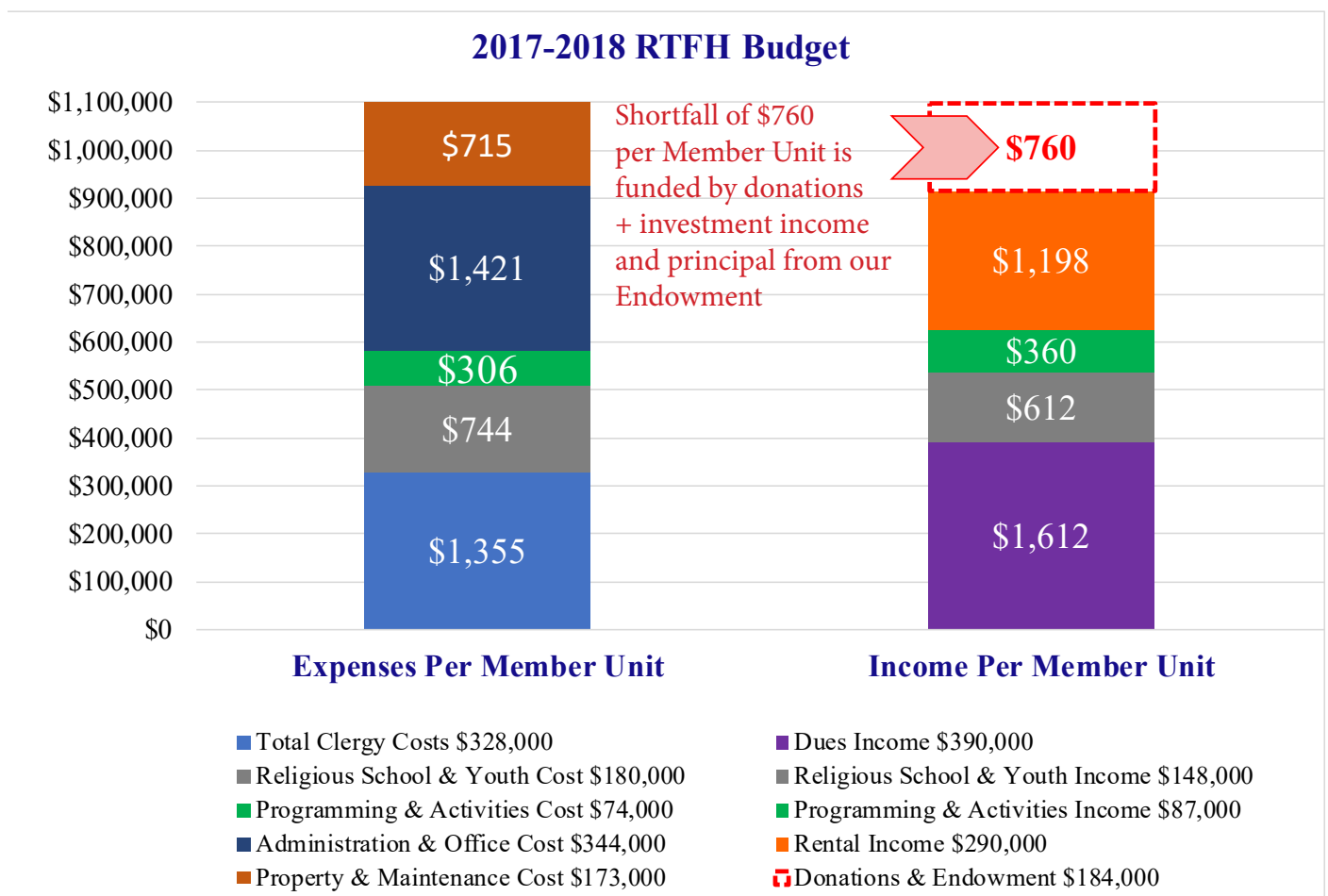
We recognize that dues represent a significant expense for many of our members, and we try to do everything we can to control our costs, while still funding everything that makes our Temple great. We hope that the following provides a better understanding of what it costs us to do so.

