



Chai Lines

International Northeast Region Women's League for Conservative Judaism

Networking to Engage, Enrich and Empower
Conservative Jewish Women

July 14, 2017

Volume 2, Issue 55

IN THIS ISSUE

Click on name of article to go to that article.

- [FROM OUR REGION PRESIDENT](#)
- [FROM THE EDUCATION VP](#)
- [FROM WOMEN'S LEAGUE](#)
- [FROM THE REGION TORAH FUND VICE PRESIDENT](#)
- [NEED HELP? HELP IS AVAILABLE ON THE WLCJ WEBSITE](#)

FROM OUR REGION PRESIDENT--Eleanor Diamond

I recently attended a Bob Dylan concert. Although the arrangements of his classic songs were altered substantially (and, in most cases, unrecognizably), they still packed a considerable punch for his diehard fans. My husband, for example, spent most of the evening playing "guess the song" with the 15 year-old fan sitting next to him. However, after each barely identifiable classic, I secretly hoped that the next would be a sing-a-long crowd pleaser.

I was reminded of this feeling at last week's Shabbat service. Week after week, the Torah portion and the *haftarah* change, but the rhythm of the service and its order remain the same. Our congregation has a talented chazzan and a beautiful choir who enhance the service in a meaningful way. It is a joy to sing along during the familiar and ancient prayers, especially knowing that some of those same melodies were sung by our parents, grandparents, and great grandparents.

But *the times, they are a-changing*. Some of the familiar melodies have been replaced with new ones, sometimes permanently, sometimes just for one or two services. Although they are beautiful to listen to, they are not yet familiar enough to sing-a-long with.

Change can be difficult to accept but we have to move forward, not for the sake of simply shaking things up but to adapt to new realities. Slavery was once the norm - today we consider it an abhorrent form of human behaviour. In the workplace, women were once confined to secretarial jobs - today female lawyers, doctors, *etc.* are common. Of course, these changes were not easily accepted by everyone.

The recent controversy in Israel over the monopoly of the orthodox rabbinate to determine how women are allowed to pray at the Wall is another reminder of the resistance to change. To not recognize that the world has progressed since biblical times and allow only one stream of Judaism to promote its agenda, is to encourage more women to distance themselves from being involved in Jewish communal organizations.

Let us hope that the Israeli government has the political courage to do the right thing and welcome all of us as equals.

Looking forward to seeing you at Convention.

Shabbat Shalom,
Eleanor
diamondeleanor@gmail.com
514-458-6204

FROM THE EDUCATION VP LOIS SILVERMAN

No one is an island living. To succeed, to live, and to endure the hard times, we all have to rely on others those who have gone through it all before us for advice, help, and that leg up.

In the episode "Noël" of the classic television program *The West Wing*, the US President's Chief of Staff Leo tells the Communication Director Josh the following story:

"This guy's walking down the street when he falls in a hole. The walls are so steep he can't get out.

"A doctor passes by and the guy shouts up, 'Hey you. Can you help me out?' The doctor writes a prescription, throws it down in the hole and moves on.

"Then a priest comes along and the guy shouts up, 'Father, I'm down in this hole can you help me out?' The priest writes out a prayer, throws it down in the hole and moves on

"Then a friend walks by, 'Hey, Joe, it's me can you help me out?' And the friend jumps in the hole. Our guy says, 'Are you stupid? Now we're both down here.' The friend says, 'Yeah, but I've been down here before and I know the way out.'"

We in Women's League have women who have been there and done that; women on whom we can rely to give us answers to our questions—both big or small; women who offer direction and advice when asked. These women are there to share the good times and bad.

These women are your region and WL personnel.

Don't be afraid to reach out to them. To find them, a password-protected region

directory is available at the new INR Region website. [Click here to visit the site.](#)
Email me if you want the password.

Shabbat Shalom
LOIS
lsilverman@wlcj.org

FROM WOMEN'S LEAGUE FOR CONSERVATIVE JUDAISM



*Networking to engage,
enrich and empower
Conservative Jewish women*



Next Leadership Institute

October 29-30, 2017

Merrick Jewish Centre, Merrick, NY

Cost: \$199 for the entire 2 day institute, including meals and snacks.

Plus hotel at \$70 per person, double occupancy.

There will be a drawing for a scholarship at Convention 2017: Sisterhood presidents and vice presidents at Convention are eligible.

For further information, contact: Mimi Pollack, incoming Leadership Institute Chair, mimipollack@comcast.net, 215-355-5069 or 215-837-6502



Latest interview from Women's League Reads

To listen to our conversation with Deborah Tannen, author of *You're the Only One I Can Tell: Inside the Language of Women's Friendships*, [click here](#).

Videos of the Masorti Women's Study Days in English

To watch three of the classes from last month's outstanding

day of study, [click here](#).

- **Stranger in Our Midst** - 2 Shakespearian plays, taught by Prof. Alice Shalvi
 - **Memorable Women of Jerusalem: 2nd Temple to Today**, taught by Rabbi David Golinkin
 - **Getting Unstuck: A Kaballat Shabbat**, music workshop, taught by Shira Taylor Gura
-

A BOLD NEW OUTLOOK



**WOMEN'S LEAGUE FOR
CONSERVATIVE JUDAISM
CONVENTION 2017**

CONVENTION UPDATES

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

We will be live streaming the **Installation** on Sunday evening and **Taking Action for Women's Health** on Wednesday morning. Let your friends, family and sisterhoods know that they can access the livestreaming from our [website](#).

- Installation: Sunday at 6:00 pm
- Taking Action for Women's Health: Wednesday at 10:00 am.

Meet the Next President

Margie Miller looks forward to assuming the role of Women's League International President, a position for which she is well prepared. Read more [here](#).

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**

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.

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



TORAH FUND CAMPAIGN 2016-2017

The 2016-2017 campaign has ended.
Please 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](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](#)

