



Chai Lines

International Northeast Region Women's League for Conservative Judaism

Networking to Engage, Enrich and Empower
Conservative Jewish Women

May 26, 2017

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FROM THE INTERNATIONAL NORTHEAST REGION HAPPY SHAVUOT



**Author of Last Year's Women's League Orpah Selection
to Speak at TAY, Syracuse, NY**

Author

PATRICIA FRIEDBERG

SUNDAY, JUNE 4

1:00 p.m.

at Temple Adath Yeshurun

450 Kimber Road, Syracuse, NY 13214

No cost for this event

Open to the Community

Refreshments will be served

Reservations are appreciated

Author of 21 Aldgate, Patricia will discuss her book and her memoirs with us. A limited quantity of both will be available for purchase. Get an autographed copy!

Patricia Friedberg grew up in London during World War II, and attended the London School of Journalism. Soon after her marriage, she and her husband went to Africa, where she was a journalist and writer of documentaries for Rhodesian newspapers and television. Beginning with her novel, 21 Aldgate and memoir Letters from Wankie: A Place in Colonial Africa, she is completing Journey From the Jacarandas, a novel based on the Friedberg family's return to Africa and the following years.

Her novel 21 Adgate is a story of love and war, set in England during the buildup to WWII. It witnesses prejudice, bias, aggression and propaganda, which influenced a privileged society.

For additional information, visit www.patriciafriedberg.com or Email Ruth Borsky, Ruth139@AOL.COM

FROM OUR REGION PRESIDENT



Last week, the sisterhoods of Shaare Zedek, Beth El, and Shaare Zion had the pleasure of hosting Margie Miller as their guest speaker at Montreal's Torah Fund event. Margie, the incoming International President of Women's League, is an engaging woman and dynamic speaker.

Margie spoke about coping strategies we can use to deal with loss. Her husband, Joel Miller, z"l, was a 9/11 victim at the World Trade Center. Her talk provoked a wide range of emotions from laughter to tears as she told us how she learned to live "with the grief" rather than "in the grief." In the aftermath of this tragedy she became a family bereavement specialist, an advisor to the 9/11 Memory and History Project, a trainer for Women's League and so much more. Clearly, Margie emerged from this heartbreak a different person, stronger and more determined to work and volunteer in areas that were meaningful to her. Her message of optimism and a positive can-do attitude in the face of adversity was inspiring.

I suppose this can often be the case when we go through difficult times. In my life, my mother's passing led to my attending shul twice a day for 11 months of Kaddish. In turn, I became active in my synagogue, Women's League, and in the community. Although "when life gives you lemons, make lemonade" has become a cliché, it is

sound advice.

But it doesn't have to take sorrow or misfortune for us to get involved. Women's League offers us many ways to step out of our daily routines and into rewarding volunteer opportunities, one of them being this year's Women's League for Conservative Judaism Convention 2017 in Arlington, Virginia, from July 23-26. Convention will combine networking, training, and fun, with workshops, crafts fair, women-led services providing unique learning and sisterhood building opportunities.

Join us at Convention and thank outgoing president Carol Simon for her leadership, dedication and commitment to Women's League, and welcome Margie Miller as she embarks on this new chapter in her life.

I look forward to seeing you there.

A very special thank you to Marilyn Cohen, vice president of Torah Fund, who came in from Toronto to attend Montreal's Torah Fund event, and to Lorna Gerson-Goldig, Dorothy Tonchin, and Vita Novick who helped make the evening with Margie a wonderful success.

Shabbat Shalom. Chag Sameach Shavuot!

Eleanor

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FROM THE EDUCATION VP LOIS SILVERMAN

This is an updated version of my article printed in the Fall, 1995, NY State Branch's *Chai Line* of TO BE OR NOT TO BE A MAJORITY OF ONE

The Nineteenth Amendment of the US Constitution was first introduced in Congress in 1878 by Senator Aaron A. Sargent. Forty-one years later, in 1919, Congress approved the amendment and submitted it to the states for ratification. It was ratified by the requisite number of states a year later, with Tennessee's ratification being the final vote needed to add the amendment to the Constitution. In Leser v. Garnett (1922), the Supreme Court rejected claims that the amendment was unconstitutionally adopted.

