2026

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Our RA at 125

FY26 Annual Report



Rabbinical Assembly
Annual report to colleagues and friends

June 2025 – July 2026

Colleagues at the Kotel. Photo Credit: MH Photography

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Our RA at 125

A Letter From Rabbi Jacob Blumenthal & Rabbi Gesa Ederberg

Dear Colleagues & Friends,

שהחיינו!

We are grateful to God for bringing us to this moment in our RA's history.

As we celebrate our organization's 125 years, our RA continues to defy the reputation of a "staid and storied legacy institution." In fact, over the past several years, we have re-invented ourselves to lean into our mission to support and connect rabbis, spread our Torah and strengthen our Conservative/Masorti Movement, and ensure a sustainable organizational future with continued vigor and creativity.

As you will see in this report, our work continues to grow and deepen. We have excelled at bringing together hundreds of colleagues, both in person and online, for learning, training, and mutual support; providing guidance and counsel to those navigating career transitions or challenging ethical and professional situations; fostering mentoring relationships for new colleagues; and encouraging every colleague to continue learning, growing, and sharing their Torah.

We have also achieved significant success through several new initiatives and milestones, including the inaugural year of our Movement's Tzedek Center, the publication of Siddur Lev Shalem for Weekdays, our leadership in advancing the Movement's accomplishments at the World Zionist Congress, and the installation of our first President from Europe.

None of this could happen without our members, our individual and foundation donors, publications sponsors, Board of Trustees, and hundreds of volunteers. The support and passion of our colleagues is what helps us to continually renew our work and thrive.

Indeed, *שהחיינו!* As we note this important milestone of reaching our 125th year, we are filled with gratitude to God, and to all of our partners, in making our work possible. May we continue to experience such blessings, and go *מחיל לחיל* – from strength to strength – in the years to come.

With gratitude,



Jacob Blumenthal
CEO



Gesa Ederberg
President

Our RA by the Numbers

A Snapshot of Our Global Community & Reach

Our Membership

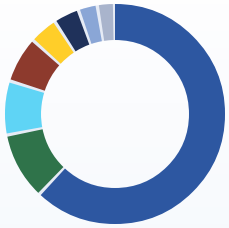
1,600
Colleagues worldwide

27
New members

more than
25
Countries where our rabbis serve

more than
15
Seminaries represented

Diverse Careers*



Pulpit	64.3%
Organization	10.2%
Chaplain	8.2%
College Campus	7.0%
Working Outside the Rabbinate	4.3%
Entrepreneur	3.9%
Day School	2.9%
Synagogue School	2.6%

*Not included are our approximately 300 retired colleagues and 247 colleagues with unknown work categories

*Note that percentages add up to slightly more than 100% because some rabbis work multiple jobs and are in multiple categories

Community Engagement

Total number of engaged volunteers	470
Number of participants in affinity groups & communities of practice	over 300
Number of participants in learning cohorts	88
Total participants across 111 programs & gatherings	2,388
Number of active listservs RA Women, LARA (Latin America RA), ERA (European RA), Israel, & RA Connections	5

Gender Representation*

Women	386
Men	1,196
Nonbinary/gender queer	10

*Self-reported

Financial Insights

Total annual budget	$3,819,542
Dues collected	$1,459,920
Fundraising	$176,564
Total grants received	$408,509
Bequest (Tzedek Center)	$600,000

Sharing Our Torah

Teshuvot published by the CJLS	12
Social media followers Across Instagram & Facebook	over 17,500
Siddur Lev Shalem for Weekdays copies sold	10,500

EXPLORING JUDAISM

Articles published in FY26 Surpassed our goal of 180	207
Page visits	390,611
Returning users	169,079

Living Our Values

Launching the Tzedek Center



Emily Jaeger (Director, Tzedek Center) meeting with Senator Jacky Rosen on May 19, the day the Jewish American Security Act was introduced in Senate

> **The opening of the Tzedek Center marks a momentous moment for the Conservative/Masorti Movement – our chance to advocate for the world as it should be in ways that feel appropriate for our Big Tent Movement. I invite clergy colleagues, lay leaders, and concerned citizens to join us in this sacred work.**
>
> Rabbi Mickey Safra, Tzedek Center Co-Chair

Tzedek, tzedek tirdof—*"Justice, justice shall you pursue."*

The launch of the Tzedek Center gives the Conservative/Masorti Movement new infrastructure to answer that call: bringing our Torah and our communities into the public square.

