



EDUCATOR SEARCH APPLICATION

RETURN ORIGINAL TO:
(Preferably by E-mail)
Rabbi Stan Schickler, RJE
Association of Reform Jewish Educators
633 Third Avenue
New York, NY 10017-6778
212-452-6510 sschickler@reformeducators.org

| | | | |
|---|---------------------------|---------------------------------------|------------------|
| CONGREGATION/ INSTITUTION | Westchester Reform Temple | DATE OF APPLICATION | 12/25/15 |
| STREET ADDRESS | 255 Mamaroneck Road | | |
| CITY, STATE/PROVINCE, ZIP CODE/POSTAL ZONE | Scarsdale, NY 10583 | | |
| TELEPHONE NUMBER | 914-723-7727 | FAX | 914-723-5946 |
| E-MAIL | rabbiblake@gmail.com | WEBSITE | www.wrtemple.org |
| URJ DISTRICT | n/a | DATE POSITION IS AVAILABLE | 7/1/16 |
| POSITION TITLE | <i>Rosh Beit Midrash</i> | FULL or PART- TIME | Full Time |

X Director of Lifelong Jewish Learning (DoLJL) or Director of Lifelong Learning (DoLL)—Responsible for oversight of virtually all education in the congregation; supervises all education and educational administration personnel

When a congregation seeks to hire a DoLJL or DoLL, it should consider how the position will be appropriately supported with additional educational *and* administrative staff, all of whom would be supervised by the DoLJL or DoLL

X Director of Congregational Learning (DoCE)—Serves in an oversight capacity of the congregational school and has other congregational education responsibilities (which may or may not include supervision in the area[s] of youth programming, adult education, early childhood, and / or other areas of education)

When a congregation seeks to hire a DoCE, it should consider how the position will be appropriately supported with additional educational *and* administrative staff, such as an Assistant Director of Congregational Education, all of whom would be supervised by the DoCE.

Religious School Director (RSD)—Primary responsibility is direction of the religious school

Assistant Religious School Director—May be hired to provide additional educational support to the Religious School Director

School Administrator—Primarily responsible for administration of the school and perhaps some educational responsibilities

PLEASE INCLUDE A JOB DESCRIPTION WITH THIS APPLICATION

- > We envision the new position of Educator as *Rosh Beit Midrash* for Westchester Reform Temple. Six years ago we dedicated a beautiful new Beit Midrash on our synagogue campus as a center for lifelong Jewish learning. Our intention is to bring aboard the leadership team of WRT the senior educational professional who will bring a passion for Jewish education, clarity of vision, and excellent management skills to direct our religious school program and its staff.
- > The *Rosh Beit Midrash* will work closely with the senior staff and lay leadership involved in a 2+ - year Strategic Vision process (already under way, initiated June 2015) to bring a new model of Religious School education from vision to reality at WRT.
- > S/he will build relationships with teachers, parents, and students. We seek a candidate who is effusive, earnest, and personable, who loves interacting directly with children and who also can relate to, and earn the trust of, our parents, families, and community.
- > S/he will oversee the ongoing management and long-range planning for the *Beit Midrash*, and work with professional and lay leadership to ensure its vitality.
- > S/he will directly report to the Senior Rabbi of the congregation (Rabbi Jonathan Blake), and will meet regularly with the Associate Rabbi/Director of Youth Engagement, Rabbi David Levy, who currently directs our teen program (Grades 7-12). Work at WRT is fundamentally collaborative and it is important for our *Rosh Beit Midrash* to be both a leader and a team player, seeing his/her work as an instrumental function of a thriving and pacesetting synagogue, and invested in the total wellbeing of the congregation.
- > S/he will partner with the rabbis of the congregation in aligning the vision and priorities of the lower grades (1-6) of the Beit Midrash with the 7th Grade, Mercaz (grades 8-12), and Adult Education programs of WRT.
- > **NB:** Our Associate Rabbi David Levy presently directs our 7th Grade & Mercaz programs and Senior Rabbi Jonathan Blake oversees Adult Education. It is possible, in conversation with our new *Rosh Beit Midrash*, that one or both of these portfolios will shift over to the *Rosh Beit Midrash* in time, but not on “day one.” We are eager to speak with candidates about the possibilities that may evolve for our *Rosh Beit Midrash*. This note explains why we have checked three boxes above: “Director of Lifelong Jewish Learning,” “Director of Congregational Learning,” and “Religious School Director.”
- > S/he will evaluate, and, if deemed necessary, work with the senior staff and lay leadership to hire subordinate educational and administrative staff to support the Educator’s work.
- > S/he will supervise *Beit Midrash* teachers in Grades 1-6 and oversee their hiring, training, and accountability for success in the classroom and in working closely with our families.
- > S/he will oversee all supplemental and family educational programming for Grades 1-6.
- > S/he will provide adult education as a teacher and inspire a love of Judaism in congregants of all ages.
- > Working closely with Adjunct Associate Cantor Mia F. Davidson, s/he will oversee all education-related work for WRT’s lauded Sharing Shabbat program.

