



RABBINICAL ASSEMBLY

**כולנו ערבים זה בזה – we are all
responsible one for another.**



TABLE OF CONTENTS

- Letter from Jacob Blumenthal (RA/USCJ CEO) and Jay Kornsgold (RA President) 2
- Our RA by the Numbers 3
- Professional Support for Colleagues 4
- Personal Support for Colleagues 5
- Colleagues Supporting Each Other 6
- Supporting עם ישראל 8
- Sharing Our Torah 9

FROM JACOB AND JAY

2



Dear Colleagues,

There are many places in the *halakhic* literature where the sources note that we can fulfill mitzvot for one another based on the principle:

כולנו ערבים זה בזה

All the people of Israel are responsible one for another.

This sense of unity – of oneness – reaches towards that same quality that we proclaim in the *שמע* as we attribute it to the Holy One.

This past year brought that sense of mutual responsibility – and a desire for unity – to levels we never could have anticipated. There are no words to describe what we and our communities have been through since *Shmini Atzeret/Simhat Torah* 5784, October 7, 2023. The challenges facing our Israeli colleagues as they provided every kind of physical and spiritual support. The challenges of antisemitism facing our communities outside of *Eretz Yisrael*. The exhaustion, loneliness, inspiration, and hopefulness that have been a part of rabbinic leadership. The opportunities and resources Our RA has created for learning, connection, counseling, advocacy, liturgical expression, and togetherness.

We offer this report in appreciation of the tremendous efforts every colleague has made this past year to inspire and lead our communities across the globe. And we appreciate the hundreds of volunteers and our incredible professional staff who have facilitated the many ways we have been of support to one another. We pray that the year to come will bring peace and safety, along with a continued sense of mutual presence and responsibility as colleagues and as a people.

עם ישראל חי

Jacob Blumenthal, RA/USCJ CEO

Jay Kornsgold, RA President



OUR RA BY THE NUMBERS

3

Our Global Membership

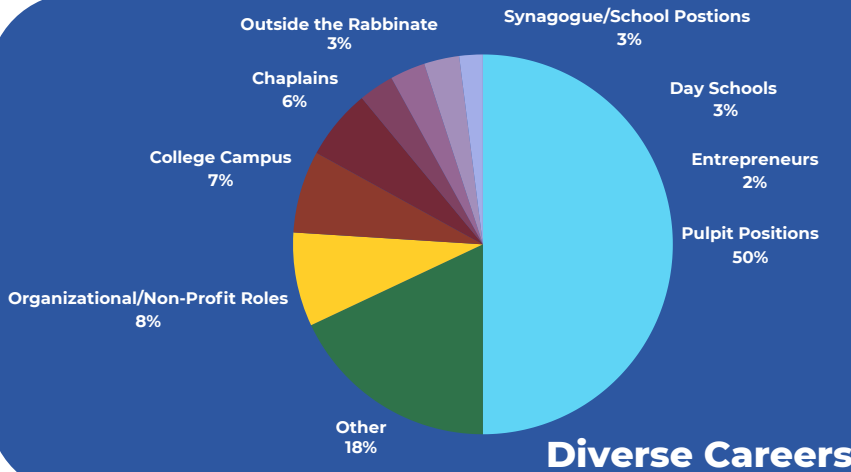
Our global membership includes **over 1600 colleagues**. They serve across **26 countries** and are alumni of **more than 15 seminaries** around the world.



Gender Representation

1229 men, **370** women, **6** nonbinary colleagues.

*Pins indicate countries.



Financial Overview*

Total Annual Budget: \$3,289,855

Dues Collected: \$1,456,780

Fundraising: \$153,632 raised through various campaigns

Total Grants Received: \$79,000

Key Grants: New Venture/Bend the Arc (\$37K), Baker Foundation (\$10K), UJA Federation (\$22K)

Bequest: \$5M+ over 5 years pledged for public advocacy and movement building

*Unaudited numbers

Programs & Events

Hosted **over 300 gatherings** for colleagues worldwide and online, ranging from conventions and *kallot* to practical *halakhic* training and career services. **49% of colleagues** participated in our programming, averaging of 4 events each.