At a time of deep polarization and heightened antisemitism, the Tzedek Center is building a coordinated, nonpartisan voice rooted in the values and lived experience of our Movement. We equip rabbis and communities to lead locally while bringing our collective voice to policymakers and partners—beginning in the United States.

Our pilot year in numbers

80+

Congregations and camps reached

500+

Clergy and lay leaders reached through webinars

100+

Teens engaged through in-person leadership and advocacy programs

4,000+

Clergy and synagogue leaders reached through practical resources

150,000+

People reached by the cross-denominational immigration letter and video

1,100

Clergy across 45 states brought together by the cross-denominational immigration letter and video

21

One-on-one meetings with congressional, State Department, and federal agency offices

60+

Relationships built with nonprofit leaders, diplomats, and policy strategists

$200,000

In Nonprofit Security Grant Program funding available to congregations

Living Our Values

Launching the Tzedek Center

Bringing Our Movement to the Table

We are building the relationships necessary to ensure Conservative/Masorti perspectives are represented where decisions are made. Those relationships are opening doors to advocate on issues affecting our communities—from federal food assistance and due process to Jewish safety.

This is a long-term investment ensuring that when decisions affecting Jewish life are being made, our Movement is part of the conversation.



Ramah Darom Tzedek Week—Gesher meeting with Senator Warnock's District Office

Supporting the Next Generation of Jewish Leaders

At Ruchot, 34 teens from across the country gathered with seven JTS rabbinical students for a Shabbaton combining Torah, community organizing, and advocacy training. In partnership with USY, Ramah, JTS, Adas Israel, and the Rabbinical Assembly, we are helping young Jews understand civic engagement as part of their Jewish lives—and giving them the skills to put their values into action.



Ruchot participants

> "**L'dor vador—we are the next generation, and it's our turn to be advocating for what we believe in.**
>
> Fiona C., California, Ruchot participant

Building for the Future

Our next step is to bring this infrastructure even closer to rabbis and congregations.

Through Rashei Tzedek, we will train congregational captains to work alongside clergy, mobilize their communities, and connect local experiences to a stronger Movement-wide voice.

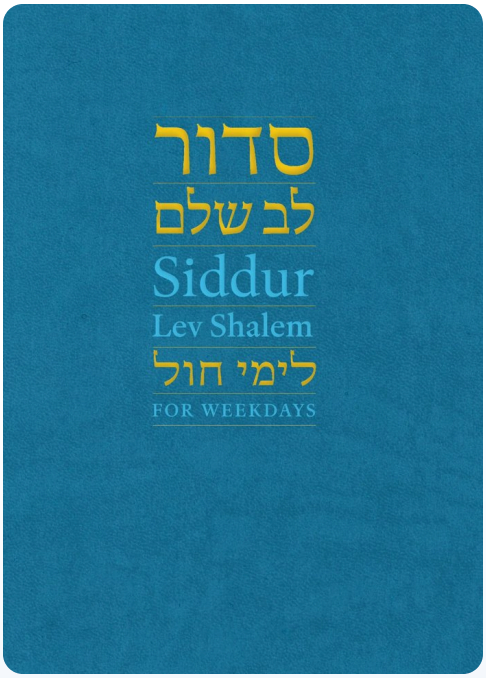
At the same time, we will deepen relationships with policymakers and communal partners and create more opportunities for rabbis and communities to learn, connect, and act together.

Our goal is not simply to respond to each moment as it comes. It is to build the relationships, leaders, and infrastructure that allow Conservative/Masorti Judaism to pursue tzedek for generations to come.

