



UNDERSTANDING OUR PURPOSE

FAQ'S

Q: WHAT IS WOMEN OF REFORM JUDAISM?

A: Women of Reform Judaism is the voice, the presence and the venue for action of the women of Reform Judaism in the synagogue, the Jewish community, interfaith groups and the general, local, North American and international community. It is the women's agency and an affiliate of the Union for Reform Judaism (URJ), the central body of Reform Judaism in North America. It is the founder of the North American Federation of Temple Youth (NFTY) and a founder of the Jewish Braille International organization (JBI). WRJ is a member of the World Union for Progressive Judaism (WUPJ) and works on behalf of the Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion (HUC-JIR). WRJ brings together tens of thousands of members in hundreds of sisterhoods/women's groups across North America and our global affiliates.

Q: WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF WOMEN OF REFORM JUDAISM?

A: The programs and projects of Women of Reform Judaism advance and strengthen Reform Judaism, the synagogue and Jewish humanitarian causes. Sisterhood/Women's Group has a primary responsibility for continuing Jewish education for its own members, for children (with a special emphasis on pre-school and parenting), sponsorship of youth activities and other programs and projects to strengthen the congregation; local sisterhoods/women's groups translate the teachings of Judaism into programs of education and service to the inter-religious and general community; it initiates and implements programs of social advocacy dealing with issues concerning children, the elderly, the status of women and social action.

Q: HOW IS WOMEN OF REFORM JUDAISM STRUCTURED?

A: The executive officers of Women of Reform Judaism's board of directors work cooperatively with New York staff personnel in all areas of operations. The various focus areas include: Advocacy, Affiliate Services, Board and Leadership Support, Development & YES Fund, Marketing and Communications, Meetings and Conventions, Operations, and Special Task Forces. The flexible nature of this fluid structure encourages collaborative work engagement.

Q: WHAT IS A DISTRICT?

A: Women of Reform Judaism is divided into eight geographical areas called districts. WRJ affiliated sisterhoods/women's groups and individual members are automatically members of a district. The purpose of each of the districts is to



reach the leaders and members of its affiliated sisterhoods/women's groups and individual members, serving as liaisons between the local sisterhoods/women's groups and Women of Reform Judaism. Broadening the horizons of local sisterhoods/women's groups and their members is a very important district objective. Districts are available to assist local sisterhoods/women's groups with their organization and activities, as well as informing and helping them to implement the programs and projects of WRJ. Towards that goal, all districts have area directors who build close personal relationships with the individual members and leaders of each sisterhood/women's group in their jurisdiction and become their connection to the District leadership. Through the District speakers' bureau, sisterhoods/women's groups can invite a District speaker to visit them to discuss special problems, conduct a board orientation, lead a service, or participate at an installation.

Q: WHAT IS THE STRUCTURE OF WRJ ATLANTIC DISTRICT?

A: The overall structure is depicted in the chart in the District board manual. Area directors are the ones who maintain direct and ongoing contact with all of the affiliated sisterhoods/women's groups in the district.

Q: WHAT IS A LOCAL SISTERHOOD?

A: A local sisterhood/women's group is the women's organization of the congregation. With the collective power of women who care, local sisterhoods/women's groups work to fulfill the needs of their members and of the congregation through religious, educational, and social activities. Local sisterhoods/women's groups depend upon their own resources as well as on guidance and support from the District and WRJ.

Q: HOW DO I CONTACT DISTRICT OFFICERS AND CHAIRS?

A: Contact them by using the roster of officers and chairs included as a link within the District board manual. You can also check on the district website at <http://www.wrj.org/atlantic> and then click on the "District Manual & Presidents List" tab to locate the link.

Q: WHAT IS AN INDIVIDUAL MEMBER?

A: An "individual member" or "individual membership" refers to individuals who affiliate with WRJ through Article 4 Section B of the WRJ by-laws, and who are not affiliated with WRJ by virtue of membership in an affiliated sisterhood/women's group. Any individual woman who identifies with and supports the objectives of WRJ and resides within the geographical boundaries of the district may be considered for membership by completing a membership form and paying dues to WRJ.