- > S/he will oversee all worship experiences in the lower grades of the Beit Midrash and collaborate with the clergy team to lead services for children and families
- > S/he will work with WRT's Educational and Administrative staff and key lay leaders to develop a balanced budget for the *Beit Midrash* that will be submitted to the Board of Trustees for approval.
- > Given his/her interest, experience, and ability, we are open to our *Rosh Beit Midrash* periodically augmenting the clergy team in providing support as needed on the *bimah*, in membership engagement, outreach to the unaffiliated, attending to our families' pastoral needs, and serving as the professional liaison to lay-chaired task forces (at the discretion of the senior rabbi).
- > S/he will supervise and serve as a resource to the Director of WRT's Early Childhood Center.
- > Given his/her interest, experience, and ability, the *Rosh Beit Midrash* will partner with the clergy team in discussing and possibly sharing selected pulpit responsibilities and developing a shared outlook for worship and spiritual expression at WRT.
- > It is important for our *Rosh Beit Midrash* candidates to know that although a requisite amount of careful and crucial administrative detail and oversight is required, support staff--both current and forthcoming--will ensure that the educator can focus more energy on the creative work and cultivation of top-notch teaching in the school.

I. DEMOGRAPHICS

| | TOTAL NUMBER OF FAMILY UNITS | # OF FAMILIES WITH CHILDREN IN THE RELIGIOUS SCHOOL | TOTAL # OF STUDENTS IN THE RELIGIOUS SCHOOL | AVERAGE # OF ANNUAL B'NAI MITZVAH |
|------------------------------------|------------------------------|---|---|-----------------------------------|
| THIS YEAR | 1173 | 397 | 650 | 100 |
| FIVE YEARS AGO | 1184 | 400+ | 700 | 100 |
| FUTURE DEMOGRAPHIC PROJECTIONS ARE | | Similar | | |

NUMBER OF STUDENTS ENROLLED BY GRADE

| PreK | K | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 |
|------------------|----|----|----|----|----|-----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| | 23 | 21 | 39 | 86 | 85 | 102 | 87 | 94 | 37 | 19 | 40 | 12 | 5 |
| OTHER (specify): | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

| | | | | | |
|------------------|------|------------------|----|-----------------|-------------------|
| DAY CARE | None | PARENTS' DAY OUT | no | EARLY CHILDHOOD | Yes, 160 students |
| OTHER (specify): | | | | | |

| | | | | | |
|---|---|-----------------------------|--|------------------------------|-----|
| HEBREW BEGINS IN GRADE | 3 | AND CONTINUES THROUGH GRADE | 7 | CONFIRMATION BEGINS IN GRADE | 10 |
| ADULT PROGRAMMING | We have an extensive adult education program, featuring parallel learning programs for adults and children to learn together. | | | JEWISH PARENTING PROGRAMMING | Yes |
| CAMPS (URJ REGIONAL AND CONGREGATIONAL) | | | We work in partnership with URJ Eisner, Crane Lake, and SciTech Camps. | | |

