George Wielechowski

George was raised in Baltimore, MD, and was blessed to grow up in an intergenerational, multicultural home. His interest in Jewish life and culture began in his early teens, when his family moved into a mostly Jewish neighborhood northwest of Baltimore city. Through inclusion in countless b’nai mitzvah celebrations, Passover sedarim and Shabbat dinners, George found himself being a part of family and community models that were very different from those of his family of origin, but that inspired and awakened his intellectual and spiritual ambitions. His love of the Jewish frame of mind and heart has guided him on many educational and personal journeys.

Engaging in Jewish life, thought, text and ritual has been one of the great joys and opportunities of his lifetime, second only to being a father and husband.

As his years at RRC come to a close, George approaches the end of this latest of his life journeys with a profound sense of gratitude. He is the grateful recipient of the Eisenstein Scholarship. While at RRC, George was vice president of the rabbinical student association and served two terms as student representative to the College’s board of governors. George wishes to thank the mentors and colleagues he has worked with in so many inspiring settings, including the Institute for Christian & Jewish Studies; Temple Beth El of Newark, DE; Beth El Congregation of Baltimore, MD; and UMBC Hillel. He is especially grateful for his teachers and classmates at RRC, and previous generations of devoted Reconstructionists, who through their brave leadership and love of dynamic Jewish life have given him and many others a comfortable and meaningful Jewish home.

Finally, George feels abundantly blessed by the gift of living in two families—one of origin, the other of welcome—both of love and acceptance. And above all else, George will be forever grateful to his wife, Alison, and his sons, Lennon and Gideon, for being his most valuable teachers of torah. It is through them that George experiences the Divine. They are his theory of everything, for they bring order to his universe and profound meaning to his life.

[God] created this universe by the three—Number, Writing and Speech. Ten are the numbers, as are the Sefiroth, and twenty-two the letters, these are the Foundations of all things.

—Sefer Yetzirah, first century C.E.

At its best, Jewish reverence has an irreverent edge . . . In Jewish tradition, every reader is a proofreader, every student a critic, and every writer, including the Author of the universe, begs a great many questions . . . Ours is not a bloodline but a textline.

—Jews and Words, Amos Oz and Fania Oz-Salzberger

It is my wish to serve, support and guide those who yearn to be readers and proofreaders, students and critics, writers and questioners—of who and what we all are and could be—in the great textline and lifeline of the Jewish people.