Community Engagement

- **25+ Committees:** driving organizational initiatives and community efforts.
- **21 Affinity Groups and Communities of Practice:**
 - 9 Affinity Groups (2 more in development)
 - 6 Communities of Practice
 - 6 Learning Cohorts
- **3 Active Listservs:** RA Connections, Women's Network, *Rav Dibbur*, fostering communication and collaboration among members.

Sharing Our Torah

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

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

151 articles published by Exploring Judaism (EJ), **122 authored by RA members**.

EJ had **191,398 users**. This is a **438% increase** from FY2022. **326,559 views** constituted a **388% increase**.

And we published **the 1st Braille edition of Siddur Lev Shalem!**

PROFESSIONAL SUPPORT

4

“Colleagues from Brazil met in Rio de Janeiro to study and be together thanks to the RA mini grant. It was an amazing experience. We shared our concerns and challenges, best practices, and nice projects.”

–Rabbi Leandro Galanternik, Marom Olami, São Paulo, Brazil

We are dedicated to empowering our colleagues at every stage of their rabbinate, fostering an environment of inspiration, growth, and innovation. From *Eit Ratzon*, offering professional development for early-career rabbis, to Wise Aging for retirees (and everything in between!) we equip our members to thrive throughout their careers.

We also recognize the importance of continuous learning and creative exploration in shaping a dynamic rabbinate. Our *Limmud* programs provide opportunities for meaningful engagement, *hevreschaft*, and allow members to explore contemporary issues through a Conservative/Masorti lens. To further inspire innovation, our mini grants provide financial support for members experimenting with new ideas and approaches.

Our Career Center

Our career center provides our members with exclusive support and access to job listings in the field.

Congratulations to 70 members who took on new full-time, transitional, and part-time positions this season:

Pulpit positions (48)

Synagogue schools (3)

Academic (1)

Non-profits (9)

Hillel (4)

Day schools (2)

Other positions in education or higher ed (2)

Chaplaincy (2)





PERSONAL SUPPORT 5

“My two favorite online spaces were born out of this need to connect virtually [during the pandemic], but continue today because it turns out they fulfill the need for connection and being seen. The first is a group for Conservative Rabbi single moms...And the other space, happens to be a group of Conservative women rabbis...I won’t divulge the secrets of this most powerful network, but suffice it to say that there’s connection, support, and lots of laughter!”

–Rabbi Ita Paskind, Beth El, Norwalk, CT

In Short, We’re Here For You

Our RA is deeply committed to providing personal support to our colleagues, recognizing the importance of nurturing not only professional growth but also individual well-being. We foster a sense of community and shared understanding through our affinity groups, which connect rabbis who share common interests or experiences, creating spaces for mutual support, collaboration, and friendship.

Our support hotlines offer 24/6 access to spiritual, professional, and mental health assistance, ensuring that rabbis have a lifeline when they need it most. In times of financial need, our financial aid programs offer crucial assistance, ensuring that rabbis can continue their sacred work without the added burden of financial strain. Additionally, our Senior Director of Rabbinic Leadership offers holistic support, serving as a trusted sounding board for career advice, spiritual guidance, and more.

SUPPORTING EACH OTHER

6

In mid-December 2023, a very full busload of our RA colleagues from North America arrived in Israel...not just to pray with their feet...but to support with their embrace, to fill shelves with duffle bags of equipment and supplies, to pray with and listen to members of our Masorti Kehillot and our Israeli RA colleagues. We cried together and hoped together and to this day, I am sure those colleagues have no idea how much healing and strength they brought to us here in Israel. A profound expression of "Our RA."

–Rabbi Amy Levin, Immediate Past President of the RA Israel Region, Israel

We Are Each Other's Hizzuk

In a year when the demands on our communities have never been greater, we've fostered global collegial relationships to help rabbis support one another. From the warmth of the Jerusalem *Mangal* to the reflective Outdoors and Writing Retreat, and *Kallot* in Latin America and Europe, these spaces have been essential in helping colleagues reconnect, reflect, and receive personal *hizzuk*.