II. DAYS AND TIMES OF CLASSES

| RELIGIOUS SCHOOL | HEBREW SCHOOL | CONFIRMATION | P O S T - CONFIRMATION |
|---|--------------------------|---|---|
| Our school meets every weekday after school except Friday (except for special Friday afternoon/evening programming), as well as Saturday and Sunday mornings. | (See "Religious School") | Confirmation meets every Wednesday as part of Mercaz (post-B'nei Mitzvah experiential learning), with dinner 6:30 - 7:00 and class 7:00 - 8:30, as well as regular Sunday daytime activities. | 1 Sunday/month; 11:30-1 pm & 1 Wednesday a month from 6:30-8:30 |
| W E E K D A Y E A R L Y CHILDHOOD | DAY CARE | PARENTING/FAMILY PROGRAMMING | PARENTS' DAY OUT |
| M-F 2's 9:15 am - 11:15 am M-F 3's/4's 9 am -12 pm M-F Afternoon Enrichment for 3's & 4's 12 pm - 2:30 pm | n/a | Periodic / varied. | n/a |

| | |
|-------------------------|---|
| CAMP(CONGREGATION ONLY) | We have an Early Childhood Day Camp during the summer (ages 2-5). |
| OTHER (specify) | |

III. PROFESSIONAL STAFF

Even if they will not be associated with the congregation next year, **please list the names of all current professional staff members**. Indicate if their position is full-time or part-time and their years of service with the congregation. Additional lines are provided for other staff positions, if applicable.

| | NAME | FULL or PART-TIME | YEARS SERVED |
|---|---|-------------------|--|
| SENIOR RABBI | Jonathan E. Blake | Full | 2003-2011 (Associate); 2011-Present (Senior) |
| ASSOCIATE RABBI | David E. Levy | Full | 2012-2015 (Assistant); 2015 - present (Associate) |
| ASSISTANT RABBI | Sara Abrams | Full | 2013 - |
| SENIOR CANTOR | Jill Abramson | Full | 2007 - |
| ASSISTANT CANTOR | Amanda Kleinman | Full | 2015 - (formerly intern) |
| ADJUNCT ASSOCIATE CANTOR | Mia Davidson | Full | 2006 - |
| EDUCATOR | Sorel G. Loeb | Full | 1994 - |
| Executive Director | Eli Kornreich | Full | 2015 - |
| Facilities Manager | Tim Wagner | Full | 2014 - |
| Early Childhood Director | Sue Tolchin | Full | 2004 - |
| Rabbinical Intern | Eliana Fischel | Part | 2015 - |
| Pastoral Care Coordinator & Executive Assistant to Senior Rabbi | Amy Rossberg | Full | 2002 - |
| Religious School Administrator | Carolyn Cleary | Full | 2001 - |
| Administrative Assistants | Suzanne Saperstein (F), Rachel Crouch (F), Lee Furman (P), Laura Kapnick (P), Ellen Rosenberg (F) | | SS: 2007 - RC: 2014 - LF: 2010 - LK: 2010 - ER: 2012 - |
| Graphics/Publicity | Hillary Fontana | Full | 2003 - |
| Accounting Staff | Karen Arnone, Linda Zarra | Full | 2010 - |
| Special Needs Coordinator | Nancy Abraham | Full | 2009 - |
| Shaliach | Ori Zeevi | Full | 2015 - |
| Other | 4 full-time custodians + security staff + Religious School faculty | | Varied |

Does the professional staff undergo a regular performance review process ? How often ? Please include a description of this process, especially as it applies to the educator.

Under the leadership of our new Executive Director, Eli Kornreich, WRT is in the process of evaluating its staff management processes, including performance reviews of all employees. The Educator will be evaluated principally by the Senior Rabbi and Temple President on an ongoing basis, with reviews performed at least twice annually (and possibly more frequently). Input from congregants and other senior professionals will be considered as part of the data used in the review. WRT thrives on covenantal partnership--among staff members and between staff and congregation. We will therefore work closely with the Educator to develop mutually agreed-upon expectations, hopes, and measures of success by which evaluation can be determined and communicated effectively.

