

## **FOCUS**

## Love







In what surprising context does the word "love" first appear in the Bible? Who is the first man in the Torah to "love" a woman? Which talmudic sage said of the *Song of Songs*, "Had the Torah not been given, [this biblical book of love poetry] would have been worthy to guide the world"? Which rabbi affirmed: "Extend what you have in your hands and in your heart toward other human beings. Love will grow along the lines of your giving"?

After reading this Focus section on Love, you will be able to answer these questions and derive new understandings of love.

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As a bonus, we are bringing you "Love in the Movement"—an opportunity to tell and read stories about the love which many of our readers have found within the Reform Movement. If you and/or your friends fell in love in a Reform setting, such as a Union camp, temple, or Biennial, be sure to post photos and personal anecdotes. The entire Movement can share in the experience at reformjudaismmag.org/love.

With love, The Editors









Photograph of John Hirsch and Herb Leiman: Balu Menon; Photograph of Noah and Susi Hirt-Manheimer: Rose Eichenbaur

Clockwise from top left: Jonah Pesner and Dana Gershon marry in 1994 at URJ Camp Eisner in Great Barrington, MA, where they first met and fell in love 10 years earlier. John Hirsch (I.) and Herb Leiman before their wedding at Temple Beth-El of Great Neck, Great Neck, NY, 2012. Wedding of Noah and Susi Manheimer, Temple Israel, Westport, CT, 2006. Wedding of Jane Newman (I.) and Amy Lange, Shir Tikvah, Minneapolis, MN, 1998; they met at Shir Tikvah. Julia and Marc Katz, who met as first-year students (cantorial and rabbinic, respectively) at HUC-JIR's Jerusalem campus; Julia will be invested and Marc ordained this May in New York. Shoshana (nee Lipschultz) and Micah Streiffer outside the Knesset in Jerusalem on the NFTY-EIE High School program where they met, 1995. Nancy Katz and Mark Liebowitz (of Wilmark Studios) at the 2011 URJ Biennial; they met as exhibitors at the 2005 Biennial under the same *chuppah* they got married under in 2009.