

## RJFS Outreach Committee

We are a group of volunteers who meet once a month to craft the programs that benefit the populations we serve. Our goal is to help individuals connect more deeply to their Jewish heritage through stimulating and meaningful programs, thereby promoting Jewish continuity and education. Our philosophy is to encompass the breadth of Jewish perspectives and various levels of observance. We hope that our volunteers and recipients, regardless of their abilities, find a sense of connection and support through our services.

Thank you for your interest and support. Volunteers make these programs possible. If you would like to volunteer, please call our Volunteer Coordinator, Roberta Leitner, at (845) 354-2121 x152.

We are always looking for ways to fulfill our mission and reach out to the community. If you are interested in joining the Outreach Committee or if you have a suggestion for the committee, please contact the office and we will refer you to the proper person.

### About Us

RJFS is a not-for-profit, non-sectarian, community benefit agency. Our mission is to strengthen the physical and emotional well being of adults, children and families.

RJFS has provided counseling, support and assistance to groups, families, and individuals in Rockland County since 1987.

*We are here for you!*

For more information about our programs or to volunteer please contact Roberta Leitner at (845) 354-2121 x152.

*All RJFS programs are non-sectarian and open to families of all faiths.*

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# Connecting community with meaningful programs for all ages & needs

## Partnering with The Arc Rockland

Volunteers from Rockland County synagogues, in partnership with RJFS, celebrate Jewish holidays and culture, and bring a Jewish presence into the lives of individuals living with developmental challenges who reside in Arc group homes. We also host a Chanukah party, a Passover Seder and a Summer BBQ each year with our friends from the Arc Rockland and other Rockland County agencies servicing individuals with developmental challenges.

## Jewish Culture Club

Our "Slick Club" (So Lucky I Chose Kindness) affords individuals living with developmental challenges the opportunity to socialize and share exciting and stimulating activities with one another. The group meets every other month in the evening. Each meeting has a Jewish culture/tradition/holiday component.

## Explore and Create Cultural Arts Program

This cultural arts program brings together local high school students and adults living with disabilities. Students are paired with individuals with special needs to get to know each other and work on a project in writing, music, painting, theater or video/technology. At the conclusion of the 4 to 5 month program, a presentation of projects lets friends and families celebrate the groups' hard work.

## Traditions

Four times a year, RJFS volunteers invite individuals living with Alzheimer's Disease and other dementias along with their caregivers to celebrate Jewish holidays and culture in the RJFS suite at the Jewish Community Campus building in West Nyack, NY.

## Walk to End Alzheimer's

RJFS and the Outreach Committee participate in the annual Walk to End Alzheimer's with the Alzheimer's Association in the hopes of raising awareness and funds for research and improved care for those afflicted with Alzheimer's Disease.

## Yemeni Project

The Outreach Committee has developed a plan to help Jewish families from Yemen who have settled in Monsey acclimate to the day to day American way of life. Volunteers assist with shopping, transportation, clothing, tutoring, etc. In addition, volunteers also help these immigrants prepare to take the American citizenship exam when appropriate.

## Second Time Around Brochure

The Outreach Committee maintains an informational brochure to publicize where your gently used clothing, furniture, bric-a-brac, etc., can be donated.

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## Share-A-Shabbat

The mission of Share-A-Shabbat is to brighten and enhance the celebration and enjoyment of Shabbat. We reach out to Jewish homebound or isolated adults who might otherwise be unable to observe these joyous rituals or might be observing them alone. Once a month a volunteer visits the individual in their home on a Friday afternoon prior to the start of Shabbat, welcoming the Sabbath with candle lighting, prayers and songs. The volunteer shares a Kosher Shabbat meal at no cost to the volunteer or recipient, thereby providing an opportunity for spiritual and social interaction.

## Send a Friend

An RJFS volunteer becomes a friendly visitor for isolated or homebound individuals. During weekly or monthly visits, they spend time talking, playing games and reminiscing.