| SECRETARIES/ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANTS | | FULL or PART-TIME | YEARS SERVED |
|---------------------------------------|--|--|--------------------------|
| TO EDUCATOR(S) | | Carolyn Cleary, F (Office Manager); Rachel Crouch, F (Receptionist; Teen Programs Administrator) | CC: 2001 - RC: 2014 - |
| TO RABBI(S) | | Amy Rossberg (F), Suzanne Saperstein (F), Rachel Crouch (F) | AR: 2002 - SS: 2006 - |
| TO CANTOR(S) | | Suzanne Saperstein (F), Rachel Crouch (F) | |
| TO ADMINSTRATOR | | n/a | |

| NUMBER OF TEACHERS | | SPECIALISTS | |
|---|-------------|-----------------|---------------------------------------|
| COORDINATORS / DEPARTMENT HEADS | 6 | ART | Not dedicated, but periodically hired |
| PRIMARY | 9 | COMPUTER | 1 |
| INTERMEDIATE | 18 | DANCE | 1 |
| UPPER | 8 | DRAMA | n/a |
| BAR / BAT MITZVAH | 12 | HEBREW | 1 |
| HIGH SCHOOL / POST B'NEI MITZVAH | 8 | LEARNING CENTER | Yes |
| ARE THERE ANY FULL-TIME TEACHERS ? | No | LIBRARIAN | Yes (volunteer) |
| CUSTODIAL STAFF (specify full or part-time) | 4 Full time | | |

IV. FACILITIES

| | | | |
|-------------------------------------|---------------|-------------------------|------------------------|
| SANCTUARY | Yes | NUMBER OF CLASSROOMS | 16 |
| CHAPEL | Yes | ART ROOM | Not dedicated; modular |
| LIBRARY | Yes | MUSIC ROOM | Not dedicated; modular |
| SOCIAL HALL / AUDITORIUM | More than one | YOUTH LOUNGE | Yes |
| SANCTUARY / SOCIAL HALL COMBINATION | X | TEACHER RESOURCE CENTER | Yes |
| | | EDUCATOR'S OFFICE | Yes |
| | | COMPUTER ROOM | Modular (Laptop Cart) |
| | | STUDENT LEARNING CENTER | Flex Space |

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| OTHER (SPECIFY) | Our beautiful facility was comprehensively renovated/rebuilt in 2008-2009 to place the <i>Beit Midrash</i> at the heart of our campus, and to provide both the ECC and the Religious School with dedicated space. |
| IS THE EARLY CHILDHOOD FACILITY SHARED WITH RELIGIOUS SCHOOL ? | No |

| | | | | | | |
|--------------------------|------------------|------|---------------|------|--------------------|------|
| AGE of BUILDINGS: | SANCTUARY | 2008 | SCHOOL | 2009 | OFFICE AREA | 2009 |
|--------------------------|------------------|------|---------------|------|--------------------|------|

If there is a satellite facility, please describe it. Include size, distance from main facility, age, days/hours spent on that site, etc.

n/a

V. CONGREGATIONAL IDENTITY

| | | | |
|---|--|---|------|
| The Congregation / Institution was founded in | 1953 | and became a member of the URJ (UAHC) in | 1953 |
| The Shabbat prayer book used is | <i>Mishkan T'filah</i> | | |
| The High Holy Day <i>machzor</i> used is | <i>Mishkan HaNefesh</i> (to be introduced Fall 2016; draft-piloted since 2010) | | |
| Has the Religious School received ARJE Accreditation ? | n/a | If yes, in what year ? | |

What are the three primary goals of your congregation/institution?

(1) Comprehensively re-imagine Jewish education in the synagogue. We are presently undergoing a comprehensive Strategic Vision Initiative for Religious Education at WRT. Initiated in the spring of 2015 by Rabbi Blake, guided by our Consultant Rabbi Jan D. Katzew, Ph.D., Director of Service Learning at Hebrew Union College (Cincinnati), and supported by our current Director of Education Sorel G. Loeb (retiring, June 30, 2016), Associate Rabbi David Levy, Senior Cantor Jill Abramson and a team of lay volunteers and professional leaders, we are re-imagining our entire educational enterprise from cradle to grave.