A New Chapter in Jewish Prayer

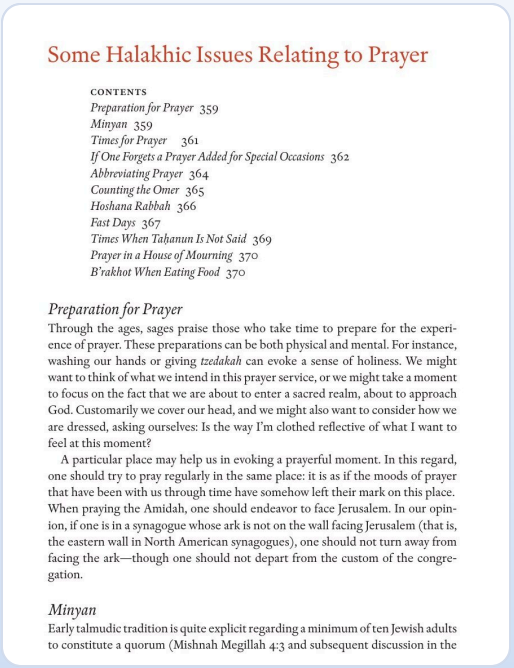
Siddur Lev Shalem for Weekdays

> **“There’s a kind of prayer in which you’re touched. And that was our intention with the Lev Shalem series, whether you pray in Hebrew, English, or let your mind wander, that you could be affected in some way, that the Hebrew was arranged so that you couldn’t just dive into it quickly—they’re broken lines because they’re poetry.**
>
> **I believe that the Lev Shalem series is the best representation of the Conservative/Masorti Movement and really expresses who we are. It is both serious scholarship and an honest presentation of where these prayers come from, what they are, and spiritual aliveness and spiritual inspiration. I hope that is what we’ve achieved in the *siddur*.**
>
> Rabbi Ed Feld, Editor of the Lev Shalem Series



We launched our new Siddur Lev Shalem for Weekdays at the beginning of 2026.

The completion of the weekday *siddur* marks a full year cycle of prayer in our Lev Shalem Series and completes our initial series of High Holiday, Shabbat and Festivals, and weekday *siddurim*.



Some Halakhic Issues Relating to Prayer

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Preparation for Prayer

Through the ages, sages praise those who take time to prepare for the experience of prayer. These preparations can be both physical and mental. For instance, washing our hands or giving *tzedakah* can evoke a sense of holiness. We might want to think of what we intend in this prayer service, or we might take a moment to focus on the fact that we are about to enter a sacred realm, about to approach God. Customarily we cover our head, and we might also want to consider how we are dressed, asking ourselves: Is the way I’m clothed reflective of what I want to feel at this moment?

A particular place may help us in evoking a prayerful moment. In this regard, one should try to pray regularly in the same place: it is as if the moods of prayer that have been with us through time have somehow left their mark on this place. When praying the Amidah, one should endeavor to face Jerusalem. In our opinion, if one is in a synagogue whose ark is not on the wall facing Jerusalem (that is, the eastern wall in North American synagogues), one should not turn away from facing the ark—though one should not depart from the custom of the congregation.

Minyan

Early talmudic tradition is quite explicit regarding a minimum of ten Jewish adults to constitute a quorum (Mishnah Megillah 4:3 and subsequent discussion in the

This unique and enriching *siddur* offers:

- Readings, reflections, and poetry to help make every day a fresh prayer experience
- Commentary and transliteration to make daily prayer accessible and meaningful
- Size and weight that are easy to use in a synagogue setting
- Attention to design on every page
- Content that reflects our Movement’s unique approach to prayer and Jewish experience
- Complete weekday Torah readings in Hebrew with English translation
- For the first time in a Conservative *siddur*—a section of *halakhot*

Celebrating Our Accomplishments

New Initiatives & Milestones



> **The Women's Retreat was a glorious and joyful gathering of RA women. We celebrated all of our successes, commiserated about the challenges (past and present), and shared exquisite Torah. I was so grateful to be in this truly beautiful space with my colleagues.**
>
> Rabbi Amy Eilberg, Spiritual Director, Kindness Coach, Peace & Justice Educator

Happy Rabbis Campaign

We launched a new social media initiative celebrating the meaning, joy, and fulfillment our rabbis find in their rabbinate.

