West End Synagogue is a diverse group of individuals and families committed to exploring Jewish life and creating an intellectually challenging, spiritually vibrant, and mutually supportive community. Utilizing the principles of Reconstructionist Judaism, we celebrate the richness and diversity of Jewish tradition through study, prayer, meditation, music, and tikkun olam (acts of repairing the world).

Our home, a former public library in the Lincoln Square neighborhood of the Upper West Side, provides a light-filled, intimate space for prayer, reflection, and learning. Our approach is informal and supportive of a wide range of religious backgrounds, practices, and beliefs. Under the leadership of Rabbi Georgette Kennebrae, Hazzan Ayelet Porzecanski, Acting Director of Family Engagement, West End Synagogue continues to grow while maintaining its hallmark warmth and intimacy.

We formed in 1985, and are now celebrating over 30 years!
Our innovative, whole family approach to Jewish education—Jewish Family Life and Learning (JFL)—is a major departure from your parents’ Hebrew School, and is making a big impression on kids and parents alike.

Our progressive educational approach encourages learners of all ages to make personal meaning from all activities, and our JFL program seeks to synergize classroom learning with a vibrant Jewish family and communal life.

**YOUTH GROUPS**

We have two youth group programs here at WES. Our **Teen Senior Youth Group** for 8th graders and up, and our **Junior Youth Group** for grades 4-7. These groups are led by the JFL Director. The goal of the youth program is to create community amongst our students. Friends of students who are not WES members may attend most events. We have opportunities to get together in both fun and meaningful ways: bowling, Havdalah and a movie, or working at a soup kitchen.

**FOR GRADES 8 - 12**

**MANHIGUT TEEN LEADERSHIP PROGRAM AND RELIGIOUS ACTION CENTER TRIP:**

This year we will be continuing our exciting teen leadership program here at WES with our creative educator Rachel Oshrin. These classes are open for teens in 8th grade and up. Please note an important change this year that there will be a **registration fee of $450** going forward so that we can continue to sustain this excellent programming (dinner included)! Register on our website (you’ll find it under school registration)! The 18 dates for the teen program with Rachel Oshrin are in the calendar **coded purple.**

Our teen trip to the **Religious Action Center** in Washington, D.C. is CONFIRMED for January 25-28, 2019! Send your deposit of $100 to the WES office by September 15, 2018 to hold your space. The cost will be approximately $600 per person, depending on room occupancy, and fundraising efforts prior to the trip. This trip is for teens in 9th grade and up. At the Religious Action Center, students learn about social justice issues and learn about lobbying. The students write speeches that they deliver Monday morning to their congress people on the Hill.

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**VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES**

**MADRICHIM PROGRAM:**

We invite all children of members ages 13 and up to become Madrichim, assistant teachers, on either Tuesday evenings 4-6 pm or Saturdays during Kef Kids. Please contact Hazzan Ayelet if your teen is interested in becoming a Madrich.

Students in grades 6 and up may volunteer to assist with JFL programming during the High Holy days, Chanukkah, and Purim for community service credit.