WRT is already recognized as an innovator in education, having participated in the first cohort of the Experiment in Congregational Education (ECE). Our Saturday morning family-worship-and-education experience, Sharing Shabbat, has earned national recognition for its innovative and successful engagement of families.

We now have embarked on a venture to create a model of religious education that will meet the needs of a 21st-century, pacesetter Reform congregation and that rises to meet the current demands and opportunities facing the families in our community. Ours is a community that cares deeply about education, that expects excellence of its synagogue, and that is comprised of many people who are struggling to juggle the demands of a fast-paced, rapidly evolving period in American Jewish life. Our new senior educational staff, most especially the *Rosh Beit Midrash*, will be charged with continuing the development and especially the successful implementation of our Strategic Vision.

(2) Continue to innovate and lead the Reform Movement in fields beyond education: worship, pastoral care, member engagement, community outreach, social justice, Israel advocacy, and synagogue management.

(3) Respond to the changing American Jewish landscape by developing new and compelling ways to affiliate with our temple and connect with our mission.

What are the congregation's/institution's strengths?

>Passionate, engaged, and talented congregants comprised of many leaders in their respective fields<
>Long history of inspiring spiritual leadership and lay-professional collaboration and partnership<
>Award-winning, beautiful and environmentally conscious facility<
>Optimal location in a choice suburban village with excellent educational and community resources, proximate to NYC<
>Deep ties to the Reform Movement and its leadership<
>Regarded as a congregation on the vanguard of Jewish life in North America<
>Diverse and talented professional staff<

What are the strengths of your educational program?

>Commitment to innovation<
>Wide embrace of family programming and parental support for parallel adult/student learning<
>See above about our Strategic Vision process<
>Involvement of extensive and talented clergy and professionals<

What three qualities in your Educator are most important to the congregation/institution?

1. We seek a candidate who brings a creative and compelling vision for the future of Jewish education;
2. Who is intellectually engaged, passionate about Judaism, and masterful in communication;
3. And who is outgoing and personable, capable of instilling a love of Judaism in others.

The three most important priorities of the congregation/institution's Educator should be:

- > Work as a team player and senior partner with our Strategic Vision Task Force, Senior Rabbi, and other involved professional staff to develop and implement a new vision for education at WRT.
- > Develop relationships with WRT's households and inspire them to deepen their connection with the Beit Midrash and the synagogue.
- > Manage subordinate staff effectively; recruit excellent teachers; train faculty; and manage personnel challenges with wisdom and professionalism.

The single most important thing an Educator needs to know about the congregation/institution is:

>We are a spiritually restless, diverse, dynamic, and demanding congregation that strives always to transform the functional into the visionary.

The three most important issues facing the congregation/institution in the next five years will be:

>Comprehensively update our working practices and infrastructure to reflect the leading edge of synagogue management in staffing, technology, communications, and use of data< >Continue to bolster our financial health for the next generation< >Innovate in the areas of Education, Worship, and Community Engagement<

VI. INCUMBENT EDUCATOR

| | |
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| Has the current educator been informed that the congregation / institution is in placement ? | Yes |
| On what date will the current educator relinquish his/her position ? | 6/30/16 |

VII. COMMUNITY ATTRACTIONS

| | | | |
|--|--|-------------------------|-----------------------|
| General population of location | Approx. 1 million (Westchester County) | Total Jewish population | 136,000 (2011 survey) |
| JEWISH INSTITUTIONS IN AREA | 56 synagogues & too many other institutions to list! | | |
| JCC | Multiple | | |
| Federation | UJA-Federation of NY (Westchester Branch) | | |
| Jewish Family Service | WJCS (Westchester Jewish Community Services) | | |
| Central Jewish Education Agency | The Jewish Education Project | | |
| Jewish Day School (which grades) ? | 3 Day Schools in the area: Carmel Academy (http://www.carmelacademy.com/), Non Denominational; Solomon Schechter of Westchester (http://www.schechterwestchester.org/), Conservative (with some other denominational participation); and Westchester Day School (http://www.westchesterday.org/), Modern Orthodox. | | |
| Other | Multiple | | |
| Majority of members' children attend public school, private school, or Jewish day school ? | Public - Scarsdale School District | | |
| Colleges, universities and music conservatories in the area include | Pace, Manhattanville, Sarah Lawrence, SUNY-Purchase (Westchester); + NYC - NYU, Columbia-Barnard, Fordham, Manhattan, City College, Hunter, Yeshiva, JTS, HUC-JIR, Juilliard, many others | | |
| What cultural opportunities are available (e.g., symphony, opera, museum, theatre, sports, etc.) ? | Vast and diverse cultural opportunities of every kind, both in Westchester and in nearby New York City (15 miles from Scarsdale to Manhattan, 30-40 minutes by car or train) | | |