Our total annual costs are about \$1,100,000, or \$4,550 per each of our 242 Member Units. 75% of our budget is the cost of our staff (clergy, administrative, religious school, maintenance). Thankfully, we are able to rent our classroom wing to the NYC Department of Education, which covers a little under 25% of our costs, and we have an endowment of over \$1,000,000 to help cover emergencies (such as building repairs) and annual shortfalls.

As the chart below shows, dues plus religious school fees cover less than 50% of the total costs of operating the Temple. Even after income from rentals and programming, we face an annual shortfall of \$760 per Member Unit. That is why the Kol Nidre appeal and our other fundraising activities are so important to us.

We are excited to have a team currently evaluating both our dues structure and our financial assistance process to better reflect our inclusive and open community and to enable young families to join.

Thank you for your support,
Lior Evan, Treasurer



OUR SPIRITUAL LEADERS

Rabbi Mark Kaiserman
(rabbikaiserman@rtfh.org)

Cantor Deborah Jacobson
(cantorjacobson@rtfh.org)

OUR FULL TIME STAFF

Faye Gilman – Education Director (Edleader@rtfh.org)
Allan Hoberman – Director of Operations & Finance (Allan@rtfh.org)
Alvin Calo – Director of Programming & Membership (Alvin@rtfh.org)
Andy Castro – Head Custodian (Andy@rtfh.org)
Juan Hernandez – Custodial Staff

OUR TEAMS

Standing Committees

Executive: The annually elected officers: President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer (Executive@rtfh.org)
Finance: Responsible for the finances of the Temple (Finance@rtfh.org)
House: Responsible for oversight of our building (House@rtfh.org)
Nominating: Seeks and evaluates Officer and Board of Trustee candidates (Nominating@rtfh.org)
Religious Practices: Collaborates with Rabbi and Cantor on our rituals and other religious practices (Religiouspractices@rtfh.org)
Religious School: Oversees our religious school, along with our Educational Leader (Religiousschool@rtfh.org)
Social Action: Spearheads our community and charitable activities (Socialaction@rtfh.org)

Other Teams/Groups

Choirs: Both adult and junior choirs sing at many services and events (Cantor@rtfh.org)
Grants: Works on obtaining grants and other external funding for the Temple (Grants@rtfh.org)
Greeters: Organizes and provides our greeting and ushering for services and other events at Temple (Greeters@rtfh.org)
Marketing/Social Media: Manages our website and social media presence and develop other marketing materials (Marketing@rtfh.org)
Membership: Engages and welcomes prospective and new members (Membership@rtfh.org)
Parents' Association: Supports the Religious School and Temple youth activities and celebrations, and organizes Shabbat Reshon family dinners (PA@rtfh.org)
Technology: Assists with all technology matters for the Temple (Technology@rtfh.org)
Temple Tots: Runs our Temple Tots program for members and non-members with children under 5 years old (Templetots@rtfh.org)
ToFHY: Youth group for our members in grades 8 to 12 (Tofhy@rtfh.org)
Website: Oversees the website (Webmaster@rtfh.org)
Women's Connection: Sponsors many intergenerational educational, recreational, and spiritual activities and fundraising efforts, as well as oversees the onegs (Womensconnection@rtfh.org)

OUR BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Diane Levy – President
Neil Rosenblatt – Vice President
Lior Evan – Treasurer
Jerry Strauss – Secretary
Gina Drangel
Marc Fernandes
Liz Fisher
Steve Gropper
Judy Hendelman

Perry Kaplan
Andrew Kimler
Jeffrey Lebowitz
Fred Pagan
Marcia Parness
Jane Pinkett
Phyllis Rosenberg
Jim Strauss
Susannah Gilbard Zweighaft

FOLLOW US ON FACEBOOK

 [Facebook.com/rtfhny](https://www.facebook.com/rtfhny)

The Reform Temple of Forest Hills
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Forest Hills, NY 11375
718-261-2900
Rtfh.org

Visit our Online Member Directory on Chaverweb: <http://rtfh.org/members-only/temple-directory>