New Bylaws

- Renamed the Executive Council to Board of Trustees and the Administrative Committee to Executive Committee
- More inclusive representation of members, including colleagues outside North America
- Clarified how we partner with other Movement institutions
- Modernized our governance document to meet today's organizational realities and needs

Celebrating 40 Years of Women in Our RA

In November, we hosted She'arim: 40 Years of Opening the Gates. We had meaningful conversations, beautiful *tefillah*, inspiring learning, outdoor adventures, moments of art, music, movement, and so much more.

To mark this milestone, alongside the Jewish Theological Seminary and the Women's League for Conservative Judaism, we launched the Women Rabbis as Change Agents webinar series, spotlighting the trailblazers, scholars, and halakhic leaders who have helped reshape our Movement—and Judaism itself. This series brought in over 600 people.

World Zionist Congress

We were proud to support MERCAZ's campaign in elections for the World Zionist Congress. Fueled by the support of voters and advocates worldwide, including colleagues like ours, MERCAZ increased its global mandate count by 15%.

Our Movement's institutions and programs are poised to receive 50% more funding from the national institutions, and our expanded influence helped prevent Itamar Ben-Gvir's extremist right-wing party from gaining senior leadership positions or significant funding. These outcomes demonstrate how our success strengthens our values and impact both in Israel and worldwide.

CJLS *Teshuvot* Passed

- The *Kashrut* of Insects in Modern Times
- *Shiv'ah* Guide
- People with Communication Disabilities Taking on Liturgical Honors and Leadership
- *Birkat Ilanot*
- The *Kashrut* of Cultured Chicken
- When No One Can Read Torah
- Unmarried Men Wearing *Tallitot*
- Compassionate *Tefillin*
- Human Organ Procurement with NRP
- Gateways Into Jewish Living: Guiding the Conservative/Masorti Rabbi in Supporting Families with Non-Jewish Loved Ones

Leading a Global RA

Installation of New President, Rabbi Gesa Ederberg



Left to right: Rabbis Aaron Brusso, D'ror Chankin-Gould, Jacob Blumenthal, Gesa Ederberg, Susan Leider, Annie Tucker, and Jay Kornsgold

> **"Rabbi Ederberg brings deep experience, wisdom, and a truly global perspective to this role. At a pivotal moment for Jewish communities worldwide, her leadership will strengthen our Movement's commitment to pluralism, thoughtful rabbinic leadership, and the shared mission that connects our communities across continents.**
>
> Rabbi Jacob Blumenthal, CEO

On March 10th, 2026, dozens of our colleagues gathered at Congregation Beth Sholom in Teaneck, New Jersey for the installation of Rabbi Gesa Ederberg as our RA's President. On March 17th, the celebration continued in Berlin!

Rabbi Ederberg is the first President from outside of North America or Israel, and the first female pulpit rabbi to serve in Berlin since the Holocaust. Her election reflects the increasingly global character of our Movement.

As President, she plans to strengthen the Rabbinical Assembly's role as a global home for rabbis while deepening collaboration across regions and rabbinical schools. Her priorities include modeling rabbinic leadership in an age where "Rabbi Google" and AI make knowledge more accessible and continuing to define the Conservative/Masorti Movement's commitment to *halakhah* and engagement with modern life.

> **"With so many challenges facing Jewish communities around the world, the role of rabbis in the Conservative/Masorti Movement has never been more vital. Our Movement brings together a deep commitment to Jewish tradition with thoughtful engagement in the modern world. It is important that we all sit at the same table, shaping our shared future and translating that work into the needs of our communities worldwide.**
>
> Rabbi Gesa Ederberg, President



Expanding Our Impact

New Initiatives From Our Career Center

New Salary Survey

This year, we released a new salary survey for full-time and retired pulpit rabbis in the United States and Canada. We created an accompanying video to walk through and explain the data. We hope this data is used to advocate for strong and fair rabbinic compensation, and provides colleagues in all locations and settings with the resources that they need. The respondent data was anonymized, and the survey is available publicly on our website to aid in negotiations.