IX. REMUNERATION

INDICATE EITHER A SPECIFIC FIGURE OR A SPECIFIC RANGE. The “Proposed Salary” section should read, for example, “the salary range is \$60,000-\$70,000” or “the minimum salary base is \$60,000” or “the maximum salary is \$80,000.” **PLEASE DO NOT WRITE** “negotiable”, or “open,” or “not yet determined” with no numbers included. **Without this information, your position will not be included in the ARJE’s placement listings.** It is also highly recommended that you not list remuneration as a “package.”

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|--|---|
| PROPOSED SALARY or SALARY RANGE | The salary range is \$75,000 - \$150,000. We will provide a competitive salary commensurate with the candidate’s experience, skill, and cost of living for our area. |
| Percentage of pension (RPB) in addition to salary (15% recommended) | 15% |
| Length of original contract (two years recommended) | Our hope is that our educator will want to be part of our congregation and professional team for a minimum of 2 years, which could be extended upon mutual agreement if this turns out to be a successful and happy relationship, or shortened if not. (We hope it’s a fantastic relationship.) The length of tenure is subject to ongoing evaluation and mutual agreement among the assistant/associate, the senior rabbi, and the Board of Trustees. Our approach to employment at WRT is best described as covenantal rather than contractual. |

STANDARD BENEFITS FOR THE EDUCATOR, IN ADDITION TO SALARY

| | | | | | | | |
|--------------------------------|-----|------------------------|-----|---------------------------|-------------------|-----------------|--|
| Medical-Hospitalization | Yes | Moving Allowance | Yes | Books & Periodicals | Yes | Sabbatical | Sabbatical would be negotiated depending on length of tenure and evaluation. |
| Major Medical Insurance | Yes | Professional Dues | Yes | Congregational Membership | Yes, if WRT | Cell Phone | Yes |
| Dental Insurance | No | ARJE Conference | Yes | Religious School Tuition | Yes, for children | Laptop Computer | Yes |
| Long Term Disability Insurance | Yes | URJ Biennial | Yes | Early Childhood Tuition | Yes, for children | Israel Trips | Yes, upon discussion |
| | | Regional URJ Gathering | n/a | | | | |
| Other (please specify) | | | | | | | |

Social Security is required by Federal Law

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| Is this position being listed with any other professional placement service ? | Yes - CCAR and HUC-JIR (rabbi-educator) |
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| If "YES" please indicate which one and the title by which it is being listed | Rabbi Educator (Rabbi title not required for position of <i>Rosh Beit Midrash</i>) |
|--|---|

| In making this request to the ARJE PLACEMENT SERVICE, the congregation/institution agrees that it will | |
|--|---|
| A | In keeping with the high ideals of Reform Judaism, not exclude a candidate from consideration based on age, gender, sexual orientation or marital status; |
| B | Keep the ARJE Placement Service informed of ALL interviews and their outcomes; |
| C | Reimburse all travel and related expenses for an Educator invited for an interview; |
| D | Arrange the terms of its contract and/or letter of agreement with its Educator-Designate following the principles of the document entitled <i>GUIDELINE FOR EDUCATOR CONGREGATIONAL RELATIONSHIPS</i> ("The Blue Book"), as adopted and recommended May 1988 by the Board of Trustees of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations, the Central Conference of American Rabbis, and the National Association of Temple Educators; |
| E | On acceptance of the contract and/or letter of intent by both the congregation/institution and the Educator-Designate, forward a copy of the contract and/or letter of agreement for the files of the Placement Service, ALL files being confidential. |
| F | NOTIFY THE ARJE PLACEMENT OFFICE OF THE NAME OF THE EDUCATOR-DESIGNATE WHEN THE SEARCH IS FINALIZED. |