Our colleagues also came together across the globe to hold our Israeli colleagues during this difficult time. Rabbis from the UK sent *mishloah manot* to Israeli colleagues, members signed up for phone trees with Israeli colleagues, care gifts were sent to parents and grandparents of lone soldiers, and many joined our RA's Solidarity Mission to support our colleagues and bear witness to the tragedy of October 7th.





“Rabbi Jan [Caryl Kaufman] was always willing to arrive early and remain late if it meant we could complete a project, secure a site, speak with the right person about an event. She always gave her all to the RA and to our colleagues. And yes, she was, and still is, the heart of the RA.”

–Letter For Annual Campaign Dinner, Rabbi Joel Meyers, White Plains, NY

Thank You To Our Volunteers: Our Members

Our members are the beating heart of our RA, driving our mission forward with their time, energy, and dedication. Whether chairing committees, organizing our annual campaign, or devoting countless hours to affinity groups, communities of practice, pastoral outreach, spiritual counseling, mentorship, and advancing Jewish practice, their volunteerism is the pulse that keeps our community thriving. This deep commitment to making our RA a warm, supportive family and addressing the pressing challenges of the day sustains the very essence of our work, ensuring we remain a vibrant, compassionate force in the Jewish world.

In addition to their time, our members also give generously to ensure we can support colleagues in need, share our collective voice in the public arena, and build a dynamic, ethical organization that evolves with the times. Our annual campaign dinner served as a moment to honor two dedicated volunteers and contributors, Rabbi Jan Caryl Kaufman and Rabbi Jules Harlow z”l. Their recognition is symbolic of the unwavering commitment of all our members.



SUPPORTING

עם ישראל

8

“The Conservative/Masorti Racial Justice Trip was created to engage Movement leaders in an intensive, transformative learning experience about racism, in the hope that the leaders would take their learnings back into their Racial Justice and Inclusion work in congregations and Movement organizations. The trip was extremely well-received, with participants reflecting that they had learned and changed in profound ways. Participants immediately got to work taking action based on what they had learned and how they had been inspired on the trip...to disseminate the message that Racial Justice and Inclusion is a core part of the Torah of Conservative/Masorti Judaism.”

–Rabbi Amy Eilberg, Chair of the Racial Justice Subcommittee, Los Altos, CA

In this difficult year, our RA has stood firm in its commitment to supporting the Conservative/Masorti Movement and the Jewish people. Partnering with the USCJ and CA, we organized the Movement-wide Convening in Baltimore, a powerful platform to affirm and share our core pillars of centrism, *halakhah*, and Zionism.

Our RA has also advocated for the Jewish people with world leaders from 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 global initiatives, such as Solidarity Shabbat and the March on Washington, have brought Movement partners together to ensure that our voices resonate on the issues that matter most.

By spearheading cross-movement efforts, such as our Social Justice Commission’s (SJC) mission to the American South, and the Masorti Environmental Sustainability Initiative (MESI), our RA equipped clergy and lay leaders with vital training in racial justice, inclusion, and environmentalism, which are central to Conservative/Masorti Judaism.

We are also ensuring the strength of the next generation. Through our support of new programs like RootOne’s \$3,000 vouchers for teen trips to Israel, USY strategic planning, and innovative leadership development, we are nurturing the future of Conservative/Masorti leadership from youth to rabbinate.

“Bringing the Braille siddur to fruition has been an important goal of ours over the past two years. We continue to help communities create houses of prayer for everyone.”

–Rabbi Mordechai Rackover, Director of Publications and Digital Engagement at Our RA

One of our most significant accomplishments this year has been expanding the reach of our Torah in the digital landscape. We’ve launched a new bookstore at RABookstore.org, developed ExploringJudaism.org into the premier site for Conservative/Masorti Jewish learning, and increased our RA's social media presence to help convey our unique vision for a vital and passionate centrist Judaism and Zionism.

Additionally, as a result of our ongoing partnership JBI, they have published a Braille edition of *Siddur Lev Shalem for Shabbat and Festivals*. This is a significant step toward making Conservative/Masorti liturgy accessible to everyone.