This August marked the 97th Anniversary of the 19th Amendment to the US Constitution which granted the right to vote to women.

Certainly 98 years ago, the desire to vote wasn't a universal one among women. The culture and mores of the time taught women as well as men that women were created to be subservient helpmates for men; that women were not capable of making the decisions necessary in order to cast an intelligent vote due to frailty and lack of intelligence; that women's voting was against God's Laws.

For those women who fought for suffrage during the long fight for passage of the 19th Amendment, the struggle appeared to be a hopeless one. They fought for an unpopular cause against foes who weren't afraid to use insults, physical and emotional attacks, and just old-fashioned verbal abuse. Many gave up the struggle; some never gave up. But the cost for fighting was high.

I remember reading John Kennedy's *Profiles in Courage* when I was about 13. I remember thinking how great it was to fight an unpopular battle, not for honor, not for glory, but rather just for principle.

If you were fighting a battle for an unpopular cause, would you continue the struggle when the fighting got "low down and dirty?" I for one can say I would since I have.

In the years I've been active in our synagogue, I have championed many unpopular causes. At the beginning of each cause, I was alone. Then as time went on more and more people joined me, and many times we were victorious. Of course, there was a price to pay for these victories.

Each struggle becomes harder and harder to fight because one becomes tired. Each struggle becomes harder to fight because, over the years, fewer people want to become involved; they don't want to become involved because they don't want to lose friends or invitations to parties; they don't want to get too involved because with involvement come personal groundless, inappropriate attacks and insults. Being a majority of one is not for everyone.

An article by Lawrence Hardy appeared in the August 20, issue of the *Utica Observer-Dispatch* about Harry Burns, a 24-year-old representative in the Tennessee Legislature, whose unpopular stand and changed the course of history.

In August, 1920, 35 states had ratified the 19th Amendment-one less than the number needed for passage-when the debate shifted to Tennessee. Activists from both sides descended on Nashville, "buttonholing" representatives and arguing points. The anti-suffragists held an edge because they opened a bar in a local hotel and plied the uncommitted with bourbon while Prohibition-era police looked the other way.

When ratification finally came to a vote, it was Burn's vote which gave the victory for ratification.

After the vote, Burn fled to the State Library and Archives to escape the crowds. Rumors flew. Some claimed he was kidnapped to keep him from changing his vote. Others said he was threatened.

Tennessee had three days to reconsider its vote. But another vote was not taken and the 19th Amendment became law.

The article does not state what became of Harry Burns. Most likely his political career was over at 24 because he stood up for what he believed no matter what the cost. And so should we. Doing what is right should not be a liability. Having a social and moral conscience should be a universal characteristic and not one reserved for the people branded as troublemakers, firebrands, odd balls, or the "L"-word.

Certainly Harry Burns deserves a place in any new edition of *Profiles of Courage*-especially if it is written by a woman.

May we and all our representatives in government have the courage to be like Harry Burns and fight for what is just and honorable.

Shabbat Shalom
LOIS

**FROM WOMEN'S LEAGUE FOR CONSERVATIVE
JUDAISM**

*Networking to engage,
enrich and empower*



IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER

May 26: *Early Bird deadline for Convention 2017 extended*

May 29-June 2: *Women's League offices closed for Memorial Day and Shavuot*

June 7: *Women's League Board Meeting and Torah Fund Cabinet Meeting at Women's League office*

Final Board of Directors/Torah Fund Cabinet Meetings

DATE: June 7, 2017

TIME: 10:30 am

PLACE: 475 Riverside Drive, New York City

The Torah Fund Cabinet meeting begins at 1:00 in the same place.