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| Name of person completing this form and position in congregation / institution | Rabbi Jonathan E. Blake |
| Signature | <i>Jonathan E. Blake</i> |

CHAIRPERSON OF THE EDUCATOR SEARCH COMMITTEE

| | | | |
|---|---------------------|-----------------|---------|
| NAME | Rabbi Sharon Forman | POSITION | Trustee |
| STREET ADDRESS | 20 Wallick Close | | |
| CITY, STATE/PROVINCE, ZIP CODE/POSTAL ZONE | Scarsdale, NY 10583 | | |
| TELEPHONE NUMBER | 914-583-5836 | FAX | |
| E-MAIL | somsgf@verizon.net | | |
| Resumes of applicants should be sent to the following persons e-mail address(es) (please include more than one e-mail address): Rabbi Sharon Forman (see above); WRT President Helene Gray (rhsgray@aol.com); Senior Rabbi Jonathan E. Blake (rabbiblake@gmail.com). | | | |

**IF THE CONGREGATION/INSTITUTION HAS A MISSION STATEMENT,
PLEASE ENCLOSE A COPY**

You can read our mission statement online: http://www.wrtemple.org/page/westchester_reform_temple_s_mission_statement

Capsule History of WRT

Established in 1953 at the initiative of eight far-sighted families who recognized the need for a new Reform temple to serve the growing Westchester community and provide a Jewish education for their children, WRT became a reality with 40 families joining together to make up the fledgling congregation.

At first, worship services were held at various religious and community facilities while a new and permanent home was being planned. In 1958, the first sanctuary was erected on the present site, together with a school and other facilities that served the congregation well over the years. With steady growth, both the congregation and its needs expanded.

Rabbi Emeritus Jack Stern (z"l), who served the temple for almost 30 years (1962-1991), played a critical role in developing the congregation as one of the most respected Jewish institutions in the country. This congregation has been and remains committed to involvement in national and international Jewish life. We also remain actively involved in the Union for Reform Judaism.

Rabbi Emeritus Richard J. Jacobs joined WRT in 1991. For 20 years, he served as a dynamic, visionary spiritual leader. During his time as senior rabbi, Rabbi Jacobs left an indelible mark on the congregation by dramatically reshaping worship and strengthening the community's commitment to making the congregation vibrant and inclusive. In partnership with WRT's lay leadership, he transformed the congregation into a community of lifelong learners as part of the first cohort of the Experiment in Congregational Education. Also under his leadership, WRT acquired and built a beautiful Center for Jewish Life (a satellite building on our campus) (1995), and completed a new "green" facility (2008-2009), making WRT one of only a handful of Jewish houses of worship in the nation to earn LEED certification. His commitments to social justice, a pluralistic vision of Zionism, and inclusion, developed from the pulpit of WRT, are now hallmarks of his leadership of the Reform Movement in his current role as President of the Union for Reform Judaism, to which post he was elected in 2011.

Following a comprehensive community visioning- and search process, the congregation elected Rabbi Jonathan E. Blake to serve as senior rabbi on September 20, 2011. Rabbi Blake, who was ordained from HUC-JIR in 2000, had served as WRT's Associate Rabbi since 2003 and was formerly Assistant/Associate Rabbi and Director of Education at Temple Beth-El in Providence, Rhode Island. During his tenure at WRT, Rabbi Blake has overseen dramatic growth in lifelong Jewish learning, congregational engagement, inclusion, Israel advocacy and music/arts/cultural programming while being involved in all aspects of synagogue life. Rabbi Blake is a much-published and sought-after commentator on Jewish text and Jewish life. He is deeply invested in the vitality of the Reform Movement and its core institutions. Under his leadership, WRT is shaping itself for the unique demands of the 21st-century Jewish community.