Services for Careers

- **First year for our Publicly in Search List: 28** rabbis chose to add their name to the list (**55%** of rabbis in search). According to a search survey, **93%** received a call or email from being on the list, **71%** of those contacts led to an interview.
- **Mock Interviews:** Rabbis seeking all types of roles participated in mock interviews with lay leaders who had extensive experience interviewing rabbis and leading rabbinic searches. Through a structured approach, the interviewers provided rabbis with constructive feedback and interview hints and tips to help position them in their best light. We have conducted dozens of these mock interviews in the last several years with positive feedback.
- **Weekly Office Hours** for Congregations and Rabbis in Search hosted from October through May, covered topics such as application materials, interview preparation, fielding multiple offers, contract negotiation and transitioning to new communities.

Career Advancements

Mazal tov to colleagues who took on new roles in FY26: **72** rabbis changed jobs, of which **46** are pulpit positions, **4** serving as chaplains, **10** on college campuses, **3** in day schools, **6** in organizations/non-profits, **2** in synagogue schools, and **1** working outside the rabbinate.

> “
>
> **Throughout my search, the Rabbinical Assembly’s Career Center provided invaluable guidance, encouragement, and perspective at every stage of the process. Attending office hours gave me updated insights into the synagogues conducting searches, while the regular personal support helped me think carefully about what I was looking for in my next community. I am deeply grateful for the Rabbinical Assembly’s partnership in a process that ultimately led me to a congregation and position that feel like an excellent fit.**
>
> Rabbi Salomon Gruenwald, Kol Shalom

Gratitude For Our Community

Testimonials From Our Members

LIVING WITH VULNERABLE BODIES AFFINITY GROUP

We know the blessings of being invited into people's intimate spiritual and health journeys. Being present in liminal spaces, offering prayer and comfort everywhere from our sanctuaries to hospital and hospice rooms, is truly a gift for rabbis. What happens when our lives are the ones in the balance? Suddenly in addition to the direct medical needs, we must decide how much to share of our own challenges with our communities. The Living With Vulnerable Bodies Affinity Group was a place to share these struggles of community, communication, and faith. Being able to speak openly about our challenges, see how folks had survived and thrived, was truly inspiring. I look forward to continuing our conversations and am grateful for the blessings of our *kehillah kedosha*.

Rabbi Philip Weintraub, Senior Rabbi, Congregation B'nai Israel

RABBIS OF SMALL CONGREGATIONS COMMUNITY OF PRACTICE

The Rabbis of Small Congregations Community of Practice connects me with a supportive community of colleagues. As we explore case studies and resources and engage with guest speakers, this group offers tremendous collective wisdom and a deep understanding of the unique dynamics and challenges rabbis serving small synagogues face.

Rabbi Ariel Russo, Co-Chair of Small Congregations Community of Practice

RA GOLFERS AFFINITY GROUP

The RA Golfers Affinity Group in the tri-state area brings colleagues together who enjoy (or are ready to suffer) a good round of golf.

Playing golf with other rabbis will help you improve your game—or at least might get you some tips for your next *D'var* Torah.

Last but not least, you will be able to exaggerate or brag about your golf accomplishments and your kind colleagues will believe you.

Rabbi Manes Kogan, Senior Rabbi, Hillcrest Jewish Center

VOLUNTEER ENGAGEMENT

Some of my most meaningful volunteer work has been through the Rabbinical Assembly. Serving on the CEO Search Committee, on the Joint Placement Commission, and currently on the Nominations Committee, I have met incredible colleagues and learned so much from them and our RA professional staff. Many lessons have been immediately applicable to my Hillel work, and I have always felt that my non-pulpit experience was appreciated and elevated to the benefit of all Conservative rabbis.

Rabbi Michelle Fisher, Executive Director, MIT Hillel

MESADDREI GITTIN COURSE

When people first hear that I work as a Mesadder Gittin, they often say what an unpleasant topic it is. However, I took the Rabbinical Assembly course to become a Mesadder Gittin for those who do need it. For each of them it is a comfort to have someone who holds our Movement's values caring for each party within the halakhic framework, helping them rebuild their lives in the best way possible after a broken marriage.

The Gittin course provided me with the tools from our knowledgeable and complex tradition to help people finalize the Jewish divorce without adding more pain and complexity, but with compassion and understanding of the difficult moment they are living.

Rabbi Leandro Galanternik, Pincus Center of the Seminario Rabinico Latinoamericano (São Paulo, Brazil)