Speaker: Rabbi Lori Koffman, Director of Community Engagement and Learning, Bet Torah Synagogue, Mt. Kisco, NY

Marc Gary will also be giving us an update on construction progress at JTS.

Please register for both meetings by [clicking here](#). We need to know if you are attending in person or via ZOOM teleconference.

Next resolution for review and discussion

The next resolution to be considered, on immigration, is up on our [website](#). Please take a look and comment. Be prepared for an online conversation in June followed by an online vote of the membership.

Please support our Ad Journal

It's important that Women's League leaders like you demonstrate support. This journal is one of our most important fundraisers. Place an ad today by clicking [here](#).



New Women's League Reads selection

You're the Only One I Can Tell: Inside the Language of Women's Friendships, by bestselling author Deborah Tannen.

From kaffeeklatch to texting - how do women talk to each other?

This is the final selection and live interview of the year (and Ellen and Janet's last selection as moderators).

We will post discussion questions on-line starting June 4.

Meet the author on Thursday, June 8, 2017 at 8:30 pm EDT

It's not too early to start thinking about Purim!

.... and the Women's League megillah. If your sisterhood would like to be considered as the host of the beautiful megillah for next year's Purim reading, please contact [Lisa Kogen](#) soon. The chosen sisterhood will be announced at Convention.

A BOLD NEW OUTLOOK



WOMEN'S LEAGUE FOR
CONSERVATIVE JUDAISM
CONVENTION 2017

CONVENTION UPDATES

Early bird deadline has been extended to May 26 Log onto www.wlcj.org and choose **Convention 2017 Registration**. We are looking forward to welcoming you personally.

Hotel room rate

Room availability and rates are not guaranteed after July 7. Hotel reservations received after that date may be charged at the regular hotel rate, not the special convention rate. For further information and to book your room, [click here](#).

Check out [Convention Day-by-Day](#) for the latest information.

Special Convention project

Sisterhoods can download a flyer with blank space to advertise their **Mathilde's Mentionables** campaigns. Log on to wlcj.org and go to Member Documents. Look under: **12. CONVENTION 2017**

18th Annual Masorti Women's Study Day

June is the best time to be in Jerusalem! Be sure to put the June 23rd study day on your itinerary and study with Conservative/Masorti women from around the world!

The Schechter Institutes, Midreshet Schechter and Women's League for Masorti Judaism, with the assistance of the Masorti movement, are proud to present the 18th Annual National Masorti Women's Study Day.

"Chai" Years Exploring Attitudes Towards Women and Other "Others"

Friday, June 23, 2017 at 8:30 AM
The Schechter Institute of Jewish Studies
4 Avraham Granot St. Jerusalem

For more information and to register, [click here](#).

Support Women's League the easy way!



We have joined Amazon Prime. Initiate your shopping session through our website. Amazon will rebate a percentage of the sale back to Women's League. **The only requirement is that you initiate your online shopping session through our website.** Click on the Amazon logo on the top of our [webpage](#) (near the Facebook icon) than click on the Amazon shopping cart on the next page. Do that for every purchase.

Distance Workshops



For the complete 2016-2017 schedule of Distance Workshops, [click here](#).

You can read the scripts from the last workshops in the member document section of the website.

**FROM THE TORAH FUND VICE PRESIDENT
MARILYN COHEN**

TORAH FUND CAMPAIGN 2016-2017



The 2016-2017 campaign will be ending soon. Please remember to forward your donations.

If you have any questions, please contact me at:

Marilyn Cohen, INR Torah Fund VP
h) 416 223 2955

c) 416 518 1860

marilyncohen@bell.net

Check out the New Torah Fund Guide and all the other materials to run a great campaign!

https://www.dropbox.com/sh/4fcgm1vx528ze9x/AADNqaT_GXwnbZaISMo_m6Ona?dl=0

NEED HELP?

HELP IS AVAILABLE ON THE WLCJ WEBSITE.

Programs, membership ideas, education material, and more available at wlcj.org

[Click here to visit the WL and explore all the resources](#)

